

# Creator of Heaven and Earth

*Oasis: A Self-Guided Prayer*

*September 30, 2015*

There is something beautiful about nature; not just the aesthetic appearance, but the relationship of those interacting with nature. There is a healing when we interact with God's creation. Whether one is admiring a sunset, feeling cool water on their toes, or feeling the rush of a broad wind, our souls are fed, and oftentimes we find peace and serenity as well.

Recently I was taking in the beauty of this very concept. I saw smiles crossing faces that were once distraught and worried and I heard giggles expounding from a woman who was exhilarated by catching a fish. Ducks were chasing after a car anticipating bread with a woman inside who had no intention of exploring the outside world. The sight of the delighted ducks was enough to boost her out of her seat and into the breeze of the day. How can nature create such joy and cause us to forget our troubles if even for a moment?

Just the other day my spirit was tired and my heart far from me, but a few minutes outside in nature had me back in the arms of my Creator and my heart was uplifted. The laughter of the ducks and the expanse of the sky was what God used to touch my aloof heart. And so it is with nature, that somehow the Creator is within. Our Creator spoke our world into being. It was through God's word that nature came into existence and perhaps this is why we feel God's presence here. For maybe when we interact with creation, we are interacting with God.

*But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?*

Job 12:7-9

Today we find ourselves outside. It might be a little chilly, a little bright, and maybe a bit awkward at first, but we are all here together in God's mighty creation. You are invited to let Almighty God speak to you. Listen to the sounds of the birds and look at the leaves in the trees. What is God saying to you through creation, the works of the Almighty's hands? Is God teaching you about the perseverance of the roots of a tree, the faithfulness of the wind to blow where it is commanded, the obedience of the clouds to form? Or is God simply wanting to woo you with the beauty of creation, and wanting you to come and see that the Lord is indeed very good.

Come and listen.

*The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor<sup>[a]</sup> he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God<sup>[b]</sup> and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring'.*

Acts 17:24-28

If you feel God is unreachable in a distant place remember these words: *God is not far from you*. Look at God's creation.

Do you feel the wind wrestling the trees or do you see the clouds reflecting the sun's light into an array of color? Do you see the indentions of bark on a tree trunk or the blades of grass twitching in the afternoon air?

In each piece of creation, imagine how God's hand was a part of its formation, creating it with delicacy, purpose, detail and depth.

And now, this Creator has created you with equal, if not more, delicacy and purpose. Our Lord has created you with great care and detail. Each part of you is tenderly cared for and created for a specific aim.

Give thanks to God for creation, for that specific piece of earth that you found so captivating today. Hold this moment in your heart. This week when you see a part of creation, remember how close our God is today. Remember the Almighty of creation.

May God's presence be revealed to you this week in every space of earth with which you encounter.