

March 2009

Fellow Pilgrims:

How often do you see God? Do you see God every day? In the Bible, God is active in people's lives and is involved in our world. God did not change once the times of the Bible ended. God is active and involved today just as God was in the time of Abraham, David, Micah, Jesus, and Paul. Likewise, the Holy Spirit remains active in our world and times.

Do you look for God's activity in the world and in your own life? Jesus said (Matthew 18: 20), "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." This means Jesus is present when we come together in a community at worship or at home where two people are praying. We need to cultivate our eye to see God and our ear to hear God so we do not miss His presence. God was, is, and will be active in the world. I want to share with you the lyrics to George Strait's song *I Saw God Today*. It helps us discern God in our midst. The lyrics are:

I Saw God Today
Just walked down to the street to the coffee shop, had to take a break.
I'd been by her side for 18 hours straight.
Saw a flower growin' in the middle of the sidewalk.
Pushin' up through the concrete, like it was planted right there for me to see.
The flashin' lights, the honkin' horns, all seemed to fade away.
In the shadow of the hospital at 5:08, I saw God today.
{Chorus: I've been to church. I've read the Book.
I know He's here but I don't look,
Near as often as I should, (yeah, I know I should).
His fingerprints are everywhere; I just slowed down to stop and stare.
Opened my eyes and man I swear, I saw God today.}
Saw a couple walking by, they were holding hands.
Man, she had that glow. Yeah, I couldn't help but notice, she was starting to show.
Stood there for a minute taking in the sky.
Lost in that sunset, a splash of amber melted into shades of red.
{Chorus: I've been to church. I've read the Book.
I know He's here but I don't look,
Near as often as I should, (yeah, I know I should).
His fingerprints are everywhere; I just slowed down to stop and stare.
Opened my eyes and man I swear, I saw God today.}
Got my face pressed up against the nursery glass. She's sleeping like a rock.
My name on her wrist, wearin' tiny pink socks.
She's got my nose and her mama's eyes.
My brand new baby girl, she's a miracle.
I saw God today.

Have you seen God today? God is in the small (a flower), in the everyday (a sunrise or sunset), and in the creation miracle of new life (a baby). The prophet Micah tells us (6: 8), "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." When we walk humbly with God, we see God all around us and we can hear God talking to us directly and through others. An old primer on prayer says, "First, I talked at God. Then I talked to God. Then I listened to God. Now I listen for God." God speaks to us through our mind, body, soul, and spirit. Is something pushing you to do something or call someone, it might be

God trying to push you in a needed direction. Chaplain (NYFD) Mychal F. Judge (died on 9/11) tried to live on the basis of what is now called *Mychal's prayer*:

*Lord, take me where You want me to go.
Let me meet who You want me to meet.
Tell me what You want me to say, and
Keep me out of Your way.*

Have you seen God today? He is with us, now and here. Can you hear Him, feel Him, or see Him?

In Christ's love,
Chuck Ellenbaum ><+
Spiritual Director