



VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

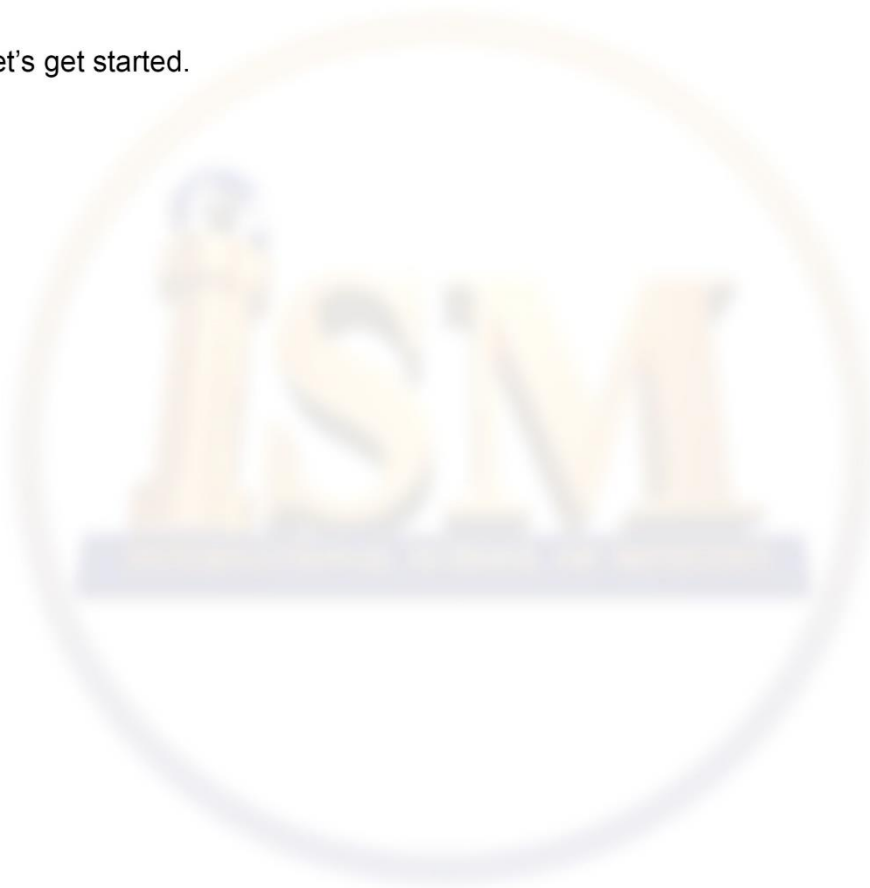


VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Welcome to this Reading Class!

We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.

Now let's get started.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, you will understand

- I. What it means to be visionary as a leader
- II. Why it is necessary for you as a Pastor and Minister of the Gospel to be a Visioneer.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Before we go into the main discourse, we will consider the definitions of key terminologies to enhance your knowledge of their accurate meanings.

- I. **Visionary** - Marked by foresight and imagination. Of, or relating to, or characterized by visions or the power of vision.
- II. **Leadership** - the assumption of responsibility for guidance, control, action, and direction following the burden of higher intelligence, superior knowledge, and information.
- III. **Visionary Leadership** – the act of having an ideology or concept of the way things ought to be and leading others to actualize this change.

THE NEED FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Vision is very important in life. It refers to the act or power of seeing physically, mentally, or spiritually. Everybody ends up somewhere in life but very few end up there on purpose. The scriptures declare that without a vision, the people cast off restraint or are uncontrolled (Proverbs 29:18). Having a vision gives the necessary passion, emotion, motivation, direction, and purpose to steer you in the right direction of the fulfillment of your goals and objectives. Every minister called of God must therefore be a Visioneer. Visioneering is a process where your ideas and dreams take on substance.

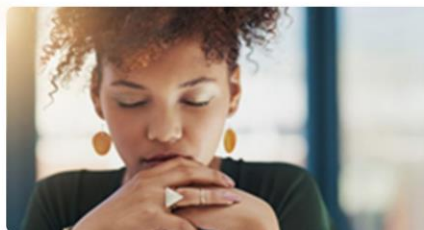
You should not only dream of the victories at the end of your endeavors, but also the work that goes into achieving them. The vision of whatever ministry the Lord has committed to you should mature in you as you also mature in the vision. In other words, learn to take ownership of the vision and let it become deeply rooted in all you do. Being a Visioneer is one key way to do that.

Let's now look at 5 reasons why you need to be visionary as one sent of God.

1.

VISIONEERING MAKES YOU PROJECT INTO THE FUTURE

A vision is your opportunity to move from where you are to where you desire to be. You can have a vision for yourself, for your church, for your ministry, for your city, and for your nation. God brings pictures to us in the place of prayer and



also through His Word. He will bring the pictures that are in line with His perfect plan concerning all things about you and the ministry committed to your hands.

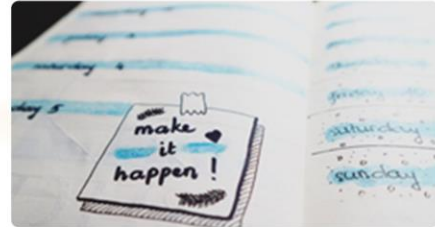
As these pictures form visions in your mind, they project you into the future. You begin to see beyond what can be perceived with the physical eyes to mental images imprinted in your mind.

It is essential to understand that for you to truly be a Visioneer, the visions you have must not be fleeting. This means you would need to set aside times to meditate on these pictures until they are real and tangible to you. Then, in your mind, you can live and dwell in the glorious pictures God has given you! This is where you start – in your mind. Proverbs 16:30 talks about how a violent man shuts his eyes to devise evil things and speaks them forth. You can do the same positively. Shut your eyes and envision what you want to achieve with the cell ministry, then speak it forth and act accordingly.

2.

VISIONEERING DELIVERS MEANING AND PURPOSE

Due to certain difficulties or opposition in the course of their ministry work, some ministers might experience burnout or might even begin to doubt whether or not they are truly called of God. This is why dwelling in the reality of your vision is



so important- it gives you drive, keeps you motivated, and brings substance to even the most mundane tasks at hand. You would find yourself excited to do all that pertains to the actualization of your vision. (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

The essence of Visioneering is to make the intangible picture a tangible reality. The more you see your vision becoming a reality, the more you are enthused to do even more until you have reached your goal. An example is the soulwinning efforts of your ministry or local assembly. Let us say your vision is to have a church attendance of 5,000 members every service; no matter how much increase you experience in each additional service, every increase to your membership fuels your passion and makes it even more exciting to keep putting in more effort until you have achieved your set goal of 5,000 people at every service. The vision that you have is your 'why' and that continually pushes you throughout the process of Visioneering.

3.

VISIONEERING MAKES YOU STEADFAST

Bearing in mind that we have an adversary who seeks to hinder the spread of the gospel, as you work on actualizing the visions you have for the next stage of your ministry work, you are bound to encounter certain challenges.



But if you are engaged in the process of Visioneering where your end goal is clear, you should build up a resolute determination to ensure your goal is accomplished. As a visioneer for the Gospel, your desire is to change the status quo, and that of course is bound to attract some antagonism. The Lord Jesus Christ told us that the world would hate us for our association with Him¹, and that we would suffer persecution for His Name's sake. He however also assured us of the victory despite opposition².

An example we see in Scripture is Apostle Paul, who testified before King Agrippa how he could not be disobedient to the vision he received from the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 26:19). From then on, he sprang into action which brought him trials and tribulations. This same Apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15:58, encourages us to be steadfast and unmoveable in our ministry work as he also was. Ministry must be carried out in faith. You ought to have a consciousness that God is with you even in the face of persecution. Your faith is the victory that overcomes challenges and especially for the Gospel's sake. The more you take bold steps in the direction of your vision, the bolder and more tenacious you will become as a Visioneer.

¹John 15:18-21 ²John 16:33

4.

VISIONEERING HELPS TO SUBSTANTIATE YOUR GOALS

A vision without corresponding action tends to fade away. The picture that you have is fuelled as you take intentional steps in its direction. However, there has to be clarity in your vision and that is why it is important to write it out in clear



terms. As you do so, it will become clearer how to move from where you are to the picture that you have of your next level in ministry. Your main goal is the realization of your vision, but specific steps are always required in achieving it. This is where goal-setting comes in. Harnessing your efforts into creating a specific plan of action helps you to ensure your time, resources, and efforts – including that of those you are leading – are put to effective use.

We recommend that you also take the course 'Goal Setting' which is also available on this ISM Online School Site.

5.

VISIONEERING ADDS FOCUS

Now with a clear picture, a strong desire, a deep conviction, and a definite plan, you can set your focus and put everything that you have into the direction of your vision. As you move in the direction of your vision, you make the decision



not to permit anything to distract you. The work of a minister is a great and high calling and demands great commitment and sacrifices.

The Scripture instructs that we should not be entangled with the affairs of this life³. This means that the things which many others are concerned about, such as their family, finances, social status and so on could become a distraction to you as a minister. You are rather to set your focus on things which are above, and in doing so, you will see the fulfillment of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*



IMPORTANT STEPS TO TAKE

Now that you understand the essence of visionary leadership, here are some important steps to take as a Visioneer for the Gospel:

01

Set aside times for mediating on the visions God brings to you.

02

Write your vision out and keep it where you can easily make reference to it.

03

Set short-term and long-term goals that will get you to your vision.

04

Dedicate times to praying personally, and also with all those working with you in the attainment of your ministry visions.



We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor-made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with the requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

We look forward to hearing the testimonies that will ensue from your application of the things that you have learned.

Visit our website with details below for more information on our programs, products, or services.

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