

Personal Reflection – April 19, 2023

On the Back Porch

All I can say is WOW! As I read Tom Wright's book 'Acts for Everyone', (2008), I weep – a sign of Shekinah (the felt Presence of God) and I breathe deeply asking in awe: On a back porch?

Look at Chapter Two of Acts of the Apostles where Peter, promising signs of the 'wonderful works of God' quotes the Book of Joel in the Hebrew Testament: *old women will dream dreams.*

I (an old woman) do dream a dream where a little boy asks his father "What's a gun, Daddy?" and all the arms manufacturing plants have been turned into solar production via generous government subsidies. Yes!

I do dream a dream of a cure for Alzheimer's so my friend can feel joy and peace in her last years. Yes!

I do dream a dream of a new society, a nation with a '*well-being budget*', and a reconsidered Constitution that is loud and clear about equity, fellowship, and the leadership of God. Yes!

This ole lady in a rocking chair is bold and daring, welcoming the Spirit who has shown and now shows Shekinah here on the back porch. See Jane weep!

The gift of the spirit is thus the direct result of the ascension of Jesus. Because he is the Lord of all, his energy, the power to be and do something quite new, is available through the spirit to all who call on him, all who follow him, all who trust him.¹

--Jane Vella

¹ Wright, N.T. *Acts for Everyone* (p. 23). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.