

The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God

- The first scripture my parents taught me—before the 23rd Psalm, before John 3:16.
- How excited I was by the poetic language of the Psalmist!
 - + I didn't know what a firmament was!
 - + I had no insight into tabernacles or bridegrooms!
 - + But the glory of God speaks beyond even the eloquence of the words!
- Heaven and all of creation glorifies God.
- Isn't it exciting to realize that God imbues all existence with an eternal song of praise!
 - + The heavens, the stars, and the sun glorify God.
 - + They then pass the trumpet to the next day, which bursts forth completely new with the enthusiasm of a bridegroom leaving his chamber!
- Popular culture looks up and sees a narcissistic mirror, complete with astrological signs and a spotlight shined only on self!
- Secular society looks up and sees only the balance of natural law and scientific theorems, adding up to a universe of happenstance and chance.
- Christ-believers look up and see glory and wonder, the benevolence of a mighty God, and obvious proof of an active, living God.
- Einstein surprised many who assumed he was an atheist. He likened the universe to a library, with works beyond our authorship and order beyond our administration!
- But heaven and earth have another lesson for us: To hear the eternal, glorious song, we must embrace the silence.
- My pilgrimage to the Judean desert, between the Dead Sea and Jerusalem
 - + The silence was deafening!
 - + The presence of God filled all the gaps!
- Jesus understood the witness of silence!
 - + Jesus sought quiet places to pray, even risking temptation by the adversary to hear the glorious silence amidst the bleak and desolate.
- + He taught us to pray quietly, not loudly and obviously.
- + He asked those whom he healed to stay silent.
- + He was silent in the face of his accusers.
- Gazing up through the firmament to the heavens, not only are we surrounded by the majesty of creation—it is quiet, which allows us to hear the notes, the chords, and the choruses of the heavenly songs.
- The witness of silence is all around us!
 - + More effectively and efficiently a motor or engine runs, the closer it moves toward silence.
 - + Our immediate emotions tend to be loud, but our deepest feelings, awe, reverence, faith, and even grief tend to be quiet.
 - + How challenging it is to be thoughtful, meditative, or reflective when it's noisy! Even more challenging if we're talking!
- Obviously sound and language can be blessings
 - + We must communicate, share, and cooperate with one another.
 - + I've read that deafness can isolate people even more dramatically than blindness.
 - + But we can't bear to hit the pause button. We even get antsy in worship when there's silent prayer!
- Could it be that we could bless the Lord and all creation if we invested more intentionally in silence?
 - + What would we hear if we were away from the din?
 - + What would people share with us if we gave them the quiet space?
 - + How would our loved ones respond if we were slower to speak and longer to listen?
 - + How much deeper would our faith be if quiet were to write poems in our hearts?
 - + What glorious peace would we know if we didn't have to fill every moment with noise?
- I revere the word of God, spoken, read aloud, recited
- I rejoice in music and song!
- I affirm the power of corporate, unison prayer.
- I love to hear people speak, and let's face it, I love to talk!
- But perhaps we've too often overlooked a gift that glorifies God and blesses heaven and earth:
- Humble, peaceful, expectant silence.
- Listen! “The heavens are telling the glory of God!”



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