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“Making up for lost time 1”- “The Power of Vision”

In the Middle of October 24 “the Lord woke me up in the middle of the night saying **“I am making up for lost time”**. I had a sense it had to do with vision. He wants to make up for things that should have come to pass but they haven’t. **“I am going to make up for lost time.”**

There are things in all of our lives that we have prayed for, stood for and have known they should have come to pass and for whatever reason they haven’t. Well, we are in a new season. **“He is making up for lost time and things will come to pass”**.

“We are in a season of things culminating”. Culmination is the highest or climactic point of something, especially as attained after a long time; the end or conclusion of something. The outcome of growth or development that represents an attained objective; the climax of a story, the final crowning achievement, or the end result of years of research. The end point of something you have been working towards or something that’s been building up.

I keep hearing **“get them into the fields the harvest is ripe”**.

John 4:34-38 Ampc. *“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to **finish His work.**”³⁵ Do you not say, It is still four months until harvest time comes? **Look!** I tell you, **raise your eyes and observe the fields and see** how they are already white for harvesting.”³⁶ Already the reaper is getting his wages [he who does the cutting now has his reward], for **he is gathering fruit (crop) unto life eternal,** so that he who does the planting and he who does the reaping may rejoice together.”³⁷ For in this the saying holds true, One sows and another reaps.”³⁸ **I sent you to reap a crop***

for which you have not toiled. Other men have labored and you have stepped in to **reap the results of their work.**"

"The Power of Vision"

Proverbs 29:18 Ampc. "**Where there is no vision** [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he."

- **Ex.** Of the little girl on the ship. Daddy I can see farther than my eyes can look. That's vision- the ability to see farther than your eyes can look

We must see what is not there in the natural in order to bring to pass something new. **"I'm making up for lost time."**

Progress has always been made by people who have seen things that have not been there. Vision is seeing the future before it comes into being. I want to be like that little girl. I want to see farther than I can look

Coorie ten Boone- they wrote a book about her, made a movie hiding place, where she hid Jews during hitlers reign- they asked her "How can you be so energetic at 82 traveling the world preaching the gospel? She said "look down and be oppressed, look around and be depressed or look up and be at rest".

If we live by just what our eyes can see then a person will have the life sucked out of them. We will think this is all there is, this is as good as it gets? **Vision is a gift.**

2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us *"walk by faith and not by sight"*

God has given each of us the ability to choose. This is a blessing, and it can be a curse. We can decide for God or against Him.

Deuteronomy 30:19 Ampc. *"¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness **this day** against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore **choose life**, that you and your descendants may live"*

Studies say that we make 7-10k decisions everyday. From opening your eyes to getting dress. When the opportunity clock goes off you have a decision to make.

It's a decision to take a shower or not to take a shower. It's a decision to put God first. Life is full of decisions. So we can learn to make the correct decisions.

Everybody is a decision maker. Even when we don't make a decision we are still making a decision. Its impossible to not make a decision. We can decide what to decide. **We want to make decisions in alignment with our purpose, in alignment with our vision and God's plan for our life.** The reality is, we are the sum total of all the decisions we make everyday. **We become what we decide.** (That's why I do the "Today Matters" course to help learn to make the right decisions daily then manage them)

An alcoholic is someone who decided to take a drink to impress their friends. A chain smoker decided to take a puff when they were young. A drug addict decided to take drugs just one time.

I feel like its Half time- the coach is gathering the players who maybe they haven't played like they wanted in the first half then they go into the locker room and the coach talks to them about their plays and then they come out with a new mindset, new plays and they win the game.

We are in the locker room and God is saying "**He wants to make up for lost time**" He is going to show us some new plays, so we can have a new mindset and win the game of life.

1 Corinthians 6:12 Ampc. *"Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (**good for me to do, expedient and profitable** when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power."*

Vision helps us to know what is good, expedient and profitable for me. Vision disciplines us to make decisions correctly. The quality of our decisions is determined by the quality of the information that we have. Good information will help us make good decisions, bad information doesn't help us make good decisions.

Discipline is created by the power of choice! Paul is saying that I am going to make decisions that will get me closer to my ultimate desire. When we have a desire then we have to see ourselves with what we desire.

That's why its important to wake up with a vision of your future. There is power in vision. Your flesh will say all things are permissible and your spirit says but not all things are helpful. Your decisions are at the mercy of your vision so if you have no vision then we still keep making bad decisions.

Discipline is self imposed standards, self imposed restrictions, that are motivated by a desire that is greater than all the alternatives. **Discipline** means we govern ourselves **because our desire is greater** than the temptation. **Self discipline** is a high order of living, if a person doesn't have discipline they will fail in life.

This is why God gave us parents because as a child we had no discipline so He gives us external discipline to help us until we learn personal discipline. So a person can be old but still a child. **It takes discipline to stay in the process. Jesus** knew He needed to be about His Fathers business but stay submitted to work for His Father for years, that takes discipline when you know your future **(Luke 2:52)**. **David** knew He was the next king but served Saul and His Father

Discipline protects vision. Discipline creates character. Discipline helps us succeed. **Discipline is decisions that are directed by a determined destiny.** Once you see a destiny that you are determined to go to then that vision determines the decisions you make.

Ex. You have a vision to be a doctor, or lawyer, or businessman, a champion and someone tells you to lighten up, to just take a drag, snort a line, its just one drink but you are determined to get there then you won't take it. You decisions kick in and determine your behavior. They are aware that decision will derail them. Your friends call you weak, calls you chicken, a stick in the mud, but God calls it discipline,. **Vision is a key to discipline. Vision will protect you. EX:** of not going to casino because of vision

EX: of getting married. I had a vision of honoring God before I got married and it helped us not sleep together until we were married. **The key of vision is discipline.**

Learn to write your vision down because it will guide you. “Things are permissible but not beneficial”. **The greatest gift God gave to man is vision** not sight. Sight is a function of the eyes but **vision is a function of the heart.** A person can have sight but no vision. Remember the little girl, “*daddy, I can see farther than my eyes can look.*”

Vision is a source of hope. Vision is the seed of faith. What do I see for my life spiritual, physical, financial, relational, vocational.

Get the image of our desire then act as if it already is.

Mark 11:24 KJV “*Therefore I say unto you, what things soever **ye desire**, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*”

- Desire- means “to Father”. The Father plants the seed in us which creates the desire, which creates the vision. **(Psalms 37:4; Phi. 2:13)**

Romans 4:17-21 Ampc. “¹⁷ **As it is written**, I have made you the father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God **in Whom he believed**, Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed.¹⁸ [For Abraham, human reason for] hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, **as he had been promised**, So [numberless] shall your descendants be.¹⁹ **He did not weaken in faith** when he considered the [utter] impotence of his own body, which was as good as dead because he was about a hundred years old, or [when he considered] the barrenness of Sarah’s [deadened] womb.²⁰ No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, **but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God,**²¹ Fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised.”

Faith acts as if it already is. Jesus had a vision. He saw us in relationship with Him. He saw us reconciled back to God, He had a vision.

He saw it and it gave Him power to endure. Vision gives you courage, endurance, strength to stand no matter what happens.

Habakkuk 2:2-4 Ampc. *“And the Lord answered me and said, **Write the vision** and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by. **For the vision** is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfillment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because **it will surely come**; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day.”*

You write, believe, speak, work until it comes. That’s faith. Many of the patriarchs in Hebrews 11 had a vision of Jesus but never saw Him. They lived by faith and died by faith.

God gave man the ability to have vision so He didn’t have to live by what he saw. True visionaries, the vision is more real than the natural.

Ex. Of Walt Disney, sitting on a bench staring into the open, had only a few rides. The worker that was doing the grass asked him what he was doing and Walt said I’m looking at this mountain and there was nothing. Before he died he told his architect about this mountain and they drew it. Once he died they were going to dedicate and said I wish Walt could have seen this. His wife stood up and said he did see this, its you who just saw what he has seen for some time. (Space Mountain)

A person with vision believes more in the vision than what it looks like. I see standing room only with hungry, passionate, thirsty people for the things of God. I see reaching the world with the gospel, winning the western world, I see stadiums, coliseums full of people, I see leaders being developed from every walk of life. I see us changing lives one thought at a time. I see training facilities, buildings, lands, jets, teams **“God making up for lost time.”**

Our success is inevitable. We are a demonstration of the goodness of God. God is bringing warriors, people who are serious. Its not big groups that change the world it's the small groups, the 12, the 120 in the upper room

Vision is the ability to see what you cannot see, prepare and plan for it. **EX: preparing in roping, ministry,....** Preparation is proof of belief. You don't really believe until you prepare. Preparation is an act of faith. When we believe, we prepare. We prepare by education, we prepare by practice, we prepare by development, we prepare by the right relationships. **Our associations determine our destination.**

Vision disciplines every area of life. If you want to do big things we must surround ourselves with people doing big things. We want people around us that are going to the future and not staying in the past. We don't go up by going down, we don't move forward by going back. Its okay to outgrow certain people.

Think of eagles, they don't flock. Pigeons always in a group. Eagles have vision. Where are the people going that you are connected too. We become what we hear, what we consume. Big thinkers have big vision. **Negative people don't change the world.** People that see farther than their eyes can look.

The issues we are having they are temporary.

2 Corinthians 4:18 Ampc. *"Since we consider and **look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen**; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting."*

It takes vision to move forward. **Helen killer** was born blind and when they asked her what would be worst than being blind and she said "having sights but no vision"

I want to stir up vision inside of you...it is said that *the poorest man in the world isn't a man without money, it's a man without vision.*

Proverbs 22:2 Ampc. *"² The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all."*

When we read this, it could be taken, some are rich and some are poor and that's just the way it is.

Proverbs 29:13 Ampc. *"The poor man and the oppressor meet together—the Lord gives light to the eyes of both."*

In the original Hebrew language it says "some become rich and some become poor because of how they see". **We choose what we see!**

Proverbs 29:18 Ampc. *"**Where there is no vision** [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he."*

Your vision determines your future. What you see determines what you become.

Ex. Of the two college students on a trip to India, one saw all the millions of people without shoes, one saw that they needed shoes. They went back and one quit school and designed a plastic shoe and exported it to India, it took off within 5 years was selling millions of shoes. The other guy thought it was dumb not to get a college degree so he stayed, had college loans, trying to pay his bills, after he graduated went to work for the other guy. They both saw the same thing but one say something different than the other.

Our vision determines our destiny so we want to make sure our vision is correct. What is vision? **Vision is an clear internalized image of a preferable future.** You see it. A preferred future. God imparts it to our spirit. God doesn't deal with the present, because the present is already the past, God deals with the future. He imparts the future into the present so the present won't be depressed.

A promise is the future being told to the present. 1 Corinthians 1:20

He wants us to know that our future is better than the present. He tells us our future in His word. You might have a bad present but His word tells us our future. A person with vision doesn't see a negative present but a positive reality. Act like it's on its way

God is a preparation God. He sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. A preparer brings faith. There is one coming after this one that is greater. The business in my future that is greater than this one. There are others coming after me that are going to be greater than me. Live with vision. **Vision is a visual reality of your purpose.**

God shows us where we came from, where we are and where we are going. We are pressing towards a better future. We can see better now. We can see farther than our eyes can look.

Hebrews 11:1, 6 Ampc. *"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, [a] the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]... But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]."*

Faith is the evidence of what we can't see with our eyes. Stop living by sight. Faith is seeing the unseen. **Faith is vision.** When I live by what I can't see in the natural then it pleases God and He rewards my faith. If I am always living by what I see then it doesn't please Him. Don't come to God with what is, but what you can see in your heart. He is the God of faith, not the past. When we show God what others can't see then He is the rewarder.

Ephesians 3:20 Ampc. *"Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose*

and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—“

He does above what we ask, think, hope, desire, imagine according to the power working in me.

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