First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 December 31, 2019

Theme for 2020

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

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 Upcoming New Year's Thought – December 31, 2019 Happy New Year 2020!

"And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people)." Ephesians 1:18 Amplified Bible (AMP)

God gives us a new clarity when we come to Him. <u>'Seeing Through God's Eyes':</u> We begin to see life a whole lot better. We see ourselves. We see our problems. We see our past, our present, our future. Everything gets a little clearer the closer you get to God.

As we enter a New Year and Decade **2020**, we will focus on, talk about and experience seeing ourselves through God's Eyes or seeing ourselves as God sees us! If only we could see ourselves as God sees us! **The truest thing about you is what God says about you!** If you really grasp what it means to see yourself as God sees you, it will change your life. Jesus said, "You know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32) So when we learn to see ourselves the way God sees us, it makes all the difference in the world.

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Matthew 6:22 The Message (MSG) says, "Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light."

God is not talking about physical eyes and physical light. He's talking about spiritual insight. He's talking about seeing in a new way spiritually. The Apostle Paul calls it seeing with the eyes of your heart. Seeing from God's perspective. In fact, I echo Paul's prayer for the people of the church of Ephesus, for each of us today, "And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people)." Ephesians 1:18 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Being able to see yourself as God sees you, is so important because the Bible says, "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." (Proverbs 23:7) If you see yourself as a loser you're going lose a lot in life. If you see yourself as a victim, you're going to let other people victimize during your life. If you see yourself as not too creative, you'll never create anything. If you see yourself as a failure in life, you're going to fail often. What you see is what you get.

The way we think determines the way we act, and what we see comes out in our lifestyle. Our beliefs have a direct effect on our behavior. How do you see yourself? Pause for a moment and think about it. What thoughts have you had about yourself today? So many of us find ourselves basing our self-worth on how others see us and, on our accomplishments, feeling shame from our past, defining our value based on our looks, or setting unrealistic standards for ourselves.

Part of rightly understanding our true personal identity (being — thinking — and living — the way God desires), requires that we know how God sees us. As our loving Creator, God says two things to us: "You are my child," and "You are chosen."

Let that truth sink into the depth of your heart and mind. It may take a lot of determination on your part, but as you begin to realize just how valuable you are in God's eyes, you will be able to break the chains that keep you from accepting and loving yourself. You can drop the burden of what other people think—and the judgments you hold for yourself!

To follow Jesus is to believe in impossible goals and dreams. It is a posture of humble dependence upon the Lord, acknowledging our own weaknesses and limitations yet daily celebrating His infinite strength and power. There are goals and dreams that God has for you, for me...for us...for His creation, that He longs to bring into being, and He delights in inviting us to join Him in that Holy work.

God wants to accomplish wonderful things in you and through you. Allow yourself to dream big dreams with God this New Year 2020, trusting and believing that He is 'able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.'

"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King