

Follow the Prints

A young man from Africa shared how he had learned some things that changed his life:

“When I was a little boy, running around in the bush country of Nigeria, I knew there was a God. I would stand among the trees and look up at the sky at night and know that Someone made this world, but I didn’t know what to call Him. One day a missionary came to our village to teach the children how to read. She taught us to read the Bible. Then I discovered the name of the God who had revealed Himself to me through the trees and the stars.” *

In nature we see God’s “fingerprints.” “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands” (Psalm 19:1). “Since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20 NIV).

Someone has said, **“In nature we see God’s fingerprints... but what we sinners need to see is Christ’s nailprints.”** *

Nature reveals some things about God, but the deeper truths about God come only through His supernatural revelation: the Word of God (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In God’s Word, we learn about man’s greatest malady: sin. It is a universal and deadly problem (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

But we also learn in God’s Word the solution to man’s greatest problem: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 ESV).

God’s great love and His solution to man’s sin problem is seen in the nailprints in Christ’s hands and feet. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, died on the cross to pay the price for our redemption from sin (1 Peter 1:18-19). Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we can be saved from our sins and receive the gift of eternal life (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:23).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

So follow the prints... God's "fingerprints" – evidence of His existence, His power, and His divine nature – can be found in His creation. Christ's nailprints reveal God's love and His provision for our salvation. The resurrected Jesus said to "doubting Thomas": "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27).

Dear friend, follow those same prints... and believe. Demonstrate your faith by trusting and obeying Jesus. Your life will be changed, forever.

-- David A. Sargent

* As quoted in David Roper's commentary on Romans in the *Truth for Today* Series.