

Sharpen Your Focus

Overview: 2025 is upon us. There is a wise saying, “you cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results.” Implied in our goal to be more like Christ and to be all he has called us to be is CHANGE. Yet most people hate change usually because they fear it (Metathesiophobia). So how can we courageously embrace change and see the fulness of God’s promises in our lives?

A. Vision: That Which Defines and Propels Your Life.

1. Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
 - a. Vision (H2377) dream, revelation, or oracle – vision
 - b. A vision is a dream, revelation, or a Word from God about your identity, calling, destiny, and/or a project that you have made your own.
2. Hab 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.
 - a. If it is worth remembering, it is worth memorializing.
3. Col 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

B. Keys to Bringing Your Vision to Life.

1. Success thinking.
 - a. Obstacles are opportunities. We are to have solution focused thinking based on faith in God’s promises.
 - b. Jas 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
2. Long-term thinking.
 - a. Remember the goal (vision), however, focus on the journey that God is taking you on.
 - b. Look beyond the current and the urgent. Don’t get distracted.
 - c. Look beyond the quick and easy. Don’t get impatient.
 - d. Right action, in the circumstances, leads to success.
 - Pro 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

3. Prioritize knowledge and skills.
 - a. Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - b. Pro 2:3-5 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
 - c. Keep prioritizing learning – especially about God and his ways.
 - d. Become an expert in the calling, destiny or project God has you doing.
4. Successful Actions.
 - a. 2Pe 1:5-7 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.
 - b. Use leverage by focusing on the actions that yield the biggest returns (80-20 rule).
 - c. Eliminate or minimize “vision stealing” activities.
 - d. Mar 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Illustration: This is Your Life: Balls, Rocks, Sand. Prioritize the Priorities.

C. High Level Activities – The Big Balls

1. USP’s – To release grace into your life: “Father, I am not aware of any sins, In the name of Jesus, thank you that you have cleansed me of all unrighteousness, according to 1 John 1:9.”
 - a. Pray USP’s throughout the day to have the flow of God’s grace during your day.
 - b. USP-RF (Rapid Fire). Pray like affirmations in a group to increase God’s grace during challenging times or situations.
2. Interval Living – To acknowledge God’s direction and presence as you obey him during your day.
 - a. Pro 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

3. Covenant Matrix – Your daily guide to fulfill your personal covenants with God.
 - a. What is it that God wants you to do every day? Prayer, read the Word, affirmations, etc. Start small and follow his leading day by day. The goal is intimacy with God.

D. Unpacking and Reorganizing Your Life.

1. What is God's will for you in 2025? Spend time with Him. Write down what he tells you. Study the Word about it. Pray about it. Make it yours. Embrace it.
2. Examine your ways of thinking – how do you deal with obstacles? Distractions? What about your knowledge and understanding about what God wants you to do?
3. Are your actions and activities adding to or distracting from your goals from God?
4. Unpacking your life and reorganizing your life can be fearful. Courageously embrace the changes – face the fears. God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7).