



Invisible Yet Visible Devotion

Some of the blessings of living in Idaho are the numerous and gloriously beautiful places within driving distance of our home. On one of our not-so-frequent breaks from ministry, my husband and I grabbed our dog, our camping supplies, and our fishing gear, and drove to the verdant valley between Galena Pass and Stanley, Idaho. Soon we were lounging and fishing at the bank of the Salmon River from a wonderful, shady spot under a big, feathery pine tree. Our views of the river; the surrounding mountains; the lush, green landscape; and the blue, forever sky were beyond description. All I could do at that moment was thank God for His amazing creation.

Suddenly, my husband pointed to the center of the river and excitedly whispered, “Look at the size of those two fish, they are **monsters!**” He had caught and released several smaller trout that day, but the glimpse of **these** fish caused him quickly to re-cast his line into the area of the sighting. I have to admit that I strained my eyes, diligently searching the rocky, camouflaged bottom of the river through the clear rushing water, but I couldn’t see what he saw – to me, these “monsters” were **invisible!** Even in the excitement of the “fish hunt,” being surrounded by God’s beauty, it wasn’t hard for me to **reflect** on our worldly life and God’s spiritual realm!

How often do **invisible** things affect our lives? During my lounging, I’d been reading and preparing for our ladies’ Bible study from the book *Coffee with the Savior* by Kristen Myers. (Concordia Publishing House, 2010) The study focused on how to develop a “best friend” relationship with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit’s guidance, by spending time in God’s Word; praying (conversation); relying on Him to carry our burdens; and looking to Him for forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and redemption. Do you suppose unbelievers wonder about having a relationship with Someone who is invisible?

Indeed our Heavenly Father took His one and only Son home, but Jesus promised He would leave the Paraclete, the Helper, the **invisible** Holy Spirit to be with us so that our faith in Him, the unseen, would be a blessing to us. *Jesus said to him [Thomas], “... Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”* (John 20:29). Myers says to her readers, “How often do we forget the unseen Holy Spirit and His encouragement? ... He is always with us and encouraging us in our faith walk and the race we run for the Lord.” Because of the Holy Spirit, our faith in Christ Jesus becomes **visible** – in our actions, our love for one another, and in our witness of Christ’s redeeming love.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us *faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Faith believes God is real. The Apostle Peter wrote, *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls* (1 Peter 1:8-9). So take heart, God has given us His Sacraments, His visible Word, that forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, and gives us life and salvation.

Prayer: Lord, please give us the eyes to see You in all things, that the invisible might be revealed in our hearts, minds, and souls. Fill us, O Lord, with faith to trust You, and give us the desire to have Your will be done in our lives. In Christ's name. Amen.

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