THE POWER OF A GOD-GIVEN VISION

THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU:
You have what it takes.
You have strengths you don’t know about
You have abilities you don’t appreciate.
You have a God-given purpose that, once you discover it, will fill your life with immense power.
You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

MEN AND THEIR VISIONS: FOUR OPTIONS

1. WE LIVE _____________ A VISION.
We may have a vision or a plan for our professional lives, but spiritually we ________ along with no real sense of direction or purpose.
Live without a God-given vision and at best you’ll live feeling like there’s something missing in your life.
At worst, you’ll ______________ from your heart, feel empty inside, and try to take away the pain by turning off your feelings or by giving into temptations.
This is the ________ life.

2. WE LIVE WITH A _____________ VISION.
Many men live with a vision for themselves that is no bigger than professional and material success.
This kind of life can work for you as long as you can ignore the fact that you are a ___________ being.
This is the life that is ____________.
It will bring you a sense of fulfillment only if you think life is about self and you can forget that God gave you the life you have as a ________ and you exist for his kingdom, not your own.

3. WE LIVE FOR A VISION OF WHAT WE WANT TO DO ____________.
We want our lives to count and we know that what matters are the things we do for the Kingdom.
This is the well-intentioned, but still ______________ life.
This life centers on your vision for God, instead of God’s vision for you.
4. WE LIVE WITH A ______________ VISION.

Having a picture of how God wants you to invest your life is important and it is ______________.

WHAT A GOD-GIVEN VISION WILL DO FOR YOU

1. A VISION WILL ______________ YOUR LIFE

The greatest enemy of the best is often “____________.”

Without a vision every good cause can look important, and we can feel that we should give some bit of our time and our energy to all of them.

The results are that we often:

1. Do things that ___________ should do – and can do better than we can.
2. Do many things without doing any of them ______.
3. Give attention to matters which ______ us from God’s primary call upon our lives.

Saying “no” to good causes is difficult unless you have a vision that tells you:

This is what God wants me to achieve and I cannot let lesser things, even good things, keep me from accomplishing God’s calling on my life.

Without a God-given vision for your life, you may accomplish ______ things.
But you are not likely to accomplish the ______ thing God has for you to do.

You cannot have or do everything you want.
But if you choose carefully you can accomplish just about ______________.

You are limited – you can deny that reality and try do everything.

Or you can accept that you are limited and find that fact ______________.

If you are limited, it is not only ok to say “no” to good causes;

it is ______________ that you say “no” to opportunities that keep you from saying “yes” to the priorities of God’s vision for your life.

You are limited.
But “go in the strength you have,” and you can accomplish great things.

2. A VISION WILL ______________ YOUR LIFE

A vision that speaks to our hearts creates passion and energy.

Bill Hybels: Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion.

David Lean: “I have to do it. It’s in my blood.” “Practically every day I thank God I’m doing what I’m doing, and I bet none of those people thank God that they’re doing what they’re doing.”
Some people live all their lives without connecting with the strength of their passion.
Some Christians ________ God that way – they take their turn and do their part;
but they don’t take their passion and do their heart.

Only when there is real passion for a cause will there be real ________ in a ministry.
What God calls you to give your life to will _________ on who you are and what you care about.

When you catch a vision of God’s dream for you, it will bring the power of passion into your life.

With a God-given vision, you don’t serve because you’ve “got to;”
you do it because you “____ to.”
You don’t do it because it’s your turn;
you do it because it’s your heart.
You don’t do it out of duty;
you do it out of the ________ of who you are.
And instead of draining energy from your spirit, it ________ your spirit and makes you feel alive.

Having a God-given vision for your life will not make your life easy.
It will _________ your heart and make you care and make you hurt for those that are unwanted, unintended and unloved.
But it will energize your life with passion and power.
And it will make you glad that you have something to give yourself to that truly matters.

3. A VISION WILL CAUSE YOU TO ________ SPIRITUALLY

God-given visions are God-sized visions.
God doesn’t “size down” his vision to fit the man;
he grows the man to fit the vision.

What God has for you will _________ that you grow more faith, more character, and more strength than you have or thought possible.
And that will never happen if you live for a you-sized vision instead of a God-sized vision.

4. A VISION ENABLES YOU TO _________ THE FUTURE

Fatalism says that what we do does not matter: the future is _________ and we are its puppets.
The Gospel says that God gives His people visions so we can join Him in creating a future that brings salvation to the world.

Though God is Sovereign and ultimately will have his way, in the interim he allows people, for good or for ill, to make choices which create the future.
Robert Greenleaf: The forces for good and evil in the world are propelled by the thoughts, attitudes, and actions of individual beings. What happens to our values, and therefore to the quality of our civilization in the future, will be shaped by the conceptions of individuals that are born of inspiration.

William Wilberforce: But when I reflect, however, on the encouragement which I have had, through the whole course of a long and laborious examination of this question, and how much (kindness) I have experienced, and how conviction has increased within my own mind, in proportion as I have advanced in my labours; when I reflect, especially, that however averse any gentleman may now be, yet we shall all be of one opinion in the end; – when I turn myself to these thoughts, I take courage – I determine to forget all my other fears, and I march forward with a firmer step.

George Barna: To create a better situation ... you can either rely upon random circumstance and hope that the result is better than what has existed, or you can assert control over your environment, based on God’s empowerment and direction, and make a better future. Vision is about pursuing the latter approach.

Politicians, entrepreneurs, terrorists, mothers – they all create the future in one way or another.
Why not the men of God?