



Proverbs 29:18 King James Version - ¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

The Word of God is the will of God. Some of us have blurred vision. For example...

- If you hold a grudge, and won't forgive...your vision is blurred.
- If you don't tithe, but tip God...your vision is blurred.
- If you don't believe the Word, but trust your own opinion...your vision is blurred.

20-20 is a new year and a new decade.

- If you set a goal, but don't commit to following God's Word, it's a waste of time.
- How can you create goals without God, especially if you call yourself a Christian?

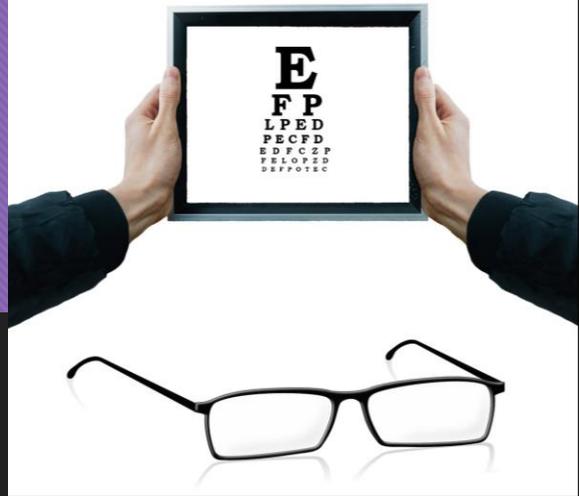
Follow God's plan.

Mark 8:34-38 New King James Version - Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

³⁴When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit a man if

he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

It's Time For Your Vision Check-up.



We've been talking about "Live a Life of Readiness" for about 9 months. Is the fulfillment of this message soon to come.

--Romans 8:22-23 New King James Version – 22 For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.** 23 Not only that, **but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.**

If you know your last day is tomorrow your priorities change.

- People matter, not things.
- Get right with people—apologize and forgive.
- Get your house (your spiritual house in order)

Are You Ready? Are Your Bags Packed? Are Your Relationships in Order? Are You Ready? It's time for your vision check-up.

When you go to the eye doctor you must take off your glasses.

- What do you need to take off or let go to see things God's way?
- What do you need to put down to see clearly?

- What do you need to let go?

Don't compromise. Don't fool yourself.

- For Example: Don't buy a big cake and set it on your kitchen table and then tell yourself: "I'm not going to eat this cake." Yes you will. Little by little, you will eat that cake if you don't remove the temptation.
- You backslide into sin---little by little. That's why it's called backsliding—it's subtle. You start sinning just a little bit, then before you know it, you are consumed with sin and separated from God. Don't let this happen to you.
- Sin is something you just have to utterly stop. You can't have just a little sin or a little lie.
- Truth is neither negative or positive—it's just how you receive it that makes it negative or positive.

God's Word is truth.

- You can receive it positively...by making the correction you need to make in your life.
- Or, you can receive it negatively...by denying it, making excuses, and finally reaping the punishment for your sinful actions.

--**Hebrews 4:12-13 Holman Christian Standard Bible** - ¹²For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. ¹³No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.

Another version puts it this way...

--**Hebrews 4:12-13 Living Bible** - ¹²For whatever God says to us is full of living power: it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires with all their parts, exposing us for what we really are. ¹³He knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from Him to whom we must explain all that we have done.



Sow a seed and spread love.

When you do an act of kindness it opens the door for you to share the Word. When you start a friendly conversation, it opens the door for you to share the Word. (Use bible tracts, church cards, scripture cards, the Word of God, your testimony and prayer—these are all tools for sowing seeds.)

- **Luke 19:10 King James Version** - ¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- **Jeremiah 31:3 New King James Version** - ³The LORD has appeared [a]of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.



A Vision for continued growth in the Word.

- Begin your day with The Word.
- End your day with The Word.
- Spend your day with The Lord.

Matthew 4:4 New King James Version - ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

What is the Holy Spirit saying? Don't focus on what the devil is doing. Keep your eyes on The Lord.

- The Truth will filter out the devil's lie.
- People are fruitless because they are rootless.
- Don't jump from church to church.
- Sit down and be ministered to at the place the Lord leads you to. God will pick out a church for you. Seek His Face to know where that is. Once you do know, stay there!
- Don't allow people to uproot you.
- Don't let a "rebuke" move you out of position.

- Don't be a jelly-back—you get rooted by spending time with God daily in prayer and in His Word and by coming to Sunday School, Church, Bible Study, Saturday Morning Prayer
- Don't let “meaningless” things pull you away from God and the Word of God
- Get the Word of God in your heart and mind.
- If you can memorize sports stats or your favorite songs, you can memorize the Word of God (with passion too!)
- Download a bible app and read it daily.



A Vision for an **Effective Prayer** Life.

A Vision for an effective prayer life.

--You better know how to pray for yourself...EFFECTIVELY!

-- Remember Jesus told the parable of the Ten Virgins. Don't be a foolish virgin (Christian). In this parable, Jesus is the bridegroom and the ten virgins are like us Christians. Be a wise virgin (Christian) and get the oil of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 25:1-13 New King James Version - The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

25 "Then **the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.** ² Now **five of them were wise, and five were foolish.** ³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom [is](#) coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And **the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'** ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, '**No, lest there should not be enough for us and you;** but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour ^[b] in which the Son of Man is coming.

- The point of the parable is: At some point you have to develop a relationship with the Lord for yourself. You must know how to pray for yourself.

The Holy Spirit will help you to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit NOW to help you pray.

--**Romans 8:26-27 New King James Version** - ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ^[a] for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

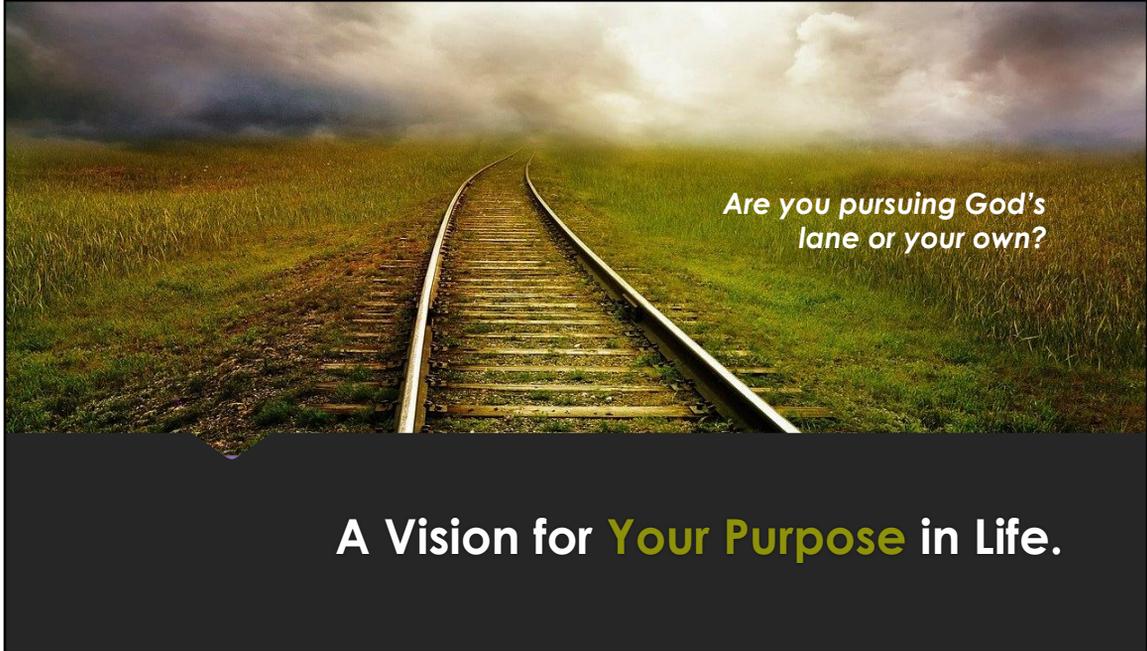
Develop an effective prayer life by...

- Spending the **FIRST** seven minutes of your day in prayer,
- Pray at 8:30 pm in the evening (the entire church is asked to do this).
- Pray for your family, church family and for souls to be saved along with any other requests you have for God.
- Begin and end your prayers with thanksgiving. Pray believing God loves you and hears you because the Word of God says He does.
- Come to Corporate Prayer at VLFC every Saturday at 10 am, except the first Saturday of the month.

--**Luke 18:1 New King James Version** - **18** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

This week’s prayer assignment – Pray for the USA Military and President Trump, Law Enforcement, your marriages and your families.

This week’s Homework - **Spend at least 2 days this week at the table together as a family at meal time with no devices.** You must talk to each other and look at each other in the eyes. God wants us to connect with each other and love one another. How can you do that if you don’t spend any time together? Make an effort.



Are you pursuing God's
lane or your own?

A Vision for **Your Purpose** in Life.

A Vision for **Your Purpose** in Life.

- Are you pursuing God's lane or your own?
- God gives purpose. We don't choose it.
- For example, Moses, John the Baptist, Jonah and Martin Luther King...all had a unique purpose. (God even raises us powerful ungodly men, like Pharaoh, to teach the world a lesson. See Exodus 9:16 below...

Exodus 9:16 New King James Version - ¹⁶ But indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

- Ask God to show you His purpose.
- You must find your purpose in the Lord **FIRST** before you get your world, professional or occupation.
- Don't run from your purpose like Jonah—that's disobedience.
- You bring something on yourself by disobedience.
- Let all disobedience go—unforgiveness is disobedience.
- **You will never progress beyond your last point of disobedience. Did God tell you**

to do something? If you are not doing what He already told you to do, He will not give you anything else to do.

- Don't just talk about it, be about it.
- Love yourself, so you can love others.
- Seek God's purpose for your life. Just do it.

Matthew 6:33 New King James Version - ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.