

September 2024 Monthly Devotional

GETTING THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

Our scripture text today, highlights the Apostle Paul's prayer for our eyes to be opened, or *enlightened*, to the hope to which we have been called. He's praying for us to see how God sees us, and what He has called us to with more clarity. I'm encouraged today, to focus our attention on seeing *ourselves* in a new light. To clearly see who God has called us to be.

How we view ourselves is of utmost importance. We typically portray the image we see. If for instance, we see ourselves as a failure, we may resist pursuing our dreams and aspirations out of fear of failing and possible judgement from those around us. If we've been hurt by the words or actions of others, we may become withdrawn and even become fearful of entering new relationships in effort to avoid being hurt yet again. The common denominator is fear. Fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of hoping, fear of believing. I know at this point I probably don't even have to quote it because as children of God, we already know... *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV) AMEN!*

Allowing negativity to overshadow truth can cloud the reflection we see in the mirror staring back at us each day. Enter the need for some much-needed enlightenment! Let's consider our Scripture text again in light of our perspective concerning ourselves. The apostle Paul prays for the eyes of our heart to be flooded with light! John 8:32 tells us, *And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" (NLT) Will we allow the voice of past failures, or negative opinions of others to rise above the truth of God's Word crushing us beneath their weight? Or will we arise to see with new eyes the view from on high? Will we dare to embrace God's perspective?

The word perspective in its basic form addresses the aspect of one's mental view of a given situation, or the facts being set before them. What mental image have you been rehearsing in your mind's eye? Is it the picture of a past failure that still holds you captive? Or has the sting of a broken relationship stolen away your self-confidence? I encourage you today, let it go! Whose report will you believe?

Getting the Right Perspective

If you've yet to see and embrace the beauty that lies within you, stay before the mirror of God's Word until your understanding is enlightened, and you emerge anew with a fresh perspective of the uniqueness and beauty that's you! Let the water of God's Word wash away every lie and past pain.

Let's begin to recognize and fully embrace the woman God has called us to be knowing that through Christ, we can fulfill our God given purpose, walk out our destiny, and fully experience the hope of His calling! Praise be to God! Yes, it is possible to have, and *keep* the right perspective. It's all about who's report we choose to believe.

We can say, as Joshua said, I'm going to believe the report of the Lord! Boldly declare, "The eyes of my understanding have been enlightened. I see with the eyes of faith the fulfillment of God's promises as if they are already fulfilled. I will not bow to the voice of doubt and negativity. I will not bow to defeat. I choose to believe the Word of the Lord"!

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
Philippians 4:8 (NLT)