

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## **STOP LIVING IN THE PAST**

RLJ-1231

JOHN S. TORELL

MARCH 28, 2010

### **PART 3: LACK OF VISION**

There are several hurdles to overcome as you attempt to leave the past and move into the present time. Each of these hurdles must be eliminated if you are going to be able to move into a victorious Christian living. Lack of vision is the second hurdle.

#### **LACK OF A VISION**

In the Book of Proverbs we are told that people will perish if there is no vision.  
**Proverbs 29:18**

In order to move the children of Israel out of Egypt, God had to find a leader and then give him a vision of the project. **Exodus 3:1-16**

Moses resisted the vision and raised the concern that the people would not believe him if he went to Egypt and tried to make the vision into a reality.  
**Exodus 4:1**

God had to do some arm twisting before Moses accepted the huge undertaking to move some three million people plus their cattle out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land. **verses 2-17**

Moses was not sure that the vision could become a reality and he lied to his father-in-law. **verse 18**

But on the road to Egypt, Moses convinced his brother Aaron that the vision was true and could be carried out, and the two of them convinced the elders of the children of Israel. **verses 27-31**

#### **UNBELIEF DIMMED THE VISION**

The elders lost all faith and rebuked the vision when Satan started to resist.  
**Exodus 5:14-21**

The loss of faith by the elders created doubt in Moses. **verses 22-23**

God had to rekindle the vision for Moses again. **Exodus 6:1-8**

Moses tried to rekindle the vision to the people but they rejected it. **verse 9**

Pharaoh was controlled by Satan and had a hard time catching the vision and agreeing to it. **Exodus 8:25-32**

***People controlled by Satan will only accept God's vision when the pain level reaches a catastrophic level! Exodus 12:29-33***



## **IT IS HARD TO KEEP A VISION ALIVE**

God knew that He could not trust the children of Israel and led them out into the wilderness where He could corral and force them to continue in the vision even if they did not want to. **Exodus 13:17-18**

The vision died among the people the moment they arrived at the Red Sea with the Egyptian army behind them. The rallying cry among the faithless was, ***“Let us go back to Egypt and back into bondage as long as we have food to eat!”*** **Exodus 14:9-12**

The vision was ingrained into Moses by this time and there was no turning back. The truth of the vision from God was the only thing that mattered. **verses 13-29**

It is easy to sing and dance after a victory, but there is no vision unless a person can sing and dance before victory has arrived. **Exodus 14:30-31; 15:1-13**

Some days after the greatest victory seen by people on the earth, the children of Israel melted again when they ran out of food. **Exodus 16:1-3**

God responded by giving them Manna from heaven. **verses 11-18**

But supernatural miracles cannot build faith and will not sustain a vision. **Exodus 17:1-7**

## **A LOST VISION WILL BE REPLACED BY IDOLATRY**

Moses spent forty days on the mountaintop with God and was the only one that had a personal relationship with God. Moses loved God, not because what he could get from God, but because He was God.

If you do not have a personal relationship with God and love him for what He is, you will not understand the vision God has for you. The people decided when Moses had been gone for forty days, ***“Moses is gone. We do not know God, so let us make a god that can stay with us and be with us all the time.”*** **Exodus 32:1**

Aaron had not seen God, had no relationship with Him, and did not love Him. Aaron loved Moses, and when Moses was gone, the vision died inside of Aaron and he obeyed the people and made them a idol of gold. **verses 2-6**

God was not taken by surprise and told Moses that the people had corrupted themselves. **verses 7-9**

Instead of agreeing with God when He announced that He was going to slay all the children of Israel and start over, Moses could not let go of the vision and pleaded with God to spare the people. **verses 10-13**

God repented and spared the people. **verse 14**

Where there is no vision, there is nothing but confusion and immorality. **verse 25**

The vision had penetrated so deep into Moses that he was willing to lose his eternal salvation unless God forgave the people. **verses 30-35**

## **GOD CANNOT GIVE VICTORY TO PEOPLE WITH UNBELIEF**

God tested the children of Israel when He led them to the border of the Promised Land. It was a test of faith in the vision of God. Twelve key leaders were chosen to go and spy out the land; ten of the men lost faith in the vision and came back with unbelief, while Caleb and Joshua still had faith in the vision and said, *“We can take the land, there is no problem.”* **Numbers 13:25-33**

Again the cry came from the people who had lost faith in the vision, *“Let us go back to Egypt!”* **Numbers 14:1-4**

God was not going to have a bunch of “cry babies” enter the Promised Land and be defeated by the people living there. Likewise, God is not going to use “cry babies” in His work today; they will simply be pushed aside and left to dry up and die. **Numbers 14:5-10**

**By rejecting the vision,  
the people rejected God!**

God threatened to kill them all again and start over with Moses who prayed again that God would change His mind and not destroy them all. **verses 11-19**

There will be judgment when you lose the vision God has given you. **verses 20-37**

## **THERE IS NO VICTORY WITHOUT A VISION**

The unfaithful people realized that they had made the biggest mistake in their lives but they did not want to wander around in the wilderness for 40 years and die there, so they decided to go into the Promised Land and take it. But the anointing was gone and they were operating in the flesh and were sorely defeated. **verses 39- 45**

## **THE SIN OF DISCONTENT**

Discontent was the sin that caused Lucifer to fall, it was the sin that overtook Eve and she brought Adam and the entire human race under the curse of sin. Satan is a master deceiver and this is the strongest weapon in his arsenal.

Korah was a Levite but he was not happy with the way things were going. He had been sentenced to death by wandering in the wilderness and did not like this at all. Instead of accepting responsibility for his unbelief, he decided to blame it all on Moses and worked hard to remove him from leadership.

This is standard operating procedure for Satan when a person is failing and unhappy, to find a leader to blame it on and start a rebellion. Korah couldn't have cared less about the vision at this time in his life; he was in pain and misery and wanted company. He was able to line up 250 princes to agree with him that Moses should step down and Korah was the man to take over. **Numbers 16:1-3**

Moses was crushed and could only appeal to the Lord to have this rebellion crushed. **verses 4-11**

The other ringleaders refused to come and speak with Moses. **verses 12-14**

Moses was unfairly accused by these men, who didn't care about the vision or what would happen to the people of Israel; they were angry and wanted revenge and Moses was the man they wanted to punish. Moses knew that he had done his best to lead the people and even offered to be damned forever if that would help God to forgive the children of Israel. **verses 15-18**

God responded and Korah and all the men and their families who rebelled were killed. **verses 19-35**

But the sin of discontent was still in the camp as the other people had been infected and could not let go of their discontent. **verses 41-43**

Moses had to intervene again that God would not wipe out the entire population and the sin of discontent was contained but not removed and it festered until that generation died off. God killed 14,700 men to stem the rebellion. **verses 44-50**

## **SUMMARY**

The strong demonic forces of discontent are responsible for breaking up marriages, causing rebellion in children, causing strife at work and tearing up churches.

Christians are obligated to rise up if there is a biblical cause and correct it. But if there is no genuine cause and a person wants to operate in anger, discontent, jealousy, competition, offense, dissatisfaction with yourself, etc., then you need to repent and asking God to heal your emotions.

God has given every believer in Christ a vision for his life but there is also a corporate vision, where believers get together and pool their resources in a church or a mission organization.

No man lives for himself, so it is important that you know the vision for your life and be in agreement with the vision of the Christian fellowship you belong to.

Remember, it was Jesus who set up His church and told the believers in Christ to work together in unity and love one another. **1 John 2:15-21**

## **DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR VISION? ARE YOU CONTENT?**

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

## **DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**