THE BATTLE FOR BEHOLDING

LUKE 2:10-11 | ERIC SIMPSON | DECEMBER 21, 2025





"Neurons that fire together, wire together" Dr. Donald Hebb, a neuropsychologist, 1949

Isaiah 28:16

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation..."

Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me..."

Matthew 25:6

"Behold, the bridegroom is coming..."

John 1:29

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

John 16:32

"Behold, an hour is coming..."

1 Corinthians 15:51

"Behold, I tell you a mystery..."

Revelation 1:7

"Behold, he is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him..."

Revelation 5:5

"...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered..."

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord"

Behold = patient attentiveness

What you behold affects who you become.

We were made to BEHOLD God.

BUT...

Sin has broken our beholding, sin has caused us to settle for giving our attention to things that diminish our attentiveness to God.

"When I try to quiet my mind and focus my thoughts on God, it's like a pack of monkeys in a banana tree." – Henri Nouwen

What can we do to make this Christmas a season of beholding God? > Pause

Isaiah 30:15

"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."



"Most people are too busy to live emotionally healthy and spiritually vibrant lives."

— John Mark Comer

Goal: 5 minutes each day, quiet space

Give everyone and everything to Jesus (family, work, decisions, health, future...etc.)

-- benevolent detachment

> Set your mind upon God

Psalm 16:8

I have set the Lord always before me...

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

If the pathways in our brain can become so wired that reaching for our phones is as natural as waking up, then it's possible to re-wire them so they reach for God and behold His glory.

Goal: Over next 7 days, bring these words to the front-burner of your mind, over-and-over *Matthew 1:23*

"...they will call him Immanuel—which means, 'God with us'"

Worship

Psalm 145:1-2

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Because of who He is, we are in the position of the beholding—we praise Him, we exalt Him.

NEXT STEPS

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