

Anticipation

In my office hangs a poster of a large whale's tail. The tail alone is seen above the water's surface, with the other 99% of the whale being out of sight.

I've enjoyed this poster for years. I've owned it since before I had a good place to hang it.

What draws me to it, I believe, is its promise. What I see is impressive. But what I don't see intrigues me more. The whale's tale suggests a bigger being, a completely different type of being, a deeper life, a greater realm. What I see is a promise of what I don't see, and it fuels my longing to see and know more.

It reminds me of God. What I know of Him is spectacular, but everything I learn promises even more that I have not yet seen or experienced, that I cannot yet fully grasp. As Job said after describing God's greatness in creation:

*Behold, these are the fringes of His ways;
And how faint a word we hear of Him!
But His mighty thunder, who can understand?* (Job 26:14, NASB)

God's promise through Paul is even more explicit:

Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:12, NASB)

God has poured out Himself, His own breath, His own life force, on all of us who simply trust Him. He has lavished on us His power, wisdom, and love, through the Holy Spirit of His glorious Son. But as great as this Gift is, it is only a downpayment, a deposit, a promise of His full gift of Himself to His people:

Having also believed, you were sealed in [Christ] with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14, NASB.
See also 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5)

Consider the greatness of God's gift of His Spirit. Right here and now He can be more and wants to be more than you have let Him be. But also, let this great gift fuel your anticipation for the greater gift that is yet to come: our complete and constant union with God.

Listen and sing:
Hymn: *Longing for Home*
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