

What a time to be alive!
Fasten your seat belts, please.

Is it possible to be grateful and somewhat fearful at the same time? Stop and think for just a moment. The development of technology has been advancing at a speed that is staggering for our finite minds.

So many things come to mind... the automobile and now self-driving and electric cars. The telephone and cell phones that give us immediate access to much of the information in the world and we carry it in our pocket or purse. Color photography through the video camera that is also in our pocket or purse. Electricity provided through the use of nuclear energy. GPS that knows exactly where we are standing at every moment and will instantly guide us to any place we want to travel. And of course, computers and chips that are literally a part of the numerous things we use and do throughout each day. It goes on, and keeps all of us vacillating between thankful and concerned throughout our present journey on this planet.

I'm often reminded of the best selling book *Future Shock* written by Alvin Toffler some 40 years ago. He wrote of the rapid changes and development of technology. In brief, Toffler generally posed the dilemma... is it all happening with such speed that at some point we will no longer be able to psychologically and emotionally handle it? Good question for today's world.

For me, as an 87 (2023) year old geezer, let me add a few more powerful examples of the incredible speed with which we, and many of our parents, have been witnesses to advanced technology in our collective lifetime. Consider the following...

- On December 17, 1903 the Wright brothers' unprecedented 12-second, 120-foot flight of their motor-operated airplane took place in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
- Just 65 years later on August 6, 1945 the United States Army Air Force flew their special Silverplate version of a Boeing B-29 Superfortress to drop the first nuclear weapon on Hiroshima, Japan.
- Just 24 years later on July 16, 1969 Buzz Aldrin landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on the surface of the moon and Neil Armstrong took the first steps for man on the moon's surface.
- Modern technology in just 66 years (less than the average lifetime) went from a flight of 120 feet to a flight of roughly 239,000 miles — and back safely.

Oh, but that isn't all for those of us alive today:

- Just two years ago the James Webb space telescope was launched and is now parked at an orbital location over 900,000 miles from earth.
- One of Webb's recent images reveals over 45,000 extremely distant galaxies in a small portion of the sky! The size and scale of the universe that God created on the Fourth Day is beyond comprehension. Have you noticed how casually Genesis 1:16 references the creation of the stars? It reads, "**So God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night, and also the stars.**" It is now estimated that there are 1-2 trillion galaxies with an average of 100-200 billion stars within each galaxy. God basically said, "Look what I did on a Wednesday!"

And what's coming?

- One coming advancement is called quantum computing — an exponential leap in computer capability. IBM, Google, and Microsoft are the leading business entities developing quantum computing. This new computing does not use bits; it uses qubits, which in layman's terms, can be fractions of 0 or 1, which is impossible with current technology. Packed with infinitesimally small microprocessors, it can easily process over 5 billion calculations per second — 3 million times faster than classic computing. It is estimated that tasks that currently take 25 hours to process will soon be completed in two minutes with quantum computing.

Now... In light of those few facts, think about this:

**“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared for those who love him.”**

II Corinthians 2:9

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