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WHERE THERE

IS NO VISION

...DISCOVER THE TRUE POWER OF VISION

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION

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JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

The subject of vision and purpose has been a rather difficult one in Christendom. While many people argue that they are the same, many others strongly believe that they have independent roles in the life of a believer.

I believe that God has inspired me to write this book to elucidate on these matters. Vision is different and far more powerful than purpose, or even your desires. Vision is not a special calling given to a selected set of people; it's a special ability given to everyone created by God. There's quite a lot to disclose to you in this book, but don't worry, I'd be done in 30 minutes.

EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE NEEDS A VISION

Prov 29:18 tells us that "where there is no vision, people perish". This includes people with purpose, passion, callings and assignments. I've come to discover that what many Christians define as vision is actually a calling or an assignment from God.

Just for clarity, let's define some terms:

PASSION:

It's a personal craving or desire to do something or make a change. Personally, I don't like it when people are deprived or cheated on their rights. I always feel I can do something about helping them. I remember a certain time of my life when I went out on evangelism; I would speak to people to a point that they'd begin to shed tears. It was usually not my intention to make them cry, but because of the passion that accompanies my conversation with them, they feel the effect. Most of them remark that they wish they had known the things I shared with them before I met them. But that's all about passion, it doesn't really have a definition. But whenever it encounters its victim, it won't hesitate to do something about it.

There are some people who are passionate about making people happy. They naturally feel down when they meet somebody who is also down; and they won't stop until they put a smile on that person's face. But sometimes, passion makes a man do beyond what is necessary; and that's because passion has no definition, it has no purpose. It's just a burning fire that is not heating any definite metal.

PURPOSE:

Purpose has a definition. I became confused after a while. I wondered why people wept whenever I spoke with them. I needed a clear definition, I needed purpose.

I resigned from the job I was doing so I could attend a bible school course. And my only prayer point during the bible school program

was "Lord, what is your purpose for my life?". That was the prayer I made every passing day till I heard God say "don't worry, continue building yourself in your most holy faith - speaking in other tongues". That literally meant that I wasn't prepared for it yet. I continued doing what God instructed me to do, and after two weeks, He told me His purpose for my life. Surprisingly, it was nothing different from what I was already doing. God only added a definition.

"Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people" was the purpose that God gave to me. Definition has a way of adding order to your life. Before I found purpose, I was bringing knowledge to people, but without a particular order. It was more like a trial and error exercise. I was confused by people's reactions. But when I found purpose, order

came into my life, and I started doing things on purpose.

In July 2015, God re-affirmed my purpose while I was praying to Him to fill up His people with knowledge, so that the destruction and bitterness among us will cease. But surprisingly, He replied saying "But I have made you knowledgeable!". I had to quickly change my prayer point to "fill me up with more knowledge for your people". That may sound funny, but that moment redefined my life.

Honestly, when the purpose of your passion or talent is not known, abuse is inevitable. I feel sad whenever I see young people who misuse their talents and passions. A couple of them are talented singers, but they sing anything they find, not the things defined by

God. The God who gave you a talent also has a definition for it. Twenty talented singers cannot possibly sing the same genre; God is wiser than that. I wrote an e-book on how to find your purpose, if you've not already found your purpose, I'd recommend that you read that book.

CALLING:

I've discovered that what many people call a vision is actually a calling. Just as purpose comes with a definition, a calling comes with an assignment. I've heard people say things like "God gave me a vision to change the world". No, what God actually gave you is a call, and a call comes with an assignment. Truly, they may have seen a vision in the cause of the call, but what they got at the end is a call, not a vision. Let's see a few examples;

On the 7th of April, 2013, God showed me a situation in our academic system. Among them was that students understood the value of money more than their arithmetic. After all the scenarios, He clearly told me to bridge the gap between academics and knowledge, by bringing knowledge to them. On the second day of June 2015, God spoke to me again while I was praying, He said "I have made you My agent of academic transformation". That was obviously a confirmation of what He called me to do in 2013.

Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared his experience on how God called him into ministry. For 18 hours, God showed him an array of broken, battered, beaten and tormented people. Compassion gripped him, and he wept uncontrollably because he

couldn't bare the sight of their suffering. But suddenly he heard the voice of God say "But from the beginning it was not so. And now the hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the word of faith. And I am sending you to undertake this task". Now that's a calling! Callings always come with a specific assignment.

The first thing I ask people who tell me they are called into ministry is "what was the assignment that was given to you?". Because God won't call you to do just anything; rather, He'd call you to do something in His plan.

God had a plan to deliver Israel out of Egypt. And when it was time to execute that plan, He called Moses and gave him the assignment. Moses' assignment was to free

Israel from Egypt, and that was exactly what he did.

WHY DOES GOD CALL PEOPLE OR GIVE ASSIGNMENTS?

The same way we have visions or plans for the future is the same way God has visions or plans for the future. Jer 29:11 says "God knows the plan that He has towards us, plans of good and not of evil, to give us a future and a hope". In other words, if you can still see evil around you, then God's plan has not fully manifested.

That's why He calls people. He discovers a situation, shows the situation to people who are ready, then He gives them the assignment. Meanwhile, the process of seeing

the situation that God shows a person is also called a vision, but not the kind of vision that we are dealing with in this book.

GOD DOES NOT CALL EVERYBODY FOR AN ASSIGNMENT

Though every believer is called to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus, but it's not every believer that receives a call for an assignment in God's plan.

Someone had said that "God does not call the qualified; rather, He qualifies the called". That's true, but God does not call lazy people either. From experience, people who receive a call from God are mostly people who are working on their purpose. Moses and Gideon were purposeful people, and God called them

for an assignment. Bishop David Oyedepo was burning with a passion, and God called him. I was also burning with a passion, and God called me. Though God may not call you because you're qualified, He won't call you either if you are lazy. I don't pray to God to use me; I simply make myself available for His works.

Now let's talk about

VISION

Vision is the ability to see into the future of a thing in order to advance it. Vision is a must if progress must be recorded. Though God is the Author of purposes and callings, but you'll need the mind of a visionary to succeed in any of them. Vision is not something you wait for God to show you; rather, it's a tool you engage until your calling or purpose begins to show.

The Bible talks about people who "having sights, but they cannot see". God gave us eyes for sighting, but created vision for seeing. Your eyes may sight what is within, but it is vision that sees what is beyond. God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, more than we can ever ask or think. But the fact that He's able doesn't mean He'd do it without our permission. Many people know what they lack, but they don't know what they need. And this is why they suffer endlessly.

Many graduates lack a good job; and they consciously pray for one. They've endured for so long in a low salary job - with the same prayer point, "Lord, change my job". If you're in that category, then it's time to stop sighting and start seeing.

CATCHING A VISION OF GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE...

While seeing visions may be a general virtue, those who have a relationship with God would always have a divine advantage. Because with God, they'd be directed, and would also see farther than a natural man would see. Those who serve God enjoy multiplied abilities. We saw how God added wisdom and understanding to Daniel and those 3 Hebrew boys; and at the end, they were ten times better than their peers.

People who serve God enjoy guided, directed, and amplified visions. God asked Jeremiah "what do you see?", and what he saw wasn't something he could sight naturally. God directed Abraham to "look towards the

North, South, East, and West; and that whatever he saw would be for him".

I also believe that God was simply showing Abraham the power of having a vision for the future. Though God had promised him that he would be the Father of many nations, but he still had to see himself fathering many nations. At the long run, it's not your calling or purpose that determines what will happen, it's your vision. God may give you a big purpose or calling, but if your vision is not big, your big calling or purpose will not see the light of day.

The Bible says that eyes have not seen the blessings that God has reserved for them that love Him. You just can't depend on your eyes to see the fullness of God's blessing for you, you need to engage the power of vision. With

the eyes alone, Moses could only disarm one Egyptian soldier and still ran away. But with vision, he disarmed thousands of them and still took their goods. Just as you use your eyes to sight anything, you can also use vision to see beyond anything.

Vision is a projection; it's something you see or set, and begin to work towards. After writing for many years, I needed a notable progress. So I told God that I would love to be the official writer of one of my revered mentors. It was a daily prayer point for me until God finally told me that "eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither has it entered the heart of man, the things which He has prepared for me". He continued by saying "if being the writer of that great man has crossed your heart, then it means I have something better for you".

Honestly, I wondered for months, "who or what would be greater than this man?". Just a few months back, I was meditating on how the Timely Notes Devotional began. God ordained it; He said He will be the Author, while I will be the privileged writer. That was when it occurred to me that I'm God's writer. No wonder I write so many things in one day, because my Author always has something to say. Just imagine, I was already writing for God, while I was busy praying to be writing for a man.

My meditation didn't stop at that discovery. I continued by asking God, "if I'm your privileged writer, am I not entitled to a pay?". That was just a question, but it led to a major breakthrough in my life. People started sowing seeds into my life, I started getting

more jobs, more speaking and writing engagements. In summary, I started enjoying more favour.

All these discoveries came because I saw a vision of the future. From my experience and many other people, it is clear that true visionaries are people who ask definite questions. Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared a story of an experience he had with God after God called him. He sat down one day and asked God, "now that you've called me, who pays me?". And God showed him from scriptures that he is on a divine appointment, and a labourer is worthy of his wages. Most of the breakthroughs he has recorded today were birth from visionary questions.

"Why, what, where" should be regular words for people who walk in purpose or people who are on an assignment. This is because, the moment you ask these questions, you start seeing ahead. And that's what vision is about, seeing ahead so that you can move ahead. While purpose and callings may be given by God, vision is required for their progression.

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION...

People perish! I earlier mentioned that vision is not a divine purpose or calling that is given by God; rather, it's a virtue built into us by God. The scriptures below will show you the categories of people who are affected by lack of vision:

Lamentations 2:

8. The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

9. Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

10. The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

11. Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the

earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

12. They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.

13. What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?

14. Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

If we observe those scriptures, we'd discover that men of purpose, like kings, and men with callings, like prophets, were also affected by the destruction. Verse 9 clearly tells us that the reason why they were affected was because nobody engaged the power of vision, even their prophets also.

Many Ministries are not growing, not because the calling is not good enough, or because the environment is not pleasing enough, but because vision is not enough.

Let me conclude with this; If you want to move forward, then engage the power of vision. May God give us understanding!

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimony.

- PUTTING GRACE UNDER PRESSURE
- HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DESIRED
MIRACLE
 - COLOR IN WILDERNESS
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 - NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN
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EMEKA ANSLEM



I am Emeka Anslem, the privileged writer of Timely Notes Daily Devotional, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. I received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By His grace, I've committed my life to this assignment, and I'm always willing to add value to lives.

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