

## Looking Like God

Joe Slater

Do you look like God? Every human is made in His image, yet people's physical appearance varies widely.

If we had lived while Jesus walked the earth, we could have pointed to Him and truly said, "There goes God!" Jesus Himself told Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). But the Bible says precious little of how He looked except that He was ordinary (Isaiah 53:2). Fast-forward past the Renaissance painters who depict Him as an effeminate, stringy-haired, blue-eyed European!

Facial features, height, weight, and skin tone don't make you look like God anyway! Such characteristics may indicate that you have your parents' genes, and that may become more obvious as the years pass.

But the passing of those same years ought to make us, as God's children, look more like Him. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). That transformation is what makes us a reflection of God in His glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Look at Jesus! I don't mean His physical attributes; those aren't the point. Look at His attitude; see His love; ponder His purpose; observe His selfless sacrifice. You ought to be notably more like Him than you were a year ago . . . five years ago . . . ten years ago.

Do you look like God?

## How Strong Is Your Rope?

In his book, *A Grief Observed*, C. S. Lewis said, "You never know how much you really believe until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?"

Consider three questions: What kind of faith do you have in God and His word? Has your faith been tested yet? Have you been in that situation where it is a matter of life and death, hanging over that precipice? If your faith has not yet been tested, you can be sure that the time is coming when it will be tested.

James said, "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*" (James 2:17-20).

Is your faith dead or alive? "*Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*" (James 2:21-24). Abraham was ready. His rope held, even to the point of sacrificing Isaac. How strong is your rope? Will it hold? If not, now is the time to strengthen it!

--Bob Prichard (via *Bulletin Gold*)

## Raising Children

I heard someone say a few days ago, "See, that just goes to show you that you can raise your kids in church all you want to, but....." and it literally shattered my heart. All because that kid had made a mistake. All because that kid's sin was brought to light.

Let me just tell you..... We don't raise our kids in church so they can grow up perfect. We don't raise our kids in church because it magically makes them unable to sin or holier-than-thou.

We do, however, raise our kids in church so *when* they mess up and *when* they fall short, they know just who to run to. So they know that their Lord and Savior will *never* leave nor forsake them no matter how big or small their mess-up might be.

So they know their Heavenly Father will always leave the 99 if they are that ONE that needs saving.

So they will know what grace is like and give it out freely.

So they will know the unconditional love of their Father and love those around them just the same regardless of anything else.

So they know that there is absolutely NOTHING in this world they could do that our Saviors blood hasn't already covered.

I will never apologize for raising my children in church. I will never apologize for making sure our family makes church a priority over anything else. Because it's more than just a song and a sermon. It's more than just a memorized Bible verse in Sunday School. It's for when this cruel world we live in comes knocking on their door, they personally know the solid rock on which they stand.

--Debbie Bignar (via *Facebook*)