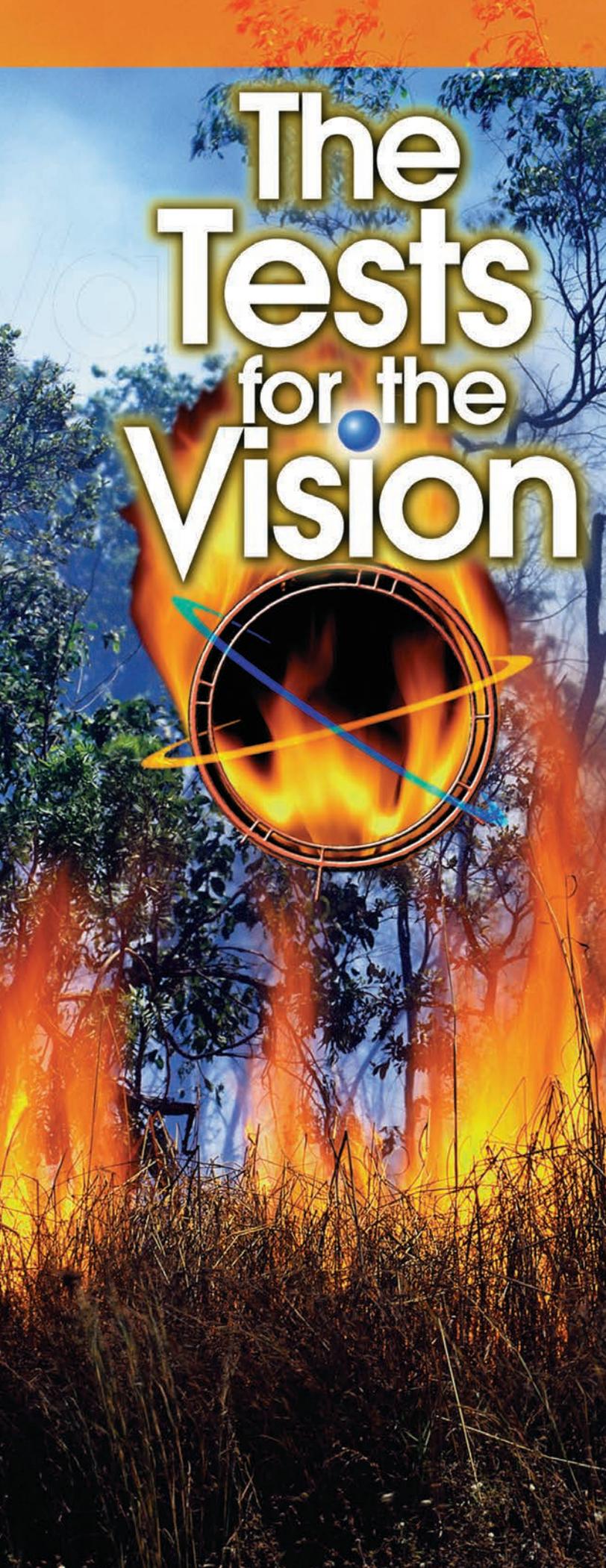


# The Tests for the Vision



## INTRODUCTION

**T**he tests of the vision is the final session of The Vision of the Leader course. By now the audience that you are teaching should have understood the importance of the birthing process, know where the real power for the vision come from, and how to make sure your vision is from God. Now it is time for you to share with them the seven tests that every vision must overcome. Stress again that these are not validators of the vision! That is when the visionary must have great endurance to persevere and find the answers to the pressing problems. What will be the solutions so that the vision can continue forward?

## #1

### THE TEST OF RESOURCES

*<sup>7</sup>Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, <sup>8</sup>and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house*

*that I will occupy. “And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me. Nehemiah 2:7-8*

In most cases, the very first test to come n between the visionary and their vision is the lack of resources. There is no money in the bank to start this vision. There are many unique alternatives depending upon what your vision is and where it will eventually lead in the future. Will you need to incorporate? Will you sell products or services? Will you be non-profit? These and many other important business issues will determine how you will be able to generate revenue. Some visions will need to have services and/or products. The main point is that the visionary must take the responsibility to get the money in order to begin the vision. Creatively thinking outside the familiar will greatly increase one’s changes of finding unique ways to accomplish this overwhelming task.

When teaching this, greatly emphasize the responsibility to find the money is the visionaries, not God. Of course, if you ask in faith, He will give it to you, but there had better be much hard work on your part when trying everything to find how He wants you to earn it. These tests will not be overcome from a visionary full of

passivity. The tests must be aggressively attacked until they are non-issues. The first of these obstacles is resources.

## #2

### **THE TEST OF REPRIORITIZATION**

*<sup>9</sup>Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. Nehemiah 2:9*

The test of reprioritization is one of the most confusing ideas to many visionaries. Most visionaries are very busy people in the first place and are used to having many different tasks. They think that adding another task, their vision, could be focused on during some evenings and possibly during one or two Saturdays a month. What begins to happen is that as the vision begins to grow larger, the visionary is faced with the reality that they must reprioritize their own life in order for the vision to be accomplished. This is a difficult process. The vision always seems smaller and more manageable in the beginning but it does not take long for it to become overwhelming and something must change.

When teaching about reprioritization review on the

Vision CD the different ways in which to reprioritize their life. Are their current actions in life focused on accomplishing the vision or are they more focused on other issues that will not make a significant influence on the kingdom? The audience must grasp the truth that the larger the vision that God has entrusted to them the more their life will need to change for the sake of the vision. Give examples of visionaries, you know who have had to change their whole life for the sake of the vision.

## #3

### **THE TEST OF RUMOR**

*<sup>10</sup>When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel. So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. Nehemiah 2:10-11*

Many people will be disturbed when they hear someone is actually doing something productive in their life. The test of rumor is when people talk against the vision and the visionary hears it from someone else. It is upsetting. It becomes very personal and the visionary can be taken off task very quickly by losing sight of the calling. It is easy to begin focusing on these

critics, who do not have the facts.

When teaching about the test of rumor, emphasize the point that the vision is not theirs but Gods. He will protect it and He will cause it to produce fruit by your efforts. Don't spend your time trying to put out fires that don't matter. Most of the time the critics do not know any of the circumstances and are threatened by your stance to do something for God. You do your part and let God handle the critics.

## #4

### **THE TEST OF RE-EVALUATION**

***<sup>13</sup>And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the***

***Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. <sup>14</sup>Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. <sup>15</sup>So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. Nehemiah 2:13-15***

When the visionary begins the trail down to the vision there are large stars in their eyes. "It won't take too long to finish,

I won't have to change many aspects of my life and there will be plenty of money and people to help accomplish the vision" are just a few of the sentences that illustrate the feelings that a visionary has at the beginning of a new vision. When Nehemiah actually saw the broken down walls and the gates that were burned with fire he experienced what is called, "re-evaluation." The visionary only saw the good and easy aspects of the vision. One day, the visionary will actually see the truth of the amount of work it will take in order for the vision to be accomplished. Nehemiah heard about the gates and walls but now he actually saw them for himself.

When you teach this the main idea is to ask your audience if they have truly seen the amount of work it will take for their vision yet. Once you have seen the reality of the work the next question would be would you continue? That is at the crux of reevaluation. You re-think whether or not this vision is worth the amount of work to you. The deeper that the impact the vision will make on eternity the larger the amount of work. What will you decide?

## #5

### **THE TEST OF RECRUITMENT**

***<sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." <sup>18</sup>And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to do this good work. Nehemiah 2:17-18***

The test of recruitment is a major responsibility for the visionary. Without other people helping, the vision will not go very far. Look at what Nehemiah did. He first revealed the true reason why he was there. It wasn't his vision it was their need. Nehemiah shared with them what their need was and then he told them about how God had been with him to enable him to come.

When you teach this part it is imperative that the audience understands that there are two key ways to recruit effectively: 1. To share with them a need that they can relate to and want to meet, and 2. To share with them how God has been involved. Don't share your

need for a vision, share what they need and put the tasks that you need done and that they are good at in their hands. That is what Nehemiah did and he was able to lead a nation in rebuilding massive walls in almost two months' time. Who do you need to fulfill a task that needs to fulfill that task? Find them. It is a win-win situation every time.

## #6

### **THE TEST OF REJECTION**

***<sup>19</sup>But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" Nehemiah 2:19***

This is the most painful test. Unlike rumor that attacks the vision rejection is when others attack the visionary. And, usually, the criticism begins with those who are the visionaries, peers and authorities. Nehemiah had these men laughing and despising him. But, more painful than that was the attack against his motives. Who he was. "What are you doing, rebelling against the king?" The visionary will cross people that will say, "You are just in this for the money, nice car, secretary, title, etc."

Teaching about rejection must surface the tension between who the visionary is really trying to please-- himself, others or God. In this area bring to the audience's attention that they are only trying to please One person. If He is pleased that is all that matters.

## #7

### **THE TEST OF RESOLUTION**

***<sup>20</sup>So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem." Nehemiah 2:20***

The last test is one of resolution. After all is said and done, the visionary makes up their mind to do the vision no matter what the cost. "It is God's will, He has validated it, and therefore I will be the one to do it." Resolution brings peace because the doubts will no longer rise up. The visionary has decided upon the action and it is final.

Ask the audience if they have solidified in their own minds whether or not they will do the vision that God has given them. Even if it means selling everything and moving away if that is what God is calling you

to do. Trust God He will never leave you nor forsake you. He was faithful to Nehemiah and He will be faithful to you.

### **CONCLUSION**

Summing up the tests of the vision, you must realize that the more impact that the vision God has given to you will make for His kingdom, the larger the obstacles will be to overcome. Many people start down the road to where God has been calling them for years just to give up because they do not have the perseverance and endurance to break through the tests to victory.

Challenge your audience to remain loyal to God during these tests and not to run away. It will be worth staying through the pain, because the eternal rewards far outweigh any struggle that we will ever encounter in our walk with God when accomplishing His goals for His kingdom.

May God richly bless you, give you more ministry, keep His hand upon you and keep you far from evil and the pain that that would bring to you and your vision. May the vision keep you occupied on the greatness of God and His never ending faithfulness so that you will always do His will and impact the world for God.

Excerpted from the  
Bruce Wilkinson Course:  
*The Vision of the Leader*;

To learn more about this subject visit the DVD  
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