

When was the last time you took a few moments to ponder the stars. Do you contemplate the God who created, sustains, and names them?

I love this time of year. The temperature, like the leaves, begins to fall. The grass slows down its growth and eliminates the need for weekly mowing and edging. Hearts start turning to thoughts of gratitude and gift giving. And let's not forget that frogs begin to hibernate. That alone makes sitting outside more enjoyable.

Friday night football games are more comfortable as the summer heat becomes a memory. Camping becomes more bearable and sitting around a campfire becomes a heartwarming experience. The nights begin to come earlier again, and the leafless trees provide a clearer look at the stars twinkling overhead.

Jeanbon Saint-Andre, the French revolutionist and atheist, said to a lowly farmer, "I will have all your steeples pulled down, so that you may no longer have any object by which you may be reminded of your old superstitions." "Ah," said the farmer, "but you can't help leaving us the stars".

Abraham Lincoln, who was born 60 years after Jeanbon Saint-Andre, once said: "I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."

Nathaniel Parker Willis was just three years older than Lincoln. He was a poet. He spoke of the stars in this way: "There they stand, the innumerable stars, shining in order like a living hymn, written in light."

The Psalmist wrote: "He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name." Psalm 147:4.

And before the psalmist God speaks to Abram, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness."

Lauren Daigle wrote Look Up Child which goes like this: Where are You now when darkness seems to win? Where are You now when the world is crumbling? Oh I, I-I-I, I hear You say I hear You say, Look up child, ayy Look up child, ayy.

I don't know what difficulties are befalling you, or what earthly troubles are consuming your mind. But I know this, we live in a world that is suffering, trouble abounds, but I also know that there is something greater than those issues, difficulties, and earthly troubles, there is a God who created the world and said it was good and created humankind and said it was very good. And I believe it was no coincidence that God sent a star to light the way to our savior on that day so long ago. There is something profoundly inspirational about the stars. So when you feel your world falling apart, and you feel despair over the way things are going turn your eyes upward and believe the God who created them loves you too. I know I plan to do just that.