

Teaching Letter



WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH / TEACHING BY GAYLE CLAXTON

Where there is no vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18a KJV

Have you ever found yourself sitting and thinking about the future and what it holds? I am always amazed by the fact that the older I get, the faster time seems to fly by. But I too sometimes catch myself thinking about tomorrow and the months ahead, not in a negative way, but more in the spectrum of life and what I want and desire to happen or, in some cases if I am really honest, what I would like to avoid! In doing this, I realise that there are times that I have set goals before me, and this causes me to see that I do have vision, destiny and a purpose.

However, there are times when this is not so optimistic and I find myself doubting – let me say quite clearly that doubting is *not* the same as unbelief. Why, because unbelief is a deliberate decision not to believe. Doubting could mean that my vision is not as clear as I would like it to be, which is not a sin. Therefore, today I want to encourage you with a thought that many times has changed my doubting heart back to a heart of vision.

I don't know where life finds you at this moment in time – but think about this, the Bible says that we need vision. In the passage in Proverbs, the word 'vision' relates to the Word of God. The Bible also teaches us that Jesus became the Word. This means that God Himself is the greatest Visionary of all time. When He created the world, He created it by speaking the Word, by speaking Vision. Therefore, we could paraphrase the above scripture to – “Without the Word, people perish!” Why is this? It is because the Word of God is the bread of life; it is the source of direction, it is the measure by which we live, and if that is missing, then there is no vision, no life, no direction and we will perish!

*“I know the plans
I have for you!”*

The great news is that God did not just speak and then leave us alone. No, He spoke and continues to speak life and direction to us through His Word. What He promised for us according to Jeremiah 29:11 is a future of hope and good things. However, I find that the most encouraging part of



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that scripture is the first part, in which God says **“I know the plans I have for you!”** This means that the greatest Visionary of all times has a personal vision for you and me!

The amazing thing is that God then later says in the New Testament in Ephesians 2:10 that you and I are **“His master piece created in Christ so that we can do the good things He has planned for us long ago”**. This then brings me to the next thought. What has He planned for me? We know that creation is where the Heart of God is, so this must also mean that the plans He has are not only on a personal level but reach into His creation.

*“His master piece created in Christ
so that we can do the good things
He has planned for us long ago”.*

Let's look at a few possibilities.

I think that God's primary vision for His saints is to look for and reach out to the lost. This is the reason why Jesus went to the Cross. He saw a lost and dying world that He could pay for with His Blood! Where is our vision when it comes to the lost?

What about a vision for the church? What is the church? It is not an institution that performs rituals; it is a group of like-minded people connected through Jesus as Lord and Saviour that should be reaching out and giving a place of safety, love, protection and growth to those in need. I firmly believe that we all must be connected to a church; it must be the base of operations in our service for the Lord.

There are so many other encouraging points to mention, but space does not allow me, but let me leave you with this last thought – I believe that we must have a vibrant relationship with the Lord through worship and prayer. This creates the life of the vision that sustains us in all circumstances. When we are engaged in worship and prayer, we see Jesus – having a vision of Jesus sets our destiny in motion. With so much opposition to the Christian faith at the moment, we need to keep our focus on Jesus and not allow the victory of the Cross be clouded by the events in the world. As we do this, the vision of the Cross and the price that Jesus paid will help us to grow in faith and love towards a very inhospitable world. Through our relationship with Jesus, we need to respond in love and mercy and not react negatively. There was a great saying that could do with being ‘reinvented’ – **“What Would Jesus Do?”** (WWJD). This saying is a great challenge to all of us in many situations!

Wherever life has taken you over the years, months or days, remember one thing – the greatest Visionary of all time is interested in you. His plans are good, and even when life gets hard, it does not mean that God has left you; not at all, He is still with you and desires that you walk in His good plans for you. Having a vision does not mean a carefree life, but it does mean a life where we can overcome any obstacle. Let me encourage you to increase your prayer and worship time and effort, and then you are destined to

succeed because the Word brings vision and with vision you cannot perish!

Together – as we run in His Vision and Good Plans may the Lord Bless and Keep you.

Gayle Claxton

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