
Running With The Vision (Breaking Through)

God's Vision Plan

Pastor Wil Nichols

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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: Running With The Vision (Breaking Through)

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 reprov'd. 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.

Isaiah 40:28–31 (AV)²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Introduction

When Habakkuk received his vision from God concerning the current distresses that he and the people were experiencing, God gave him specific instructions:

- Habakkuk 2: ² And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Now the way many people interpret these instructions, including some of the contemporary biblical translations is: “Write the vision clearly so that the runner can read it.”

Although I don't have a technical problem with this translation, when we look at this passage from the perspective of Vision meaning Specific Instructions, we get a different interpretation.

Specific Instructions take on the meaning of plans or a road map. And you don't start your journey before you look at the plans or map, you read the map first.

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.

This is not just about the big picture of where we will end up, but the specific instructions on how we will get there!

- Habakkuk 2:2 (NLT) ² Then the Lord said to me, “Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.

Before we start running, we need to know where we are first going! We need to know something about the path, the way, how long of a journey, what the conditions will be before we start running. Will it be hot or cold, indoors or out, short or long, crowded or alone!

There are too many people today trying to “Run” with God’s Word, but they have now “Read” God’s Word. They are trying to preach and teach the Word, but they have been adequately prepared for the journey of God’s Word.

Before I tore the manicoous in my knee I would run 12 to 15 miles a week. But it wasn’t always that way. When I first started running, I could only run a small distance before I stop, quit, and give up because of physical barriers. But eventually I’d have a breakthrough and run further.

Life is filled with a series of barriers; the cares of life, times of weariness, and issues and challenges that never seem to get better!

But God has a Vision for our lives, and after we have watched for it, and written it, we must breakthrough our barriers and Run with the Vision.

Series and Sermon: God’s Vision Plan: Running With The Vision (Breaking Through)

“Walk With The Vision, Run With The Vision, Fly With The Vision”

I. Walk With The Vision (Fainting Stage)

Isaiah 40:³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; ***and they shall walk, and not faint.***

The first problem in running with the vision is getting past the fainting stage.

The technical definition for FAINT is lose consciousness for a short time because of a temporarily insufficient supply of oxygen to the brain.

When people faint spiritually, it is not that they are spiritually dead, they just allowed life to cause them to choke them temporarily from oxygen or blood supply.

Mark 4:¹⁹ **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

If we are to run with the vision, we have to learn how to stop letting life choke us out.

There is too much fainting going on in the Body of Christ. Fainting over our finances, fainting over our money, fainting over our honey, fainting over our job, fainting over our family, fainting over our friend-nemies and enemies.

Galatians 6:⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, ***if we faint not.***

David shows us how to Break Through the Fainting Stages of Life, by Believing and Waiting on the Lord.

Psalms 27:13–14 (AV)¹³ *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalms 27:1–3 (AV)¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

II. Run With The Vision (Weary Stage)

Isaiah 40:³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; **they shall run, and not be weary**; and they shall walk, and not faint.

The next problem we see here concerning running with the vision is the weary stage.

Weary is feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep; becoming tired or exhausted.

Have you ever gotten to the place where you just get Sick and Tired of it all? Sick and tired of the drama, sick and tired of the struggle, sick and tired of the fight, sick and tired of people in the family, people on the job, people at the church. Sick of Tired or being Sick and Tired!

Galatians 5:⁷ Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Why are you letting your people, your situations, your money, your honey, your stuff cause you to get weary and hinder your run.

Daniel 7:²⁵ And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, ...

Galatians 6:⁹ **And let us not be weary in well doing**: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Jesus teaches us how to Break Through the Weary Stages of Life; Change your burden and rest in the Lord.

Matthew 11:²⁸ **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** ²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** ³⁰ **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

The answer is not to get sick and tired of the journey, just get some rest so that you can continue the journey. Don't get sick and tired of the people, just get some rest so you can help the people. Don't get sick and tired of the fighting, just get some rest so that you can keep fighting.

Psalms 30:⁵ For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

III. Fly With The Vision (Take Off Stage)

Running With The Vision (Breaking Through)

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Isaiah 40:³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; **they shall mount up with wings as eagles**; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

- We break through the fainting stage by believing and waiting on the Lord
- We break through the weary stage by changing our burden and resting in the Lord
- Finally, we break through to the finish by rising above it with the Lord

Sometimes in life you can't see the forest for the trees. You're so bogged down in what's in front of you, that you can't see what God has for you!

The Answer is you have to rise above it!

The trees don't go away, the people are still there, the drama didn't disappear, you still haven't gotten a raise, they still gave the promotion to someone else, the marriage is still broken, the children are still crazy; but you have risen above it!

It's time to Break Through the Ground Stage and Take Off With The Vision

- First, you have to taxi: just walking and not fainting; believing and waiting on the Lord.
- Then we pick up speed: now you're running, the seat belts fasten, the trays are in their upright position; and we're resting in the Lord because his burden is light.
- Finally, you get wind beneath your wings: mounting up with wings as eagles to fly

Isaiah 40:³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; **they shall mount up with wings as eagles**; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

To mount up with wings as eagles means to soar high, to rise above it, get to the mountain tops.

Mount Up with Your Wings, Mount Up with Your Praise, Mount Up with Your Blessing, Mount Up with Your Dance, Mount Up with Your Testimony, Mount Up with Your Lord!

Galatians 6:9 (AV)⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: **for in due season we shall reap**, if we faint not.

Philippians 1:6 (AV)⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Psalms 103:5 (AV)⁵ Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; *so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Running With The Vision (Breaking Through))

Lesson Text

- Habakkuk 2:1–3, Isaiah 40:28–31

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Walk With The Vision (Fainting Stage)*

II. *Run With The Vision (Weary Stage)*

III. *Fly With The Vision (Take Off Stage)*

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

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. You have to get rid of all appliances in your house. Which do you keep? a) Television b) Refrigerator c) Washing Machine d) Dishwasher e) Clothes Dryer f) Stove
2. Which reality tv show would you like most to appear on? a) The Amazing Race b) Project Runway c) Survivor d) Hell’s Kitchen e) America’s Next Top Model f) The Voice

II. Into the Bible

1. According to Isaiah 40:31, the prophet states the results of one who waits on the Lord. Notice the order: first we mount up with wings like eagles; then we run; finally, we walk. What is the significance of this order? Provide scripture references.
2. What is the purpose of a yoke? Since Jesus is promising us rest in Matthew 11:28-30, why would he tell us to put on his yoke?

III. Life Application

1. Helping Others — You’ve been charged with developing an 8-Step Program for Christian “fainters”. What are the first three steps of your program?
2. Helping Yourself reflection — You now realize that you’re in need of your own program. Would you seek help and what is the one practical thing you could start doing daily that could help you have a smooth “take off”!