First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 March 15, 2020

## 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 - March 15, 2020

"Put on the full armor of God to protect yourselves from the devil and his evil schemes. We're not waging war against enemies of flesh and blood alone. No, this fight is against tyrants, against authorities, against supernatural powers and demon princes that slither in the darkness of this world, and against wicked spiritual armies that lurk about in heavenly places." Ephesians 6:11-2 The Voice

Sadly, many people are not engaged in the battle for their soul. Oblivious, they are held captive by the enemy, distant to the abundant life Christ gives to those who overcome in His strength and power. Why do you think that is? Well, lack of awareness and poor preparation are two primary culprits. Some are unaware because they reject the supernatural which dismisses the existence of the devil, but without belief in the supernatural there is no true trust in Jesus Christ as the resurrected Lord. Others are poorly prepared because they are so busy with life, they take for granted their faith—with very little ongoing spiritual preparation, which precedes protection from the enemy.

Paul reminds us that our biggest battles in life are spiritual. Christians are waging war every day against the devil and his demons!

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Sometimes Satan can be heard coming as he <u>roars like a lion</u>, other times he may sneak up on us like a <u>slithering snake</u>—cold and deadly. Denial is a human defense that only compounds the long-term consequences, as the reality of deceptive living bears the bad fruit of apathy and self-service. Only through earnest prayer does Satan shudder and flee!

"Pray always. Pray in the Spirit. Pray about everything in every way you know how! And keeping all this in mind, pray on behalf of God's people. Keep on praying feverishly, and be on the lookout until evil has been stayed." (Ephesians 6:18, The Voice)

Are you aware of the devil's schemes and shenanigans? Fear of the enemy recedes where fear of God reigns. What is your routine for spiritual preparation? Begin by praising God in your heart and out loud for His awesome power and infinite love. Pray over your family and friends to not fall to Satan's temptations, but to expose evil with the light of the Lord's love. Pure love chases down the devil and casts out his feelings of fear and inadequacy. When you are loved well by your heavenly Father divine truth is able to fill your mind and heart, so there is no room for the *father of lies*. Be on the offensive with praise and prayer—and be on the defensive in spiritual preparation by wearing the whole armor of God!

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:12)

"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). <u>I AM WHAT 'YOU'SEE!</u>"

**Application:** Why is belief in the supernatural so foundational for your growing faith? Pray and ask the Lord to spiritually prepare you in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Dear God, forgive me for the times I have walked in disobedience and opened doors for the enemy to control my life. Forgive me for sinning willfully and submitting to the lies of the enemy. Lord, send your warring angels to fight on my behalf against those who are against me. Keep me safe from every manner of trap that the enemy has set before me. Strengthen my faith that I may keep on standing in Your Word, which is the Truth. Give me supernatural strength to keep going even when I am weak. Make me bold like a lion so that I can fight all spiritual battles in my life. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King