



Rick & Sue McCoy

Nuggets from Nature

Do we realize just how big and awesome our God is? A few years ago, He started talking to me about seeing who He is and His ways by looking at nature and all the things He has created for us to enjoy! I stand in awe and wonder when I look at some of intricate flowers or observe some of His stunning sunrises or sunsets that only last a few minutes but leave me speechless with their beauty!

Our ministry, **Abba's Arms International, Inc.**, has a Facebook page where you can click on videos and check out some of the **Nuggets from Nature** that He has given me that I will never forget because He made them so personal. I hope to record another one very soon but there are at least 5 that I have done over the past few years. To check them out: type in **Abba's Arms International, Inc.** and once the page comes up *click on videos* to find them.

Importantly I want to challenge each of you to look at the amazing beauty He has surrounded us with in nature. May you slow down and let our Father and Creator increase your awe and wonder of Him by observing the sky, plants, flowers, animals, waterfalls, and more. Whatever seems to be highlighted, stop and ask Him what He wants to show you about who He is or what He wants you to know about His ways. I am including three pictures to stir your heart to expect Him to speak and reveal more of Himself and His ways, but then just stand in awe and thank Him!



Walking in a Healthy Fear of the Lord

Recently Father has been highlighting the phrase, the fear of the Lord to me (Sue). After experiencing Father's unconditional love for many years now, I know in my heart He doesn't want us to be scared of Him. Psalm 33 speaks about the bigness of our Creator and all that Father has done to bless us. I feel like the psalmist when he wrote in verse 8, **"Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants stand in awe of Him."** Our God deserves to be treated with *honor and respect*, not casually like the world and many believers do today! As I have gotten to know His character through His Word and experienced Him in life's situations, I want to value Him and His ways above all! There are several benefits of walking in the fear of the LORD: *strong confidence, a place of refuge, a fountain of life and the ability to turn away from things that bring death.*

Prov. 14:26-27 May He open the eyes of our hearts and reveal how we can experience these benefits as we walk in the fear of our good Lord.

Unfortunately, many people in today's world don't know who the Living God is and have not experienced Him. Amid all the confusion, hatred, lawlessness, evil, and fears in this world, people have been trained to look to man for the answers to their problems, not God. **Only the Great I AM who created us knows what we need and wants to help us.** Some people don't know Him or have had bad experiences causing them to reject God. Others have walked away from churches, not able to believe or trust God or His Word. In these unstable times, God is the unchanging One. **Isaiah 33:6 AMPC** says stability is found in **"...the reverent fear and worship of the LORD."** Are we living with a fear of the LORD or a fear of man? The Bible says, God is holy. **Ps. 99:9** While singing a song about His holiness, I saw how pure He is. Then He spoke to my heart that He is pure because He is Love! The more I know His love, the more I live free from the fears of this world or what other people think. Instead, I honor my God! Father sent His Son Jesus to reveal all that He is! Are we ready to live our lives like Jesus lived - only doing His Father's will and living to please Him?

John Bevere, a man of God, who has written and spoken much on this topic says, **"To fear God is to be in AWE of God. It means to honor, tremble, revere, esteem, respect, value and venerate Him more than anything or anyone else. A healthy fear of the LORD is not to be scared of God, but to be terrified of being away from Him. If we truly fear Him, we love what He loves and hate what He hates. If we hate other people, we don't fear God. He loves people but hates the sin that undoes them."** Wow! Do we love what God loves and hate what He hates? Are we terrified of being away from Him? He wants to have us live our lives following His Words, walking in His ways, and living with our hearts ready to do whatever He says!

Is a Healthy Fear of the Lord in You?

Father God has always desired an intimate relationship with each of us, even more than we do. But He does test us to see if we respect Him and are willing to obey His words and commands. In the beginning, the Lord God came down and walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they took their eyes off the Lord God, forgot their relationship with Him, and stopped valuing God's words. Their focus shifted and Adam sinned by disobeying God's command. Suddenly they had something to hide, which led to fear, shame, and terror of what they had done. Since that time mankind has been walking in an unhealthy fear of God and unable to see His heart is only good!

Today many people see God as the old man upstairs who is going to punish them for their disobedience. He wants us to know Him as Abba Father that will never stop loving us, but we also need to know Him as the Most High God, worthy of great honor. Jesus said, **"But I'll tell you who to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, that's the one to fear."** **Luke 12:5** He is the One who sees each heart and determines where each person will spend eternity. We all have sinned, but Jesus' sacrifice made the way for us to come home. We either receive His love and the finished work of the cross or reject His "free" gift of eternal life. Living our lives so we can spend eternity with Him means letting go of our old ways and honoring our Father by obeying His words like Jesus did as His Son.

The people God used to fulfill His plan to redeem us had **one common trait - they revered, believed, and obeyed His commands without hesitation!** They each had encounters with the Lord and walked in a holy fear of Him. **Abraham** acted on God's words leaving where he lived yet not even knowing where he was going. Later, God tested Abraham telling him to travel to a mountain and sacrifice Isaac, his son. Just as Abraham was about to kill Isaac, the Angel of the LORD stopped him saying I now know you fear God. **Moses** heard the Lord speak his name from a burning bush, took off his shoes and hid his face as he heard the Lord say this is holy ground. After his encounter, Moses followed God's command to go before Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go so that they may serve Him. "Letting go" of what we think, what we want or the ways we are used to doing things to follow God's plans for our lives requires **humbly letting Him lead, not us!**

Other Bible characters were undone as they **experienced His holiness causing them to tremble in His presence!** Imagine **Isaiah** seeing the LORD and feeling unclean. **Isa. 6** or **John**, the disciple who laid his head on Jesus' bosom while He was on earth, fell at His Jesus' feet as dead when he saw Jesus in heaven! **Rev. 1:12-17** **Job's** life has impacted mine. He went from having a self-

righteousness attitude to humbly fearing and honoring God. The Lord asked him where he was when He laid the foundations of the earth? In the end, Job says, **"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes!"** **Job 42:5-6** When we stand in His presence, I am sure we too will simply fall at His feet! May we each see our Lord more clearly and be awed by who He is so that we value and honor Him more every day!

Do You Treasure His Words?

The fear of the Lord means treasuring His Words. There are many verses that speak of the importance of being in awe of His Word. **Awe** in Hebrew means **to revere, honor, respect, godly fear, or tremble**. **Ps. 119:161-162** says, **"...my heart stands in awe of Your Word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure."** Do we treasure God's Word like the psalmist? Many of you reading this article have access to more than one Bible, but in some parts of the world, a Bible is a treasure they may not have. The Bible is a treasure full of His instructions on how to live our lives and enjoy good days! When our hearts love Him, it leads to **"a love of the truth"** and we avoid being deceived so we can say "NO" to sin. Valuing our relationship with Him and living in His love is the key to rejecting sin and following His Words. He is looking for those who will humble themselves and obey His Word above all.

Are we ready to let go of our thoughts and ways, letting our Creator who knows everything teach us what works? The book of Proverbs is full of tips about practical living so we can avoid the pitfalls of sin. **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.** **Prov.1:7** Are we teachable? **Proverbs 8** is written like wisdom is speaking to us. **"For I am Wisdom, and I am shrewd and intelligent. ... Wisdom pours into you when you begin to hate every form of evil in your life. For that's what worship and fearing God is all about. Then you will discover your pompous pride and perverse speech are the very ways of wickedness I hate."** **Prov. 8:12-14 TPT** Ouch! The lord used those words to show mesome of my old thoughts that needed to go. He used this article to do a deeper work in my heart!

Do You Hate What the Lord Hates?

After knowing and living in His unconditional love, He has been opening my eyes to see why He hates evil so much. It causes us to sin and be separated from Him. **He created us and knows what makes us and what breaks us.** He only wants us to experience goodness in our lives, but we have an enemy that wants to destroy us. Jesus told us the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but He came to give us life and life abundantly! **John 10:10** As we read his Word, it allows Him to show us what is good for us and what isn't. The things of this world may hurt our spirits, cause us to wander away from God, or lose sight of His goodness and great love. These are the things God hates: **"...putting others down**



while considering yourself superior, spreading lies and rumors, spilling the blood of the innocent, plotting evil in your heart toward another, gloating over doing what's plainly wrong, spouting lies in false testimony, and stirring up strife between friends." Prov. 6:16-19 TPT These things are evil, disgusting and wicked in His eyes. They all go against love and destroy relationships with Him or others. It's time to repent, if we have walked in any of these and ask Him to change our heart and life.

The Bible says much about evil. The eyes of the LORD are in every place beholding the evil and the good.

Prov. 15:3 At times it looks like the evil doers are better off than those walking in God's ways, but the LORD laughs at them and sees their day coming! **Ps. 37:7-9** The law of sowing and reaping is true whether we believe it or not. Living anyway we want to, not following His Word and His ways will lead us away from the good life and His love. There is much evil, darkness, and lawlessness in today's world, but God reminds us that **we are not to repay evil for evil, nor be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom. 12:17, 21.** Why? Because the LORD says, **Vengeance is Mine, I will repay. Rom. 12:19** Following the Golden Rule of doing to others what you would want them to do to you is God's way. May we be like Him loving them, see the sin that is destroying them and pray that they will repent and come home to His love too!

Do You Honor and Value Your Heavenly Father?

During Jesus' whole life and ministry, He always honored His Father saying my Father is greater than I. Jesus didn't seek His own will but the will of the Father who sent Him. He knew He could do nothing Himself, but what He

saw the Father do is what He did. **John 5:19, 30** When teaching His disciples to pray, He said, **"Our Father, in heaven, Hallowed be Your name..."** *Hallow* means *to honor as sacred, to make holy to consecrate set apart for holy use*. Jesus lived His life honoring our Father! Are we ready to honor our Father, love Him, and keep His commandments like Jesus? If so, we'll receive the promise of **John 14:21-23** - We will be loved by our Father and Jesus and They'll manifest Themselves to us as well as come and make Their home in us! Wow! When we honor God, it opens the door to experience His presence in and with us tangibly!

Walking like Jesus means loving Him with our whole heart, forsaking all else, and making Him Lord of all our life. Jesus lived to reveal His Father and His Kingdom. Are we willing to live our lives dedicated to our Father like Jesus was? If we have made Him Savior and Lord of our lives, **our bodies are the temple of the living God** and He promises that **He will dwell in us, walk in us, be our God and we'll be His people**. Do we live like we are His temple? He tells us to **come out** from among them (the world) and **be separate, not touching the unclean** and He will **be a Father to us, and we will be His sons and daughters!** **2 Cor. 16-18** What an image of security! But the very next verse says, **"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."** **2 Cor 7:1** Loving Father God and having a *reverential fear* of how *holy* and *pure* He is gives us the image of how Jesus lived His life! May we treasure Him and His Words above all, knowing He is our place of refuge, our strong confidence, and a fountain of life!



A Blessing of Living with a Healthy Fear of the Lord

I bless you to encounter the awesomeness and greatness of your Father and Lord, honoring and reverencing Him above anything or anyone else. May the fear of man be removed as you focus on and experience more of His unconditional love. I pray you develop a love for the truth, His Word, letting the Holy Spirit open your heart to His wisdom, knowledge, and ways. May you hate what He hates and love only what He loves. I pray that you consecrate your life like Abraham and others did, living humbly with a reverential fear of the Lord, being quick to hear His voice and do exactly what He says. May you live as a son/daughter of your good Father, separating yourself from the unclean and evil things of this world, preferring Him above all! I bless you to treasure your heart totally devoted to honor Him and His presence with a and glorify Him now and live with Him for eternity!

