

## Windows of Opportunity

*“For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part but then shall I know even as also I am known.”  
1 Corinthians 13:12*

One consequence of my avid online shopping is the deluge of junk mail I regularly receive. But among the catalogues, brochures and “special offers” stuffed into our mailbox is the circular, Orange County Living. While claiming to be a “resource guide,” this mailer dedicates most of its space to advertising aimed at the wealthy in Southern California. While I usually just toss these out with the rest of the recyclables, for a change I decided to flip through the pages of one issue. What immediately caught my eye was an ad for seamless, frameless windows that provided unobstructed, spectacular views of such sights as an oceanfront, mountain range or cityscape from afar.

The vistas portrayed were breathtaking and verified the window manufacturer’s claims to “bring the outside in.” However, I wonder about some practical considerations. How much routine maintenance is required from bugs and birds defacing the glass? Or how prone are these windows to breakage? Does a glass wall affect the heating and cooling costs as compared to a regular wall? But the most obvious question to me was whether or not these glass walls were one-sided. If not, the outside would indeed be visible to those inside, but guess what? Vice versa. Therefore, unless the view is totally private, passers by could view the occupants, their activities and their belongings. So while wealthy homeowners can certainly afford a window with a spectacular view, they may not afford the luxury of slopping around in pajamas looking out of it.

In contrast, we at our house enjoy much smaller windows with coverings. And even though our windows aren’t grand, I still love to look outside at nature from the comfort of home. While enjoying a seemingly private environment inside, I tend to assume that because I’m alone nobody is watching me. But this presumption is only partially true. Though thankfully Big Brother isn’t watching, we are constantly monitored on a spiritual level. Ever-present and all knowing God sees us right now, as do numerous angels (1 Peter 1:12). Therefore whether or not we’re void of human company, we’re nonetheless never alone, yet how many of us consider ourselves to be constantly under the spiritual microscope?

Now the watching eyes of angels certainly won’t evoke any special modesty out of me as when someone outside rings the doorbell. Decorum for the sake of these invisible beings seems pretty silly; after all what could I possibly do that would make an angel blush? Furthermore they behold something infinitely greater than us, the face of God (Matthew 18:10), and witness a spiritual picture unlike any human. Yet in spite of all they see and know about us, we’re not accountable to them; in fact in eternity Christians will judge the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3). Rather, our accountability above all is to God; therefore, to behave uprightly in thought and deed for His sake is entirely appropriate at every moment, solitary or otherwise.

So in a spiritual sense my life is like the view through a window; though partially obscured to created beings, it’s utterly transparent to God who knows every detail. And just as a window has boundaries, the boundaries of my earthly life are the beginning and ending dates in which I draw breath and exercise my divinely given freedom of choice. But the Giver of this freedom in turn demands responsibility; He knows if I accepted His gift of eternal life, if I invested my resources wisely, and if I loved Him and my neighbor as I ought. All such things are remembered and recorded in eternity where someday I’ll behold the window of my life from God’s point of view unobstructed.

Thus in every moment I should behave as if aware of His ever-present and all-knowing eyes watching in righteousness and justice, but also with perfect Love. And consequently, as a window shows light through its panes, the purpose of our life is to show the light of the Gospel and His Word to the world, that all may see the Son of God shine through us as the sun shining through a window:

*A window shows me nature, and everything outside  
While watching safe inside strong walls, from scrutiny I hide  
If I’m not wearing makeup, with all my hair askew  
The trees are no less green to me, the sky is no less blue*

*Yet gazing through the window, at everything I see  
I seldom fail to comprehend the spirits watching me  
A million eyes of angels, all view from skies above  
But only God sees everything, while giving perfect Love*

*From Him our days appointed, containing every breath  
Beginning when we first inhale, concluding at our death  
From Him cannot be hidden, a thought, one word or deed  
But far from looking passively, He meets our every need*

*He met me as a sinner, when nothing I could give  
Forgiven of my countless wrongs, my soul reborn now lives  
He meets me at this moment; the power of sin has died  
His Word and Spirit cultivate new purpose sanctified*

*Like windows streaming sunshine, is my life also bright?  
Are Truth and Jesus visible, to show the world His Light?  
The Giver of my moments will someday show to me  
What through the window of my life shined for eternity*