

Galatians 5: 16-26 NIV

“Do you keep in step with God’s Spirit?”

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ “The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

A young attorney began a class discussion at the Hollywood church asking,

“Do you know the difference between an assumption and a presumption?”

Lawyers sometimes make subtle distinctions for legal reasons.

For most of us, finding differences in the definitions of presume and assume isn’t easy.

My little Merriam-Webster defines “assume;” “to take as granted or true, though not proved.”

Of “presume,” the dictionary says: **“to take for granted.”**

Do you discern any difference?

Call them presumptions or assumptions, we make dozens of them in respect to the Bible.

We’ll later look at a few of these assumptions.

For now, note some clear Bible points: **The first five Bible books tell how God created the cosmos and everything in it.**

Those five books also relate how God chose Israel as the nation through whom He would help all people.

God chose land where Israel would live as they awaited His helper the Messiah.

God picked Moses to lead Israel to that place and He outlined how people should act and the attitudes they should have.

The Bible plainly makes these points.

God’s Word also tells of opposition to God.

Some folks wanted to choose their own religion; they resisted Moses and did not like the route the Lord chose.

Of those who wanted to choose their own destiny, the Lord said:

“They say, ‘We’ll be safe, even though we’re stubborn and go our own way.’”¹

In other words, “We can do as we wish. We know what we are doing; we’ll be fine. Nothing is going to happen. We’ll take responsibility.”

Many today assume they don’t owe God

anything, that they can make their own way.

They take a lot for granted—don’t they?

One night at supper, when I was about eight years of age in Hoisington, KS, my parents speculated about who owned an apartment building about two blocks north.

A day or two later, I happened to be playing with some kids who lived in that building.

I asked one of them if she knew who owned the building and she told me.

I couldn’t wait for supper that night so I could tell them the first-hand info I learned.

I proudly told the family at supper,

“I know the answer to the mystery.”

“Okay, Bobby who owns that apartment building?” dad asked.

Repeating exactly what the girl told me, I said, **“the landlord.”**

For a reason I didn’t understand at the time, the family laughed at me.

Although I enjoyed playing with those kids and they all seemed nice, I don’t recall playing with them again.

¹ Deuteronomy 29: 19 NIRV

**Did the parents move on fairly soon?
Did they not pay the landlord? ²**

The Bible informs and reminds us that God is the builder and landlord of the Universe.

- He doesn’t charge rent for us who occupy his land.
- We never pay light bills, heating bills, water bills, or any type of usage fees.
- Most folks presume they are entitled and never ever thank the landlord.

How long would you let folks live rent-free on your property, especially if they trash it and never show appreciation?

Have you considered how you got here why you are here?

Some say we are here because of a big cosmic accident and life keeps evolving.

I agree with the minority who counter that life is far too complex for it to be unplanned.

Scientists continue to learn life’s intricacies.

The planet is filled with complex

creatures with unique abilities.

At the 1994 Plymouth (IA) County Fair, I spoke about a freshwater species of the perch family known as archerfishes.

Archerfishes occur in parts of South East Asia. Archerfishes shoot water droplets from their mouths to stun or knock down insects, spiders and even small lizards on overhanging leaves.

If you have swum underwater you know how water distorts your perception.³

It compares to wearing bifocals.

Archerfishes somehow adjust accurately hurling water from beneath the surface.

My 1994 information was based on an article in the *Encyclopedia of the Animal World*.

A BBC report by Alex Riley gave new intriguing info about archerfishes.⁴

As a boy, **Stefan Schuster** regularly went to the Zoological Gardens in Stuttgart, Germany to watch their archerfish at feeding time.

² Decades later, a violent tornado devastated most of the town north of where we lived.

³ This is known as diffraction.

⁴ www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160223-how-do-fish-shoot-arrows-of-water

Archerfish blend into the “the dense foliage above their watery environment...they move slowly towards any insects, spiders, or small lizards resting just above the water’s surface, carefully positioning themselves for the attack.

“Then, after firmly closing their gills, they spit a fine jet of water at their unsuspecting prey, knocking it from its perch. Dinner is served, wriggling and helpless on the water’s surface.

An archerfish can fire water at a spider to dislodge it from a branch (Credit: Kim Taylor/naturepl.com)



Schuster later purchased his own pet archerfish. “There was no scientific interest involved at all,’ he says. He just had a spare aquarium... he was expecting to have to wait

months to see the fish shooting. It actually took a matter of seconds. ‘I just put them into the tank and they fired right away into my nose,’” Schuster recalls.

It’s hard to explain the sting Schuster felt. For years biologists wondered how the “archerfish’s jet of water packs such a powerful punch.” Only recently did they discover the archerfishes’ secret

“In 2012, Alberto Vailati, professor of fluid dynamics at the University of Milan, and his colleagues took a look ... at the jets of water they (the fishes) fired. In their lab, they carefully tracked the hydrodynamics of the water during its flight from fish’s mouth to a fake fly above the surface” and finally uncovered the water’s “mysterious power.” With a high-speed camera, they took a snapshot every 1,000th of a second.

“Under normal circumstances a jet of water won’t simply fly through the air as one continuous long cylinder – instead it tends to reduce its surface area by separating into smaller water droplets.

“You can see this process in action when you fire a water pistol. The phenomenon should render the archerfish’s weapon useless, because its target would simply be hit by a stream of tame water droplets.”

But because the water droplets at the rear are travelling faster than those in front, they push them along. Then they merge.

“The tip of the jet acts as a water balloon which gets injected continually, progressively, by the tail of the jet,” says Vailati. “In this way, you have the development of a single large droplet at the tip of the jet.”



Archerfish can fire both long and short-range water missiles
(Credit: A & J Visage/Alamy Stock)

“Both the speed and size of the super droplet increase as it nears its target. Momentum is maximized. ‘I cannot think of a weapon developed by a human being which increases its velocity when it approaches the target,’ says Vailati. ‘That’s the most effective way to hit the target.’

“The archerfish’s secret apparently lay in the way it controlled water – not in any special properties of its muscles or skeleton. After reading the Vailati study, Schuster still thought a vital piece of the puzzle was still missing. He noticed that each archerfish used in the study was trained to target fake prey only 12cm above the water’s surface. But in the wild, archerfish are known to have a large shooting range, extended up to 2m...

“How do they aim their self-accelerating bullet of water over such a large range? Again, he looked to high-speed cameras for answers. He took a series of snapshots, each 1000ths of a second apart, to study the fish’s mouth as it shot out a water jet...

“Schuster and his colleagues noticed something very subtle, and unexpected. When producing a jet of water, the fish’s mouth is in constant motion, changing the size of the opening as the water is ejected.

“To begin...the mouth gradually becomes larger, allowing an unrestricted release of water...then, the mouth starts to close again, and the opposite occurs. ‘The opening is smaller, and the liquid has to flow faster.’ Put ‘your finger over the end of a hosepipe, the water travels faster and farther.

“By modulating this opening and closing mechanism, archerfish can **fine-tune the speed of the jet’s tail**. If the fish waits longer to begin closing its mouth, the fast-travelling tail of the jet is released later, so it will take longer to catch up to the tip.

“That’s useful in order to form the powerful super droplet later, to target prey that is farther away. To target prey that is closer, in contrast, the archerfish simply closes its mouth earlier so the super droplet can form sooner.

“Regardless of how far away they sit, insects, spiders, or lizards...always feel the full force of the archerfish’s jet.”

Consider again Professor Vailati’s words:

“I cannot think of a weapon developed by a human being which increases its velocity when it approaches the target.”

Could this have come about by chance?

This ability of archerfish is simply one of thousands of unique abilities God gave what some call the “lower forms of animals.”

In other words, science has not so far invented anything which duplicates what a God-designed seven inch perch can do.

Why do we assume that scientists know more than the Landlord of the Cosmos does? Folks glorify scientists who discover concepts never grasped before by human beings.

Few folks glorify the Creator who conceived and made these wonders.

My old Columbia Desk Encyclopedia has this entry for the word “sonar:”

“Naval device using sound waves for navigation and ranging. First used in WWII to detect enemy submarines, torpedoes, and mines.”

Dolphins have used sonar-echolocation for thousands of years.

A modern website states this about sonar-echolocation:

“Dolphins have developed the ability to use echolocation, often known as sonar, to help them see better underwater.

Scientists believe this ability probably evolved slowly over time. Echolocation allows **dolphins** to “see” by interpreting the echoes of sound waves ...”⁵

Why do human beings resist honoring and glorifying the Creator and Landlord of the Universe?

You know the answer.

It’s hard to let go and put God in charge, isn’t it?

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

The news daily broadcasts dismal stories of the effects that living “our way” creates. Think how much better life would be if we honored God by keeping in step with his Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control...

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

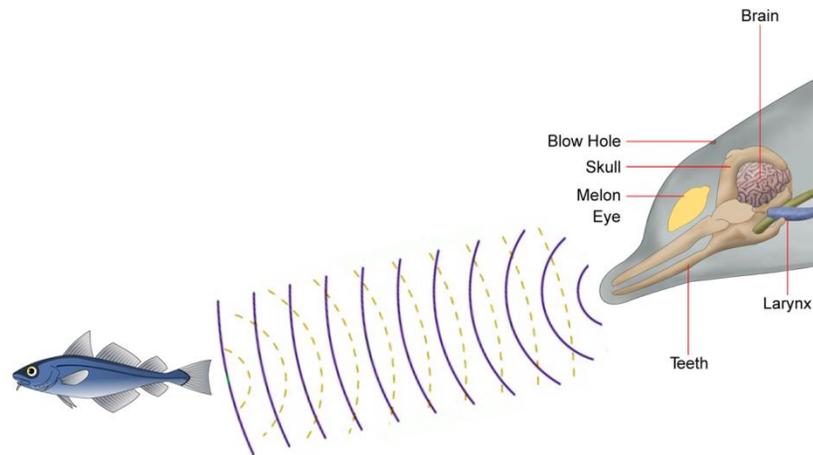
²⁵ “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Attached is a copy of “My Notes”, page 2. Bob provides copies of similar handouts to those in attendance where he preaches each week.

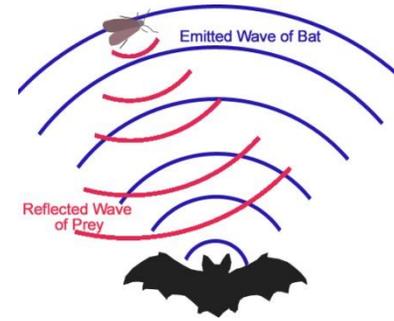
⁵ <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-do-dolphins-use-echolocation>

**How do archerfish perform this feat?
“I cannot think of a weapon developed by a human being which increases its velocity when it approaches the target.”**

Alberto Vailati, professor of fluid dynamics at the University of Milan.

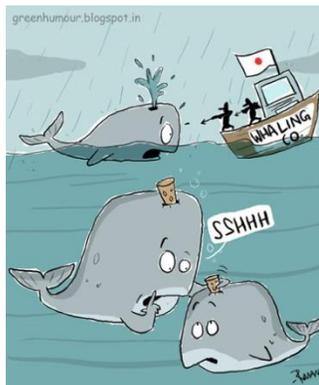


Bats have similar echolocation ability.



²⁵ “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Where did dolphins get their ability to use sonar?



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