



## *Homily*

---

Hello, my name is Bryant Humphries, and I have the incredible honor and privilege to be a part of Convergence this year. As I learned more about the intersections of science and faith, it got me thinking about the ways God reveals himself to us.

I am willing to bet that almost everyone here will agree with me when I say that I see God through sunsets and mountain ranges and the ocean. God makes himself known through beautiful works of art such as these. I am also willing to bet that much fewer of you will agree with me when I say this: I see God in the miniscule details of science. I know you may be skeptical, but allow me to explain.

If you will, look back with me at Romans 1:19-20. It says God's divine nature and eternal power is revealed through the things he has made, and that's where the sentence stops. Paul, the author of Romans, does not add any stipulations. He does not say that these works must be outwardly beautiful or even visible, but that God is revealed in all of his works.

Think back to your knowledge of biology. DNA is the instruction manual for our body. It tells our eye color, shoe size, and even tells us how our heart should be created. DNA is made up of 4 bases... only 4. If DNA is the manual, these bases are the words. This instruction manual has 4 billion words, all specifically arranged to make us who we are. If just one of these 4 billion words is wrong, the results can be disastrous. This arrangement of DNA did not happen by accident. The number of possible combinations of the 4 billion bases is so large that my calculator stopped working as I tried to calculate this. There is no "undo" button on a person, either. This arrangement was precisely and carefully set by a powerful and divine God. He does not only paint beautiful sunsets and sculpt impressive mountain ranges, but he works even in the microscopic details of each one of us.

So as we move forward with our day and our week and ever our year, take some time to look at your life and the ways that God is revealing himself to you. Take some time to look at the visible, the invisible, and everything in between and see that God's divine nature and eternal power is in all of his creations. (Bryant H.)

-----

During this week here at convergence I have been reminded of a really powerful song called "Light the Fire." This song is about how when we are weak and feel like we have no more strength to go on, God comes to us and relights the fire in our soul. I have been struggling with the pressure of trying to focus on getting enough credits and scholarships for the job that I want in the future. Learning about all of the ways that God shows up in our lives and especially in all of creation has really helped me see how God fights for a good relationship with us. On Friday, one of the major points from the presenter was that if our cup of joy and wellbeing was empty, then we cannot help fill others cups if we ourselves have empty or not all the way filled cups. In a way this is like the fire of our soul becoming embers and ashes, but if we just take some time to reconnect with God and come in fellowship with others, then our fire can be rekindled so we can go out and rekindle someone else's fire.

(Lydia P.)

-----

Has anyone seen the movie *God's Not Dead*? It has many lives that intersect. One is a college boy whose philosophy professor asks his students to write "God is Dead" on a sheet of paper. The Christian student refuses to disavow his faith and must prove that God exists. One of the parts that has stuck with me the most is at the beginning of his lecture he mentions the Big Bang Theory. God willed this eruption, this catastrophic explosion to create planets and stars and galaxies. It's kind of poetic if you think about it. In Genesis it says, "Let us make human beings (or man) in our image." God didn't really want us to be like him rather to reflect his glory through love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, and faithfulness. Therefore, we are revealing God when we are loving, patient, forgiving, kind, and faithful, even when it's hard or everything feels like it's falling apart, or when it seems like everyone else has given up on being faithful. Because we are God's creations, so aren't we proof that God exists? Aren't we his poetic justice? In conclusion, I believe that as God's children, we can prove his existence just by being loving, patient, forgiving, kind, faithful and most importantly accepting of everyone else's beliefs and styles of worship. (Sophia A.)

-----

Good morning. My name is Grecia Hernandez. I am from Vinton, Virginia. I am going to be a senior this year, so unfortunately this is my last year here at Convergence. I've had the privilege of speaking to this congregation, so for me, the decision to give a small sermon was not a hard one. I have given one at my home church as well as one here at convergence last year. The hard part for me was deciding what my sermon would be about. Our scripture for this morning gives a straightforward path. Look for God in the big, beautiful parts of nature and in the intricacies of His creation. But this is not that sermon. In science classes, I have read about amoeba and bacteria that thrive under the harshest of conditions. These are organisms that live by hydrothermal vents. Scientists previously believed life could not be sustained here and yet now we know that is precisely where life began. It was by no accident that life somehow found a way to live under hundreds of millions of gallons of water with no light by almost boiling hot vents. That was the genius design of God. I believe that Christ has shown us time and time again that He can forge life and hope in the bleakest of circumstances. I assume that everyone at one point in their lives has had a moment where they ask God, "why me?" This is certainly something I've wondered. These hard times where we feel immense pressure and little light or

hope are when we truly need to look to God. This past week, I've had the privilege of being around plenty of Godly people. This is not always the case in my life though, and I often feel that the sin of man can overshadow the love of God. It is in these moments when we need to look to the Lord for guidance rather than the answers to all of our worldly questions. Those times of doubt, when we feel farthest from Him are like living by hydrothermal vents. The conditions seem unbearable and unreasonable, but scripture tells us that God is everywhere. Even when we see the most innocent and vulnerable of our society given no regard, God is there. Even under hundreds of millions of gallons of water and no sunlight, God is there. Thank you. (Grecia H.)