

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 29, 2020

“¹¹ He came to that which was His own [that which belonged to Him—His world, His creation, His possession], and those who were His own [people—the Jewish nation] did not receive and welcome Him. ¹² But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—¹³ who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].” John 1:11-13 Amplified Bible (AMP)

There are countless ways of speaking of our life with God. A journey of faith. A pursuit of the Lord. Intentional discipleship. We could go on and on. The thing is, while these phrases highlight the importance of tending to our life with God and seeking after Him with purpose and passion; we must never forget that our pursuit of God is based upon His pursuit of us. In fact, as John 1 reminds us, we His own people, failed to accept Him, failed to tend to this relationship as we are meant to do. Yet even in our fear and weakness, God gave and gives Himself to us as a gift. A gift of power and identity that is meant to be received with gratitude and joy.

This week, as we have officially been ordered to ‘shelter-in-place’ here in OH (not unlike most states), effective this past Monday March 23rd @ 11:59 pm until April 6th. I thought toward the future this past Thursday March 25th, about how we were just nine months away from Christmas.

When you read the story of Jesus’ birth foretold in Luke 1:26-38 and hear the angel Gabriel tell Mary in Vv.31-32 “*³¹ Listen carefully: you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and eminent and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*” When read together with the words from John’s Gospel, these stories tell us something profound: **God’s promise of power reaches us in our frailty and fear.**

We desperately need to be reminded of God’s peace! In ways that many who are living today have never experienced, we face a moment of global uncertainty and insecurity. One that heightens fears of scarcity and personal loss. It raises questions of economic stability, political unrest, and institutional failure; and while the specifics may be unique to our time, the underlying fears are not. As such, are we able to hear in our own day Gabriel’s words to Mary as words spoken to us? “*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*” (Luke 1:30)

God’s favor finds us in our fear. His power reaches us in our weakness...and no matter how dark the night may be, a new day is always dawning!

“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 today, like Mary, receive and ponder with gratitude the gift of God given to you?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, I am your humble servant. I come before You today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless. There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better tomorrow...for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. I pray to be filled with Your light...to bask in Your glory. To know that all is right in the world, as You have planned, and as You want it to be. Help me to walk in Your light and live my life in faith and glory. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King