Dear Open Door Family,

If you have ever shadow boxed or played shadow tag you know that you can hit a shadow or step on it and you will not affect that shadow in any way shape or form. It is not substantial and real in the sense that we can hold and touch it. In many other ways our world seems so real. We can see, touch, hear, smell, and taste many different aspects of our world. In contrast, heaven and eternity seem very unreal to us and sometimes we have a hard time living with eternities values in mind. That is why it is hard for us to fully grasp what the Psalmist is saying in these verses.

Psalm 144:3-4 *(NET) O LORD, of what importance is the human race, that YOU should notice them? Of what importance is mankind, that you should be concerned about them? [4] People are like a vapor, their days like a SHADOW that DISAPPEARS.*

Psalm 144:3-4 *(NLT) O LORD, who are we that YOU should notice us, mere mortals that you should care for us? [4] For we are like a breath of air; our days are like a PASSING SHADOW.*

In comparison to the universe with the splendor of the stars and the almost unimaginable distances of light years, who are we? Psalm 144 asks that very question. Why did God take notice of us? Why has God paid any attention to us at all? We are not much more than a vapor or breath of wind. In comparison to God and his creation we are merely a vapor or a shadow. That really should step all over any illusions we have about our own importance. Our lives, as real and substantial as they feel to us, in light of eternity and the realities of heaven, are nothing more than a passing shadow. Yet the God of the universe, the creator of all that we see and all that we cannot see, still provided a way for us to have a RELATIONSHIP with Him. It cost the life of His Son Jesus. But through the death of Jesus we can come to God and ENJOY Him here and now and also throughout eternity. We must always remember that we are just a passing shadow, that this world is NOT what it is all about. We are merely preparing for eternity. We have to remember that the blink of an eye or the flicker of a shadow that is our life here will pass; it will come to an end. That is when the REALITY of Eternity in God's presence will start. What an amazing God we have. He is Worthy of ALL our Praise, Worship and Adoration. The old song said it this way: *This world is not my home I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door. And I can't feel at home in this world any more.*

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to remember that this world and everything in it will pass away. Help me to live with Eternity and the Realities You have promised in mind.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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