

What Is Vision?



“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

- Isaiah 40:31



Genesis 12:1-7:

1: Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

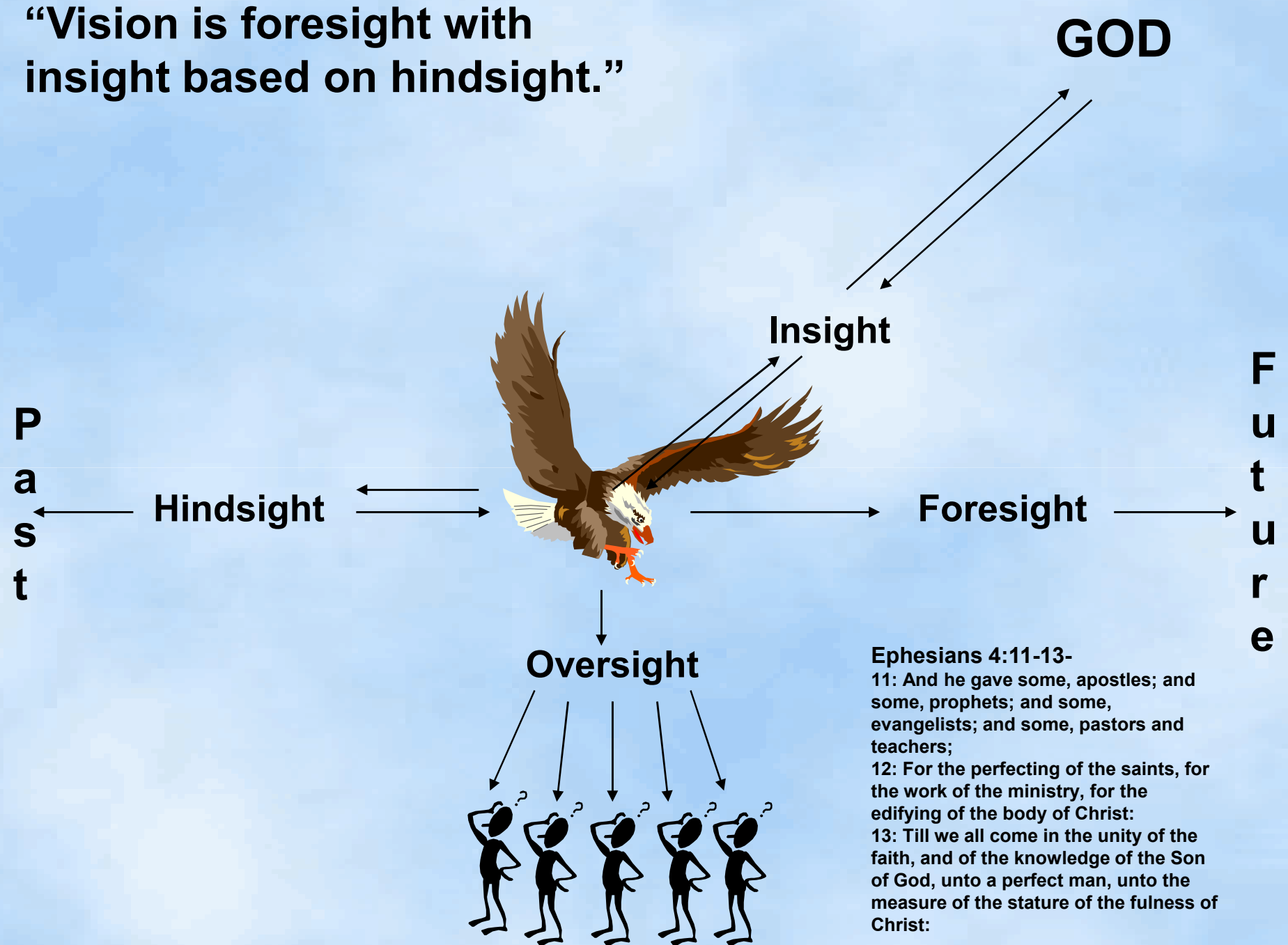
4: So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5: And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6: And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7: And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

“Vision is foresight with insight based on hindsight.”



Ephesians 4:11-13-

11: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:



"Vision for ministry is a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants and is based on an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances."

(George Barna, *The Power of Vision*, 1992, 28).



Components of Vision:

- **A Clear Mental image**
- **Preferable Change**
- **A Future Focus**
- **Imparted by God**
- **A Chosen Leader**
- **Comprehending God**
- **Know Thyself**
- **Understanding your Circumstances**



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"...true vision is imparted by God to His chosen people to better enable them to know His mind and to do His will."

(George Barna, *The Power of Vision*, 1992, 12)

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." - Proverbs 29:18



**"...true vision is imparted by God to His
chosen people..."**

(George Barna, The Power of Vision, 1992, 12)

Therefore...



**True godly vision is not man's idea.
It is God's...**

**“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in
vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the
watchman waketh but in vain.”**

-Psalm 127:1



“Vision launches us into purpose. It gives us the ability to focus on God’s intent for our lives, as well as allowing us to say no to opportunities.”



Isaiah 6:1-6-

1: In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2: Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4: And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5: Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

6: Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

8: Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.



“The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle used the word *“Telos”* to define the complete fulfillment or design of a thing. He proposed that everything that is made is made for a reason, and that it has intrinsically built into it all that it needs to bring it to a state of *“eudaimonia,”* which means flourishing, being fulfilled. God created everything with a purpose, and he created man, and man alone with the ability to ask, “Why? Why am I here? What is it that I am supposed to do in the time that I am here? What is my *telos*? What is my purpose? When will I know that I have found it? And what am I to do once I’ve found out what it is?”

Pastor Harry L. Jackson from a sermon: “I Don’t Have Time!”



- * **"Our vision shapes us.**
- * **Our vision controls.**
- Our vision determines who and what we become.**
- * **...vision shapes our leadership."**

(Glen Martin & Gary McIntosh, The Issachar Factor, 1993, 57-58)

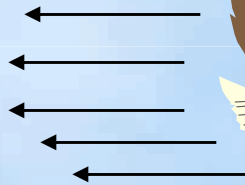
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**Bondage to the past leads
to loss (lack) of vision**

Ref. 2 Peter 1:4-8

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Hindsight



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Blindness (*Luke 6:39*)





Vision Is Only Effective When One's Eye Is Single

Matt. 6:22-24

22: The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23: But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24: No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”- James 1:8

Recovering Your Vision



***“And there was nothing lacking to
them...David recovered all.”***

- 1 Samuel 30:19



What David Had To Do To Recover His Vision (*1 Samuel 30*):

- **Avoid discouragement (especially before the people). (vs. 6)**
- **Ignore Criticism. (vs. 6)**
- **Seek God with a mind to hear and obey. (vs. 8-9)**
- **Commit to worship and prayer. (vs. 7-8)**
- **Engage the enemy. (vs. 17)**