

Capturing God's Vision

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Introduction:

A long time ago there lived a man named Habakkuk. (What a name!!!) He was concerned about the way things were going with Israel. That was the nation he was from, and many of the people were turning the wrong way, so He cried out to God for an answer. We're going to start reading right after Habakkuk cried out to God for an answer from God. Let's see what Habakkuk does next...

Habakkuk 2:1-3 NIV

*I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what He will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.*

1. Wait On God's Answer (vs. 1)

Habakkuk knew the best thing to do was to wait to see what God would say. Many people pray to God, pour out all their concerns and complaints, and then they get up and leave, never waiting to see what God wants to say to them. This conversation, that Habakkuk had with God, wouldn't have been much of a conversation if Habakkuk hadn't taken time to LISTEN for the voice of the Lord. God wants to say stuff to us, but we need to take the time to listen for His voice.

Isaiah 40:30-31 KJV

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.

Isaiah and Habakkuk both knew that if you wait on God you'd be strengthened and you'd be able to soar to new levels with God. In our microwave culture, waiting on ANYTHING is something that we all forget how to do, from time to time. But no matter how busy and fast-paced our lives are, it's important that we take the time to wait on God's strength and His answer to our questions. Even youth get tired. Be smart, wait on God.

Ex.) Rick Pasquell @ summer camp-5 minutes talking, 5 minutes listening

Habakkuk continued... NIV 2:2-3

[2] Then the Lord replied:

"Write down the revelation (KJV says vision)

and make it plain on tablets

so that a herald may run with it.

[3] For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

it speaks of the end

and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;

it will certainly come and will not delay.

2. When God Speaks, Write It Down (vs. 2)

If you are going through your life, listening to God, and asking Him for direction in your life, He will speak to you from time to time. When God does speak to you, WRITE it down. If you are like most people, you forget things sometimes. (ex. I forget people's names over, and over again) If God speaks to you it is important... don't forget it. To help you remember what God says, write it down.

What God Speaks:

God will give you vision for your life, things that will happen, and sometimes things that you need to do. He sometimes will even speak to a certain situation that you are going through.

How God Speaks:

Sometimes God will speak to you through the Bible. That's usually the most common way God communicates to us.

Sometimes it is through other people. (That's why it's good to take notes during youth, and church services. You never know when God will say something to you, through me or another preacher.)

God will also speak directly to your spirit, when you're listening. That can be the sweetest thing!!!

Illustration: I was 17 years old, laying in the yard, about 1:30 am, after working the late shift at Pizza Hut. I was all greasy and covered with dew. The week before I had asked a girl out whom I had liked for years. She told me she wasn't interested in guys and a week later she started dating a different guy in my youth group, who she had just met a few weeks earlier. I had known her for years!!! So I was pretty torn up.

Feeling depressed, and dejected I cried out to God. As I was calling out to God, after I told Him how I felt, I began to worship Him, and tell Him how amazing He is. I was looking at the stars and telling God, "Lord, you are awesome, you made all this." And He said to my spirit, as clear as day, "Yeah, and I love you." I tell you what, I started crying and laughing all at the same time, because God, the one that put the stars in the sky, had just told me He loved me. All the sudden it didn't matter so much that this girl didn't like me. God told me HE loved me!!!

There has been other times too when God has clearly spoken to me. I love when God speaks to me. It blows me away, to think that God (the creator of the universe) cares enough about me to speak to me. He wants to speak to you too, if you will listen.

3. Run With the Vision (vs. 2)

When God gives you a vision, you should run with it. Whatever God has spoken to you, you need to put it into practice. Live out the vision of God in your life.

Some vision that God gives us, is only for us, but sometimes it is for other people too. (SEE vs. 2) You can be a "herald of that vision." That means that you are a carrier of the vision. That you are a messenger and that you take that vision and speak it to other people. God has given me vision for Empowered Student Ministries. As I begin to unfold that vision piece by piece; and as God gives more to me... you too can become "a herald of the vision." As you get excited about what God is doing and saying to us, you can share it with your friends, and you can encourage other people to get in on it. **When God gives you a vision for your life; run with it! As God gives us vision for Empowered Student Ministries, we can run with it together. This is going to be an awesome year for all of us that run with the vision!!!**

4. In Time the Vision Will Come to Pass (vs. 3)

It's time to wait again. When the vision has been given to us by God, we have to wait on God's timing for it to come to pass. As we run with vision, and speak the vision, we also have to wait on God for the final result.

Continued next page...

God is the One that makes His vision for us come to pass. We are responsible only to believe God and to speak it forth. He will cause the dream to become reality. God will make the impossible, become possible, and we will see the very awesomeness of God right here among us.

1. Wait On God's Answer
2. When God Speaks, Write it Down
3. Run With the Vision
4. In Time the Vision WILL Come To Pass