

Vision #4 – Tien Nguyen

In this vision, it was like I was looking through a large television screen. I saw myself standing in front of a large white artist canvas in a garden full of trees. The sun shone and the sky was blue. It was a lovely, pleasant day with a very gentle breeze. The canvas was about one and a half metres tall but I was not sure how wide it was because I couldn't see the end of it which was positioned on my right. On the television-like screen that I was looking at, I was standing at the left side of the canvas and beside me, on my right, God stood. Also next to me was a palette which contained many bright and beautiful paint colours. The palette also contained other less bright colours, but at first I didn't notice them because the bright colours caught my attention immediately.

As I was standing in front of the canvas, God told me to pick up a paint brush, choose a colour and begin to paint. I hesitated because I never thought of myself as being artistic or creative. In the past, whenever I attempted to draw or paint, my pictures all looked very childlike. I didn't want to be in an embarrassing situation messing up this beautiful and clean white canvas. I felt very inadequate for this task.

*I kept staring at the canvas hoping that God would remember that I was not given the gift to be **creative**. And yet on the other hand, I knew that when God asked me to do something, I knew that I could do it. But still I quietly said to Him, "I can't paint." He gently said to me, "I'll show you." He held my right hand with His right hand, together we dabbed the brush in some yellow paint, and His hand began to guide mine to do big strokes across the white canvas. Next, we picked another bright colour, red, and together we painted on the canvas, near the yellow. I felt more and more relaxed and comfortable as we painted. Although my hand was in God's, He let me choose the colours, the strokes and designs.*

I was sure that my painting looked nothing like the paintings of famous painters, but to see the look on God's face gave me so much joy and confidence. I sensed that He was very pleased with my obedience. By now, I felt that His hand was just resting on mine as if I was painting on my own, but in my spirit I knew that we were painting together; a collaboration between God and me. When He finally took His hand off mine, I continued to paint without reservation. I sensed in my spirit that He was very pleased with me and what He saw on the canvas.

I was painting with all the bright colours when I began to notice the less bright colours on the palette; different hues of the bright colours, shades of grey and even black. I felt very confident to begin to use these other colours to paint small strokes among the bright colours on the canvas.

God stayed with me and we continued to interact with each other in our spirit. I always sensed His approval of my work. When I wasn't sure of what to do next, we would communicate in our spirit. This encouraged me a great deal to trust and be obedient to Him. Amazingly, this experience also helped me to develop humility.

I also noticed something about the canvas; it didn't have an end. I never got to paint to the end of the canvas. The more I painted, the more the white canvas rolled out so I could just kept on painting. I also noticed that the paints on the palette never ran out either. And God never left my side. At one time, I looked back at what I'd done so far and thought how amazing the painting looked. Although it might not be compared with the paintings of great artists, God approved of it, and that was more than enough.

Interpretation:

- This 'painting' vision followed on from the vision I had earlier this year about the stones in the river. When God gave me the interpretation for the earlier vision, I sensed that there was more to come. The vision of the stones in the river was about the rising up of the Joseph people to herald the answer to the world through **declaring and proclaiming the Word of God**.

The Joseph people are the people who:

- are overcomers
- have learnt to surrender themselves to the Father,
- have developed an intimate relationship with Him during their time in the wilderness,
- have pursued the Father's love with everything they have, and have given themselves over to Him,
- have learnt to trust Him with all their heart and obey Him,
- love this world with Father's love.

These people are qualified not because they are people of exceptional qualities or possess special gifting. They are qualified because they have a childlike spirit and childlike faith. They have courage and kindness, and generosity and honour is their culture. Being overcomers, they have passion to see His Kingdom established on earth. This 'painting' vision depicted this type of believers for this season.

- This vision is also for believers who have been contemplating about **intimacy with the Father** and about **prayer**.

This vision is about **intimacy with God**. More now than ever, I believe that God is beseeching us to get into an intimate relationship with Him. God is offering to remove any obstructions in our life in order for us to go into a deeper intimacy * with Him so that we can have greater trust in Him and be 'creative' in our faith. It is important that we come to Him with complete trust and a childlike faith so that we can have a childlike spirit. In this vision, I felt such tremendous joy, peace and contentment. There was no fear, unrest, striving or anxiety in me. Out of the knowledge of His love for me flowed joy, peace, contentment, humility and trust. In this vision, I also sensed that He delighted in me because of my willingness to delight myself in Him. The more we know His love for us, the more we learn to trust Him.

This vision is also about **prayer**. God showed me that being 'creative' in our faith mean that when we pray, we are not to merely petition God because His desire is for our prayer to be prophetically inspired by the Holy Spirit. In our prayer, He invites us to proclaim His Word, declare His promises, to command demons and sickness to flee, and to speak the things that are not as if they were. We are to co-labour, to partner with Him in prayer. We are to pray so that, "His Kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". I believe that in this season, God is looking for an increase 'expression of faith' in us, and if we let Him, He will take our faith beyond our limitations to where Heaven's desire will outrageously manifest on earth.

The background in this vision represents Heaven - beautiful and perfect with God always beside us. The purpose of prayer is to release the supernatural power of God; to bring His Word to illuminate dark places so that supernatural breakthrough can manifest. Love and intimacy enable us to know His heart and hear His voice, both of which are vital for effective prayer. The colours in the vision represent His words and His promises that He has for our lives. The unending canvas represents our lives and our circumstances. God wants us to be 'creative' in our faith as we 'paint' His Word

into the lives of people. When we abide in Him and His Word abides in us, we are able to pray as He would like us to. In the vision, the paints never ran out. We are commanded to pray unceasingly.

Moreover, there is a partnership in which He asks us how we would like to pray. What an amazing collaboration between Heaven and earth! When God let go of my hand I sensed as if He was saying to me, "How would you like to paint the next part"? I believe this was an invitation from Heaven to partner with earth, an invitation for me to be 'creative' in my expression of faith. Responding to this invitation, I started to paint on my own knowing that however I chose to paint, it would always reflect His love, His nature and His will.

In this vision, God wants to inspire us to pray and help us see our potential as world changers. He wants to encourage us to tap into our undiscovered and unused gifts. Our Father always delights in our obedience to trust Him when we step out in faith. What we want to see happen on this earth might not seem possible. And we also have an enemy who takes every opportunity to oppose and ridicule us. In this vision, God was beside me the whole time. And that is His promise. Praying is not impossible or difficult when we have Him on our side because He is more committed than us to see His will done on earth and to see lives transformed.

When we know God intimately, His glory and presence will manifest upon us and signs and wonders will be released into the world. Right now, I believe the door of Heaven is open widely for us, the sons of God. God is beseeching us to partner with Him to see His Kingdom established on earth. And the Angels are ready to be commissioned to do what the sons of God declare. Amen.

*Tien Nguyen
30th April 2015*