

Readings for the week of June 16, 2024:

1 Samuel 15:34 to 16:13. Psalm 20, 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, (11-13), 14-17 and Mark 4:26-34

Have you ever been overlooked because of some visible feature; your age, your physical stature, your race, or a physical impairment, or some other reason?

The world sees us according to our outward appearance, but God see our hearts. 1 Samuel 16:7b says, *“for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

That sounds great, but after living our whole lives according to those descriptions of us, our skepticism may seem justified.

The human way of thinking and behaving oftentimes contradicts God’s ways. When we remember that, and are willing to take a step of faith, as we are instructed to do in 2 Corinthians 5:7, we will *“walk by faith, not by sight.”*

When we choose to live in faith that, *“With God, all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19:26), we can be pleasantly surprised by seeing God work in our lives.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

When we develop a lifestyle which enables us to spend some time daily with God in prayer, and reading His Word, He transforms our lives. He restores us, and He lives up to His promise to us that Romans 8:28 talks about. That verse says, *“And we know that in all things that God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* He is able to work in our lives to bring some good out of our past actions (even our mistakes), if we are willing to give Him opportunity.

When we turn to Christ and repent of our sins, He makes ‘all things new’ in our lives.

Psalm 20:6-7 says, *“Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed, he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand. Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.”*

I have read in numerous resources that when Scripture refers to God’s right hand, it is referring to His authority, power, sovereignty, strength and might.

God says that you are the apple of His eye (Deut. 32:10). He rejoices over you with singing (Zeph. 3:17). Through the spirit of adoption, you are His child, and His heir. (Rom. 8:14-17)

You are valuable to God, regardless of what anyone else says. Please live in that assurance.