

The Life Core
The Source of Life & The Life Core
#21
Grasping the Vision

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Grasping the Vision

- As teachers, we need to understand God's plan for His people.

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Identifying our goals

- Goals, vision, mission statements
- God's design comes first
- God's work of creation
- God's redemption plan

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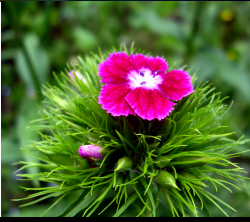
Clarifying our goals with God's Word

- Hezekiah wanted to restore the Passover celebration
- Invited north and south (because of scriptures)
- He faced a lot of political pressure to do that.
- We will face a lot of outside challenge to when restore things as God wants.

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Goals and fruit

- Every flower/plant has a purpose (even weeds)
- We sow seeds with hope in mind
- God designs a plan for them.
- Plants have similarities and differences like believers.
- Mature until bear fruit.
- Healthy bears good fruit.



'And goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows--how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head' (Mark 4:27-28).

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Training keeps the larger goals in mind

- No one expects mature fruit on a young plant, nor should we early on focus on development of the fruit.
- It is more important to focus our energies on identifying where a particular believer is in his or her growth.
- The fruit will come in time; God has made it this way.
- Some people refrain from goals
- "When he grows up, he'll..."



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Training and parents

- My wife often answers questions in parenting class as to how old the child is.
- Discovering where one is helps much to know "what" and "how".
- We work with the Holy Spirit shaping their lives.
- "Feed my sheep." We don't give life but only care for it!

In Jesus' Likeness

- (1) Jesus is growing in us and leading us to be like the Father.
- (2) We do not need to force the likeness, it will just come.

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Training God's people

- The training starts with us and then it can more easily be transferred to training others.
- Training, then, is simply teaching others what God already has been doing in our own lives.



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Our Lessons

- Spiritual vision is born from scriptural truths that shape our expectations and focus.
- Goals need to be specific for each stage of spiritual development.
- We are not creatively devising goals to guide growth but carefully observing what God has said in the scriptures and connecting that to our lives.
- God has special plans for each believer to bear God's love and light in this world. This is his or her fruit (also called "good works").

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Application

- ➡ What are God's goals for you at this point in your life? Try to identify at least three.
- ➡ How do you respond to making and setting goals? Are you excited or frustrated by the process? Explain why.
- ➡ What is the long term goal God has for some garden plants or crops? What does that mean in the spiritual context of your life?

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