

Six Steps to Regain Your Vision

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When life gets tough, it's easy to lose your vision for the future. Maybe you've lost your vision for your job, your finances, your family, or your health. The Bible says, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* (Proverbs 29:18 KJV). But the good news is that you can always get your vision back.

If you find yourself needing to regain your vision for the future, here are six steps to take.

Believe Jesus can change your situation.

If you don't have hope, you've got no power to cope. So if you're going to regain your vision, it has to start with regaining your hope—with believing that Jesus can change your situation. Follow the example of Bartimaeus, a man who was blind and called out to Jesus for help. He said, *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* (Luke 18:38 NIV).

Ignore all the negative voices.

One of the greatest fears that traps people is the disapproval of others. The Message paraphrase says, *"The fear of human opinion disables"* (Proverbs 29:25). But you can't please God and everyone else at the same time. So decide who you're going to live for: the audience of your peers or the audience of One. Living for God means you're willing to resist negative voices around you.

Listen for God's call.

Slow down so you can pay attention to God. The Bible says, *"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength"* (Isaiah 30:15 NIV). To hear God's call, you need to stop being so busy and, instead, make space for quiet in your life.

Tell God exactly what you want.

This is what Bartimaeus did with Jesus. The Bible says, *"When he [Bartimaeus] came near, Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Lord, I want to see,' he replied"* (Luke 18:40-41 NIV). Pretend Jesus is standing in front of you right now, asking, "What do you want me to do for you?" How are you going to answer him?

Receive your vision in faith.

When God gives you a vision—when he calls you to do something—you have to step out in faith and do it. The Bible teaches, *"Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another"* (John 1:16 GNT). And Romans 4:16 says, *"God's blessings are given to us by faith, as a free gift"* (TLB). When God's grace and your faith come together, miracles happen.

Stick with Jesus on the road he travels.

It can be easy to get distracted and lose God's vision for your life. If you want to keep your vision, you need to keep following Jesus. That's what Bartimaeus did: *"He received his sight and followed Jesus along the road"* (Mark 10:52 NIV). Following Jesus is simple. You don't run ahead of him; you don't take shortcuts. You just follow him, taking one step of faith at a time.

If your future is unclear—if you've lost God's vision for your life—start working your way through these six steps this week. God has a vision for your life, and he's ready to share it with you!