

God's plan is somehow very simple and at the same time very complex. As I continue to ponder it, I try to remember that the Being that created the Universe cannot be completely comprehended by the comparatively stunted intellect of man. We are made in the image of God, but we are much more like a flat two-dimensional sketch than a living multidimensional copy.

Indeed, we treat God as though we are His only interest. How do we know that? Just because He has not told us that there is more? This great universe, as fantastic as it is, may be only a speck in His complete repertoire of creation. It is incongruous to even think that we could limit God by our perception of Him – yet that is generally what we end up doing.

When I was growing up, my dad worked as a contractor for the Air Force at Arnold AFB, TN. This was a facility where jet and rocket engines were tested, and where aerodynamic measurements were made on scale models of actual aircraft designs. I knew something about what he did there, for he did much the same kind of work at home with his amateur radio hobby. I had also once visited his workplace during an open house, but I still did not know much about what was going on.

My dad encouraged me to study science, never once hinting that perhaps I could eventually work where he had spent most of his career. I graduated with a degree in physics, and since I had not really developed plans beyond that, I went on to graduate school near my home. I had no understanding of what to expect and what I needed to work in the field. When I received my Masters' degree, a man that I went to church with (and who worked at Arnold as well) came up to me and told me that he thought he had a job for me. In all of my years growing up with my dad being associated with AEDC, I never thought that my education would be applicable there. I thought only people with aeronautical degrees would be employed as engineers there.

But I took the job, and I found that everything that they did was pretty much a practical application of physics. I discovered a lot more about the unique facilities there, and though I have worked at many of them through my forty years there, my knowledge still only barely scratches the surface of all that happens there.

I see a parallel here, in a small way, between my inability to understand the breadth and depth of God's enormous capacity for creativity and my limited understanding of the wide range of activities where my dad worked every day. I now try to consider the possible activities that God can or may do within the rules that He abides in and the limited view I have based on the subset of rules that I am given to work with. I cannot comprehend more than the skin of it, though I believe that He is thrilled when I work to grasp even a piece of it. I feel a bit like Isaac Newton, who is reputed to have said, "...I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*Ephesians 3:17b-19*