



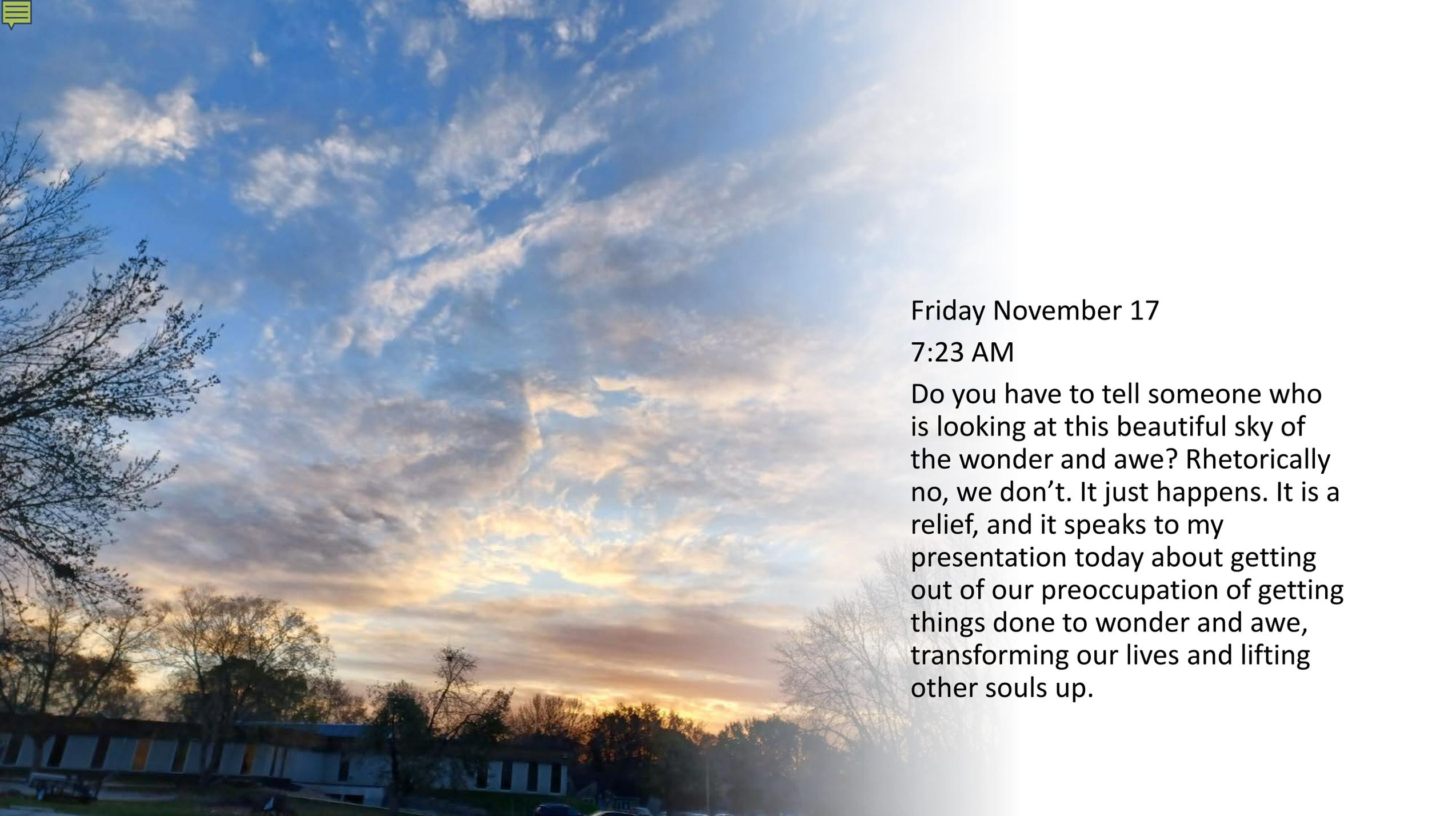
2023.12.17

Jon's Thoughts

Transforming while preserving

Lifting Up

To Bear up



Friday November 17

7:23 AM

Do you have to tell someone who is looking at this beautiful sky of the wonder and awe? Rhetorically no, we don't. It just happens. It is a relief, and it speaks to my presentation today about getting out of our preoccupation of getting things done to wonder and awe, transforming our lives and lifting other souls up.

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- Making Melody #396 “Speak To Us, Lord”
 - Speak to us, Lord, in this brief hour today
 - Give light upon the written word we pray
 - Stir heart and mind to heed and to obey
 - For this we plead.



I am going to ask a writer from 1817 to express his thoughts on knowing just the details and longing, aching, and desiring to satisfy this by seeing the whole picture. Someone has told him of beauties, yet he confesses his dissatisfaction with the study of them. (He also complains that many do not go beyond the 'little.')

His name was Samuel Taylor Coleridge and, in his biography, which he titled *Biographia Literaria* he writes:

“I can, at times feel strongly the beauties, you describe, in themselves & for themselves – but more frequently *all things* appear little- all knowledge that can be acquired, child’s play – the universe itself – what but an immense heap of little things?”

I can contemplate nothing but parts and parts are all *little* - ! –

My mind aches as if it ached to behold & and know something *great* –

Something *one and indivisible* and it is only in the faith of this that rocks or waterfalls, mountains or caverns, give me a sense of sublimity or majesty! But in this faith *all things* counterfeit infinity. Note: “all little things do not show me infinity”



“My mind feels as if it ached to behold and know something great”

McGilchrist, on page 202, in his lifetime work, *The Divided Brain, The Master and His Emissary* says

In German, the feeling of longing for something that exists outside of the self to which it feels itself to be connected was crystalized in the word ‘*das Sehnen*’

“Being connected to something but removed from it” Is often translated *longing* the connection remains despite the distance and the separation despite the sense of union.”



The trouble is, that our longing can go badly astray. McGilchrist's book explains, in my own words, that the aching feeling of the mind, or longing, of the individual gets so caught up in themselves that they think they are complete, but their construct of the big picture is only little parts. They will substitute their own badly distorted picture. They complain of boredom (rather than the kingdom) they seek the excitement of new things, but nothing satisfies the ache. They recreate a life that is made only of little things, not the whole.

What happens when the individual forgets that he is part of a bigger connection.

Here are some Biblical longings that had gone right and gone wrong. King David, Laban to Jacob, Shechem, and King David.



Psalm 84:2 “My Soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD,” NASB King David

Genesis 31:30 “Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father’s house; *but why did you steal my gods?*” NASB Laban to Jacob after leaving with his wives and his gods.

Genesis 34:8 “But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage.” NASB

2 Samuel 13:39 “The heart of King David longed to go out to Absalom; for he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead.” NASB



- Please read with me verses of longings in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul.

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- Romans 1:11 “For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;”
NASB
 - Romans 8:19 “For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.” NASB
 - 2 Corinthians 5:2 “For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,”
NASB



- Philippians 2:26 “because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.”

NASB Speaking about Epaphroditus

- Philippians 4:1 “Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.” NASB

- 1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” NASB

- 2 Timothy 1:4 “longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.” NASB

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- McGilchrist continued with 'longing' explaining that this 'das Sehnen' is the same root word as a tendon. The object of longing is that towards which we 'tend' and tendon is similarly related to the words 'tend' and 'tendency.' In fact, the English word 'sinew' is cognate with 'die Sehne' and 'sinew' use to refer to the whole elastic union of muscle and tendon. These images suggest the working of a joint, as for example, the elbow. The joint is made possible by the existence of the tendon, an elastic connection that allows the bones to take part in the joint (but do not constitute the joint) to move away from each other and to remain connected. Or to move together and remain separate.
 - I don't think I will ever hear the word tendency the same way as before. I had thought only the actual tendon, not the German meaning.

- Words that McGilchrist used to describe this process of apprehending the big picture.
- Aufhebung: the process, sublation, fulness, lifting another up.
- Aufgehoben: Preserved as well as transformed.
- Kenosis: emptying oneself, yet preserved, with the purpose of something more. (Philippians 2)



Some LF Hymns spell it “Fullness”

For this presentation it is the process of completion in Christ.

- LF #267
 - A Fullness abides in Jesus our Head.
 - A Fullness abides to answer all need
 - The Father’s good pleasure has laid up a store
 - A plentiful treasure to give to the poor.
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- Colossians 2:9,10 “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority”
NASB

- Allow me to say, in a dignified way, the Lord longed, and He acted in view of a big picture. This verse from Isaiah takes in His and His good work in us.
- Isaiah 30:18 “Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.” NASB
- The Lord Jesus, on becoming a man, laid aside His heavenly glory, and after His atoning work, rises, and there is a new complete glory! Philippians 2 Greek for emptying Himself is ‘Kenosis’

Take the tabernacle, the Golden Candlestick, or Menorah, the seven stems come forth from buds. The image is like that of a branch, bud, flower and fruit, and although the succeeding part is not visualized in the next, yet nothing was annihilated or lost in the process, the transformation subsumed and contained the previous, Rather, physically it was lifted up, and seen complete.

We pray, think of being like the tabernacle's candlestick, being lifted up to a fulness.
"Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."

1 Timothy 2:8 NASB

We are transformed,

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB

The longing, The “das Sehnen’

Romans 12:4-5

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

McGilchrist is concerned and warns about this ache turning bad, in religious circles. He says creation of something new is a process of building not destroying, or as he says, 'vitiating' of self. He complains that bad spiritual practices annihilate the self. I understand this, to satisfy the ache, let the process 'Aufgehoben' bear fruit.

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- Jon's thoughts: Many of my thoughts are longings. Let these be tested. Circular thoughts are stuck, not lifting my soul up to better things. These longings may be as base as those illustrated in the OT.
 - I ask myself, is the longing going to transform my mind, taking the illustration of the stem, bud, leaf, and flower?
 - My longings for another, that they be transformed.
 - If not, do not let them lead, let them go and be withered off the branch.
 - Oh, that my longings become a part of the body of Christ, where my individuality is seen as a part of the whole. Where there is a working out of my soul like Christ's, to add glory to my workings in order that I can give Him more glory.
 - Together: 1 Thessalonians 2:20 NASB "You are our glory and joy."



October
22,
5:47 pm

