

## UNDER AN OPEN SKY

*A personal reflection*

June 2026

Today is laundry day at my house, and between loads I'm sitting on my back porch enjoying the sunny, breezy weather and the abundance of God's creation around me.

As I sit here, I instinctively glance up at the vast sky. Clouds in different shapes and sizes drift eastward, carried along by strong winds. Instantly, I'm transported back to my childhood, and those carefree summer days when my friends and I would lie on our backs, gazing at the big, fluffy clouds that looked like giant cotton balls.

After surviving tuberculosis from the ages of three to seven, and being unable to play with other children during those years, I treasured those moments. They made me feel free—like a bird soaring through the sky.

As I continue looking upward, a bird glides effortlessly above me, its broad wings fully outstretched. The timing feels like more than a coincidence—just moments ago, I had been remembering the freedom I felt as a child, and now one soars overhead, a gentle reminder of that same feeling. Soon, others join it, moving gracefully in a quiet dance across the sky. Watching them brings to mind these words from the Bible where the writer wishes to find rest:

*"Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and find rest." (Psalm 55:6)*

That thought prompts me to ask myself, *"Would I want wings so that I could fly away and find rest, as the Psalmist wished?"*

After considering it for a moment, I realize that I wouldn't. I'm content keeping my two feet firmly planted on the ground—even though I imagine the view from up there would be spectacular.

Yet, for many people, the answer would be an emphatic “Yes!” Some would simply enjoy the thrill of flying. Others might be searching for a sense of freedom, peace, or joy that seems beyond their reach. Perhaps life has dealt them more hardship than kindness, and the thought of escaping—even for a moment—is deeply appealing.

The truth is that the worries, anxieties, fears, struggles and trials we experience in life can sometimes feel overwhelming. In the midst of life’s chaos, finding rest and peace is not always easy. Yet Jesus gives us an answer in Matthew 11:28-30 when He says:

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

If Jesus were walking among us today, He would speak the same timeless truths He shared two thousand years ago, often using the simple wonders of nature to reveal profound spiritual lessons.

As it happened to me today, God has a way of choosing quiet moments—when we pause both body and mind—to remind us that He is always near.

I know how full our days can be, crowded with responsibilities and endless tasks that leave little room for stillness. Yet when we do take even a few moments to slow down and listen, we begin to discover something profound: true and lasting rest for our souls comes from God alone. Other comforts may soothe us for a season, but they never fully satisfy.

Are you longing for that kind of rest?

If you are, Jesus invites you to come to Him, lay down your heavy burdens, and find rest in His presence. It’s a simple invitation, yet one that is worth everything.

Beth♥