

## 1 THE GOD OF THE SNOWFLAKE

- Are Snowflakes Important to God?

## 2 The Snowflake Man

- Wilson Alwyn Bentley was flaky, but not in a bad way.
- He lived in Vermont and was fascinated by snow. He found a way to put snowflakes on black velvet and photograph them, testing the hypothesis that no two are exactly the same.
- Because of his obsession, Bentley was given a nickname — “The Snowflake Man.”

## 3 The Snowflake Man

- Bentley, who lived from 1865 to 1931, examined snowflakes under a microscope and discovered that they were all miracles of beauty.
- “Every crystal was a masterpiece of design, and no one design was ever repeated,” he wrote. “When a snowflake melted, that design was forever lost.
- But not all snow crystals are perfectly shaped masterpieces.
- Many are irregular but still a miracle of beauty.

## 4 The Snowflake Man

## 5 SNOWFLAKE PRIMER

- How are snowflakes made?
  - They all start out as water vapor that condenses on a particle of dust high up in a cloud.
  - If the air temperature is below freezing these super cooled water droplets turn into crystals.
  - The final state of these crystals is shaped by the random temperature changes that take place as the snow crystals fall from the sky.

## 6 The Beauty of Snowflakes

## 7 Types of Snowflakes

## 8 Types of Snowflakes

## 9 Aren't We All Flaky?

- Bentley isn't the only person who should be given the nickname “Snowflake.”
- We all should!
- Each of us is a miracle of beauty, a masterpiece of design and no one design is ever repeated.
- Even though there are irregular humans, everyone is still miracles of beauty, shaped in utter uniqueness by a wise and creative Creator.
- However, just like snowflakes we're also very vulnerable.

## 10 Psalm 27

- Psalm 27 begins with the words, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (v. 1).
- If we are, in fact, God’s snowflakes — precious, unique and transient — then we need a Lord to preserve us and act as a stronghold for us.
- Otherwise, we’re going to melt, disappear and be lost forever.

## 11 Making the Faith Choice

- Bible scholar J. Clinton McCann points out that this opening line captures and summarizes the entire psalm, challenging us to make a choice between faith and fear.
- Either we make the faith choice, seeing God as “my light and my salvation,” or we make the fear choice, looking for the answer to the question, “whom shall I fear?”

## 12 Vulnerability

- Like snowflakes, we don’t have to go far to find something to fear.
- We know we’re vulnerable to:
  - physical illnesses,
  - emotional distresses,
  - relational breakdowns,
  - economic stresses and
  - spiritual crises.
- Sometimes we feel as delicate and fragile as snowflakes — quick to melt down and disappear forever.
- But if we make the faith choice, our future may look very different.
- We aren’t so vulnerable and can say out of experience the Lord is [my] light, [my] salvation and the stronghold of [my] life.

## 13 Making the Faith Choice

- When Moses and the children of Israel made the faith choice they sang this song.
  - I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. (Ex 15:1-2 NIV)
- When David made the faith choice when he was in danger, he sang.
  - “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior . . . I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. (2 Sam 22:2-4 NIV)

## 14 Making the Faith Choice

- When David was in another bad situation he made the faith choice again, he sang.

- The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. (Psa 28:7-8 NIV)
- When others made the faith choice they too were rewarded.
  - Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy. (Psa 107:21-22 NIV)

## 15 Making the Faith Choice

- In Psalm 18, David again has to make a faith choice, he sings:
  - I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. (Psa 18:1-3 NIV)
- So what happens when God's people make the faith choice? They sing . . .
  - You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psa 32:7 NIV)

## 16 Waiting for the Lord

- The promise of God's protection and deliverance doesn't shield us from suffering or pain.
- We may need to wait patiently, do what is right, and not let our emotions cause us to give in to fear.
- How many times did Jesus have to tell his disciples to "fear not."
  - In Mark 4:40, Jesus had to ask his disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"
  - And again, in another situation, he had to tell them, "Do not fear, only believe."

## 17 Waiting for the Lord

- Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. (Psa 27:14 NIV)
- We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. (Psa 33:20 NIV)
- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him . . . (Psa 37:7 NIV)
- Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land . . . (Psa 37:34 NIV)

## 18 Wait for the Lord

- Having Faith . . .
  - Being patient for God to act.
  - Continuing to do good and what is right.
- Not giving in to Fear . . .
  - Where we do or say things that are evil.

- . . . wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, . . . Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil. (Psa 37:7-8 NIV)
- Remembering that we are important to God, even though we might be a little flaky.

## 19 Conclusion

- These things cannot be disputed.
  - Rocks are hard.
  - Problems can be enormous.
  - Human beings are, well, human.
- Fear then seems a reasonable response —
- But then there's God.