

Leaders As Visioners

I am impressed by the Pareto principle: The 80/20 principle. It suggests that twenty per cent of the population of a country should control 80 per cent of the wealth of the nation. But in a country like Nigeria, I find that the Pareto principle has been messed up. Its probably five percent of the country that controls ninety-five percent of the resources of the country. Our goal is to expand that top level that is supposed to determine the quality of life for the rest of the populace. We must raise leaders to raise our quality of life.

Where there is no vision, there are no leaders because it's vision that makes a leader. If you take vision out, leadership is finished. It is not a leader that makes a vision; it is a vision that makes a leader. What a leader does is to make the vision come to pass. George Banner, in his book "The power of vision", defined vision as "foresight based on insight with the benefit of hindsight". There are 3 significant words here, and they are ;foresight, insight, and hindsight. The common denominator is "sight".

Vision is seeing, not just your physical eyes; but with your inner eyes because all human beings have two sets of eyes. So, vision is first of all "foresight". Leaders are people who cross many bridges before their contemporaries even get to those bridges. They see farther than everybody else; they see the future before it happens.

Foresight is based on insight (the power of revelation). With insight you see things not just as they are but also as they could be. You see beyond the obvious because there is always more to this life than you can see with your eyes. Your inner faculties and senses are in operation. You have access to information that you normally cannot get through your five senses. Foresight and insight result in vision, with the benefit of hindsight, which is the ability to analyse your past.

People of vision are usually people who have experience and have been able to detect patterns in their lives from their experiences. They have identified patterns of failure and patterns of success. The understanding of their past helps them to be able to project accurately into the future. That is why you can't do without experience. Somebody said, "When a man with experience meets a man with money, the man with experience will get the money and the man with the money will get the experience".

To be a leader, your inner senses and faculties must be active. Your inner eyes and ears must be open to hear. In this world, each person dances to a different drummer, and you are required to dance to your own drumbeat. No one else hears it with you but it is up to you to let your dance steps be congruent to the drumbeats you can hear. Your sense of inner perception must be very strong for you to maintain your leadership position, because the day you stop seeing farther than everybody else, you loose your leadership position. Remember, "Where there is no vision, there are no leaders".

A report by Stanford University revealed that eighty-nine percent of what we learn is from what we see. Only ten percent comes from what we hear and the remaining one percent from our other senses. Therefore, the impact of visuals on human beings is very strong. That is why the bible says that where there is no vision, the people perish. So for you to be a leader you have to be able to see far ahead and be able to communicate what you are seeing to the people that you want to influence because when they see it, their lives will change. There is awesome power in vision. What you see is what you become, literarily.

The more we see; the more we become. What you see is what you seize. The people who have visions today about tomorrow are the ones who literarily create tomorrow for us. This world will always owe its dreamers appreciation because they are the ones who create the future for us. It is dreamers and visionaries who bring us into new levels of paradigms.

While it is good for us to do yearly budgets, one year is very short in the life of a nation. We must begin to see our country and our cities the way they will be thirty or fifty years from now. We must see the economy the way it will be. We must see education the way it will be. The Nigeria we see in our minds today is the one we will live in tomorrow.

Dream of a new Nigeria. Dream of a new you.

Vision has tremendous power over people. It is vision that attracts people to you as a leader. If people can see it, then they would want to seize it with you. So your power is in vision. Every leader has got to have vision. A vision plus a leader who will do it equals a movement. Abraham's obedience to God's vision, in the Bible, marked the beginning of a new nation. Jesus Christ himself testified of Abraham's power

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of vision ;how he seized the future and located himself in the center of God's plan for humanity. We can help our nation capture the future and take her into the reality of that future. If you can see it, you can seize it. When you buy tomorrow today, it is cheap, but by the time tomorrow arrives and becomes today, it is expensive. The person who bought today yesterday is in a position to sell today at his own price. All through history, God has effected changes, not through institutions but through individuals.

In our country today, we need people who can see beyond the obvious and those who will act on what they see. I am talking about you, dear reader. It is time for you to dream of a glorious future.

We need for our leaders to begin to talk about what our country will look like in the next ten, twenty, thirty or fifty years. Because where there is no vision, the people perish. What we see inside today is what we will see outside tomorrow.

To get vision, first, look up. Look up to God. Ultimately, it is what God says that creates and recreates our world. One revelation from God can change your life forever. All that Solomon achieved was built on the foundation of only two revelations. You are only a revelation away from your future. The distance between you and your future is revelation.

Secondly, look within. Check your feelings. What do you feel strongly about? What makes you excited or angry? What moves you? Look within. Check your potentials and your gifts, because you are designed for your purpose. When you check your design, it points to your purpose.

Look behind. Take a look at your experiences, some things have worked for you, others have not. God sometimes use those experiences to direct us.

Look around. What are the resources that God has put at your disposal? What kinds of people are around you? What is the situation presently in your environment? The problems you were born to solve are likely to be obvious. I was not designed to solve the problems that existed two thousand years ago; the challenges of my own day are different. And the challenges we face differ from country to country;look around.

Look ahead. Look into the future. What's likely to happen if we go on this way? Think about tomorrow. Anything you want to do, begin with the end in mind. For example, what would you want people (your followers) to say at your funeral, many, many years from now? You can script what will be said now. And live your life in such a way that people will say just what you want them to say. Look ahead.

God will use you to lead us into the future.

Nigeria will succeed!