

# Friday Reflections

*We are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*

*-Ephesians 2:10*

God didn't spare his imagination when he created all of the amazing varieties of creatures that inhabit our world.

Along the coasts and marshlands of Texas is a beautiful shelled creature called the Lightning Whelk. The amazing thing about the lightning whelk is how much this invertebrate has contributed to history.

Native Americans considered the shells to be sacred objects due to their unusual counterclockwise spiral markings. For thousands of years they used these animals as food and their shells for tools, ornaments, containers, and to make jewelry. Later, Lightning whelk shells were named the official Texas State Shell.

These critters can be found in muddy or sandy areas near shoal grass or turtle grass meadows. You also can collect lightning whelk shells on Gulf Coast beaches. There's something inspiring about the way this resilient little shelled creature has played its role in the world.

As Paul explains in Ephesians 2:10, that kind of marvelous craftsmanship characterizes God's designs for His people as well. Each of us is "God's handiwork" in Jesus, uniquely equipped to contribute to His kingdom. No matter how God has gifted you, realize how much you have to offer. As you embrace with confidence who He's made you to be, you'll be a living witness to the hope and joy of life in Him.

So as you face whatever feels most menacing in your own life, take courage. You may feel small, but through the gifting and empowerment of the Spirit, God can use you to do mighty things.

*Father in heaven, thank you for reminding us that whatever you have gifted us with, we can be used by you. Amen*

- Dr. Doug Shafer

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