



**Joycee Awojoodu- Miss Enugu 2008**

**Assignment # 3**

**Vision to Achieve**

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” Vision is noted here as the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be, also known as prophetic vision. Dwight Eisenhower, the 34<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America, quoted vision as one of the qualities of a great man/or woman. Amongst, integrity, courage, understanding the power of articulation and profundity of character, vision was the first characteristic mentioned. Though each of these attributes is essential in a great woman/man, I would argue that without vision it is impossible to achieve.

We all have gone and will go through hard times in life. We may find ourselves on rocky terrain or somewhere where we didn’t anticipate ending up, but vision is what allows us to see ourselves through any situation and to climb out of it, better yet soar. Right now as I stand before this high school graduating class, I recognize that this is an especially exciting time in your lives as you all are about to explore the world and step into the next phase of your lives. I was in your shoes not too long ago and I remember the anxious feeling that consumed me. Some of you may go to college to pursue higher education, others may take up a trade or join the military, some entrepreneurs in the audience may start your own businesses’, and some may still be unsure. Whatever path you are taking, one thing is common among all of you: you will all need VISION. This

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distinguishing quality is what should be your navigation tool. You have to be able to visualize where you see yourself in the future; and picture yourself reaching that new height. With vision you will be unstoppable, situations or people should not dictate your success, rather you must imagine yourself achieving your goals and pursuing your dreams.

I can tell you from experience that people are going to doubt you while you are on your journey to reaching to the top. In my last year of college I started sharing some of my goals with people in my life. At the time, my dream was to move to New York City to work for a Fortune 100 company right after school. Several people doubted me, saying, "I was too young," "I needed more experience," "I wouldn't be able to survive in New York alone," etc. Utilizing the gift of vision is what ultimately enabled me to prove all the disbelievers wrong and to land my dream job. While people constantly put my ideas down and told me I couldn't do it, it only made me fight harder. I imagined myself at the interview, getting the call that I had gotten the job, and moving into a nice apartment in NY, and after all, it happened. I was the youngest person to be hired into my team at my company and I have been working there for a little over a year now.

It wouldn't be right to preach to you all the importance of vision, and how it has impacted me without telling you who instilled the importance of vision in my life. In actuality the word vision was never used or brought up when I was growing up, but it was taught. It was one of those things that I identified with as I grew into a young mature

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woman. Not too long ago, your parents probably asked you, “where do you see yourself in 5 years, or what do you want to do with your life and how will you get there?” At the time, your parents were inadvertently inquiring about your vision. On this journey that I have been traveling, growing up to be a strong woman, I have always tried to emulate my mother. The word strong isn’t even “strong enough to describe her; and vision is one thing she definitely does not lack. Growing up, I have seen people question some of the things she has done or hasn’t done and even I have wondered about her plans. In the midst of various situations my mother always stuck to her instincts. She knew where she wanted to be in her future and also where she wanted her kids to be. She raised all four of us in a manner where we constantly had to think about what we wanted to accomplish in life and what were going to do to get there. My mother and I have an extremely open relationship, and I have always been able to share anything with her. While she has influenced me in so many ways, far too many to list, she has always encouraged me to pursue my dreams and to pray about where I am suppose to be in life and what I am called to do. One profound experience in my mothers life that will always respect is when she was promoted at her job despite the fact that almost everyone around she knew encouraged her to leave. She stayed committed to her job because of her keen vision; she was convinced that there was a reason why she was there. A synonym for vision is prophecy, which is defined as the foretelling or prediction of what is to come. Obviously, none of us know for sure what will happen tomorrow bring or even the next 30 seconds

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however what you can do in the meantime is envision the future You must imagine great things and visualize yourself achieving greater heights.

Graduating class, as you all step foot out of this safety net and what you have been accustomed to in the past few years, I implore you to have vision. Use this quality as your armor in order to achieve every goal you have dreamed of. As I'm sure you've all heard sometime in your life, "you can do anything you put your mind to." As you've heard in my story, I do not and will not allow anyone to stop me, and you should do the same. Each of you can grow up to be a great man/woman and you are well on your way. Before I exit today, I want to leave you with a famous quote by Helen Keller, an American icon who was blind and deaf. She said, "The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but no vision." I encourage you all to think about the meaning of this quote, and as you all climb towards your goals, don't be someone who falls to the wayside because of a lack of vision.