

YOU ARE **MORE** THAN SPECIAL!!



1. As you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see? How do you look at yourself?

2. When the Scriptures speak of loving our neighbor as ourselves, how do we love ourselves as we do our neighbor? The references for this from your Heavenly Father are found in:

Leviticus 19:18
Luke 10:27

Matthew 19:19
Romans 13:9

Matthew 22:39
Galatians 5:14

Mark 12:31-33
James 2:8

Some struggle with this area for various reasons. Two main reasons might be

1. We don't understand what the word "love" means in this context.
2. We really don't feel good about ourselves.

3. Do you have a "heart knowledge" (not a "head knowledge") on how your Creator sees you? If you are a child of your Heavenly Father, He indicates in His Word **many ways** and terms (which He uses) to get the point across in regards to your value and worth. We're going to focus on just one:

"THE APPLE OF HIS EYE"

READ: Deuteronomy 32:10

Lamentations 2:18

Psalms 17:8

These all deal with what God is saying to YOU! If you were to re-write these verses in your own words, what do you feel God is saying and wanting for you to understand?

As far as YOU being the “apple of His eye”, He is asking something of you in return in regards to this same terminology. Look at Proverbs 7:2 to find the answer.



Do you have a special verse (that you may treasure) which your Heavenly Father has revealed to you at some time in order to let you know your “God worth?” Write that here.

If you don't have one at this point, can you find a Scripture that speaks of your “God worth” which could help you (or anyone else) so that they would understand that they are a **VIP** as well?

As you have considered that you are the “APPLE OF HIS EYE”, have you gained any new perspective or understanding of your worth?

SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF:

The word “neighbor” used in these Scripture references is used synonymous with “fellow creature.”

The love of our neighbor springs from the love of God as its source.

Self-love (as it is generally called) has been grievously declaimed against, even by religious people. In today’s society (and we sometimes get “caught up” in this thinking), to love oneself is to gratify our carnal appetites and passions. This is NOT what our Heavenly Father meant as given in His Word. Those who govern their lives by self-love Scripturally, will devote their whole soul to God and earnestly and constantly seek all his peace, happiness, and salvation in the enjoyment of God, and from that it flows down to where we encourage others (our “neighbors”) in that as well. A key factor to this in Mark 12:31-33: “And you shall love the Lord your God out of and with your whole heart and out of and with all of your soul (your life) and out of and with all your mind (your faculty of thought and your moral understanding) and out of and with all your strength. this is the **first** and principal commandment.” Verse 31 goes on to say “The second IS LIKE IT...” If something is “like it”...that means it is the same as.

THE APPLE OF HIS EYE:

Deut. 32:10: How special we are! When we were yet living in sin (Egypt), He was searching for us and He found us in that “desert land”. That place (that barren, howling wilderness) is where our enemy (Satan) has us and is attempting to destroy us. He has us enslaved there, but your Heavenly Father found you and brought you out to Himself. HOW SPECIAL IS THAT??? Once He did that, He keeps you as the “pupil of His eye.”

Zechariah 2:8 (HCSB): “For the Lord of Hosts says this, ‘He has sent Me for (His) glory against the nations who are plundering you, for anyone who touches you touches the pupil of His eye.’”

You are precious to God if you are His child! Psalm 103:13 says: “As a father loves and pities his children, so the Lord loves and pities those who fear Him (with reverence, worship, and awe).” In this verse, pities means: to have compassion, to be merciful).

THE PUPIL OF HIS EYE:

When the eye is focused on a person, the image of that person is impressed on the eye. When the Scriptures (O.T. references) speak of the pupil of his eye the Hebrew word here is ee-shone: which means “little man” of the eye meaning the reflection of someone seen in a pupil.

The following is from **“Sayings/Expressions From the Bible”**: A person much adored or doted on, loved, held dearly, and central to the admirer’s affections and sensitivities.

Brewer’s 1870 Dictionary says this: “A metaphor based on the pupil’s significance within the eye. The theory goes that in ancient times the pupil of the eye (black center) was thought to be a small hard ball, for which an apple was a natural symbol. Logically, the pupil or apple of a person’s eye described someone whom was held in utmost regard- rather like saying “the center of attention.”



IN THE NATURAL: CONSIDER THE EYE...THIS CAN BE APPLIED TO THE SCRIPTURAL:

The eye is the opening which lets in rays of light into the retina where images of things or people are found. We've read that the Lord cares for us as one guards and protects and cares for the eye (which is one of the most sensitive parts of our body). So, in the natural, consider:

1. The orbit of the eye: strong and bony
2. Eyelids of the eye: keep the dirt and unwanted light out
3. Brow of the eye: fringed with hair to catch debris and too strong rays of light
4. Many layers surrounding the pupil.

Just as God protected and guarded the Israelites from serpents, scorpions and nations, that none might be hurt, HE DOES THE SAME FOR YOU!