

LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS



A Column by
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Stop, Look and Listen – It's not just for Crosswalks

We have focused on listening to God through Scripture for a couple of weeks now, but God talks to us in many ways, if we would only stop, look and listen. Let's begin this discussion with the following poem to illustrate:

And a Meadowlark Sang

[Credited to Ravindra Kumar Karnani]

A child whispered, "God, speak to me"
And a meadowlark sang.
The child did not hear.

So the child yelled, "God, speak to me!"
And the thunder rolled across the sky,
but the child did not listen.

The child looked around and said,
"God, let me see you"
and a star shone brightly,
but the child did not notice.

And the child shouted, "God, show me a miracle!"
And a life was born,
but the child did not know.

So the child cried out in despair,
"Touch me, God, and let me know you are here!"
Whereupon God reached down
And touched the child.

But the child brushed the butterfly away
And walked away unknowingly.

You see, it's not just the child that often misses God's communication with us, many of us also seem to be ignorant of God reaching out to us in the midst of our own world and lives. Let's highlight a couple of ways that God speaks to us through our own experiences.

As mentioned in the poem above, God can reach out to us through our natural world. As God is the Author of all Creation, it certainly makes sense that He might weave messages for us into our created world. For example, let's say that you were anxious about the day ahead and caught sight of a rainbow as you exited your home. The scientist might think about the refraction, reflection and dispersion of light; the sceptic might explain it as coincidence; but the person of faith might see in that rainbow the sign of hope that God is not only present, but looking out for them. [See *Gen. 9:12-17.*]

If we are paying attention, the awesomeness of God is all around us – in the multitude of the stars, the expanse of the ocean, the simplicity of a single leaf, the beauty of a rose, the panorama of a sunrise, the perfection and intricacy of the eye, and the integrity of the human body. Have you ever stopped to reflect on the wonders of Creation? If you do, I would bet that you would be hard-pressed not to see God in all of it.

Next week, we will break from this discussion to highlight the importance of fathers and fatherhood, but then we will return to further discuss how God speaks to us through our life experiences.

