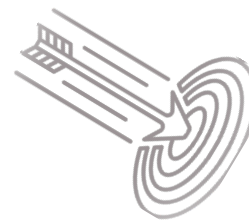


# DAY 10

IMAGINE / INTENTIONAL GROWTH [IG]



## PONDER

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

-Proverbs 29:18 [KJ21]

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Write down God's thoughts to you from the verse above.

## PLUNGE

Nothing can be more devastating for your future than to live life without a vision. When you don't know where you're going, any bus can take you there. And 'there' could be anywhere.

Lack of vision is the main reason why people feel lost, misplaced, and continually unfulfilled. When you don't have a vision you don't need a plan to get there. And when you don't have a plan, you're not leading your life you're simply responding to it. This looseness

makes for a very cluttered mind and a disorganized existence. Life begins to pile up over you. Do you have any idea how this feels?

It feels overwhelming...

You feel buried, you feel drowned and suffocated, like slowly perishing one day at a time. People who lose their mind, first lose their vision. It is true... *Without vision, people perish.*

Looking at other Bible translations for the word perish in Proverbs 29:18, we get a fuller picture of the perils of being mentally shortsighted.

- Without vision people decay.
- Without vision people stumble all over themselves.
- Without vision people are unrestrained.
- Without vision people become uncontrollable.
- Without vision people shall be scattered abroad.
- Without vision people get out of control.
- Without vision people run wild.
- Without vision people disappear.
- Without vision people are destroyed.

## **THE LANGUAGE OF THE SPIRIT**

Vision is the language of God's Spirit. Every time God wants to reveal His plans and communicate His thoughts with humans, He gives them a vision, He gives them a dream. The Bible is a record of God's thoughts and visions revealed to His servants regarding His relentless desire to rescue humanity from sin and have a loving eternal relationship with them.

When someone receives and runs with God's vision, their lives are

never the same. They break the status quo and are empowered to do unimaginable things for the glory of God.

- God gave Noah a vision and he build a boat.
- God gave Moses a vision and he build the tabernacle.
- God gave Samuel a vision and he chose a shepherd boy as the next king of Israel.
- God gave David a vision and he killed Goliath.
- God gave Elijah a vision and the widow's flour and oil did not cease according to his word.
- God gave Daniel a vision and he interpreted the king's dream.
- God gave Isaiah a vision and he said 'here I am Lord, send me.'
- God gave Joseph a vision and he took Mary as His wife.
- God gave Paul a vision and went west to preach the Gospel to the gentiles.
- God gave his Son Jesus a vision and He died on the cross for the sins of the world.

## **A VISION DISTILLS A STRONGER LIFE**

A vision both gives and removes. It gives direction and removes distractions. A distracted life is an unproductive life but a directed life is a fruitful and effective life.

When you have a vision, you're giving your time and talent an assignment. You're saying yes to one destination and no to every other destination that may get in the way to scatter your focus. A vision immediately narrows your options and concentrates your efforts. Like a filter that distills a stronger cup of coffee, a vision will distill a stronger and more satisfying life.

## GO AHEAD AND DREAM, BUT...

Even though God is the ultimate vision giver, the Bible gives you permission to pursue dreams in line with your passions and desires. But here's the caveat. You have to pursue God first.

"Delight yourself in the Lord, and  
he will give you the desires of your heart."

–Psalm 37:4 [ESV]

When God becomes your first delight—not fun, fortune, or fame—His desires will become your desires. You begin to dream His dream and see His vision. When this happens, your soul gets energized for you now have divine purpose running through your veins. Delighting yourself in God ensures that you chase after God's will not your own whims. It's okay to dream and make plans, but make sure to commit them to the Lord so He can authorize them for success.

"Entrust your efforts to the Lord,  
and your plans will succeed."

–Proverbs 16:3 [GW]

With this in mind, begin to prayerfully develop a vision for your life. Get a clear and compelling mental picture of what this may look like. Go ahead and give yourself permission to dream a more righteous, inspiring, and excellent future for you and your family. Better than the one you inherited from your forefathers.

- Dream about the kind of relationship you want to have with God.
- Dream about your emotions being under the control of the Spirit.
- Dream about having better relationships with those you live with and care about.

- Dream about having your finances in divine order.
- Dream about having a healthier body and a Godly life-style.
- Dream about having an impactful ministry that reaches many people for God.
- Dream about growing your skills and leaving a lasting legacy in the workplace.

Talk to God about these things daily during your fast. Listen carefully. Take notes. Write the vision down so you can see it and pursue it. Get excited about going after this new divine destination.

“Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it.”

–Habakkuk 2:2 [ESV]

## **STRAIN FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD**

You can't fix your future if you fix your mind on images of past trouble, treason, or trauma. You have to let those memories go and use your God given faith to paint a new landscape for your life ahead.

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ”

–Jeremiah 29:11 [NIV]

If God's mental picture of your future is a positive one, there is no reason for you to have a negative picture about it. Positive visualization is Godly visualization. God even commands you in His word to have a positive vision of your future.

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

–Philippians 3:13–14 [ESV]

To strain forward is to force your focus towards the future, not the past nor the present. And this future is not a horrible downward fall but a glorious upward call safeguarded by Jesus Himself.

God wants you to forget the past imagine a better future. He knows that if your mind gets stuck in the misery of yesterday and the dullness of today, you will most likely receive nothing different tomorrow. So He orders you to visualize hope to move you in the direction of hope. Philippians 3:13-14 proofs that you carry within you the potential to envision a better future for your life, so you must be intentional about it everyday of your life.

If you are praying for things to get better and not worse this year, don't stay focused on gloomy images that contradict this desire. This is not praying with faith. If you are going to pray for a more excellent future you must believe accordingly! Otherwise you will continue to make timid and calculated decisions based on the fear and doubt these fatalistic mental images create.

Humble yourself and delete recurrent depressing images from your mind. Yield to God's good and perfect plan with child-like innocence, knowing that all things, ugly or beautiful, present or past,

“...work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan.”

–Romans 8:28 [HCSB]

**INFINITELY MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!**

God has gifted us above all His creation with the ability to experience what we visualize. Animals don't have this ability, neither do trees, mountains, or planets. God made our brains in such a way that it tends to fulfill its most dominant thought. That is why people reap what they sow. A commanding thought eventually becomes a governing reality—good or evil—as per the initial mindset.

When the brain receives a vivid image of a future desire as if it had been accomplished already, it interprets this as fact and responds accordingly, leaning in the direction of discarding any mental barrier negating completion of that desire. This type of assurance empowers our brain to help bring about the expected outcome. The Bible calls this faith.

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.”

—Hebrews 11:1 [RSV]

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. God's positive words about a better future for us produce crisp and vivid mental images that invade our imagination. We now have a vision from God. If we believe this vision, faith rises and our brain uses the images as commands to reproduce outwardly what was created inwardly. Then God in His unique sovereign style takes our divinely permeated imagination and boom! He delivers a miracle through us, beyond what we ever asked for or imagined. This is the Ephesians 3:20 power at work within us!

“Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.”

—Ephesians 3:20 [GW]

How powerful! We can experience more than we can imagine when we believe and run with God's vision. With promises like this one,

why are Christians not dreaming more? Why are they so focused on what is behind them or in front of them but not what's beyond them? Why are they not *straining forward to what lies ahead and pressing on to the goal of an upward call?*

As for you, be intentional and deliberate about having a vision. Practice Biblical visualization by feeding your mind bright and colorful images of what God says in His word concerning you. Hold on to this vision and accept it by faith. Doing this will empower you to bring to completion the work God has called you to do. For...

"The righteous shall live by faith."

-Romans 1:17 [ESV]

## **PLAN**

- Imagine what your life would look like if God were to fulfill all His plans through your life, using all your potential for His glory. Write it down in the lines below. Include a description of the people that would be blessed by your efforts and the emotions in your heart when you see all this happening. Do not hold back. If your vision is too small, you may not need the power of God to fulfill it. You dream and imagine great things, according to the will of God's heart for the world. May God be with you as you write down your vision and may He use you to bring about infinitely more than you have asked or imagined, according to the power at work within you.
- Take six minutes every day—three when you wake up and three before going to bed—to imagine yourself in as much detail as possible, living a healthy, significant, and fulfilled life. See yourself fully alive, fully loved and engaged in your family, having a positive impact for Christ in the world, loving your work and enjoying the favor of God and others. Walk through these desired outcomes regularly in your mind with as much detail as possible.



If you faithfully hold on to God's vision for your future, He will make that vision a reality in accordance to Ephesians 3:20.

- The next time you go through an overwhelming challenge, take a few minutes to be still in the presence of God. Fill your lungs with oxygen several times and begin to ask God to give you an image of His best solution. Remove from your mind any ingrained pessimism or preconceived ideas. Open yourself to the wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit and hold on to the new vision He gives you. Write it down, remain faithful to it, and thank God for His renewed confidence to move forward.

## **PRAYER**

Thank you Lord for giving me the freedom to imagine life as it could be rather than what it has been or is right now. Speak to me your thoughts and let these thoughts feed images that sanctify my imagination and give me a vision that moves me closer and closer to the person you created to be. Thank you for the bright and beautiful future you have prepared for me. Amen!