

August 22, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW - PART TWO

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

From the Second Letter to the Corinthians

"And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18 (JERUSALEM BIBLE TRANSLATION)

Reflection

There are three key camera functions that every photographer shooting in manual mode needs to understand: shutter speed, international organization for standardization (ISO), and aperture. Today we will be focusing on aperture.

Aperture is used to determine the depth of field of a photo. For example, if there is a vase with flowers in front of a colorful art piece, I can choose to set the aperture to have everything in focus with nothing blurred -- or I can have it set to focus only on the vase and have the background art blurred.

To me, aperture is the perspective of the story I want to tell, or the tool I use to capture an emotion in an image (which can be difficult to do).

When I decide to take pictures, I look for an interesting perspective that will make people feel as if they themselves are present in the moment that the photo is being taken. In order to do so, I have to make sure that my aperture is set to amplify my subject and reduce the amount of noise in the background. That shows others what my focus is and tells them to pay close attention.

This practice in changing perspectives has allowed me to take the ordinary and make it extraordinary. Take the image below, for example. It is a photograph of my youngest brother experiencing snowfall for the first time, and in his hands is a small snowflake that he is admiring.

You may not be able to see the snowflake in his hands, but by adjusting the aperture I was able to capture how awed he was by it. This practice in perspective has allowed me to be grateful for even the smallest joys and blessings that the Lord provides ... especially in turbulent times, when the small blessings -- such as receiving a letter in the mail from a friend or finding a caterpillar on the road -- seem to be the only joys.



Snowflake

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

For Pondering

- How do you adjust your perspective to see God's grace?
 - How do you adjust your perspective to see things from someone else's point of view?
-

For Prayer

*O Lord my God,
Grant me the ability to see your magnificence in the smallest of things.
Allow me to see others as you see them,
And allow others to see me as You see me.
Amen.*

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