

Seeing Myself Clearly

Lesson 2 of 4 in the series: "Seeing Clearly in 2020"

A. To make the most of this year, I need to see myself clearly.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children."

Romans 8:14-16 (NLT)

1. I am a child of God.

- I am dearly loved by God. (God chose to adopt me into his family.)

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

- I am forgiven.

"Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins." Acts 13:38 (NLT)

"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." Psalm 103:12 (NLT)

"I... will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again." Isaiah 43:25 (NLT)

- I am secure. (My relationship with God is because of His grace NOT my performance.)

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand."

John 10:27-29 (NLT)

- I have a new life. (NOT just a fresh start)

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live." Romans 8:11-13 (NLT)

2. I am a co-heir with Christ.

"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering." Romans 8:17-18 (NLT)

- I am righteous in God's sight.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

"Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault." Colossians 1:22 (NLT)

- I am being trained in godliness, so I look a little more like Jesus every day.

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, (conformed to the image of his Son) so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

"... 'My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.' As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children... God's

discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT)

B. Two things that will help me see myself clearly in 2020:

1. Time each day spent interacting with my heavenly Father through Bible reading and prayer
"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'LORD, I am coming.'" Psalm 27:8 (NLT)
2. Time each week interacting with my brothers and sisters in Christ through worship and small groups
"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Discuss the following quote: "The major strategy of Satan is to distort the character of God and the truth of who we are. He can't change God, and he can't do anything to change our identity and position in Christ. If, however, he can get us to believe a lie, we will live as though our identity in Christ isn't true."
Neil T. Anderson
2. What lies have you believed about yourself in the past, but you now reject? What opened your eyes and allowed you to see the truth?
3. Which of the following statements regarding our identity in Christ encourages you the most? Which statement is the hardest for you to embrace?
 - I am chosen by God. (Ephesians 1:4-5)
 - I am forgiven. (Acts 13:38, Psalm 103:12)
 - I am righteous. (Colossians 1:22)
 - I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - I am alive. (Romans 8:11-13)
 - I am secure. (John 6:37, 10:27-29)
 - I am being trained in godliness. (Hebrews 12:5-11)
 - I am a child of God. (Romans 8:14-16)
 - I am a co-heir with Christ. (Romans 8:17-18)
4. As a group, list some key elements of a healthy parent/child relationship (open communication, forgiveness, etc.). How do you experience these elements in your relationship with our Heavenly Father?
5. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why do we need other believers in our lives? Why do many Christians act as if they have no siblings?
6. Read Psalm 27:8. What obstacles keep us from scheduling time with God each day to just be alone with Him in a safe space where there is nothing to fear and nothing to prove?