

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 – July 19, 2020

“See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.” Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” You are marked by God’s Handprints; from head to toe. He has identified you with Himself. His Hands molded you and made you into who you are. His hands are so enormous that He has engraved every one of us into His palm. Like a life-sized dye cast, He has shaped your soul. This is why you desperately need His tender touch. You need the Hand of God to reshape you daily into His original design and purpose. The Hand of God never changes, but you do. Never forget who you are—a child of the King, forgiven, guiltless, and grace-filled.

You are free to forgive and are set loose to serve others. He has engraved your name into His Hand, never to be removed or soiled. Indeed, His Hand is your protector. Satan and his schemes must pass through the Hand of your Heavenly Father to get to you. It doesn’t mean you are always shielded from Satan, but it does mean you still rest in the Lord’s care, even in the middle of chaos.

Jesus said, *“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”* (John 10:28-30)

Therefore, allow your Heavenly Father to hold you with His caressing Hands of compassion. There is nothing more reassuring than the loving embrace of the Lord. His Hands will not crush you but comfort you in your time of struggle. The Hand of the Lord is an extension of His everlasting love. Peace and security are the residuals which stay with you after God has handled you. His Hands handle you so you can handle others.

Every day you meet people who are recipients of your handprints. You can extend open hands of acceptance or closed hands of rejection. You can embrace others with hands of understanding or distance yourself with hands of shallow assumption. You can offer a helping hand of service or expect other hands to serve you. Just as the Hands of your heavenly Father mark you, so you mark others.

Your spouse, children, extended family, friends, loved ones, etc., are covered in your handprints. They can be healthy handprints or handprints of emotional baggage and spiritual confusion. Hold them close and help them feel your love and acceptance. Be vulnerable and truthful. Become open-handed about your dreams and your fears. A close-fisted life is insecure, distrusting, and distant. An open-handed life is secure, trusting, and intimate. Handle others as your Heavenly Father handles you because you are a product of His grace. See the scars from the unjust nails in your Savior’s Hands. See your undeserving self in your Savior’s Hand. His Hands are your salvation.

“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: On whose life can you quietly leave your handprints of encouragement and love? Remember, by faith you rest in the love and protection of God’s tender care.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear Lord, I pray for Your Hand of protection as I begin this day. You are my hiding place and under Your wings I can always find refuge. Protect me from trouble wherever I go and keep evil far from me. No matter where I am, I will look to You as my Protector, the One who fights for me every day. Your love and faithfulness, along with Your goodness and mercy, surround me daily, so I will not fear whatever might come against me. My trust is in You, God, and I give thanks to You for Your love, Hand of protection and Handprints on my life. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King