

God sees you... always... externally... internally... minutely... intensively... extensively... comprehensively... actively.

One of the earliest names ascribed to God in scripture was given by a slave girl, pregnant, afraid, abused and in despair. God came to her and prescribed her duty, predicted her descendents and pre-named her progeny. Hagar was so overwhelmed at God's awareness and concern, she responded in complete obedience calling the name of God, "The God who sees me!" – "El-Roi". (Genesis 16:13)

The reality that *God sees everything* is stated from the opening verses of the Bible. "And God saw that the light was good..." Genesis 1:4 This reality is repeated in various forms hundreds of times in the scriptures.... God saw... God looked... the Lord saw... the Lord looked... Jesus saw... Jesus looked... He saw... He looked... etc. Often, when sin is described, it is called "doing evil in the eyes of the Lord." And in the NT, we find the phrase "before Him" or "before His face" literally (katenopion) Ephesians 1:4 and Jude 1:24 for example. We are going to be seeing His face, in front of His gaze, before His eyes, forever.

I was reading in Luke the other day and was struck again by this text: **The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."** Luke 22:61 NIV

What was in that look? We know from the gospels and Revelation that Jesus looks with eyes of anger and eyes of pity, with fiery eyes of judgment and tear filled eyes of compassion, with questioning eyes of examination and sad eyes filled with infinite anguish. What was in this look?

Think of *this look* and what surrounded it. Peter, Christ's most vocal supporter, most constant defender, most intimate friend, most energetic loyalist, and now most inexcusable in failure to own his Lord. **"Jesus turned and looked straight at Peter."** Our Savior is never ignorant of what is happening to us. Our temptations and our responses are fully known by Him. There were no words spoken to Peter by Christ. There were no words needed. All was plain. All was clear. All was known. That look spoke more than any word ever could. Only one person saw that look. Only one person saw those eyes. Only one person could interpret the sermon they spoke. Eyes met. A heart broke. A sinner repented. It all began with one look.

John Newton penned the words to this song about "The Look" of Christ

In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear;
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopped my wild career.

I saw one hanging on a tree,
In agonies and blood;
Who fixed his languid eyes on me,
As near his cross I stood.

Sure, never till my latest breath,
Can I forget that look;
It seemed to charge me with his death,
Though not a word he spoke.

My conscience felt, and owned the guilt,
And plunged me in despair;
I saw my sins his blood had spilt,
And helped to nail him there.

Alas! I knew not what I did,
But now my tears are vain;
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?
For I the LORD have slain.

A second look he gave, which said,
"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid,
I die, that thou may'st live."

Thus, while his death my sin displays,
In all its blackest hue;
Such is the mystery of grace
It seals my pardon too.

With pleasing grief and mournful joy,
My spirit now is filled;
That I should such a life destroy,
Yet live by him I killed.

Shame causes us to hide our eyes. Grief causes tears to blind our eyes. Worry clouds our eyes. Sin blinds our eyes. Only Christ can open our eyes. It is in His gaze that repentance, forgiveness, and restoration are found. Bless Christ Jesus your Lord that His eyes are ever upon you!

Ps 33:18 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love

Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry

Pr 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good

1Pe 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Self Check:

1. Does the reality of God's eye being upon you often or rarely cross your mind?
2. Does the reality of God's eye being on you fill you with dread or delight? Why?
3. How does the reality that God's eye is on you affect your choices and responses to life's events?

Think about it:

1. Why do you, or don't you, look someone in the eye when talking to them?
2. What do you look for in the eye of another?
3. How many "eye" phrases do we commonly use. (Ex: "eye to eye", "log in your eye", "looked him in the eye", "caught my eye", "out of the corner of my eye"...) What is the meaning of each?

For further study:

Do a thorough study of the following words and phrases: the eye of the Lord, the eyes of the lord, the Lord saw, the Lord looked, God saw, God looked, Jesus saw, Jesus looked.

Check out these "eye" passages: Genesis 6:5; 1 Chron 21:15; Luke 7:13; Luke 9:38; 2 Cor 8:21; Rev 1:14, 19:12

"O God who sees, look upon my heart and reveal to me my sin that I may confess and forsake it. May I, like Peter, find my heart to melt before Thy gaze, that repentance may be mine in full measure. Leave me not in ignorance of my own need. In pity, show me my need of Thee and let me not be one of those who "seeing do not see" and "seeing do not understand." Open my eyes to see You in all your sufficiency, the eyes of my understanding being enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of Your calling, what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in your saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of Your power toward us who believe. O God that sees me, grant me the grace to see Thee face to face without shame. For Thy glory and in Thy name I pray. Amen."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.