

Catch the Vision

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand."

The Apostle Paul | Colossians 3:1 (NLT)

Sue and I were floating the Deschutes River in Central Oregon: a stunning day, with ducks peacefully gliding alongside us. The weekend was ending, and vacationers were packing up.

"They have to head back to reality..." Sue mused.

"This is reality!" I snapped back.

Heavily influenced by the ducks—they'd paddle upstream, only to float back down with the current, not a care in the world—I thought idyllic nature displayed life in unburdened freedom. Since, I've come to

realize that I was being lulled down a false path—a delusion. Liberating reality is far beyond what the tranquility of nature alludes. The Apostle Paul understood where it's actually found—he tells us to set our sights on Jesus in Heaven.

"You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jesus Christ (John 8:31-32)

Those vacationers felt an escape would help them handle the harshness of their reality. I'd hoped that by moving into the heart of nature I'd experience true reality—it fell short. I felt freer, but not truly freed. This wasn't the path of freedom Jesus spoke of—the liberating reality that his salvation provides.

Following Paul's wisdom, I've now set my sights on Heaven, fully confident in my salvation. Heaven with Jesus sitting at God's right hand—this is liberating reality! And my focus on it is setting me free.

Reflect: What reality have I set my sights on?

Recently I helped a friend move. She'd done a good job of boxing, but I quickly noticed that much of what she'd packed was old, dirty, and broken—no longer usable. She'd missed a huge opportunity. I wondered—did she not have a fresh vision of life in her new home?

Sue and I have learned that a move is the perfect time to let go of what

doesn't fit the vision of where we're going. "Cut Deep!" we tell ourselves—lighter, tighter... freer! Yet a glance at the storage shelves in our garage tells me we still have too much stuff.

With my sights set on true reality—life with Jesus in Heaven—I see that beyond my mountain of things, lies a far bigger mountain of baggage tied to my old life—the one Jesus saved me from.

"Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you." The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:3-5)

I have much lurking within me—a huge mountain must go! How about you?

Consider: Catching God's vision—my life in liberating reality.

Much has been made in the secular world about vision boards—a collage of images and words that picture where you want to be in the future. Vision boards have helped many experience the power of vision—its ability to guide and reshape one's life—<u>if</u> kept in view.

Have you gazed at the spiritual vision board God has provided for you

in the Bible? First, notice the baggage that's not there:

"Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world... Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds." The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:5–9)

Paul did us a favor by keeping the list short! These things—and so many others—must be stripped off and thrown away. They're old, dirty, and broken. Free yourself—*Cut Deep!*

What then is on God's spiritual vision board?

"...Clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony." The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:12–14)

...and so much more! Are you catching God's vision—your life in liberating reality?

Imagine: I'm moving into liberating reality.

Focusing on God's spiritual vision board, you'll find liberating reality moving you daily—often unnoticeably. Imagine it a glacial force molding your life—sometimes pressing you to "Cut Deep!" Other times, by reaffirming the weightiness of the Gospel, it changes your actions—moving you onto your Mission.

"Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure." The Apostle John (1 John 3:2-3)

While God hasn't shared every detail of our liberating reality, he's shared enough—and it does far more than simply free you. He's transforming you into the likeness of Jesus. Can you envision yourself pure?

Catch the Vision!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Reflect: Take a few minutes to absorb the vision of liberating reality—ask "Where are my disconnects?"
- Ask: "God, where must I Cut Deep?"

- Action: Create a vision board of liberating reality. Post it where
 I can see it.
- Don't know my Mission? Start here!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Becoming like Jesus is liberating reality.

"Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him."

The Apostle Paul (Colossians 3:10)









Don't know your Mission?

Our "Mobilize Your Mission Self-Guided Workshop" will guide you to it.



This focused workshop progresses down a proven path where you'll receive your Mission (the work God has you here to do) and the passion filled story that

powers it. Along the way, discover the four life transforming Foundations of Mission and find yourself challenged to enter the Adventure of Your Life.

- 1. **Create deeper intimacy with God**—His greatest desire for you
- 2. **Find the power of your life's Mission**—inspired work, aligned life, direction
- Tap into the passion of your life's story—why you are perfect for your Mission
- 4. Create a plan to Mobilize Your Mission—this will change your life!

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"If one is seeking direction in life and looking forward to new adventures, this workshop is the perfect trail map to get you to your destination!"

~ DAN B. Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday



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