

# What's your *vision* for 2012?

If you're anything like me, you've been told of, read about, and been preached to on the importance of *vision* in leadership a thousand times; especially around the New Year holiday. And, more often than not, the conversation either begins or ends with the quoting of Solomon's words; "***Where there is no vision, the people perish,***" a pretty harsh warning for those lacking in vision to say the least. Of course, with almost every business leader, life coach, pastor, and consultant agreeing on the importance of vision, it must be one of the keys to success in leadership, right? Or is it?

If there's one thing I've learned in 41 years on this earth it's to be leery of the masses. In other words, do your own research (prayerfully) to find truth. This doesn't mean we should discount the wisdom of others, it simply means we should confirm that it is, in fact, wisdom from TRUTH! To do this, it's best to begin at the source, in this case, Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keeps the law, happy is he.*

So what's Solomon really saying about vision? To determine this we must understand what the word *vision* means in its' context and not simply in the modern sense of the term. Why? Because today we typically assign the term visionary to one who has envisioned a need or want in society, and then, after determining how to meet that need or want, communicates the "vision" to a team who makes it a reality. All good stuff; however, this type of vision, more often than not, was created in one's own mind and came from the desires and ideas of one's own heart, which differs from the vision Solomon was calling us to in Proverbs.

The vision Solomon wrote of came from a Hebrew term that ultimately meant *revelation or guiding communication from the lord*. In essence, he was warning leaders of the danger of disregarding guidance from God along side of the benefits that would come from following God's law. In essence, the vision referred to in this scripture is way more about listening to God and allowing Him to guide us in His ways*daily*, than it is about laying out or communicating our own ideas, dreams, or even strategies with our team. (These are not bad things – just not necessarily revelations from God or the real point of the verse).

So here's my challenge to you regarding your *vision* for 2012. First, be honest with yourself. Is your vision about a dream or idea you've come up with on your own, or about Christ's revelation and guidance for your life? Make certain you are pursuing the latter! Next, carve out time daily to pray, spend time in the word, and time with others who can help reveal the truth to you regarding your vision. In doing this, you'll be much more likely to not only accurately answer the first question in this paragraph, but to stay on track with the vision that really matters in this life – His vision for you!

## Update on the Journey

What an amazing journey 2011 has been. I feel so blessed and honored to be a part of it. Leaders from all walks of life are being moved to not only lead in the right ways – but for the right reasons! Here are a few of the thoughts shared with me from readers in just the past few weeks.

- "[LFGS] completely changed my outlook on why I do what I do and yesterday at our annual Partner/Executive review I shared with all my leaders how it will serve as the foundation of how we lead in our company."
- "[LFGS] gave me that added push I needed for me to be a better person, father, husband and leader."

- *"It was the best book that I have ever read. It is right on as to the secrets of leading others in all walks of life."*
- *"I have been in the ministry for 40 years and I can honestly say this was one of the most exciting and helpful books I have ever invested my time with."*

The really cool thing is, these comments came from a pastor of a large church, a Hall of Fame Coach, a leader in professional sports, and a CEO of a global company – all from different regions of the country! God is definitely impacting lives – in a much bigger way than I ever envision! I am so thankful for folks like this who are being moved in a way that will move others too!!!

Thanks again to all of you for an incredible 2011 and for continuing to share this message with others in 2012– I wish you all God's very BEST for the New Year and hope to meet you at an event soon!

God's Best to You! -Todd