**Prayer 2024**

**Week Two, Look Up: Psalm 104:24**

**Mike Colaw**

**Review:**

Last week, we opened this series on prayer by showcasing the beauty of the Cosmos.

Week One: Look Up.

The Cosmos sings of God’s creative power. Look up. (Psalm 19:1)

Let’s continue our series on prayer by bringing our attention down.

Week Two: Look Around.

**Opening Illustration:**

Take out your next steps card and do me a favor. Write out five things that make your heart say, “That’s really good.” It could be anything from a favorite food to an intimate moment in your marriage. For some, it might be the adrenaline rush from working out, for others, the peace of a Caribbean beach vacation. Give me five things.

Here is my list:

1. A good workout.
2. Family road trips.
3. Time with my accountability group.
4. Putting the kids to bed.
5. Being close with my wife.
6. Prayer walks.
7. Writing sermons.

I want you to look at your list and imagine those moments. Close your eyes and in prayer say, “God made that moment.”

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Our destiny is to enjoy God forever.

I believe the Enemy works fervently to separate your awareness of God from good things.

**Lectio:**

Psalm 104:24-25

"O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great."

“The Hebrew word used here, chokhmah (hak-mah)—meaning 'skill,' 'experience'...Yahweh’s chokhmah is marked by His insight and foresight.” - John D. Barry

**Meditatio**:

God brilliantly created billions and billions of moments where His creation would elatedly say, “This is so good!”

Look at your list again and pick one of them. What if God thought of that moment where you would say, “This is so beautiful,” before He even created the world? What if He imagined that moment with you and laid out the unimaginably complex set of circumstances that would make your heart say, “This is so good!”

Listen to G.K. Chesterton.

“Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, ‘Do it again’; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, ‘Do it again’ to the sun; and every evening, ‘Do it again’ to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately but has never got tired of making them.” - G.K. Chesterton

Let me say it again.

I believe the Enemy works fervently to separate your awareness of God from good things.

James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Dr. John Piper wrote an article in the 80s called “How to Drink Orange Juice to the Glory of God.” He basically reconnects our enjoyment of good things back to their origin. He even believes that non-believers can’t use beautiful moments for their original purpose until they are believers and worshipers of God.

Dr. John Piper believes non-believers can’t experience the true purpose of beautiful moments. “...unbelievers cannot use (even) orange juice for the purpose God intended — namely, as an occasion for heartfelt gratitude to God from a true heart of faith.” - John Piper

Look back at your list of good things.

When we connect our beautiful moments back to God as the source, we enter into a new level of prayer and worship that foreshadows heaven itself.

Don’t let the enemy give you beauty amnesia. The good feelings absent from the awareness of their source.

**Final Thoughts: Actio:**

Let’s pray through the lens of seeing beautiful things.

1. When you follow our 21 Days of Prayer prompts begin to connect beautiful things with the beauty creator.
2. Pick something on your list and remember it in detail. Close your eyes and go back to that moment. Connect it with God. Think about that moment and simply say, “Thank you, God.”
3. When you are done, would you bring your card forward and lay it on the altar as an act of deep gratitude?

Sources:

1 Psalm 104:24-25; James 1:17 (English Standard Version).

John D. Barry et al., [*Faithlife Study Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/fsb?ref=Bible.Ps104.24&off=9&ctx=ith+ease.%0a%0a104%3a24+++~The+Hebrew+word+used) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ps 104:24.

Chesterton, G.K. Orthodoxy. New York: John Lane Company, 1908.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jas 1:17.

Piper, John. “How to Drink Orange Juice to the Glory of God.” Desiring God, September 15, 1986. https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-drink-orange-juice-to-the-glory-of-god.