

My tomorrow is his today. My distant hope is his 3D. And my feeble, whispered, faithless prayer invokes a thunderous, resounding, bone-shaking great 'Amen!' from countless angels, from hero's of the faith, from Christ himself. And he is the original dreamer, the ultimate winner. Guaranteed

#41: THE VISION

"Too late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient, O Beauty so new. Too late have I loved you! You were within me but I was outside myself, and there I sought you! You were with me, and I was not with you."
(Augustine¹)

High in the nomadic wilderness of central Asia they eventually discovered the source of the mighty Mekon River. People had died trying to find that spot. But gazing down at three muddy trickles emanating into a marsh, the triumphant explorer admitted that the sight was "neither grand nor awe-inspiring."² But in fact these unimpressive trickles join to become one of Asia's greatest tributaries, bringing life and power to millions, fuelling great white-water Niagaras and carrying cargo some 2,600 miles to the South China Sea.

Everyone wants the Niagara of God's power but few ever discover where such power begins: in small trickles of faith, alone on the high ground. We cry out for more and feel so inadequate in prayer. Perhaps we feel that our life amounts to a marsh in the middle of nowhere. But like those muddy trickles our 'feeble, whispered faithless' prayers may eventually become great rapids of life, powerful and beautiful beyond our wildest dreams.

In the film Pearl Harbor, Rafe (played by Ben Affleck) tells an English officer: *"I'm not anxious to die sir, just anxious to matter."* Our lives do matter, more than we dare imagine. Jesus – the name above all names - loves you more than life and calls you to follow him. It's an invitation to live with vision; to see what he sees so that you can do what he does. Sometimes we may doubt God's vision or doubt that we really matter in its fulfilment. But at such times something soon stirs deep within us to renew our sense of destiny. It is the Holy Spirit, given as a deposit of God's presence in our lives; a lifetime guarantee that the vision will come to pass³.

The Vision ends as it began: with Jesus. He is obsessively, dangerously and undeniably the focus of our lives, the 'author and perfecter of our faith'⁴, the Alpha and Omega of time. He's the meaning in my madness, the patterns of chaos, my only hope. As I run the race marked out for me he shouts 'C'mon!' My stammered petitions invoke his thunderous 'Amen!' He renews my strength, carries my burdens and kneels to serve my needs. In all my struggles he intercedes for me by name and when I sin, as I often do, he whispers grace and wisdom. One day soon I will see him face to face and these words (this world) will mean nothing at all. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords will look at me, even me, and say:

"Well done"

Further Study: Revelation 5

¹ Augustine, Prayer on Finding God after a Long Search

² National Geographic documentary, 2000, The Source of the Mekon

³ 2 Corinthians 1:22

⁴ Hebrews 12:2