

The Dream Behind DAWN

Wonder, human dignity, and the invitation Home.

The questions that remain

Some questions accompany us long after the circumstances that first awakened them have changed. They return in the quiet after a funeral, in a conversation with a student, or in the unexpected beauty of an ordinary afternoon. Why did God create? Why does love involve sacrifice? What are we being invited into?

These questions have traveled with me through boardrooms and classrooms, celebration and loss, certainty and mystery. Over time, I have come to value the way a true answer can deepen wonder, revealing how much more there is to receive from the God toward whom it points.

The God beyond our measuring

We explore, calculate, discover, and build because we have been given minds and hands capable of attending to the world. Such abilities can become acts of gratitude. The temptation comes when the boundaries of our measuring become, in our imagination, the boundaries of reality itself.

The God who sustains creation is not contained within it. Reason can help us recognize the coherence of what He has made, and science can disclose wonders we had not imagined; neither can exhaust His being. His mystery does not make truth arbitrary or contradiction holy. It reminds us that a creature's understanding, however real, remains finite.

Imagine all the information preserved across human history gathered into a single machine. Its reach would astonish us, yet beside the infinite wisdom of God it would be like a grain of sand upon the shore. Even that comparison is too small, for the shore has boundaries. Our accumulated knowledge remains a gift received within His creation.

Love before the first sunrise

Christian faith confesses that God did not create because He lacked companionship or needed a world to complete Him. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally share the fullness of divine life and love. Creation is a free gift of His goodness.

The image of a song already whole, yet opened to more voices, helps me approach that generosity. It is a metaphor for wonder, rather than an account of something Scripture asks us to picture literally. We exist because God freely chose to give life, and our first response can be gratitude before achievement.

In John 17:24, Jesus prays that those given to Him may be with Him and behold His glory, speaking of the Father's love for Him before the foundation of the world. In verse 26, He prays that the Father's love for Him may be in His people. Within those words we glimpse the depth of the welcome toward which the Christian Story moves.

The love revealed at the Cross

The Cross and Resurrection stand at the heart of the Gospel. They reveal the depth of our need and the astonishing mercy of the One who comes to meet it. The story of redemption lets us see how far divine love goes toward people who cannot restore themselves.

We do not earn that pursuit. Nor does the Cross give us permission to measure a human life as though it were a commodity with an established price. Our dignity is given in creation, as people made in God's image; Christ's self-giving reveals God's love for us in our need. Romans 5:8 directs our attention to that grace while we were still sinners.

This matters for the child whose abilities are still unfolding, the elderly person whose strength is fading, and the neighbor the world has ceased to notice. Their worth does not depend upon the usefulness others can discover in them. Every person calls for a response shaped by love and responsibility.

The Creator with a human name

The eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The One through whom all things were made entered a human family, grew in a particular place, and became known as Jesus of Nazareth. The immensity of that claim can become familiar enough that we cease to hear its wonder.

The Creator accepted the nearness of ordinary life: a table, a road, a grieving household, the company of people who misunderstood Him. In Jesus Christ, divine goodness became visible in a fully human life without His ceasing to be God.

Beauty, goodness, and truth help direct our attention toward His character. A glimpse of courage, faithfulness, or undeserved mercy can awaken a recognition that life is meant for more than acquisition and survival. Philippians 4:8 invites us to dwell upon what is true,

honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable. Such attention can prepare us to recognize gifts we might otherwise pass by.

The adventure of knowing Him

We do not exhaust a friendship by loving faithfully, nor a great work of music by listening again. These finite experiences offer a modest way of imagining why knowing an infinite God need never become empty repetition.

Scripture does not give us a detailed account of every experience of eternity, and our imagination should remain humble where revelation is restrained. Yet its promises of life with God, restored creation, and the end of death give us reason for hope far richer than mere escape.

I find myself drawn to the thought of discovery without estrangement, work without the old frustration, and love freed from the fear of final loss. These are hopes contemplated in the light of Scripture, rather than a map of what has not been disclosed. The center of the promise is clear enough to trust: God will dwell with His people.

The longing for Home

A moment of beauty can awaken a longing it cannot finally satisfy. We feel it in a landscape, a friendship, a remembered voice, or the rare experience of being understood without having to defend ourselves. Such moments can become reminders of what we were made to receive and share.

Home, in the Christian hope, is life with God among His people. The final vision of Revelation gives us a renewed heaven and earth, the holy city coming down, and God dwelling with humanity. Tears are wiped away; death no longer has the last word. The welcome is personal, and its fulfillment reaches into creation itself.

That hope gives direction to what we make now. A song cannot accomplish redemption, and a painting cannot confer dignity. But art can bear witness, awaken attention, and help us see a neighbor as someone worth knowing. It can make room for a conversation through which faith, gratitude, and courage are shared.

The dream taking visible form

DAWN's immediate beginning is A Song for the Generations: sixteen songs with companion stories, artwork, and narrated reflections in development. A ten-song musical and planned DAWN Windows gatherings offer further ways to encounter those themes together. The Book of Towers begins another conversation about civilization, technology, human dignity, and the hopes guiding what we build.

The larger vision need not be presented all at once. I hope each work can become a window through which someone encounters enough beauty to pause, enough truth to reflect, and enough hope to take another step.

Perhaps a grandfather will tell a story he had assumed no one wanted to hear. Perhaps a young woman will ask a question that changes the way she understands her family. Perhaps an artist will recognize an invitation for a gift that has been waiting for a place to serve.

These are beginnings worth tending. The dream behind DAWN is to help them grow in the light of the One whose goodness gives every faithful act its meaning, and whose welcome draws us toward Home.

Scripture for further reflection

Genesis 1:26-31; John 1:1-14; John 17:24-26; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:14-20; Philippians 4:8; Revelation 21:1-5. The images of song, invitation, and continuing discovery in this reflection are literary meditations governed by these biblical promises.

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