

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 – August 30, 2020

“For we have become partners of Messiah, if we hold our original conviction firm until the end.”
Hebrews 3:14 Tree of Life Version (TLV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” If ever our resolve to live a faithful life has been tested, it is now. I recently read a sobering article put out by Barna that notes one in three practicing Christians have entirely stopped participating in church services during this pandemic, whether in-person or online. As I reflect upon that fact, I doubt this decision was premeditated or consciously chosen by the vast majority of people surveyed. Very few of us objectively and dispassionately make such decisions, either for our good or ill. No, instead it seems we drift slowly into such positions, typically from a lack of attentiveness and intentionality in how we spend our days and invest our time, energy, and resources.

Who needs you to show up right now? While church attendance is a vital rhythm of life which we as Christians are meant to engage and faithfully participate in, there are other areas of your life as well which invite regular and faithful participation, yet if we aren’t careful can easily be neglected or entirely ignored. How are your most basic physical habits, such as sleep patterns, food consumption or diet? I’ve heard many people joke about the “COVID 15”, a reference to weight gained from inactivity and anxiety around the crisis of this present moment.

Perhaps you’re also staying up late into the evening in search of distraction or escape? If either of these examples resonate with you, start here and learn to show up for yourself, seeing healthy self-care as a way to free you to serve others and give your life away.

Additionally, you may have relational commitments that desperately need your investment of attention and love. Perhaps your spouse, significant other, child, sibling, neighbor, etc., are going through a painful season. How can you show up and be present to them and love, support and encourage them through this challenge?

If you are a follower of Jesus, as Hebrews reminds us, you and I have become partners of Christ. Yet as beautiful and true as that statement is, we must never neglect the word of caution that follows it, “if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.” I once heard a pastor say, “90% of the Christian life is just showing up.” You may not feel like you have the capacity to be all the things you long to be for everyone in your life. However, can you simply commit to keep showing up?

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”
(Galatians 6:9)

“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: Identify the key places and people in your life that need you to keep showing up, and then resolve to do so!

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Father God, You are faithful and just in all that You do. Your Word is true. Your promises are unbreakable. Your Work is trustworthy. Help my heart keep and foster these truths that I may confidently persevere through my struggles with strength from Your promises and assurances. Steer me away from my doubts and my tendency to impatiently take charge of things. Keep me from relying on mere human understanding and capabilities. Teach me to focus on You and find full confidence in You. Help me to identify the key places and people in my life that need me to show up and be present. Then use me as a constant source of unconditional love, support, and encouragement. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King