

Ponderings from Pastor Paul

We are quickly approaching the end of 2020. It couldn't come soon enough for many of us. I thought 2020 would be a year of increased vision, or maybe at least good vision. What a disappointment that so many things have clouded our vision this year. Floods. Pandemic. Racial, social, and political tension. Confusion and chaos abound. Many have begun to live in fear of what will happen next. Maybe if we just close our eyes and then open them again, we'll find it was all just a bad dream. But better vision is not achieved by closing our eyes.

I wonder if the problem is that we are trying to see when it is our vision that is being impacted. Perhaps we ought to begin using our other senses. Let me get technical for a moment and explain what I mean.

Many of us have witnessed someone who was born blind use their other senses more effectively to compensate for the loss of sight. This was long believed to be learned behavior. However, various brain research conducted in the last ten years suggest there is an actual rewiring of the brain. When one sense is missing, the brain actually gives itself a makeover, providing enhanced abilities for the other senses. The brain essentially does not allow parts of the brain to go unused and reassigns those parts to assist in processing the other senses.

Perhaps that is what we should be striving for in 2020 and beyond, a faith rewiring. Contrary to what many may be feeling, I believe God has not taken from us this year. I believe he is providing a makeover of our faith so we may be more effective with what we have been given. It is an opportunity given to us rather than a blessing removed from us.

We are all probably familiar with Romans 8:28 (ESV) – “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” What if God does this by rewiring our faith? What if he provides opportunity in the midst of chaos by heightening areas of our faith that have gone unused or used less effectively? What if 2020 were not remembered as a year to forget, but one in which the Christian church locally and around the world is remembered for fulfilling the calling God provided?

I recognize it can be difficult to have any hope to see tomorrow when today is filled with ugliness. If your vision for tomorrow has become impaired, I would

encourage you to open your life to the possibilities God may be providing for you. Expand your other senses to find ways to share the love of Christ with a hurting world. Allow the Holy Spirit to rewire your faith, to enhance your God given abilities, to empower your use of those abilities, and to give you courage to step forward when you cannot see.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul