Vision That Sees Clearly

Bible Study Guide
Scripture: Habakkuk 2:1-4
Bro. Fred Hall, Sr.
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Opening Prayer & Welcome

Begin with prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and write His vision clearly on our hearts

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Introduction: Driving Through the Fog

Key Definition: God-given vision is divine revelation through God's Word that gives us faith to trust, clarity to move, and purpose to endure through life's trials.

Scripture Foundation: "And the LORD answered me: 'Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.'" - Habakkuk 2:2-4 ESV

Discussion Starter: The Fog Story

Bro. Hall shared about traveling through thick fog in the mountains. They had just come down from snowy mountains, hit icy roads, and then got hit with fog so thick they couldn't see the road lines, other cars, or even know if they were on the right side of the road. They had to slow down completely, couldn't use high beams (which made it worse), and were genuinely scared with 18-wheelers passing by - one difficulty layered on top of another.

The Spiritual Application: "When you operate life without God's vision in your life, that's what will happen. It'll be like traveling in fog that you can't see. It'll be like driving blindfolded on Group Proof Day."

Discussion Starter: The Prophet's Dilemma

Habakkuk prophesied during a time of social upheaval, social injustice, financial inequity, violence, murders, and "every sin you could think of" was happening. Unlike other prophets who typically spoke from God to the people, Habakkuk did something different and unusual - he pleaded to God for the people, crying "God, how long? How long will you let all this evil run rampant?"

Questions:

1. What current situations make you want to cry out "How long, God?" like Habakkuk did?
2. How do you handle seasons when God seems silent to your prayers?
3. Why is it significant that Habakkuk questioned God instead of just accepting circumstances?

The Big Idea

God-given vision gives us faith to trust, clarity to move, and purpose to endure

All shaped by divine revelation through God's Word

Reality #1: God's Vision Brings Clarity in Confusion

Key Scripture: Habakkuk 2:1-2

"I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint. And the LORD answered me: 'Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.'" ESV

Main Points:

- Habakkuk literally positioned himself on the watchtower to see what God would do
- You can't stay ground level and expect to operate at full capacity with God
- God's vision is visible, memorable, and transferable
- The vision must be written down and made plain so others can run with it

Key Teaching:

"You got to come up higher with God. You got to see where God is. You gotta look the way God looks. I'm telling you, you cannot stay ground level and still expect to operate at full capacity with God."

"Eagles can see almost two to three miles deeper in the water than fish. From where they are in the air, they can look clearly down two to three miles deeper into the water and still catch fish. But to see that deep, you got to sit up high."

"God's vision is always bigger than you. It's greater than you, right? And so when you talk about carrying out God's vision, man, when you talk about living God's vision, you can never get too big over what God is ordained."

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ESV

The Great Commission as an example of God's vision being visible (going to all nations), memorable (make disciples), and transferable (duplicated from person to person).

Discussion Questions:

4. What does it mean to "come up higher" with God to see His perspective?
5. How does God's vision differ from human planning and goal-setting?
6. Why was it important that Habakkuk write down the vision and make it plain?
7. How can you position yourself to receive God's vision for your life?

Truth Bomb:

God's vision is always bigger than you - it requires our spiritual response and faithful action.

Application:

Are you living with God's vision, or are you simply wandering around without direction? Stop trying to fit your agenda to God and make it seem like that's what God wants. Seek divine revelation through God's Word.

Reality #2: God-Given Vision Requires Faith Over Feelings

Key Scripture: Habakkuk 2:3-4

"For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith." ESV

Main Points:

- God's vision doesn't align with your time, but it always aligns with His truth
- The righteous don't live by how things look - they live based on what God said
- Sometimes God has to discipline us before He delivers us
- We must wait on both God's discipline and God's deliverance

Key Teaching:

"The righteous don't live by how things look. They live based on what God said. There's a difference. Righteous people don't live by how things look. Because if you look at things and you base your faith and your blessings on how things look, you will always be depressed."

"Vision doesn't remove the journey, it removes the guesswork. When you live by his vision, you see what I'm saying? He takes away the guesswork, man. He takes away the guesswork and he makes certain what he said he will do."

Supporting Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." ESV

The Childhood Discipline Illustration:

Like waiting for punishment as a child - "you're sitting there waiting, sweating, scared, your mouth is dried up. You scared out of your mind 'cause you waiting anticipating to see what's gonna happen. And man in between that, you plead with Mama, look, Mama, don't tell Daddy. I promise I'm not gonna do it. I promise I won't tell him. Please don't tell him." Habakkuk had to wait on discipline from God, then wait on deliverance from God.

Discussion Questions:

8. How do you respond when God's timing doesn't match your expectations?
9. What's the difference between living by faith versus living by sight?
10. Why does God sometimes discipline before He delivers?
11. What situation in your life requires you to live by faith over feelings right now?

Truth Bomb:

Vision doesn't remove the journey, it removes the guesswork.

Application:

Everything you've caused yourself to be in this situation, you still got to live by faith. It may not make sense to you. It may not feel good. It may not look like it's working, but what God says is not about how you feel - it's about where your faith is.

Reality #3: God-Given Vision Protects and Positions Us

Key Scripture: Proverbs 29:18 (referenced in sermon)

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

Main Points:

- God's vision gives clarity, not comfort
- Without divine revelation, people live without restraints
- Vision keeps our lives, churches, and ministries aligned with God's authority and agenda
- We don't write a vision to fit culture - we write a vision that fits God's plan

Key Teaching:

"God's vision gives clarity, not comfort. Lack of God-given vision leads to chaos, compromise, and confusion."

"We don't write a vision to fit culture. We write a vision that fits God's plan. That's different, right? We don't fit the vision into culture, right? God's people are always to look different than the culture."

"Without divine revelation, people live without restraints. Which means every vision for every man, every woman, every church, every leader, you must get a God-given vision. You got to seek divine revelation. If not, you will live without restraints."

Supporting Scripture: Acts 2:42

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." ESV

The Church's Vision Application:

Purpose Statement: "We exist to fulfill the Great Commission by purposefully making disciples and intentionally teaching truth"

Mission Statement: "Live purposefully like Christ, love intentionally like Christ, and lead impactfully through Christ"

Vision Statement: "Liberty City Church of Christ - People who are purposeful stewards, intentionally impacting lives and transforming communities for God's kingdom"

Discussion Questions:

12. How does having a clear vision protect us from compromise?
13. What's the difference between fitting vision to culture versus fitting culture to God's vision?
14. How can our church better align with God's vision for making disciples?
15. What keeps you from taking the gospel to people who are different from you?

Truth Bomb:

"We don't write a vision to fit culture. We write a vision that fits God's plan."

Application:

Vision keeps our lives, churches, and ministries aligned with God's authority and agenda. As a steward leader, you don't own the ministry - you simply manage God's resources, and that includes people. Get involved in ministry - not spread across multiple ministries, but committed to stewarding God's resources in one area.

Practical Application: Taking Inventory

Self-Examination Questions:

16. **Are you living with God's vision or wandering without direction?**
    - Do you seek divine revelation through God's Word?
    - Are you trying to fit your plans to God or God to your plans?
17. **Do you live by faith or feelings?**
    - How do you respond when circumstances don't look promising?
    - Are you willing to wait on God's appointed time?
18. **Are you aligned with God's purposes?**
    - Does your life vision include making disciples?
    - Are you using your gifts strategically for God's kingdom?

The Steward Leadership Challenge:

Every member should get involved in ministry as a steward leader, not spread across multiple ministries but committed to one area. As Bro. Hall explained, "as a steward, you don't own the ministry. You simply manage and work for God - that includes people."

Group Prayer & Commitment

Prayer Focus Areas:

19. **Clarity:** Ask God to write His vision clearly on your heart through His Word
20. **Faith:** Pray for strength to live by faith when circumstances are unclear
21. **Patience:** Request grace to wait on God's appointed time
22. **Stewardship:** Pray for wisdom to be faithful stewards of God's resources

Commitment Challenge:

This week, identify one area where you need to stop living by feelings and start living by faith in God's vision.

Reflection: "Without divine revelation, people live without restraints. You must get God-given vision from divine revelation through God's Word."

For Further Study

Additional Scriptures:

- Habakkuk 1:1-17 (The prophet's initial complaint)
- Romans 1:17 (Paul's use of "the righteous shall live by faith")
- Hebrews 10:38 (Living by faith in the New Testament)
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 (Walking by faith, not sight)

Discussion for Next Week:
How can we as individuals and as a church better write down and make plain God's vision so others can "run with it"?

Closing Prayer

Pray for genuine commitment to live by God's vision rather than human planning. Ask God to help us wait faithfully on His appointed time while actively participating in His purposes through the local church. Request wisdom to be good stewards of the gifts, resources, and opportunities He has given us.