

LESSON 14 Devotional

Seeking God's Vision

For many years, Christians in the business community have heard and been taught the King James Version of Proverbs 29:18, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* It is this version that supports the need to create a vision for your organization.

However, Henry and Richard Blackaby point out in their book, *Spiritual Leadership*, that this is a flawed view of the text. If you examine the Hebrew for the word "vision," you will see that "revelation" or "prophetic vision" is a more accurate rendering of this word.

With this in mind, let's examine how the English Standard Version (ESV) translates this verse, *"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law."*

As business leaders, we need to know where we are headed, and we want to be able to paint a picture of what that looks like. This way we can effectively communicate to those around us our ideal destination. But after considering this scriptural analysis, we are challenged. Are we attempting to achieve a vision that is driven by *our* dreams and ambitions? Or, do we have a clear understanding of what God desires? If we answer "yes" to the first question and not the second, then we will fall woefully short.

Proverbs 19:21 teaches, *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*

"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law."

Proverbs 29:18 ESV

While wisdom dictates the better choice is to seek God's vision and revelation for our organizations rather than chasing our own direction, the challenge for many of us is *hearing* from God clearly enough to know what His vision is for our organization.

Below are a few suggested steps that may help you better discern God's vision for your organization's future direction.

1. **Develop a Sound Relationship with God; this is key.** If you spoke *at* your spouse only on occasion, such as when you needed something, but otherwise didn't listen to him or her, their dreams and aspirations would remain with them. God is no different. He desires for you to spend time with Him regularly—telling him your thoughts, concerns and desires—as well as taking the time to listen to His response through specific people, His Word and circumstances.
2. **Pray and ask for specifics.** Ask God if he would reveal passages in His Word that will help guide you towards His plan for the future of your organization. Ask him for affirmation and wise counsel through others.
3. **Listen.** Journaling can be a very powerful tool that enables you to listen quietly to the Lord and document what you believe God may be sharing.
4. **Seek affirmation.** God wants you to be clear about His plan. If you begin to hear something in your quiet time or a passage leaps off the page, there is a good possibility that He is planting a seed in your spirit. God can also affirm His direction through people who speak specifically into the issue you are trying to understand, so keep your spiritual ears and eyes open. Ask yourself, "If God was going to affirm this direction, how might He send that affirmation?" Then, be assured and respond when the answer comes forward.
5. **Take a step of faith.** If you have started sensing God is providing direction, and He affirms it through others or His Word, then it is likely you should take a step of faith in that direction. Often it is not comfortable, but God uses this to build trust in Him and strengthen your relationship. Take the next logical step of faith and see how He responds.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How successful have you been in the past in hearing from God?

a. What do you suspect are your biggest challenges to receiving clear direction from God?

2. How do you feel about pursuing God and His vision for the organization you lead?

3. Out of the five steps listed, which step(s) **will** you take this month to better hear from God?
