

TOPIC: IN THE EYES OF THE LORD

I must accept God's opinion of me and live my life according to His word.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ The Bible describes God as omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful, and as omniscient, meaning He is all-knowing.
- ▶ God does not think and act in the same way that mankind thinks and acts.
- ▶ God's thoughts and ways are above mankind's thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- ▶ As an example: The world's financial wisdom says if you want increase you must save, however in God's economy, the Bible says, "give and it shall be given to you" (Luke 6:38).
- ▶ It is important for us to see ourselves in the same light that God sees us in.
- ▶ God knows the beginning from the end.
- ▶ There are times that God will make declarations about us that are difficult to accept.
- ▶ Gideon is a good example of this (Judges 6:11-12).
- ▶ The Lord looked at Gideon while he was threshing out wheat in hiding because he was afraid of the Midianites and God called him a mighty man of valor or a valiant warrior.
- ▶ However, Gideon struggled with the Lord's view of him (Judges 6:15).
- ▶ Gideon had two challenges:
 - He struggled with the opinions of others toward him.
 - He struggled with his own self-image.
- ▶ We should not let the opinions of others hinder the work of God in our lives.
- ▶ We should not let our insecurities impact the desire of God to work in our lives.
- ▶ When God makes a declaration about us we should believe and accept it.
- ▶ When God expresses his opinion about us, we should trust in his assessment.
- ▶ If God calls us a mighty man or a mighty woman of valor then He will enable us to become what He has stated.
- ▶ It requires faith for us to view ourselves the way God looks at us (Hebrews 11:1).
- ▶ Faith is the hope, belief or confidence that a particular outcome that has not happened yet will take place.
- ▶ Faith requires action.
- ▶ After God declared to Gideon that he was a mighty man of valor, Gideon destroyed his father's altar of Baal and built an altar to the Lord.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 17:1-6

- ▶ Gideon made an effort to discontinue the activities that he knew were displeasing to the Lord.
- ▶ Gideon also began doing the things that he knew were acceptable to God.
- ▶ Doing what is acceptable to God is faith in action.
- ▶ In the end, God made Gideon a mighty warrior just as God had declared (Judges 6&7).
- ▶ God made Abraham a promise and changed Abraham's name from Abram, meaning 'exalted father' to Abraham meaning 'father of a multitude' before he even had the child of the promise.
- ▶ Abraham believed that God was able to make him a father of a multitude like he declared (Romans 4:17).
- ▶ Abraham acted on his faith in God.
- ▶ Without faith it is impossible to please God.
- ▶ In God's eyes we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:35-37).
- ▶ In God's eyes we are victorious people.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Why do you think it may be difficult for some people to believe the positive declarations that God makes about their lives?
2. What challenges can self-doubt and the negative opinion of others present for the fulfillment of the will of God in our lives?
3. In what practical ways can we demonstrate that we have faith in the word of God?

Prayer Time

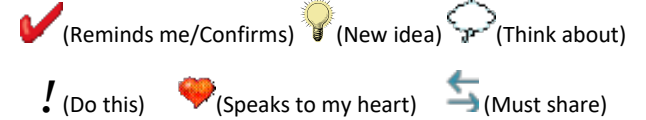
Lord Jesus help me to view myself the way you see me and enable me to obey your Word.

L.G. Ice-Breaker: In what area(s) of your life do you view yourself to be particularly productive and efficient? What propels this desire in you?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS
