First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 September 13, 2020

Theme for 2020 <u>I AM WHAT 'YOU' SEE!</u>

'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 – September 13, 2020

"Because you have so little faith. I [Jesus] tell you this: if you had even a faint spark of faith, even faith as tiny as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and because of your faith, the mountain would move. If you had just a sliver of faith, you would find nothing impossible." Matthew 17:20 The Voice (VOICE)

"We're ALL in this TOGETHER." In our current culture's reality, faith is underrated while science and technology are at an all-time premium. Faith is only important on an as needed basis. As long as life is running smoothly no need to bother God (if there is a God for some), but as soon as sickness strikes, death snatches a life, a job goes away or a child has issues—then call out to the Lord—But what if we took a different approach!?! What if we made faith the foundation of our life, and lived in this reality every day of our life? Each decision, every relationship and our perspective is focused on the unseen faith world in real time, not on the limited perspective of what we think we can control.

To illustrate faith, why does Jesus use the imagery of a mustard seed and a mountain? The Lord is more concerned with the quality of our faith than the quantity of our faith. Just as a smaller diamond that is 100% pure in its cut, clarity and color—is superior to an inferior larger stone, in the same way small faith in the Almighty God can displace difficulties—move mountains.

First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 2 September 13, 2020

Masterfully, our Master Jesus Christ, in a jarring manner, reveals effective faith. Not trust in the certainty of my/our situation, but total trust in our unchanging Christ—the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. A tiny sliver of faith focused on our Creator can experience His underestimated outcomes.

"What if my faith is strong enough to scoop a mountain from its bedrock, yet I live without love? If so, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2, The Voice)

Is your bedrock faith in Jesus full of love? Faith motivated by love not only moves mountains, but in the process gives God the glory. So, loving faith filled teachers are complimented for the caring way they help their students become the best version of themselves. Because of their faith in Jesus, they have faith in their students to be their very best. In the same way, loving faith filled parents are patient with their child to outgrow their immaturity and develop into a mature follower of Jesus. Love is patient to wait on God to work out His way in His timing. Loving faith gets the right results in the right way. You don't have to force what you want to happen. Lovingly trust.

The quality and quantity of your faith grows as your capacity to be loved by the Lord and to love for the Lord grows. Loving faith moves mountains for the glory of God and gives others the faith and love to do the same.

"Here is another of his illustrations: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter." (Matthew 13:31-32, The Living Bible)

"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). <u>I AM WHAT 'YOU'SEE!</u>"

Application: What does loving faith require of you with people or situations out of your control? Ask the Lord to grow your faith to be focused on Him and motivated by love.

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week</u>: "Dear God, bless me with right answers and inspire me to take right action. I will use the wisdom I receive from You in ways that are beneficial to others and myself, that bring You glory. The way to my highest good is made clear by Your activity of perfect love. I trust the power of Your Divine love, and with abiding faith, I pray that Your Divine love will instill wisdom within me. I seek to follow a Divinely-directed path today and forevermore. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King