

# BETTER THAN A HALLMARK GREETING CARD

**D**o you notice the birds? Are you the first to see an unusual bird flying overhead, or can you hear when a new bird moves into the neighborhood? Or are the birds such a common fixture that you would no more notice them than you would the stones in the street?

Can you believe that there are those who God has wired to love the things you may never notice?

It's one of the things I find the most awe-inspiring about God. His creativity is so immense that He can design millions of different ways for people to connect with Him through the world around them. Your connection point may or may not be birds, but it is there. And it's a place where you will find a precious flavor of intimacy with Him. There are few things more special than the delight of God over *your* being delighted with something He made you to love.

You may have already guessed one of my connection points. Birds. I love them – even down to the drab little sparrows that clean up your crumbs at the amusement park and shopping mall. I will have to admit, however, that while I find seagulls to be beautiful birds, I am working on a reconciliation model for past childhood trauma regarding stolen food. But I love them all from the greatest to the smallest. I thrive when birds are present, and I notice when they are not.

This is a real place of intimacy with God. He made me this way and He delights in sharing “bird moments” with me. He goes out of His way repeatedly to send a bird messenger with a “hey, let’s celebrate” note around its neck. I’ve had white doves show up out of nowhere, hawks landing on my fence in the city, eagles in a nearby tree, finches and songbirds showing up at a home just because I was there, and countless other encounters that sent my heart soaring towards heaven. It is a flavor of intimacy I don’t experience any other way.

**He has given you the capacity for the same thing.**

Do you know your connection points with Him? Have you experienced the intimacy of shared delight over His handiwork? Or have you been criticized because what brought you joy was considered silly? Maybe the entire topic of intimacy is a struggle for you. Regardless of where you are in the process of discovery, I want to encourage you to continue pressing in and celebrating God through the things He made you to love. Look for those moments of intimacy and take the time to enjoy them with Him. What He wired you for is never silly in His eyes. You can build your relationship and your capacity for awe by meeting Him again and again in these big and small ways. Even the sight of a common hummingbird coming to my feeder is an on-ramp to heaven for me.

Now, my friend, I would like to take this topic a step further. The relationship building results of the intimacy is a valuable thing. But it's not the end of the story. **God also designed us to walk in dominion.**

We need to look at these facets of our design to learn how God desires us to use them.



Not long after I realized how deeply I connect with God about His birds, I began to recognize that there were spiritual dynamics connected to them. Some birds are more spiritually sensitive than others, while some breeds I have seen repeatedly show up after a significant piece of spiritual work was done. Birds are very good barometers for a sound portal. They flourish when there is a cleansed sound portal, and a defiled one will drive them away faster than anything. Birds affect the growth of vegetation. Their absence can be an eerie indication that something is very badly wrong. A whole new world opened up to me in which I could not only experience intimacy, but also use the passion as a tool in the Kingdom. God has given me an uncommon authority in this area. It is part of the gift. He made me to love His birds, and He gave me the responsibility to develop my authority and use it for His purposes. This is how we walk in intimacy and dominion simultaneously. If we stop with intimacy and do not move on to dominion, we will accomplish very little change in the world. God desires us to thrive in our love relationship with Him, but He also expects us to be change agents. **The beautiful thing is that we can do both at the same time!**

So, the first step is to know your connection points with God, the things in which you can experience a shared delight. This builds intimacy in your relationship. The second step is to discover WHY God made you that way. Why does it mean so much to you when you see a well-built house? Or why does your spirit soar every time you are on a horse? Or what is it about mowing the lawn that makes you love God even more? You need to discover what authority is there for you to unpack and what you are supposed to do with it. Look for patterns in the way that people or nature responds to you in this area. You may discover that you have an unusual effect that you never noticed before! What are the spiritual dynamics of this thing you love? How can you use it to advance the Kingdom? Study, learn, and experiment! Most of all, be active with what you discover.

As for me, I may be off in some remote part of the world, cleansing the land and calling the birds back.

Megan Caldecourt  
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