

# Having a clear God given vision for 2018



**The LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk,**  
“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets,  
that he may run who reads it. For the vision is  
yet for an appointed time; But at the end it  
will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries,  
wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will  
not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

- God has so much planned for each of our lives in 2018

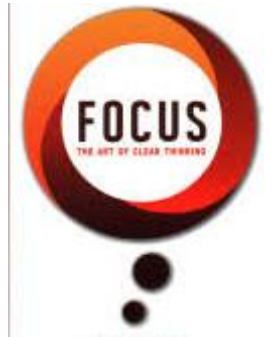


- However to see all that God has planned for our life coming to pass, we will need to have a clear God given vision for our life. Every church also needs to have a clear God given vision. I will be sharing the vision for our church next Monday
- As we are now at the beginning of a new year, I would like to encourage you to make the most of this year and to seek God early for a clear vision of what He has planned for your life in 2018

I will begin by looking quickly at why it is so important to have a clear God given vision for our life

## 1) It helps to give us a clear focus for our life

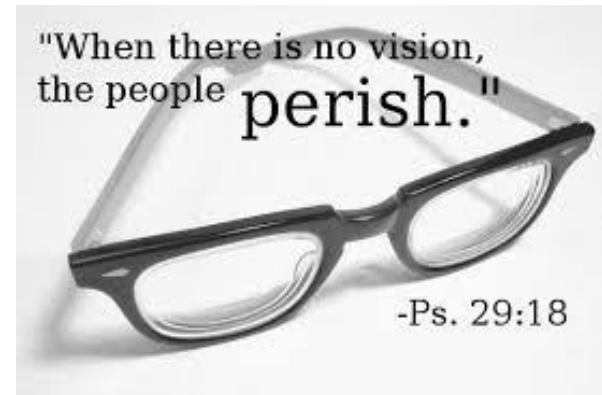
- Without a clear focus for our life we are more likely to succumb to discouragement and be sidetracked in our walk with the Lord



- Having a clear focus in our life helps us to be disciplined in the choices that we make in life

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)**



**In the Old King James version we read,**

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” (Proverbs 29:18 KJV)**

- Having a clear God given vision and focus for our life helps us to use our time wisely and to flow in our own unique gifts and calling

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:6-8)**



- Having a clear vision for our life helps to see God's plan for our life unfolding over time



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”**

**(Ephesians 2:10)**



## 2) It helps us to stay in the will of God for our life

- Being in the centre of God's will for our life is a key to seeing God's favour and blessing upon our lives and churches

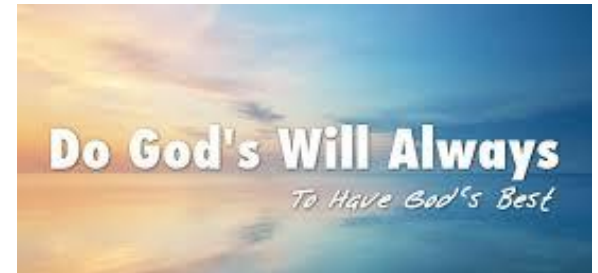


**In the book of Isaiah we read,**

**“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)**



- We are most fulfilled and most effective and the greatest blessing to others when we flow in the will of God for our lives



- God's will for our life is the best

**This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)**

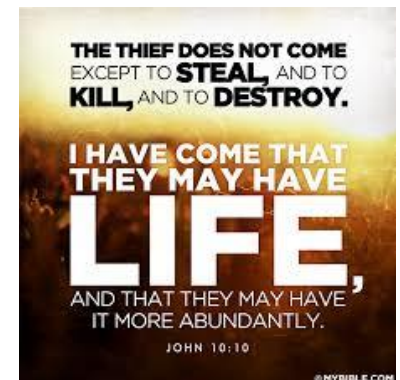


## The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

**(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

- **A clear God given vision for our life helps us to remain in the centre of God’s will for our life**
- Following God's plan for our life is a key to enjoying the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of



**3) Having a clear God given vision and purpose for our life will also help us to inspire others to embrace God's plan and purpose for their lives**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)**

- A Christian with godly vision and a passion for the things of God will help to inspire other believers to enter into their own God given callings**



**4) It helps to keep us strong during the trials and challenges of life as we wake up each morning with a clear vision and purpose for our life**

- We will all go through trials and challenges in life

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”**

**(2 Timothy 3:12)**



**Jesus Himself said,**

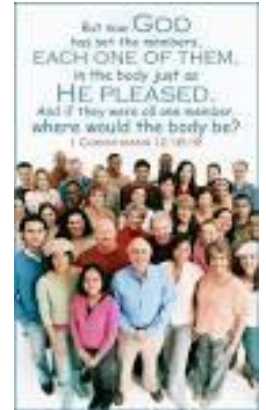
“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **(John 16:33)**

**Having a clear God given vision and focus for our life helps us to remain strong during our trials in life**



**5) We will be a great blessing to the body of Christ and our church fellowship if we faithfully fulfil God's plan and vision for our life - We all need each other in the Body of Christ**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased... But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” (1 Corinthians 12:18, 20-22)**



**6) We can prayerfully make plans each day and each week and for the year to help see God's plan for our life in 2018 FULLY realized**

- Having a clear vision for our life helps us to prayerfully make plans to see the vision come to pass

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)**



**7) As we fulfil God's vision and plan for our life we can be assured that God will meet our every single need every step of the way**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**



## 8) We will see God connecting us with other believers who have a similar vision from God

- Having a clear understanding of God's vision for our life helps us to connect with the right people



- God will strategically connect us with people **WITH THE SAME HEART** who will help us to fulfil His plan and purpose for our lives. This is why the LORD said to the prophet Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” **(Habakkuk 2:2)**



**9) It will help us to live with eternity in mind, so that we embrace the God given opportunities that come our way this year to help others to come to Christ and to *grow in their faith***

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.” (1 Corinthians 9:22-23) The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:2)**



**Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to maintain a Kingdom focus in our life**

- Having a clear God given vision for our life helps us to stay focused on storing up treasures in heaven as we appreciate the value of every soul to God and His desire that none would perish

**Jesus Himself said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)**



- Particularly as mature Christians we need to be actively seeking God for a vision as to who we can sow our lives into in 2018. That we can be used of God to help other believers who may be struggling in their walk with the Lord to grow stronger in their faith this year
- **Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of making disciples and feeding the sheep**
- **The Apostle Paul also emphasised the importance of investing our lives in other believers**



**The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2)**



**The Apostle Paul also wrote, “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)**

# 10) It will help to see our lives bearing much fruit in 2018 as we fulfil God's plan for our life

- It is in fulfilling God's vision for our life this year that our lives will bear much fruit



**Jesus Himself wrote,**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **(John 15:16)**

I will now quickly finish with 6 keys to help us to know and to follow God's vision for our life in 2018

**1) We need to commit our plans to the Lord for 2018. Not my will but His will be done.**

- We must purposely CHOOSE to seek and to follow God's blueprint for our life in 2018. This needs to be a continual choice.



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)**

## 2) We need to spend time alone in God's presence with an open bible to hear from God what His plans are for our life in 2018

- God's plan for our life continually unfolds over time. For this reason we need to spend quality time on a regular basis with the Lord. We must not get too busy in life so that we are robbed of this quality time with God



- As 2018 unfolds God will strengthen and expand the vision that He has for our lives and church as we spend time in His presence

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,  
“For who has stood in the counsel of the  
LORD, And has perceived and heard His word?  
Who has marked His word and  
heard it?” (Jeremiah 23:18)**



- **God will also speak clearly to us through His Word as we seek Him for a vision for 2018**

**In the book of Psalms we read,  
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to  
my path.” (Psalm 119:105)**



### 3) We need to journal and write down clearly and simply what God has put on our hearts and minds to do this year.

- We need to write the vision down plainly so that we can easily follow the vision and prayerfully make plans to see it accomplished in 2018



**The LORD said to Habakkuk, “*Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)***

- **The more simply we express the vision the easier it will be to follow**



- Having a clear written down vision for our life before our eyes helps us to prayerfully reflect on how we can see the vision come to pass
- **It is so important that we have a prayer diary in which we write down what God speaks to us in relation to our life and ministry**
- Reflecting on what God has spoken to us in the past helps us to remain strong and focused during our current trials and challenges

## 4) We need to prayerfully set goals and commencement dates to see the vision become a reality



- Without setting goals and dates to commence things, the vision will never become a reality
- Prayerfully setting goals and commencement dates is crucial to seeing the vision for our lives and church coming to pass this year
- Goals and plans help to keep us focused and productive in the use of our time

**Again in the book of Proverbs we read,**  
**“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,**  
**but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to**  
**poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)**



**5) We need to continually CHOOSE to trust the Lord at all times and to allow Him to direct our steps as we stay focused on fulfilling God's vision and plan for our life in 2018**



**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**In the book of Psalms we read, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)**



- It is so important that we are not moved by our circumstances in 2018, but that we remain committed at all times to just doing what God puts on our heart to do – **That we remain faithful to fulfilling God’s vision for our life** – That we learn to TRUST God at all times and to let Him continually lead and direct our steps this year

## 6) The importance of being planted in the local church fellowship that God has called us to be a part of

- It is God who places each believer in the Body of Christ as He chooses.



Serve where God has placed you  
Your body needs you

- Being planted in a local church fellowship enables us to be encouraged in our walk with the Lord and to be connected to other believers who will be part of seeing God's vision and plan for our own lives coming to pass

- God's vision and plan for our life will always be outworked in connection with other believers

- Being planted in a local church fellowship is a great key to seeing God's vision for our life becoming a reality and our lives bearing much fruit



- As a team we can achieve much. One will put a thousand to flight but two ten thousand to flight



Serve where God has placed you  
Your body needs you



**In the book of Psalms we read,**

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” **(Psalm 92:13-15)**



- May I conclude by encouraging you that God has the best plan for your life in 2018 and that this year your life can make a great difference in this world for eternity.



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”  
**(Ephesians 3:20)****

**The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”  
(Jeremiah 33:3)**



May I encourage you again to find and to follow God's vision and plan for your life in 2018 and to wholeheartedly invest you life for the Kingdom Cause. In doing this you will see God doing great things in and through you life this year. **I will now finish with a prayer that can be made to fully consecrate our life to the Lord in 2018.**

Dear Father God today I fully surrender my life to Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for all of my sins and that He arose again from the dead three days later.

Today I repent of my sins and fully commit my life to Jesus Christ. Today I invite You Jesus to come into my heart and life to sit on the throne of my heart and to be my Lord and Saviour from this day on. Today I commit my life into Your hands. Please show me Your plans and purpose for my life.

Today I commit to wholeheartedly following Your plan for my life from this day on, Amen.



# Overall vision for Church of Hope (NSW) this year:



1. To evangelize the lost through evangelism outreaches and street churches, through facebook and other internet initiatives and through helping to equip other believers to evangelise
2. To make disciples (through establishing small groups) and training up and releasing leaders
3. To create healthy Christian community in all of our church meetings and in our community
4. To have a revival focus in all of our main meetings as we worship and seek the face of God, and
5. *To equip and train up overseas pastors and leaders*