

## 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 – November 29, 2020***

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**“And now, Lord, for what do I expectantly wait? My hope [my confident expectation] is in You.”**  
**Psalm 39:7** Amplified Bible (AMP)

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**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** The day after Thanksgiving usually brings a few thoughts to mind: “I shouldn’t have eaten so much, I can’t wait to do my Black Friday shopping, I can’t wait to watch football, I’m glad that’s over, I wish that wasn’t over, how will we afford Christmas,” and maybe, “I wish I could just sleep until the new year.” Or, should I shift my expectations to the One who always satisfies?

Sometimes we live from holiday to high point at the speed of light, only slowing in between to think about what we can look forward to next. Alternately, we might be overcome with the sense that the holidays and high points are never really happy or high. Either way, there may be an underlying discomfort and a dull murmur in us whispering that nothing is quite as it should be.

Problems that are problems before the holidays continue to press pain into our lives “post” the moments of celebration. Post—covid, election, football game, shopping excursion, Thanksgiving or vacation, there are still bills to pay, the food is cold, the house is a mess and we still hurt.

When blame doesn’t ease the disquiet, we slowly begin to admit that the issue could be inside, instead of out there. Disappointment can leave us cynical, fearful, hidden, angry, discouraged, resentful, tired and ungrateful. How do we find our way back to the abundant life? Is there a way to fill up that top half of the glass and experience the full life God promised?

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10, NKJV)

There’s not a to-do list instructing us to a fuller, freer life. If there were such a list, most of us would start checking it off with fervor. If we are honest, we know that to-do lists don’t discern God’s will. We have to transfer from our ‘to-dos’ to His ‘to-dones’. There’s not a self-help seminar, but a Savior; not a 12 step group, but a Guide; not a detailed plan, but a purpose for you and for me. There’s not a formula. There’s a Friend.

Do we expect deep, unwavering joy from events, things and people? Or is our expectation on the One who never wavers? Are we pouring our hope into things that change like the wind or into Jesus, our anchor?

Maybe your soul feels homeless. Perhaps your emotions have felt like flat cardboard and you’ve been looking for something in the holidays, the games, the relationship, the job, the addiction, the affair, the church work, but it all seems useless. Maybe you feel like your life feels fake or plastic. Faith makes God a home for the soul, hope for the heart, peace in the pain. Big faith expects from God in every small thing. Go to Him. Learn of Him. Rest in Him. Expect Him to love you.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

**“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:** What expectation do you need to shift from yourself or others to the Lord?

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear Lord God, thank you for Your faithfulness. I worship You. I trust You. I declare that You are faithful, good, loving and your Kingdom endures forever. All my hope is in You, I praise You for Your forgiveness and unfailing love. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

**Yours in Christ, Pastor King**