

## ***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 5, 2020*** ***Happy New Year 2020!***

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*“Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” 2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV)*

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A new year brings with it a chance to reset, refresh, and refocus. Like a misaligned car pulling constantly to the right or left, as we journey through the year we often find ourselves settled in habits that do not move us forward in faith but solidify and deepen patterns of brokenness. It is for good reason that we collectively as a body of believers take a new year by the reigns and seize upon the opportunity to pursue change in our lives.

Sure, we could begin another diet or join the local gym, but what is our greatest need? If we find ourselves in places of very real grief, loss, financial instability, relational strains, health concerns, etc., clarity of heart and mind can be elusive and difficult to discern. Simply put, as self-assured as we like to present ourselves to others, we frequently find ourselves in places where we don’t know what to do.

As 2 Chronicles reminds us, the people of Israel often found themselves in this position. Facing overwhelming challenges, rather than hiding their fears or pretending they didn’t exist, they acknowledged their inability to fix their problems on their own, saying “*we have no power to face this vast army.*” Acknowledging our powerlessness is the first step to encountering the power of God. The prayer of God’s people of old should be our prayer in every generation: “*We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*”

Before you rush into the typical new year’s resolutions, take a minute and sit with the fact that losing a few pounds, organizing your closet, or crafting a new budget may not be your greatest need. Even if you don’t or you’re not sure what your greatest need is...minimally this year make one simple, but profound resolution – turn your eyes to the Lord! Look to Him for direction, believing that He loves you and will not leave you. Daily center your life on Him, and as you abide in Him, you will find the clarity and courage you need to enter into this year with a heart filled with faith!

**“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:** Resolve this year to carve out some intentional time with the Lord as a way to turn your eyes daily to Him. In your doubt and confusion, turn to the Lord as your only true source of help, healing, hope and strength.

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Come to Me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being *transformed by the renewing of your mind.* As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. *I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Give yourself fully to this joyful adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence.” (Psalm 27:8; Romans 12:2; Jeremiah 29:11)**

***“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