

The Lens of Love

Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O Lord. Psalm 25:7 NLT

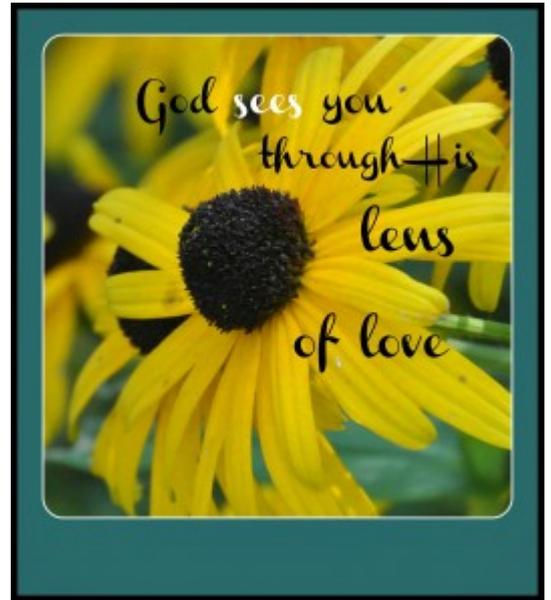
These words resonated with me a few mornings ago as I was reading them. I had to stop and go over verse 7 a few times to let it sink in deeply.

You see, for years I struggled with seeing myself as the same girl I was during high school, college, and my young adult years. Even though I was changing, moving on, and growing in my **faith**, when I thought about myself, the image of who I was in those teen and early 20s seemed to haunt me. While spiritually I was growing, my **mindset** was not letting me fully embrace those changes and was holding me back. It took me years to let go of this faulty thinking.

I hope this verse will convince you to not wait as long as I did, because ... **verse 7 is a life changer**. Perhaps I can explain it this way.

Photographers will often set the F-stop of their camera to a low number for artistic effect. It brings the desired object into sharp focus but everything in the background becomes a fuzzy blur, like in the picture of the brown-eyed Susan you

see here. And you know what, that's exactly what God does when He looks at each one of us. He sets our F-stop to a low number! Who we are now in **Jesus**, as one of His beloved children is in sharp focus. Those things we did in the past? Well, to God they're a blurry blip in the background of our lives. Yes, we may still suffer some consequences from those choices and decisions, but Jesus has removed the stigma from them. When we trust Him to forgive our sins, **God now sees us in the light of His unfailing love.**



It's time to move on from old, dead thinking. If you've confessed your sins and placed your trust in Jesus to bear the penalty of your sins, then God isn't the one holding you back. You are. When God looks at you, He doesn't see the junk in the background of your past. He sees His lovely child standing in front of Him in clear detail. Bask in His love and light today as the person you are now.

Feel free to share your thoughts below, or you can also contact me.

Pray on!

Jane

Jane VanOsdol's work has appeared in Pockets, Small Farmer's Journal, Woman's Day, Warner Press publications and numerous online publications. Jane and her sister Mary Kane are the authors of OnlyByPrayer.com and speak together at women's retreats and seminars. She loves gardening, knitting, reading, biking, and gluten-free goodies. Jane is married to Mark and has a son, daughter, and a son-in-law.

