

When I made a commitment to follow Jesus in the Spring of 1973, I could feel things begin to shift for me on the inside. My perspective on life was being radically altered. It was strange and wonderful. I began to see things, people, myself in new ways. It was like a tight rose bud slowly unfolding, petals moving out into glorious display, though it felt a bit like being a spectator witnessing an awesome waterfall or a spectacular sunrise or a baby being born. Life was no longer an *achievement* of my doing alone but a *gift* from a good Friend.

Of the many transitions that I experienced in those first few years of my new spiritual journey, one in particular was to make a profound difference in my future. It really came to light while I was taking an embryology class for my biology degree. I was truly in awe as we tracked the development of a fertilized egg to the moment of birth. Amazement seized me at every turn of stem cells “knowing” how to turn themselves into skin or muscle or bone or nerve cells. One specific process really caught my attention: *the development of the eye*. Looking at a sequence of illustrations in my textbook, I just shook my head in wonder as the “skin” of the fetus’ forehead folded in on itself to begin to form the eye and connect with the also developing optic nerve. Cells transformed into a marvelous globe of specialization, organizing themselves perfectly to catch images and send them to the brain for interpretation. Deep inside, the gift of awe and wonder surfaced in my life like never before.



That sense of awe and wonder has grown larger and deeper over the years. God is birthing new appreciation in me for what was formerly common or routine. Tucked away in the simple things of my daily doings are treasures of beauty, of majestic imagination, of a newfound luminosity that shines and sparkles. And it's all a gift. Wow.

When Jesus rose from the dead that first Easter morning 2,000 years ago, so many new possibilities were opened up for us. They all involve *a new way of seeing* life all around us. To be able to view our day to day activities, relationships, chores, pleasures, and even difficult challenges with a sense of awe and wonder, is to ready ourselves for an incoming precious gift from a Giver who only has our best future in mind.

This Easter, I invite you to ask Jesus to increase your capacity for awe and wonder. Then pay attention to the little ways your perspective begins to shift, the steady enlargement of view, the experience of the “bigger story” unfolding before you. He can do that for you because He lives! And he does do it because he loves you to the stars and back!

An awesome Easter to you all,

*Scott*

P.S. Please join us for a special Easter celebration on Sunday, April 4th, @ 10:30 where everyone attending will receive a unique gift 🎁 . Invite a friend!