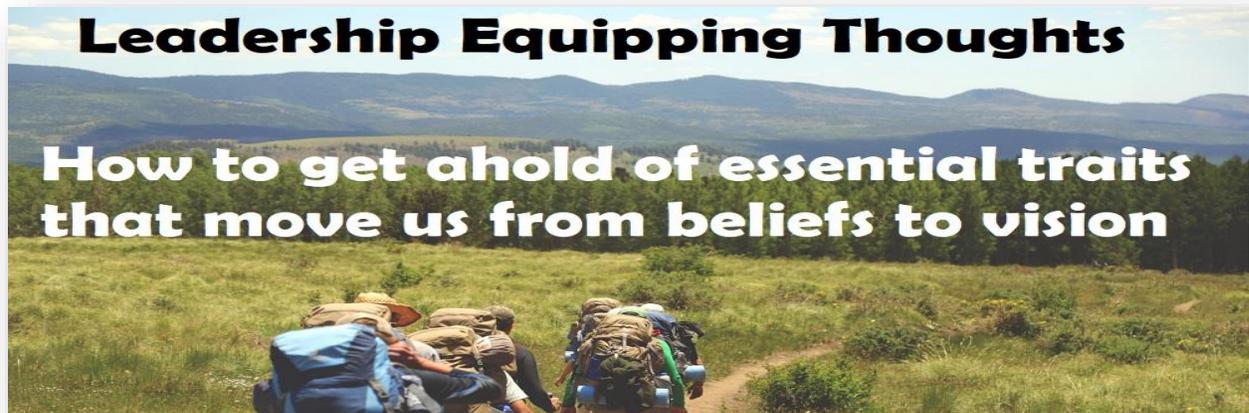


February 3, 2019



Num 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it."

"Vision" has been a popular concept surrounding leadership in the body of Christ. The church growth movement of the past forty years has highlighted the crossover of values from business models to church leadership in which vision has become a buzzword for success. Wordsmiths have spent much time crafting catchy vision statements to post everywhere to promote their organizations. Having a vision statement has been an important part of being a successful leader, church, or business.

Vision from God, however, isn't just a catchy phrase or idea written on a website or a sign; it is something written deep within the heart of leaders that they must pursue. It becomes like an inner compass made up of core convictions that point in a certain direction, one they refuse to compromise or detour from even amid personal difficulty or loss. It is something they *must* pursue. Leaders with vision can't live without pursuing it. **Pursuit** is how you can tell if it is a real vision.

Vision without an active pursuit of it is mere opportunity, an idle belief, or a spiritual fantasy.

Biblical Example of a Leader with Vision

Caleb was a great example of a leader who received genuine vision from God. He, along with eleven other leaders, was sent into the land to see how to pursue God's

vision. Num 13:2... you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them.

Vision was reduced to an idle belief in ten of the leaders, but it put in inner drive and compass in Caleb and Joshua. Even after the people turned away from pursuing it because of the report from the ten, Caleb and Joshua kept going. During the Wilderness Wandering while the whole first generation died off, Caleb and Joshua kept raising up and imparting vision to a new generation. When the time came to cross over into the land and pursue it, they did so without hesitation.

Even after helping others obtain aspects of the vision, Caleb had a fire in his heart to possess his place. The very place the giants lived who had discouraged the previous ten leaders who had died in the wilderness.

*Jos 14:6-13 "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought **word back to him as it was in my heart...** (12) "Now then, give me this hill country (Hebron) about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Giants were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken."*

For Caleb and authentic leaders today, vision wasn't just a nice theory they were content to leave on a dusty shelf or on a home page of a website. They were **compelled** to take active steps to pursue it.

Sometimes when I interact with leaders, I try to discover their eternal, internal compass of vision. It is so sad to see leaders who have somehow lost or broken the inner compass of vision. Many times they still believe the things that once guided them, but that's all it is, just a belief. Their compass no longer points in its original direction and they settle for a lesser experience. They no longer are taking passionate steps to pursue it. Like the people of Ezra's day, they have a host of excuses. The prophet Haggai identified them, (Haggai 1:2-10) "Quit saying now is not the time to pursue it...consider your ways...rise up and pursue it."



"I never worry about action, but only about inaction." – Winston Churchill

How can we identify if a revelation from God has been stripped to the point it has become mere theory and not a vision?

- **There is often an excuse that comes inside of you pushing the active pursuit of it down the road.** “When such and such is done....after we see this or that change...” are just excuses for kicking the can (active pursuit of the vision) down the road.
- **You point to other positive things that are happening as justification even though they have little to do with the vision God has shown you.** We feed 200 people a month...we support gospel programming in a third world country...we have over 1000 people at our corporate services...all given as excuses for not pursuing the thing God has shown them.
- **You rarely speak about what God has shown you around people who you know don't see it or will be opposed to it.**
- **You feel convicted when you get around others who are pursuing it because it shines light on your lack of pursuit.**
- **You are no longer willing to take serious steps to pursue it and tend to downplay others who are actively pursuing it.**
- **The things you stand to lose if you begin to pursue it outweigh the delights of moving towards it.** The result is you keep doing the things that don't lead to His vision.

How can we change?

- **Begin to take passionate steps to move towards the vision.** Do things like speaking about it, praying for it, and identifying practical steps that move towards its being fulfilled.
- **Identify things that you know will hold it back, and begin to address them.**
- **Count the cost about what needs to change, and be willing to do anything in order to keep moving towards it.**

Check it out and sign up

BLOG

www.dougreighbaum.com

The biggest advance toward change is to quit living in excuses and start moving. The difference between real vision and mere theory or fantasy is actual steps of pursuit.

Doug Kreighbaum
dkreighbaum@gmail.com
www.c2family.org

