



## Monday Matters

### October 28, 2013

#### Do You Have A Vision?

My Grandfather was an amazing craftsman. I remember so many visits to his house where he would take my dad and me to the basement where he had his workshop and show us some projects he was working on. He made brass candlestick holders, brass tea sets and many other brass items. In addition, he loved to carve wood and created numerous items like the ones below. He would take a piece of wood and just whittle away until what he saw in his mind became a reality in a piece of wood.



**Be Thou My Vision**  
Bob Chilcott's Tune - Soloist Kristy Biber

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#### Quote of the Week

"Vision helps leaders get people very different ... from one another to pull



I recently received an email from Marshall Shannon where he related the following:

*A story was told by Don Southerland in his book Transitioning about two boys, Travis and Garrett, which were each given a block of wood and a pocket knife. Both boys began to carve away at their block of wood.*

*Both boys were working hard, enjoying the task and serious about their work but when they each finished their block of wood the results were completely different.*

*Travis carved a boat and Garrett simply carved a pile of shavings.*

*So what was the difference?*

*The answer is Travis had a vision. He could see the end result. He knew from the start what his block of wood should look like. He knew from the start where he was going with his whittling and how to get from where he was to where he wanted to be. He had a purpose, a target, and a strategy for getting there. Garrett, who worked equally hard, ended up with just shavings. He was just whittling.*

You might be a businessman who owns a business or runs part of a company. Many companies go out of business because they haven't developed a "business plan" or a vision. Maybe they had one but strayed from that plan. A recent episode of Shark Tank on TV invited a lady to appear and request funding for her business. She showed her original product and told of its great success. Then she related how people were giving her ideas for all types of items. She started adding all these to her portfolio. Suddenly her business was not as successful. She had strayed from her business plan. She created too many items and didn't concentrate on what made her successful. The block of wood became something quite different from her vision and she failed.

together for a common purpose. Failure to build shared vision is the biggest mistake that gifted leaders make."

~ Bill Easum ~

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## **Monday Matters**

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You might be a pastor or ministry leader and you set the vision for the church but have strayed from it. As a result the church seems to now have no purpose, no target, no strategy. There might be all types of activities going on but you are just whittling away like Garrett and just creating shavings as in the above story.

Is it possible that many of our churches are just whittling away with no purpose, target, or strategy - yet very busy. How would you answer if the Lord asked you to explain what you are "whittling"?

Have you discovered His plan for your life or ministry? If you have discerned His vision for your life or ministry do you know how to get from where you are to where He wants you to be? These and other questions need to be correctly answered or you may just be "whittling" away the opportunities God has entrusted to you. Who do you most resemble, Travis or Garrett?

By Ron Nelson



**Farther  
On**

Alaska String Band