

Did you ever hear of the phrase...Field of vision?

Someone's field of vision is the entire area they are able to see when their eyes are fixed in one position... without turning their head. Depending on the health of our eyes, our field of vision could be limited and that can affect how we see our world. It is the same with spiritual eyesight.

George Washington Carver said this about vision...

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope."

One of the things growing up in an abusive home robs you of... is hope. My field of vision was so narrow that I could not see a way out for me. The daily trauma suffered made dreaming about my future nearly impossible. Then one day my father gave me a compliment, the only one I ever received from him. I say compliment but it was more of a passing remark than a kind word for my benefit. But it was powerful... I was drawing in my sketchpad on the dining room table, as he was walking into the living room my father stopped, looked at my drawings and gruffly said.

"Keep that up and you could make some money someday."

That's all he said... and what was a hobby for me became a graphic designer career later on in my life. That is the power of receiving a vision.

Without a vision... people perish! Proverbs 29:18

"Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he who keeps the law, he is blessed."

Vision = oracle, prophecy, divine communication **Perish means** = the people are let loose, lacks restraint. It's a different form of perishing... its fading away from a lack of seeing how God sees life.

Without God's guidance people lose control but when we obey... God restores order. We see life how God sees life! **God blesses those who obey His Word...** that is where we get spiritual vision from.

People without vision take the path of least resistance, trying to avoid the conflict, discomfort, struggle or pain from a discipline life with God. While this may seem like a controlled life, by avoiding God...it is a life out-of-control... one that is not under the sovereignty of Christ.

Vision is not an endgame, or a destination or even a goal. Vision gives us eyes to see... that God's way is a blessed way and keeps us from perishing...losing control.

Spiritual vision helps our heart/mind/spirit interpret what our eyes see!

Jesus said in Matthew 6:22

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your vision is clear, your whole body will be full of light."

Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18

"I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened (brighten up, instructed to know), so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints."

When our spiritual eyes are open, our field of vision increases... to see as God sees.

Jesus actually had two vision statements...the Great Commission (go into all the world and make disciples) and **the Great Commandment** (Love God with everything you are and love others)

Please turn to Matthew 9 (read from 35 to chapter 10:1)

*"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** (to wait upon, to serve) every disease and every affliction. (36) When **he saw** (turn the eyes, the mind, the attention to anything, discern, discover) the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because **they were harassed and helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd. (37) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore **pray** earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to **send out** laborers into his harvest."*

Matthew 10:1

*"And he called to him his twelve disciples and **gave** them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction."*

Do you think Jesus understood His purpose? What do you think His vision was?

The Great Commission and the Great Commandment are fully expressed in this passage.

Prayer, compassion, equipping and action (both are action commandments) are all in this passage. Even busy with ministry Jesus SAW people... we must never make this life all about ministry... it's about people. Having compassion on the helpless and harassed... who have been roughed up, bound up and under occupation... whose field of vision is so narrow they can't see a way out.

Jesus was all over building bridges... Jesus bridged the gap between us and God with His sacrifice on the cross and in **Galatians 3:28** we see more bridge building.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Jesus built bridges that glorified God, transformed lives and impacted the world. That is why we adopted that as our model for BBCC.

Three components of vision

Insight: This is looking through a microscope. This is reflection, introspection and it helps us understand and discern our motivation... our purpose.

Proverbs 139:23-24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; (24) And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way."

Foresight: This is looking through a telescope. Helps us connect what we see in the future with what we are seeing now. We look at the distance with a very near God. It also protects us.

Proverbs 22:3

“The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.”

The word hide here means to cover oneself... a wise person covers himself by increasing his field of vision, by observation, by study and what they see instruct them on their next move. We cover ourselves with prayer and wise counsel.

Oversight: This is seeing things from above. Oversight puts insight and foresight into context by submitting everything to God. Helps us understand the steps to take and why we need to take them... and when to take them.

James 3:17

“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.”

Vision is the bridge between the present and the future... it's what we see and the way which we see.

We need insight, foresight and oversight to help us discern the will of God. It also helps us discern limitations verses boundaries, and sacrifice verses comfort... we need to understand, to see these clearly while increasing our field of vision.

Our Vision: Build bridges that glorify God, transform lives and impact the world.

This requires a large field of vision... This is why we have the goal of becoming everyday missionaries, disciples that make disciples. People that know God completely, love ourselves correctly and then love others compassionately.

Jesus gave us a mission... a purpose and a vision... obeying them will make a statement!

Pray and ask God

How do I make disciples?

How do I love you God and people in a way that changes me and impacts them?

How does this look in my life? Where do I need to increase my field of vision?

In the context of my life, my time, my treasure, and my talent... how do I fulfill what you have given me to do?