



FRED BISCHOFF
adventist pioneer library

FAITH SIGHT

WHEN YOU READ words that are effective in describing something, you can picture it in your imagination. “See ye the word of the LORD” (Jeremiah 2:31). This “seeing” is not simply letters on a page. God is asking us to see the story—His history with us—realities our physical eyes cannot see.

Recall Moses’ story, summarized in Hebrews 11:27. He “endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.” He had evidence for God, but he had not yet seen God, and thus it was “by

WHY IS IT A FIGHT? BECAUSE WE ARE ALL IMMERSSED IN A “BIG FIGHT”

faith” he saw Him, and endured the coming diversions of his mission. Those evidences that come to us from the past—others’ stories and our own—give us the picture of God that we need.

Paul described it. “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” (1 Timothy 6:12). Why is it a fight? Because we are all immersed in a “big fight”—what we call the great

controversy that began over rejecting the evidence. The word “fight” actually comes from the idea of being led together for a contest. One might think he can avoid the fight by going off on his own. But the conflict is especially internal! (Romans 7:17-20). The angels also had the same basic challenge at a different level. There were things they could not “see,” so they had to “see . . . the word of the LORD.”

However, there is a picture, a part of the story that can draw us into and through the unavoidable fight in a way to assure victory, so we can “lay hold on eternal life.” “Let the mind’s eye be directed to ‘the Lamb of God . . .’” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 250). Again, “The glory of God is to be kept before the mind’s eye . . .” (*Review and Herald*, May 17, 1898). The picture for faith to see continually is the one God Himself has projected in Christ throughout Scripture.

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). We are able to *walk*

by faith because we can see what we need to. “All who sincerely believe that the living oracles of God mean just what they say, will act that faith” (*Review and Herald*, May 17, 1898).

THERE WERE THINGS THEY COULD NOT “SEE,” SO THEY HAD TO “SEE . . . THE WORD OF THE LORD.”

In His word, God conveys the pictures we need to see, His faith working by love, in practical settings, extremely varied. As we dwell on these pictures of what He’s like and how He functions, and we *agree*, we are empowered to respond in kind—“from faith to faith”—literally “out of faith into faith” (Roman 1:17). We then will “walk in the light, as He is in the light” (1 John 1:7). Praise God for His faith revealed through His Word!

ELAINE THOMPSON
youth leader

I CAN SEE WITH NEW EYES

THERE I WAS two years ago, praying, “God I want to know truth. Can you please reveal Yourself to me? I don’t want to learn culture or traditions. I just want to know YOU.” So starting with the Bible, I set out to challenge the beliefs, culture and traditions I have been schooled in as an Adventist. And what an amazing and refreshing journey it has turned out to be! When you take everything off the table and start over from the Bible, it creates a depth of understanding regarding why you believe what you believe.

One thing that really emerged and has become a huge passion for me over these two years is creating a thirst in the minds and hearts of people, especially children, to seek after God. I have three cousins between the ages of four and eight

years old. The more I watch them grow, the more I want them to be attracted to the character of Jesus instead of to Barbie, Sonic, Spiderman and Princesses. I desire for them to be like Jesus, when at 12 years of age, He held preachers, lawyers and scholars in awe of His knowledge of God and truth. I have wondered, why not them, and why not every child? Why is it that they are not empowered to feel that they can know and express their love for God in an intellectual manner? The more I thought about it, the more I saw how exposure determines interest. Television, music, movies, billboards, flyers, apps, and even buses, portray the images of superheroes and princesses as being cool, beautiful and current. Then I thought, do I really see God as beautiful? Do I see God as cool, current and relevant? Sadly enough the answer was no,

I don’t! So if I as an adult don’t see God as cool, relevant and current, how can a child?

So I started to explore how I see God, and to think about why I see Him the way I do. In this search I found the book, *See with New Eyes*, by Ty Gibson. From the first chapter, “Meeting My Father,” to the last chapter, “Feel What You See,” I was challenged to examine the traditional, cultural and spiritual roots of what influences how I relate to God. I know this might not sound profound, but I read on page 13 that “love mandates freedom.” The first thought that came into my mind was, God is love, and therefore God mandates freedom. If God is love and love mandates freedom, then God’s words and commandments are not rules of restriction, but rather, rules of *LIBERTY*. If I could have bounced off walls and the roof at the moment of this realization,

HE WAS THE WORD OF GOD

“By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God—God’s thought made audible.”

Ellen White
Desire of Ages, p. 19

TRUTH = FREEDOM

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:32

John 8:32

NO DARKNESS

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:5

I would have. Why? Because as a teen and even as a young adult, I told God that there were aspects of the Bible that I could not resonate with. For those things I would determine how I would deal with them, because His rules did not fit into my reality. At this point, *See With New Eyes* became my bread and butter for the next few days. Every spare moment I had, I read.

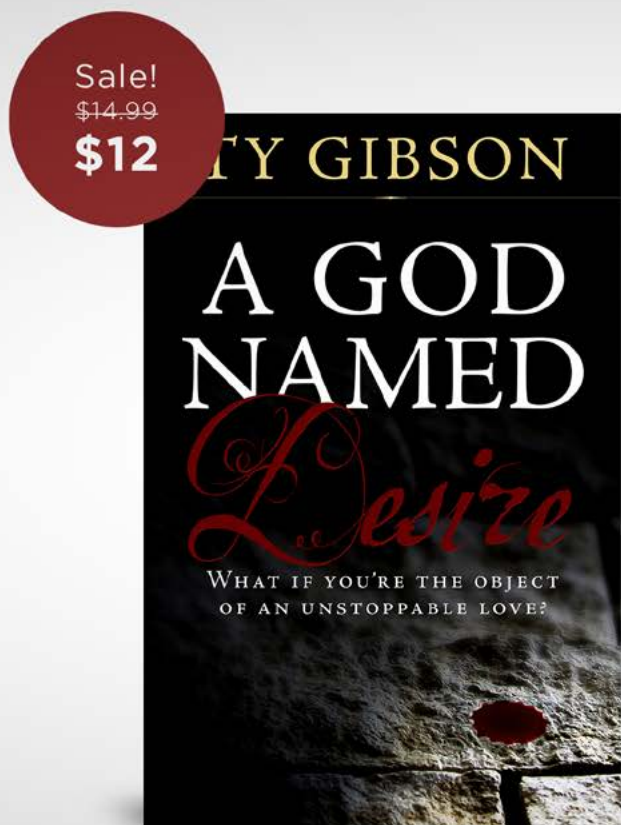
I learned that eternal life can be experienced here on earth. Yes, you read that right. Here and now in this world—because eternal life means to “know God and Jesus Christ” (John 17:3).

I was also challenged to ask myself the question, am I

comfortable “looking” like God? If others were to see in me the same characteristics that Christ manifested upon this earth, would I be proud of what they’d see? If not, then why not? And if not, why am I saying I am a Christian? The whole purpose of salvation is so that I can be one with Him just as He was one with the Father (John 17:21-23). Quickly, I realized that I needed to see God with new eyes. If God is not so cool and wonderful that I would want to be like Him, then I have missed the essence of who He is.

The intensity of desiring to love like God loves (1 Corinthians 13) created a pull on my heart to stop

being afraid of embracing my true identity, to stop being reluctant to live biblically in a culturally relevant, cool, fresh and modern way, and to stop being shy about taking my identity to the streets—to the corporate sector, to church. And most importantly, for the children I minister to as the Adventurer Club director and Cradle Roll teacher, I believe it is my mission to present God in a new light to children ages 0 to 9.



rediscover
GOD

NOW IN PAPERBACK

COME SEE US!

JULY 1-5

Light Bearers Convocation
Jasper, OR
www.lightbearers.org / 541.988.3333
James Rafferty, Ty Gibson, David
Asscherick, Jeffrey Rosario & Risë Rafferty

JULY 9-12

1888 Study Committee Conference
Andrews University, MI
866.945.4523 / info@1888msc.org
James Rafferty & Fred Bischoff

JULY 23-25

Central California Conference Camp Meeting
Soquel, CA
ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting
James Rafferty & Jeffrey Rosario

JULY 24

Hope Church Channel LIVE, 7pm (PST)
www.hopetv.org/watch
James Rafferty

AUGUST 2-9

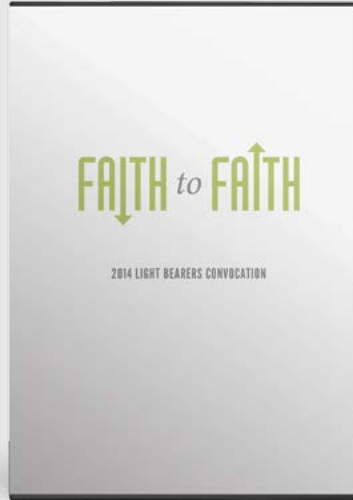
South Caribbean Conference Camp Meeting
Tobago
868.662.7024 / info@trinidadadventist.org
Ty Gibson

AUGUST 9

ASI National Convention
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asiministries.org
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