

The Wonder of It All

The first annual management meeting after I joined Life Care Centers of America in 1986 was held at the Red Lion Inn in Portland, Ore. I had never been to the West Coast before, so it was an exhilarating experience for me.

On a Tuesday afternoon, after the morning sessions, everyone had free time for the rest of the day and evening. A number of us chose to take a trip down the Oregon coastline, since it was all new territory to us. The images of the magnificence of the ocean with the mountains flowing into it and the rugged landscape – and all the marvelous lighthouses along the way – will remain captured in my mind forever.

Perhaps you have been to majestic places that take your breath away, like ...

- Crystal blue waters surrounding the Isle of Capri.
- The Grand Canyon's vastness and beauty.
- The surf crashing against the shore off of Oahu.
- The red-hot lava of Kilauea Volcano on Hawaii's Big Island, glowing in the dark at night, but issuing columns of steam as it pours into the ocean.

These experiences fill one with wonder. They cannot be explained; they can only be experienced.

So it is with God. We need to experience Him. When we experience Him, we are filled with the wonder of His presence and love.



That's the essence of what Jesus was getting at when He encouraged His hearers to love God with all their soul. The Greek word for soul is *psyche*, from which we get the word *psychology*. Soul is the animating principle of life, that which gives life to the body.

When we talk about someone putting their "heart and soul" into something, we mean they're giving their everything.

Wonder seems to be a rare commodity these days. A "been there, done that" attitude is common. That cliché suggests spiritual and emotional dullness. We are a people saturated with analysis, explanations, and facts – but devoid of wonder.

Maybe it's time we rediscovered the wonder of God. All it takes is a renewed awareness of His presence.

My soul, praise Yahweh! Lord my God, You are very great; You are clothed with majesty and splendor (Psalm 104:1).

– Beecher Hunter