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In this *Global Connection* I would like to reemphasize being *forever faithful* to the vision in order to reach our cities, nations, and world.



Receiving the Vision

Paul's vision began with a knockdown experience on the Damascus Road. He asked two questions: Who are you, Lord? What do you want me to do?

Once he understood the answer to the first, He spent the rest of his life asking the second. He constantly endeavored to be in line with the Master's will. Those two questions, lead to three more. These are supplied by H. Dale Burke in his book, *Less is More*:

Destination Question	Where are you going?
Road Map Question	How will you get

	there?
Value versus Cost Question	What is the cost of making the trip?

Ayn Rand as quoted in *The Power Principle* said, "Throughout history, brave men and women have gone down new paths armed with nothing more than their own vision." Visionary leaders are pathfinder and pacesetters.

Spiritual vision is a God-sized thing. It takes God's help to accomplish. It will also take the help of others. "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:15-16).

Realigning the Vision

Is this activity or expenditure of time aligned with my vision? Everything should pass this test. Ever notice what happens when a driver takes his hands off a steering wheel or handlebars? The vehicle or bicycle will start drifting a bit to the left or right. Realignment is needed to avoid an accident. A firm grip on the steering wheel helps too. Obedience to the vision is a daily decision. "O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).

Repeating the Vision

Paul Atwater in his article "How to Start Casting a Vision for Your Church" explains that "Communicators get tired of repeating the

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vision just about the time when people are starting to internalize it." He also said, "The biggest mistake I have made over the years is failing to reiterate the vision enough. Every time I go back to communicating the vision, my best leaders get fired up. They tell me that they needed the reminder."

Maybe that is one of the reasons God said: "Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer in large, clear letters on a tablet, so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed" (Habakkuk 2:2-3, *NLT*).

Mary Axner in "Developing and Communicating a Vision" believes that sharing the vision is the central role of a leader. She said, "As a leader, you have to help people take your vision and make it their own."

Another word for "realignment" is "focus" Vision provides focus. Unfortunately, we cannot set our vision on "auto-focus." Obtaining and maintaining correct focus doesn't just happen. It takes realignment and refocusing. Otherwise, our vision will become blurred. Paul advised that we stay in focus: "keep our eyes fixed..." Jesus pursued His vision with focus: endured the cross, scorned shame, and fulfilled His purpose: providing salvation for all who believe. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-3, *NIV*).

Reviving the Vision

Revival refers to bringing something back to life. Do not allow your vision to die. Breathe

new life into it! Wake up your dreams! See Philippians 3:12-14.

H. Dale Burke said, "When your memories are more exciting than your dreams, you've begun to die." It's time to revive your vision! We need to be consumed by the vision. We should possess a burning desire or passion to see the vision come to pass. There must be fire in our souls.

Realizing the Vision

Realizing your vision will be costly. It will require many things.

1. Commitment
2. Sacrifice
3. Faithfulness
4. Willingness to change
5. Discipline
6. Hard Work

Rejoicing the Vision

The close of Paul's life found him in a damp, dark, dirty prison cell. Yet, he was not discouraged, defeated, or demoralized. He remained faithful! See 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Here is a glimpse of the end result of Paul's vision: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-10).

Surely Paul heard those treasured words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful...Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23, *NIV*). Paul was faithful to his vision. He passed it on to the next generation. Eventually it has been passed to you and me. May those that follow after us find us forever faithful!