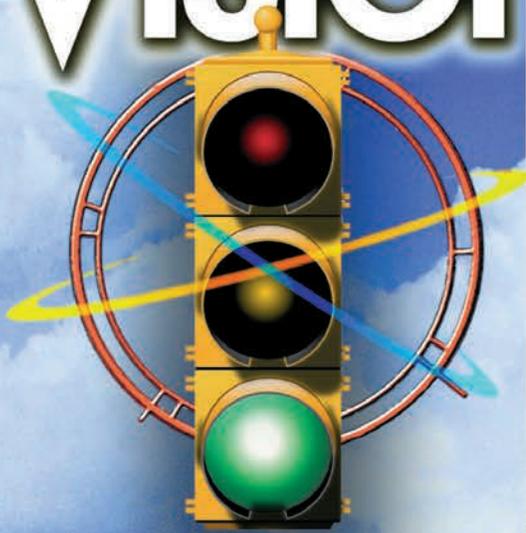


The Validation of the Vision



**Bruce
Wilkinson**

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

To learn more about this subject visit the DVD Product page at:
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The validation of the vision will focus on the main issue of making sure that God's blessing has been stamped upon the vision. Is this vision from God? What if this vision is not from God and the person has fabricated it in their mind but think it is from God? How can that person be sure? There are seven validators that are green lights. What are they and why are they so important?

#1

THE VALIDATOR OF YOUR ENDURING PASSION

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me; "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart. "Then I became dreadfully afraid ...

Nehemiah 2:1-2

The validator of your enduring passion touches upon the emotions of the heart. Many times, when confronted with a need, walking away never to think about it again comes natural in certain situations. The need

does not stick to the person. When a need does stick with the person, and they catch themselves thinking about how to solve the problem, that may be a situation that God would like that person to get involved in.

Notice that this validator is not of a person's passion but of an enduring passion. Emotions are fleeting, here one day and gone the next. A need that sticks will creep into the heart of that person and they will find themselves emotionally distraught over the need the next day, week, month and probably years. It cannot escape from that person's heart and it continues to tug.

When you teach this part bring to light the fact that all people have different areas they feel more strongly about than others. Not all needs stick to all people. One person might want to get involved with evangelizing the elderly while another would like to create interactive Bible stories for children. Therefore, they should not feel guilty that they are not attracted to all needs. Once the audience understands this, they will be able to narrow the needs that they are attracted to. Now is the time to begin questioning God on whether or not this is His will for their life. People will begin to realize that they have had a vision and passion for something their whole life but never did anything about

it. Reiterate the fact that no one is too young, old, etc. to have a vision. It is up to God who gives us a vision in order to accomplish His goal for His kingdom. How kind He is to let us be a part of His big picture.

#2

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR PUBLIC PROCLAMATION

*...and said to the king,
"May the king live forever
I Why should my face not
be sad, when the city, the
place of my fathers' tombs,
lies waste, and its gates
are burned with fire?"
Nehemiah 2:3*

The Vision is just another good idea until the person with the vision actually shares with another about the vision that they think God is calling them to do. There have been many brilliant ideas that have never been put into action, so they are still in an incubation stage and many ideas have never hatched. Nehemiah took the risk of rejection by sharing with another the need of his people. This is difficult to do because the visionary does not have all of the answers to all of the problems. They have not been thought through. And the larger the vision, the more that person has to risk by telling someone of this idea.

When teaching this validator ask the audience about a vision they have that God has given to them. Did they share that with another person? If this vision is really from God and you believe that, then you must take the step to tell someone else. This step solidifies your vision in that someone else knows and in essence can hold you accountable. They will probably ask you about your vision the next time they see you. Is your vision worth the risk of rejection?

#3

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR DEPENDENT PRAYER

*Then the king said to me,
"What do you request?" So I
prayed to the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 2:4*

Independence. Wars have been fought over it, parents and children have argued over it and we try our whole lives to be independent and then God asks us to become dependent upon Him. It is exactly against our human nature. We want to do everything ourselves without any help from others. Look at what Nehemiah's reaction was to the king's question. He immediately prayed to God. He did not start with telling the king the plan on how to rebuild the wall. He prayed. Then he

spoke. Most times people speak without ever asking God what He would like. This validator proves whether or not this vision is from actually God because it reveals what you believe about where you received the vision. The more that you believe this is your vision the less you will depend upon God. The more that you believe this vision was given to you by God the more that you will ask Him what to do. "What is the best way to accomplish this task God?"

When teaching the part of dependent prayer focus the people's attention on their belief of where the vision came from. Where did it originate? Did it spring up from inside the depths of their soul all by itself or did God plant it there and grow it until they knew they had to do something about it? The bottom line is, the more you depend upon God in prayer, the more you believe He is the author and finisher of the vision He has given you.

#4

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR OVERALL PLAN

Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" I set him a time. Nehemiah 2:6a, 6c

One of the largest mistakes that a person with a vision will do is to try and plan out every detail on how to accomplish the vision. A few of the consequences are as follows: 1. The foresight of all obstacles is unknown. It will be frustrating when the detailed plan gets discarded because it loses all relevance. It hits the wall of the reality that life isn't solved in an easy and planned way. 2. The plan usually becomes a part of the vision in the end. People begin to get more excited about the plan. They lose sight on where they are going in planning on how to get there.

When teaching about the overall plan focus the audience's attention on the big idea of where they are going. They need to know how to get to the end of the vision. How will it get accomplished? Nehemiah set the king a time. He did not tell him all of the details. Get the big idea down first and the details will come later.

#5

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR AUTHORITY PERMISSION

Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you

send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it. " So it pleased the king to send me. Nehemiah 2:4a, 5, 6b.

This is the most obvious of the validators of a person's vision. It is that you ask your authority what they think about the vision that God has given to you. Authority today is looked upon by many as an obstacle to overcome rather than a shelter to protect. God places our authorities to ensure the safety of the wisdom of our decisions. Many ideas appear wonderfully brilliant only to be revealed as a sure sign for failure by wise counsel. One of the largest strongholds today is that our authority is our enemy and we need to go under, around or over them because they cannot relate to the decisions that the leader has to make. The only problem is that One person is left out of the picture. God. There seems to be a lack of belief that God can change a board's mind about a vision if that is His will no matter how carnal or illogical the authority can be at times. Believe that what He says is for the best of all.

When you teach this part emphasize the unique fact that there are degrees of permission that our authority can give to us. No, Just Certain Parts, Maybe, Ok and Yes, You Have Our Full Blessing. The last category is the best. Make sure that you

have the audience commit to trust God with the vision that He has given them to change anyone's mind to accomplish His will through them.

#6

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR MOTIVE PURITY

Almost everyone feels that they do most tasks with pure motives. Taking the time to help others in need. Why would the validator of the purity of the leader's motive be important? This validator is critical for the long-term success of the visionary if they are to accomplish the vision. It touches on the reality that many times the words and actions that portray who the visionary is really is a mask for what they would really like to do. Why is the vision so important to the visionary? Would they be willing for it to not to work? Why or why not? The larger the vision the more fire that God will produce in the life of the visionary in order to cleanse the motives by making them more pure.

When you teach about motives talk to the audience about the importance of accomplishing the tasks toward the vision without receiving the credit. What if there was no recognition, no title and no money? This drastically changes what some would do if this were to

happen to them. Remember, the more that a person wants to be used by God the more He will reveal the true motives of the heart. It will be painful but worth all of the agony because of how He will use that person in the end if they confess that their motives have been selfishly driven all along. God uses humble people.

#7

THE VALIDATION OF YOUR HEART PEACE

This validator is most difficult to determine. Second guessing whether or not peace guards your heart is at times, like grasping at the wind. The main aspect of your heart's peace is that the person needs to ask God whether or not He really wants them to proceed. At this point the visionary needs to ask God to put a check in their spirit to validate if this is or is not His will. Many visions have had all six green lights and the person just didn't feel right in their heart about continuing on in the project.

When you teach this continue to emphasize that God will give peace that is not fleeting. It will guard your heart and mind if we trust in Him and this is His will. Talk about the importance of a spiritual check. He will reveal the truth on what He wants from you. Remember, it is His vision that He gave to you. He will lead

you and guide you if you let Him. Wait for His peace before you move and you won't have to doubt His direction about the vision.

CONCLUSION

The largest stronghold that you must break down for your audience is the difference between the validators and the tests of the vision. The validators prove that God stamps His approve on the vision and to proceed. Without the validators you cannot truly state that the vision that you feel is from Him, because you have no prop£

The tests on the other hand, are after God has validated your vision. These tests are the seven obstacles that every visionary must overcome in order to proceed with the vision. The problem lies in the mindset that the tests are the validators of God's approval. The largest of these wrong mindsets seems to lie in the realm of money. The visionary starts with none and then expects God to send checks from heaven without him working at all. When this doesn't happen, and most of the time it won't, the visionary responds by believing that this must mean that this is not God's will and they give up. The more clearly the validators and tests are defined the more successful that visions will be continued for the kingdom. That is the point of validators.