

## “I Can See Clearly Now” – (Direction & Momentum)

We are on a journey together looking at **Strategies for Success** and my prayer is that each of us comes into a greater freedom and purpose in God than we have ever dreamed possible.

Many of us would simply love to have success land in our laps, but something that has become plainly clear as I read the Bible is this ... **God wants us to be involved.**

He gives us strategies to apply, tools to use, actions to take – we have to be involved!

The Bible has a very well known phrase that advertisers now use: *“If you seek you will find”*

### **MATTHEW 7:7(NKJV)**

**“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

### **JEREMIAH 29:13 (NCV)**

**You will search for me. And when you search for me with all your heart, you will find me!**

**‘FINDING’ ... IS RESERVED FOR THOSE WHO SEEK OR SEARCH – not for those who only hope or even less, for those who simply wish.**

On any journey there are rises and falls, hills and plains, the occasional mountain or valley. Actually sometimes, climbing out of a valley can be just as difficult as climbing a mountain.

**Remember, success is not measured by heights attained but by obstacles overcome. We're going to pass through many obstacles in our lives; good days, bad days. But the successful person will overcome those obstacles and constantly move forward. Bruce Jenner, American Olympian 1976**

One of the reasons it's sometimes difficult to cope during rough times is that **adversity challenges us to change**, and it is a part of our human nature to resist change. But remember **change is part of God's plan for us** - we are being **“transformed from Glory to Glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18)**

We must not fear adversity, for instead of grinding us down it can polish us up to brilliance, beauty and value. We must not fear resistance; remember a kite always rises against the wind, not with it. And we must not fear pressure, for it's that very pressure that forms the diamond, one of the toughest, most beautiful stones on earth.

Last week, I taught on the Five Fears that I believed pretty much encompass all other fears and hold people trapped and bound. They were: The Fear of: Poverty; Criticism; Loss of Love/Relationship; Ill Health and Death.

One of the most powerful strategies the Bible gives us to overcome adversity and to press through fear is very well known but not well applied. It is quoted, questioned and qualified but not often established.

We know well the verse from **HEBREWS 11:1**:

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

But if faith is this what is fear? EXACTLY THE SAME THING IN THE OPPOSITE!

**Now fear is the substance of things NOT hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

**Q. What is the difference between the 1% who successfully accomplish their dreams and the 99% who don't?**

- What was it about a first grade drop out that made him able to have more patents than anyone in recorded history – in sound recording, movie making and the electric light bulb? (*Thomas Edison*)
- What was it about a woman who lost both her hearing and sight as a young child, who was bitter and hateful, to become one of the most inspirational writers and speakers of her time? (*Helen Keller*)
- What was it that took a 52 year old Milkshake Machine Salesman and caused him to create the most successful fast-food restaurant in history? (*Ray Crock –MacDonalds*)

Many people are living today as if they are on a rudderless raft stuck in the current of a very large and powerful river that controls everything on it.

The thing is: **WE CANNOT DRIFT INTO SUCCESS OR HAPPINESS** and we most definitely **CANNOT DRIFT OUT OF BEING STUCK!**

We may be able to keep afloat, but there is no clear direction. It is very haphazard and it is like others or circumstance or things have control over your life or destiny.

**We cannot live our lives as if we are always on holiday!** Alf Millar

If we don't actually step up, get involved and take some responsibility in living with purpose and direction then I believe we are actually living contrary to God's plan.

Tom Hatch

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**JEREMIAH 29:11 (NKJV)**

**For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.**

**EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV)**

**For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

So what is the strategy God gives us?

How can I jump off the rudderless go-no-where raft and bring some solid direction and purpose into my life?

**PROVERBS 29:18 (KJV)**

**Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.**

**PROVERBS 13:12 (ESV)**

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.**

I know we have had teaching on Vision before – and recently – but if we really got it I believe life would be a whole lot different for so many people.

**Vision is not something abstract or intangible and Hope is not a wish!**

To live without a vision is like trying to find your way across country by using an abstract painting as a road-map – there is no beginning and no end, no apparent clarity or meaning, and usually there is not even a defined image. In short – it is just plain confusing!

When Solomon said “*the people perish*” - he didn’t necessarily mean you would physically die. I believe he was referring to your soul, your purpose in life, who you are, what you love, how you live ... it will all begin to decay. It is a subtle and gradual process.

A rubber tyre left out in the sun will gradually ‘perish’. It becomes dry and cracked to the point that it cannot be filled with air, it cannot stand the pressure or the use, it cannot bear any weight or any load – *it cannot be used for its designed purpose!*

Now the converse of this verse is just as real and powerful ...

- If no vision = perishing

- Gaining a vision = life, purpose, strength, longevity.

**A vision = a clear and precise picture INFUSES LIFE!**

Three weeks ago Alf Millar gave us a fantastic teaching about “Having a Vision for 2010” and he gave us a really good way to think about our Vision:

**S.M.A.R.T.** = Specific / Measurable / Attainable & Add the God Factor /  
Realistic / Timely

He then gave us some homework to consider:

1. We need to have a vision
2. Maybe God wants to stretch our boundaries some this year?

I want to dove-tail into the end of what Alf taught and take you another step towards having that clear vision.

Earlier I described having no vision is like trying to drive across a country using an abstract painting as the map. I want to help you in how to ‘create a clear road-map’ for your future.

“6 Steps to Creating a Road-map for the Future”.

**HABAKKUK 2:2-3**

**Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.**

Find something that you can write in – a diary, journal, year-planner or note-book. You can list things or ‘mind-map’ them ... you decide.

1. “MAJOR CITIES”

Make a list of the most important areas of your life:

You decide how many things go on that list. As an example: relationship with God, Spouse (husband or wife), Children (individual or group), Career, Education...

2. “STATE HIGHWAYS”

Create a list of the most important dreams for each area or listed item at Step 1.

**NB:** The '*important*' is important to YOU not anyone else.

3. “TRAVEL STOPS / LANDMARKS”

List the goals for each of those dreams.

4. “CITY ARTERIAL ROADS & NEIGHBOURHOODS”

Now break the goals down to steps needed to complete each goal.

5. “SUBURBAN STREETS”

Think through and clarify the tasks needed to be done to complete each step.

6. “I'M HOME!”

Target dates; these are not 'binding' but targets – something to aim at.

When you have finished you will have a very clear map for your journey. But remember this is not something that only gets done once. This is something that is very mouldable and re-definable.

Why is having a vision so vitally important? Well as it takes both Hydrogen and Oxygen to make water ... it takes two specific elements to give meaning to life:

I gave you two scriptures before. The second element in this Chemical Composition for life is HOPE!

**PROVERBS 13:12 (ESV)**

**Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.**

Hope is tangible.

HOPE = a confident belief that a specific vision, goal, dream, step, task or promise will be achieved or fulfilled.

Q. How can you have Hope if you don't have a vision?

The two are inseparable!

Hope takes the fuel of vision; reacts / sparks / combusts and produces power and momentum.

And it doesn't matter how clear the road-map is ... without forward momentum ... *"you aint goin' anywhere!"*

## **Vision and Hope = Direction and Momentum!**