

Professional Perspectives for Christian Senior Officers

The **Vision** of a Christian Senior Officer

Vision is a significant characteristic of leadership. The ability to look beyond the urgency of the moment to the important things of the future, and to communicate those ideas effectively, is a necessary element of successful leadership. Spend time in the following passages to reflect on your leadership role in imparting vision.

The Vision of Caleb and Joshua

Numbers 13:1 – 14:24 Caleb and Joshua's vision of Canaan differed from that of the other ten spies. The basis for their vision included these very important factors:

- **They were aware of the overall mission of the nation of Israel**—to occupy the land God had given it.
- **They were aware of the capacity of God.** They trusted Him to fulfill His promise to them.
- **They were men of integrity and faith.** They didn't test the wind of popular opinion and then go with the group. In the face of considerable opposition they boldly stood for what they believed.
- **They were dedicated to service—to purpose beyond themselves.** Even though their vision was rejected, Caleb and Joshua continued to lead their nation for forty years, eventually seeing the fulfillment of the vision.

Passages from Proverbs

Proverbs 11:14 *"Where there is no guidance, the people fall."* (NASB) *"For a lack of guidance a nation falls."* (NIV)

Proverbs 29:18a *"Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained"* (NASB). *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint"* (NIV). These two passages have significant implications for leaders in their professional and spiritual responsibilities. There are several important principles to glean from them:

- **Counsel, guidance, and vision are leadership responsibilities.** They flow from the top down. They must come from a recognized position of authority, or they may be rejected. That is the purpose of the military rank structure. Spiritually, we recognize that God and His Word provide an authoritative vision for our lives.
- **The benefit of counsel, guidance, and vision is for the body, not the individual leader.** The beneficiary is to be the people, and the nation—not just the individual who has been given a position of high responsibility.
- **The result of counsel, guidance, and vision is a healthy people, capable of fulfilling what God intends.** If the missions of our people and nation are to be accomplished, God-directed visionary leadership is necessary.

Modern Examples of the Vision of Senior Officers

- At the close of an OCF international conference some years ago, a U.S. Marine Corps officer expressed what God had laid on his heart: “This week, I have developed a vision for claiming the Marine Corps for Jesus Christ.” He knew he couldn’t accomplish such a task by himself, but he spent much of his energy toward that end by using the senior positions and the spiritual gifts God had given to him.
- An Army officer serving as an infantry brigade executive officer wrote from Saudi Arabia about the ways God was working in his division. He recalled his initial prayers when he had received orders to the division in the states: “I had asked God for 20 studies, and believed He could make 30, so I could send words of encouragement, I never thought the Lord would do it this way, as we have now discovered a new meaning for ‘divide and multiply’.”
- God may not give you a vision for your entire military service, or even for your unit, but if you pray and ask, He *will* give you vision for a specific task He wants you to do. Then pray that your vision will grow as you continue to mature in your faith and walk with Him. Be a person of faith, although you can’t see the details.

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