
Do YOU See What I See?

Pastor Kathy Hill

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Acts 28:25-26 (The Voice)

Paul (*adding as they left in disagreement*): 25 The Holy Spirit rightly spoke to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, 26 Go to this people and say, “You certainly do hear, but you will never understand; you certainly do see, but you will never have insight.

A. Down

Biblical Reference: Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:2-3)

Why LOOK down?

1. Sadness of heart
2. Shame
3. Anger (Gen 5:5-7)
4. Guilt
5. Loss of hope (Jesus’ disciples)
6. Downcast spirit (Psalm 42:5-6)

B. Back

Biblical reference: Lot’s wife (Gen. 19:26)

Why LOOK back?

1. It’s familiar
2. The “Glory Days”
3. Fear of the future
4. Holding on to someone or something we should let go of

C. Side to Side

Biblical reference: Pharisees (Matt. 12:1-7)

Why LOOK side to side?

1. Comparison
2. Judging
3. Keeping score
4. Protecting your interests (worry)

D. Forward

Biblical reference: Paul (Philippians 3:12-14 CEV)

12 I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. **13** My friends, I don't feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. **14** I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.

Why LOOK forward?

1. That's where the finish line is.
2. Focus on the finish line to keep from looking back
3. So you don't trip
4. To win the prize – eternity with God

E. Up

Biblical reference: Abraham (Gen. 15; Gen 22)

Why LOOK up?

1. In anticipation (Rev. 1:7 – “LOOK, He's coming in the clouds.”)
2. To see your provision – Mt. Moriah “The Lord will provide.”
3. To see God's face
4. For strength (1 chronicles 16:11)
5. As an act of faith (2 Cor. 5:7)

2 Corinthians 5:1-7 (CEV)

1 Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever. 2 While we

are here on earth, we sigh because we want to live in that heavenly home. 3 We want to put it on like clothes and not be naked.

4 These tents we now live in are like a heavy burden, and we groan. But we don't do this just because we want to leave these bodies that will die. It is because we want to change them for bodies that will never die. 5 God is the one who makes all of this possible. He has given us his Spirit to make us certain that he will do it. 6 So always be cheerful! As long as we are in these bodies, we are away from the Lord. 7 But we live by faith, not by what we see.

1. You see tragedy... **I see a path for you to grow in faith and trust.**

John 16:33 (The Voice)

33 I have told you these things so that you will be *whole and* at peace. In this world, you will be plagued with times of trouble, but you need not fear; I have triumphed over this corrupt world order.

2. You see death.... **I see transition into your eternal home through Jesus Christ.**

Psalms 116:15 (AMP)

Precious [and of great consequence] in the sight of the Lord
Is the death of His godly ones [so He watches over them].

3. You see a valley, a low point in your journey... **I see a place sheltered from the storm where the most fragrant flowers bloom.**

Psalms 23:4 (NIV)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, [a] I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

4. You see lack.... **I see an opportunity for supernatural blessing.**

1 Kings 17:2-4 (NIV)

2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."

5. You see defeat.... **I see the end of your story and you WIN!**

1 Corinthians 15:57 (AMP)

...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [as conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

New City Church 3355 Old Jonesboro Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213 | 320 Dividend Dr., PTC, GA 30269
<https://newcitychurch.net/> | (770) 964-2138

6. You see suffering....I see an **opportunity to comfort you** as you cry out to me in your distress.

Psalm 120:1 (AMP)

In my trouble I cried to the Lord, and He answered me.

7. You see failure: I see a **chance for restoration and renewal.**

2 Corinthians 4:9 (NLT)

We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.”

Albert Einstein – “You never fail until you stop trying.”

Are we embracing God’s perspective as we begin 2021?

The Story of A Buzzard, A Bat, and A Bumble Bee

If you put a **buzzard** in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary **bat** that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A **bumblebee** if dropped into an open tumbler, it will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, there are many **PEOPLE**, like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. They struggle about with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that the answer is right there "above" them.

Luke 21:28 (AMP)

Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:28 (The Voice)

So, when the troubles begin, *don't be afraid*. Look up—raise your head high, because the truth is that your liberation is fast approaching.