

Does My Heart Marvel?

Introduction

Most of us- familiar with- Marvel Comic book characters and the movies that portray them.

Characters like ...

Wolverine, Iron Man, Captain America,
Spider-Man, the Hulk, Wonder Woman.

We watch these characters portrayed in the movies and “marvel” at their super powers. But, do we marvel w/same excitement over the greatest superhero who overcame death itself. Christ trampled down death by His own death and overcame death through His resurrection.

Acts 2:24 “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Most of Marvel's fictional characters operate in a single reality known as the Marvel Universe.

Yet Jesus Christ operates in a multi-dimensional reality known as the Kingdom of God.

The marvel universe/its superheroes pale compared to- reality of the King/His Kingdom.

Does My Heart Marvel?

The Bible shows us that God is in search of man. Moments of wonder come when God, who is

looking for us, encounters us looking for Him.

In the Psalms the writer wonders at the beauty of creation- but it is not an end in and of itself.

It leads the Psalmist to look to God and the covenant that He has made with men.

There is a God who is for me, Emmanuel, God with us and for us.

Do I wonder in amazement about God?

**Wonder is that place where our hearts
are stirred and we long for God.**

When was the last time you encountered the
wonder of God such that you were amazed?

The Problem

If you hold a quarter close to your eye, such a
small object blocks your view of the heavens.
So it is w/leaking faucets/sick dogs/crying babies-
it fills our vision/blocks out the wonder of God
and we are no longer amazed.

Wonder and Amazement

I want to examine the sense of wonder which all
of us should have as believers.

A sense of wonder is- characteristic of a believers
life/we should be concerned if never have it.

Paul writes of how he himself is caught up in utter
marvel at the way of God's grace ...

**Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and knowledge of
God! How unsearchable are His
judgments and unfathomable His ways!**

A regular sense of wonder should fill our daily
lives ... but does it?

Or do we allow the small things of life (coin) to
block our view of God/His glory?

Lk 24:10-12

**10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and
Joanna and Mary the mother of James;
also the other women with them were
telling these things to the apostles.**

11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Who am I like?

- ... the disciples who would not believe the testimonies of other believers about- Lord, or
- ... like Peter who immediately got up and ran to the tomb to investigate for himself?

What do I refuse to believe?

And where am I denying the work of God- both in the testimony of others and in my own life?

Do I marvel at God?

Is my heart filled with awe concerning ...

- >God, who He is
- >attributes of God- faithfulness, mercy, etc.
- >acts of God- miracles, acting on my behalf

To marvel at something is not to say I understand it- it is okay to marvel at what God does w/o fully understanding why or how?

Lk 24:13-16

13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.

15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them.

16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

Have I failed to recognize Jesus in everyday life?

Has Jesus ever approached me or God moved on my behalf and I failed to recognize Him?

Have I failed to ascribe to Him- glory and honor due His name? (1 Chr 16.28-29)

Are my eyes prevented from seeing Jesus in everyday life because of my own unbelief or personal lack of awe concerning ...

- >the Lord,
- >what He has done for me, and
- >what He is doing in my life?

Is my heart filled with expectation concerning what God might do?

Some of the Jews who saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead still did not believe ...

John 11:44–46 (NASB95)

44The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.

46But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

In other words, they did not marvel and were not impressed that He raised someone from-dead.

Am I among those who believe or disbelieve?

Am I critical of anything supernatural to the point where I doubt, criticize, or completely dismiss?

We see the same situation later in John ...

Jn 12:37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.

When you see ...

- >someone get excited on a Sunday AM or
- >someone fall under the power of- HS, or
- >hear- testimony of someone being healed,
... yet that is not enough for us ...
... we need God to do something really
miraculous, something to impress us?

What would impress us, what would cause us to marvel- jump up and down/shout/get excited?

Jesus tells a story about rich/poor man ...

Lk 16:31 “But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

Jesus died for our sins/raised from the dead so we could have eternal life- do we marvel?

We Must Learn to Turn Aside

There is a time to turn away from the normal flow of life to touch the supernatural life of God.

Ex 3:3-4

“So Moses said, “I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.”

4When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”
And he said, “Here I am.”

Moses marveled and as a result turned aside to look on that which he did not understand ...
God noticed when Moses marveled.

Moses stepped aside from his everyday routine to examine the burning bush and when he did he encountered the Living God.

Has God placed burning bushes in our lives but we have been too busy to turn aside??

What can I do?

We become what we behold ... what we ...

- >look at
- >listen to (gossip, criticism, tv, movies)
- >dwell on in our minds, thought life
- >say with our mouth (we listen to ourselves)

If we give our attention to ungodly things or constantly say things about ourselves/others- that is contrary to God and His Word, we will become like those things.

As we behold, look on, the glory of Christ we are transformed degree by degree into His image.

We become more and more Christ like.

We become what we behold- look at, hear, say.

You reproduce what you behold.

Whatever I stare at grows- when I entertain thoughts contrary to God and His Word-

I set myself up to be weak in faith.

Abraham became- father of faith as he looked at the myriads of stars in- sky and remembered- God said his off-spring would be greater.

Looking at the heavens empowered his faith to believe that what God had said was true.

Maybe you have been a critical/doubtful person- you do not need to remain in that place.

Determine this ..

I am not going to let the image of what I was hinder me from stepping into what God has called me to be.

Paul talks about forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Plato- human existence is determined not just by acceptance of the present/remembering- past, but also by an expectation of the future.

Do we look forward with expectation and wonder at what the Lord can do/might do/will do?

Do we limit our thinking of what God can do because of our unbelief/short-sightedness?

Psalm 77:11–14

1¹I shall remember the deeds of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

1²I will meditate on all Your work And muse on Your deeds.

1³Your way, O God, is holy; What god is great like our God?

1⁴You are the God who works wonders; You have made known Your strength among the peoples.

Joy (spiritual journey- learning to walk in the joy of the Lord)
We should be filled w/excitement and a childlike
anticipation of what God might do.

Isa 35:5–6

**5Then the eyes of the blind will be
opened And the ears of the deaf will be
unstopped.**

**6Then the lame will leap like a deer, And
the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.**

Billy Bray was an evangelist in the 1800s so
impacted by God- he walked in incredible joy.

After hearing the above prophecy he said ...

**“I can't help praising God,” ... “As I go
along the street I lift up one foot, and it
seems to say 'Glory!' and I lift up the
other, and it seems to say,' Amen;' and
so they keep on like that all the time I am
walking.” Billy Bray**

At a meeting in 1866 he was told about how a
dying woman died shouting victory to God ...

**“Glory!” shouted Billy. “If a dying
woman praised the Lord, I should think a
living man might.”**

Billy often spoke of his determination to enjoy the
abundance of His Father's house.

We must determine to enjoy- abundance of God.

Why Wonder, Why Marvel?

1. Wonder leads to worship
2. Wonder leads to increased faith
3. Wonder leads to obedience in actions
4. Wonder motivates our witness

Conclusion

As we look into this new year, may this be a year when our hearts/minds marvel at the incredible wonders of God- past, present, and future.

Mat 15:31 So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

When the people saw the wonderful works of the Lord, it caused them to glorify God.

We can disappoint God by not remembering- marveling at His wonderful acts among men

Psalm 78:41–43

**4¹Again and again they tempted God,
And pained the Holy One of Israel.**

4²They did not remember His power, The day when He redeemed them from the adversary,

**4³When He performed His signs in Egypt
And His marvels in the field of Zoan,**

Jesus Marvels

Jesus marvels at the faith of a Roman Centurion-

Lk 7:9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, “I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.”

Do we have faith that God can marvel over?

As we learn to marvel over God and His acts, our faith will grow, and God will have something to marvel over.

Additional Thoughts

Psa 111:4 He has made His wonders to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and compassionate.

Psa 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy.

Psalm 105:1–5 (NASB95)

1Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.

2Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders.

3Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad.

4Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.

5Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth,

Psalm 106:6–13 (NASB95)

6We have sinned like our fathers, We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly.

7Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember Your abundant kindnesses, But rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.

8Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.

9Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up, And He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness.

10So He saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, And redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

11The waters covered their adversaries; Not one of them was left.

12Then they believed His words; They sang His praise.

13They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,

Psa 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,

Psa 92:4 For You, O Lord, have made me glad
by what You have done,
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.

Psa 107:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so ...

Psa 107:21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness,
And for His wonders to the sons of men!
22 Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And tell of His works with joyful singing.