

QUARANTINE REFLECTION 16

 Suddenly I See, suddenly I see, This is what I wanna be KT Tunstall

I wrote last week about touch and how important it is to us and that obviously got me to think about our other senses and how aware we of them and are they recognised in the bible and if so how, where and in what context.

Well you would think I'd jump up and start my research straight away but I didn't it was merely a thought and there it was parked for the best part of a week although it did fleetingly pop up again on Thursday evening.

Why Thursday? Well, I'd been a bit moody last week being confined to barracks and not able to get out and get my own bits and bobs has made me snappy and irritable and basically not very nice to be around. Niamh my daughter who has been very good, bless her, obviously got the sharp end of my tongue. On Thursday evening my son and his family drove to the village with a gift for friends of theirs (abiding by social distancing rules) they thought it would be nice for my granddaughters to wave to me from the car and see me in person and I them. Oh what a joy to see them all but tinged with great sorrow too - to SEE them but to not be able to physically interact was heartbreaking and once they drove off home again the dark mood enveloped me once again. How could such a considerate act elicit such negative emotion?

There are lots of references to sight in the bible and I expect we recollect with some relative ease the examples of Jesus healing the blind, and the easiest to recall is the one of man who had been blind from birth (John 9: 1-1) the belief by many at the time was that this man was blind perhaps because of something his parents may have done and there is much that is to be unpacked from this passage but for now we shall accept that Jesus physically gave the man sight. He was, in the belief and culture of his time, therefore healed. We obviously wouldn't in the majority of cases consider someone who is sight impaired to be in need of healing; indeed a fair percentage of the population has some form of sight impairment, you just need to recall the amount of people who wear glasses or contact lenses. For those where their sight is impaired beyond glasses enabling being able to have vision akin to the majority they find that their other senses are heightened and indeed see in ways that we, the majority, perhaps do not comprehend.

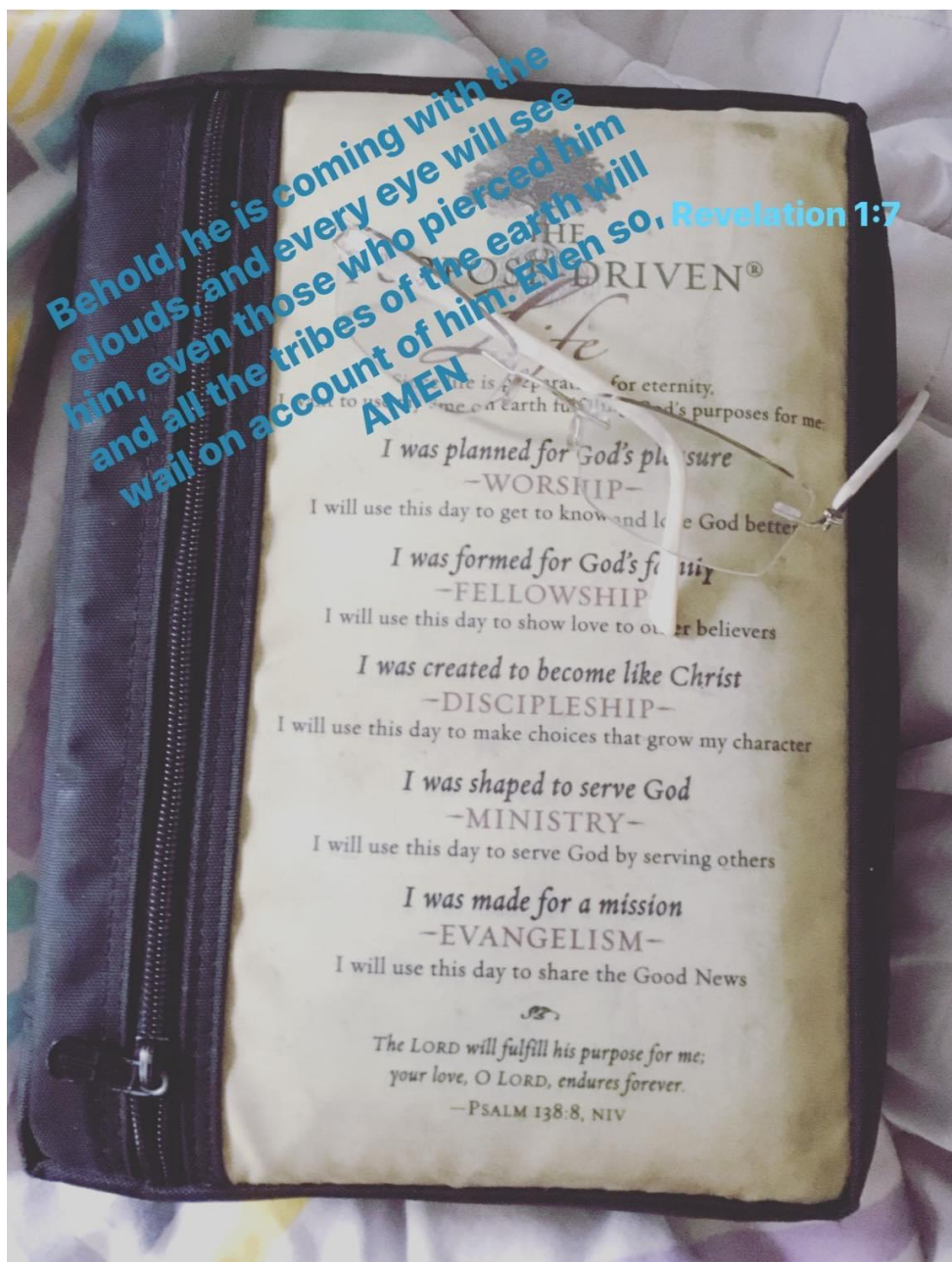
But seeing is not just physical it can be understanding or realisation - you know how those 'Oh yeah now I see/understand' moments....

I and a few of my fellow Christians will have been accused of having 'blind faith' and to some extent there is an element of truth there but faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something or a strong belief in the doctrines of a religion based on a spiritual conviction rather than proof (Oxford).

The sceptical among you want proof but how can I prove to you what I feel in my heart, how can I prove to you what I know to be true.... how can I make you SEE?

I can't really make you see but I can share what I feel and I 'SEE'. I can visually open my eyes and see the wonders of the world, the blue skies, the green grass, the mountains when we can get to them, the flowers and the fauna. Each of them wonderfully beautiful and miraculous in their being. My sixth grandchild is due in a few months and I can't see him inside Mummy's tummy but I know he is there. We know that he started his life so very small and invisible to our human eye, but he was there and he existed and we 'know' he will be a bouncing baby. We know our children and our grandchildren are all growing during this pandemic, we don't have to see it to know it. I expect there are going to be lots of "How big have you managed to get since I last saw you?" uttered by almost every adult as they meet all the young people they love and care for.

God sees each of us and he sees our vulnerabilities and he sees our joys and he shares in those moments with us too. My hope is that I exhibit some of the characteristics of a good person, a person who mirrors or tries to mirror Christ and that I might be in some small way allow you to 'See' Jesus and show you that he is the way, the truth and the light.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1