

## INTRODUCTION

- With every new beginning comes a new ending.
- This month started the beginning of a new year and the ending of another.
- Most people look forward to a new start, however, they usually never finish **what** they start.
- Today we are going to talk about finishing what we start through the power of vision.

## GOD HAS A PLAN

### **Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)**

*For I know the **thoughts** that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected** end.*

- What are you expecting right now in your life?

*"You get what you believe for in life. Nothing more, nothing less." –Kenneth E. Hagin*

- You would be surprised at how many people do not expect anything good to happen in their life.
- They may be consciously expecting bad things to happen, but the absence of positive expectation remains.

### **Jeremiah 29:11 (MSG)**

*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future **you hope for.***

- God has plans for you this year.

- He knows exactly what He is doing.
- His plans go into action the moment that you have hope for them. (*...the future you hope for...*)
- Hope is defined as: **a confident expectation.**
- We have to put our trust in God and allow Him to give us the future that we have hoped for all these years; the future that fits His plans for our life.
- When you can't figure out what to do next in life, you can rest in knowing that He has every thing already planned for this trip.
- The plans that He has for your life are all centered around taking care of **you.**

## **VISION FOR THE NEW YOU**

- Just like you plan for a vacation, you need to plan for your life.
- Most people who desire to take a vacation invest the time, effort, and resources necessary to ensure that it will be the best vacation ever.
- No one wakes up one day and decides to sporadically take a vacation.
- A good vacation requires planning and executing that plan.
- This is true with your life as well.
- You don't wake up one day and just decide to change your life, not knowing what to do, or not having a plan or vision of how to do it.
- When taking a vacation, what you pack and how you prepare depends entirely on where you are going. (**Ex: beach=shorts, mountains=jacket**)
- All of your planning, including the maps you'll take, the amount of money you'll need, and so forth, depends on your intended destination.

-In much the same way, many people get excited about a new year with a fresh start, and they jump in the car of life, speeding ahead towards what they think is the land of their new and improved life.

-The problem is, they do not know what this "new and improved" life is, much less how to get there.

-They find themselves backtracking and feeling frustrated until they finally give up on their desire to have a better life and they settle for whatever life is offering at that time.

-The simple truth is this: Without vision, you will not be able to be what you desire to be.

-Vision brings parameters, borders and boundaries into your life.

-With vision, you have controls that keep you moving toward the fulfillment of your vision.

-That vision guards and protects your desire, because it brings restraints into your life that won't allow you to do anything that would interfere with that desire coming to pass.

-The opposite is true as well. No vision means no restraints or control.

## **VISION V.S. DESIRE**

-Vision is one of the most powerful forces given to us.

-People often confuse vision with desire, but the two are distinctly different.

-Desire is simply something you want. Vision is something you will have.

-Desire is something you need. Vision is something you can't live without.

-Desire will give you something to think about. Vision will give you something to live for.

- A vision for being everything that God wants you to be won't allow you to invest your time in things that will take you away from that.
- Vision will continually push you towards what you desire to be.

## THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

### Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

- You may not be confident in many things, however, you can be confident in this one thing.
- Whatever God has started in you, He is not finished with it yet.
- Until we have all been raptured, there is still work to be done on your life.
- God desires for you to keep moving forward in His plans for your life.

### Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

- Your best days are not behind you, they are ahead of you.
- Today, God desires to continue working with you and on you, in order to get you to where He wants you.
- There is an end from the very beginning.
- When going on a vacation, you usually finish the vacation before it ever begins. **(Ex: you see yourself doing everything in order to know how to plan for it. Clothes, money, gas, tickets, maps, etc.)**

## VISION TO GO FORWARD

### **Philippians 3:13-16 (NLT)**

**13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

**14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

**15** Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

**16** But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

-You must hold on to the progress that you have already made.

-The moment you let go of progress is the moment you take our eye off of the prize.

### **Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

-God is cheering you on from the grand stands.

-He will give you the strength that you need to run your race, to become a better you, the person that He desires for you to be.

### **Job 17:9 (NLT)**

The righteous **keep moving forward...**

-We have to determine to move forward this year.

-After we move forward, we have to **keep** moving forward.

- Whether you did good or failed miserably last year, you can still move forward into more that God has for you this year.
- You have to know where you are going before you leave.
- Take time to ask the Lord what He has for your life this year, and then see yourself finishing it before you ever start.
- Your **VISION TO GO FORWARD** will cause you to arrive exactly where God wants you.