

Theme for 2020

I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!

‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’

“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”

Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)



This Week’s Thought – January 12, 2020

“But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:5-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

John reminds us that the cross of Christ is not just a onetime belief of salvation, but an ongoing working out of our salvation in love. The cross is a commandant of love to be lived out as Jesus lived and loved. It is the daily practice of dying to our selfish desires and coming alive to selfless service. Jesus is the Word of Truth to be embraced and obeyed. Our imitation of Christ is His invitation to intimate love. Our total trust and obedience shows how completely we love Jesus. When we first believed we only began to fathom the depths of God's love---revealed over time.

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19, NLT)

Is your love being made complete by your obedience to Christ's commands? Obedience to God's Word grows our love to love as Jesus loves. Our lives come alive for Jesus, as we know Him more deeply, love Him more dearly and obey Him more diligently.

Your next level of loving better may mean forgiving an unfair critic; apologizing to a co-worker, classmate or friend; serving the poor, respecting someone who might think doesn't deserve respect or deferring to what a friend or family member might want. Love grows as a motivation when obedience moves from duty to delight. Surrender to “*His will be done*”, and release “*my will be done*.” Begin to stretch your soul by being still and warming up your spirit with Scripture reflection and listening prayer to what the Spirit is saying. Once you experience perfect love--- then truly obey, by loving others as you have been loved.

“Beloved children, our love can’t be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds. We know that the truth lives within us because we demonstrate love in action, which will reassure our hearts in his presence.” 1 John 3:18-19, The Passion Translation)

“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!’”

Application: Who needs your love, forgiveness and comfort to help heal their hurting heart? Ask the Lord to show you how much He loves you, so you can love and obey Him.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “I Am Able to do far beyond all that you ask or imagine. Come to Me with positive expectations, knowing that there is no limit to what I can accomplish. Ask My Spirit to control your mind so that you can think great thoughts of Me. Instead of letting difficulties draw into worry or withdrawal, try to view them as setting the scene for My glorious intervention. Keep your eyes and your mind wide open to all that I Am doing in your life.” (Ephesians 3:20-21; Romans 8:6; Isaiah 40:30-31; Revelation 5:13)

“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King