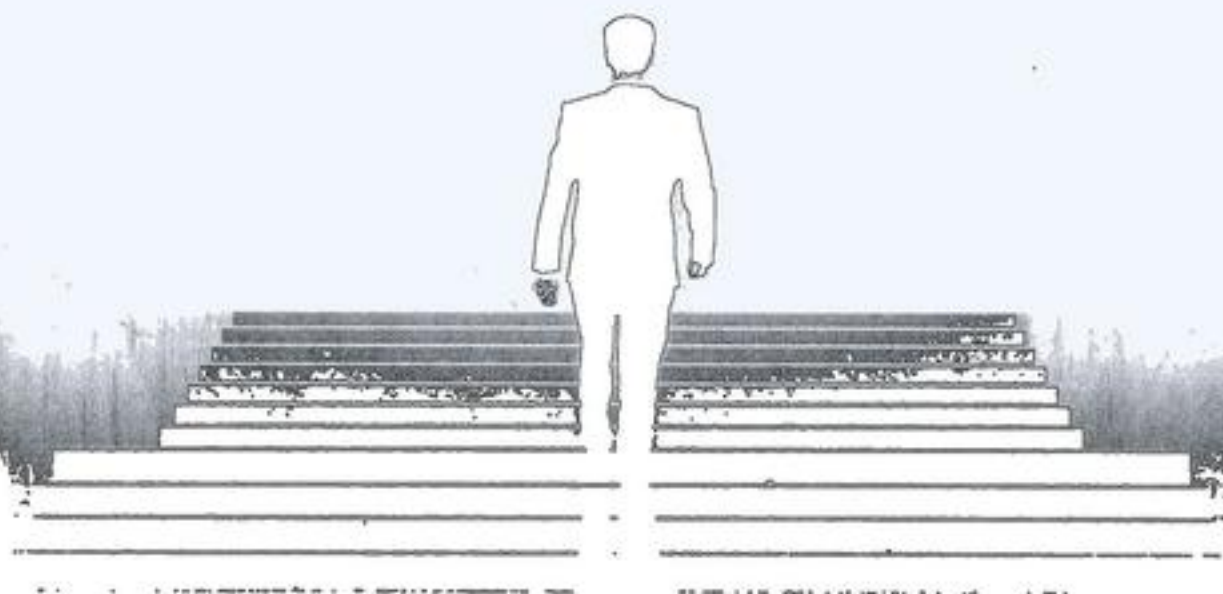


Motivation & Momentum For Your Vision

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by Jesse Duplantis

Do you want to taste and see that the Lord is good? Do you want to finish what God has called you to do? Then it's time to get motivated and gain momentum in your vision for God.

Motivation and Momentum—they may not be candy-coated, but if you've got a vision to do something for God, then it will be these M&Ms that move your vision to completion.

How many people do you know who are motivated to do something for God and yet never actually do anything? I meet people all the time that talk about what they're going to do and never do it. Why? They've only got one "M"—motivation.

But I've also found that it is very possible to gain momentum in doing what God has called you to do and yet lose all heart. I meet many "successful" people who've lost all joy for living and working for God. Their motivation is gone and they're getting by on only one "M"—momentum.

Regardless of your profession in life, it's going

to take the "M&Ms" working together to get God's will done. You're going to need motivation and momentum to avoid the traps of the devil and finish what God has called you to do.

The Simpler the Better

God isn't trying to make life complicated for you; He keeps the vision simple and wants you to do the same. In Habakkuk 2:1-2, the Bible says: *"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."*

Now, the vision must be written in pretty big letters if you're going to read it while you're running! If you've ever tried to jog and read at the same time, you know that it's not easy if the print is too small and the wording is too complicated.

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Habakkuk 2:3). In other words, there is a time frame in which God has appointed the vision to be completed. It's as if He's entered you into a race and already clocked how long it should take you.

If you are the leader and there are people called to run alongside you, then your job is to make that vision as plain as possible. **The plainer you keep it and the more you repeat it, the more others will be able to keep pace with you.**

Remember, some people won't believe it's possible, but they'll still work with you because *you* believe it's possible. As long as they're following you and you're keeping up with the M&Ms of ministry, in the end the vision will speak for itself. With their own eyes, the Bible says they will see it *"surely come"* to pass.

This means that if you're a leader, you need to **KNOW** your vision better than anybody else. If you're under a ministry, **you need to know that vision like the back of your hand.** Think about your ministry right now. What does your church or ministry stand for? Where are they going? What are they doing now to see that vision come to pass?

When you know the vision, then you are motivated to *do* what it takes, no matter *what* it takes. When you know the vision, you'll start running toward the vision.

Staying Motivated

How do you *stay* motivated? By learning how to **FOCUS**. Scattered brains and double-minds don't have the stability to stay motivated for very long. Those who teach themselves to focus are gaining a valuable discipline, and they will be able to stir up their motivation and keep up the momentum for the race.

I'm a focused man. Once I make up my mind about something, I move beyond the realm of just believing it can happen—I move into the realm of knowing it will happen. Why? Because I know in Whom I have believed (2 Timothy 1:12), and if God gave me the vision, then it will happen as long

as I stay on track. So, I'm not trying to convince myself about the vision. God will do His job. My job is to keep running towards His vision and holding up a big sign that others can follow. I can't let my eyes get off of the big picture.

How do I keep my spirit high? I speak to myself and stir up the vision every morning. It helps my confidence and my security to rise high. It's not cockiness, it is assurance! I'm assured that God can do anything and will do whatever I believe Him for.

God gave me this vision to preach the Gospel to the world and it's getting done. I *will* complete my destiny and reach my destination. Why? Because my vision is like a billboard in my mind and it motivates me to keep up the momentum with a good heart; to continually strive to fulfill the great commission to "Go Ye."

Why do some churches and ministries talk about their vision but do little about it? Because they have faith without legs. They have faith from hearing and hearing the Word (Romans 10:17), but have allowed themselves to become so comfortable with the message that they are no longer motivated to run with it. Their focus has shifted. Before, they were focused on getting the results of the vision; now, they're focused on being comfortable. Consequently, nothing seems to get done.

If you really believe something, it should have your attention and motivate you to do something. It should cause you to get up and start running towards your vision; to gain momentum so that you can reach your destination by the appointed time.

The Dangers of Distraction

Many people allow distractions to steal their focus and it causes them to stop running their race. They start walking the race, or crawling right off the track!

If you focus on a distraction, it will become your main attraction. You'll start thinking about that distraction. Your conversations will be littered with talk of it. Before you know it, the momentum you had for the vision just stops and your motivation to do something for God turns into feelings of defeat. Why? You lost your focus.

I refuse to be distracted because I don't have time for it. I've got a vision to preach this Gospel to the world. One way I refuse distraction is by not allowing critics to draw me into their criticisms. They may call me a name and try to get my attention, but I refuse to answer to something that I'm not! I'm not what they say I am; I'm what God says I am. Their critical words are just distractions, and I won't be distracted from what God has called me to do.

There are many distractions in life, but one giant distraction that can really stop you in your tracks is offense. Somebody says something that bothers you and you start thinking about it. You become offended and it shuts down your spiritual growth. Sure, they may have hurt you or done something completely wrong, but you should never let that emotion develop to the point of offense. If you do, you are allowing a distraction to move you away from your vision and nothing is worth that!

Forgiveness is a big part of completing your vision. People will do wrong, but you must learn to forgive them if you want to keep your motivation and momentum for your vision. Remember, Jesus has healing salve for ALL your hurts. You've got too much potential to allow any distraction to steal your M&Ms.

Speak Well of Yourself to Yourself

What else will steal your M&Ms? Lack of confidence in yourself. How do you know if you lack confidence? Listen to how you talk. Listen to what you say *about* yourself *to* yourself!

Have you ever noticed I always speak well of myself? I don't speak badly about myself because I know Who lives in me....do you?

Some people say, "Oh, he's egotistical." No, I'm being an imitator of Jesus and He didn't speak badly of Himself either.

You never heard Jesus say, "I'm the Son of God, but I don't feel like it today. Oh, Lawd, it's bad." No, Jesus said things like, "I'm the Door. I'm the Good Shepherd. I'm the Gate. I'm the Alpha; I'm the Omega. I'm the Beginning; I'm the End. Nobody goes to the Father, but by Me. I Am that I Am!" Jesus wasn't influenced to say something different

about Himself just because people didn't believe or understand Him. He spoke well of Himself because He knew who He was!

Do you know who *you* are? Do you understand that God lives in you? Do you realize the ability that God has put inside of you? Do you understand how big your spirit is? Your spirit is so big that it can house everything Jehovah is! You may be just looking at your exterior; you may be thinking only of the limitations of your brain and body, but God looks at your spirit. Your spirit is the recreated, born again you and it's so big that it can literally house El Shaddai, the God that is more than enough! Jehovah Jireh, your provider! Jehovah Shammah, Jehovah Tsidkenu! Think about that for a minute. Confidence will come when you know who you are in Christ, and it will spill over into your speech. People who succeed in staying motivated and keeping up their momentum are people who speak well of themselves *to* themselves.

Look at yourself and see beyond the exterior. Speak what the Word says about you out loud and in the mirror. That's what I do every morning. It's one way I continually renew my mind to what God says about me.

I charge myself with the vision! I say to myself, "Jesse, today you will be anointed to preach the Gospel and teach the Gospel. You will change people's lives with just one word that will fall from the lips of God inside of you!" Is that cocky? No, this is God's vision and it's my responsibility to keep the M&Ms of my vision going in my life. I must speak well of myself to myself. You should too.

Believe in Yourself

Belief in oneself is essential to leadership, and confidence will help you to succeed at whatever you do. If you cut hair for a living, speak well of your abilities to yourself. If you're a chef, speak well of your abilities to yourself. Whatever you do, build yourself up about it and you'll do a lot better. When you have self-confidence, people pick up on that energy and are drawn to you.

Matthew 12:25 says, "...Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every

city or house divided against itself shall not stand." Double-minded people can't be confident; they're too busy trying to figure out what they believe.

If you're inwardly divided, you can't exude the positive energy that makes people want to be around you. People want to hang around those who have some life in them, and confidence exudes strength and a joy for life. Get to know who you are (in Christ) and where you're going (your vision).

Don't Seek People's Approval

Jesus never sought the approval of His disciples. Jesus never said, "Hey, Peter, I was praying and My Father told me this. What do you think about it? Should I do it?" Why? Because Jesus had a destiny to complete. He had motivation and momentum, and the opinions of people could not sway Him from doing what God had called Him to do.

When Jesus started telling His disciples that He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer, die, and rise on the third day, the Bible says that Peter began to rebuke Jesus. Peter said, *"...Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee"* (Matthew 16:22). In other words, "NO! You can't do that, Jesus!" Now, Peter was a disciple of Jesus. He was very close to Him and did a lot in the ministry, and yet he told Jesus *not* to do what God said.

Jesus didn't let it go any further. He said, *"...Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men"* (Matthew 16:23). In other words, "Devil, SHUT UP! I'm interested in doing what God said, not what men say."

"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Jesus was a leader and required others to deny themselves in order that they follow God's plan.

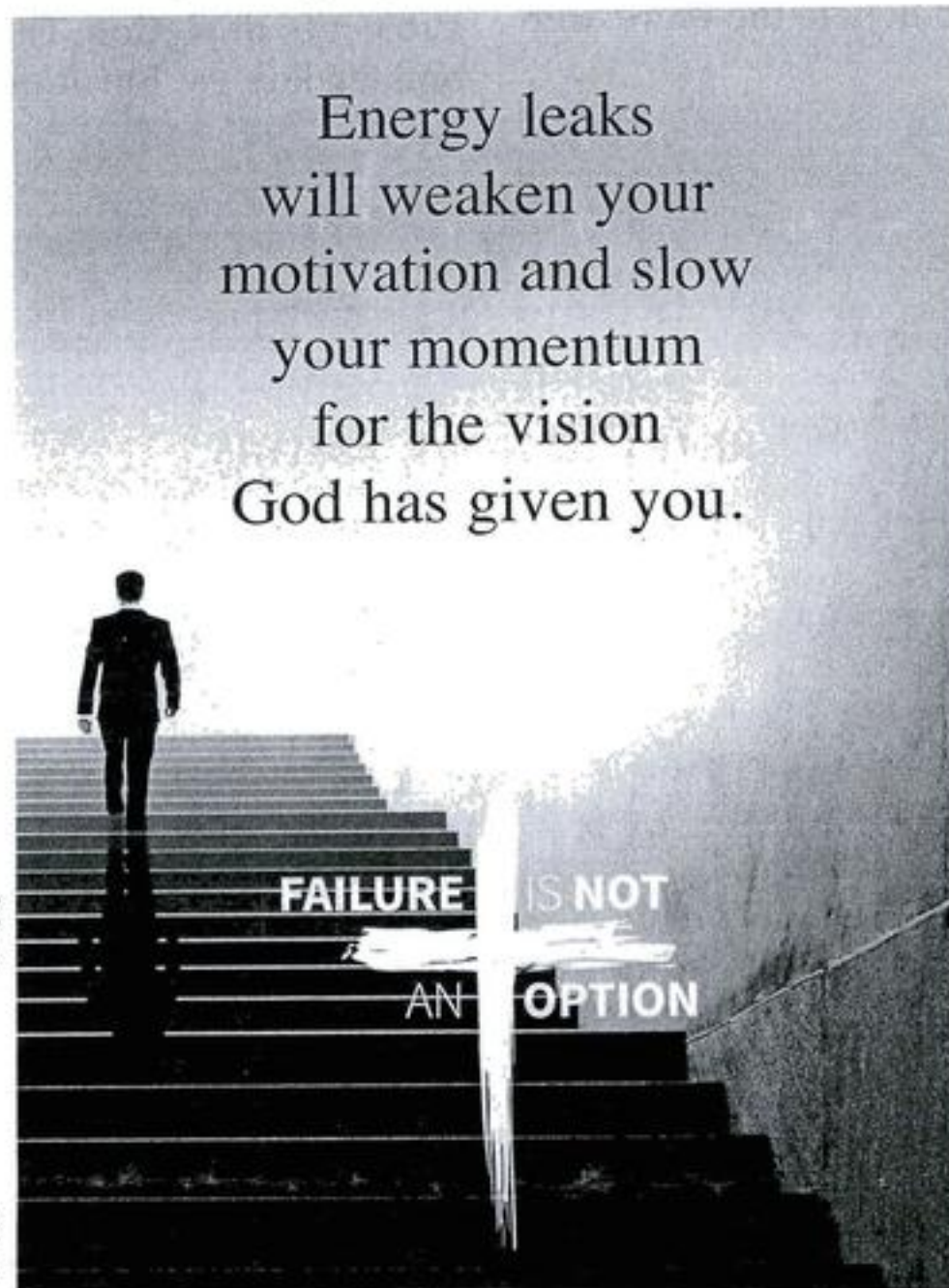
Peter didn't want to see the vision of God come to completion because he loved Jesus and cared for His security, but his words of sympathy were really a distraction. Jesus wouldn't allow them to take root or change His course. He took dominion over the situation, subdued Peter, and went forward with what God had told Him to do.

Remember, God instituted authority to mankind when He gave man dominion and told him to subdue (Genesis 1:28). Man's job is to subdue whatever rises up against God's Word or will in life. This means that if you're a pastor, you subdue those ideas contrary to the church's vision and well-being. If you're a company leader, you subdue those ideas that are contrary to your company's vision.

Whether it's in your church, your business, or your home, God expects Christian leaders to seek His approval and run with the vision. Like Jesus, your actions should not be based on what everybody else thinks about the situation. They should be based on God's will and the overall well-being of the vision He's given you.

Beware of Energy Leaks

What is an energy leak? People that drain your energy because they don't want to learn or be changed by the Word are "energy leaks," and so are people who continually make you their source.



Leaks will weaken your motivation and slow your momentum for the vision God has given you.

Do you know what God said to do about people who don't want to receive you? Shake the dust off of your feet and move on (Matthew 10:14)! You see, there are some people that believe Christians should continually strive with unbelievers *until* they believe; that they should strive with Christians who only want to debate the Word. But God never said that.

God didn't tell us to waste time debating God's truth with people. We're called to deliver the truth in love and intercede for people; not drain all our energy for the vision by arguing with them and trying to convince them of the truth (Matthew 7:6).

God has given people their own free will. If they don't receive God, pray for them and continue living your life as a witness and running towards the vision. Pray for them, but don't strive with them because they'll drain you of your energy and hinder your destiny.

A Christian energy leak is a person who keeps talking your ear off with the problems of life year after year; never doing anything the Word suggests, but is always debating the Word and rehearsing their problems. They use "Yeah, but..." for every biblical answer of help that you share. Beware of that energy leak because it'll drain you dry!

If somebody is always looking for a handout but never applies the principles of sowing and reaping, that person is an energy leak who has made you their source instead of God. These are

the people who always wait for you to pick up the check at dinner; who always hint to you about their needs and wants with the hope that you'll help them out. That's what I call a religious con artist and an energy leak.

Your Energy is Subject to Depletion

The reason it is important to beware of energy leaks like these is because your energy is subject to depletion. That's why so many pastors and leaders get burnt out in ministry. They let

people draw all their energy from them and they have no more to give. They're worn out!

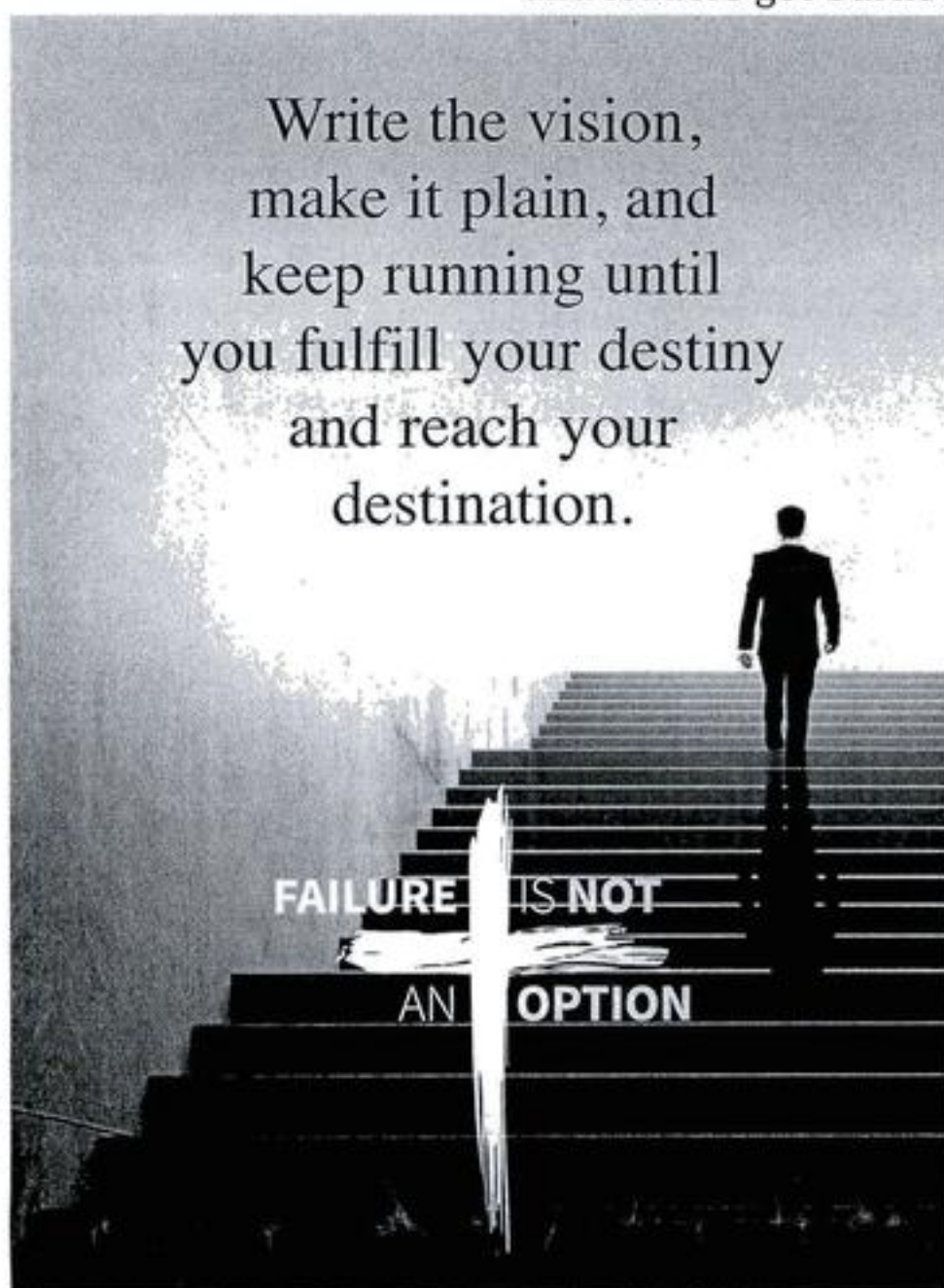
If you are a leader, know this: while you want to be a blessing, there is a point in time for that person to grow up, and sometimes it takes less coddling from you to do it. It's like a child—at some point you stop tying their shoes because you know that they can do it on their own. You've taught them. Now they need to put the knowledge into practice.

You must teach people how to do things on their own and expect it of them, or they will draw all the energy out of you. Some people won't even walk; they'll let you carry them. There is a time for

everyone to be held and a time for those same people to learn to walk on their own. There is a time to grow up and start taking authority in life—to rebuke the devil, speak the Word, and walk it out.

Know Who "Touches" Your Energy

During Jesus' ministry, He became very famous for miracles of healing. When He returned to a town where He'd done miracles, there were often multitudes of people who came to welcome



Him back. That's what happened the day Jesus encountered the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8:40-48. That day, Jesus encountered all kinds of people who wanted to touch Him. Some tried to touch Him just because of His notoriety. Others, like the woman with the issue of blood, came to receive spiritually. They came with purpose and were ready. That's what ministry is all about: touching those who are ready to receive what God has for them, spiritually, physically, and financially.

When people come in faith, it combines with your faith and miracles happen. Some miracles are sudden and immediately manifest. Other people get changed in the spirit and it works its way to the flesh. Either way, they've come to receive!

Then, there are those who "touch" without good intentions. These are the people who try to get close to you just for what they can get out of it. They are "takers," which brings me to my next point.

Know who "touches" your energy and for what purpose. What are they trying to draw out of you? What is their motive? Are they "takers" who only want what they can get from you? Are they stealing your M&Ms?

I don't let just anybody draw from me. I'm not interested in helping those who hide their motives with flowery words and compliments; who want to get close to me so that I'll help them financially or get their project going. Forget that, Jack! People who only want me for what they can get from me financially are manipulators. They're a user instead of a believer, and I won't allow them to tax my M&Ms. If you encounter these types, don't let them sucker you with their sad stories and sales pitches.

If you're a ministry leader, check out those who work for you. Are they doing the job as unto the Lord, or are they just doing things to get noticed in the hopes of making more money? Ministry work isn't just a job; it's something that requires the right heart. Those who understand this know that it is God Who will cause them to be blessed, whether that's financially or in health or whatever that may be, but that blessing will not come by mere job performance. God looks upon the heart.

He sees the motives behind the action as much as He sees the action.

Always Be in Contact with Your Leader

Remember, everyone has a leader and you just can't assume your boss knows what you're doing. Communication is the key and you must be in contact with your boss. God wants you to talk to Him and seek His will concerning the vision, because your actions affect more than just yourself. So, you can't lose contact with God and expect good results. Prayer must be part of your daily life. In the same way, if you work for someone else, you must be in contact not only with the Lord, but with the leader He has placed you under.

My daughter taught me something about communication one day. She works for our ministry and had a work-related problem that she needed to discuss with me. As she was talking to me, I was nodding, thinking about it, and waiting for her to finish so I could talk. Suddenly she stopped and looked intently at me. "Daddy," she said, "Daddy!"

"Yeah?"

"Stop!," she said. "You're forming your response before you've heard my entire statement." She was trying to get me to pay attention and hear all the facts before I responded with a mode of action. She knew I wasn't getting the full picture and she didn't want me to make an important decision before I'd heard it all. This is a problem in any ministry, business, or relationship that includes busy people.

Always listen to God—He will keep you motivated and you will not lose momentum as you travel towards your vision. Don't let yourself fall into the trap of "coasting" along with God, because you're just burning daylight hours. Keep up the pace so that you can fulfill the vision.

I read once that the lead dog of a pack is the only one who picks the scenery. Don't allow distractions, low self-esteem, energy leaks, or man's approval to get in the way of what God has called you to do. Be wise and keep up with your M&Ms. Write the vision, make it plain (motivation), and keep running (momentum) until you fulfill your destiny and reach your destination. 🌍

