

## "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



### LOOK AT ME NOW!

Are you the product of spending days, weeks, months, and years living with feelings that life is just one long struggle continually surrounded by rugged, abrasive elements and darkness? A life where it feels like everything: people, emotions, and situations have all conspired to keep you from experiencing the warmth of friendship, the glow of acceptance or the reality of being who you were meant to be. Instead, you have a life of being hemmed in, pinned down, and living in darkness and loneliness.

You may not have chosen to live in darkness, buried under unforgiving pressure. Circumstances blew or washed you into that place where it seems only darkness and hardness scratching away at your life.

That could well have been the early story of this little flower. However, it turns its face to the world today and says to all, "Look at me now!"

How come? You might ask.

Although lying in that crack, between a wall and a footpath, in darkness, under unforgiving concrete, it carried within itself the DNA of what it was meant to be and when a trickle of water found its way into the darkness, the seed started to swell, the light that penetrated down the crack brought encouragement and strength and growth until that day when someone stopped and in wonder knelt and with a camera said, "You are special!"

"You are special!" That is precisely what the God of love says about you, says to you. You might feel circumstances, and your feelings shout, "You are hopeless." It is not valid. The God of love, through the love and sacrifice of his son Jesus, has placed within every person the ability (DNA) to believe and say, "I praise you (God) because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I truly know that." **(Psalm 139:14)** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" **(Jeremiah 1:5)** These words of God in the Bible show that to him you are unique, vital and of value to him. He made you a person with a life of purpose and meaning to grow and flourish in his love as part of his plan to bring light, warmth, and purpose to your life and the lives you touch.

Just as God's plan was for that little flower to grow from the darkness and pressure of concrete into the light, so is his plan for you to grow in his love and bring life, love, and joy to others and yourself. Trust his plan.

God bless,

Kevin.