

Vision

Lesson 1 “Altered By Prayer”

I. Introduction - We are going to begin a series on “Vision” to kick off 2025. This is something the Lord wanted me to teach during 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting because as we fast and pray we will hear God more clearly. This is a wonderful time to ask for clarity for His plans and purposes for this year (and the rest of your life) and get a godly vision.

A. Why Important? **Proverbs 29:18**

1. **KJV** *Where there is no vision, the people perish...*
2. **NIV** *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint...*
3. **ESV** *Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint...*
4. **MSG** *If people can't see what God is doing they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals they are most blessed.*

B. These verses make it clear if we want to walk in blessing, we need vision. **So what is vision? It's the capacity to see from God's perspective. Vision:**

1. Vision gives purpose and significance.
2. Vision provides motivation (evokes passion and emotion)
3. Vision provides capacity to endure hardship.
4. Sets direction and gives you a course.
5. Vision will prioritize your values.
6. **Go over 2025 Personal Vision Handout**

C. Over the next few weeks we'll talk about how to obtain God's vision and how to practically step into it. **Before we do that, I want to raise your capacity by helping you see who you are in Christ.** Ex: Superman example - vision to help humanity. His options are reduced if he only thinks he's Clark Kent.

II. Altered by Prayer - Today, we are going to talk about how our perceptions can be altered by prayer. This changes our options.

A. **Luke 9:27-35**

1. “Some will see the kingdom” - this is fulfilled in the next few verses.
2. When Jesus prayed, the appearance of His face altered (became different).
3. His clothes began to radiate with the glory of God and glisten. What was true on the inside became apparent on the outside (ex: Superman)
4. The disciples are overwhelmed by this reality and want to build 3 tabernacles.
5. They then hear the voice of God and get a revelation of who Jesus is (son of God, son of the King, the kingdom - fulfillment of *verse 27*).

B. They knew He was amazing before this, but after this encounter had their option/ expectations changed? Ok, look at **John 17:20-23**. **If the Bible is true, this means the same glory that manifested on the mount of Transfiguration is also inside of us.**

C. Matthew 17:14-21 Why This Matters

1. **Verses 14-17**— Jesus was not pleased His disciples could not cast the demon out. He had already given them authority over demons and they had prior success. **Jesus gives us authority because He wants results. It doesn't bless His heart when we pray and don't get answers.**

2. **Verse 18 - Mark 9:20, 25-26** When Jesus prayed, He didn't get immediate results either (got worse before it got better - boy convulsed and fell over dead. Ex: Healing School Example - when I saw the lady writhing like a snake it had an impact on my flesh. When we don't see immediate results it communicates to our senses, prayer doesn't work.

3. **Verses 19-21** The disciples ask why they couldn't cast the demon out. Why? They were stunned it didn't work for them.

a. Jesus's answer was because of their unbelief. Don't need big faith (mustard seed). Just need pure faith not contaminated with anxiety, worry, and dominated by our senses. **Jesus got bad results at first too. The difference is Jesus didn't let unbelief get on the inside of Him.**

b. This kind only comes out by prayer and fasting? What kind? Kind of demon? No. **If there is a demon so strong the name of Jesus won't get him out, our fasting won't help either.**

c. Why do we fast then? To deal with unbelief. This kind of belief is when your senses tell you it didn't work. Sense knowledge. **It's more than just having a bad thought. It's being dominated by your senses.**

i. When we fast we depend on the spirit to control our flesh. At first our senses will go crazy.

ii. Healing School Example

III. Conclusion - Bill Johnson says, "Some people fast for a breakthrough, some people fast into a lifestyle." Jesus fasted into a lifestyle and that is why the power of God always flowed.

A. As we spend time in 21 days of prayer and fasting I want to encourage you to fast for more than breakthrough. Fast into a lifestyle. Ask God to give you a vision of who you are in Christ so your appearance is altered. **When you see yourself as God sees you, your options change.**

B. Transition to Craig