

The Power of Delighting in God’s Beauty

I. DAVID’S DETERMINATION TO SEE GOD’S BEAUTY

- A. David connected seeing the Lord as “beautiful” to having “delight” in his relationship with Him. One of his life goals was to intentionally look for God’s beauty, though most were oblivious to this.
⁴***One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord.*** (Ps. 27:4)
⁴***“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”*** (Ps. 37:4)
- B. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize King Jesus’ beauty in the generation He returns.
¹⁷***“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...”*** (Isa. 33:17)
- C. ***“Beauty is the battlefield where God and Satan contend with each other for the hearts of men.”***
Fyodor Dostoyevski
- D. ***Overview:*** God’s beauty, excellencies, or glory speak of that which is attractive about Him. It includes how He thinks and feels, what He does, how He looks, and the power and knowledge that He possesses. God’s beauty is displayed in creation, redemption, and His leadership over history.
- E. All the beauty that we see in this world is a reflection of the source of the ultimate beauty—**God**. It is a dim foretaste of the perfect beauty that will openly displayed when Jesus returns.
- F. ***“...in seeing the natural world we are to let our eyes run up the beam of beauty to the Original...”***
John Piper
- G. I have been greatly blessed and helped by Sam Storms’ book, ***Onething: Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God***, and by Thomas Dubay’s book, ***The Evidential Power of Beauty***. Both books trace the signature of God through the physical world, ranging from the vast wonders of the Milky Way galaxy to the wonders seen in biology at the molecular level down to atomic particles.
- H. David exhorted us to look up to see God’s beauty in His heavenly art gallery (Ps. 19:1).
¹***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”*** (Ps. 19:1)
1. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second or 6 trillion miles per year. After the sun, the nearest star to us is *Proxima Centauri*—it is over 4 light years from us. Our galaxy, the *Milky Way*, contains over 100 billion stars and is 100,000 light years in diameter! There are over 100 billion galaxies that each have billions of stars.
 2. The galaxy closest to us is the *Andromeda* galaxy. It is over 2 million light years from earth (15 quintillion miles—15 with 18 zeros). The star system, *Eta Carinae*, is 5 million times brighter than our sun, is 400 million miles in diameter, and is over 7,000 light years from us.
 3. The Hubble Space Telescope identified the *Pistol star*—it releases over 10 million times the power of our sun. It unleashes as much light in 20 seconds as our sun does in one year.

II. MAGNIFYING THE LORD AND DELIGHTING IN GOD'S BEAUTY

- A. David magnified the Lord—this included *meditating on, praising, and declaring* His excellencies (Ps. 34:3; 69:30). We magnify God by celebrating, treasuring, and making much of His beauty.
- ³***“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.” (Ps. 34:3)***
- ³⁰***“I will praise the name of God...and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.” (Ps. 69:30)***
1. ***Meditating on God***: searching out and thinking deeply on who He is and what He has done
 2. ***Praising God***: speaking what we see back to God with gratitude and delight
 3. ***Declaring His excellencies***: sharing with others what we see that they might delight in Him
- B. As we verbally magnify God's beauty, our insight and delight in it increases. The Spirit moves on us, causing us to receive more as we speak out the truths of God in prayer or to encourage others. *“We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment.” C. S. Lewis*
- C. David magnified God by *meditating on, praising, and declaring* His excellencies (Ps. 145:5-11).
- ⁵***“I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty [beauty]...⁶I will declare Your greatness...¹⁰Your saints shall bless You.¹¹They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom...¹²to make known to the sons of men the glorious majesty of His kingdom. (Ps. 145:5-12)***
- D. We encounter God's beauty as we *meditate on the Scriptures* to gain understanding of who God is, all that He does (in His creation, redemption, leadership), and how He designed humans to function and interact. We can also *study scientific knowledge* that God has given to scholars and intentionally *look for tokens* of God's beauty as we observe creation, history, and human interactions.
- E. Delighting in God does not occur in an intellectual vacuum. It is the result of gaining understanding about God. Our delight deepens as our understanding of Him increases. Insight into God's beauty dislodges the strongholds of lust in the heart and empowers people to be faithful with perseverance.
- F. David responded to trouble by seeking God's face and drawing on a history of beholding His beauty (Ps. 27:2-8). A measure of our intimacy with God is seen in the measure of how much we rejoice in God and trust Him without complaining, being offended, or quitting when all we have left is God.
- ²***When the wicked came against me...³Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...I will be confident. ⁴One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord...⁵For in the time of trouble He shall hide me...in the secret place of His tabernacle...⁶I will sing praises to the Lord. ⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice... ⁸When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.” (Ps. 27:2-8)***
- G. *“I know You are all I have, but I don't know You well enough for You to be all that I need.”*
Larry Crabb
- H. *“He who has God and everything else has no more than he who has God only.” C. S. Lewis*