

For Such a Time as This A Daily Devotional Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024

From Job 42:

Then Job answered the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me that I did not know.
‘Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.’
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you ...”



Eugene Peterson, in his landmark book, *Christ Plays in a Thousand Places*, wrote of such things citing a great British writer in so doing: **G.K. Chesterton once said that there are two kinds of people in the world: When trees are waving wildly in the wind, one group of people thinks that it is the wind that moves the trees; the other group thinks that the motion of the trees creates the wind. The former view was the one held by most of humankind through most of its centuries; it was only in recent years, Chesterton said, that a new breed of people had emerged who blandly hold that it is the movement of trees that create the wind. The consensus had always held that the invisible is behind and gives the energy to the visible; Chesterton in his work as a journalist, closely observing and commenting on people and events, reported with alarm that the broad consensus had fallen apart and that the modern majority naively assumes that what they see and hear and touch is basic reality and generates whatever people come up with that cannot be verified with the senses. They think that the visible accounts for the invisible.**

The point being is that modern and post-modern society does not ascribe to the activity in this world a God who animates and energizes all of life, including our own life. In the passage from text above, we read these amazing words: Hear, O God, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.’ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you ...

Job comes to the point of seeing that it is the wind that causes the motion of the trees and not the other way round. It is God who is active in this world and not just Job’s efforts and work to accomplish what he sees as important. Job admits that up to that point, he had heard of God and the goodness of God, but now he sees, actually sees, the goodness of God operative in his own life. And this realization, this new vision, if you would, causes a change to happen in Job. He sees things differently now. This can happen for us when we consider God’s activity and our own responsible stewardship of our resources. We begin to let loose a bit, not to cling to what we think we have and possess for fear that there is no other source or resource for life. We see that THE resource for life, for our very living, is God in Jesus Christ: the very wind in the trees ...

Prayer for the Day: (From *The Valley of Vision*)

O Lord of Grace, the world is before me and I am weak and fearful, but I look to thee for strength. Amen.

**Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum
First Presbyterian Church
Greensburg, Pennsylvania**