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Wondrous Things

Out of Thy Law

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Series: What the Word Says About the Word

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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Wondrous Things Out of Thy Law

Heavenly Father,

Precious friend, gracious redeemer, glorious coming King, we worship You. Truly, Yours in the kingdom, Yours is the power, and Yours is the glory, forever. We come into Your presence, worshipping, adoring, praising, grateful that the God of eternity loves each of us with a love that will not let us go. We are grateful that the very hairs of our head are numbered. Not even a sparrow falls, without You taking note. What a wonderful God You are.

We ask that You would speak to us through Your Word in such a way that we might understand deep spiritual truth; that You might reach down into the very depths of our souls, draw out of us, and pour into us, that which would literally change our lives.

We have not come to be educated or informed, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and we pray that Your Spirit, the only One who can do that, would do that.

*In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.*

I don't know how many of you can relate to a similar experience. Of course, if I can remember anything from when I was a child, it's a challenge and an accomplishment. I don't remember much, but I can remember this occasion. I had been around for a little while already. I had been through school, and I had learned to drive a car, although I ran into almost everything that moved. I can remember I used to call home and my dad would say, "How are you? What did you hit?" I will never forget, one time I had to call and tell him I backed into a root beer truck. That was the most demeaning one because back then they had open sides on these soft drink trucks, and they had bottles instead of cans. So, when you hit one, you experienced the kind of thing you just don't experience many

times in your life, and that's this rain of glass that comes down.

I hit almost everything that moved, and some things that were stationary. I didn't know any different. I thought I could see pretty well, because that was all I had ever done. Then, one day, I got my first pair of glasses. Can any of you can remember that time in your life?

I used to drive by billboards and guess at what they said. Did you ever do that? I thought everybody did. In great big letters it said, "Vote for Joe Bamberger for Judge. He stood the test." I thought it said, "Eat Joe's Hamburgers. You judge...they're better than the rest." I drove all over town looking for Joe's Hamburgers, and it's the only hamburger place I never found.

I can remember street signs, at night in particular. I would stop, get out of the car and stand under the sign trying to see if it was the street I was looking for, which was Meadow Glen. And here was a street with two words, and the first word was a little longer than the next. So, I had to have found it. I got out and gazed up, but it was Wooded Ridge, instead. So, I dodged the traffic, got back in the car and tried again. I missed turns, and I missed streets. Only occasionally did I miss hitting other cars. But I thought I could see.

Then I got my glasses. I had to humble myself, you understand. It wasn't the "cool" thing back then to have glasses. But I'm glad nobody was with me because I got in the car, put those glasses on and I will never forget it. I don't remember much; that was 80 years ago or something. But I was driving down the street shouting in this car, "I can see! I can see!" You're supposed to be able to read these signs. I didn't know that.

All that time, I thought I could see. I could, kind of make things out, but they were blurry. And then one day, I allowed a physician to test my vision, and put a corrective lens between me and the world. Then everything came into focus.

You may not yet see the Spiritual Switch, but I pray after this study, you will be able to. It's one thing spiritually, to be able to see. It's another thing to be able to really see. We are embarking on a study of what the Word says about the Word. And the doorway through which we are entering this study is Psalm 119.

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In our last lesson, we looked for a moment, at verse 18, which says this:

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things from
Your law. (Psalm 119:18 NKJV)

We went from there to Isaiah 66:2, and we found in that verse an unusual thing. And that is, God was looking for two things in men and women. He was looking for men and women who had a poor and contrite spirit and, secondly, for men and women who trembled at His Word.

In our last lesson, we took the time to follow that word, tremble, through the Scriptures, to find out what it meant. It means to be so in awe of who God is and that He would take the time to speak to you would cause you to literally tremble. We saw Moses tremble when God spoke to him from the burning bush. We noticed that even the hills tremble at the voice of God. We learned that the devils believe and tremble.

Our heart's desire was that we might come to the place where it would be such an honor to hear from God; that every time we opened this Book, every time we heard a teacher or preacher, or whenever we turned on the radio and somebody was speaking from the Word of God, that we would literally bow our hearts before Him and tremble in His presence. And we would say, "Oh, dear God. You're speaking to me!"

In this lesson we continue our excursion to complete our study of what it means in Psalm 119:18, when the psalmist said, "Lord, open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." Wondrous things. What does that mean? What does it mean to behold? We are going to try to find out.

When I first looked at that passage, I thought, "Lord, I don't understand this. Why do I have to ask You to open my eyes?" With the help of a little coffee, I can do that myself...slowly. What does it mean? Opening your eyes is a two-step process. Step one happens immediately; step two is a gradual, but continual process. Both of them, only God can do. But, both of them require some active initiative on our part.

The Scripture is very clear, that until God opens our eyes, we are spiritually blind and deaf. That's what He meant in Psalm 119:18, when He said, "Open my eyes." That word

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translated “open” is a Hebrew word that means, “to remove or take away an obstruction or something that blocks your view.” It’s the same word used in Numbers 22:31a, where we read:

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Baalam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way,

(Numbers 22:31a)

Balaam didn’t see the angel of God even though he was standing there. The donkey saw it, but not Balaam. Then, suddenly, God opened his eyes. He removed the veil that was between him and the angel and allowed him to see.

God opens the ears of men. (Job 33:16 NKJV)

It means that at a given point in time, God did something in these peoples’ lives that allowed them to have a veil removed from their eyes or an obstacle removed from their ears, so they could see and hear and understand spiritual truth. It’s a two-step process.

The first step is to be transformed into another kingdom. That’s a one-time operation. It’s cataract surgery. It’s much more wonderful than getting your first pair of glasses. It’s like taking a little child who has never seen the light of day, never had a toy, and has lived in total seclusion and degradation; blindfolding him, taking him to Disney World, and taking off the blinders. But much more wonderful than that is the wonder called salvation. What it means is, that until a man or woman comes to the Cross, has their sins forgiven, and invites Christ into their heart, spiritual truth is nonsense. It’s a stumbling block. It’s a stone of offense, the Scripture says. In Matthew 13:10, the disciples asked Jesus a question that on the surface, seemed to be a little rude and presumptuous. They turned to Him—and this is the King of the universe they are speaking to—and they said,

Why do you speak to people in parables?

(Matthew 13:10 NIV)

“Lord, You’re talking in riddles. These folks out here aren’t getting the straight scoop. Why do You keep telling stories? Can’t You just give a discourse on the New Covenant? Can’t You give a treatise on eschatology? They aren’t getting the picture.”

In verse 11, Jesus replied.

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He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."

(Matthew 13:11)

This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." (Matthew 13:13-15 NIV)

Now, have you ever wondered what causes that condition? In John 3:3, Jesus explained it totally. He said:

"...no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (John 3:3b NIV)

Is that clear enough?

John 8:43:

"Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

You belong to your father, the devil," [You're not a believer.] (John 8:43,44a NIV)

"Whoever belongs to God hears what God says." (John 8:47a NIV)

That's clear, isn't it?

The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. (John 8:47b NIV)

Now, if you're wishing God would make it plain, He really has, hasn't He? II Corinthians 4:4, goes one step further. It says:

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

(II Corinthians 4:4 NIV)

In I Corinthians 2:14 Paul said:

But the natural man [the unbeliever] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. [They don't have the Spirit.]

(I Corinthians 2:14 NKJV)

We've talked about this before, but I think it's one of the

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deepest problems in Christianity today, even in evangelical Christianity, and that is, we forget that unregenerate hearts cannot receive spiritual truth. We try to teach doctrine; we try to teach principles; and we try to teach absolutes, assuming that everybody can understand because they are in church. The truth of the matter is, some of them have eyes to see and ears to hear and others don't. And Jesus just told us, Christians do; the ones who are not Christians, don't. What it literally means is, until you come to Christ, you cannot see. Read II Corinthians 3:14, if you want the rest of it made clear. Jesus said:

But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.
(II Corinthians 3:14,15 NIV)

Now, here is the promise.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
(II Corinthians 3:16 NIV)

What a memory verse! Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. So, if you have a business partner or a co-worker or a relative who is not a believer or may not be a believer, you may be torturing them to death, trying to preach to them spiritual truth. They can't hear you. They can't see you. They don't have ears to hear. Their eyes are not open. Until they come to the Cross and ask Jesus Christ to come into their lives, forgive their sins and remove that cataract from their eyes, they will not see. And only the Great Physician can do that. But, oh, He will. And if you ask Him to, even today, the bandages will be removed from your eyes, and you'll see a world so incredibly beautiful, your mind will be staggered by it. Today is the day of salvation. And if you have never asked God to remove that veil from your eyes so the Word can come alive, Christ can be real, and you can experience salvation, do it now.

But there is a second kind of eye problem. I think it's what the psalmist was referring to in Psalm 119:18, as he begged God to "open his eyes." Here was a guy who had the capacity to receive truth. His heart had been blessed and challenged by the Word of God before. What was his problem? It had to do

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with lens correction. As we mentioned earlier in the lesson, the cataract of sin has been removed, but even then, two things keep us from seeing.

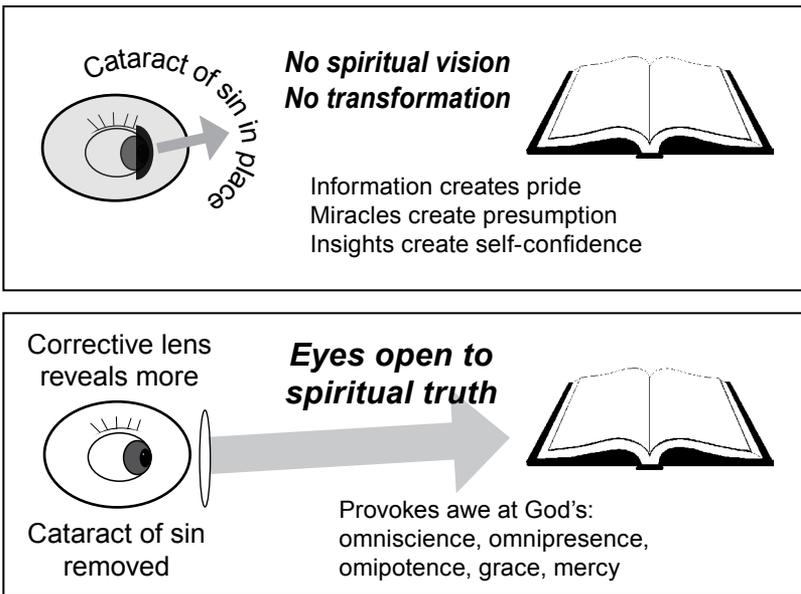
1- Unconfessed sin.

2- We fail to ask God to open our eyes, whatever that means.

In either case, the Word preached does not profit us. We don't behold wondrous things.

To open = to remove an obstruction.

The Two Great Issues of "Open Eyes"



In the first diagram there is a cataract over the eye that prior to conversion, keeps you from seeing. You can read the Bible and get information. You read about the miracles; and that creates a presumptuous spirit. You read about insights; and that creates self-confidence instead of God-confidence. There is no spiritual vision; there is no transformation. But once Christ comes into your life, the cataract is removed and you can begin to see and experience spiritual truth.

In most of our lives, there needs to be a corrective lens put

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there by God, that will allow us not just to see the way I used to see, but to be able to see when we put our glasses on; when things come into focus. Now, the psalmist is implying that this isn't automatic. Something has to happen in order for it to be done. What he is implying is, we have to ask God to open our eyes. Now, how many of you do that? How many of you, every time you open this Book, ask God to open your eyes? How many of you, when you go to church, sit down in the pew, take your Bible, and before a word is spoken, are going to ask God to enlighten and transform you; to take His Word and reveal to you, things you otherwise would not see? Most of us are not in the habit of doing that.

Why do we have to ask? Well, don't you see, the reason God said, "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7), is because whenever we can expect God to do something routinely, without asking, we forget that only He can do it. So, we are told to ask Him. Paul gave us a pattern in Ephesians 1:18. He said:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [that the veil might be removed; that your focus might be clear. Why?] in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength

he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21 NIV)

Paul was writing to Christians. They had the capacity to receive spiritual truth. They had "eyes to see" and "ears to hear," but something was missing. Paul said, "You're not grasping the awesomeness of your riches in glory. You've got the Word. You're reading the Word, but you're missing the depth of your inheritance. You're not fully realizing the honor of being called by Him. You're not fully cognizant of the same power that raised Christ from the dead." In Ephesians 3:18 he said,

I pray for you as well, that somehow you might come

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experientially to know the height, the depth and the breadth of God's love for you.

(Ephesians 3:18 paraphrased)

Over and over, Paul prayed that way. He prayed that God's nature would be revealed to us and through us, changing us.

Do you pray like that? Do you pray for yourself like that? Do you pray for others like that? Do you ask God, "Lord, open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law?" Well, what does it mean? We've already decided that to "open" means to remove an obstruction, so that sight can be restored or improved. And once the cataract of sin has been removed, God must apply drops daily so the film that prevents us from seeing His Word, and seeing His nature, can clear up our vision.

Why does He do that? He wants us to behold "wondrous things." That word "behold" is an interesting word. In the Hebrew, it literally means to "look into with careful investigation." It doesn't mean to glance around or to take a look at, in the kind of sense that you would be trying to take in everything that is going on around you. It means to stop and focus. It's an investigative venture with expectation attached. It is something so intense, that you expect incredible consequences. That's what it means. I'm going to give you four or five passages of Scripture, where that same Hebrew word is used.

Genesis 15:5:

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
(Genesis 15:5 NASB)

That wasn't a casual glance, was it? God said, "You go out there and gaze at the heavens long enough to literally count the stars, and then you'll get a picture spiritually of what you are going to become."

Exodus 3:6:

He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

(Exodus 3:6 NASB)

He was afraid to behold the awesomeness of God.

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Exodus 33:8:

And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. [And the glory of God that was there.]

(Exodus 33:8 NASB)

In Numbers 12:8 God is speaking about Moses.

With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, [That is, openly, and not using mysterious language.] And he beholds the form of the LORD. [He gazes at me. He sees me.]... (Numbers 12:8a NASB)

Numbers 21:9:

So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard [flagpole]; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, [they gazed intently with an expectation of faith, he healed him] he lived.

(Numbers 21:9 NASB)

It's a crucial word, isn't it? It means a steadfast, committed gaze. It's a prolonged look, one long enough look to count the stars. It's a fearful look. He was afraid to look at God. It was an awesome look. It was an expectant look. When they looked at the serpent, they would expect to live; to be saved. Prolonged. Fearful. Awesome. What words! Before you can behold wondrous things, you have to be willing to consider who it is who is speaking to you out you out of this Word, and take a prolonged, expectant look, willing to stay there until something happens. That's the key.

Now, let me ask you. How many of you are willing to stay in this Book until this Book speaks to you? We think we are really doing God a favor if we give Him fifteen minutes in the morning. And if we go to Sunday school and church, we expect brownie points. But the Scripture says, it's to be line upon line. When we get up in the morning, when we go to bed at night, all day long as we walk by the way, the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God—it should become our life. My friends, unless we are willing to behold it in that fashion, don't expect anything to happen.

What did God mean when He said, "Behold wondrous things?" How many of you have ever asked God for a wondrous

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thing? It's a promise. We are supposed to ask God to allow us to behold wondrous things. Have you ever wondered what wondrous things are? To me, I don't think we ought to ask God to teach us to behold wondrous things without stopping and praying, and asking Him to open our eyes to what wondrous means—stage one. So, let's do that.

Let's pray together.

Father,

We don't want to be presumptuous with Your Word. We want you to open our eyes so that we might behold wondrous things and, Father, we are asking You to begin by explaining to us what it means to see wondrous things out of Thy Word. We just ask in faith, believing. And we praise You in advance for any insight You would give us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Wondrous! Just the thought of it sounds wonderful, doesn't it?

1- Only God can do wondrous things. Therefore, when you ask God to let you behold wondrous things, you are asking Him to reveal something only He can reveal, and to show you something only He can do. It's terribly important that you learn to pray like that. Psalm 72:18:

Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!

And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

(Psalm 72:18,19 NKJV)

For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

(Psalm 86:10 NKJV)

Only God can do wondrous things. When you open His Word and you say, "Lord, I want to behold wondrous things," what you are saying is, "I want You to reveal things that only You can reveal. I want You to lift truth off this page that is so rich and so deep, it can only come from You." That brings us to point two, and this is probably the most important of all.

2- Because only God can do wondrous things, every

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wondrous truth is a manifestation of the character of God. So, whenever you are praying, “God reveal something wondrous to me,” what you are really saying is, “Lord, show me something new about Yourself.” Every time you hear something in Scripture that’s wondrous, you’re hearing something that’s revealing the nature of God.

Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?

(Job 37:16 NKJV)

“Job, can’t you get the picture? Don’t you understand that the one, who paints the clouds in the heavens, that knows when to let it rain, and where to let it rain, He is omniscient? Therefore, Job, the wondrous thing is not just that God knows when to make it rain, the wonderful thing is that this omniscient God is in control of your life. He didn’t make any mistakes.”

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.

(Psalm 75:1 NKJV)

So, anytime God reveals anything out of His Word, He reveals His name. His name equals His character. Do you remember Exodus 33:18, when Moses was speaking to God?

And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” [I want to know more about who You are.]

(Exodus 33:18 NKJV)

Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you.

(Exodus 33:19a NKJV)

In the next few verses, he said, “The Lord is gracious. The Lord is long-suffering. The Lord is merciful.” That’s His name. His name equals His character. That is why in Isaiah we read:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)

3- When you truly behold wondrous things, you ought to fall on your face and tremble, because you are beholding the nature of God. Job 42:3

...I uttered things I understood not; things too wonderful for me...

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...so I hate myself and repent in dust and ashes.

(Job 42:3,6 paraphrase)

It's okay to hate yourself, not hate how God made you, but hate who you are apart from Christ. That's okay. The psalmist in Psalm 139:6, said:

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. [I can't grasp it all.]

(Psalm 139:6 NKJV)

So, the boomerang principle applies. What goes around comes around. You start out by asking God to make you tremble before His Word and reveal wondrous things. And when He reveals wondrous things, what happens? You tremble all the more. You become more in awe of who God is.

4- It takes time to behold wondrous things. Job 37:14, is a great memory verse.

Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

(Job 37:14 NKJV)

You don't grasp wondrous things on the run. They are a revelation of the nature of God, through the work of God, and the Word of God. They come as He takes His Words and lifts them off the pages revealing His character to you; the same character He wants to impart to you. Stand still—oh, what a phrase for our generation—stand still. You say, "Lord, I would love to. But You don't understand my schedule! Someday, I will." No, you won't. God says, "Who do you think created time?" What difference will time make when we reach eternity? Time will be no more. Time was never meant to be the enemy of eternal things. When we say we don't have time to behold the wondrous works of God, what we are saying is, that which oneday will vanish is more important to us than that which will remain.

That doesn't mean you don't live in a real world. It doesn't mean you don't change diapers, fix cars, carpool, and cook meals. But it does mean, when you get so busy doing those things that you cannot make time to behold wondrous things out of His Word, you are too busy. It does mean, that when you stop to read the Word, hear the Word, study the Word, or meditate on the Word, it won't be taken lightly. It won't be, "I've got to get this out of the way. I've got to check it off. I told

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somebody I would read this passage; I guess I better read it.” No. It means you will stop and say, “Oh, my soul, God is going to speak to me. Wow!” You’ll take it as seriously as if you knew that Christ, as we said in our last lesson, was going to walk up, stand alongside of you, put His arm around you and speak to you. Because He is! That’s why the psalmist wrote:

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from
Your law. (Psalm 119:18 NASB)

It is because the source of the revelation of wondrous things can only come from one place. It is not from your experience, beloved. It is from this Book. And the key to understanding it all, I believe, is that every wondrous thing God ever did, and every wondrous Word God ever spoke, had as its root, the supernatural character of God. That’s the missing ingredient so many Christians experience today. We are all busy focusing on what God is doing for us and what’s wrong with the world, rather than on who God is. The focus of our teaching, the focus of our preaching, and the focus of our worship ought to be singular, on who God is. That will take care of our needs.

Miracles. If only we could come to realize that everything God ever did, He did to reveal who He is, I think it would change how we see Scripture. And when you ask God to open your eyes so that you can behold wondrous things out of His law, that’s what you are doing. You are asking God to reveal who He is through what He did. Let me give you some illustrations.

1- The creation story. Isn’t that a great story? God spoke and the world came into being. God spoke and the animals were made. God spoke and man was created. Isn’t that great? But that isn’t necessarily wondrous. You say, “Whoa, wait a minute.” No. What makes it wondrous is that the creation story reveals that God is omnipotent. He who is able to speak and the world came into being, possesses all power.

Therefore, even today, He can speak to a soul destined for eternity in hell, and death is swallowed up in life. He can speak, and this world as we know it, will disappear. He still has that power. He can speak and a new heaven and a new earth will come down from God out of heaven. He has that kind of power.

Now, what He did was important. He spoke and created

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the world. Beloved, don't focus on that. It becomes wondrous because of who He is. That same power that raised Christ from the dead, that same power that spoke the world into being, now lives in you! Beloved, that ought to make you tremble.

2- The Cross. That was a miracle of miracles, God dying so we could live. But the greater miracle, beloved, that ought to cause us to bow in submission, is the fact that His love held Him on that tree. The Cross is awesome, but His love is wondrous. It is His character. It means that same love forgives, cleanses, renews and transforms you, today, when you ask Him. Doesn't that make you tremble?

3- The story of the flood. That's an incredible story. God could wipe out the whole world by simply opening the spigot in heaven marked "rain", making flood insurance null and void. What a miracle. But the real miracle, beloved, is the righteousness and holiness of God that caused Him to send the flood. Do you realize that same holiness is now available to you? Peter said:

but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

(I Peter 1:15,16 NKJV)

4- The rainbow at the end of the flood. That was awesome. But God creating a rainbow is not the big deal. What is so important is that the nature of God is love. That prompted Him to balance His holiness with His mercy. That's what's so awesome. And that same love and that same mercy is available to you today.

5- The parting of the sea. Wow! What a story! He isn't parting many seas today, is He? So, what makes that passage wondrous? It's His omnipresence. He never left them; He never forsook them. They walked along and there were insurmountable odds before them. The enemy was behind them. There was no hope. But God was with them, and what did He do? They cried out, and He delivered them. And He'll do the same thing for you today. That is what makes that story wondrous. The whole Bible is an autobiography of God.

The whole Bible is the story of who God is. Sure, it's full

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of commandments, but even the commandments are nothing more than measures of His character. The Bible says, “Thou shalt not lie,” but that’s not the issue. The issue is, God is truth. That’s why thou shalt not lie. We’re told never to steal, but the truth of the matter is, it’s a reflection of God’s sovereignty. Every commandment, every story, every parable, every epistle, every principle, in some way reflects who God is. And when we begin to see the Word from that vantage point, everything we read stirs our hearts, causes us to worship, and makes us tremble.

That’s why the Word is wondrous. That’s why we ask God to open our eyes and remove the obstructions that we may behold and gaze intently and expectantly into wonderful things—things that are supernatural because they reveal the nature of a supernatural God. You can study the Bible without it. You can glean information. You can even understand principles. But I believe if you want to behold wondrous things out of His law, you need to ask every time you read, study, hear or memorize the Word of God.

If it’s going to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, we’re going to have to learn more than facts. We’ll look at that in our next lesson. We need to have God reveal His character to us in such a way that we not only behold who He is, but we become partakers of the divine nature. His Word becomes a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, even able to replace those thoughts and intents with the mind of Christ, causing us to walk differently, talk differently, think differently, and choose differently. Do you realize that? What this Word is supposed to do is cause us to be totally different people, not slightly different. Psychology can do that. Education can do that. Experience can do that. No, it means we’re changed from the inside out. Our character is changed. Our motives are changed. Our desires are changed because we have beheld the wondrous nature of our wonderful God.

I want to challenge you this week—you knew I would. I want you to ask God every day to reveal wondrous things out of His Word. When you walk into church, I want you to pray that prayer. When you spend time alone with God, pray that prayer. When you hear a message on the radio and begin to listen to Scripture, pray that prayer. Ask God to cause you to tremble at His Word. Then ask Him to reveal His wondrous character to

you that you may tremble the more.

I'm going to tell you in advance, what will happen. Passages that didn't seem to mean anything to you before will come alive. Commandments that seemed impossible to you will make sense. Parables that never had significance will leap off the page with personal application. Verses you are memorizing will begin to take the form of the first person. The Word will become a lamp unto your feet, a light to your pathway. Verses you've memorized in the past that were nothing more than words will become personal words, from a personal God, to meet your personal needs. You will be amazed. You will be in awe. And you should be.

And as that awe overcomes you, stop to thank God that He loves you so much, that He wants to take this priceless, precious love letter—something He has written just to you—and open up wellsprings of wisdom hidden beneath its pages. The wellsprings have been there all along. Perhaps the well has only produced trickles before. Why the difference? I'll tell you why. You simply took God at His Word. You asked Him to open your eyes, to remove the scales, to adjust your vision, and to put drops in your eyes to sharpen their focus. You did not ask to become a professional scholar; you asked so you could behold Him, gazing in wonder at things too wonderful for you to grasp apart from Him. You asked Him to let you behold wondrous things out of His law. And, beloved, in beholding them, you beheld Him. What a miracle. What a promise. What a Scripture. What a God. Let's pray.

Our Father,

Open our eyes, that in the days to come, we may, in ever increasing splendor, behold wonderful things out of Your Word. And may every truth reveal to us how wonderful You are.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

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