

# Vision

## Seeing Beneath The Surface

Visionary people know that it pays to look beyond the obvious to understand what makes other people “tick”.

Most of us are amazingly gifted at seeing the obvious in other people.

When talking about a third person to a friend we may both agree this third person is arrogant, talented, selfish or vain. Then we smile and acknowledge each other’s marvellous mutual insight.

But all we have seen is the obvious, not what is below the surface in this other person’s character or nature.

Visionary people don’t settle for the obvious, that is too easy for them.

**Visionary people look beneath the surface for the other person’s uniqueness.**

They look at the person’s heart [the driving force in their lives], the character, hopes and fears that motivate the person’s outward behaviour.

We have illustrations of this visionary ability in **The Handbook For Life**, the Holy Bible.

Jesus Christ showed such visionary ability when He changed the disciple Simon’s name.

Everyone saw Simon as impulsive, aggressive, yet faint-hearted.

Jesus saw what no-one else saw in Simon, not even Simon himself.

Jesus saw that Simon had “backbone” strength.

So Jesus much to the amazement of the other disciples renamed Simon, Peter, which in Greek means “rock” or “pillar”.

**Galatians 2:9** [Message Bible] *“James, Peter and John, the pillars of the church.”*

This leadership career of Peter goes back to Jesus’ vision, seeing Simon’s true self that was not obvious to others who knew him.

**Proverbs 20:5** [NIV] *“The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.”*

**There is the potential for greatness in the hearts of all people who are created in God’s image, but someone with vision has to find it and draw it out.**

**We need parents with vision.**

Mothers and fathers who are willing to sacrifice their time to study and converse with their children in order to draw out each child’s uniqueness.

**We need husbands and wives with vision.**

Those who look beyond the obvious in their mate and draw out the hidden jewels of their character.

### **We need visionary business leaders.**

Who treat their workers like real people and diligently try to match their unique skills with the correct responsibilities.

### **We need visionary Christians.**

Who disciple young believers, see their potential and draw it out.

### **We need visionary witnessing Christians.**

Those who can look at unbelievers with no time for Jesus Christ and wonder what the transforming power of the Holy Spirit could do in that person's life.

### **How do we become such visionary people?**

We have to see others as God sees them.

### **God looks on all humans from His position of being the source of true love.**

**1 John 4:16** [NIV] *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

God is love and the various facets of that love are shown to us in **The Handbook For Life.**

**1 Corinthians 13:7** [Message Bible] *“Love ... always looks for the best ...”*

This is one facet of God's perfect love, and the “best” in a person may well be hidden deep in that person's character.

### **How do we receive such love in our lives?**

**Galatians 5:22-23** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.”*

These fruits, the first of which is love, are the result of our cultivating an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. [Ask for our booklet *“How To Cultivate An Intimate Relationship With The Holy Spirit”* Ref. SL125]

**Applying what we have explained in this article will transform your whole life.**