



Servants of Christ
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A Devotion for the week of September 21st

God Takes Pleasure in You and All His Creation

Psalm 104:10 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.

11 They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

13 He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

I just got back from the wilderness of the West. The term 'born again' is an understatement as I saw a new side of the world. As John Denver sang, "You can talk to God and listen to the casual reply..." I saw how the world can be, the possibilities, how we don't have to fight like cats and dogs. I realized that I was lacking a sense of peace and groundedness in my life. God's creation is well-ordered and works together, and you and I are part of that, although we may have gotten away from those roots. (I posted a video on the church Facebook page with a short devotion if you are interested.)

A few learnings---- Most animals in the wild are not aggressive unless they feel threatened. If you are hiking in the woods you are supposed to make noise to alert any bears of your presence so you don't scare them... Of course, don't go near a mama bear's cubs in the springtime--- she WILL protect them. Actually, we cause more harm to bears than they do to us--- when we leave food out and bears get into it (yes, they can open refrigerators and coolers- very smart creatures) the human food becomes a treat or reward (your baloney sandwich tastes better than a tree root). Then, the bears become 'food aggressive' and have to be put down. But if we don't bother them, bears thrive, raise cubs, eat trout and berries before they take their winter's nap. They don't need to fight with you or even other animals. They just live their purpose.

-----What do you think is God's purpose for your life?

Secondly, God has made us to be strong and resilient and confident. In April and May, cutthroat trout swim upstream over the rapids to spawn. When there are many obstacles like rocks and branches in the rapids, it can be challenging. BUT, most of the trout make it! There are the strong ones that bend their bodies and easily jump up 3-4 feet to leap over the rocks. And there some who are not that strong, but they keep trying and keep trying. For all of them, God has created natural power in the rapids: When water flows quickly over a rock, the force of the water hitting the river bed produces an upward boost for the fish!

-----What 'upward forces' has God put in your life to help you overcome obstacles? Where do you think you need some 'upward force' in your life?

God has given everything to you that he has to the bears and the trout—all the ingredients are there for you to have a fruitful journey in this world.

And thirdly, you and I are really part of something much larger, more infinite and we should live with the humbleness to which that realization calls us. The Rockies were created by two continents coming together, kind of like pushing dough together to make a pie crust. Then glaciers melted and created the valleys and produced lakes beneath. The rushing water brought down sediment and the lakes became marshes and meadows and ultimately forests. There is a place for the fish. There is a place for the moose in the meadows and elk in the woods. Grizzlies go fishing and black bears feast on berries in the trees. Bison really do have a home where they roam and even if they have to move in the winter to get food, they still return to their meadow home in the spring. Is God a wonderful artist or what?

----- Are you in your spiritual home on this earth? Do you ever feel misplaced? Where is your meadow? How can God help you get there?

Let us pray: Lord, we stand in awe of you and the majesty of the canvas of creation. Guide us to our natural meadow. Help us to meet the challenges and obstacles in our lives. May we work together and allow others to have the space they need to live into their purpose as well. Help us to find the peace we seek. Heal us in our inmost being. In Christ's name. Amen.