



*"He has such an imagination...  
He created sunrises and sunsets,  
knowing these things would take our breath away...  
and keep our eyes looking toward Heaven."*

*- Tanya Smith*

Looking toward heaven. It's an interesting perspective. As a child I remember laying on my back in the front yard looking up at the vastness of the stars. In fact, just this past week we were gazing up toward the heavens, looking at the meteor showers that took place. The next night we were looking at the heavens to see the incredible thunderstorm lighting its way across the night sky. It's hard to hear the magnificent thunder and not recognize how powerful God is to create such wonders.

Sunrises and sunsets completely enthrall me. The events seem to take forever, until all at once either the sun is up, or the sun has gone down. At times, the night can seem to be interminably long, we lay awake waiting for the sun to come up, and then, light begins to give shape to the things hidden in the dark. Ever noticed how shapes that were fearsome during the night become silly objects to us in the light of day? In the dark, we can't quite make out what is happening around us, we can't seem to bring shape to where we are going, or what we are doing. (I guess we could learn the lesson well to just take those times and rest until the light appears, rather than lying there fretting.)

I've found through the years that God works in much the same way as a sunrise. He sometimes has us waiting through a spiritual night before we see the light of day, He can seem to take a very long time to move, or to lead, but then when He does, we all at once see His light directing us. Maybe you need the reminder today that daylight is coming! It may take longer than you'd like, it may be cloudy from your perspective but the light will surely come, it always does.

In the meantime, be encouraged by the fact that to God it's not night at all! **Psalm 139:12** assures us of that, **"Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day, darkness and light are alike to You."** God sees, and He knows your every fear, your every need. You may be in a spiritual night, and it may be a very, very, long night, but hold tight, keep looking up, the sunrise is just off the horizon, and it most certainly is coming. Of course we can bury our head under the blankets and ignore it, but the beauty is found when we are watching

## Sunrise, Sunset

for it. Sometimes, as with a sunrise, the process of waiting for the light is the most beautiful part of all.

On the other hand, you may be longing for sunset. Life might be just one long, hard, hot day, and you would relish in the rest that comes as the sun sets. Be encouraged because, likewise, it's coming. Day in and day out we can count on the cycle to take place, just as we can count on Him in whom darkness and light are alike. He is the common denominator, He is the Creator who has given us breathtaking visions in the heavens to draw us to Him foremost of all.

Today, keep your eyes and heart focused on what matters most. Take the time to look up toward the heavens, and discover that God has been waiting for you all along.

*Father, thank You for the blessing of sunrises and sunsets. The daily-ness of them brings us hope that You are with us and life will start fresh and new again. The day is done, and just as You promised, Your mercies are new every morning. Help us not to sleep through what You have for us but instead be watching, alert to the breathtaking moments You have designed for us. Please be with those that are in the long night, thank You that to You there is no darkness at all, it is only time for us to rest and wait for Your light to shine once again.*