Ruminations
The Sustaining Power of God

Not only did God conceive, design, engineer, and manufacture the Universe (with a word), but he also sustains it, moment by moment and day by day. Every animal needs to be fed (although most live to serve as food for others), every plant watered and nurtured. If one takes a close look at various food chains, it truly is mind-boggling. What does that take?

Food chains can vary in length from three to six levels. For example, a frog eats a flower, is eaten by a snake, which is eaten by an owl, which is eaten by a hawk. In a deep-sea food chain, tubeworms, clams, and mussels harbor chemosynthetic bacteria and make use of the food they produce. They are all eaten by crabs, which in turn may be consumed by an octopus, which may provide a tasty meal for a shark.

If houseplants could talk, I would no doubt have a reputation among mine as "the black thumb." Ficus plants quiver when I walk into the room! Not even grass is safe around me. Why is that? Because I water too much, don't water enough, seldom fertilize, put shade plants in the sun and sun plants in the shade (although I seem to be doing a fine job with my silks!) By contrast, God waters every plant, sustains every animal, provides sunshine, rain, nutrients in the soil, and on and on; in short, he takes care of his creation. Job understood this deeply after the Lord's thorough admonition to him and his friends in Job 38-41.

But it is not in the botanical and animal world that God is most concerned. He is deeply concerned with our needs! He gives to us physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. When we open ourselves up to the influence of his perfect word, he protects our minds and redeems our hearts. He cares about our next meal and our next day. He knows every hair on every head. He puts people in our lives to bring us to Christ, to rebuke us when we're in sin, to encourage us daily, to train and disciple us. He gives us just what we need when we need it. God is awesome in his sustaining power!