



Filled with Wonder and Awe

A G@P DEVOTIONAL



From *Everyday Worship*
by Deborah Haddix



CHRISTIAN
GRANDPARENTING[®]
N E T W O R K

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Day 1 - The Wonder of His Glorious Name	5
Day 2 - Awestruck	11
Day 3 - Fueled by Reverence and Awe	15
Day 4 - A Right Perspective	21
Day 5 -- The Human Experience	27
Day 6 -- I AM	33



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The Wonder of His Glorious Name

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon
his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9*

Names intrigue me.

When I was teaching, one of the most exciting parts of a new school year was the moment I received my new class list. To some this was simply a list of names, but to me these were never just names. No, the names on this list were a window into the collective family with whom I would share the next nine months.

Before I met these children face-to-face, could I possibly learn anything from the names?

Eagerly, I sat each year, reading each name with great thought. Did the parents of this child choose the name simply because of its sound or popularity? Was it an honored family name passed through the generations? Or had the parents with great care and consideration, chosen the name with meaning and purpose?

In biblical times, it was a much more common practice to attach meaning to names than it is today. Just as I did with my yearly class list, we can sit with the names of the Bible to see what they might tell us.

Moses – to pull out or draw out
(Exodus 2:10)

Isaac – he laughs (Genesis
17:19, 18:9-15, 21:3)

Jacob – to follow or come
behind; takes by the heel
(Genesis 25:24)

Often as we see with Moses, Isaac, and Jacob, the name shines light into personal character and story. It is no different with our Savior.

One of the beautiful names given to Our Lord is the name Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6).

Setting aside for the moment the question as to whether this name is a singular name (Wonderful Counselor) or two separate names (Wonderful, Counselor), let's bask in the light shined on our Savior by the word Wonderful.

As we begin, it is important for us to note that the Hebrew word translated in Isaiah 9:6 as "Wonderful" is the noun *pele*. This word means a miracle or marvelous thing. In the Bible, it is only used when speaking about God. Never is it associated with man.

Might the depth of this name be lost on us due to language nuances?

Today, we have come to use the word "wonderful" almost solely as an adjective. We use it to describe something else as exciting, amazing, or admirable.

“His name is
Wonderful.
He is Wonder.

Perhaps some of our wonder has been lost in part because we ascribe it to God as an adjective. It is not simply that he is wonderful. No. His name is Wonderful. He is Wonder.

There are several instances in the Bible (Exodus 15:11; Psalm 77:11, 77:14, 89:5, 119:129; Isaiah 25:1; Daniel 12:6) where the Hebrew word *pele* is used of God. Each time the word speaks to his extraordinary acts. It calls out deeds that are supernatural and beyond our capacity to understand. Ones that defy explanation and inspire amazement.

Are you amazed? Stand in wonder as you spend some time today allowing the light of his glorious name to shine brightly onto who he is.



REFLECT

In today's reading, we took a fresh look at the word "Wonderful." Read and meditate on the following passage with this new understanding in mind:

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

Exodus 15:11

What stood out to you?

PRAY

ADORE: Celebrate the wonder of God's glorious name.

CONFESS: Any lack of wonder that has crept into your life.

GIVE THANKS: For the wonders of his hands that are recorded in the Bible.

OFFER PETITION: Pray that your grandchildren will come to know that God is Wonder.

The Wonder of His Glorious Name

REFLECT

“

*Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

Exodus 15:11

”

The Wonder of His Glorious Name

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

Awestruck

And amazement seized them all,
and they glorified God and were
filled with awe,
saying, "We have seen
extraordinary things today."
Luke 5:26

Have you ever noticed how those who encountered Jesus were struck with awe and left standing in amazement?

We read the accounts and often in our familiarity, do not even see the most incredible details.

And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. -Luke 2:47

He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" -Luke 8:25

So that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. -Matthew 15:31

When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" -Matthew 27:54

These words – amazed, marveled, wondered, awe – and others like them followed Jesus nearly everywhere he went.

And this sense of wonder and awe is not limited to the Gospel accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry. No, the magnificent glory of God is splashed across every page of the Bible. From the details of the Creation in Genesis to the peels of lightning and thunder and the appearance of creatures beyond description in Revelation, we are given

glimpses. Sightings of God's glory that will strike us with awe and leave us standing in amazement, just as it did for those who encountered Jesus in the New Testament accounts, if we will simply take the time to notice.

How long has it been since you felt a sense of wonder or stood in amazement after an encounter with our glorious God?

Ask for eyes to see. Open his Word. Look intently and be awestruck.

“The magnificent
glory of God
is splashed across
every page
of the Bible.

REFLECT

Go back and reread one or more of the passages mentioned in today's reading - Luke 2:47, Luke 8:25, Matthew 15:31, or Matthew 27:54.

How does attention to the people's reaction to Jesus inform your reading?

PRAY

ADORE: Recall a personal encounter with God. Express your wonder and amazement at the encounter.

CONFESS: Any apathetic or half-hearted attitudes you may have.

GIVE THANKS: That he is a God of personal encounters.

OFFER PETITION: Pray that your grandchildren will see the glory of God splashed across every page of the Bible and exhibited in their own lives.

Awestruck

REFLECT

“

*And amazement seized them all,
and they glorified God and were filled with awe,
saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”*

Luke 5:26

”

Awestruck

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

FUELED BY REVERENCE AND AWE

*Therefore let us be grateful for
receiving a kingdom that
cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God
acceptable worship,
with reverence and awe.
Hebrews 12:28*

The young man went to Romania to teach. But he soon found that he was the one learning life's most valuable lessons.

In Romanian village life, it is a common practice for the Christian to say a short, silent prayer when they enter the church. Before speaking to anyone else, they say a prayer asking God to speak and move and act and teach.

As this teacher from outside the village boundaries immersed himself in the

culture, he discovered that this simple act of quiet prayer performed a work in his heart. It reminded him that he was entering God's house and helped bring a hush to the hurry that is life. Equally important, the practice helped turn his focus toward God and taught him to watch, expectantly.

Awe-filled worship was rekindled.

Why is awe-filled worship important? We need only look at Malachi chapter two to find the answer. The Bible says the people approached God irreverently and with an apathetic attitude. Moreover, the priests were not honoring God's name, nor were they standing in awe before him. And how does God respond? He promises to curse their blessings! God calls for reverence.

His character elicits awe. When the Lord God descended on Mt. Sinai, the people trembled. The moment Peter realized Jesus was the Messiah, he fell on his knees. When John beheld the glorified Christ, he fell at his feet as though dead.

“True worship
is fueled by
reverence and awe.

True worship is fueled by reverence and awe. This does not mean that our worship must be somber and staid. It does mean our worship should acknowledge the weight of his glory.

Reverence and awe are not easily summoned, but they can be roused.

A few years ago, a friend shared with me his often-employed habit of sitting in silence for a few moments prior to prayer. Much like the young teacher working in Romania, my friend found that this practice helps to quiet his mind and turn his thoughts toward God. It brings him reverently into God’s presence and helps to stir a sense of awe.

How might you cultivate reverent and awe-filled worship in your life today?



REFLECT

Have you allowed the busyness of your days to creep into your soul? One way to know is to ask yourself if regular time with God is being crowded out of your days.

How might the experiences of the young teacher or my friend help bring a hush to your hurry?

“ Reverence and awe
are not easily
summoned,
but they can be
roused.

PRAY

ADORE: Choose a characteristic of God that is especially meaningful to you right now. Acknowledge God for this precious characteristic and offer him praise.

CONFESS: The hurry that has crept into your soul crowding him out.

GIVE THANKS: Thank God that you have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

OFFER PETITION: Ask God to speak and move and act and teach in both your life and the life of your grandchild.

Fueled by Reverence and Awe

REFLECT

“

*Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship,
with reverence and awe.*

Hebrews 12:28

”

Fueled by Reverence and Awe

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

*O Lord, you have searched me
and known me!
You know when I sit down
and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts
from afar.
You search out my path
and my lying down
and are acquainted
with all my ways.
Even before a word is
on my tongue,
behold, O Lord,
you know it altogether.
You hem me in,
behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is
too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
Psalm 139:1-6*

“Who am I?”

It is a compelling question. In fact, I recently heard it referred to as life’s most defining question. We have all asked it, haven’t we? And because we have, a plethora of blog posts, podcasts, books, and such have been published in response.

As believers in Christ, we must take in the wealth of information on the topic with great caution, always aware that biblical truth can easily be distorted.

Psalm 139 is a prime example. Over the years, many have used verse fourteen as their supporting text for devotionals and talks that speak to the question of identity.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. -Psalm 139:14

They quote this verse and affirm our significance. But this verse was not written to help us feel valuable. We are not the focus.

Rather, verse fourteen is part of an entire chapter. Read in context, we see that Psalm 139 is about God. He is the focus.

Pulled out of context our perspective is skewed. Verse fourteen is not about us – “fearfully and wonderfully made.” It is about God, fearful and wonderful, who made us.

Yes, we are daughters and sons of the King. Yes, we are his masterpiece. Yes, he sings over us and delights in us. All these things are precious truths. However, they are not true because of us, but because of him.

Worship that is true is offered from a right perspective. Recognizing who God is and understanding his value, we lift our eyes and seek him first. Taking the time to make sure our perspective is rooted in biblical truth; we celebrate his worth. Perceiving his holiness, we stand in reverent awe.

“Worship that is true is offered from a right perspective. Recognizing who God is and understanding his value, we lift our eyes and seek him first.

Has your focus been misplaced? It is not too late to redirect it. Go to God in prayer. Begin by confessing your misplaced focus. Then ask him to help you recognize who he is and to understand his value. Ask him to help you root your perspective in biblical truth and to perceive his holiness.

From this place of right perspective, may you lift your eyes to seek him first, celebrate his worth, and stand in reverent awe.

REFLECT

Gaze in awe at "I Am."

Read Psalm 139. What does it reveal to you about the character of God?

In the space below, respond to the passage with words or art.

PRAY

ADORE: Praise God for his character revealed to you in the reading of Psalm 139.

CONFESS: Any misplaced focus that has crept into your life.

GIVE THANKS: Thank God for the Bible and that in it we find truth.

OFFER PETITION: Ask God to help you recognize who he is and understand his value. Ask him to help you root your perspective in biblical truth and to perceive his holiness.

Pray that your grandchildren will come to love the Word of God and seek truth in its pages.



A Right Perspective

REFLECT

“
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139:14

”

A Right Perspective

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

Awe is a complex emotion.

It can arise from a wide range of experiences. Skyscraping mountains, spiring redwoods, colossal canyons, mighty waterfalls, the view of Earth from space, hurricanes, tornados, the birth of a baby, a Rachmaninoff Concerto, and a painting by Monet all have the power to prompt deep feelings of awe.

Adding to the complexity is the fact that unlike other emotions, the awe response can be either

positive or negative. For example, on the positive side one might experience the tingling of goose bumps when marveling at the expanse of the night sky or depth and breadth of the ocean. While a more negative response is likely to occur in response to an earthquake. Additionally, the Bible records a deep and dramatic awe response when Moses and Daniel fall on their faces and Isaiah cries, "Woe is me!" before a Holy God.

Not surprisingly, there now exists a science of awe to help psychologists and others better understand this complex emotion.

One of the most remarkable things shown by researchers involved in the science is that when humans experience awe, we become more able to reach out to others. Awe experiences, it seems, help shift our attention away from ourselves

and make us feel like we are part of something greater. It changes our perception of time and even makes us more generous toward others.

In recent years, awe has been dubbed the “collective” emotion. The moniker arising because awe appears to have an amazing capacity to bring people together. As our focus is shifted from ourselves, we look to the interests of the group to which we belong. Feeling more connected to the people in our lives, we act in collaborative ways to build strong groups and cohesive communities.

“ Love God.
Love others.

Does this sound in any way familiar?

As I think about the research regarding awe, Mark 12:30-31 comes to mind. In verse thirty which is often referred to as the Great Commandment, we are instructed to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. In other words, we are to marvel at Someone greater than ourselves. He should evoke deep feelings of awe within us.

Then verse thirty-one follows with a second command – love your neighbor; reach out, look on their interests, build strong, cohesive communities.

The research findings, it appears, are but an echo of Mark 12:30-31. Love God. Love others.

REFLECT

Meditate on Mark 12:30-31.

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

SEARCH YOUR HEART:

Are your eyes turned first toward God?

Do you love others in practical, community-building ways?

PRAY

ADORE: Marvel at the greatness of God. Identify some of his attributes that are most meaningful to you and praise him for them.

CONFESS: The times when you have been less than generous with others.

GIVE THANKS: Thank God for the "others" in your life.

OFFER PETITION: Ask God to help you love others in practical, community-building ways.

Pray that your grandchildren will learn to love God and love others.



The Human Experience

REFLECT

“

'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31

”

The Human Experience

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

I AM

*Then Moses said to God,
"If I come to the people of
Israel and say to them,
'The God of your fathers has
sent me to you,' and they
ask me, 'What is his name?'
what shall I say to them?"
God said to Moses, "I am
who I am."*

*And he said, "Say this to the people
of Israel: 'I am
has sent me to you.'"
God also said to Moses,
"Say this to the people of
Israel: 'The Lord, the God
of your fathers, the God of
Abraham, the God of Isaac,
and the God of Jacob, has
sent me to you.' This is
my name forever,
and thus I am to be
remembered throughout all
generations."
Exodus 3:13-15*

Is there a story behind your name?

It is fascinating to me – all the various methods people employ when it comes to naming their children. Some parents simply choose a name

they like the sound of. While some carry on a family name that has been passed down for generations. Then there are those who spend hours researching the meaning of a name. And others still who choose the name based on a favorite movie, book, or Bible hero.

When our son and daughter-in-law could not agree on a name for their first child, they pulled out a box of baseball cards. Sitting around our dining room table, they went through box after box of cards until they chose our grandson's name. This process became their thing. All four of their children have now been named from baseball cards.

However the name is chosen, one thing is certain. It is not the baby who chooses the name. Names are given. And when a parent places a name upon a child, they are exercising authority.

Previously, we talked about God's names and saw how important they are to helping us better know him. Here is another important aspect of his names. We did not choose them. God who alone is sovereign, exerted his authority by naming himself and then telling us what to call him.

Names in Moses' day were somewhat different than they are today. For the most part, we view names as labels. In Moses' time, names were an indication of your character, who you were. Therefore, God's words not only tell us his name; they reveal something about him.

Look back at our passage. In answer to Moses' question regarding God's name, God responds, "I am who I am." We have heard this name. We've read it. Perhaps, we have even

quoted it. But it is more than simply a label. It is a name that compels us to press into his very being.

God gave himself this name – a name that provides us with knowledge of his being.

"I am who I am."

God is who he is. He absolutely is. He is absolute. This is truth. There is no more basic or central fact than this. God is.

“**There is no more basic or central fact than this.**

God is.

Nothing is more foundational to your life, your relationships, your health, your mind, or your future than the fact that God is. Nothing is more foundational to your church, the Bible, and the person and work of Jesus Christ than the fact that God is. And nothing is more foundational to your worship than the fact that God is.

What are some of the implications that God is? Think about it! God never had a beginning, nor will he end. It is impossible for him to go out of being because he is being. God is absolute reality, absolutely there, absolutely all. He is utterly independent, and everything that is not God is dependent on him. The same yesterday, today, and forever. He is constant, and he is the absolute standard of truth, goodness, and beauty.

"I am who I am." Does this name stir wonder and awe within you?



REFLECT

In Exodus 3:13-15, God gives himself the name "I AM."

What does this name mean to you?

How does the fact that he gave himself this name change your thinking?

PRAY

ADORE: Celebrate that God is who he is. Praise him for his absoluteness. Stand in awe that he is.

CONFESS: Any half-heartedness or apathy that you have felt toward his name.

GIVE THANKS: That he is your foundation.

OFFER PETITION: Pray that you and your grandchildren will press into his name and, therefore, into his very being.

I AM

REFLECT

“
*God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”
And he said, “Say this to the people
of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”*

Exodus 3:14

”

I AM

PRAY

ADORE:

CONFESS:

GIVE THANKS:

OFFER PETITION:

NOTES

Deborah Haddix serves as the Resource Director for Christian Grandparenting Network. A Board Certified Master Christian Life Coach, she is also a faculty member of the National Association of Christian Journal Writers. Deborah is the author of several books and the creator of the 30-Day Prayer Challenge for Grandparents. She and her husband, Don, live in Ohio and are grandparents to twelve. Connect with Deborah at ChristianGrandparenting.com or deborahhaddix.com.

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