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Here's Hope
By Rev. Jerry Rea

We Gain Hope

Among so many other things worship is looking up to God. While we gaze at Him we gain a small but so very important thing. We gain hope. You get the feeling, that nothing is too hard for this guy. If He is too big to think about, or to wrap my thoughts around, then He is way bigger than my problems. Looking at Him we gain perspective about ourselves as well. When you look at something so much bigger than you, you find your own proper place. Sermons and books have been written on the importance of man and mankind. I agree with all those. This entire universe was created by God, but created for mankind. Like you might build a bird house, so God has built His universe for those He so loves. Like you might craft a dog house, how much more important are we and our home to Him. If we care about the sparrows, how much more does He care about us?

Man is so important but God is so much bigger. We not only need to see and know God, but we also need to see and know our own place in His plan. We are above the creation and below the creator. In some ways we are "middle management." He is eternal, but our lives are temporal (at least this earthly home). He is able, we are weak. He is all loving, and sometimes we find it within ourselves to love. He is majestic, but we are small. He is big, we are little. He is in control, we certainly are not. We are earthly; He is over all, and for all time.

So, look up. Look up at the majesty and magnificence of the Almighty. Gaze into His glory, and know the eternal. Look long and hard at Him, and so many of your problems and trials will seem so very small. Ponder His place across all the ages, and the troubles of this age fade into insignificance. When you know Him, it doesn't matter so much what you don't know. When you have Him, you don't worry so much about what you don't have. When we spend time with Him, we wonder why we don't just live there... with Him. Last but not least, when we meditate on Him we gain hope. I'm not sure how that happens, but I know it does. Why is that so significant? I don't know. What are the psychological workings of the human mind and heart engaged with the Other? I don't know. What makes this work? I don't know. What I do know helps me. I know Him, and because of that something "clicks" in my heart. I gain hope, and love and deep joy. I gain something this world has never given me. So, Look Up!

I love you,
Jerry Rea