

## 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 9, 2020***

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*“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”* **Philippians 4:5 (NIV)**

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**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** Daily life brings with it a steady stream of joy and sorrow, victory and defeat, clarity and confusion. Likely you have over the past few months experienced all of these emotions and many more! Yet I’m curious, would you add “gentleness” to the list? Do you consider yourself to be a gentle person? Is this even something you aspire to and see as a desirable trait? According to Paul, it should be right up at the top of our list!

A gentle spirit is rooted in a lived encounter of the Holy Spirit. Your ability to be gentle is directly tied to the nearness of the Lord and His calming Presence in the face of any storm. Often when we fail to be gentle, it is typically based in our inability to truly trust in the strength and nearness of our Lord. If God is who He says He is, and is nearer to us than we can ever imagine, we are free from worry and anxiety. As Paul famously says in the very next verse of this passage, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* (Philippians 4:6)

Gentleness, rather than being a sign of weakness or insecurity, is a living witness of the transforming Power of God at work in our lives, and to this end, it isn’t only simply for our own good, but is an invitation to the world to see something of the very nature of God. In a world in which the “*survival of the fittest*” seems to guide national policy and economic realities, we as Christians are invited to instead reveal to the world the true nature of its creator. In his book “The Allure of Gentleness”, Dallas Willard powerfully drives this point home:

*“The means of our communication needs to be gentle, because gentleness also characterizes the subject of our communication. What we are seeking to defend or explain is Jesus himself, who is a gentle, loving shepherd. If we are not gentle in how we present the good news, how will people encounter the gentle and loving Messiah we want to point to?”*

The aroma of gentleness is pleasing to the senses and draws people in out of the rain and cold, softening their hearts as they rest and recover at the warm hearth of our Savior’s Love; and so, let your gentleness be evident and inviting to all!

**“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:** We are able to navigate the struggles of life with grateful and generous hearts, so choose today in the Power of God’s grace to be gentle in your words and actions towards others, revealing to them the gentleness of our Lord Jesus.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “I praise You Lord, from the depths of my heart, and I give thanks for Your goodness, for Your grace, for Your mercy, all of which comes through the gift of Your Son. I seek to bring You glory every day of my life through my words and my deeds. You have given me so many blessings; make me a joyful Christian, a worthy example to others, and a dutiful servant to You. My desire is to honor You, Father with my words, with my actions towards others...with all that I am! This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

**Yours in Christ, Pastor King**