

Colors of God's Word

God's word is full of beautiful colors, and he leads us toward discovering the marvelous visions he has in mind for us. Many Christians live in black and white, thereby missing the richness and loveliness of God and his plans for us.

The very first words God spoke in scripture, when everything was dark and the world had not yet been created, were these. "Let there be light." The first commentary on the first thing which happened? "And there was light."

People have spent the rest of time figuring out just what that means for us. The richness of color begins with light. Jesus himself is the light of God coming into the world. The two are intimately connected by God himself.

The coat Israel gave to his son Joseph was the coat of many colors. It honored him and set him apart. It made his brothers jealous. It ultimately saved the nation of Israel from starvation and made them the nation they came to be.

Surface faith is pale and thin, and depends on circumstances. Deep faith is rock solid and sealed with the bright red blood of Jesus which covers our sins completely. Deep faith depends only on God and does not depend on the fragile and in many cases meaningless events of the world. As a pastor I have practiced and seen all kinds of faith.

Deep faith, faith of bright hue and rich vision, comes from walking with God no matter what happens. "The only faith that wears well," writes James Russell Lowell, "and holds its color in all weathers is that which is woven of conviction and set with the sharp mordant of experience."

Faith which is full of light sees the rainbow after the flood, the light in the darkness, and the white holiness of God as a blessing. We do not worry about current events, but see the past, present, and future of it as God longs to show it.

"Clouds come floating into my life," R. Tagore proclaims, "no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky."

Do you see, dear reader, how that color which only God can bring paints the faith walk of his people? Once we see it, even the darkness of a storm such as the one Jesus calmed on the Sea of Galilee has no power over us.

Your faith can be like a box of crayons that color the world around you. What would that box be without bright colors inside? "Constantly color your picture gray, and your picture will always be bleak. Try adding some bright colors to the picture by including humor, and your picture begins to lighten up." ~Allen Klein

Not just humor, may I add. Love, perspective, forgiveness, passion, character, trust, and hope can also paint that picture bright, just to name a few.

Thinking and living beyond single colors on a palate, we can find combinations which come together into wonder and a vivid walk with God in this world, and in forever.

Think in terms of colors which form things like this: "Sunset is still my favorite color, and rainbow is second."~Mattie Stepanek

Consider this conversation, from the book "*Matched*", by Ally Condie.

"Any other questions?"

"Just one," I say. "What color are your eyes?" I want to know what he thinks, how he sees himself - the real Ky - when he dares to look."

"Blue," he says sounding surprised, "they've always been blue."

"Not to me."

"What do they look like to you?" he says puzzled, amused. Not looking at my mouth anymore, looking into my eyes."

"Lots of colors," I say. "At first I thought they were brown. Once I thought they were green..."

"What are they now?" he asks. He widens his eyes a little, leans closer, lets me look as long and deep as I want.

"Well?"

"Everything," I tell him, "They're everything."

I look in the eyes of the people I know, and can see color or the lack of it. I see vision or confusion, hope or fear, light or darkness. God is in the business of injecting color and passion into our faith eyes. The result is evident to God, to others, and sometimes to ourselves as well.

The hard-fought recent presidential election is a case in point. Colorful, vibrant faith will look at either result and find light. Faith without color will find colorless worry.

Max Lucado describes worry like this. "Worry is to joy what a Hoover vacuum cleaner is to dirt: might as well attach your heart to a happiness-sucker and flip the switch."

God leads us to find joy in all circumstances. God says to us in Psalm 59:16 "But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, For You have been my stronghold And a refuge in the day of my distress."

The morning is after the night. The morning is the day after life gave us something, either good or bad.

I would prefer to turn the vacuum switch the other direction, and blow joy in every part of the world. Just remember, joy can only come from putting Jesus first, others second, and yourself last.