
Watch For The Vision (Hindsight, Present Sight, and Foresight)

God's Vision Plan

Pastor Wil Nichols

May 9, 2021

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: God's Vision Plan: Watch For The Vision (Hindsight, Present Sight, and Foresight)

Lesson Text

Habakkuk 2:1–3 (AV)¹ I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. ² And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. ³ For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Matthew 24:42–47 (AV)⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. ⁴⁵ Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁷ Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Introduction

Our Theme for 2021 is “The Plan of God”

Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB)¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

So far, we've looked at Discovering, Prospering, and the Trouble of God's Plan. Now we want to explore how Vision relates to God's Plan for our Lives.

Vision, in its most basic form, is the state of being able to see.

- Hindsight: Understanding of a situation or event only after it has already happened
- Present sight: Seeing what's right in front of you
- Foresight: The ability to see what will happen or be needed in the future

Proverbs 29:¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

Anytime we see people being overwhelmed and destroyed by depression, frustration, aggravation, cares of life, the behavior of other people, it's a good indication that they are lacking vision.

Why? Because this says that they are too focused on the problems of right now, and can't see the vision of God's plan which gives us a future and a hope.

People give up because they don't see a future and a hope. They give up on jobs and careers, give up on ministries and callings, on marriages and family, and on life itself because where there is no vision, no future, no hope, the people perish!

Over the next several weeks we are going to explore, investigate, discover, activate, listen, wait, speak, run, and write the vision so that we can keep from destroying ourselves and get to our future and our hope!

Today we learn how to Watch for the Vision!

Series and Sermon: God's Vision Plan: Watch For The Vision (Hindsight, Present Sight, and Foresight)

“The Vision of Hindsight, The Vision of Present Sight, and the Vision of Foresight”

I. The Vision of Hindsight (Watch for the Thief)

Matthew 24:⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The first Vision Watch we must learn is the lesson of Hindsight.

The truth is most of us have something in our past, that after hindsight, we wish we would have never done; I call this the path or regret. And for some people, they can't move forward into the vision of their future, because they keep waking up every day with the regrets of their past.

Philippians 3:¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

However, the writer and philosopher George Santayana said, **“Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.”**

And so we have a conundrum, an enigma wrapped up in a mystery: If we hold on to the past, we can't move forward, but if we forget the past, we are doomed to repeat it.

I want to move forward into the things of God, but the devils of my past will keep coming.

The answer is we need DOUBLE VISION! One eye on our future to keep our eye on the prize of the high calling, but one eye on our past to learn so that we don't repeat them.

I don't know about you, but I don't like being held back repeating the same grade over again.

Galatians 5:¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

I may have a new devil at the next level, but I refused to be defeated by the devil of my past.

1 Peter 5:⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

We need Hindsight Vision so that the mistakes of the past don't keep us from our future.

II. The Vision of Present Sight (Watch for the Opportunity)

Matthew 24:⁴⁵ **Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?**

The next Vision Watch we must learn is the Opportunity of Natural Sight.

Some people can be so focused on the future and what they don't have, that they miss the opportunities of what's right in front of them.

One can miss the blessings of tomorrow if they fail to see the opportunity of today.

Matthew 25:¹⁴ **For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.**

The reason why we sometimes miss the opportunities of Present Sight is because we are too busy looking at what other people have.

Envy of what another person has can cause jealous people to miss what they have. The truth is that they couldn't handle what you have anyway because they haven't been through what you've been through to get what you have.

But Faithful People don't walk by what they see other people doing, they walk by what they see God doing. And the only way to see what God is doing is stop looking and start believing.

2 Corinthians 5:⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Revelation 3:⁸ **I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

We need Present Sight Vision to walk by faith and work in faithfulness until God opens the doors of opportunity.

III. The Vision of Foresight (Watch for What Will Be)

Matthew 24:⁴⁶ **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁷ Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.**

- We need Hindsight Vision so that the mistakes of the Past don't keep us from our Future.
- We need Present Sight Vision to work in faithfulness until God opens the doors of opportunity.
- We need Foresight Vision so that we can walk into what will be.

What is foresight? The ability to see what will happen or what will be needed in the future.

This is about having the Vision to Watch for What Will Be!

1 John 3:² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

But we have a problem, most of us are not prophets, and we can't see the future. We don't know what will happen, and we don't know what will be needed.

And even if we were a prophet, many times they don't see clearly, don't get it quite right, and sometimes miss God altogether!

1 Corinthians 2:⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Sometimes man just can't see God, he can't hear, and he can't even imagine in his heart the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

But you know who never misses God? God!!!

Revelation 22:¹³ **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

Romans 8:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Vision of Foresight is not in having the gift of a prophet to see the future, but in having faith in the God who already knows the future.

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

When we walk by faith, the Spirit will have the Foresight to pray for us, the foresight to lead us, the foresight to prepare us, the foresight to keep and protect us, and the foresight to bless us.

Matthew 25:21 ²¹ **His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

It does not yet appear, but Foresight Vision lets me know that IT WILL BE: It will be alright, it will be healed, it will be delivered, it will be restored, it will be blessed, it will be resurrected!

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Watch For The Vision)

Lesson Text

- Habakkuk 2:1–3, Matthew 24:42–47

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Vision of Hindsight (Watch for the Thief)*

II. *The Vision of Present Sight (Watch for the Opportunity)*

III. *The Vision of Foresight (Watch for What Will Be)*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is the first thing you do when you get home?
2. What is the first concert you ever attended?

II. Into the Bible

1. The climate of Habakkuk’s time was similar to what it is today. It was a time of fear, oppression, persecution, lawlessness, and immorality. Habakkuk complained to God and questioned God about why He wasn’t doing anything about the wickedness in society. Study Habakkuk 1 & 2 and answer the following:
 - i. What was Habakkuk’s first complaint and how does it mirror our society today?
(Habakkuk 1:1- 4)
 1. What was God’s reply? Do you think God is responding the same way today?
(Habakkuk 1:5-11)
 - ii. What was Habakkuk’s second complaint and what was God’s answer to that? (Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:1 & 2:2 - 2:20)
 - iii. Who’s vision is God telling Habakkuk to write and what will it speak in the end?

III. Life Application

1. Of the three types of vision described in this week’s sermon, which do you need most right now? Describe how that type of vision will help you.
2. What practical steps will you take in your life to develop foresight?