

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 – October 18, 2020

“For when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” James 1:3-4 Living Bible (TLB)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” I don’t know if you have ever found yourself to be the same way, but I am not very patient while waiting in my car at an intersection where the red light is obviously out of sync with the time of day—no cars can be seen in either direction for miles, but I sit with the light seemingly stuck on red, wondering if I should just drive through it. Then it turns green and I can go, but for some reason I am still fussing. It’s one thing to lose my patience with an inanimate traffic signal, but a whole other matter to learn how to persevere through life when sorrow steals my joy or distractions keep me from seeking the Lord.

Patience is the Lord’s call for our character to not merely engage in passive endurance, but in active perseverance. As our capacity for patience grows, our character grows complete in Christ.

James writes to a group of Jesus followers, a minority culture of faith living among a majority who persecuted Christians for their beliefs. These trials revealed the genuineness of their faith. Just as an exam exposes a student’s true knowledge and understanding, so God’s life tests reveal the reality of our real relationship with Christ.

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A growing faith joyfully sees a problem as an opportunity to develop a more complete character and deepen our trust in God. The readers of James’ letter were learning how patience could grow their capacity to persevere.

“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” (Hebrews 10:36)

What problem are you facing that invites you into a patient faith? A financial hurdle? A relational misunderstanding? A health challenge? An uncertain future? An unwanted change? By faith, seek to see your sorrow as hard but beautiful, difficult but determined, and sad but glad in God. Wasted pain does not obtain a growing capacity for grace, but pain channeled into patience blooms into an exotic faith like the bird of paradise flower with the sweet taste of nectar. Even if a wound never heals or is not forgotten, you bow broken with an imperfect faith perfected by patient trust.

I’ll say it again, **your patience is not meant to merely engage in passive endurance, but active perseverance.** Get before the Lord, then you are prepared to do for the Lord. The tension between trusting and tenacity keeps your heart humble and your will submitted to your Savior Jesus. So, seek to serve while you wait on God’s best. Be your very best by staying engaged in hard conversations, growing in grace through rough relationships and leaning into generosity during lean times. See problems as a path to grow your patience and develop your character. Wait in hope for the Lord!

“We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.” (Psalm 33:20-22)

“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 person or situation requires your steady patience knowing God is working out His plan? Ask the Lord to grow your patience so your hope is complete in Him.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “I come to you, LORD, for protection; never let me be defeated. You are a righteous God; save me, I pray! Hear me! Save me now! Be my refuge to protect me; my defense to save me. You are my refuge and defense; guide me and lead me as you have promised. Keep me safe from the trap that has been set for me; shelter me from danger. I place myself in your care. You will save me, LORD; you are a faithful God. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!” Psalm 31:1-5 Good News Translation (GNT)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King