

God's Glory
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Psalm 19

Here are some familiar sayings: *"If that had been a snake, it would have bit me!"* *"It was as plain as the nose on my face."* *"It was hiding in plain sight."* What do those sayings mean and what do they say about us as people? Ever been in a crowd of people talking and your ears perk up when someone says your name? Why do you think that happens?

The point: Psalm 19 (a Psalm of David) speaks of God's revelation of Himself to people. God reveals Himself constantly; the question is do we have eyes to see or ears to hear Him? When we have trouble seeing, optical devices can help us see what is really in front of us. When we have trouble hearing there are auditory devices to help us hear what our natural ears can't. Psalm 19 reminds us to pay attention to God's revelation.

The first way God reveals Himself to people is through His creation. Look at verses 1-6:

(NLT) — **1** The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. **2** Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. **3** They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. **4** Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. **5** It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. **6** The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

- Verse one is the headline: The heavens proclaim God's glory.
- Just picture David at night on the roof of the palace gazing at the stars.
- We often look at nature and ask, *"How can anyone doubt there is a Creator?"*
- Beyond the great outdoors, what are other awe-inspiring examples of God's creation?
- Verses three and four tell us God's creation speaks *"without a sound or word...yet their message has gone throughout the earth."*
- A "picture is worth a thousand words"ⁱ but God's creation is beyond description.
- How would you describe God based on what you observe in His creation? When I see His creation it reminds me that God is _____.
- For me, the word MAJESTY comes to mind. It means "Impressive beauty, dignity, grandeur, as well as supreme greatness or authority."^{ii iii}
- What keeps us from appreciating how God speaks to us through His creation?
- Illustration: 3D glasses vs a 1D view. Each eye sees a different image and tricks the brain to combine the two images and perceive depth, creating a 3-D effect.
- When we look at God's miraculous creation, we should mentally see ourselves putting on our "majesty glasses" to see His glory, His handiwork, His power, His divine nature, His MAJESTY.

- **Psalm 145:3 (NLT) — 3** Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. **5** I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. [Putting on our MAJESTY glasses!]
- God's creation not only encourages His people, it convicts those who need Him.
- In Romans chapter one Paul writes about those who reject God.
- **Romans 1:19–20 (NLT) — 19** They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. **20** For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. [We call that God's "general revelation".]
- God's general revelation is not enough to save someone (that requires trusting Christ through the gospel), but all are without excuse to deny there IS a God.^{iv}
- Beginning in verse seven David described how God speaks through His written word.

7 The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. **8** The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. **9** Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. **10** They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. **11** They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

- These verses about the value of God's written revelation have a similar theme as our study of Psalm 119 last week. We called it "hide and seek." If I hide God's word in my heart and seek to obey it, I will be blameless and blessed.
- In marketing the "features and benefits" of a product or service are highlighted.
- In these verses the Psalmist highlights the TRUTH and benefits of God's word.
 - V.7 – God's word is PERFECT (truth) and it REVIVES MY SOUL (benefit).
 - His decrees are TRUSTWORTHY making the simplest mind WISE.
 - V.8 – His commands are RIGHT bringing me JOY (**Psalm 32:1–2** "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven...")
 - His commands are CLEAR giving me INSIGHT FOR LIVING.
 - V.9 – Because God's laws are fair, my reverence for Him lasts FOREVER.
 - V.10 – God's laws are sweet and valuable to me.
 - V.11 - Obeying God keeps me out of trouble bringing GREAT REWARD.
- All those benefits are in God's word if we LOOK for them. Consider an example: Sooner or later we all need "readers" to magnify the text we read. We might need a hearing device to hear sounds more clearly. Followers of Christ have His Spirit to help us see and hear the truth of His word.
- **John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth...
- When we read His word, we should ask His Spirit to magnify and amplify its truth.
- God's word can also show us things about ourselves we may have missed.

12 How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. **13** Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

- Illustration: Comic books offering X-Ray glasses. The old term “looking glass.”
- **Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) — 12** For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.
- **James 1:23–24 (NLT) — 23** For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. **24** You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.
- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) — 18** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
- The old X-Ray glasses didn't work, but God's word reveals what is inside our hearts. His word is like a mirror revealing our sin but also helping us “see and reflect” His glory as His Spirit makes us more like Him.
- David closed this psalm with a prayer every Christ follower should pray:

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

- If we will truly look at His majesty and truly hear and obey His commands in scripture, we can sincerely pray that prayer.

So, What's the Takeaway?

- God reveals Himself constantly; do we have eyes to see or ears to hear Him?
- Illustration: Remember the “Magic Eye” book craze of the 1990s? The books featured autostereograms—images designed to create the illusion of a three-dimensional scene within a seemingly chaotic pattern when viewed with the right technique. How did they work? What did you have to do to see the hidden image.
- If you just took a glance at the “Magic Eye” page, you only saw a chaotic pattern.
- If you relaxed and looked beyond the obvious you saw that hidden image.
- Seeing God at work is kind of like that. It depends on the lens we look through.
- A dramatic improvement in a medical situation isn't “luck” it's God's hand.
- Needed financial resources just appearing isn't “good fortune.” It's God.
- There are no “coincidences” for a Christ-follower, only divinely designed events.
- Sometimes there are no lenses to reveal how He is working. That is when we have to put on our “trust glasses.” There is an old saying: *“God is too good to be unkind, and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when you cannot trace His hand, you can trust His heart.”*^{vi}
- The cynics say faith in God is putting on “rose colored glasses” or wishful thinking but a lifetime of trusting has proven to me He is faithful.

- When we look at God’s miraculous creation, we should mentally put on our “majesty glasses” to see His glory, His handiwork, His power, His divine nature, and His MAJESTY. We don’t have a “Mother Nature” but a Heavenly Father.
- When we read God’s word, we should ask His Spirit to magnify and amplify its truth. We should ask Him to make our Bible a mirror that reveals what needs to be confessed and forgiven and changed so we can look more like Jesus.
- God reveals Himself constantly; do we have eyes to see or ears to hear Him?

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_picture_is_worth_a_thousand_words

ⁱⁱ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/majesty>

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<https://biblehub.com/topical/m/majesty.htm#:~:text=The%20Bible%20frequently%20speaks%20of,and%20is%20worthy%20of%20worship.>

^{iv} <https://www.gotquestions.org/people-are-without-excuse.html>

^v https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_Eye

^{vi} <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/blog-entries/6-quotes-spurgeon-didnt-say/>