

## 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 – May 17, 2020***

***Happy Memorial Day Weekend!***

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*“Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.”* Psalm 119:1-3 New Living Translation (NLT)

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**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** In many ways joy is a mindset and a heart condition. I say, “a mindset” because what we think translates into how we behave. If we focus on our faults and failures, we can become fixated on feelings of guilt and unworthiness; but, if each day we confess our sins and receive the grace of God, He forgives us and fills us with grateful joy. A conflicted heart is unable to elevate itself in glad obedience. Apathy or Indifference is being sadly stuck in joylessness. Thus, the need to daily invest the joyful attitude of Jesus into our hearts and mind.

The Psalms are a reality check for the heart and mind. The vulnerable and insightful writer describes joy as an outcome of integrity and obedience to the Lord’s instructions.

Integrity facilitates a freshness that is attractive and sweet to the senses, like the scent of freshly cut flowers. A clear conscience is able to smile confidently in the face of the temptation to compromise with evil, knowing the path of God is a joyful joint venture. **Joy follows Jesus!**

*“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”* (Hebrews 12:2)

Fun is not the perquisite for joy—fulfillment is what precedes joy. When your life is fulfilling you will find joy in its meaningfulness. When your work is purposeful you will discover joy in making a difference. When your family is focused on faith you will rally around what’s right and be joyful in your love and care for one another. The integrity of following the Lord’s instructions is the joyful path of God’s will, while the narrow-minded path of self will is a fleeting, hollow happiness.

Is your life an advertisement for joy or misery? Both enjoy company, so do not lower your expectations to a life attracted to cynical minded people. Seek out those who tap into trust in the Lord for their comfort and strength. The joy of Jesus becomes your strength when the life of Jesus becomes your life. Surrender to the love of the Lord and His loving presence will fill you with joy. Not a happy go lucky feeling, but a deep knowing you are loved and known by God. **Do what’s right, even when the crowd is caught up in doing what’s wrong. Integrity brings joy!**

*“I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.”* (1 Chronicles 29:17:5b-6)

**“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:** No area of your life is untouched by your thoughts. Every moment, every experience, and every person can be an opening for our soul--to greater understanding, more peace and joy, and an overwhelming experience of love. Thus, each moment is a new beginning.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father, I pray that You fill me with Your joy, that overwhelming joy. Your joy is unlike anything this world has to offer. It brings peace, trust and hope and with that a rest because I know You are in control. Your Word says in Nehemiah 8:10, ‘Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!’ I will lift my eyes to the hills, Lord, because I know from You comes my joy and peace. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

**Yours in Christ, Pastor King**