

## A Few Thoughts for the Hunkered Down

Thursday, December 3, 2020

# Beautiful Eyes

*The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; <sup>23</sup>but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!* —Matthew 6:22-23

*Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,* —Psalm 33:18

In these days of COVID, I have been paying much more attention to people's eyes. With faces masked this is the only part of the expression which we see in public, and while I long for the days when full faces (and smiles!) can be seen, I have come to appreciate eyes in a new way. I have been reminded that there are a lot of beautiful eyes out there! It has also been a season to consider the miracle of the eye and of sight. Nature could not have come up with the eye by mere accident!

The Bible says a number of interesting things about the eye and speaks of them as though they are windows to the soul. This may sound silly and archaic to some, but think again. There is something very personal about the eyes. Having mentioned that there are many beautiful eyes out there, it must also be noted that we do not freely comment on someone's beautiful eyes. Why? Because that seems too personal!

The Bible speaks of eyes as portals to the soul, and these windows both absorb and project. Some will laugh to hear Jesus speak of the eyes filling up the body with light, but consider his words carefully. If our eyes are focused upon darkness, evil and gloom, will not our inner beings become dark and miserable, and if our eyes are focused upon Christ and the light won't we be people filled with brightness and energy? Let us be careful of how we direct and focus our eyes. The eye is commonly associated with desire, and many of these desires can get us into trouble! The eyes also project. They may project pride (Isaiah 5:15). In the King James translation of the Proverbs we find mention of the *evil eye*. This actually has nothing to do with voodoo or any such witchcraft, but refers to the insincere and grudging look of the stingy person. And what a delight to stand in the light of the glowing eyes of one who projects joy and caring!

Of the greatest importance is the matter of focusing our eyes upon God. The psalmist said, *But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death* (Psalm 141:8). As we run life's often grueling race, we do well to remember Hebrews 12:2 and the exhortation to *fix our eyes upon Jesus*, who has run

the race before us. As we focus upon our Lord, we can find great comfort in knowing that He sets his eyes upon us in a watchful and protective way. *Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him.*

This study of eyes leads inevitably to the great question: what do people see in our eyes? Do we have beautiful eyes? This is not a ploy to get the women to stock up on Maybelline products, and the question is very much aimed at the men also. Many songs have been written about beautiful eyes, from “Jeepers Creepers,” and “Angel Eyes” to “Brown Eyed Girl,” and each tune was probably inspired by a lovely eyed lady. But the most inspiring song that I know written about beautiful eyes was recorded by Amy Grant when she was quite young. The song is entitled “Father’s Eyes.”

*I may not be every mother's dream for her little girl,  
And my face may not grace the mind of everyone in the world.  
But that's all right, as long as I can have one wish I pray:  
When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say,  
  
She's got her father's eyes,  
Her father's eyes;  
Eyes that find the good in things,  
When good is not around;  
Eyes that find the source of help,  
When help just can't be found;  
Eyes full of compassion,  
Seeing every pain;  
Knowing what you're going through  
And feeling it the same.  
Just like my father's eyes,  
My father's eyes,  
My father's eyes,  
Just like my father's eyes.*

—Gary Winthur Chapman, © Universal Music Publishing Group

May God give us, His people, beautiful eyes, just like our Father’s.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

*O thou whose divine tenderness ever outsoars the narrow loves and charities of the earth, grant us a kind and gentle heart towards all that live. Let us not ruthlessly hurt any creature of thine. Let us take thought also for the welfare of little children, and of those who are sick, and the poor; remembering that what we do unto to least of these his brethren we do unto Jesus Christ our Lord. —John Baillie, 1886-1960*