

Monday: 01/28/2019

Aiding Our Ability to See and Perceive

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1 NRSV

We’ve been searching for a working relationship between the words: thinking, reasoning, faith, trust, ideas, perception, and science. A simple exercise can help us. Consider:

Most of us wear glasses. The prescription of the lens curves the light bouncing off objects around us into the back of our eyes where we interpret the light and identify the object. So wearing glasses is helpful.

Now, there are many things that can be seen properly by wearing glasses. And there are many things that can’t be seen no matter how good your glasses are.

Like what? Invisible things. And things in the past, or future. But wearing glasses is a good idea for helping us to properly see, to understand and know the reality of the things that are visible.

Exercise:

Take a few minutes to quiet yourself and invite God’s Spirit to guide your reflection.

Remove your glasses and look around the room. If you don’t wear glasses, perhaps you could borrow someone else’s glasses.

What do you see? (or not see) Take a minute to really observe, noticing what you’re able to see, and what you aren’t.

Now revert back to your natural vision, either with or without glasses. What do you see now? What can’t you see, even when your vision is restored?

Prayer:

Lord, I want to see what I can see, understand what I can understand, think what I can think. Are there areas of my mind that I’ve neglected to use under the guise of “faith”? Shine a light on those. Help me to use my mind as a place to reason and perceive what can be known, so that I can have faith in what cannot be fully known.

Today, as you wear your glasses or see other without glasses, cultivate a thankful attitude for what you can see, and a deep gratitude for your ability to think and understand what can be known.

Devotional by: Vivianne David

P.S. Vivianne and I came to know each other through the Renovaré Institute. Her ministry with Youth For Christ over the past decade has inspired her to develop prayer exercises that engage the senses in “interactive prayer.” I’m pleased to be able to pass on such an exercise, trusting that you’ll find yourself interacting with Dallas’ ideas in deeper ways.