

God's Vision Or Human Ambition

“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1Timothy6:9-10)

Surely everyone of us has the experience of hearing or using the word ambition. You may say, “my ambition is to be...”, “my ambition is to have...”, “my ambition is to live in ...”, “my ambition is to marry...”, “my ambition is to go to ...”. This list is long and enough space is given after each ambition so that you can fill in the blanks according to your personal desire. “I want to be..., they want to have..., we want to go...” Ambition is the human's pure desire and plan for personal life; having the confidence that to reach such goal is fairly satisfying. It is purely human in origin. Ambition is formed or resolved by:

1. Social and cultural background: Children are good imitators and usually they idolize or admire their partners or other members of family where they are brought up. A child, while he is growing, the first patterns he met are his parents or any person who gave him major care and provision of love and compassion. Those who are always beside the child will spontaneously become the perfect figure to him. He sees no one but his parents as complete figures and examples to follow. Parents as well want to see their children becoming like them or better. Hence, most children take the profession of their parents, and even the style of living they want to be at least the same and more. Such ambition is hereditary.

2. Atmospheric trend and influence: After the child has grown up and has left his former home atmosphere, while he is exposed to the new external environment possibly his ambition may change. While his ambition is compared with other people's ambition and his profile is escalating, bidding comes to his mind to reach a higher level. For example, if his previous ambition is to reach the next country, now he wants to reach the moon! And he is not just influenced by the people around him, but he wants to compete in the society with a principle that *“he who is smarter is higher; he who is ambitious is famous.”*

Consequently, those who want to get rich not only in money or profession but in everything, they try to build a capital like position or prestige to fulfill their ambitions. But, watch out! Because of ambition they or you are liable to fall into:

a) Temptation: This is the attraction that moves you from secured and right place towards another. It is the external influence from the evil one. It is Satan who takes the opportunity to sow the seed of evil desires. **“When tempted, no-one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.” (James1:13-14)**

b) Trap: Trap is the situation after Satan had shown you beautiful things and you did your best to reach it. But once you are there, you discover that it is not as beautiful as you imagined. And you are trapped and stuck. You cannot go back to your previous position. For example, you moved from one country to another only to find out by

yourself that the new place is uncomfortable, but you cannot go back. Or you took a loan to start a project that you see to others has given success. But your business did not gain and at the same time you cannot pay back your loan. Or you married a woman because she is smart, rich and beautiful but later on you find her odd in many aspects and you cannot turn back. You are trapped by your own ambition!

c) Foolish and harmful desire: In the mid of this scenario, while you are dragged by ambition but unsuccessful in achieving, two things will act on you: *First, confusion*-you have no clear picture about what to do or what to be. You are like a ship in the midst of the sea moving astray and without a compass. *Second, frustration*-you lose hope that you will be able to do good things again or to regain what you lost. These two things will push you to take a drastic decision. Ambition will make you think it is wise to compensate all what you lost in life. so, you will consider the motto of the gamblers, *“let me put all my money on this to win or to loose.”* But this foolish and harmful gambler's rule will plunge you into the deepest pit.

d) Ruin and destruction: This is the final collapse of all human's dream and ambition. At this stage although everything is sad with unpleasant results, at the end there is one thing good. You will realize that without God you can do nothing. All what you do alone are mere selfish ambitions that arise from sinful nature being born from Adam. When you are destroyed or you failed, you will shout with loud voice, **“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?(Romans7:24)”** At this point the true answer will come quickly from the word of God. **“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans7:25)**

The above answer represents the first glimpse of what is called vision. Vision is the true plan of God for man's life. It starts with our acceptance to Jesus as Lord and Savior in our lives, as He died on the cross to give us eternal life. The vision is the perfect plan of God the Father for us to have a full and abundant life. Jesus said, **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John10:10)** This is a rescue process for us. While we are wallowing in sin and ambition, like a ship that is about to sink-down, God extends His hands to rescue us through Christ Jesus. If we reach out to Him, He will show us a clear vision, not our ambition but God's vision for us to do and to be while waiting for Christ's second coming, and we will be with Him forever. Our ambition is oftentimes against the vision of God. And while we are following Christ, trials and enticement from Satan will try to bring us back to our ambition. This will give conflict in our minds and we will not know what to do-a confusion that will cause us to fall if we neglect GOD's vision for us.

My Dear and Beloved: To manage the conflict between God's vision and man's ambition, let us rely and obey God's word: **“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”(1Timothy6:11-12)** God shall bless you as you repent and pray to Him.

My prayer: Father God I come to you in the name of Jesus. Lord I repent from my sins and from doing my own in this matter _____. Lord cleanses me from my selfish ambition and all my lust and greed for worldly things. Lord guide me and lead in the truth, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.