

For your devotional time this Christmas week:

Why should I wish to see God better than this day?
I see something of God each hour of the twenty-four, and each moment then,
In the faces of men and women I see God . . .
I find letters from God dropt in the street, and every one is sign'd
by God's name. . .

From *Song of Myself* (stanza 48)
by Walt Whitman

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Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1.1-3a

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When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; . . . Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. Hosea 11.1-2a, 3-4

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The experience of something out of nothing – is that not how one might describe magic?
A hat held upside down may appear empty, though at God's command all life that any planet
has ever known could dance around that hat's rim, holding hands.
The root that needs no ground is He, and from that root all has come.
Creation is God's litter, and all are nursed; some grow more plump than others, indeed.
Eternally amazed is the soul before God, watching Him expand.
Witnessing God reveal Himself as Himself – that divine intimacy I know.

The Divine Intimacy
St. Thomas Aquinas

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For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD. . . Jeremiah 29.11-14a

God sees nothing in us that He has not given.

Everything is empty until He places what He wishes into it.

The soul is like an uninhabited world that comes to life only when God lays his head against us.

The delight a child can know tossing a ball into the air,

My Lord confessed he experiences whenever he looks at you.

God sees nothing in us that He has not given.

Whenever He Looks At You
St. Thomas Aquinas

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But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Isaiah 43.1-4

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It is your destiny to see as God sees, to know as God knows, to feel as God feels.

How is this possible? How?

Because divine love cannot defy its very self.

Divine love will be eternally true to its own being, and its being is giving all it can,
at the perfect moment.

And the greatest gift God can give is His own experience.

Every object, every creature, every man, woman and child has a soul and is the destiny of all,
to see as God sees, to know as God knows, to feel as God feels, to Be as God Is.

To See As God Sees
Meister Eckhart



All scripture quotations are from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible.

"Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman, www.daypoems.net/poems/1900.html.

Poetry by St. Thomas Aquinas and Meister Eckhart from *Love Poems from God*, ed. by David Ladinsky