

# God in Nature

## Bible study

By Ken & Rev. Dr. Theresa C Taylor  
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### Butterflies

Stuck in Vermont - Raising Monarch butterflies  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8Bd2Umt-uY>

A short video on raising monarch butterflies.

### Butterfly facts:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/fascinating-facts-about-butterflies-1968171>

1. Butterflies' wings follow two distinct color forms.

These forms, called pigment and structural, can be found alone or in combination on a butterfly's wings. True to its name, pigment colors tend to be bright and inky, remaining definite regardless of the amount of light present. Structural colors tend to shift with the light, producing a "rainbow" or iridescent effect. An example of structurally colored wings can be found on the morpho butterfly.

2. Only about 4% of the world's species of butterflies are found in the US.

Despite the 17,500 species of butterflies that currently exist, only about 750 of those live in the US, with the most abundant being the cabbage white butterfly.

3. Butterflies have more to them than meets (our) eye.

Did you know that butterflies can see colors that we cannot? This is because they can perceive ultraviolet light, which is outside the scope of our visual capabilities.

Additionally, many butterflies' wings include these "unknown" ultraviolet colors to attract mates.

4. Butterflies perform mimicry to better protect themselves from predators.

Take a look at the photo of a monarch butterfly below—now look again, because it's actually the cunning viceroy butterfly posing as a monarch! It was originally thought that, like other wild animals who perform mimicry, viceroy butterflies "transform" into monarchs for protection against predators (the monarch's bright colors indicate that it is toxic to birds, a common predator). However, viceroys are also naturally toxic, so this mutual mimicry ultimately proves beneficial to both species of butterflies.



5. Butterflies drink... turtle tears?

An incredible video of butterflies in the Peruvian Amazon shows them drinking the tears of turtles. Although it sounds like something out of a fairytale, butterflies actually have a practical reason for this behavior: sodium. Because butterflies cannot obtain sodium from their usual diet of floral nectar, they must search for sodium elsewhere; this could be in feces, dirt, and yes—turtle tears.

6. Butterflies' pollinating capabilities are even more crucial to ecosystems than you may think.

We know that bees are excellent pollinators, but butterflies are pretty impressive sidekicks. This is partly because butterflies pollinate cotton flowers, a part of the cotton plant that bees naturally do not frequent, thus boosting cotton harvest. This type of pollination—where multiple insects work to pollinate different portions of the same plant—is called pollination complementarity, and it occurs with other plants too, like almonds.

7. Most adult butterflies only live for 1-2 weeks.

The life span of an adult butterfly is particularly short, but the growth process beforehand can be much longer. Comprised of four stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and finally adult butterfly, the complete life cycle of a butterfly from egg to adulthood can last anywhere from 30 days to multiple years.



8. Monarch butterflies migrate as far as 3,000 miles.

Signaled by the cooler weather and shorter days, monarch butterflies from the northern US and Canada begin their journey towards Mexico in search of warmer weather. Alternatively, monarchs from across the western region of the US migrate to the coast of California for the winter and then once again scatter amongst other western states when spring arrives.

# The Butterfly's Struggle)

(Author Unknown)

A man found a cocoon for a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no farther. Then the man decided to help the butterfly.

He took a pair of scissors and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. Something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly. What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand, was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the small opening of the cocoon are God`s way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If God allowed us to go through all of our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Not only that, we could never

## Discussion question

What comes to mind after reading the butterfly struggle?

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Would you like to share a specific example of a struggle that allowed God to be glorified?

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What are some coping mechanisms that you use to get through a struggle...that allows you to stay in the center of God's will?

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Are there specific struggles you would like prayer for?

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# Digging Deeper

2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

When you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, what did “A New Creation” look like to you?

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God created an incredible creature in the butterfly. How much more amazing are we as His new children. What challenges have interfered with you receiving the blessing as God’s handiwork?

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Matt 17:2

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Metamorpho is the Greek word that means metamorphosis in English. This is the word that describes the caterpillar transforming into a chrysalis and finally a butterfly. This Greek term also refers to Jesus at his transfiguration. Specifically, this term describes the radical changes that Jesus underwent at transfiguration. His physical appearance has divine qualities showing us the glory of God.

Imagine yourself as one of the original disciples, what emotions, thoughts etc. would you be feeling when you witnessed this incredible change that Jesus experienced?

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How does Jesus’ transfiguration help you in your faith journey?

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1 Cor 15:42-44

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body

When Jesus was crucified his “seemingly” dead body was taken down and laid in a tomb. Three days later...the tomb was empty. Jesus had risen! Similarly, the caterpillar goes into a cocoon and appears dead. After a short amount of time..the butterfly emerges from the cocoon.

How do you think you would be if you were a first hand witness to Jesus’ resurrection? Would you be excited similarly to how we react when a butterfly emerges or possibly you would be more skeptical as the disciples were. Please elaborate.

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Ro 6:4-7

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,<sup>[a]</sup> that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Ro 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Eph 4:21-24

when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Pet 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

What a wonderful promise we have that as followers of Jesus we are one of God's children. We still live in a fallen world and Satan tries to interfere with our claiming the rights as children of God. We need to live in submission to God's will. God provides the Holy Spirit to help counsel us on our-faith journey.

What are some daily spiritual practices that you may use to stay focused on God's will?

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Have you ever used nature as a way to bring you closer to the mighty creator?

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The example of the butterfly has reminded us of principles of our salvation. Are there other examples in nature that may also prove valuable to helping us stay focused on God?

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God loves each of us! He sees all of us. He knows that we fall short in so many aspects of our lives. God sacrificed his son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect lamb. Jesus was crucified for us. We are no longer separated from God due to our sins.

If you want to know that someday you will go to heaven; I invite you to surrender your heart to Jesus. Pray these few words: Jesus I am sorry for my sins and I want to live as a child of God. These words are an incredible blessing. God's love is never ending and he longs for a relationship with each of us. If you have prayed this pray please let us know so we can pray for you and most of all celebrate with you! Life will still be challenging, but knowing that you are a daughter or son of the king is an amazing comfort. It is also crucial to find a community of believers to experience the goodness of God's fellowship

# *Butterfly Prayer*

Locked in my cocoon,  
not sure what to expect.  
An anxiety deep in my heart,  
a fear of what is next.  
I feel the change within me,  
more fervent everyday.  
I know I will see freedom soon,  
But until then I wait.  
Darkness clouds the sun,  
in which I once did live.  
How I miss its light  
the comfort it did give.  
I could count on it always,  
never failing my waiting heart,  
rising so beautifully,  
making everyday a good start.  
Now in my cocoon,  
I'm changing in every way.  
But I trust the God above,  
I'll be Free someday.  
One day I wake up  
I see a blinding light  
but now its more beautiful  
b'cuz i now take flight.  
I'm no longer an earthworm  
small ugly and thin  
now i'm a Butterfly  
and there's joy now within.  
Time in my cocoon  
payed off quite well  
but there's no time to think  
I've broken out of my shell!  
A butterfly's prayer is never ignored  
even if you're hurting  
one day you will SOAR!

Larxene (Larxy) Adesso