

# GOD'S VISION

## LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE MINISTRY



### 1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

One day, I decided to quit. I wanted to quit my job, to quit my relationships, to quit my spirituality; I wanted to quit life. I went to the woods to have one last talk with God. "God", I said, "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?"

His answer surprised me. "Look around", He said, "Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"When I planted their seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth.

Its brilliant green covered the floor. Nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo."

"In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. While still nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo."

"In the third year and fourth year there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo."

"Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth.

Compared to the fern it seemed small and insignificant. But just 6 months later the bamboo had risen to over 100 feet tall. It had spent those five years growing roots. The roots made it strong and gave it what it

needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge they could not handle."

And then He said to me: "Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots? I would not quit on the bamboo. I will not quit on you! Don't compare

yourself to others. The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern.

Yet they both make the forest beautiful.

Your time will come," God said to me. "You will rise high."

"How high should I rise?" I asked.

"How high will the bamboo rise?", He asked in return.

"As high as it can?", I questioned.

"Yes", He said, "Give Me glory by rising as high as you can.

Everyone has moments when they feel like giving up. When the struggles

and obstacles in life seem insurmountable. Remember you're just

growing roots!! God has a purpose in mind for each one and you need to talk to Him and let Him help you realize that purpose. Always remember, He will never leave you or forsake you.



**Coming soon the Light and Life and Love Ministry the annual Handmade Crafts and Jewelry sale. All proceeds go to the Sanctuary and Botanical Garden Fund**



**Need information contact:  
Minister Robert Koch at  
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## Prayer

**Lord our God, we thank you for your gospel, the great, good tidings we may carry in our hearts to give us joy in this present time, even though on all sides people are in anguish and agony. We thank you that your gospel fills our hearts with compassion, enabling us to help carry what many have to suffer. Show us our need of you so that we can receive your help. If we must be the first to suffer all kinds of pain and distress, may we do so joyfully because we have been promised blessing in the midst of all the pain. May we continually honor your name, praising you for the good news of your kingdom, for the promise that everything must work together for good through Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.**

# LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE MINISTRY

## Everyone Belongs with God

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## All Things in Christ

Do you want your life to count to the greatest degree imaginable for the glory of God? Years ago I decided that I wanted to live to the hilt of every situation that I believe to be the will of God. I want to experience the full measure of the blessings of Christ in my life and ministry.

Every spiritual blessing we enjoy comes in and through Jesus Christ. Every believer is an “heir of God and co-heir with Christ” ([Romans 8:17](#)).

The apostle Paul wrote Timothy, “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” ([1 Timothy 6:17](#)). Jesus said, “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” ([Matthew 6:33](#)).

John Calvin expresses this provision in Christ beautifully: “If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is ‘of him’ ([1 Cor. 1:30](#)). If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in His anointing. If we seek strength, it lies in His dominion; if purity, in His conception; if gentleness, it appears in His birth. For by His birth He was made like us in all respects ([Heb. 2:17](#)) that He might learn to feel our pain (cf. [Heb. 5:2](#)). If we seek redemption, it lies in His passion; if acquittal, in His condemnation; if remission of the curse, in His cross ([Gal. 3:13](#)); if satisfaction, in His sacrifice; if purification, in His blood; if reconciliation, in His descent into hell; if mortification of the flesh, in His tomb; if newness of life, in His resurrection; if immortality, in the same; if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in His entrance into heaven; if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in His Kingdom; if untroubled expectation of judgment, in the power given to Him

## Inspirational Bible Verses

Jeremiah 29:11 ~ for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Deuteronomy 31:6 ~ be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

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

But let all who take refuge in you [O God] be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11

to judge. In short, since rich store of every kind of good abound in Him, let us drink our fill from this fountain and from no other” (Institutes of the Christian Religion, p. 527-28).

Are you available to God to do what He wants to do in and through you to be a blessing to a lost world? God will not bless you abundantly if you are self-centered, and much of our desire for God to bless us as Christians is purely selfish. Do I sincerely want God to bless me so that I may be a spiritual well-being to other people? To some people it might be revolutionary, but may I suggest that you think of your life as a means by which God can impart spiritual blessings to other Christians, and the lost world. God wants to bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.

Everything in the Christian life begins, continues and ends in Christ Jesus. C. S. Lewis once said the greatest heresies in the church are not the denials of Christian truth, but additions to it. It is what Lewis called “Christ and ...” Christ and Islam, Christ and Buddha, Christ and works, Christ and humanism, etc. No, Christianity is Christ, alone. All true spiritual blessings come through Christ alone for God’s glory alone.

God is not looking for men and women who will trust in their abilities, but on His power and wisdom alone. “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let Him who boasts boast in the Lord’” ([1 Cor. 1:27-31](#)).

God is glorified when we make ourselves available to Him to bless us so we can be His blessing to others. Are you available to Him to do whatever He wants to do with you? That is what is required of you and me. There is no limit to the imagination what God can do through you if you are entirely surrendered to Him.