

SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY  
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LEADERSHIP IN MANAGEMENT

LDR 5243-530

INSTRUCTOR:

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ASSIGNMENT: Visioneering: Reaction Paper

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## **Visioneering: Reaction Paper**

In *Visioneering*, Stanley encourages readers to discover and pursue their God-given visions. Stanley explains that *Visioneering* is what it takes to turn dreams into realities; it is a process to develop a vision into a fully-fledged reality (Stanley, 2017, p. 8). Stanley's background is as the founder of Northpoint Ministries, a network of churches that spawns Metro Atlanta and the world. Throughout the book, he uses the example of Nehemiah in the Bible to give practical examples of how to create a roadmap for vision. He also shares his experience implementing vision intentionally at Northpoint Church (Stanley, 2017, p. 8).

### **Review and Summary**

Creating a vision and using it as a roadmap aids leaders in focusing on what they must do to accomplish their goals. It is a fact that we all live life, but only a small amount of people live life on purpose. However, people with vision live purposefully (Stanley, 2017, p. 8). Throughout the book, Stanley provides practical counsel and insights on how to develop and pursue a vision. As well as advice on how to avoid getting derailed while pursuing a vision.

Stanley writes this book for people who might be stuck. This book is helpful for people whose life trials have slowed them down. It is also a great asset for people who need to gain experience in crafting and casting vision. Stanley also speaks to common hindrances that can delay the pursuit of a vision, such as fear, uncertainty, and others' opinions. Finally, it provides a roadmap and excellent Biblical illustrations to support Stanley's thesis that everyone should live pursuing a vision.

While he offers many great insights on achieving a vision, he lacks the perspective of someone who has publicly failed to realize their vision. By this, I mean he has never had to deal with closing his church because it was unsuccessful or did not have the necessary funds to

continue operations. While Stanley has had setbacks in his journey, the story of Northpoint Ministries is mainly successful. However, his arguments are logical, as he has seen them become a reality. His strategies and methods of achieving the vision for his ministry have worked. And while he does not have a major failure story, he does address a leader's proneness to drift (Stanley, 2017, p. 248) and a team's natural ways of losing alignment (Stanley, 2017, p. 173).

### **Integration**

A few things caught my attention from this book and spoke to my current situation. First, Stanley mentions allowing time for maturation. The first thing that matures is the vision (Stanley, 2017, p. 22). Time allows the idea to reach vision status because not every idea is a vision; there is a difference. The difference between vision and ideas is that you throw the weight of your life behind a vision, but ideas come and go (Stanley, 2017, p.22).

The second thing that matures is the person with the vision (Stanley, 2017, p. 23). If we are going to throw the weight of our life behind a vision, we need to be prepared to act on that vision. That is a further difference between ideas and visions; visions need leaders who are continuously developing their character and life.

The last thing that matures is the scenario in which the vision will develop. When we are getting ready to embark on our vision, God is also getting ready in the background to prepare the way for our journey (Stanley, 2017, p. 26). This is not to say that we will not encounter difficulties because God is preparing the way. However, this idea of God preparing the way deals with timing. A vision from God will match what he already is doing in the world (Stanley, 2017, p. 28). And sometimes, the wait to start a vision has to do more with the timing of God for it.

This idea of waiting resonates with me on many different levels. Currently, I am in a season of waiting. I am waiting to enter my next ministry assignment. While we are still

determining our immediate next step, we feel the Lord is placing a burden on us for a large major city in Latin America. We see the people there and the lack of churches and feel called to reach them and raise new leaders to plant churches. However, it all feels like a distant dream.

As we prayed for the next season, I received a text from a pastor friend who had been praying for us. He told me he saw me standing with a backpack and a walking stick in hand. I was on a path in the woods, and as I looked forward, it was hard to see where the trail went. There was a sense of trepidation about where the path may go. But, as I took a step on the way, it was like a drone rising from behind me, and as the perspective got higher, I could see that the trail led to this beautiful rich valley. It's stunning, but I would not know it was there unless I had the perspective.

My wife and I are careful with our vision regarding whom we share it. Recently, we had dinner with a pastor friend and his wife. We shared our vision with them. We were surprised that after our conversation, they looked at us and said, you guys have what it takes. You have the skills, knowledge, and experience to take on something like this. We left that conversation encouraged. We also shared the vision with my parents, who are pastors. And they also considered it a great idea. So we started asking ourselves, if not us, who? And if not now, when?

There is a warning for leaders in the early stages of acting on their vision. Stanley warns leaders to be careful about sharing too much of their vision because sharing it too prematurely could have dire consequences (Stanley, 2017, p. 77). For example, we only opened up to these pastors because they are our mentors, and we wanted to share it in confidence to know we were not crazy by stepping out in faith to do it. And we shared it with my parents because they have also stepped out in faith on many occasions in their ministry journey. But if we had opened up to the wrong people, the results could have been catastrophic for our nascent vision.

## **Interaction with Visioneering Video**

Dr. Blakney encourages the viewer to ask two questions about a vision. Does it line up with the known truth, and does it line up with scripture? Before going and shouting our vision, we need to take time to prepare for it.

One of the reasons we need to slow down to share a vision is that other people will misunderstand it when it is just growing. Insecure people specialize in discrediting and shooting down new visions. Another reason to slow down is to maintain credibility. Before announcing the vision to everyone, the leader must understand it and mean what they say.

So to cast vision correctly, Dr. Blakney encourages leaders to make sure the people they are talking to understand their vision. Use techniques such as asking them to explain it back in their own words or letting them ask questions, even if they're offensive. If there are too many questions or the regurgitation is not right, we may need to spend more time explaining the vision.

Finally, it is not just speaking to engage the mind; we must engage the heart. We can achieve this by having proper eye contact, talking slowly, allowing time to process, and showing passion and excitement. We cannot expect followers to get it all right in a few minutes of sharing the vision when we have been swimming in it for months in preparation.

## Reference List

Stanley, A. (2016). *Visioneering: Your Guide for Discovering and Maintaining Personal Vision*.

Multnomah.