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Thank You

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Yes, I Can! Yes, You Can!



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Chapter 1

It Begins With a Vision

Scripture teaches us that without vision, the people perish. Think about your vision right now. What kind of future do you want? What do you want to contribute to the world? What do you want your family and spiritual relationships to be like?

All of these areas are touched by the vision you have for yourself.

They are also touched by your finances. In fact, almost everything you choose to do requires money.

You need to create a vision for your life and for your money. It is not an easy task, but it can be a powerful tool in directing your life from one stage to another.

Your vision should touch every step you will read about in this book, starting with how you handle your finances. Do you use cash, or do you use credit cards? Are you diligent with your budget? All these actions come from your vision.





Most importantly, your financial vision should come from God.

God will give you a clear vision that allows you to make sense of your life. A vision can occur through a dream, a trance, or in the imagination. While a vision for your life may sound like a complicated concept, it can be easily broken down into three basic parts.

A Vision Comes Before Action

A vision will grow out of an idea, so you will need to understand your vision before you take any action. For example, imagine that you are getting ready to run a race: before you take your first step, you should envision yourself on the course, running and crossing the finish line. Then, you can run the race successfully because you have a vision. Having a vision *after* you've already run the race just doesn't make sense. That's why vision works with goals. As you envision your actions, you are able to set goals as well as the strategies to achieve them. Once you have envisioned your hopes, the actions required to turn those hopes into reality become clearer.

God Creates Your Vision

Don't worry that you may not have a vision for your life.



God has one for you already.

As you grow closer to Him, God will share that vision. That is God's nature. With your vision in your mind and your heart, you will move on with confidence. Remember all the attributes of God as you seek your vision.

God is eternal (Psalms 102:1). God knows all (1 Chronicles 28:9). God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God is holy (Psalm 99:9). God is just (Psalm 89:14). God is everywhere (Jeremiah 23:23-24). God is powerful (Isaiah 42:5). God is love (1 John 4:7).

God is all of these things, and He has a plan and a vision for you. Look for it. God can do so much for the world and so much for you.

A Vision Conveys a Revelation

A vision involves a truth being revealed. The Bible contains many instances of God revealing a vision. For instance, in Luke 1:27-38, an angel appears to Mary and reveals God's vision for her life: to bear the Son of God. At first Mary was unsure and asked the angel, "How shall this be?" The angel replied, "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

How will your vision be revealed? Mark 9:23 says, "Jesus said to him, *If you can believe, all things are possible to him who*



believes.”

All things are possible through God, and your belief in God’s ability allows all things to be possible for you, including knowing and carrying out the vision He has for your life.

Shaping Your Vision

Where do you begin with your vision? First, you need to ask God that His will for your life be done and that you have the wisdom to accomplish it. Do you remember what James said in James 1:5? *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

Make sure that asking God is your first step and not your last resort.

God wants you to ask Him everything. Don’t just ask Him about your vision but about all aspects of your life. Ask God to give you prudence to follow a worthwhile life vision.

Just like anything else, following a life vision comes from trial and error. **YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES ALONG THE WAY!** But that’s OK; don’t become overwhelmed. God will be with you throughout this journey. If you get stuck, talk to God. If you have success, talk to God. Involve God in every step along the way.



A Vision That Works for Your Life

A vision for your life and your finances is personal and unique to you. God knows that, and you should know it, too.

How do you want to use your special talents and gifts for a life path that only you can fulfill?

A vision will give you the blueprint for carrying out your answers to that question – a blueprint that God has written just for you!

Working Toward Your Vision

Don’t think that because your vision has been created by God, it’s going to be easy. **It’s not.** Your vision will require work. Action is required to achieve your life vision, and two specific types of action should be taken in order to develop your vision. First, you must incorporate your vision into your present life. You need to think about your vision throughout the day, running the important decisions that you make through your vision. Start comparing the tasks and activities of your everyday life with your life vision. For each of your activities, ask yourself, “Does this further my vision?” While many of your activities won’t change, some of them will, and those changes will move you from the life you are living now (with debt and without a budget) to the life you want to lead (with more money, a better plan, and a brighter future).



The second action you must take is to bring your vision into your future.

The best way to take that action is to set goals. Setting goals is a very productive way to reinforce the positive changes in your life, as you will see in the course of this book.

In Acts 10, Peter's vision was revealed to him by God: to extend the fellowship of God's grace to non-Jews. Peter went to the rooftop to pray, and while he was praying he became very hungry. As he waited for the servants to prepare his meal, he fell into a trance. During this trance, Peter saw heaven open, and an object appeared in the distance. As it came closer, he noticed that the object looked like a sheet. The sheet opened to him, and out came many different types of animals. God told Peter, "Rise Peter, slay and eat," but Peter refused because the animals were common and unclean. This happened three times. God would say, "Rise, Peter, slay and eat," and Peter would say, "I refuse because the animals are unclean." Every time, God would say in response, "What I have cleansed, thou shall not call common."

After this vision, Peter realized that God's message for him was to spread the Word of God to non-Jews (Gentiles). Then Peter extended the Word of God to Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter's action lead to the extension of God's Word to all people, and it was only possible through Peter's



obedience to his vision.

You may not understand God's vision at first. You may not even obey Him at first. But if you follow His vision for you and take action, you, your family, and your finances will never be the same again.

