

Thursday, March 18

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I think all of us can acknowledge that the past year has been challenging on many levels. Many of us were living in a fast-paced, unfeeling blur, focused only on surviving from one day to the next. However, this pandemic has forced us to slow down and evaluate what it is we truly believe, to stop ignoring our relationships with ourselves and with God. Although the typical rhythms of life have slowed over the course of the last year, I have often found myself overwhelmed by insecurity and loneliness. I began to feel trapped within the walls of my house, as if my only portal to the outside world was the television screen and its constant reminders of pain and tragedies. Being alone with my thoughts and having to confront the issues in the world and my personal life has been extremely difficult, but God reminds me that I don't have to bear this burden alone. This year, he showed me a different way to handle and appreciate the obstacles in my life: by opening a window to his creation outside.

I know that God is always with me, but I can feel His presence most strongly when I'm alone in nature. Even in our constantly changing world that feels broken and divided, being among God's creation always brings me solace and peace. The earth He designed is steadfast and unchanging, just like His love for us. Especially in this time of insecurity, it is such a relief to know that God has control of our future no matter what happens. This truth has been immensely reassuring to me, because I tend to imagine the worst-case scenarios of every situation and worry incessantly over the unknown. Nothing this world designs for us, even the most seemingly insurmountable problems, can take us away from His love. I have no idea what the future holds, but God has reminded me of His power and control over my life through His unwavering presence in the natural world around me.