

## ***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 – February 9, 2020***

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*“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”*  
Ephesians 1:4-5 New Living Translation (NLT)

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Adoption has its challenges and can be a rough road, for the background and genetics of the precious one being brought into a new family may clash with the new culture, even a home full of love and acceptance. But much like the Lord, it brings a parent or parents great pleasure to see their son or daughter accept their love.

Listen, once you believe in Jesus your last name changes from being a child of the devil to being a child of God! What a transition...from being used to being fully loved. From feeling lonely to never being alone. From deceived by lies to set free by truth. From hell to heaven. From chaos to peace. From rejected to accepted. From despair to hope. When you are adopted by God, you have a divine origin with a divine likeness, who is the object of divine love. Christ loves and cares for you! It gives Him great pleasure to pronounce you His own, and to provide for you. **He wants you, for you!**

*“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” (John 1:12-13, NLT)*

Struggle with identity plagues the most mature followers of Jesus. It is a grim alternative for us to settle for Satan’s deceptive ways and offerings, to go back to the pigpen of wallowing in sin. But like the prodigal, we finally come to our senses and head home to our loving Heavenly Father. We are adopted and accepted—as the beloved, by the Beloved. Our family of faith is the Lord’s gift to love, support and accept us, as we grow in grace and love. Our identity is in Christ, not in our latest achievement or failure. Not in our net worth, but in our true riches of love in the Lord and His family. Enjoy who you are, because of whose you are—a child of God!

Because there are some many who value the approval of others, one must be careful not to depend on another’s acceptance for their validation of self-worth. You are, we are already accepted in the Beloved, so we can rest in Him and not strive for Him or anxiously seek to please someone else. Our story prior to Christ is not for us to be embarrassed about (it’s still very much a part of our story), but to be grateful for how God adopted us into His family and teach us to love and serve our earthly family. **So, let’s celebrate our spiritual adoption: where we have been, where we are and where the Spirit is taking us to become more like our Savior Jesus Christ. We are adopted, accepted, loved and not alone!**

*“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:14-15)*

**“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:** How can you better recognize and celebrate your identity and acceptance in Christ? Take some time today or this week to praise God for adopting you into His family of faith in Christ Jesus.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, thank you for offering to take my burdens. You are so good and loving and You are a perfect Parent. You care so deeply for me and You are concerned about my well-being. Thank you for stepping into my life and showing me the Power and Strength You possess and help me to turn to You always. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

Yours in Christ, Pastor King