

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 – April 5, 2020

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand—Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” Isaiah 41:10, Proverbs 1:7 New Living Translation (NLT)

Fear is a powerful, powerful emotion. Left to its own: fear wrecks relationships, ravages emotions, sickens bodies, demolishes relationships and shrivels souls. Depending on the Bible translation—*“Do not be afraid”* is mentioned or implied at least 365 times.

Isaiah reminds us, because of God’s ever present presence in our lives, we do not have to suffer from fear. He goes on to say, don’t even be discouraged, we can fill our hearts with courage and hope in Christ (He is our Rock). His track record of loving faithfulness is stellar! He holds us with His victorious Right Hand. Once we dismiss fear, we can replace it with the superior fear of God. Scripture says, *“Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge”*—despised by fools! Wisdom swaps fear for fear—no regrets.

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:8-9)

Has fear caused your conclusions to spiral down to the worst case scenario? Or, has fear become a self-fulfilling prophecy, worrying your will toward the actions you dreaded the most? Keep the fear of the Lord foundational in your faith and you will enjoy the wisdom, discipline and strength to follow hard after Him.

When you replace fear of people or circumstances with fear of God (who has your best interests at heart), you choose to trust the One who controls everyone and everything. Calm prevails when Christ who calms the storms is embraced by faith. Take a deep breath, focus on your heavenly Father, whose depth of love covers whatever chaos abounds. Look around you. A frantic world longs for a calm child of God and a calm body of Christ that shows love and care. Swap fear for fear and you will experience God who is near. Hold on to His victorious hand!

“Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.” (Acts 9:31)

“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: What fear are you clinging to that you need to replace with clinging to Christ? Love and fear the Lord and ask Him to calm your heart with His peace and your mind with His truth.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord, I thank You that You are the God of the impossible. You can do anything but fail. I want to trust in Your ability and not my own. Teach me to see difficulties in my life from Your perspective. Help me to focus on You and Your power. I want to be like Joshua and Caleb who believed in a good report and focused on You even in hard circumstances (*Numbers 14:7-9*). My responsibility is to carefully read, trust, and obey Your Word. Today I bring before You this difficulty in my life [Name the difficulty, concern, worry, fear, situation, etc. you are now facing]. Help me not to fear but to trust You in this situation. I declare my faith in Your ability to fulfill Your promises to me. You will fight for me and win the battles in my life. You are mighty, powerful, righteous and true. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King