

Seeing the Invisible

“The best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or touched, they must be felt from the heart.”Helen Keller

What a strange title! By definition, “invisible” means it can't be seen. But, is it not possible to have knowledge and insights that transcend physical sight and intellectual understanding? What is love? What is the beauty of a sunset? Where is the spirit of a football team? These are all real enough but cannot be reduced to mathematical or scientific terms without making nonsense of the realities. All of us live, to a large degree, by the unseen. I don't know precisely how electricity works but I don't plan to sit in the dark until I do.

If you believe only what you can see, you can never expect to be a creative artist. When poets, painters and composers begin their work, everything waits for them to bring into existence what cannot be seen until it has been created. Robert Frost spoke of the joy of remembering something I did not know I knew.

Poet Laureate, C. Day Lewis offers this thoughtful, yet profound, insight- “No true artist can be a materialist because the sources of art-poetry, music- come from a region beyond time and space and are too deep for materialism to explain.”

If you believe only what you can see, you can never hope to be a scientist. Scientists report that Protons, Neutrons, Quarks-the basic ingredients of matter-have never been seen, heard or touched by anyone. Einstein tells us that the work of the scientist begins with a certain attitude--a sense of wonder! There can be no science without the assumption of design in nature, and acceptance of the laws of physics by an act of faith.

If you believe only what you can see, you will never recognize the great potential in *the lives of others*. As a youth leader I often observed teenagers with low self-esteem and I would try to encourage them by majoring on their strengths and helping them see the persons they could become by the grace of God. I found that many times love, generosity and trust can reveal what cynicism, suspicion and fear never discover.

If you believe only what you can see, you will never truly know God. No one can say with any degree of authority- “There is no God!” To verify such a statement would require knowing absolutely everything in the entire universe- obviously impossible. The brilliant scientist Albert Einstein believed that he knew less than 1% of all the knowledge in the universe. Let us suppose that our atheist friend knows ten times as much as Einstein-9%. Does he not realize God might be found somewhere in the remaining 91%.

Perhaps, Augustine stated it best, “ *God is an infinite circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. To have faith is to believe what you cannot see, and the reward*

of faith is to see what you believe.”