

"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31 KJV
"It Was Very Good"

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat" Genesis 1:29-30

God had created Adam and Eve. He told them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and they would have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moved on the earth. He also told them he had given them everything they would need. What a gift! It is ours today. How do I get it? I want it now. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 we read *"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."* 

This can be confusing at times but a better translation tells us that what it really means is that he is not hiding anything from us, but we just can't fathom it with our finite minds. I recently heard a question on how far the naked eye could see in the beauty of this earth. I was surprised at the answer when I stopped to realize that we can see the sun, and the moon. How often we put "God in a Box." Sometimes we do it through ignorance and misunderstanding. Very often we don't even stop to think that we have limited God according to our talents. We don't stop to remember that he made us and he made all of creation.

**"To see a world in a grain of** sand, and a heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, And eternity in an hour." William Blake

People today are still inventing, and finding healings. But nothing is invented without using what is already here in creation. In Ephesians 3:20 Paul tells us that God can do more than all we can ask or imagine.

We ask "Which came first, the chicken or the egg" Let's ask which came first the seed or the tree? God answers that question in Genesis 1:11-12



"Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so." That small seed is strong enough to break through the ground. All we have to do is plant it and care for it. God does the rest!

Plants are interesting. Some stay in the spot where they are planted, some tend to spread all over the garden or lawn.

Why do we worry about the lawn or our life? Eugene Patterson in The Message puts it this way. *"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. You'll find all your* 

everyday human conwill cerns be met. Don't be afraid of missing The out. Father wants to aive уои the veru kingdom *itself.*" Luke 12:29-32



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? Natthew 6:26 As I study, I marvel at the complexity of each plant and animal and also relive the complexity of mankind. Robert Frost wrote an interesting poem about walls, but it also teaches us a lesson about why we should or should not build a wall. Frost is questioning why in this particular case as he challenges his neighbor doing it without cause.

"... And on a day we meet to walk the line And set the wall between us once again. There where it is we do not need the wall: *He is all pine and I am apple orchard. My* apple trees will never get across And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him. *He only says, 'Good fences make good* neighbors.' Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder *If I could put a notion in his head:* 'Why do they make good neighbors? Isn't Where there are cows? But here there are no cows. Before I built a wall I'd ask to know What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was like to give offense."

From "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost

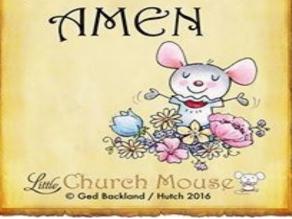


What can we learn from the animals and the flowers? Some are aggressive like we can be at times. Some are very docile. Some plants bring forth beauty all the time. Some are very dull and are just there; some weeds are beautiful. Some animals are friendly; some are not. As the poem states, the apple trees aren't going to eat the pine cones, or the pine cones eat the apples. Somedays, I realize that all this was created for me, but I need to learn to study it and learn from it. It is so much more than we could ever comprehend, but God gave us the knowledge to learn from it and that in itself is another beauty.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. Helen Keller

## A MORNING PRAYER

God, please enlighten my mind with truth, Inflame my heart with love, Inspire my will with courage, Enrich my life with service, Pardon what I have been, Sanctify what I am, And order what I shall be.



Prayer: Thank you for a wonderful, exciting world. Each day has so much beauty that I don't always take time to see. Help me to see the wonder of your love and realize that your love for me stretches for eternity. Amen

- 1. Do you stop to see the beauty in nature?
- 2. Do you talk to your flowers? Why?
- 3. What does it mean to "see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower"?
- 4. Did you ever wonder how long the sixth day was? Does it matter?
- 5. When you smell a flower do you ever wonder what made it grow that way and have that smell in comparison to another flower that has no fragrance?
- 6. Do we have a duty to teach the next generation about the beauty of the earth?
- 7. What beauty have you been given? Start with the ability to even breathe and think about the beauty of you.

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Cherish sunsets, wild creatures and wild places. Have a love affair with the wonder and beauty of the earth.

Stewart Udall

