

**"In the beginning"**  
**Gen1:1 /John 1:1**  
**Pastor Randy Stroming**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen

**Almighty God** is Jesus God - in the flesh - wow

This is a great doctrine of the church. One that we confess in our Creed.

Almighty God is. That is, He exists. There never was a time when He did not exist. And, out of His sovereignty and divine power, He created He took the initiative to create. In so doing – both in terms of what He made and how He made it – By His Word

In a recent devotion by John Piper He voiced this concern. He said - we who can recite the great doctrines of our faith in our sleep and who yawn through the Apostles Creed — that among us something must be done to help us once more feel the awe, the fear, the astonishment, the wonder of the Son of God, begotten by the Father from all eternity, reflecting all the glory of God, being the very image of his person, through whom all things were created, upholding the universe by the word of his power.

He goes on - How dead we are! How callous and unfeeling to your glory and your story! How often have I had to repent and say, "God, I am sorry that the stories men have made up stir my emotions, my awe and wonder and admiration and joy, more than your own true story."

He further states - The space thrillers of our day, like *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, can do this great good for us: they can humble us and bring us to repentance, by showing us that we really are capable of some of the wonder and awe and amazement that we so seldom feel when we contemplate the eternal God and the cosmic Christ and a real living contact between them and us in Jesus of Nazareth.

We take so much for granted. We walk outside and experience the world around us, often without any thought of its majesty and grandeur. We see the sky, the trees, the ocean, the mountains, any of which is immense enough to overwhelm us as we try to consider its beauty and magnitude. In our defense, from our experience, there has never been a time when those things did not exist. So, it would be easy for us to take them for granted. However, there was a time they did not exist. In fact, there was a time when nothing existed at all - nothing, that is, except the God that made all we see and experience. And, it is His existence and activity that should cause us to marvel to an even greater degree.

PP Genesis 1:1-5

Let ponder this for a moment. How big is our God?

Imagine with me a long sheet of paper that stretches all the way across the front of the room, out the door, outside the building and continues until you can't see it any more.

- Now imagine that I take a pin and poke a tiny hole in the paper - That is earth. All the cities, mountains and oceans of our planet are represented by the speck.
- about 5/8 of an inch from the pinhole make another pinhole – that's the moon
- Now imagine 19 feet away, I draw a 2-inch circle that is the SUN.
- 600 feet away the length of 2 football fields we come to the planet Neptune.
- After leaving the solar system and our pin hole planets, we would have to travel 1000 miles of paper to come to the nearest star. That is the distance from Chicago to Denver.
- Distances in space are so vast they are measured in light years. - The distance that light will travel in a year; light travels at 186,000 miles per second. That is so fast that a bullet shot at that speed and circling the earth would hit you 7 times before you fell to the ground - even if it took you a second to fall to the ground.
- At the speed of light you can travel to Los Angeles to New York in 1/60th of a second. You could reach the moon in less than 12 seconds. - The sun in 8 minutes and cover the entire solar system in 11 hours.
- But even at those speeds it would take you 4.3 years to reach the nearest star. You would need 400 years to reach the North star and to cross just one galaxy - our own milky way would take 120,000 years, and astronomers now estimate that there are over 100 billion plus galaxies....

God - creator God - went to extreme measures for us - we who are the highlight of HIS creation. The Gospel of John is a portrait of Jesus Christ and his saving work. It is no coincidence that Genesis and the Gospel of John both start with the same words, "In the beginning." The Holy Spirit wanted everyone who heard John's gospel to understand that Jesus is God from eternity.

**That is what we celebrate and ponder on - The word became flesh...(cradle)** That baby is the Word who was with God in the beginning, is with God now, and will forever be with God.

**The Word is more powerful than death so the Word defeated death and returned to life. He has opened up the path through death to His eternal life and light. The good news is that all who receive him, who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God.**

God in HISpower became human. Began with the Incarnation and ended with the crucifixion. Christianity is the only religion which has at its central event the humiliation of its God. He humbled himself even unto death on a cross to save us.

What a big God! What a great love! That we might believe and have life forever In Jesus.

May the Word fill you with God - May you say Yes to God who wants to be close to you He gave us Jesus. He is the Word for us. Never under-estimate the power of a personal word from God.

Never hesitate to say Yes to Gods plan for your life and life everlasting.

Just like the Mary and Zechariah and Simeon and the angels we sing a song of celebration to our God for our salvation which we will sing forever in heaven. May His Word continue to guide and grow us into everlasting Life.

The awesome God who exists and who created has made it possible to know Him personally. While we can see and understand things about Him through His creation, we can only know Him personally through a faith relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Open your hearts and lift up our heads

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heavenly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*