

Light of Love

*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

Psalm 4.6

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Luke 7.41-47

“A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.”

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Luke 7.41-47

And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”
Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon,
“Do you see this woman?

I entered your house; you gave me no water for
my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears
and wiped them with her hair.

You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in
she has not ceased to kiss my feet.

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Luke 7.41-47

You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has
anointed my feet with ointment.

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many,
are forgiven - for she loved much.

But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

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Observations:

1. Where there is love, there is **forgiveness**.

(portrayed by Jesus)

2. Where there is forgiveness, there is **love**.

(portrayed by the woman)

3. Where there is very little love, there is a failure to comprehend how very much we need the **forgiveness** and **love** of Jesus.

(portrayed by Simon)

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Observations:

4. Where there is very little love received, there is an inability to love others.

(portrayed by Simon)

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You are
so very loved!

What does this love look like?

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1 Corinthians 13.4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

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1 Corinthians 13.4-7

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Love is patient

Withholding a negative

Inward focus

Emotional endurance

Words fitly unspoken

Mercy

Love is kind

Expressing a positive

Outward focus

Physical creativeness

Words fitly spoken *(Prov 25)*

Grace

God is not only merciful but is extravagantly lavish with grace!

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Ephesians 2.7

so that in the coming ages he
might show the immeasurable
riches of his grace in *kindness*
toward us in Christ Jesus.

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What does kindness look like?

(The light of love)

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Love of Learning

(knowledge)

Love of Learners

(people)

Love of Bringing
these Together

*People need to know that we **love them** more than
what we're trying to **teach them.** (Jesus)*

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“But I’m not a teacher...”

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All of us are always teaching to others
something about God...

He is kind or not (Goodness)

He is in control or not (Greatness)

Light of Love

Love of Learning

(knowledge)

Love of Learners

(people)

Love of Bringing
these Together

What specifically do we need to provide in order to develop a love for both and for bringing these together?

Light of Love

1. Vision: providing the ability to see what is possible.
2. Inspiration: providing the belief to achieve what is possible.
3. Provision: providing the tools of *patience* and *kindness* to equip for what is possible.

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1. Vision: providing the ability
to see what is possible.

“Vision is the art
of seeing what is
invisible to others.”

~Jonathan Swift

“The only thing
worse than being
blind is having sight
but no vision.”

~Helen Keller

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2. Inspiration: providing the belief
to achieve what is possible.

The Ragamuffin Gospel (*Brennan Manning*), p.44-45:

“We must never allow the authority of books,
institutions, or leaders to replace the authority
of knowing Jesus Christ personally and directly.”

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2. Inspiration: providing the belief
to achieve what is possible.

When the religious views of others interpose
between us and the primary experience of
Jesus as the Christ,

we become unconvicted and unpersuasive
travel agents handing out brochures
to places we have never visited.”

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2. Inspiration: providing the belief
to achieve what is possible.

*“You can’t go back and change the
beginning, but you can start where
you are and change the ending.”*

~ C.S. Lewis

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3. Provision: providing the tools of **patience** and **kindness** to equip for what is possible.

2 Corinthians 1.4

who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Parenting**



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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Parenting**

1. What vision do you have for your children?
2. How will you inspire them?
3. Are you providing the tools of patience and kindness needed for success?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Parenting**

1. What vision do you have for your children?

Is my goal for my sons and daughter to be
good children or...

that they become **good parents**?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Psalm 78.5-7

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach(*ya.da*) to their children, that the next generation might know(*ya.da*) them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Psalm 78.5-7

He established a testimony **1st** in Jacob and appointed **2nd** law in Israel,
with **3rd** he commanded our **fathers** to teach (*ya.da*) to **their child** **3rd**
that **the next generation** might know (*ya.da*) them, **the children**
yet unborn, and arise and tell them to **their children**, **4th**
so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works
of God, but keep his commandments.

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Parenting**

1. What vision do you have for your children?

Our vision must be to parent in a way that we teach our children how to teach their children to have Godward parenting. (*affecting 4 generations*)

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Parenting**

1. What vision do you have for your children?

Is my focus on their **outward behavior** or on their **inward heart**?

i.e. what they are becoming...

and what vision they are developing!

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

Example: **Parenting**

2. How will you inspire your children?

“When I was your age...”

vs.

“One day, if God blesses you with children,...”

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

Example: **Parenting**

2. How will you inspire your children?

“Dad, tell me why I have to go through all this?”

I hate all this drama but here I am right in the middle of it yet again.”

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

Example: **Parenting**

2. How will you inspire your children?

Why did Jesus have to **suffer** greatly in life?

How else would you ever develop **empathy**
for others?

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Hebrews 4.15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Hebrews 5.7-8

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

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Vision Inspiration **Provision**

Example: **Parenting**

3. Are you providing the tools of patience and kindness needed for success?

ex: The messy room...

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We've all been there:

1. Compare: “Why can’t you be more like...?”
“I would never treat my parents like this.”
2. Ultimatum: “Clean it or else...”
3. Bribery: “If you clean it you can...”
4. Nagging / Frustration / Argument / Repeat
5. Defeat: You end up cleaning it for him/her. (Mike)

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Psalm 78 training

*How would you want your child to handle it
as a future parent?*

1. “Can we agree your room needs a little help?”
2. “What would be a reasonable timeframe to get it done?”
3. “If we did it together, I’d bet we could knock it out in ten minutes.”

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**



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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

1. What vision do you have for your marriage?
2. How will you inspire your spouse?
3. Are you providing the tools of patience and kindness needed for success?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

1. What vision do you have for your marriage?

Ephesians 5.25...Husbands, love your wives,

as Christ loved the church

and gave himself up for her (*sacrifice*)

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

1. What vision do you have for your marriage?

Ephesians 5.33...let each one of you

love his wife as himself, and

let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

1. What vision do you have for your marriage?

How did Christ love the church (*you and me*)?

How do we love our wives as much as we already love ourselves?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

2. How will you inspire your spouse?

Do you believe that a great marriage is the very best gift you can give to your children?

Do you **pray together** for a healthy marriage?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

2. How will you inspire your spouse?

Do you read **books** on marriage?

Do you attend **reengage** seminars or elective classes on marriage? Do you talk?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

3. Are you providing the tools of patience and kindness needed for success?

How do you handle **conflict** within marriage?

How do you handle **finances, intimacy, in-laws**?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Example: **Marriage**

3. Are you providing the tools of patience and kindness needed for success?

Are you the type of person who is **drawn by love** or **driven by fear**? How about your spouse?

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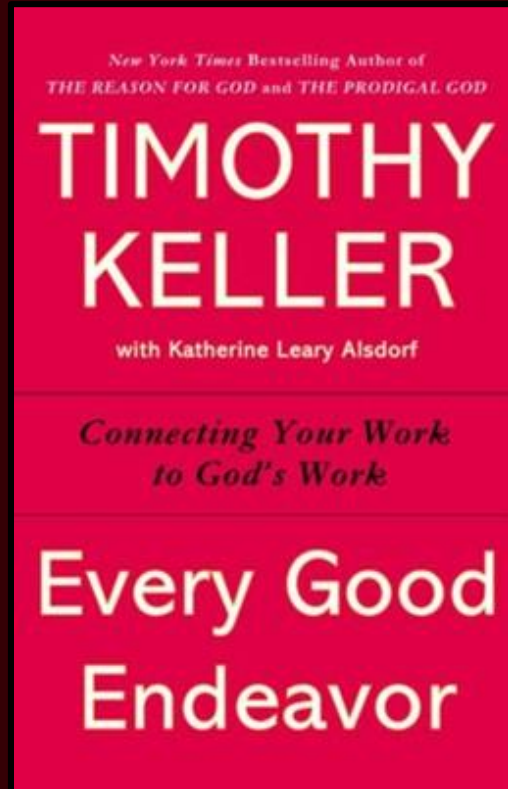
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Example: **Work**



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Vision Inspiration Provision



Title:

Every Good Endeavor

Subtitle:

*Connecting Your Work
to God's Work*

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Vision Inspiration Provision

p.51: "...the biblical understanding of work gives **vision and meaning** not only to ambitious endeavors, but even to the most commonplace ones..."

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p.51: “Andy Crouch [writer of *Culture-Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*] describes the impact made by his wife, Catherine, a professor of physics:

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p.51: ‘In her work as a professor of physics, Catherine can do so much to shape the culture of her courses and her research lab. In the somewhat sterile and technological environment of a laboratory,

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p.51: she can play classical music to create an atmosphere of creativity and beauty.

She can shape the way her students respond to exciting and disappointing results,

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p.51: and can model both **hard work** and **good rest** rather than frantic work and fitful procrastination. By bringing her children with her to work occasionally she can create a culture where family

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Vision Inspiration Provision

p.51: is not an interruption from work,
and where research and teaching are
natural parts of a mother's life; by inviting
students into our home she can show that
she values them as persons,

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p.51: not just as units of research productivity. At the small scale of her laboratory and classroom, she has the real ability to reshape the world.””

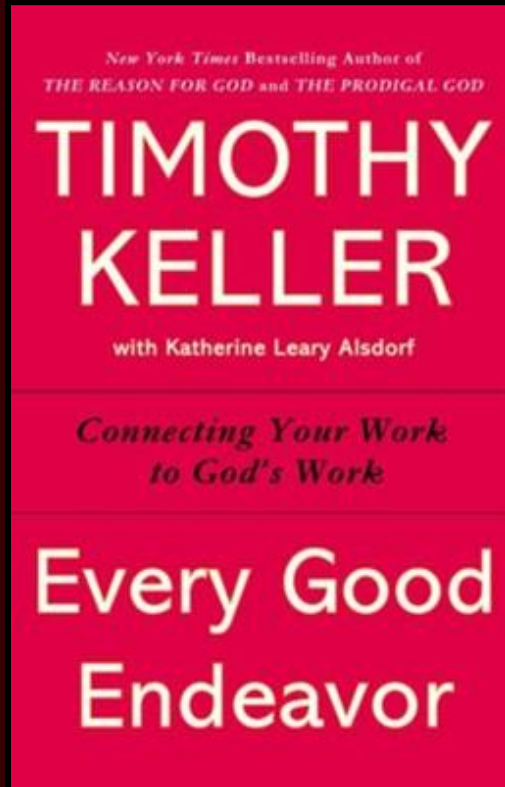
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Vision Inspiration Provision

*What vision do you have
for your vocation?*

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision



Title:

Every Good Endeavor

Subtitle:

*Connecting Your Work
to God's Work*

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

p.4: “When we work, we are...the fingers of God, the agents of his providential love for others. This understanding elevates the purpose of work from **making a living** to **loving our neighbor** and at the same time

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p.4: releases us from the crushing burden of working primarily to prove ourselves.”

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

p.69: “If laypeople cannot find any spiritual meaning in their work, they are condemned to living a certain **dual life**; not connecting what they do on Sunday morning with what they do the rest of the week.

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Vision **Inspiration** Provision

p.69: They need to discover that the very actions of daily life are spiritual, and enable ...people to touch God in the world, not away from it.”

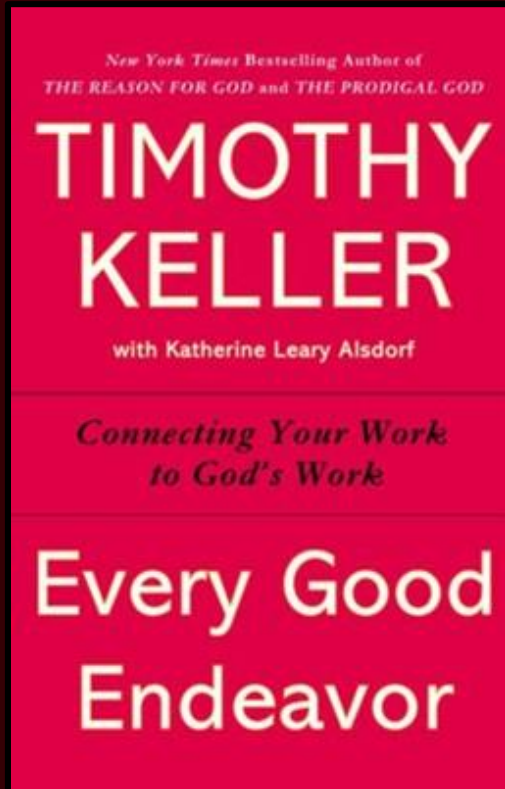
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Vision Inspiration Provision

*Have you considered that Jesus spent
a good bit more time **working with
wood** than in “public ministry”?*

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Vision Inspiration Provision



Title:

Every Good Endeavor

Subtitle:

*Connecting Your Work
to God's Work*

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Vision Inspiration **Provision**

p.211: “Think of the cliché that nobody ever gets to the end of their life and wishes they had spent more time at the office. It makes good sense, of course, up to a point.

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Vision Inspiration **Provision**

p.211: But here's a more interesting perspective: At the end of your life, will you wish that you had plunged more of your time, passion, and skills into work environments and work products

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Vision Inspiration Provision

p.211: that helped people to give and receive more love? Can you see a way to answer ‘yes’ to this question from your current career trajectory?”

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Vision Inspiration Provision

*How might you be able to provide
patience and kindness in your workplace
in order to radiate a light of love?*

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Lord of the Rings

“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it
there are many dark places;
but still there is much that is fair, and though
in all lands, love is now mingled with grief,
it grows perhaps the greater.”

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Where do I find the strength?

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Vision Inspiration Provision

Does God have vision for you?

Does God inspire you?

Is God patient and kind to you?

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1 John 1.9

In this the **love of God was made manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might **live through him**.

...as parents, as spouses
and at work.

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*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

Psalm 4.6