

PART 5 THE GENTLE POWER OF CREATION

We often speak about our need to know everything God has provided for us through the death and resurrection of Christ, but today we're going to look further back and speak about what we can also know that God has given us in His creation

Romans 1:20 NIV **SLIDE**

*For since the creation of the world God's **invisible** qualities--his eternal power and **divine nature**--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

Romans 1:20 THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION

Open your eyes and there it is! **By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created**, people have always been **able to see** what their eyes as such **can't see**: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of His divine being.

CREATION LETS US SEE THE INVISIBLE QUALITIES OF GOD

*Oh world invisible we view thee,
Oh world unknowable we know thee,
Oh world intangible we touch thee,
Inapprehensible we clutch thee
(Francis Thompson)*

WHAT HAS GOD MANIFEST IN CREATION? HIS ETERNAL POWER & DIVINE NATURE.

divine nature *theiotēs* - Divinity, divine nature. From *theios*; divinity.

**THE DIVINE LIFE OF GOD IS INTRISICALLY WOVEN INTO &
MANIFEST IN HIS CREATION & CAN BE PERCEIVED & RECEIVED
TO THIS DAY EVEN THOUGH CREATION HAS FALLEN ...
There is hidden glory in creation all around us ... above us ...
beneath us ... every day and every night ... WE LIVE
ENCOMPASSED BY GOD'S DIVINE NATURE ...**

Every day we wake to His divine presence in Creation around us ...

We hear His gentleness in the sounds of the birds ...

We feel the warmth of His love in the sun's rays ...

We sense the sorrow of His heart in the rains that fall ...

Like Sting portrays in the song, 'Fragile' - *'On and on the rain will fall like tears from a star'*.

We tremble at His wrath against unrighteousness when oceans rise and thunders roar ...

We are assured of His grace covenant when we see His rainbow ...

We sense His hope every night under the stars ... as

Laureena McKennit says ... *'When the dawn seemed for ever lost you showed me your love in the light of the stars ... '*

- HIS MERCY EVERY MORNING ... HIS FAITHFULNESS EVERY NIGHT ...

PSALM 36:5-6 NLT

Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. ⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O LORD.

Elizabeth Barret Browning wrote ... SLIDE

*Earth's crammed with heaven and every common bush
afire with God,*

*But only he who sees takes off his shoes; the rest sit
round and pluck blackberries.*

SO IT IS. NOT MANY SEE ... EVEN THOUGH ROMANS SAYS GOD'S GLORY IS CLEARLY SEEN ...

'Have been clearly seen', (*kathoratai*) To see clearly, perceive, discern. From kata and horao; to behold fully, i.e. distinctly apprehend. Passive; means ... it is waiting for you to see

THE FACT IS, MANY OF US RARELY SEE THIS GLORY IN CREATION AS WE RUSH FROM ONE TASK TO ANOTHER & WORRY ABOUT ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER ...

We remain stuck in our agendas and locked into our plans ... so that we pass by so many wonderful treasures ...

The angels keep their ancient places ... turn but a stone and start a wing,

'Tis ye, 'tis your estranged faces that miss the many splendid thing.

(Francis

Thompson)

THERE ARE MYSTERIES OF GOD TO BE SEEN IN HIS CREATION AND DURING THIS TIME OF RETREAT WE HAVE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THEM ...

WE SHOULD NOT WASTE THIS TIME ...

WE MAY BE LOCKED DOWN ... BUT WE ARE NOT LOCKED UP ...

WE'RE NOT IN JAIL ... WE CAN STILL WALK OUTSIDE ... LOOK AT THE SKY ... LISTEN TO THE BIRDS ...

A friend of mine who is involved in ministry and working a secular job said, 'I realise I get so caught up in the normal routine of life ... This is a great opportunity to turn aside and be still ... '

A few times I've taken Mum out to the Doctors when she has been house-bound ... and I've heard her say, 'Look at those beautiful trees ... They are so green ... How blessed we are!' WHERE AS I'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN MY ROUTINE ...

WE MUST TURN ASIDE TO SEE PROPERLY

Exodus 3:2-3

*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: (SLIDE) and [Moses] looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I will now **turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn**".*

WE NEED TO TURN ASIDE FROM OUR NORMAL ROUTINE

NB: MOSES TURNED ASIDE TO SEE THE GLORY OF GOD ... **SO**

MANY OF US TURN AWAY ... BACK INTO OUR ACTIVITIES ...

EVEN IF THEY ARE LOW KEY ACTIVITIES ... LOW KEY OR INTENSE
DOING ...

BUT IT'S TIME FOR US TO TURN ASIDE & SEE WHAT IS THERE ...

WE TURN ASIDE TO SEE A MYSTERY

Moses turned aside to see a burning bush and there God called
him to be Israel's deliverer ...

*We must look ... and keep on looking ... and look again, until we
see what is actually there.*

C.S.LEWIS

SLIDE

*What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and
stare.*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep
or cows.*

*No time to see, when woods we pass, where squirrels hide their
nuts in grass.*

*No time to see, in broad daylight, streams full of stars, like skies
at night.*

*A poor life this is if, full of care, we have no time to stand and
stare.*

*W H
DAVIES*

UNNATURAL CHRISTIANS

Some Christians are so caught up into super-spiritual intensity ...
into religious escapades chasing manifestations and prophecies
...

THEY CAN'T SIMPLY RELAX & BE NATURAL & ENJOY THE GIFT OF
LIFE GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN THEM IN DIVINE NATURE ALL
AROUND THEM ...

STOP & SMELL THE ROSES ...

CREATION IMPROVES OUR WELLBEING

Romans 1:20 NIV **SLIDE**

*For since the creation of the world God's **invisible** qualities--His **eternal power** and **divine nature**--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made ...*

WHAT IS THIS ETERNAL POWER?

Dynamis - From **dunamai**; force; especially miraculous power.

I BELIEVE IT IS THE POWER TO CHANGE OUR TEMPERAMENT & MOOD.

CREATION HAS AN INHERENT POWER TO HELP US LET GO OF OUR FLESHLY STRIVING AND ADJUST US BACK INTO PEACE ...

CREATION MEASURES US

Psalm 19:1-4 **SLIDE**

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.

² *Day unto day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge.*

³ *There is no [audible] speech nor [common] language ... their voice is not heard [audibly].*

⁴ **Their [measuring line] has gone out through all the earth** and their words (**mil·lê·hem**) to the end of the world.

THE JEWISH MEASURING LINE -

A PLUMBLINE (**qaw·wām**) - a comparison ... the comparing to a standard ... measuring up ...

WHEN WE STAND IN CREATION, SOMETHING MIRACULOUS HAPPENS ...

OUR WAY OF OPERATING IS COMPARED TO CREATION'S ORGANIC LIFE & WE ARE ADJUSTED ...

SLIDE

- **OUR FLESHLY STRIVING ... AMBITION ... AND DOGGED DETERMINATION ... STAND NEXT TO**
- **CREATION'S ORGANIC WAY OF GROWING & FLOWING ... ITS CALM ... ITS INTUITION ...**

HERE GOD'S ETERNAL POWER ADJUSTS US BACK INTO CREATION'S ORGANIC CALM ...

Creation doesn't strive to achieve ... It works instinctively ... intuitively ...

IT IS WRITTEN INTO ITS GENETIC CODE TO GROW & FLOW ORGANICALLY

Creation doesn't scheme ... plan or strive ... it just flows and grows ...

So, when we have been striving to achieve ... to better ourselves ... to try and become someone we think we should be ... WE FIND WE ARE OUT OF STEP WITH THE RHYTHM OF LIFE And ...

WHEN WE STAND STILL IN GOD'S DIVINELY CREATED NATURE ... GOD'S ETERNAL POWER WORKS IN OUR HEART... AND IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES ... WE ARE REFRESHED & RESTORED. AS WE OBSERVE & ALLOW HIS 'ETERNAL POWER' TO PENETRATE OUR SOUL -

TENSIONS ARE RELEASED ... ALL THOSE SINFUL PASSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVING US & ACTING IN OUR OUTWARD MEMBERS ARE EXPOSED & DISCHARGED, AND WE FIND HEALING AS
CREATION brings us back to the deeper peace of who we are organically.

THIS IS A PERFECT TIME AND OPPORTUNITY TO TURN ASIDE TO DISCOVER GOD'S DIVINE ATTRIBUTES IN CREATION ...

CREATION IS NOT CONDEMNING ...

IT DOESN'T CONTAIN THE LAW ... ONLY THE LIFE OF GOD.

THERE IS 'GRACE' IN THIS LIFE. (See 1 Peter 3:7 ... *The grace of life ...*)

JESUS SAID IT LIKE THIS ...

Matthew 6:26 **SLIDE**

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

3 THINGS

NB Jesus said there are 3 things the birds don't do ... **sowing ... reaping ... storing in barns ...**

THIS SPEAKS OF US PLOTTING AND POSSESSING WHAT WE NEED TO SURVIVE ...

IT SPEAKS OF US TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN SURVIVAL ... WE PLANT, WE PLUCK UP, WE POSSESS, WE PROTECT ALL WE HAVE. **WE BECOME DEFENSIVE, SUSPICIOUS AND AFRAID WE MAY LOOSE IT. IT BECOMES A DOG EAT DOG WORLD ...**

*I often walk through spiders webs as I walk Daisy down our long driveway ... I smash what that spider has spent all night building ... But I never hear that spider grumbling and complaining ... **The next night it just builds it again** and the next morning ... I walk into it again ...*

Jesus wasn't saying don't work ... The birds work ... they build nests ... they forage for food ... But they are free ... and do it without fear ... without manipulating ... scheming ... or plotting ...

JESUS DOESN'T WANT THE FARMER TO NOT SOW ... HE USED A PARABLE ABOUT A FARMER SOWING THE GOOD SEED - WHICH WAS HIMSELF ...

NO. JESUS WAS SPEAKING ABOUT THE WAY WE DO IT ... WE ARE INTENSE & UPTIGHT ... POSSESING THINGS ... CONTROLLING THINGS ... GUARDING THINGS ... DEFENDING THINGS

THE BIRDS DON'T DO THAT ... THEY LIVE INSTINCTIVELY FROM ONE MOMENT TO ANOTHER ... THERE IS FREEDOM IN THE WAY CREATION WORKS ...

JESUS SAID LOOK INTO CREATION ...

Look ([emblemsate](#)) to look on, i.e. to observe fixedly, or to discern clearly.

'AT' ([eis](#)) – INTO ... not just look 'at' ... but 'into' ...

WHEN DID YOU LAST STOP & SMELL THE ROSES & LOOK INTO ORGANIC LIFE ALL AROUND YOU?

AT THIS TIME YOU MIGHT BE LOCKED DOWN ... **BUT YOU ARE NOT LOCKED UP.**

You can still walk outside ... You can still look up and see the sky ... You can still stand under a tree and walk upon the grass. You are NOT LOCKED UP OR LOCKED IN!

THIS IS A PERFECT TIME TO LET GOD'S ETERNAL POWER ADJUST YOU ... MINISTER TO YOU ...

Psalm 23:2-3

HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN ... IN GREEN PASTURES ... BESIDE THE STILL WATERS ... 3 HE RESTORES MY SOUL ...

THERE IS HEALING FOR YOUR SOUL HERE ...

**YOU CAN COME TO A GREATER PLACE OF BEING
SETTLED IN YOURSELF ...**

You can come back to who you really are organically ...

**AN EXCERPT FROM 'WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL ME
ABOUT SUFFERING
(pp 141-142, 145, 146)**

'The morning sun had already started rising across the plant-lined pathway ... Directly outside, the newly planted herbs were swaying gracefully in the gentle breeze, showing-off their vibrant colours of yellow, purple and green ... glistening in the sun's golden rays and thriving in its warmth ...

'I thought, "Every day is filled with the *grace of life*. It is alive everywhere, bringing new vitality to all Earth's living things – feeding them with energy and light as the sun continues on its divinely appointed purpose of ministering the *grace of life* [to all these things]. This is a veritable feast for the soul – a culinary experience prepared by the Creator Himself, waiting for every person to come and partake of until their soul is full'.

'Oh, I'd seen nature before, usually as I rushed past with some determined purpose in mind, but unfortunately, I'd never really notice all the goodness that smiled back at me as I sped by. Indeed, like most people in today's "fast paced society", I admit, I took it all for granted.

'However, at this time, [because I was unwell,] it was as if a veil had been lifted from my eyes; as if my soul had awakened and, for a few wonderful moments, I was able to feed upon the wonderful *grace of life*.

'But it didn't end there. There was far more to this scenario than met the natural eye. Indeed, after seeing all this, I now began to *hear*! It was as if some unseen power had deliberately extracted cotton wool from my ears and I became attuned to the great

chorus of sound that accompanied all this wonderful array of colour and movement. I heard a symphony of nature, perfectly pitched in harmony, rising in pianissimo and falling into fortissimo within its non-chromatic scale. There was the sound of His promise gently chirping in the bushes, His breeze of kindness quietly knocking at the window – magnificent sounds, dancing on echoes, climbing on pitch, diminishing into distant drones, intertwining in the great orchestra of life – wonderful and alive! But it went even further! As I looked beyond my immediate view, I began to perceive the warmth of His love shining across the horizon; the long nights of everlasting stars dissolving into the welcomed light of dawn; the unspoilt days of Spring where the smell of new hope drips upon every fresh green pasture; the evenings of grandeur where crimson sunsets bleed with passion across the endless ceiling of life ...

‘I realise now, it is the privilege of the old ... those who suffer [and those who are locked down], to be taken out of society’s race long enough to find *treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places*. It is the honour of the frail and infirm [and those of us who will stop and look] to start to perceive these little things, these tiny things, these delicate and specific things – things we have already been given (never seen by ambitious eyes, but nonetheless always here and living all around us).

‘Jesus instructed us to LOOK and CONSIDER ...

‘This understanding creates in us an appreciative and positive heart. It is a healthy disposition to have and, it is certainly another step closer to [any] recovery. In this time of sickness [for me], God had stopped me in the tracks of my activity, slowed my life to the pace of nature and widened my eyes to see *the grace of life* everywhere. Every little thing now became rich and incredibly valuable: walking with my baby girl up to Nana’s house, hugging my two older girls, perceiving the kindness of others, and simply sitting and staring into the distance of endless skies. Ah! Of all men, [though I was still unwell] I was most blessed!’

SUPPLEMENTARY

Psalm 19:1-4 **SLIDE**

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.

² *Day unto day utters speech* and night unto night reveals knowledge.

³ There is no [audible] speech nor [common] language ... *their voice is not heard [audibly]*.

⁴ Their [measuring line] has gone out through all the earth and their words (mil·lê·hem) to the end of the world.

'Though they have neither speech nor language, nor any articulate words, yet they have "words" in a certain sense. Mil·lê·hem is said to be used of thoughts just shaping themselves into language, but not yet uttered.' - Dr Kay

WE ARE CONNECTED TO CREATION

THIS IS WHERE OUR HEART IS AT ... AND OUR ORIGINAL HUMAN NATURE IS CONNECTED TO CREATION. WE ARE A PART OF GOD'S ORIGINAL CREATION ...

WE WERE MADE FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND ... WHICH INCLUDES OUR BRAIN AND EMOTIONS ... AND WE ARE STILL CONNECTED ...

WHICH IS WHY, WHEN MAN FELL ... CREATION FELL ... (See Romans 8:20)

THERE IS SOMETHING INHERENTLY DEEP IN US, THAT IS ALSO IN CREATION ...

MEANWHILE, CREATION IS ALIVE WITH FAR MORE THAN JUST BIOLOGY ...

CREATION IS ALIVE SPIRITUALLY ... INTRINSICALLY ... AND ORGANICALLY ... AS WE ARE ...