

Wendy's June Prayer Thoughts

Piazza Della Signoria, the main square in Florence attracts thousands of tourists, especially during the summer months. It was designed by the Florentine architect Brunelleschi for the eye to concentrate on the grand Palazzo Vecchio (the Town Hall). However, it is was Michelangelo's carved towering figure of the young shepherd boy David, depicted alert and ready for his battle with Goliath, his sling over his shoulder, which caught my eye. It stands 17 feet / 5.17 metres tall, and weighs about 6 tons. Michelangelo at the age of 23 was the 3rd artist to attempt the project on the same colossal block, which had been extracted from the old Roman quarry at Frantiscritti, Tuscany, in the Italian Alps and abandoned by the others after noticing imperfections in the marble's grain. The figure of David was originally meant for the roof top of the Cathedral's east dome, but the Town Council had it re-sited to the town square, where it was erected onto a marble plinth. Unveiling was in September 1504. Gilded details on the sling, the tree trunk and the garland have not withstood the elements. It was vandalised by a political activist throwing a chair from a window, just 23 years after it had been positioned. The floods of 1844 also left their mark by causing cracks in his legs...

Three years later damage occurred from Pietro Cannata making a plaster mould in a series of sections of the nude statue. This was the beginning of reproductions now seen around the globe. Queen Victoria received a cast copy from Cannata, which she donated to the Victoria and Albert Museum, for the wider public to enjoy. In 1853 the body form of the statue of David was removed to the Galleria dell'Accademia for future preservation. It is on view to the public in this former 4th century hospital. Sadly even there, his second toe on the left was damaged in 1991 by Clemente Pape, a deranged man who had carried a concealed hammer. For its safety in WW11, it was packed in sand and entombed in brick. The replica of David standing majestically in the Town Square has been in position from 1910.

Michelangelo's David is a stupendous work of art, admired worldwide. David himself recorded his thoughts as to how wondrously he had been created. "I worship in adoration - what a creature! You know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made bit by bit. How I was sculpted from nothing into something." Psalm 139:4-5. MSG
God had a purpose for creating humans. They were not just to be admired. God spoke on the 6th day of Creation, "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish of the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth. Genesis 1:26. God had purpose in creating us. We are to bear His image, by reflecting His nature.....

.....God has blessed us with intellect, creativity, reasoning, speech, the capacity to make choices and our feelings known. Even more phenomenal is the fact that we are alive with a material body, and a living, eternal soul. "God formed Man out of the dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The man became alive - a living soul! Moreover God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good." Genesis 1:31 MSG. Adam and Eve marred the image of God by making an evil choice when they ate from the tree of forbidden fruit. All their descendants bear the scars of their sin. There is a restorative opportunity when we allow God to draw us back through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul made this known to the early Christians in the Church at Corinth. "Anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone, a new life begins! All this comes from God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then, calls us to settle our relationships with others. 2 Corinthians 5: 17-18 MSG...

Pause, and turn the above thoughts so far into prayer. Thank You all invading God, that the universe shows Your endless creativity. Thank You that You created me so wondrously, each part in my body connected to function with purpose. I'm blown away knowing that I'm created for Your glory, (Isaiah 43:7), personally formed and special; designed in love to be in close fellowship with You, so that and reflect Your presence and love wherever I am...

God continues to work in our lives through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 CEV. God's artistic genius moulds us and makes us a masterpiece to re- present Christ and bear His name... He has works ready and waiting for us to do. He is looking to us to pledge our willingness to serve and live for Him. It's our privilege to be used for His glory. Peter expresses this when he wrote: "But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priority work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work, and speak out for him and tell others of the night and day difference he made for you - from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted." 1 Peter 2: 9-10 MSG. Can it be that we need Christ to change us, so that we might take a step forward, and begin the task He is waiting to show us? Let us earnestly pray the words of Rend Collective - **Create in me a clean clean heart**

Create in me a clean, clean heart
Create in me a work of art
Create in me a miracle
Something real and something beautiful

Create a miracle in me

You're not finished with me yet
You're not finished with me yet
By your power I can change, I can change
'Cause you're not finished with me yet