

Session 7: CAPACITY

Do you want to make a lasting difference in the world for the sake of something great?

*'Desire that your life count for something great! Long for your life to have eternal significance. Want this! Don't coast through life without a passion.'*¹

*'... when God sets His love upon us, choosing or electing us to salvation and a restored relationship with Him, this privilege also includes a summons or call to a specific task, namely, to assist Him in the tremendous work of bringing the rule and reign of Jesus Christ to visible expression in the world through the agency of redeemed lives. He has called us for a purpose.'*²

He has not called us to a mediocre life of ease and comfort!

'I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me.' (Phil 1 v 20-22) Paul even had a vision that included dying for the glory of God.

The Need and Power of Vision

'If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every single time.' It is not God's intention for us to simply drift through life. We need a vision of the future.

*'All great leaders possess two things. They know where they are going and they are able to persuade others to follow.'*³ We must have both a God-given vision and the ability to share it, through word, through deed, through life, through example.

'It is my dream that no one on this planet should die without having tasted Coca-Cola.' Robert Woodruff, president of the US Coca-Cola company from 1923 to 1955.

How can it be that so many of God's people, as numerous as we are and empowered by God's Holy Spirit as we are, have not yet fully caught a vision like this for the expansion of the gospel – that no one should die without having at least tasted the truth that is found in Jesus Christ? What part does your life play in the expanding influence of 'the **real**' real thing?

What has God indicated about your future? Here are four questions that have helped others to gain a certain degree of clarity about their personal, God-given vision.⁴

What do you feel PROMPTED to do?

This prompting is like being gently nudged from behind in a certain direction, which persists, it returns again and again so that you can't help but know it's the whisper of God.

¹ Piper, J, Don't Waste Your Life, Crossway Books, 2003, p46

² Haslam, G, Moving in the Prophetic, Monarch Books, 2009, p221

³ Maxwell, J, cited in Haslam, G, Moving in the Prophetic, Monarch Books, 2009, p245

⁴ Adapted from Haslam, G, Moving in the Prophetic, Monarch books, 2009, p265/6

What do you experience PLEASURE in doing?

God's will for your life often corresponds with what you most enjoy doing, which doesn't exclude sacrifice & struggle, but even in the struggle it will be the source of your greatest fulfilment and joy.

What do you experience POWER in doing?

When you do certain things or are involved in certain things there is a coming alive, a feeling of empowerment and other people notice it.

What has led to your personal PROMOTION by God?

This is not about climbing the success ladder and evaluating our progress according to worldly standards. But this is about the doors and opportunities that God opens up for you. God will see to it that you have opportunity to grow and operate in what He has gifted and called you to do.

Other questions that might be helpful in us feeling our way towards clarity with regard to our personal vision and direction in life:

Which Bible characters do you most identify with?

Which three people do you most respect? This could include people you have met or great heroes you have read about in church history or world history. We are thinking about people from the past or those still living, not Bible characters.

There will be reasons why these people have gained your respect and attention and they will probably have shaped your life and influenced your decisions and desires more than you may have realised.

*'Whatever you do, find the God-centered, Christ-exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find your way to say it and live for it and die for it. And you will make a difference that lasts. You will not waste your life.'*⁵

'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.' (Eph 3 v 20)

*The link between where we are and where we will be is our vision.*⁶ **Let's press on and live big, bold, courageous, passionate lives for Jesus, that's the life that is truly life!**

⁵ Piper, J, Don't Waste Your Life, Crossway Books, 2003, p47

⁶ Haslam, G, Moving in the Prophetic, Monarch books, 2009, p247