

20190630 Does My Heart Marvel?

Introduction

Does your heart marvel- want to explore today.

First of a 2wk series- I shared this in part- 2015.

Most- familiar w/Marvel Comic book characters ...

Iron Man, Captain America, Spider-Man, etc

People flocked by the millions w/excitement and anticipation to see the latest Marvel movie.

There is something about these super heroes and their super powers that we marvel over.

But do we marvel w/same excitement/anticipation when it comes to- God/Kingdom/Word?

Would we flock to the theater if someone was going to spend 2hrs reading the Word of God?

Nehemiah 8:1, 3 (NASB95)

¹And all the people gathered as one man ... and ... asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel ...

³He read from it ... from early morning until midday ... and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

They understood-eternal significance-God's Word

Human beings have a strange malady that makes the ordinary glories of each day almost invisible, and certainly less interesting than their imitations in theaters and television. John Piper

Do we understand that ...

Christ trampled death by His death and overcame death through His resurrection.

In all human history- never been any god
resurrected from- dead other than Jesus Christ
The resurrection gives us the hope of eternal life.

**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.

Jn 4:24 “God is spirit ...

This means that God cannot be confined to
dimensions of space and time.

In Isa 11.2 it speaks of 7 dimensions of- HS.

**1 Tim 1:17 Now to the King eternal,
immortal, invisible ...**

The marvel universe and its superheroes pale
compared to- reality of the King/His Kingdom.
When will- reality of- eternal take hold our hearts?

**The unseen world should have a greater
reality to us than the seen world.**

My Question: Does Your Heart Marvel?

Is there wonder in our hearts concerning the
majesty of God and His relationship w/man?
God, the Creator of all we can see, feel, hear, and
touch- desires a relationship with His creation.

**Ezek 34:11 For thus says the Lord God,
“Behold, I Myself will search for My
sheep and seek them out.**

**Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know
my heart; Try me and know my anxious
thoughts;**

In these two verses we see God searching for His people and the Psalmist crying out to God.

Moments of wonder come when God, who is looking for us, encounters us looking for Him.

God is doing His part, are we doing our part?

Jam 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

We have no excuse for not having a close relationship with God.

God has called us into a partnership w/Him- Emmanuel, God with us and for us.

We are called to co-labor w/Him to establish His Kingdom here on earth as in heaven.

Hindrances to having a Marveling Heart

If I hold a quart at arms length it does not affect my ability to see the heavens.

However if I hold- quarter close to my eye, such a small object blocks my view of the heavens.

So it is with ...

- >leaking faucets/crying babies,
- >distractions of everyday life
- >entertainment, hobbies, sports

... it fills our vision and blocks out the wonder of God and we are no longer amazed.

Wonder and Amazement

What does wonder/amazement look like- our lives

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!

Paul- filled w/wonder over- wisdom, knowledge, judgments, and ways of God- what about us?

We must avoid allowing the difficulties of life (small things- coin) to become bigger than God and cast a shadow that prevents you from seeing the wonder, goodness, faithfulness, of God.

After Jesus death- some women went to the tomb- found it empty- ran back to tell- Apostles

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 about the Lord (nonsense), or
... like Peter who immediately got up and ran to the tomb to investigate for himself?

What do I refuse to believe about God?

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, His work in my life

I know we serve a God we do not always understand- like Peter/Apostles/women.

If I am only willing to accept from God what I understand then I am limiting God and making Him subject to my judgments.

He would not be God if He was not bigger- me.

To marvel is not to say I understand- it is okay to marvel w/o understanding why or how?

Lk 24:13-16 (after Jesus resurrection)

13 And behold, 2 of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus ...

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?

Have I failed to acknowledge God's hand in all of my life- good times and difficult times?

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

Ascribe- one def- to make a decision between various options.

I can choose to believe ...

>that things happen by chance OR
that God is involved

>life is a series of random events and I am a victim OR

that God is faithful and present to help

Does my unbelief prevent me from seeing what God has done and is doing in my life? OR- Is my heart filled with expectation concerning what God has done, is doing, is going to do? Story of Lazarus- died- in tomb for 4 days ...

John 11:43–46 (NASB95)

⁴³Jesus ... cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”

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 that I doubt/dismiss what I do not understand?

Do I portray myself as a victim rather than a victor serving- Living God who is active in my life?

When you see ...

- >someone get excited about God or
- >someone fall under the power of- HS, or
- >hear- testimony of someone being healed,
... is that not enough for you?

What more do we need to see God do before we will be impressed, before we will marvel?

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

Luke 16:30–31 (NASB95)

³⁰“But he said, ‘... if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’

³¹But he said, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

What would cause us to run after God like people ran to see the Avengers: Endgame.

We Must Learn to Turn Aside

We must learn to turn aside from- busyness and distractions of life to engage- Lord and wonder.

Ex 3:3-4

³So 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.

When Moses stepped aside from his everyday routine he encountered the Living God.

God was looking for Moses and Moses turned aside resulting in a divine encounter.

Has God placed burning bushes in our lives but we- are too busy/skeptical to turn aside?

What can we do so that our hearts marvel?

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

>look at

>listen to (gossip, criticism, tv, movies)

>dwell on in our minds, what we say

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.

Whatever I stare at grows- when I entertain thoughts contrary to God and His Word- I set myself up to be weak in faith.

In Christ we are new creatures- old is dead (2Cor 5:17).

Paul talks about forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead (Phil 3:13).

Do not allow your thinking to be limited by your unbelief, short-sightedness, or your history.

Do not plug your faith into your feelings or your truth into your experiences. R Hauck

Let your faith be filled with the expectation of the supernatural, the extraordinary, the impossible.

Psalms 77:11–12

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

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

Take time to remember, meditate, and muse on the goodness, greatness, faithfulness of God.

Interesting story ... evangelist Billy Bray ...

Isa 35:5–6

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

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

When he was told about a dying woman who died shouting praise to God, he said ...

“If a dying woman praised the Lord, I should think a living man might.”

We must intentionally determine to enjoy God.
We need to be intentional about ...

>declaring the goodness of God and

>verbally expressing a heart of thanksgiving

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

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,**

We can disappoint God by not remembering-
marveling at His wonderful acts in our lives.

Like the women who marveled at the empty tomb
we can marvel that Jesus has conquered
death so we can live w/a future and a hope.

Like Moses who turned aside from- daily routine-
we can look for- burning bushes in our lives.

Jesus, speaking of the faith of- 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.”

Jesus marveled at the faith of a Roman Centurion
Do we have faith that God can marvel over?

As we learn to marvel over God and His works, our faith will grow, and we will give to God something that He can marvel over.

Remember ...

Moments of wonder come when God, who is looking for us, encounters us looking for Him.