

Half Full or Half Empty

June 24, 2018 – Pastor Jeffrey Farnsworth

INTRO – It's about Perspective

Seeing is a big deal. Seeing with God's perspective is an ongoing challenge for each of us. Learning to see things with God's eyes has become increasingly important in how I "see" being a pastor.

God gives us a new clarity when we come to Him.

Ephesians 1:18 "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance."

Perspective gives us clarity to see our life a whole lot better. We see ourselves. We see our problems. We see our past, our present, and our future. Everything gets a little clearer the closer you get to God.

When I finally realized that God was calling me to be nothing more than who he had created me to be, I felt a deep peace. Then it was clear that my past experiences, my giftedness (or lack thereof), my passions and interests would shape the way I would live out the calling of a pastor.

A great description of what it means to be a pastor: "it is about loving Jesus and being human with people as we discover God's grace together." That's a perspective that has the potential to lead into a flourishing ministry.

Your perspective brings potential to purpose!

Phil 3:10-14,

"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

This scripture urges us to truly "**know**" Christ in the midst of realizing how far from perfect we are and how little we have yet obtained, but to keep pressing on, away from everything in our past that distracts and toward all that gives life today and in the future. This way of looking at our life's keeps us going.

It gives us:

Perspective of your past / Perspective of your present / Perspective of your future

We all perceive things differently. When the message is going forth.... it is going into your ears and you are sifting thru it with what is going on in your life, your situations, sin and surroundings.

And as I preach it goes from my perspective and revelation of the Word to your ears and then you take it and apply it to your perspective of what you think of God.

If only you would stop relying of instinct and rely on inspiration and revelation of God's Word thru the Holy Spirit.

- Perspective is one thing, instinct is another

Meaning of instinct: an innate, typically fixed pattern of behavior in response to certain stimuli.

What are you allowing yourself to be stimulated by?

Don't let your cloudy perspective change your outlook!
 You can't step into the future and still think of your past
 Clouded eyes and dim lights

Perspective can bring you higher or help you step back to take another approach

1 Kings 18:41-46 "rain cloud size of man hand"

A greater understanding of God, brings a greater revelation to your walk
 The higher the altitude the more you see....

Isaiah 55:8-9 ""My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55 points us to the idea that God's ways and thoughts are beyond us. He sees things from a higher perspective. From a higher altitude, you see a lot farther than from the ground. You also see things you would never see otherwise.
A greater perspective gives you greater power to fulfill your purpose.

OPENING YOUR EYES / CHANGING YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Have you ever looked at rivers from an airplane, you've seen that even on flat terrain they don't run in straight lines. They go back and forth, making a complex pattern of continuous curves. The water on the outside of a bend flows faster than water on the inside, relentlessly carving out the riverbank, while the slower water leaves sediment and deposits on the inside of the bend.

These twin actions continually change the course of a river and the landscape it runs through, though changes are noticeable only with time.

Our lives are much like rivers. They seldom go in a straight line for very long. We adapt to the ongoing changes in our life circumstances, some of which come at us suddenly and others, very gradually.

When we look at our lives from this vantage point, the truths of Isaiah 55 and Romans 8:28 begin to mesh. When times are hard, we immediately want to know why, so that we can make sense of our circumstances and move on. Gods vantage point is so much greater, just trust in Him.

Yet God sees from a far more distant horizon called eternity. But quick explanations of what we're going through will always be inadequate to the larger spiritual meaning of our journey. God is charting a new course, creating something original with our lives—something of eternal significance which will only be apparent to us at the end.

Another amazing thing happens in rivers called "oxbow lakes." A river will sometimes take a looping detour before continuing on its course. At the point where it almost circles back into itself, bank erosion eventually completes the loop. Once this occurs, the river by-passes the loop altogether and flows directly to its destination. In time, the loop, or horseshoe-shaped meander of the river is cut off from the river's course, becomes an oxbow lake.



The Spirit of God works in a similar manner to shape us and slowly change us into His image. With time and discipline, things that hinder our relationship with God are eventually no longer part of the flow of our lives. They might still be part of our landscape, but they are cut off, no longer connected to who we are, to our spiritual reason for being.

- Your surrounding can corrupt your perspective and change your purpose!!!

CHANGE YOUR THINKING

Proverbs 23:7a NASB “For as he thinks within himself, so he is.”

- How you perceive God could either help you or hinder you

If you see yourself as a loser you’re going to lose a lot in life. If you see yourself as a victim, you’re going to let other people victimize you during your life. If you see yourself as not too creative, you’ll never create anything. If you see yourself as a failure in life, you’re going to fail often. What you see is what you get.

The biggest battle is not always in your circumstance, it’s in your mind....

Eph 4:23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

Phil 4:7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Peace is a perspective. A perspective is letting the eyes of your heart see.
God bridges the gap between your mind and your heart.

Change your perspective change the outcome!

You can be Mr. Incredible on the outside but be Minnie Mouse in your head!!!

Change your mind, change your circumstance.....

It’s not the Word of God in your mouth that is going to save me, it’s the Word of God in my mouth that will.

Change your perspective; change your landscape

You show me your friends and I will show you your future.

The way we think determines the way we act. And what we see comes out in our lifestyle.

- Our beliefs determine our behavior.

A lot of times were faced with circumstances, we create a false perspective, we make that situation worse, we just have to change the perspective, the way we think, the way we act, and the way that we see.

The problem is a lot of stuff you believe is just false. It’s just not true. Often we’re acting on false or inaccurate information about ourselves

- Your unbelief is a result of what you have heard

We all grow up with an inaccurate picture of ourselves because some adult tells you something as a kid and you think, “This is an adult, he/she must know.” And you tend to believe it whether it was right or wrong. You internalized that and

put it in your memory bank and you've operated on that false information for years and years. It's not true or accurate but we've allowed it to shape who we believe we are.

LABELS - faults truths

Take a different angle and things will look different

If you really grasp what it means to see yourself as God sees you, it will change your life.

John 8:32 Jesus said, "You know the truth and the truth will set you free."

So when we learn to see ourselves the way God sees us it makes all the difference in the world.

Human perspective is like being on a submarine. All is underwater and if you look out the window, all you see is blackness. God's perspective sees beyond what we see. We can compare His perspective to a periscope. He sees where the submarine has been and where it is going. He is not limited in His perspective as we are.

2 Corinthians 4:18 "So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

Immediately we blame the negative things said about our life on the devil or satan..... but that is not always the truth... It's not always the enemy ... that's not the battleground. Stop wasting your weapons in what people say because it is not what people say about you that matters, it's what you say about you that really matters, this is what threatens your destiny.

You won't be defeated by what they said about you, you will be defeated about what you say about you!

Jesus created the greatest illustration of perspective:

Matthew 26:39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

I don't want to go thru this to get to the other side

We do this in Life:

I want to know Lord that you are my healer but I don't want to be sick

I want to know Lord that you are my provider but I don't want to be broke

I want to know Lord that you are a Waymaker but I don't want to be in a hard place

I want to have a strong testimony and anointing but I don't want to go thru the hell to get there

I don't want to pay the price

Is there a way that I can get to where I am going without going thru stuff!

Sometimes your past will determine how fierce you will fight. How hard are you going to fight when going thru a battle?

Just because you buy a new car with the old you in it, does not mean you are new! Or buy new clothes and put them on does not mean you are new.

A new life comes from a new life and a new mind living in a new perspective of God's Grace.

CLOSING

Take a different perspective- step back

A storm could be frightening or but perspective will shine light on potential. The very mistakes of your past will become your vision statement if you let them. If you live out your mistakes they will become your purpose. God wants to destroy your past and keep you in His arms and design your future.

Times in life, we allow the perspective we have of life to dictate our every-move

We love to tell God what to do and how to do it, but allow Him to change your perspective and have a relationship not religion.

Don't let your perspective dictate the outcome.

Dictation without demonstration is destruction.

Religion causes us to dictate when relationship causes us to evaluate ourselves and change our words, mindset and surroundings.

Perspective changes everything!!!

2 Corinthians 5:13-18

If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.

Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

What matters in life is what YOU think about YOU. And there are times in our life that we need to allow God to shine his perspective in eternity to shine on what we're going thru.