

September 26 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

Unshakable Hope: Chapter 2: You are stamped with God's image

Will we embrace our role as God's image bearers?

Will we live to reflect God to others?

God, our Creator, has made us in His image (Genesis 1:26). In Lucado's words, nothing else in creation bears God's image—only human beings. All human beings bear God's image—there are no exceptions. God tells us that we are significant simply because we have been made in His image. There is something of God in each of us. He stamped His name on our heart. He breathed life into our lungs. All creation declares the glory of God, and human beings reflect God's being. Sin has distorted God's image in human beings, but it has not destroyed it. We are called to reflect His glory by **forgiving and sharing and loving**. God is constantly refining us to be His reflection.

God intends for us to grow in our role as His image-bearers. Lucado uses an analogy of an old valuable coin smudged with dirt and grime, God has cleaned us up so we can reflect His love, grace, and mercy. God saved us through the cross not only for His glory and for our eternal good, but also for the sake of others.

The prophet Malachi tells us that God sits as a refiner and purifier of silver (*Malachi 3:3*). A silversmith holds the silver in the middle of the hottest flames of the fire to burn away all the impurities, always keeping his eyes on it so as not to have the silver destroyed throughout the refining process. The end result is a fully refined silver in which the silversmith can see his image. We are the silver that God is continuously and patiently refining into His image.

Growing as God's image-bearers transforms our vision. We see ourselves differently—as loved children of God. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him" (*1 John 3:1*). We begin to see others differently as the children of God that we all are. We overcome the distorted prejudices of age, race, politics, religion, health, wealth, or disabilities. We overcome how we treat even our enemies so "*that ye may be children of your Father in heaven*". (*Matthew 5:45*).

Not because of anything we have done, but because of God's own purpose and grace, He has saved us and called us to a holy life - a grace given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (*2 Timothy 1:9*). We are to embrace our call to the holy life, i.e., our role as image bearers of God.

Paul says, "And we all, who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (*2 Corinthians 3:18*). This calling into a holy life, being transformed into God's image is God's work of sanctification. As given in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, it is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are being renewed in the whole person after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

So how is this all done? By fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), trusting in the very power of God's Holy Spirit who dwells in the broken vessels we are, knowing that God gives us the heart to seek His face every day (Psalm 27:8)

A song to reflect and pray on:

[We Are Messengers - Image Of God \(feat. Vince Gill\) \[Acoustic Video\] - YouTube](#)