



The Wizard of Oz

I believe that each of these films taps into the Infinite in that place where the vibrant wind of the Holy Spirit brushes up against the beautiful intent of cinematic artists. I hope to help you become aware of that interaction so that you can investigate it further. I want you to notice "the wind in the trees" and to respond to it out of your own capacity to encounter the Spirit of God and the spirit of another person. I am trying to crack open the door for you so that you can step out into a more magnificent world.

One of cinema's most authentic images is exactly that: Dorothy (Judy Garland) opens the sepia-stained door of her aunt's Kansan cottage and discovers the technicolor glory of Oz. Awestruck, she steps out into a more marvelous life.

The Wizard of Oz (1939) is notable for many reasons. Garland's performance of "Over the Rainbow" is as true a depiction of longing for eternal glory as popular culture has ever produced. Garland is perfect in the role. No one else in movie history balances innocence and maturity so precariously. True fantasy, the details of the story appeal to emotions we are unaware of and suggest truths about life we have trouble articulating, especially as adults who are often cut off from our imaginative capacities. This entire reflection could focus on the makeup, costumes, and production design. *The Wizard of Oz* is a miracle.

The moment that Dorothy steps from sepia to color is our focus here though. That's the wind in the trees, the evidence of a deeper reality. We live in a sepia world, plagued by problems, tossed about by tornados, always feeling far from home. If we're lucky, we have a little dog by our side to keep us company.

And then occasionally we glimpse a more vibrant reality just outside the door. Perhaps this spiritual reality is more real than the physical one. Maybe we are made for it. Maybe the things we know now are just shadows of the things to come. Are we brave enough to step out into the brighter world and allow it to change everything? Carried away, can we ever go home again? Have we ever really left? Maybe we are just looking at life with pallid eyes and we need something big to enchant us to reality once again. Step outside.

God we are so plagued by problems that we allow our heads to be bowed and our eyes to be downcast. We wallow in the dust. Meanwhile, your glory is just on the edges of our vision. We do not lift our eyes and behold the splendor of your love shining all around. The Wizard of Oz reminds us to dare to long for that better country. It stirs our hearts to feel just a breath of that heavenly wind lifting our heads. Give us the courage to step into that more resplendent reality where your love reigns, and may we be surprised to discover it was all around us all along.

[Discover where to stream this film.](#)

[Locate your local library.](#)

[Join the discussion](#) about these films in our online community.

Come & See

Pasadena, CA

This email was sent to elijah.davidson@gmail.com
You've received it because you've subscribed to this email series.

Did you spot a typo or grammatical error in this email? [Report it here anonymously.](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

