

How God Sees You

Introduction:

How do we see ourselves? People can have a hard time seeing ourselves for who we really are. There are many ways that this life distorts our perspective of self. Some think way too much of themselves; while others never see enough value in what they bring to this life.

We know that either extreme of self-evaluation is harmful and detrimental to our hope. When our opinion is too high, we will refuse God's advice and be lost. If our opinion is too low we will see ourselves as unworthy of the good things God offers—and *for fear of failure they refuse to even try, and be lost.*

Because arrogance is well known as improper we will not focus on that direction today. Our lesson will consider the other side of the range, where people assume that they are not able to succeed. In order to gain a right and proper understand of self we need to an impartial and truthful source of information. In this case we will ask God. Let's open the scriptures to consider these thoughts

God Sees You as Worthy of Hope

Our first fact is that we must trust God's opinion; He certainly knows you better each of us better than we know ourselves. God teaches us that life is valuable. From the earliest days, God declared the value of human life; requiring the cost of life for life (Genesis 9:5-6). Your life is no insignificant thing—we *are designed and created by the Almighty*. God teaches that the value of life is its opportunity. We have one fragile life-experience to seek God and find Him (Acts 17:27; James 4:14). We cannot decide to please God beyond, or without, this life (Hebrews 9:27). God teaches us that our most valuable part is our true self—*our soul*. The soul of man is our greatest asset (Matthew 16:23); it is our immortal being; our inner man (2 Corinthians 4:16); and it is our true self (Romans 2:6-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

God declared that man is worthy of His hope when He: He loved us enough to send His Son for us (John 3:16) and He offered us hope through the cost of His Son's death (Romans 5:1-10). We also must see our value, based on the price that has been paid for us (Romans 3:21-26; 1 Peter 1:18-19)—*remember to take this personally, if only one soul is saved the full-price had to be paid*. The price of Christ's blood is the price of your soul.

God Sees You as Able to Please Him

God knows your limits and He knows your abilities. This is clear from passages like 1 Corinthians 10:13, that says temptations will not exceed our personal ability to resist them. To state such, is to state God's awareness of our personal ability.

Another passage that is very important for us to consider about God's knowledge of our ability is 2 Peter 3:9. We are told, "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*" God expects; therefore we must be "able".

God offers the greatest of all for everyone who is willing to have it. God does not tease or taunt—*He offers obtainable greatness*. The "riches of God's grace" are obtainable (Ephesians 2:7-10). A new and better life can be ours (Colossians 3:1-10). God's hope is for everyone who is willing to believe (Hebrews 11:6). We can do God's will; I can do God's will; you can do God's will. To understand our ability from God's perspective we must know; all that He has done is toward the hope of you and I doing His will and being pleasing to Him. We can know His will (Ephesians 5:8-10) and we are able to do His will (James 1:22-25).

God Wants to See You Saved

Some say, "*If God desires all to be saved, why doesn't He just save us, regardless of what we have done?*" The answer to this is that God desires true devotion; He does not want forced-allegiance. He has given us the gift of *free will*. We have the freedom to choose for ourselves (Joshua 24:15). We have been given the opportunity to seek Him, by choice (Acts 17:24-27). If we choose to love and serve God, our love will be true (Mark 12:30, "*with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength*"). Also, we must add that God is completely just, pure, righteous, and true and by the virtue of His own nature, He cannot contradict His established will. If He were to take people to Heaven against their will, or in their sins, He would have to break the rules—which *He will not do*.

The Father wants you to be saved; and to be with Him for eternity (Revelation 21:23-26). That is why He does not force us, but rather motivates us: with His love (John 3:16; Romans 5:1-10); with His promises (John 14:1-6); and with His direction (James 1:17-25).

Conclusion:

We must avoid being convinced that we have no hope of pleasing God. We need to see that we are able to succeed in all that we need to do (Matthew 7:21). To avoid the thought of being set for failure, we must see ourselves as God does: as valuable (1 Peter 1:18-19); as able (James 1:22); and as the focus of His hope (2 Peter 3:9).

You can please God, you are able—*if you so desire*. If you have not yet begun, why not begin through obedience, today? The opportunity is yours, right now, to begin