

# LESSON 8

*Catch a Vibrant Vision—One Pulsating  
with Vigor and Energy*

## **KNOW YOUR PURPOSE—PART 3**

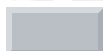
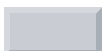
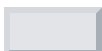
On a clear October night in 1957, Homer’s life took a dramatic change of direction. Something he saw captured his imagination.

Like most in the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, he was expected to become a coal miner after graduating from high school. His dad, a manager at the mine, more than expected it; he practically demanded that Homer follow in his steps. But a single event caused Homer’s focus to shift from what was under the earth to what was above it. News reports said that the Soviet satellite Sputnik would be visible. The resulting buzz about town sparked Homer’s curiosity. So he and a couple of friends joined other townsfolk to search the skies that night.

The movie *October Sky* depicts the pivotal event in young Homer's life. As he stood in awe watching the shiny space craft pass overhead against a starlit background, he whispered to himself, “Wow.” On this night, Homer caught a vision—a vision that would inspire him to try new things, to be creative, and to take risks. It was a vision that would motivate him to study and excel. It would also cause him to suffer teasing and ridicule.

The movie tells of the obstacles and setbacks he endured as he pursued his vision to become a rocket scientist. It shows how one of his teachers encouraged him and helped him along the way. It describes how he and three friends built rocket after rocket, trying to find a design and fuel mixture that would actually work. Eventually, they entered a science fair with their best design. It would be an important step on Homer’s way to becoming Homer Hickam, Jr., NASA engineer—a man who went on to train astronauts for space shuttle missions.

Do you have a vision that stretches you, energizes you, and inspires you to greater heights? Yes  Sort of  No





If yes, make a note of it.

Homer's story certainly illustrates the power and benefit of catching a vibrant vision. Unfortunately, it's not that easy for most of us. Not many catch a vision that leads to a challenging, exciting, life-long career by chance. For most of us, it takes an intentional effort. Furthermore, most people graduate and enter the job market only to change jobs or careers several times during their working years. Therefore, we need to catch a vision that is greater than a single occupation. We need a vision that will inspire a passion for life, regardless of our particular vocation.

So what will inspire you? Since Scripture doesn't give specific vocational visions like Homer's, what does God want you to look forward to?

We know that runners look forward to the end of the race. When they step into the starting blocks, it's not the first five or ten meters that energize them—it's the finish line. It's the mental image of breaking the tape. It's the burning desire to win.

Keeping the end in mind can energize us too. In this lesson, we'll explore seven biblical truths that can help us catch a big-picture vision of what we can look forward to. Then, in Guidebook 3, we'll get more specific as we explore career options that spark your interest.

As you go through this lesson, make notes of other inspirational ideas that come to mind.

## TIME OUT



Deep in our hearts, we all want to find and fulfill a purpose bigger than ourselves. Only such a larger purpose can inspire us to heights we know we could never reach on our own. For each of us the real purpose is personal and passionate: to know what we are here to do, and why.<sup>1</sup>

The trouble is that, as modern people, we have too much to live with and too little to live for.<sup>2</sup>

*Os Guinness*