

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

Glory Magazine

share good news

UNITY BEFORE DIVISION

BY ANGELA ERRETT

WHEN $1+1=1$ THE BINARY PRINCIPAL

BY BOB JACOBUS

THE BLESSING FOLLOWS UNITY

BY JASON DEPOY

REVEALING GOD'S GLORY: A PICTORICAL

BY AL TUCKER

UNITY BEFORE DIVISION

God wants everyone to come to the Banquet for His Son. Everyone. Yet, not all will submit to His voice.

The best example I can think of is found in Luke chapter 14:15-24, often termed, "From the highway to the hedges," or "the parable of the Great Banquet." (Please pause and read Luke 14:7-24.)

This parable is told by Jesus in response to how people will be blessed at God's Banquet. One guest says, "How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God's kingdom!" (Luke 14:15 MSG). Jesus follows up, "Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, 'Come on in; the food's on the table'" (Luke 14:16-17 MSG).

But sadly, one after another, they give excuses as to why they cannot come: I have a property to look after; I just bought oxen; I just got married, etc. Then, the servant that was sent returns to his master with the news. The man was outraged and was sent back quickly to the "city streets and alleys" to get anyone he could and bring them back, the homeless, the misfits, and

anyone who needed a meal. The servant returned with as many as possible, but there was still room. This time, the master commands him to go to the "country roads" and drag as many as possible into the banquet hall. He wants his house full!

So, how is this Unity before division? The master desired those invited to be in Unity with him. All they had to do was enter the banquet, where everything was done for them. They did not honor what the master had prepared for them. Who wants to eat at a banquet alone?

The master had to go to those in the cities, the alleys, and eventually to the country roads to find people who would leave what they had (no matter how much or how little) and leave behind their personal idols to be in Unity with him. He did not create the division, but the division is a direct result of their choice.

May we be in Unity with the Master as He calls all to the Great Banquet. Shalom.

Blessings and honor,
Angela Errett

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*That I may publish with the voice
of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy
wondrous works. Psalm 26:7*

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ON THE COVER

Beautiful Whitewater Falls is situated in the Blue Ridge Parkway near Cashiers, NC and the South Carolina border. It is part of the Asheville, NC hiking trail destinations. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those in the affected areas from the recent Hurricane Helene. Please consider helping through Mercury One at <https://www.mercuryone.org> or a charity of your choice.

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Content in each issue is inspired. We do not know what will be on the pages until it is completed.

When
 $1 + 1 = 1$
The Binary
Principal

Sometimes, playing with a single idea leads to marvelous insights.

$1+1=1$ is a valid spiritual function; go figure. A binary can be a subject or object made of two things or parts. The distinction is in science and mathematics, $1=1=1$ is more or less a function, and in the spirit, it is more or less a relationship. Functions and relationships tend to bleed over on each other. The Bible says that when a man marries a woman, they become one. It also states when a man sleeps with a prostitute, they become joined...yes, one. Relationships of all kinds and complex levels can exhibit binary properties; one person belonging to a group

would be an example. There are good things and bad things shared across the bond, perpetrators and innocents alike. Leaders can cause the whole group to succeed or fail, and everyone shares in the outcome, good or bad.

For the scientists in the audience, one could say that the binary principle is a spiritual concept applied to the physical universe. The math/science function operates in simplicity and complexity, much like the spiritual equivalent. Now, for the regular people reading this, the simplest binary operation is addition or subtraction resulting in something different. One man + one woman = one couple. If there is true unity,

a true binary function, then the outcome is quite different than the singular elements.

“So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Matthew 19:6 (NIV)

Now then, the spiritual binary does not have the simplistic and arbitrary outcome that science/mathematics does. There is an art to spiritual unity. Give and take, humble submission and balanced expectations are the paint, brushes, and canvas of a vibrant, dynamic relationship. A spiritual binary is internal and has an outward display. The manifestation can

be good or bad and the truth can be hidden only for a finite amount of time, usually a short amount of time.

A complex spiritual binary would be the Church. Each person is a singular component of a singular whole, the corporate body. Each singular person is a member of a singular body. Backgrounds, experiences, education, and traditions all contribute to the complexity of single elements and their contribution to the comprehensive unit. The binary outcome (1+1=1) rests on a rock-solid foundation.

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”
Galatians 3:28 (NIV)

Jesus is the chief cornerstone, the sure foundation. The Church becomes the corporate body, even the Bride of Christ, through the life of Christ, His teachings, His promises, and the acknowledgment of the members of the binary function. The slave becomes one with the master, and the student becomes one with the university professor. Just think: The Son of God left His father so He could become one with His Bride, the Church. Now that is an incredible binary relationship.

So often, the Bible is cherry-picked for blessings, promises, and power. The thing is, there are also valid warnings, consequences, and punitive outcomes. It is essential to be aware of this good/bad binary that resides in the Bible. For example, one very subtle issue today in the spirit is an old and prestigious Christian sect normalizing a most egregious sin. The Bible states people engaging in this sin have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God. The sect in question is ordaining leaders and ministers and performing ceremonies under the banner of Christianity. The message being sent is, “It must be ok to practice this sin.”

Consequently, many people miss a chance at the riches in the Kingdom of God. A hidden reality is that those in leadership are held accountable, complicit, and culpable. The punitive outcome is the same for those who practice and those who approve. At best, rank-and-file members have been placed in a position where their eternal inheritance is at risk.

God is not binary, although He presides over binaries. He is Lord over good and bad, but God is good. God is unique in that He is One; however, a trinity. Three in one, He really can't be defined by math or science. Just think, God didn't decide one day to be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; He has existed that way from eternity past.

Even so the Father and Holy Spirit are the same yesterday, today and forever.

Now, the extraordinary binary relationship is Immanuel. The spiritual being, the Son, transitioned the divide between the spiritual and physical universes and walked with us. He was binary with respect to being both God and man. He had a human nature and a divine nature. He knew the Glory of God and the frailty of a creature. Jesus was even conscious of the time He was with the Father in eternity past, as recorded in John 17:5 (NIV).

“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

Consider the great binary operation, the union of God with regular people, 1+1=1. It is described as a new birth. There is no science to it; it is a spiritual undertaking and a miracle. God, in His great foresight, provided a means by which the life of God could become one with the life of a creature; it is not something earned or worked for, but a gift (see 1 Peter 1:3). Likewise, the corporate body, The Church, becomes part of the holy binary by marriage as the Bride of Christ. The function of the Holy Binary did bleed over onto a relationship between God and men, making a standing peace in the relationship forevermore. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

The Church

Let there be a distinction between a local church and the universal Church.

The local church is a distinct group of people who worship as a general congregation. They have unique meeting times, organizational policies and government. Some local doctrines can be diverse; however, knowledge and faith in Christ is held in common.

The Church is composed of every person who accepts and follows Jesus Christ.

The Blessing Follows **Unity**



As our two girls have grown older, my wife and I have realized how rare and precious the times are that we all spend together (and everyone gets along). Perhaps parents of older children already understand this, but it's something that each family must discover for themselves.

One of my fondest recent memories was a family trip to Universal Studios here in Florida.

Our family spent two days enjoying both Universal and Islands of Adventure, and it was such an amazing and wonderful experience. Since that trip, I've spent a great deal of time reflecting on our time together and exploring what made those two days so special to me. After some prayer and asking the Lord to help reveal why I cherished this particular time together, I believe He revealed to me the answer.

UNITY

During this specific trip, our family was not only in the same place together, but there was no fussing, no fighting, or frustration...just peace, joy, and a whole lot of fun—we were experiencing unity in our family!



Take a look at Psalm 133, verses 1 and 3 (KJV):

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! For there [the place of unity] the LORD commanded the blessing, Even life for evermore.”

[brackets added for emphasis by author]

These verses show us that where there is unity, the Lord commands the blessing!

We could do a lifetime of teaching on The Blessing of God however, for sake of this lesson, let's simply define The Blessing as 'an empowerment from God to prosper and succeed'.

The Lord not only loves unity, but it's His desire for all of humanity. So much so that when we choose to live in unity, it ushers in His power to cause that person, business, church, community... etc., to prosper and succeed despite the surrounding conditions.

We see this in the life of Joseph. Despite the conditions he found himself in, he remained unified with God and the dream He had given him as a boy. He continued to believe in that vision and stay in agreement with God despite the contradictions in which he continually found himself. Because of this, the Word tells us that the Lord was with him, and he prospered (Gen 39:2; 21-23).

When the Lord is with you, when His Blessing is upon you, you will succeed despite the conditions in which you find yourself.

That Blessing follows unity.

Here's what we must catch: Unity isn't simply being in the same room, on the same job, at the same church, or in the same family together. There's a big difference between being together in the same place and being in unity.

When we read about the Hebrew children's exodus from Egypt, we learn that they did a lot of murmuring and complaining

against God, against Moses, and the other leaders. Scholars believe that there were approximately 1.2 million people that God rescued out of Egypt to take to the Promise Land. That's a lot of people in one place, but that doesn't mean they were in unity.

When Moses sent out the spies to scout out the Promised Land, only two men came back ready to follow God into the land He had given to His people—Joshua and Caleb. Over a million people followed Moses, but only two were in unity with God and His plan. Hence, they had to spend more time in the wilderness, and the majority didn't get to experience the blessing God had already ordained for them to receive; however, the two that were in unity with God did. Joshua and Caleb were not only among the people who got to enjoy the promise of God, but the Lord promoted them to lead the people into His promise!

Unity sounds easy—and it is—when you fully agree with your family and peers, but when you don't agree and don't share the same perspective that unity becomes more difficult. During those times, we must learn to set aside our opinions, ideas, and perspectives to seek the Lord for common ground so that we can move forward.

Unity trumps opinions, ideas, and perspectives!

We can fully see the power that is available and released when

a group of individuals choose to come together not only in a physical location but also come together in agreement with the plan—this produces unity! Look at Acts 2:1-4 (KJV):

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord [unity] in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

[brackets added for emphasis by author]

This scripture shows us that they were BOTH in one place (together physically) but they were also in one accord (functioning in unity); and because of this we have the Day of Pentecost. They were able to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit from God the Father because they were all in one place and in unity.

THE BLESSING FOLLOWS UNITY

The power of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the people, and they began to supernaturally operate beyond their natural limitations by the power of God that had come upon them—through unity!

We need more of this today! We need the Church (the body of Christ) to begin operating in more unity so the Blessing of God—the Power of God—can fall on His people afresh to anoint and empower them to fulfill His plan on the Earth and usher in the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

There’s so much going on in the world today that is causing division. The enemy is using mainstream media, politics, social media, shifting in culture...etc., to drive a wedge between believers. This ‘divide and conquer’ strategy is meant to disarm the Body of Christ and cause us to become ineffective against his plans.

But we’re children of the Most High God, and we should be aware of the enemy’s schemes so we won’t fall prey to them. This is not to say that we should just roll over and allow society to dictate what we say and do just to appease them – absolutely not! There are going to be many instances where unity is not possible with those who do not believe – how can there be – we have different belief

systems and moral compasses. This teaching emphasizes the importance of the followers of Christ getting and staying in unity so that God’s Blessing will be upon us and empower us to accomplish it on Earth as it is in Heaven! **The Blessing [an empowerment from God to prosper and succeed] follows unity.**

Now more than ever, our world needs to witness a unified body of believers who stand firm on their convictions but also choose to love, forgive, unify, and be used of God to usher in His Will.

As I look back on that family trip to Universal, I realize that The Blessing of God was upon us as a family, and it produced a powerful experience of peace, joy, and wonderful memories.

With unity and The Blessing, the Church can experience that as well, even in the midst of all the chaos going on around us. I believe it would be a demonstration of God’s goodness and lovingkindness. I believe it’ll attract unbelievers to us because they’ll desire what they see in us.

Because Jeremiah 31:3 tells us that God draws people by His lovingkindness, and Romans 2:4 tells us that it’s His Goodness that leads them to repentance.

Let’s let our unity empower us to be used by God to save the world around us.



2025 West Virginia Scenic Calendar

Buckhannon Band of Brothers 10th-Annual Help Us Help "Underprivileged" Kids

'And let us not grow weary of doing good...' Galatians 6:9 (ESV)



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each
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- Help Us Help Kids is an annual Christmas project by a Band of Brothers comprised of Christian men from various churches across Upshur County.
- Our goal is to make Christmas and New Year's brighter for underprivileged children and their parents.
- We are proud to be celebrating our tenth year of dedicated service, focusing on helping 'the least of our brothers and sisters' during the Christmas season.
- Each year, we help hundreds of disadvantaged families locally, in surrounding counties, and across the state by working with the groups on the front line to ensure people have food for the holidays and presents for needy children. The stories we hear are heart-wrenching.
- This year's theme is "Keeping it Local," with local being defined as Upshur and surrounding counties.
- There is a real need for minor maintenance and repair work, including installing accessibility features for the financially burdened in our area. We have a team of Christian men who have

installed several handicap ramps for people in need. We plan to continue to meet those needs as they arise.

- We will continue to support several local groups we work with to brighten Christmas for families in need and children less fortunate. This includes providing disadvantaged kids with Christmas gifts, supporting the Prison Angel Tree Program, the Appalachian Impact Program for at-risk kids, Youth Mission Programs, Grand Families Program, Upshur Parish House, The Seth Project, youth scholarships and several others.
- We also support missionaries who help the destitute and spread the Gospel in some of the poorest parts of the world: Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Native Americans in Canada.

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By Al Tucker

REVEALING God's Glory

A Pictorial

“THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE:
*without him nothing was made
that has been made.*”

John 1:3 (NIV)

Through Him...

The Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee

Greetings, my friends; here we are into the fall of 2024 already, when our landscapes go through their colorful transition into winter, birds migrate to warmer climates, animals prepare for winter hibernation, and the days get shorter and colder. Children are back in school, football rules and basketballs will soon be swishing through nets, fall festivals consume weekends, and hunting season and Christmas shopping will soon be in full swing as we approach Thanksgiving. This year, it all takes place around an election that is full of vitriol, discord, lies, anxiety, and even violence.

Durdle Door Arch

Natural limestone arch in the English Channel on the Jurassic Coast of Dorset, England



Photo: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tudler

One could easily get caught up in the ugliness of the election. Some do the very things they lecture their friends about, along with their perceived evilness of the opposing party or, if not the party, their hatred towards a particular person and those who support him or her. I understand that elections are important, and I will cast my vote and then focus my time on loving and serving God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving my neighbors (Mark 12:30-31). I always hope and pray that my Glory testimonies reflect my love for God and my neighbors and encourage someone to get closer to God, including maybe a Christian or two, to become more Barnabas-like (read my last testimony to understand what that means).

I previously mentioned that Thanksgiving is approaching. It is the time for the traditional family turkey dinner, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, traditional college and professional football games, Black Friday shopping, and various family traditions.

It wasn't always that way, though. While it often involved a family feast, Thanksgiving was primarily intended to be a special time for praising God for His blessings, such as harvests, freedom, and security. Early Virginia settlers in 1619 decreed it to be a holy day. The Pilgrims celebrated it as a three-day harvest festival. Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed it as a National Day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." Over time, Thanksgiving has become primarily secular, with religious services on the day almost non-existent in today's modern world. Even though it is the middle of September as I write this article, our commercial Thanksgiving and Christmas world is already in full swing in our stores and in online and TV promotions.

As Christians, we shouldn't wait until a National Holiday to give thanks. The Apostle Paul encourages us to "give thanks for everything to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." I try to do that daily. You may remember my "Praise God from whom all blessings



Photo: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker

Glorious Devon

Devon, England, historically known as Devonshire, boasts of a spectacular coastline and is home to Dartmoor, the largest natural open land in southern England.

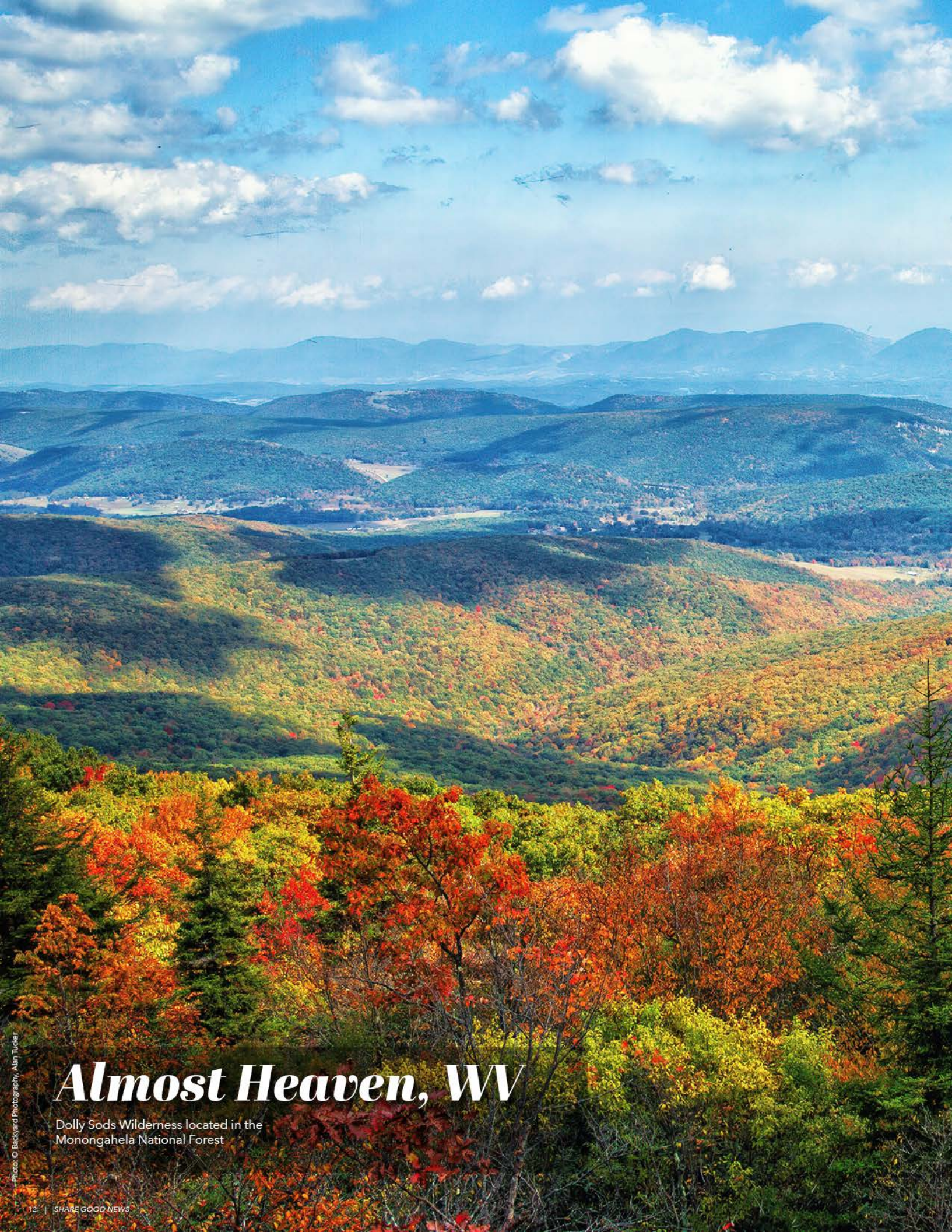
flow!” (Ephesians 5:20) testimony in my spring article. Once I started trying to praise God daily, it became easier and easier as I realized I encountered so many blessings each day. I like singing the refrain frequently as I see and experience the many things for which I am grateful. I have found that giving thanks and praising Him is a great way to take the focus off me and put it on God.

When thinking about this testimony, I thought for a while about what blessing from God I am most grateful for as we approach fall. Initially, the colors and the boundless opportunities for photography, one last chance for gardening, the freshness of the air, the excitement of fall activities, etc., all came to mind. And then it hit me; it was nature! God blessed me with a tremendous life-long love affair with nature. I was meant to be outdoors, meandering through a field of flowers with my camera, wading in a stream, boating on a lake, hiking in the mountains, or strolling through the woods. What a joy it is to feel sunshine on my face, to hear the songbirds, the breeze rustling through the trees, and

the gentle ripples of a stream, to smell the sweet aromas of the seasons, and to view God’s artistry up close and personal. I wasn’t made for the city; I need God’s natural surroundings to nourish my soul and to fill me with peace.

Much of my formative life was spent in two of God’s most beautiful places on earth. I was born in Devon, England, which is known as “Glorious Devon,” and eventually, I would settle in West Virginia, known as “Almost Heaven.” When not living in West Virginia, my wife and I traveled the world, living in beautiful places across the US and overseas, with Germany and Thailand being the most diverse countryside I’ve experienced. When I retired, we knew we would return to our beautiful state of our youth to live out our remaining years.

Around the time I was saved about 14 years ago, God introduced me to photography. I was struggling at that time with life in general, and I found myself at the foot of the cross, which changed my life forever. God knew I loved this earth that He created. Whether gardening, fishing, hiking, or just driving backroads, He planted



Almost Heaven, WV

Dolly Sods Wilderness located in the Monongahela National Forest

Photo: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



First Light...

Sunrise view from the Highland Scenic Highway in the Allegheny Highlands of West Virginia



Last Light...

A high-altitude sunset taken at the Dolly Sods Wilderness

AND GOD SAID, “*Let there be light*”

Genesis 1:3 (NIV)

that love of nature in me long ago, first as a little boy playing on Dartmoor, England, and then as a teenager exploring the hills and valleys along the majestic Ohio River. Fast forward to the fall of 2011, I was at a photography workshop on WV’s Highland Scenic Highway. I had been dabbling in photography for three years and was making little progress. I even bought an expensive new camera, thinking that would help. It was too complicated. To say that I was a novice photographer would be an understatement. Early the first morning of the workshop, Linda, my instructor, and I were on our knees on the Cranberry Glades boardwalk. She was showing me how to shoot close-ups of cobwebs and wildflowers. After some lessons, she watched me as I did some shooting. Once I had taken a few shots, she reviewed them, looked at me, and said something like, “You have a good eye.” Not knowing what she meant, I must have asked, “What’s that?” and she replied, “You see things that most beginners don’t. Once you learn your camera, you will be taking nice photos.” I now know that’s a gift from God and another reason for praising Him from whom all blessings flow. Since that initial workshop, I have taken more lessons and traveled extensively, trying to capture nature’s beauty, which I call God’s Glory. I began sharing my photos with others via Facebook, photo exhibits, and an annual calendar. People seemed to enjoy them, and my Revealing God’s Glory ministry came out of that. I give God all the credit. He created the amazing beauty of our planet, He taught me how to see it and when to capture it, He blessed me financially to afford nice equipment and to travel around, and He led me to share His Glory as often as I can. It is a joy to do so. I find something to praise God with every day, not just on some national holiday called Thanksgiving.

My intent with this testimony is to briefly describe how God created nature and how I use my photos to reveal His Glory as we see in our surroundings today.

We are so blessed in that God is not only the amazing creator but also the caring sustainer. Nature is so orderly and intertwined that if properly cared for by man, it will remain as designed and created since the beginning. I will rely heavily on Genesis chapter 1 (you may want to read it before or after finishing my article) as it tells how He “created the heavens and earth.” There is no videotape, no hard drives, no online media, and nothing available that we can see—for ourselves—exactly how He created nature. But there is truth, His Word, that describes that He spoke it into existence. It’s not my intent to explain how He did it. You will have to go elsewhere for that conjecture. I’m like Billy Graham in that regard, “if God said He did, I believe Him.” My goal is to focus on the glory He has revealed to me through nature photography. I have been blessed to see His Glory in so many large and small settings that it often overwhelms me. Let’s get started and get a glimpse of this amazing gift God created for us in the form of us.

**“And God said, “Let there be light,”
and there was light God saw that
the light was good, and he separated
the light from the darkness.
God called the light “day,”
and the darkness he called
“night.” And there was evening,
and there was morning
—the first day.”**
Genesis 1:3-5 (NIV)

Genesis chapter 1 describes how God created the Earth. John 1:3 (NIV) tells us that Jesus was involved in the creation of everything. *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”* Jesus, the light of the world, was intimately

Let The Water...

Sandridge Beach, Virginia Beach, VA

Let The Land...

A high-altitude sunset taken at the Dolly Sods Wilderness



involved with all aspects of God's creation. It all began on day one when God spoke, *"Let there be light."* Without light, nothing exists. The same goes for photography. One must understand the nuances of light to become a photographer capable enough to capture the beauty of God's creation. For Christians, too, it is all about the light, the light of Jesus that is: *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's Glory displayed in the face of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

"And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas."

Genesis 1:9-10 (NIV)

Nature didn't happen by chance or in a vacuum. These above verses are followed by those describing the creation of plants, trees, fishes and sea creatures, birds, livestock, wild animals, and all living creatures, i.e., how God created nature in an orderly and interconnected design. He even arrayed the stars and established the sun and the moon to mark the seasons all for mankind. Such magnitude, order, and intricacy could not just suddenly appear on its own. It gives evidence to God's limitless power to create and sustain life and His boundless love for mankind to create this wonderful environment we get to enjoy every day of our lives. Then, when man was lost to sin, He sent His son to die for our sins and rose from the dead to give us eternal life, the greatest gift of all. From the very beginning of time, God has continually been in the gift-giving business. David long ago praised God for His power and majesty: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork"* (see Psalm 19:1). That is why I never stop praising Him for His ongoing blessings. The following photos depict some of that marvelous handiwork. It is only a small selection by category of creation. It would take volumes upon volumes to reveal the entirety of His creative power and genius. I hope the photos will cause you to stop and think about this marvelous gift nature is and that you might not wait until Thanksgiving to praise Him for His love. Make it a daily habit. He would be so pleased, and you'll be spiritually more prosperous from it



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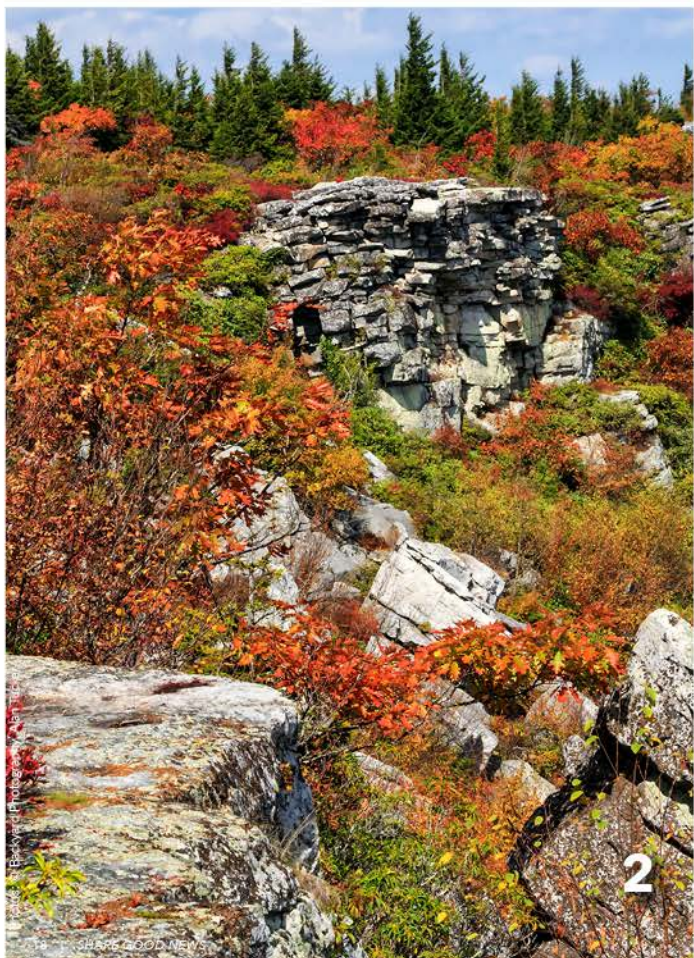
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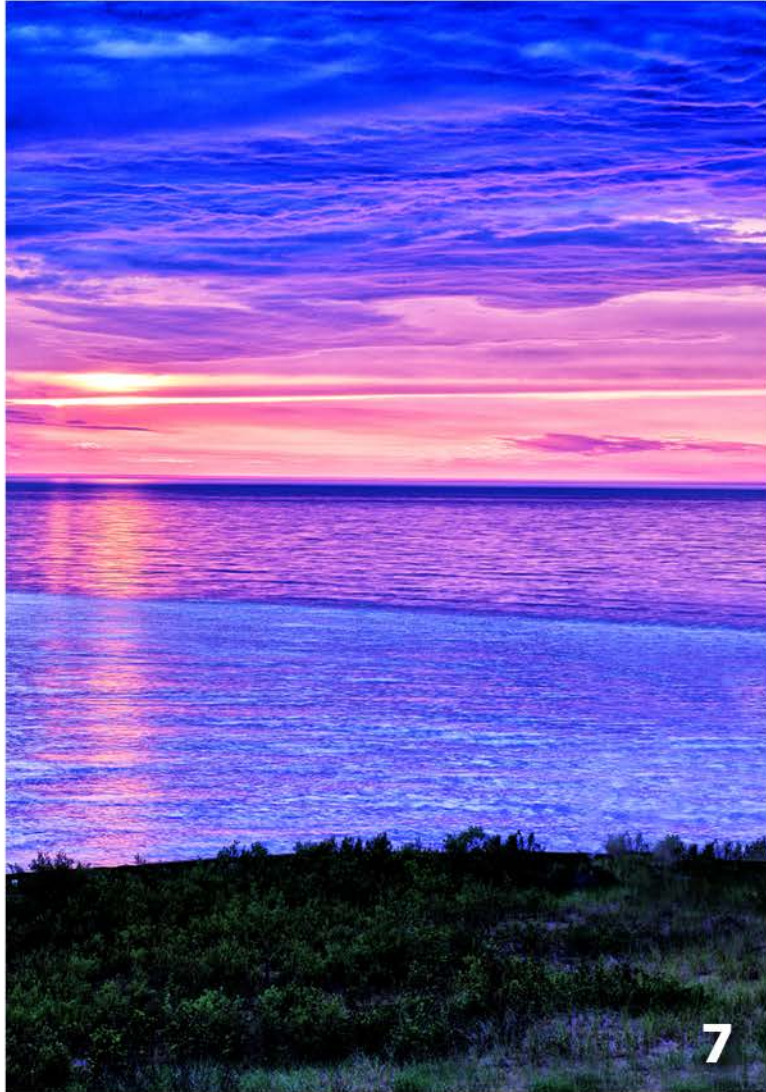
Look for *We Have Snow: A Christmas Miracle* online on **AMAZON**



We Have Snow
A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE
ANGELA ERRETT

Perfect For Christmas!

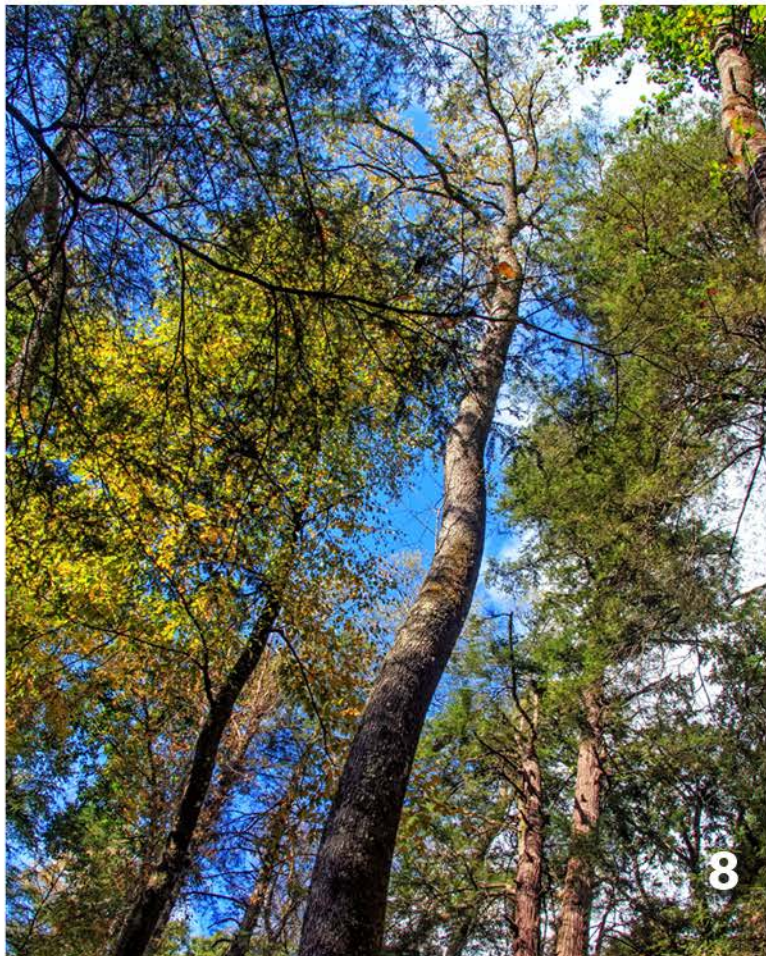




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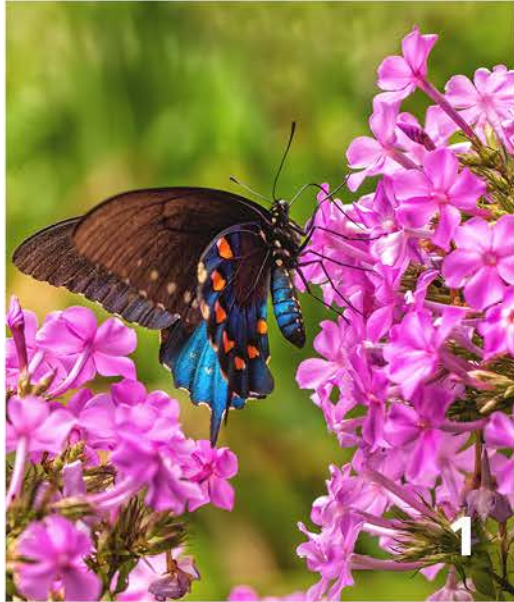
8

“YOU ARE WORTHY,
OUR LORD AND GOD,
TO RECEIVE GLORY AND
HONOR AND POWER,
*for you created
all things,
and by your will
they were created
and have their being.*”

Revelation 4:11 (NIV)

1) Niagra River, NY 2) Dolly Sods, WV 3) Niagra River, NY 4) Bear
Rocks, Dolly Sods, WV 5) Snowdonia Mountains, North Wales
6) Blue Ridge Parkway, NC 7) Lake Michigan, MI 8) Cathedral State
Park, WV 9) Grandview, New River Gorge National Park, WV

Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



“CONSIDER HOW THE FLOWERS GROW. THEY DO NOT LABOR OR SPIN. YET I TELL YOU, *not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*”

Luke 12:27 (NIV)



1) Pipevine Swallowtail on Phlox 2) Japanese Lilies 3) Large Sunflower bloom with Honey Bee 4) Turk's Cap Lilies 5) Carpet of Bluebell Flowers 6) Pleasant Creek, WV field of wildflowers 7) Seneca Rocks, WV 8) Monarch Butterfly working a wild Aster 9) Canada Lilies 10) Azaleas at Dolly Sods, WV

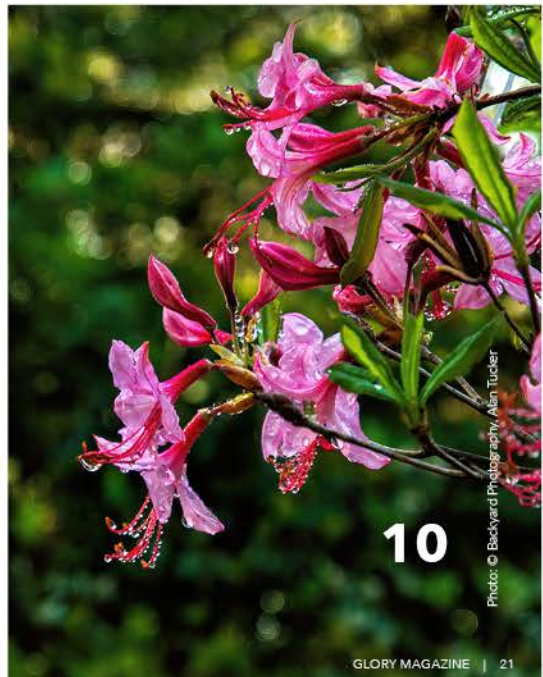


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8



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10

“LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR,
FOR THEY NEITHER SOW NOR REAP
NOR GATHER INTO BARNES:
**yet your heavenly
Father feeds them.
Are you not of more
value than they?”**

Matthew 6:26 (NIV)

1) Great Blue Heron 2) Sparrow 3) Wood Stork 4) Black Skimmers 5) Robins 6) White Pelicans 7) Ducks with young 8) Red Tailed Hawk 9) Goldfinch 10) Bald Eagle

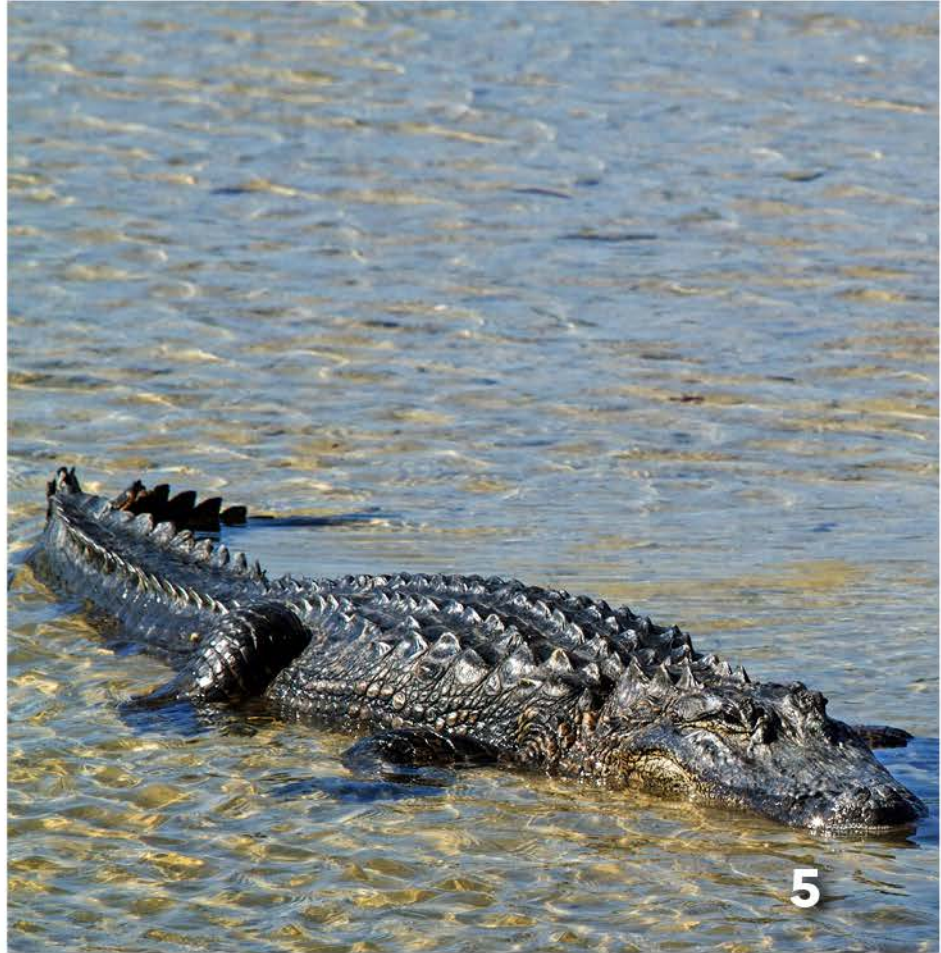
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“GOD MADE THE WILD ANIMALS ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS, THE LIVESTOCK ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS, AND ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE ALONG THE GROUND ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS.
And God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:25 (NIV)

1) Red Fox 2) Baby Skunk 3) Black Bear
4) Fawn 5) Alligator 6) Scottish Highland Bull



Photos: © Backyard Photography, Alan Tucker



Photo: © Backyard Photography, Alan Turvey



It is my hope that this photo essay fills you with an appreciation for not only the vast expanse of God’s creation but also His great love for us, whom He created in His image. If you read the entire initial chapter of Genesis, as I recommended, you will see that God considers each of us highly valuable. So much so that He created nature for all of us. I also hope my photos will inspire you to take more time to appreciate the amazing beauty that surrounds you every day. With this fall season upon us, there is no better time to start noticing the stunning evidence of God’s handiwork that He placed there just for you. If you do, you may come to agree with King David’s words so beautifully written thousands of years ago:

**“When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them
You have made them a little lower than the angel
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!”**
Psalm 8 3-9 (NIV)

Finally, if you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to invite Him into your heart now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Then, seek out a pastor or a Christian friend you know and ask for his or her guidance. If you do that, praising God from whom all blessings flow will become natural for you, and your life will be richer and so much more meaningful, as it did for me.

Until next time, Godspeed. Al

SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed

The text is written in a mix of black cursive and orange-red sans-serif fonts. The words 'SO', 'VERY', 'INCREDIBLY', and 'UNBELIEVABLY' are in orange-red, while 'thankful', 'grateful', and 'blessed' are in black cursive. The words are arranged in a vertical stack, with 'SO' and 'VERY' above 'thankful', 'INCREDIBLY' above 'grateful', and 'UNBELIEVABLY' above 'blessed'. The entire composition is surrounded by several stylized autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown.

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