



# THE 5 CLAUSES OF VISION

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**Leke Alder**

Principal, Alder Consulting

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## The 5 Clauses of Vision

First let me thank the organisers of this event, and in particular Dr. Kunle Hamilton for inviting me to speak. I do hope the objectives of this conference will be realised but first let me address the elephant in the room.

I am what you'll call a "Pentecostal" Christian and Pentecostals don't accept invitations to speak at conferences organised by the Celestial Church of Christ. Pentecostals are suspicious of "white garment" churches. Celestials wear white garments called "sutanas". Celestials don't wear shoes in church. Pentecostals don't believe in these practices. Neither do they believe in the use of scented holy water, the burning of candles, the seeing of proprietary visions, the burning of incense and other analogical appropriations from stories in the Bible.

So why did I accept to come? The first reason I accepted the invitation is on account of the convener of the conference, Dr. Kunle Hamilton. He was my classmate in secondary school as well as university, and our firm has had professional dealings with him. I believe Dr. Kunle is a good man and well intended.

The second reason is that God gave me a broad following among youths irrespective of nationality, creed, religious persuasion, theological shade, denomination, ethnicity, tribal affiliation or culture. My blogs are read in 182 countries around the world including Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. The following I have on social media is so strong that even when I expound deep Christian theology as I do in my Illuminare blog Muslims and atheists respond. And so I did not come here in pursuance of ecumenism or syncretism, I am here on a generational impetus.

The third reason is that many of you are loyal fans. I know people who travel to anywhere I am speaking. Like that advert says, membership has its reward. The least I can do is honour you by showing up. Perhaps today I will ignite a fire in someone's heart. Perhaps someone will get a burst of insight. When that happens my purpose here is done. Coming to deliver this lecture would well have been worth it.

And with that all sorted out, let's begin.

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What I'm going to be talking about is vision. This is in line with the overall theme of this conference.

I am going to share 5 points about vision with you. I call them 5 clauses of vision.

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Point No.1: You are your vision.

I have just returned from a vacation in Dubai and every time I visit that country I am happy but sad at the same time. They have autonomous trains, air-conditioned bus stops, an incredible irrigation system - in a country without rain, towering skyscrapers, design thinking, well constructed roads, constant electricity, impressive shopping malls, daring ambition, an incredible airport, an efficient port complex, the world's most successful airline, the world's tallest building... Dubai is a country of superlatives. It is the product of vision. The Dubais of this world don't happen without vision. They don't happen by accident.

I wanted to decode the DNA of the excellence I saw in the country and so I bought a book titled MY STORY by the ruler of

Dubai, His Highness, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

As I read the book I found something intriguing. There is a match between the personality of the Sheikh and the character of Dubai! That's because vision mirrors the incubator of the vision.

Dubai has energy because the Sheikh has incredible drive. Dubai has attained the impossible because the Sheikh does not believe in impossibility. Dubai is punching above its weight because the Sheikh believes Emiratis are no less than Europeans and Americans. Your vision can never be independent of you. This is why it's so difficult to get someone else to successfully drive a new business.

You can't separate vision from the incubator of the vision. Which means you have two jobs – you have to work on your vision and you have to work on yourself.

Some people think vision is writing some futuristic words on a piece of paper but that's not vision. Anyone can do that. If you lack the qualities to fulfil the vision you don't have a vision.

You are your vision.

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Point No. 2: Work on manifesting your vision.

Everyone says Dubai has vision, but at what point did we begin to say so? Was it when the ruler wrote out the vision on a piece of paper fifty years ago or is it now, fifty years after?

The reality of life is that no one says you have vision until you attain your vision. You cannot separate vision from its

attainment. If you don't attain your vision the world will not call you visionary. To the world therefore vision is after the fact.

Until you attain that vision all you have written down is just a statement of ambition. You will hardly hear the world say someone has vision without proof of that vision. The reason we say Dubai has vision is because we see Emirates Airline, we see the skyscrapers, we see the huge shopping malls... It's not vision to the world until it manifests. Therefore **WORK ON YOUR MANIFESTATION**. If you have a lofty ambition but don't itemise how you're going to achieve that vision and follow through you don't have a vision. It's just wishful thinking.

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Point No.3: Vision requires faith.

Faith is the ability to see the unseen. The reason you get discouragements when you share your vision is because the world can't see what you see. To the world seeing is believing, but to the visioneer believing is seeing. If you don't believe it you won't see it. Faith deals with impossibilities. A vision is an impossibility that came to pass.

Faith is classically defined as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV). The substance of your vision is you. We can't see it. We can only see the vision through you. You're the primary medium. It is for this reason investors invest in people not projects.

You're the substance of your vision. If you move, the vision moves. If you stagnate, the vision stagnates. If you give up the vision dies. You've got to have faith in your vision. If you don't why should we?

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#### Point No. 4

You must develop reasoning capacity to fulfil your vision.

Often times what separates small achievement from big achievement is reasoning capacity. Corporations know this so they hire very intelligent people. And even that is not enough. They buy wisdom just as Solomon says by hiring consultants. The average bank has at least 20 sets of consultants.

But you're not a bank. You can't afford those consultants, so what do you do?

It's simple, you develop your reasoning capacity through assimilation and consumption of knowledge and information. You sharpen your reasoning capacity, you imbibe culture, you gobble up visual cues, you attend courses and seminars, read business magazines, read philosophical thoughts...

You study, you observe, you think through. Motivational books are not enough. After you've been motivated then what?

The reason the Battery Charger, the Rewire or Vulcaniser is unable to expand his business is because he lacks the intellectual capacity to do so. You've got to develop your reasoning capacity. The difference between OPay and Okada is intellect.

Do you have the intellectual capacity to bring your vision to pass?

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## Point No. 5

Vision requires endurance. There will be shame, there will be pain. People will laugh at you. Things will be difficult. You will struggle. But you don't give up. You maintain focus. We learnt this from Jesus. The Bible says he never lost sight of where he was headed and because of that he could put up with anything along the way – the cross, the shame and every other thing. (Hebrews 12:2 MSG). You must despise the shame like Jesus.

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Here's the summary of all I've been sharing:

1. You are your vision: develop yourself
2. The world will not credit you with vision without proof
3. Have faith in yourself and your vision
4. Break down your vision into steps for attainment
5. You need to develop your reasoning capacity
6. You must be ready to endure if you want to realise your vision

I want to thank you for listening. May God bless your vision!