Seeing From God’s Perspective

We live in a time of shaking all over the world in both the natural and the spiritual realms. But we, as people of God, do not need to fear. In the midst of the shakings, God wants His people to have perspective, peace and purpose. The first of these—perspective, or vision—is a message God has continued to put on my heart. God made it real to me through a dream.

In the dream, I was a child in the middle of a large crowd. Noise and confusion were all around me, and because I was so small, I could not see what was happening. But then the Father lifted me up on His shoulders. He lifted me to a higher vantage point, from which I could see what was occurring all around me. I could see from my Father’s perspective.

This is the perspective God wants us to have. He wants to transform us into a people with vision—a people with prophetic insight for the days we live in, prophetic understanding of what He is doing around us and prophetic wisdom to know how to lead others to the unshakable foundation of Christ.

Perishing for Lack of Vision

Unfortunately, many in the body of Christ are without the heavenly perspective that is necessary to stand firm in these days. They are tossed around by what they see on the news or hear from their neighbors or colleagues. Many times, even what they hear from the pulpit is nothing more than the faulty foundations of men.

The Bible says without vision, or revelation, the people perish (see Prov. 29:18). Psalm 74:9 says, “We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, nor is there anyone among us who knows how long” (NKJV). These verses describe both an individual and a national state in which God’s people lack prophetic understanding or revelation. Lamentations 2:9 describes Jerusalem in this same state: “Her gates have sunk into the ground ... and her prophets find no vision from the Lord.” Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

Knowledge, wisdom, revelation, vision—God is trying to tell us that we will not survive without them. He has made these things available to us by His Spirit, but are we listening?

Discerning Present Conditions

In the verses above, God is speaking about prophets who do not see, leaders who don’t understand the times and people who do not hear His voice. Too many in the body of Christ are prophesying over the next blessing rather than being the blessing. God is trying to show us the fire on the horizon. We are deaf to His voice and blind to His perspective.

There is a desperate need for a people with prophetic insight who can both illuminate the Word of God and interpret the present times. Scripture speaks of leaders with such insight in 1 Chronicles 12:32, referring to the “men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (NIV).

In “The Gift of Prophetic Insight,” A.W. Tozer wrote about religious leaders who lack understanding of present conditions:

Religious leaders who continue mechanically to expound the Scriptures without regard to the current religious situation are no better than the scribes and lawyers of Jesus’ day who faithfully parroted the Law without the remotest notion of what was going on around them spiritually. ... The
prophets never made that mistake nor wasted their efforts in that manner. They invariably spoke to
the condition of the people of their times.

Today we need prophetic preachers; not preachers of prophecy merely, but preachers with a gift of
prophecy. .... We need the gift of discernment again in our pulpits. It is not ability to predict that we
need, but the anointed eye, the power of spiritual penetration and interpretation, the ability to
appraise the religious scene as viewed from God’s position, and to tell us what is actually going on.

God is looking for prophetic leaders who will meet with Him daily to gain His perspective and be
guided by His Word. This prophetic people will receive revelation, insight, wisdom, and vision from
God that will enable them to lead others into an understanding of God’s truth and His will.

The Prophetic Promise for All God’s Children
It is not only to leaders that God desires to give prophetic vision. In Acts 2, Peter quotes Joel 2:28,
“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old
men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” To whom was this promise given? Acts 2:39
tells us, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our
God will call” (emphasis added).

Prophetic understanding and the indwelling of God’s Spirit are no longer for a choice few, as was
the case in the Old Testament when only kings and prophets would receive the word of the Lord.
God desires for all His children to hear His voice and walk with prophetic insight and vision.

Chazon: Divine Communication
The Hebrew word for vision is chazon. This word is found most often in the Old Testament books of the
prophets. As both Joel 2 and Acts 2 indicate, visions are one of the ways God communicates with
His people. One of the other ways is, of course, through Scripture. God wants us to build on the solid
foundation of His Word (see Matt. 7:24-25), both written and revealed.

The heart of the Father is to lift us up to the Rock that is higher than we are (Ps. 61:2) and give us
divine perspective in the midst of a world full of confusion and chaos. He loves us and wants to lift us
above the storms and carry us in His arms. He wants a people open and available for His divine
communication—a people to whom He can reveal the truths of His Word and who will partner with
Him to fulfill His purposes.

Are you open to God’s voice? Are you available to spend time listening to Him? Are you walking in
obedience to the things He has spoken? These are questions we must ask ourselves, to examine our
lives and know if we are listening to the One who is speaking.

A Shaking Foundation
Matthew 7:26-27 says, “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be
like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds
blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall” (NASB). Beloved, this is the
state of our nation. We have neglected the Word of God, we have ignored His principles and
precepts, and like never before, our foundations are falling.

In April, a Wisconsin judge ruled that the National Day of Prayer was unconstitutional. The National
Day of Prayer is a tradition by which our nation’s leaders (dating back to our first president, George
Washington) could set aside a day to acknowledge God and seek His protection and providence
for our land. Although there will be many appeals to the ruling and the final outcome is unknown,
this judge’s ruling was one more event in a long line of efforts to remove God and His Word from our
national traditions. The biblical principles this nation was founded on are being removed from our
national identity. How, then, will we be able to stand against the storms?

Hebrews 12:26-29 tells us that God will shake the heavens and the earth in order to remove those
things that can be shaken, so that only His unshakable kingdom can remain. Listen to this warning in
verse 25, “See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking, for if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.”

This Scripture indicates that it is a prophetic people, those who hear the voice of God and obey, who will be able to withstand the shaking. This is the people God wants us to be. Those who refuse Him will be shaken with the failing foundations of men. But those who build their foundations on the Word of God will stand firm upon the Rock.

**Prophetic Wisdom**

When we are tuned in to the voice of God, we will be able to walk with wisdom in the days ahead. The perspective and insight our Father gives us will enable us to understand the times we live in and apply the wisdom necessary to navigate our lives. As Matthew 7 tells us, it is the wise man who builds his house upon the Rock.

Proverbs 4:5 tells us, “Get wisdom, get understanding, do not forget my words or swerve from them” (NIV). Wisdom is to know how to apply God’s truth to our everyday lives. When our economy is failing, God wants to give us practical wisdom for our finances. When our political system is shaking, God wants to give us wisdom to choose leaders committed to the right foundations. When confusion, uncertainty, and fear are all around us, God wants to give us wisdom to live with peace and purpose, leading others to the foundation of Christ.

James 1:5 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” The promise of prophetic vision is for all. The provision of prophetic wisdom is for all. In these troubled times, don’t get caught without God’s vision. Don’t get caught without wisdom.

Like the little child in my dream, let the Father lift you up upon His shoulders. Let Him give you His perspective and vision. Listen to His voice and build your foundation on His Word. And live a life of wisdom that will draw others to the unshakable foundation of Christ.

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**About the author:** Doug Stringer is the founder and president of Somebody Cares®, America/International, an international movement comprised of organizations impacting their communities through unified grassroots efforts. Doug has authored numerous books and is an internationally sought-after speaker. During the last two years, he has ministered to more than 20,000 preachers and politicians on “Persevering Leadership” and “Transformational Revival.” He has been a contributor to and has been cited in numerous publications, including the soon to be released Revival Bible. For more information about Doug Stringer and Somebody Cares, go to www.somebodycares.org and www.DougStringer.com.

This article is also featured in Charisma E-magazine - June 2010. It was modified from an article Doug wrote early 2010, entitled “Prophetic Perspective for our Times” that was circulated globally early 2010 in different languages. The message seems more relevant than ever. May we continue to pray that the Lord awaken His people and stir us out of our slumber.