

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 19, 2020

“Therefore we do not become discouraged [spiritless, disappointed, or afraid]. Though our outer self is [progressively] wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day by day. For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!” 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Amplified Bible (AMP)

“We’re all in this together.” We must remember, virtually every Christian in history lived out their faith in Christ in the midst of incredible suffering and pain. It is only in very recent human history that we are able to imagine an earthly existence free from such struggle and strife. Unfortunately, we as humans have remarkably short-term memories! We can grow so accustomed to prosperity and a pain-free existence, that when we do inevitably encounter sickness, isolation, or economic uncertainty, we are caught off guard and can easily fall apart.

Your affliction in the present prepares you for an eternity in God’s presence.

April 19, 2020

Paul pleads with the church in Corinth to view every moment as an invitation into the never-ending life of God’s Kingdom. Your pain and loss is not unrelated to your life with God, neither is it meant to derail or upend your trust in His goodness and love. As Paul says in verse 17, these trials are working in us, changing and shaping us, making us substantial people who are able to bear the weight of glory.

Given the events of the past few months, it is almost impossible for you to read these words without a new and likely unexpected form of anxiety, fear, sickness, or loss. I personally know people who have lost dear family members to the Coronavirus, and countless more who have lost jobs and are facing remarkable personal loss. As such, I often hear people asking, “*When will this end?*” “*How much longer is this going to last?*” “*When will life go back to normal?*” Here is something we must think about and consider today: “*What if there’s no such thing as normal, at least not as we like to think of it?*”

According to Paul, it is normal to encounter significant trials in this life. Yet for us as Christians, it is also normal to see them in a certain light. Our trials will not overcome us or overtake us but are light and momentary, a passing moment meant to prepare us for that which is eternal and will never fade. There is an invitation before every single one of us today. Will your pain diminish you and overtake you, or will it be a means by which the Holy Spirit works in and through you, bringing to birth his very life within you?

Let us press on and move forward in solidarity with one another and faith in the goodness of our loving God!

“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 is your greatest struggle right now? Ask the Lord to meet you in your weakness and help you reframe how you are thinking and feeling about your struggle or your condition and see it as preparation for eternity.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father in Heaven, I stand before You today in Your Omnipotent Presence to ask that You grant me strength. I want You to give me the strength to power through all of the tasks today — whether big or small. Help me to understand and see clearly that just because I don’t feel Your Presence, doesn’t mean You’re not with me always. Help me have peace that comes from knowing the Truth of Your Word to me today! Help me live a life that honors You and points others toward You. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King