

## The Advocate

*“Do not be amazed that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’*

*The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

This was part of a conversation the Master had with a fellow, a gentleman really, named Nicodemus.

What the Master said resonated with me the first time I read it, probably in my early teens. Over the years I pondered it because, as you know, every time you read the Word, even though you’ve read it over and over, It always adds a little (or a lot) to the last time’s discernment and understanding.

Not the one can ever grasp completely what He tells us, but when I came to ‘the county’ almost thirty years ago and took my first walk up behind the house to the two tracker leading to the great freshwater sea, a couple of hundred yards to the west, from our back door, I had to walk through a forest of white pines. There were fifty or sixty of them. Some were close to eighty feet tall. Some were almost three feet wide at the trunk and they had roots that look like the toes of an Ant.

That was when I first noticed ‘Pine Talk or Pine Song’. The breeze, then the winds, brought the pines to life as they sang their heaven bred melodies, driven by the winds. It haunted me, not in a scary way, but a fear of God way. It was the first time I thought of the air, and the winds, as the breath of the planet. The very essence of the most Holy Omnipresent Spirit surrounding us all the time, giving us life, making us aware of Him and His incredible great awesome magnificence.

As the seasons changed, so did the singing of the pines. They spoke ferociously in the winter winds, gales blowing off the great freshwater sea. With a gentle breeze, they played a tune that made you want to just sway to their hymn. In summer their deciduous sisters and brothers turned the whole of nature into a symphony, sometimes subtle, sometimes soft, and sometimes roaring with life! How great is our God?! In all His Holiest of Holies Triune-ness, He is... everything, in everything, in every one of us created in His Image and Likeness.

So as He is to us, so shall we be to every sister and brother, irrespective of anything other than what we were created as – Images of Him.

So hear Him not just in the winds, or the see Him in the incredible artwork He creates through Mother Nature, but most importantly in the eyes of all of us in His Image.

He is in all of us, the Advocate.

And our eyes are the windows to our souls.

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