

## ***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 23, 2020***

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*“I long to drink of you, O God, drinking deeply from the streams of pleasure flowing from your presence. My longings overwhelm me for more of you! My soul thirsts, pants, and longs for the living God. I want to come and see the face of God.”* Psalm 42:1-2 The Passion Translation (TPT)

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If you do so now or maybe you did at one time or another, maintained a regular regimen of physical exercise, then you know that if you miss any extended period of time, like an entire week or more of exercise, your body reacts since it is used to experiencing a more significant physical engagement. Well, consider that thought regarding your soul’s expectation for spiritual exercise. If you miss too often, does your conditioned soul suffer spiritual withdrawals?

David reminds us of our soul’s thirst for God. If our soul has been acclimated to a regular routine of hydrating on the living water of the Lord, any significant disruption can create a sense of soul sickness or nagging spiritual withdrawals. The presence of God is necessary to acquire peace for our everyday life encounters, so we daily seek the face of God. The soul longs for the Lord’s love.

*“I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.”* (Psalm 119: 131)

What does it mean to drink of God? In a sense the Holy Spirit fills up our cup of love in solitude and silence, so we can be a source of refreshing love as we pour into others. We empty our cup of love, only for Christ to fill us back up again with His infinite, faithful love. This ongoing process of filling and emptying restores our soul—being refreshed in silence, beside quiet, “*still waters.*”

I encourage you to have a long-term goal to seek the face of God each day as you grow your spiritual exercise routine. Don’t be discouraged if you infrequently stretch your spiritual muscles. Start with 2-3 times a week of stillness and solitude to drink in the love of your Lord Jesus Christ, so you can in turn pour love into another. Create an expectation for your soul to be cared for, so if you experience prolonged prayerlessness, you are reminded by inner groans for God. Spiritual withdrawals are meant to draw you back to the divine in loving communion. **Stay thirsty for Jesus!**

*“On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)” (John 7:37-39, NLT)*

**“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 grow your soul to be accustomed to drink in silence and solitude with Jesus? If that is something you truly yearn for, then tell the Lord that you long to drink at His ‘river of love’, to refresh your soul and to refresh others.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “O God, You are my God, and I long for You. My whole being desires You. Like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for You. Let me see You in my home. Let me see You on my job. Let me see You in my school. Let me see You in the sanctuary. Let me see You wherever I am, how mighty and glorious You are. Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise You. I will give You thanks as long as I live. I will raise my hands to You in prayer. My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to You. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

Yours in Christ, Pastor King