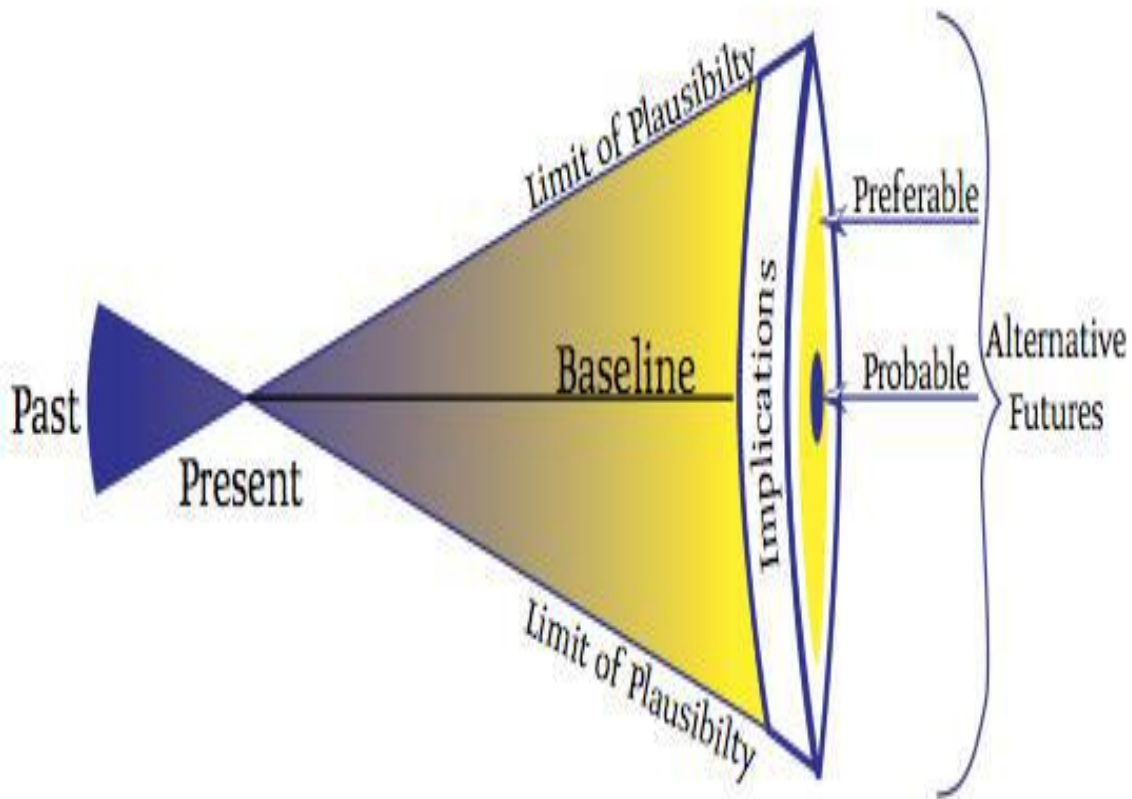


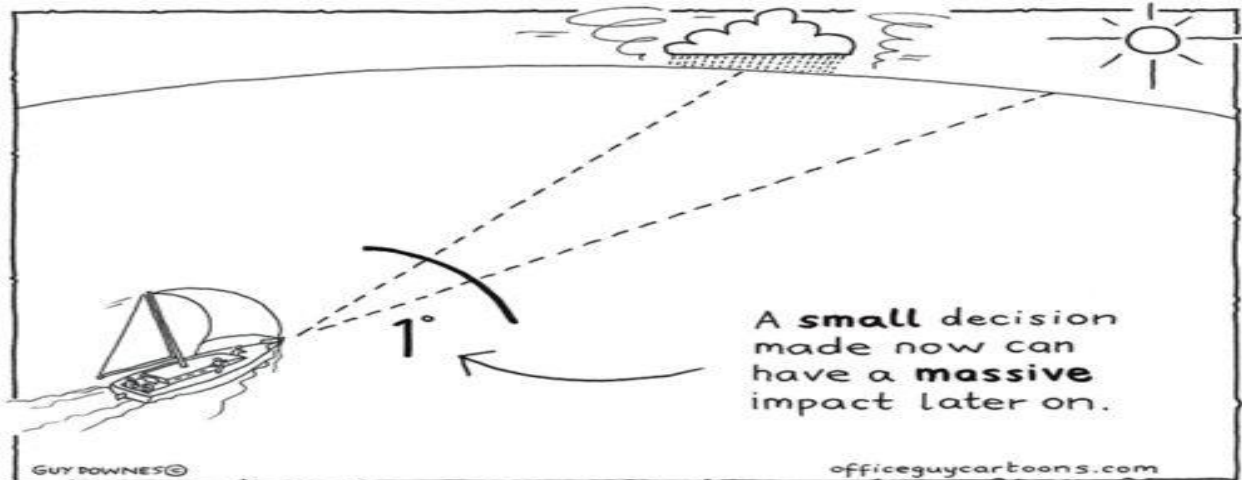
VISION-QUEST BETTER THAN GOAL-SETTING

By David Lee Burris

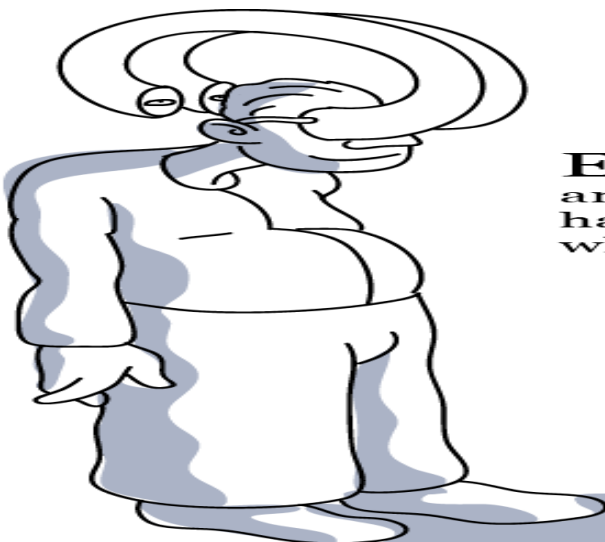


The Future is many not one

DECISIONS OF DIRECTION



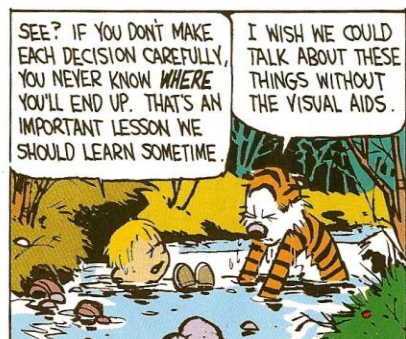
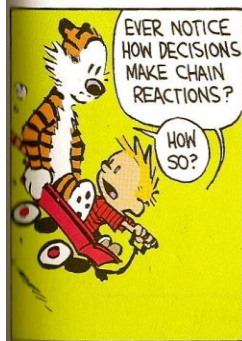
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS HAPPENS?	WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN?
WHAT WON'T HAPPEN IF THIS HAPPENS?	WHAT WON'T HAPPEN IF THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN?



Everything you look for and all that you perceive has a way of proving whatever you believe.

it's about making good decisions



BEYOND THE BASIC DECISION TREE



MANAGING & MAPPING

DECISIONS BY OBJECTIVE

Decision Making



“ Never make permanent decisions on temporary feelings ”

What is Structured Decision Making?

SDM is a process and set of tools for supporting informed, defensible and transparent decision making.



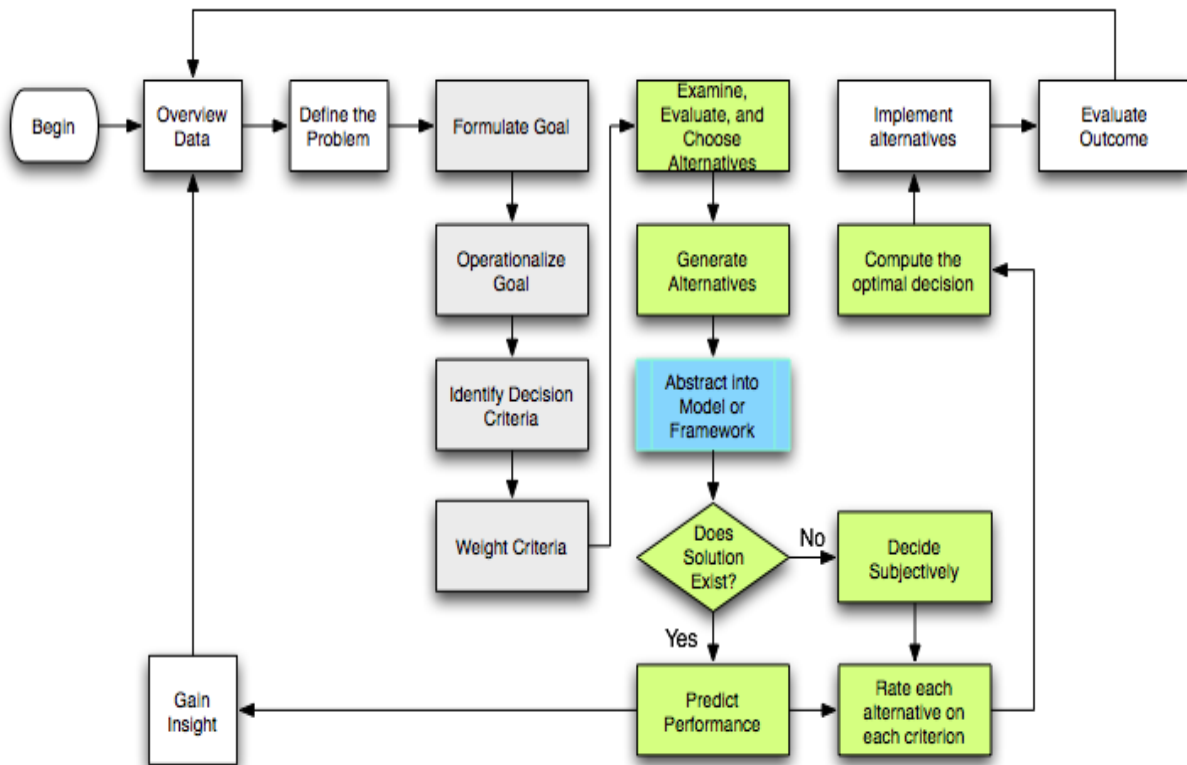
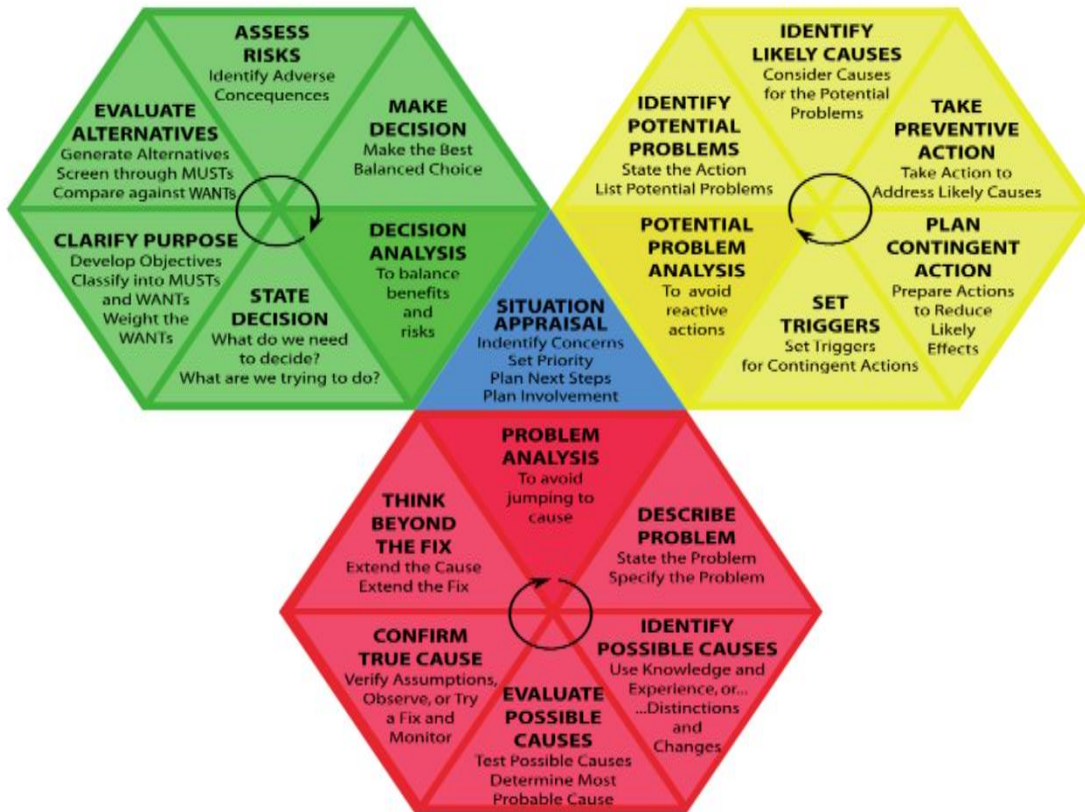
Iterate

- Clarify the Context and Decision Frame
- Define Decision Objectives
- Develop Alternatives
- Estimate Consequences
- Deliberate on Trade-offs and Decide
- Monitor and Learn



compass

4



I've come to think that focusing *too* much on goals can actually get in the way of living a truly flourishing life. So instead of being goal-focused this coming year, I'm trying to be more *vision*-focused.

The Difference Between Goals and Visions

Goals

Goals are specific and quantifiable. They have an endpoint. Once you've achieved a goal, you're done with it. Goals tell us **WHAT** we need to do in order to get to a desired outcome.

Visions

A vision, on the other hand, is a broad, all-encompassing idea of **HOW** you want your life to look, feel, and be in the future. When you close your eyes and imagine your ideal life, that's a vision. Unlike goals, it's open-ended. There's never a specific moment when you can say, "I achieved my vision." It's an ideal that you strive for and may get close to achieving, but because it's an ideal, you'll never entirely arrive at it.

Visions are often harder to put into words than goals because you have to describe a world that doesn't yet exist. When you put your vision into words, the end result is a "vision statement."

Vision statements can be short and pithy, or long and verbose.

John F. Kennedy laid out a longer vision for the space program in [his speech at Rice University in 1962](#). He didn't just announce a concrete goal (go to the moon), but painted a picture of a country that was deeply interested in the mysteries of the universe and dedicated to using technological progress to ascend to a brighter future.

When you come up with your own personal vision statement, it can be something as short as, “I will be physically strong and skillfully capable in all aspects of my life so that I am able to improve the lives of my family and everyone I encounter.” Or it can span several pages in which you describe in detail what your ideal life looks and feels like.

Whether short or long, what all vision statements have in common is they describe *how* an ideal life would be.

The Benefits of Focusing on Visions Over Goals

Having goals or a vision isn't an either/or proposition — you should have both. But there are a few reasons why you should focus more on your vision than your individual goals:

Goals Lack Deeper Meaning; A Vision Provides Purpose and Significance

I love goals. Whenever I set goals for myself, I make measurable strides in my life. But something I have noticed is that when I become *too* goal focused, things in my life actually start to feel a little off. Instead, when I embed my goals within an overarching vision, I then consistently start making more lasting and *meaningful* progress.

Goals are great for telling you WHAT to do, but they do not provide a WHY. By themselves, goals don't provide any meaning. If you have ever achieved a significant goal in your life, but felt surprisingly empty, this is the reason why.

Again, goals are great at providing specific outcomes to aim for, but in and of themselves they can't provide meaning. Goals cannot tell you WHY you are doing something. They just tell you WHAT to do. If you have been achieving goal after goal in your life, but still feel empty, it's likely because you've made goals the ends in and of themselves & don't have a more significant big picture of why you're laboring at those means — you don't have a vision for your life.

Once you connect your goals to an overarching vision, they become more satisfying both to achieve and to pursue.

Goals Can Cause Self-Defeating Single-Mindedness; A Vision Provides Room For Adaptability

When we become overly goal-focused, it can cause a single-mindedness that can get in the way of our long-term success and happiness. I call this “goal-lock.”

When you set a goal, you're setting it based on your current knowledge about your environment and yourself. But things change - perhaps an opportunity arises that did not exist when you initially set your goal. If you're tethered by goal-lock, you're unable to adapt to these changes and you end up staying on a path that may not lead to an overall flourishing life.

Yes, determination is a virtue, but when you're doggedly pursuing the wrong aim it becomes a vice.

In contrast, a vision allows for adaptability. A vision provides an overarching ideal and aim in life, but then allows for pivoting to different pathways that'll still get you to the same place.

To thrive in our ever-changing world, we must re-orient ourselves constantly with new knowledge that we receive about ourselves and our environment. Becoming too goal-focused hardens our minds and prevents us from orienting to the new landscape before us. A vision-focused life, on the other hand, allows you to stay agile and nimble.

Goals Can Lead to Depression and Angst; A Vision Provides Long-Term Vitality

I think most understand why a goal-focused life can lead to depression and angst — if you do not get something you really want and worked for, the loss and disappointment can deeply sting.

But the insidious thing about a goal-focused life is that it can lead to depression and existential anxiety even when you *do* achieve your goals.

Dr. Jeff Spencer, a former Olympian coach was interviewed about the psychological problems facing Olympians and other high performing competitors, he said that many experience anxiety *after* finally achieving a goal they had spent their entire lives chasing. An athlete wins the gold medal, does the media tour for a few weeks when he gets home, and maybe signs an endorsement deal. But then things quiet down, and a depressing malaise sets in. The athlete wonders: “Now what do I do with myself?” Without a singular goal before him, he feels entirely unmoored.

As Dr. Spencer stated, for the goal-focused athlete, the seeds of his destruction are sewn in his success. Many simply stop training for their sport. They retire. Others who keep going do so with little heart and personal problems start popping up.

But a few high performing athletes who achieve their goals are able to continue working and performing with the same intensity and motivation that they had when they first began the sport. What’s more, they are able to avoid many self-destructive behaviors that come with great success. When Dr. Spencer was asked how these athletes did it, he said they had a *vision* for their entire life.

For these athletes, winning the gold medal or becoming a MVP wasn’t the end in and of itself.

These goals were simply ways for them to measure how they were making progress towards their overarching vision — a vision that might include reaching their full potential, being involved as long as possible in the sport they love, fully mastering its skills and knowledge, or utilizing their athletic success for a platform. Because they had a bigger vision of what they were trying to achieve, they were able to avoid the funks that come when you fall short of or even achieve your goals.

We would do well to learn from these type resilient Olympians. Goals are useful, but when we become too focused on them, they can then destroy us even when we succeed. A vision, on the other hand, will provide an ideal to keep aiming for even when you have completed a goal. While goals can provide short-term direction, a vision is what will keep you going for the long haul.

Don't Confuse the Tool for the Blueprint

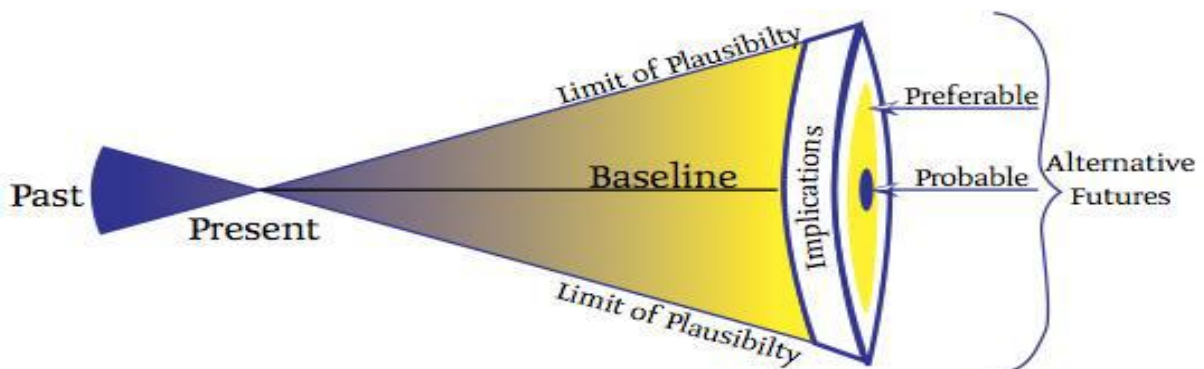
If we really want to live a flourishing life, we need to become vision-focused and put our goals into the context of that vision. If we're the craftsmen of our lives, think of goals as a tool and your life's vision as the blueprint.

It'd be silly for a craftsman to expect that by simply putting his chisel to wood, a beautiful masterpiece will appear. He needs a plan, a blueprint, a rough sketch of what he wants the thing to look like.

As it is with the craftsman, so it is with us.

Goals are fantastic tools for achieving our personal development, but if we expect that simply setting goals will lead to a flourishing life, we'll be greatly disappointed. We need to create a rich, compelling vision of where we want to go and who we want to be in order to provide vital context and meaning to our goals.

– *Visions Over Goals*

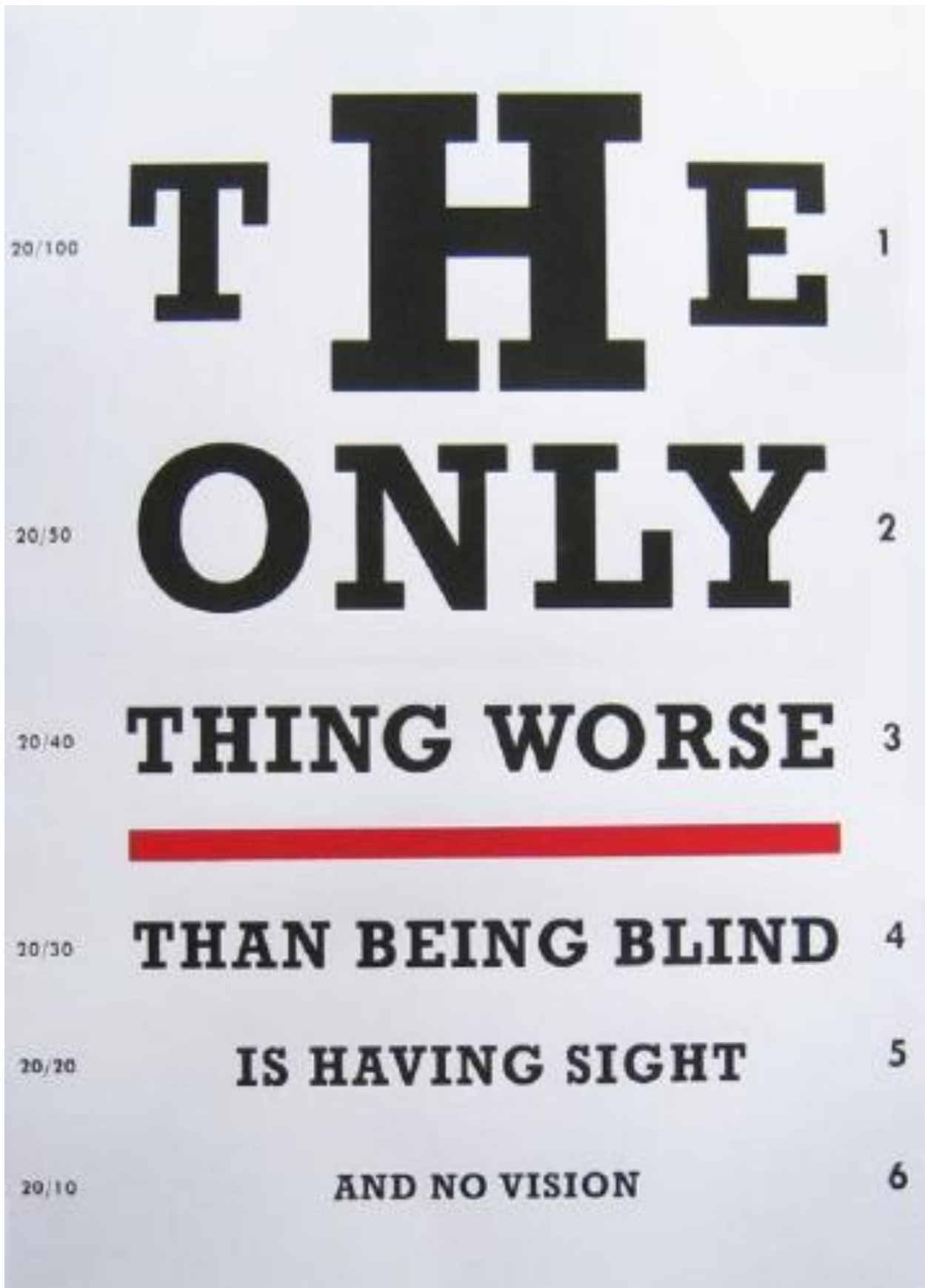


The Future is many not one

WITHOUT DIRECTION WE DROWN IN INFORMATION









*Where there is no vision
the people perish.*

Proverbs 29:18

Proverbs 29:18 KJV – “Where there is no vision the people perish.”

This verse is often referenced by those who would encourage us to think ahead, or to exercise wisdom in making our plans for the future, but that is not the message in the verse. The next portion of the same verse makes that clear when it says, “*but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*”

The “vision” in the verse is not a clear understanding from experience, skill or wisdom. It is a revelation from the Lord. Ezekiel said, “*then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.*” ([Ezekiel 7:26](#))

When people refuse to hear the word of God and heed it’s admonitions, they are doomed to perish. It was proven true of the Ammonites, the Hittites, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Sodomites and many others. They are gone because they did not heed the word of God.

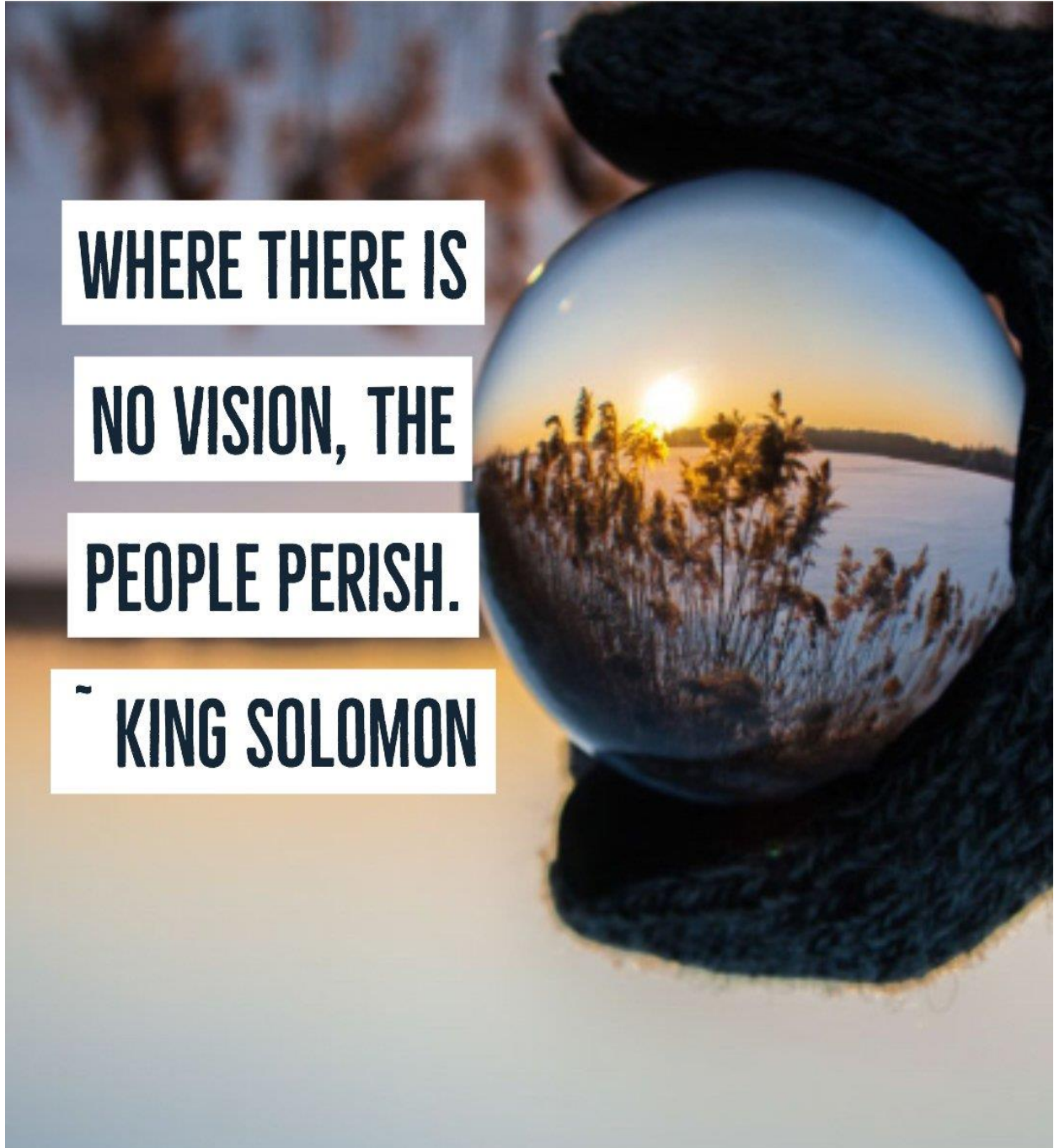
How many of today’s nations will suffer the same fate? And how soon? Let us preach the gospel more urgently than ever before, lest our people perish.

WHERE THERE IS

NO VISION, THE

PEOPLE PERISH.

~ KING SOLOMON



Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible

Where there is no vision, the people perish,... That is, "no prophecy", as the Vulgate Latin version renders it; and which is often the sense of the word, as the vision of Isaiah is the prophecy of Isaiah; and, in the New Testament, prophesying is often put for preaching; and here vision, or prophecy, signifies the public ministering of the word and ordinances, and want of persons to administer them; no expounder, as the Septuagint version; or interpreter, as the Arabic. This was the case in the latter end of Eli's life, [1 Samuel 3:1](#); in Asa's times, and before, [2 Chronicles 15:3](#); in the Babylonish captivity, [Ezekiel 7:26](#); in the times of Antiochus, [Psalm 74:9](#); when John the Baptist and Christ first came preaching the word, [Matthew 9:36](#); and now is the case of the Jews, and will be till the time of their conversion. So it was in the Gentile world, before the Gospel was brought into it, [Acts 17:30](#); and so it now is in those places where the seven churches of Asia were; and in all Asia, which once heard the word of the Lord, even all that large country; and now it is not heard at all in it, but covered with Mahometan darkness. And this is the case in all Popish countries, subject to the see of Rome, where the word of God is not preached to the people, nor suffered so much as to be read by them; and even in reformed churches, for the most part, only a little morality is preached, and not the Gospel of Christ; **so that here the people are perishing for lack of knowledge**, [Hosea 4:6](#); and when the witnesses will be slain, who now prophesy in sackcloth, there will be an entire stop put to prophesying or preaching for a while; but, when they shall rise, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God, through the ministry of the word. Now, **where there is no preaching, men perish in their sins; the word being the ordinary means of grace, of regeneration, conversion, faith, and salvation; without which, men know nothing of Christ, of peace, pardon, righteousness, and eternal life by him: and where there is preaching, yet it not being of the right kind, there is no spiritual knowledge spread by it, no food for souls under it; they perish with hunger, as the prodigal did, or are in starving and famishing circumstances; no comfort for the people of God, who perish in their comforts under such a ministry, [1 Cor. 8:11](#); and poison is spread among others; false doctrine eats as a canker, and destroys souls. Again, where there is right vision and prophecy, or true preaching of the word, and that is despised and neglected, men perish notwithstanding; as the Jews of old, and all deniers and contemners of the word now, [Acts 13:41](#); and this seems to be intended here, as appears by the following clause. The word translated "perish" has various senses, which agree with the text. It might be rendered, "the people become idle", or "cease" (s); from the performance of good works, grow dissolute in their manners, and licentious in their practices: or "they become refractory" (t); fierce, obstinate, and ungovernable, and rebel against their superiors: or they are "made naked" (u); stripped of their ornaments; of their privileges, civil as well as religious, which is often the case where no vision is; as well as of all virtue and morality, and of the blessing and protection of God;**

but he that keepeth the law, happy is he: not the moral law, which no man can keep perfectly, but the law of faith. It may be rendered, "happy is he that observes doctrine" (w); the doctrine of the Gospel, where it is preached; that attends to it, values and esteems it, receives it by faith, and with meekness; blessed is he, blessed are his eyes and ears; he sees wondrous things out of this law or doctrine, and he hears and knows the joyful sound, which brings salvation and eternal life unto him!

"Where there is no **vision**, the people perish:"
Proverbs 29:18

VISION

a vision from the **WORD**
a vision for the **CHURCH**
a vision for the **FAMILY**
a vision for **HOLY LIVING**
a vision for the **SOULS OF MEN**
a vision for the **FUTURE**
a vision for the **FINISH LINE**
a vision for the **WORLD**

We Need to Have a Vision of Lost Souls. There has never been an hour in the history of the church when the people of God needed to have a vision of lost souls like it is needed today. If you listen to the conversation of Christians and the preaching of preachers you will no doubt come to the conclusion that even fundamental, Bible believing churches do not have a vision of souls that are lost.

The vision that God gave to Paul is one of the most dramatic in the Bible. Acts 16:9, says, "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." As a result of this vision people were saved, families were baptized, cities were stirred, earthquakes took place, prayers were answered, jails were destroyed and the work of God prospered. We need to see what Paul saw that night. God brought a man to stand before Paul who said, "Come, help us." We need to hear the cry of the lost souls of this world, who are still crying after two thousand years, "Come, help us."

We Need a Vision of the Judgment Seat of Christ. When Christians talk about judgment they usually think of a Great White Throne judgment, when people are lost and stand before a holy God and the books are opened and the names are read and they are then assigned to the lake of fire forever. Paul often spoke of it in Romans 14:10 where he says, "for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

II Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," but I think the verse before that has something important to say about it. Verse 9 says, "Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." That will be the question at the judgment seat of Christ. I don't think many people are thinking enough about the judgment seat when a man's works shall be placed there, tried and examined. God's Word says, "saved; yet so as by fire." The wood and the hay and the stubble will be burned up and only the real thing will stand the test of the judgment seat.

We Need a Vision of the Horrors of Hell. Today, some professed Christians act like they do not believe that sinners are going to Hell. I believe with all my heart that we need a vision of the horrors of Hell. The Bible says so much about it, yet people think so little about it. Jesus talked about Hell, yet He never talked about it as much to the unsaved as He did to the people of God. When Christians have a vision of the horrors of Hell, it will make them the right kind of Christians.

I heard an old-fashioned preacher say one time, “If we had more preaching of Hell from the pulpit, we would have less living like Hell in the pews.” I believe we need a revival of old-fashioned, red-hot Bible preaching on the horrors of Hell. It would make soul winners out of the people of God.

It is an undesirable subject, but it is a Bible subject. If you had loved ones who are lost and could see them burning in the fires of the infernal and eternal Hell, surely that would move your heart. Think of your neighbors, your family, lost without God and in Hell. Surely, we need a vision of what it means for lost souls to go to Hell.

We Need a Vision of the Church and Its Importance. Who is in that church? People who are born again. What is the purpose of the church? I think the purpose of the church is to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In Mark 16:15 Jesus gave the church its purpose: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Why do we need this body of people that is made up of born-again people, whose purpose is to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth? The Word of God answers that in Acts 20:28: “feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” In the church of God you are fed spiritual food. You cannot get spiritual food anywhere else. You say, “Well, I can stay home and read my Bible.” Yes, but Jesus said that where two or three are gathered together, He is in the midst of them. The Word of God speaks of them who speak often one with another. God says a book of remembrances is made of those who meet together and speak in His name. The Word of God says, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” (Hebrews 10:25).

There is no such thing as a Christian not needing the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is where you are fed; it is where you have fellowship; it is where you grow; it is the base of your operation of service for the Lord. In Acts 2:41 the Bible says, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” When people got baptized in the Bible they were added to the church. I have always felt that there is something wrong with a believer who will not join themselves to a faithful church.

We Need a Vision of Jesus, Himself. I believe that we need a vision of Jesus, Himself. One day a group of people came to the disciples and said, “Sir, we would see Jesus” (John 12:21). That ought to be the heart cry of every believer - “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

A wonderful experience took place at the Transfiguration when upon that little mountain Jesus took Peter, James and John. While on that mountain two men from Heaven came, Moses and Elias. There was Jesus and five men on that Mount of Transfiguration. Simon Peter got so enthused that he began speaking without thinking. He said, “Let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.” God wasn’t pleased with that. After a while when the clouds went back and these two men went back to Heaven we read, “When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only” (Matthew 17:8).

The Lord wants us to have a vision of God’s dear Son. I see that picture of Him in the Bible. I see that picture of Jesus in genuinely saved people. I see Christ in those that truly love the Lord. Hebrews 2:9 says, “But we see Jesus...” We need a vision of the Lord. We need to see Him and love Him and serve Him with all our hearts.

Source: *Denominationalist Gary Huckaby*

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. “—Proverbs 29:18.

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Higher Ground.

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

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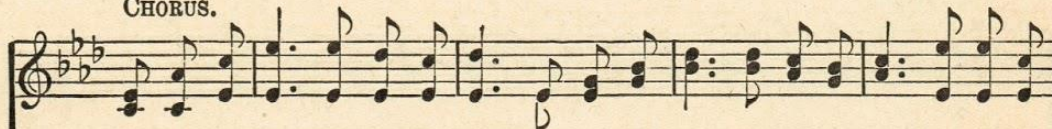
1. I'm press-ing on the up-ward way, New heights I'm gaining ev-'ry day;
2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a-rise and fears dis-may;
3. I want to live a-bove the world, Tho' Sa-tan's darts at me are hurled;
4. I want to scale the utmost height, And catch a gleam of glo - ry bright;



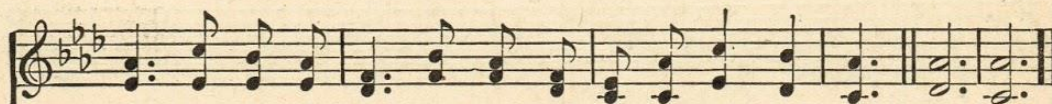
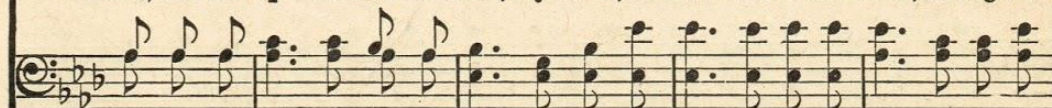
Still pray-ing as I on-ward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."
Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.
For faith has caught the joy-ful sound, The song of saints on higher ground.
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me on to higher ground."



CHORUS.



Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on Heaven's table-land, A high-er



plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on high-er ground. A - MEN.



