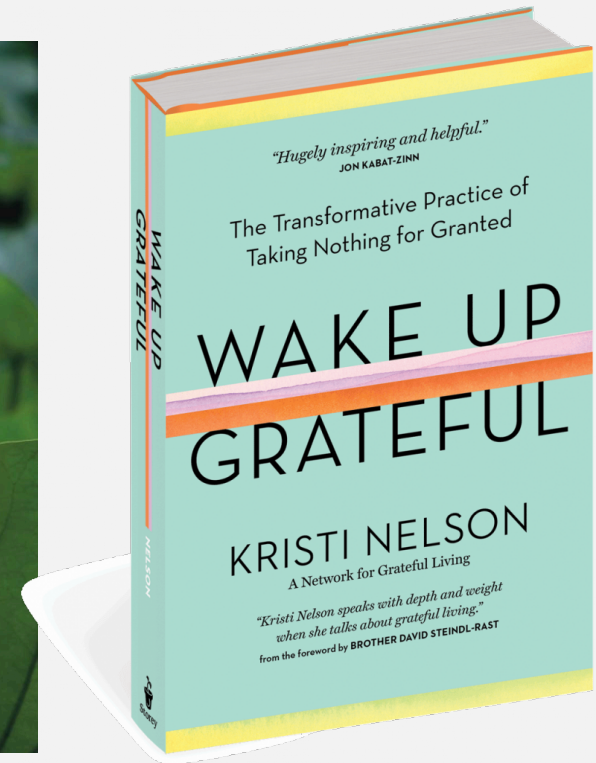
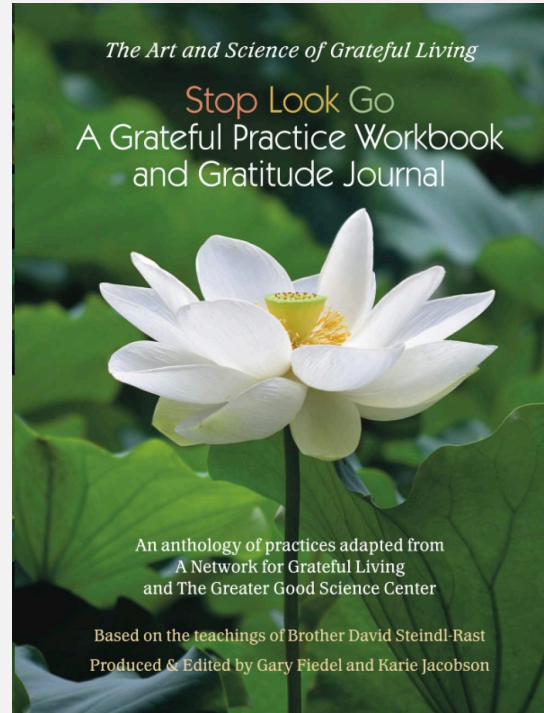
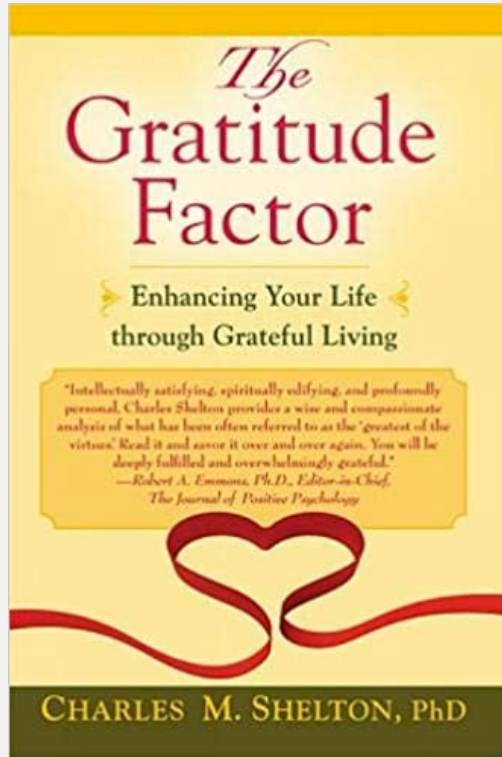




ENGAGING GRATITUDE AND HUMANITY'S MORAL FACULTIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Robert Emmons
Fuller Integration Lectures
Day 3

AN INVITATION TO GO DEEPER...



11.24.16 | THE FUTURE OF WORK

The Science Of Gratitude And Why It's Important In Your Workplace

Lack of gratitude is a major factor driving job dissatisfaction, turnover, absenteeism, and often, burnout.



(PHOTO: XINXING/ISTOCK)



Thankful for friends
craft friends
THANK GLENN!
Maceline!

MONKEYS I love them!

Today I'm grateful for...

agen - brightens any day
ie - Love u!
Pine - inspiration

Being Alive!
Chocolate!

Family

WARMTH

Friends

my children

price

my friend

Justin Bieber!
And swimming

PIE

GIANTS

Akka

yn, Sofia
yn, neslie, megan S. Sofin
ylie, Lailaylena

M.R.E.

All stars the moms
Rock
Giants

SCS community

Akcia

food

PAULA!

Chocolate
S me too

my sis and friends

Megan

my healthy children's love

frinks

More Chocolate

Food

Pat's food

Welcome to The Grateful Church





Targeted Gratitude to Nonagents

- “We’ve wounded this mountain [and] it’s our duty to close her wounds; it’s the least we can do to show our gratitude for all the wealth she’s given us.”



1. Can we feel gratitude to the environment?
2. Does failure to care imply ingratitude?
3. Does nature deserve our gratitude?

GRATITUDE

Is agency always required?

1. Recognize the gift (benefit)
2. Recognize the giver (agency)
3. Recognize it is unmerited (free)

G R A T I T U D E

Two Types of Gratitude

- Targeted
- Benefit-triggered
- Specific
- Focused
- Attached
- Personal
- Directed
- Thankfulness
- **Prepositional**
- Agentic
- Non-targeted
- Generalized
- Non-specific
- Diffuse
- Free-floating
- Impersonal/transpersonal
- Non-directed
- Gratefulness
- **Propositional**
- Non-agentic



- We are moved to awe and wonder at the grandeur...the richness of natural beauty; it fills us with joy and thanksgiving

(Goodenough, *The Sacred Depths of Nature*)






“The world comes to us as gift...as a given presence. Gratitude can be one of the most salient and powerful contexts for responsible environmental action...the knowledge and understanding we are after goes to the heart of our identity.”
(Wirzba, 2010, p. 83).

GRATITUDE

Can we feel gratitude to the environment?

Yes, because these natural systems provide unearned and valuable benefits

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. On the right side of the frame, a large, dark iceberg rises from the water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Can gratitude help combat
climate change?

Climate Change and Moral Judgment

(Markowitz & Shariff, 2012)

Table 1 | Six psychological challenges posed by climate change to the human moral judgement system.

Abstractness and cognitive complexity

The abstract nature of climate change makes it non-intuitive and cognitively effortful to grasp

The blamelessness of unintentional action

The human moral judgement system is finely tuned to react to intentional transgressions

Guilty bias

Anthropogenic climate change provokes self-defensive biases

Uncertainty breeds wishful thinking

The lack of definitive prognoses results in unreasonable optimism

Moral tribalism

The politicization of climate change fosters ideological polarization

Long time horizons and faraway places

Out-group victims fall by the wayside

Table 2 | Six psychological strategies that communicators can use to bolster the recognition of climate change as a moral imperative.

Use existing moral values

Frame climate change using more broadly held values that appeal to untapped demographics

Burdens versus benefits

Focus messaging on the costs, not benefits, that we may impose on future generations

Emotional carrots, not sticks

Motivate action through appeals to hope, pride and gratitude rather than guilt, shame and anxiety

Be wary of extrinsic motivators

Pushing action on climate change as 'good business' may backfire

Expand group identity

Increase identification with and empathy for future generations and people living in other places

Highlight positive social norms

Leverage human susceptibility to social influence and approval

BRIEF REPORT

Gratitude Reduces Consumption of Depleting Resources

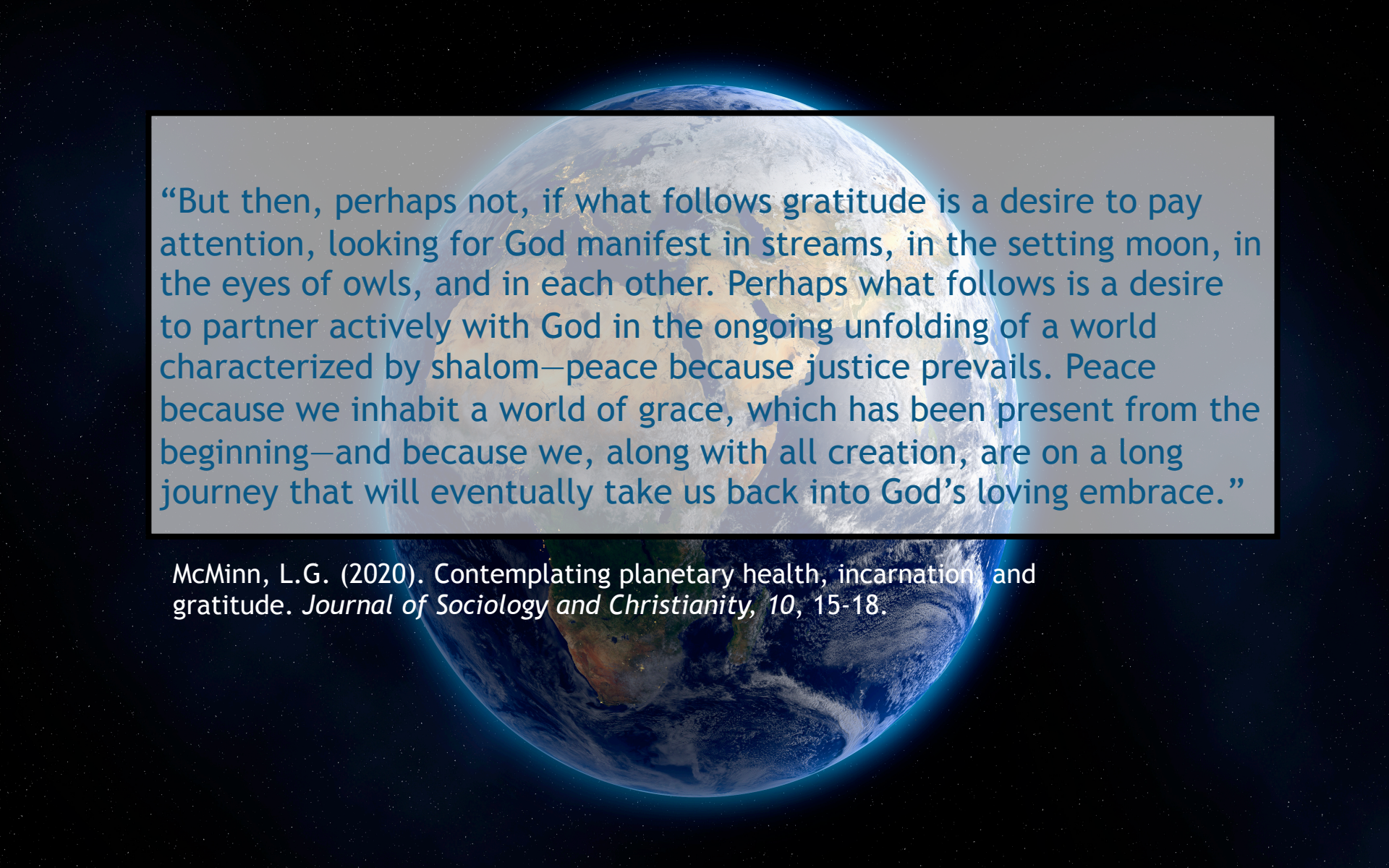
Shanyu Kates and David DeSteno
Department of Psychology, Northeastern University

Sustaining finite public resources presents a dilemma between acting in self-interest for present benefit versus working toward long-term collective gain. Given gratitude's links to prosociality and self-control, the present studies investigated whether gratitude would promote sustainable resource extraction under conditions of rapidly depleting resources. In Study 1 ($N = 155$), participants were randomly assigned to experience an emotional state (gratitude or neutral) prior to playing a resource dilemma game in which the common pool was manipulated to indicate either a sustained or depleting resource status. Neutral participants increased their point taking when the pool was depleting compared with when it was sustained; however, this pattern was not observed for grateful participants. Study 2 ($N = 224$) replicated these findings while also showing the effect of gratitude to be distinct from happiness. These findings show that gratitude, as opposed to a general positive emotional state, buffers against overtaking in resource dilemmas and suggests that this emotion may be useful in promoting sustainable behavior.

Keywords: gratitude, sustainability, cooperation, public goods

For reflection:

1. What are specific ways in which environmental gratitude motivates, inspires, and drives behavior conducive to generating ecological action in the service of planetary welfare?
2. How can the related emotions of awe and wonder be promoted to generate greater connection and appreciation for the natural world?
3. How might the presence of grateful individuals within a larger group reduce the tragedy of the commons?



“But then, perhaps not, if what follows gratitude is a desire to pay attention, looking for God manifest in streams, in the setting moon, in the eyes of owls, and in each other. Perhaps what follows is a desire to partner actively with God in the ongoing unfolding of a world characterized by shalom—peace because justice prevails. Peace because we inhabit a world of grace, which has been present from the beginning—and because we, along with all creation, are on a long journey that will eventually take us back into God’s loving embrace.”

McMinn, L.G. (2020). Contemplating planetary health, incarnation, and gratitude. *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 10, 15-18.