

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 – September 6, 2020

“Then Jesus said to the [Gentile] woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel. But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!” Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.” She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table. “Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.” **Matthew 15:24-28 New Living Translation (NLT)**

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” People who are not followers of Jesus can move closer to believing in Jesus by trusting God. Trust in God is a spiritually healthy step toward trusting Jesus as the Only Way to God. So, when someone genuinely believes in God, in general, he/she is a good candidate to trust Christ in particular for their eternal salvation.

Jesus was focused on leading His people out of the bondage of unbelief, when a God-fearing ‘foreigner’ approached Him—to worship Him. This loving mom approached with a genuine and passionate plea for Jesus to heal her sick daughter. A mother’s faith ignited when she heard of others being healed by the teacher from God, and some, whom she respected, were confident He was the Messiah prophesied about in the Scriptures. Her hope was focused on Jesus, the man from God, who could do the works of God. Her great trust in Jesus invited great love from Jesus!

“I will also bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord, who serve him and love his name, who worship him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast to my covenant. I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem...because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:6-7)

Someone you know may believe in God, but he/she has yet to believe Jesus is God come in the flesh, or that Jesus is the Messiah. (John chapter 1) Be patient with their unbelief—as so many times Jesus has been patient with your unbelief. There is faith to trust Jesus for salvation through His death on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead. This level of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord is your conversion to Christianity. (Romans 10:9-13) After you are “saved” by grace through faith in Christ, you are called to trust and follow Jesus Christ. Faith to become a Christian and faith to follow Jesus as a Christian. Great trust experiences the love of the Lord to save us from our sins and the love of the Lord to grow us more like Jesus. Great trust! Great love!

The more we encounter the great love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in Scripture, prayer, creation and believers around us, the more we are inspired and instructed to help unbelievers experience the love of Jesus. The love of Jesus by forgiving their sins. The love of Jesus to heal. The love of Jesus to convert selfish anger to selfless service. The love of Jesus to call out injustice and demand justice. The love of Jesus to forgive. Great trust in Jesus invites the great love of Jesus. His great love forgives, heals and gives hope.

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.” (Ephesians 3:17)

“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: Who do you know who believes in God, but does not believe Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world? How can you help them experience the love of Jesus, so they can one day trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear Lord, give me great trust in You to experience Your great Love. In every need let me come to You with humble trust saying, “Jesus, help me.” In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations, Jesus, help me! In hours of loneliness, weariness, and trials, Jesus, help me! In the failure of my plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles, and sorrows, Jesus, help me! Always, always, despite my weakness, failures and shortcomings of every kind, Jesus, help me and never forsake me. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King