

Night Vision

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 6, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

~Ephesians 1:22-23 (ESV)

1) Spiritual Night Vision

- A) The Spirit of God provides “wisdom,” the right application of Truth, and “revelation,” the supernatural revealing of Truth; in the knowledge of Christ, who is the Truth (Ephesians 1:17).
- B) Simultaneously, the Spirit opens the eyes of the heart (the soul’s place of understanding), bringing light into darkness (1:18). Thus “wisdom and revelation” parallel “eyes of your hearts enlightened,” which simply means, Spirit-given insight, or “Spiritual night-vision.”

2) Prayer for Purpose, Value, and Power

- A) Spiritual night-vision is provided for three important reasons. All three are consistent with what God has already done in Christ, an example of prayer which is “compatible” with God’s will (1:18-20).
- B) The first “night vision” provision is **PURPOSE**, a sure calling in Christ (1:18). The second is **VALUE**, God has invested His riches in your redemption (1:18). The third and final provision is **POWER** (1:19).

3) The Pregnant Church Of God In The World

- A) This trinity of provisions is the foundation for knowledge in Christ (1:17) delivered from God, Christ, and Holy Spirit (1:17) to His followers by the Gospel work of Christ’s miraculous resurrection (1:20).
- B) Christ’s authority and eternal reign (1:20-21) are most intimately expressed in His church (1:22). The church is Christ’s living body, the most complete expression of God’s complete Triune nature (1:23)!

Almighty God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God,
Redeemer of all who trust you,
heed the cry of your people;
deliver us from the bondage of sin,
that we may serve you in perfect freedom
and rejoice in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death.
Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever. Amen.