



The Principle of Perspective

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The Principle of Perspective made headlines in the country music world in 2010 as Kenny Rogers began singing a new song called "The Greatest." This one song would serve as a reminder to every man, woman, and child about the power of perspective. The lyrics remind all of us that "Perspective Matters,"

Little boy in a baseball hat stands in the field with his ball and bat
Says, "I am the greatest player of them all"
Puts his bat on his shoulder and he tosses up his ball.
And the ball goes up and the ball comes down,
Swings his bat all the way around
The world so still you can hear the sound, the baseball falls to the ground.
Now the little boy doesn't say a word, picks up his ball he is undeterred.
Says, "I am the greatest that there has ever been"
And he grits his teeth and he tries again.
And he grits his teeth and he tries again.
And the ball goes up and the ball comes down,
Swings his bat all the way around
The world so still you can hear the sound, the baseball falls to the ground.
He makes no excuses he shows no fear
He just closes his eyes and listens to the cheers...
And he gives his all one last time.
And the ball goes up and the moon so bright
Swings his bat with all his might
The world's as still as still can be, the baseball falls
And that's strike three.
Now it's supertime and his mamma calls,
Little boy starts home with his bat and ball.
Says, "I am the greatest, that is a fact,
But even I didn't know I could pitch like that!"
Says, "I am the greatest, that is understood,
But even I didn't know I could pitch that good!"

Watch the Youtube Video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATQ5Tab3eXY>

As you read or listen to the lyrics of the song, you can't help but cheer the little boy on toward victory. The lesson that we learn from this simple song teaches us about true triumph as we learn the "The Principle of Perspective."

The Principle of Perspective is one of the greatest tools in the life of a Biblical leader and the life of every Christian. The principle has a long, rich history reaching all the way back to the life of Joseph as discovered in Genesis 37-50 as we witness a young man go through one unsolicited trial after another from being sold into slavery by his brothers to being wrongfully imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. As you look at the life of Joseph, most people wouldn't blame him for giving in to anger or hatred, but this is not the case for this "Man of God."

Why was Joseph different? He was a man that was devoted to the Lord and with his devotion came the "Principle of Perspective." We observe several verses from Genesis 39-50 that declare one simple but powerful statement, "The Lord was with Joseph..." This young man was wise enough during his trials to understand that even he could not control the circumstances of his life but he could control how he looked at life. One example of the "Principle Perspective" is found as Joseph's brother discover themselves kneeling before their brother many years after they had sold him into slavery. Joseph had the power to carry out his revenge against his brothers, but instead, he declared,

Genesis 50:20 - "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Three Elements of a God Honoring Perspective

As you look to the life of Joseph, you will observe three elements that help him maintain a God-honoring perspective. Every Biblical leader that wants to be a great success for the Lord must implement these same elements in life.

Learn this lesson today: "Right perspective leads to right priorities which leads to right action."

Element #1 – Perspective is Preceded by Perception

The first element that is discovered in the life of every Biblical leader distinguishes the difference between perception and perspective. Joseph stood out among others in his day because he understood that his perception must shape his perspective. Some leaders feel like they are a victim of circumstance and they allow the opinion of others to shape the opinion of themselves. This did not happen in the life of Joseph because he made it his objective to ensure that God and his Word developed his perspective.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that when our Biblical beliefs shape our perception, then we begin living by faith, not by sight. Your beliefs as developed from the Word of God will always shape your perspective.

Learn this lesson today: "Our perspectives develop from our perceptions and our perceptions are created from our beliefs."

- How do your beliefs shape your perception of trials and triumphs in life?

Element #2 – Perspective Shapes Your Priorities

The second element that every Biblical leader must learn deals with the connection between your perspective and priorities. Many years ago, I discovered a life-changing lesson from John Maxwell as I was introduced to the Pareto Principle, also known as the 80/20 Principle. He explained the basis of the principle in this manner,

- 80 percent of traffic jams occur on 20 percent of the roads.
- 80 percent of classroom participation comes from 20 percent of students.
- 80 percent of the time you wear 20 percent of your clothes.
- 80 percent of all decisions can be made on 20 percent of the information.

As I was introduced to the Pareto Principle, I realized that the best 20% of my activities were *16 times* more productive than the remaining 80%. If I wanted to increase my productivity in honoring the Lord in my life, then the top 20% of my activities needed to honor the Lord.

This is the same lesson that Joseph learned in his life. Your perspective always determines your priorities. Just like Joseph, I realized that I wasted too much of my time in life on items that did not produce the most God-honoring results. The secret to being a successful Biblical leader is not found in striving to be busy with many activities instead it is being wise with the right actions that bring the right results. Your perspective will determine your priorities which makes the difference between success and failure.

- What are your top three priorities this week?
- What do these priorities tell you about your perspective?

Element #3 – Perspective Requires a Persistent Pursuit

The final element learned from the life of Joseph is discovered in the importance of his persistent pursuit. Joseph is an excellent example of a man that was overwhelmed with trials, yet he did not allow these trials to derail his pursuit of the Lord. Joseph teaches each of the importance of living a life where we persistently pursue the living God no matter what distractions come our way. The author of Proverbs teaches this same lesson to God's people as he declares,

Proverbs 3:5-6 – ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Conclusion

The life of a Biblical leader rises and falls on perspective. Every leader will encounter trials and experience triumphs, but his perspective is what will determine future repetition of victory or failure. Perspective matters and every leader can improve in this area of life as he begins applying the three elements of the "Principle of Perspective." Start today and watch God fantastically shape your future!

Colossians 3:2 - Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.