



As high over  
the  
mountains  
the eagle  
spreads its  
wings, may  
your  
perspective  
be larger than  
the view from  
the foothills.

John O'Donohue  
(1956 - 2008)  
Poet

Our human experience comes through our senses and our imaginations. Our senses allow access to the physical world around us, opening us to a range of information. Our imagination picks up where our senses leave off and offer us access to a world not limited to what we see or touch.

Our perspective can limit or liberate what we know.

Our point of view shapes the view we see. At times, focusing our perspective can help us to learn a great deal about a specific thing. We better understand nuance and can develop expertise. But with depth, we may miss what breadth might teach us. To see a thing closely, we sometimes need to see what else is around it.

Where we stand shapes what we stand for. All of our life – who we are and what we have experienced – affects what we believe about the world. Our individuality alters what we touch, and creates never before known, insight and meaning. This unique take on the world is irreplaceable to the world. We grasp things and see connections between things that can serve the common good. Our distinct viewpoint is a gift.

Wisdom usually comes from multiple perspectives. Trusting that what we know is influenced by who we are, we can be inwardly aware and outwardly curious. We can wonder what bigger picture is there for us to see; we can explore what other outlooks might help us to learn. We can seek out those with different vantage points and listen to what their uniqueness has taught them. We can fashion a life that reflects the bounty of diverse perspectives.

We can build wisdom that mirrors the riches of humankind.

*What parts of me strongly influence my perspective? How effectively do I listen to others?*