



# The Power of Vision

## Where do we go from here?

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According to self-development guru Brian Tracy, great leadership always starts with vision.

A few years ago, we were looking forward to both of our sons coming back for Christmas on their holiday break from college. My wife, Joyce, wanted to program a family activity that we could do together that would be memorable, and inoculated from the normal distractions of cell phones, video games, etc. The activity she selected was a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle.

If the truth were revealed, I don't think either the boys or I were all that excited about the jigsaw puzzle activity. I was thinking to myself, "That sounds as exciting as watching grass grow". That told me I needed an attitude transplant, and I committed to make that happen.

What do you suppose was the first thing I did? Right. I looked at the picture on the box. Without that picture, I would have had no focus or direction. The more I looked at the picture, the more I got into it. It was a dude ranch with numerous activities including square dancing, hiking, boating, horseback riding, and fishing, among other activities. Now that is a scene I can get excited about on a cold day in December.

We began by laying out all the pieces, turning them over, and sorting them according to color. Next, we did the borders, since they had flat sides, and were easiest to start with. Putting the border on also gave us a framework to play with.

At first, I had to force myself to spend time on the puzzle. Then, a funny thing happened when the puzzle was finally about half done: My attitude changed drastically. I became obsessed with that puzzle (as did the boys) and the picture on that box became more vivid and real.

A well-crafted vision can work like magic – just like the puzzle picture did. Visions create direction, excitement, energy, purpose, and fulfillment –and that's only the beginning. When all our activity during the day supports a vision that we embrace, achievement is soon to follow. (See planning). Here are the three critical components of a compelling vision: (see vision construction)

1. It is positive
2. It is stated in present tense
3. It gives us energy

In the words of futurist Joel Barker:

*A vision without action is just a dream*

*Action without vision is merely passing the time*

*Vision with action can change the world*

If you are intent to be a strong leader, remember what is first: VISION!

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