



Family Devotion #32
For the Week of July 8, 2018

Beloved,

Below you will find an excerpt from a book, *how people change*, by Timothy S. Lane and Paul David Tripp, pp.36-37. Please read this information and be sure to meditate on the Scripture recommended in this section of the book.

Seeing with the Eyes of Christ

What you see when you look at yourself will condition your hope and shape your actions. Imagine a house for sale as a "handyman special." One buyer sees the house as it is: the crumbling chimney, the broken windows, the 1930s kitchen, the missing shingles, the outdated wiring, the roof that should have been replaced ten years ago, and the overgrown yard. He is overwhelmed by what it would take to restore the house. His shoulders sag and he drives away. Too much work, not enough hope.

Another buyer sees the same house but looks ahead to what it will be when it is restored. He sees kids playing soccer in the yard, guest laughing together on the wraparound porch, a wonderful meal cooking in the kitchen, the neighborhood being revitalized. Do both buyers look at the same house? Yes. Same possibilities? Yes. But only one buyer has the hope and the courage to believe that he can do what is necessary to make a new reality.

As you look at the “house” that is your life, what do you see? Do you see problems and get overwhelmed? Do you give up and walk away? Does the way you look at your problems cause you to be defensive and angrily pretend they aren’t there? Do you escape to into TV, food, busyness, or other distractions? Or do you see the problems through the eyes of Christ, with hope in his presence, his work, and his power to change you? In light of Philippians 1:3-11, how does God welcome you to look at your life and in a brand-new way? What does God want you to see? As you consider your life in light of this hope-infused passage, how is this moment a step toward the final destination God has planned for you? The process of change-the rehabbing of your house-is going somewhere. Of that you can be confident!

Philippians 1:3-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, **5** in view of your [a]participation in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. **7** [b]For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my [c]imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. **8** For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the [d]affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may [e]approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless [f]until the day of Christ; **11** having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary