

Transformed by Delighting in God's Beauty

I. DAVID'S DETERMINATION TO SEARCH OUT GOD'S BEAUTY

- A. One of King David's lifelong goals was to intentionally search out God's beauty (Ps. 27:4). The biblical vision of the Christian life is a lifestyle of enjoying God by delighting in His beauty.
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. If we can see what Paul saw about Jesus, then we can respond like Paul did to Jesus.
⁸*I also count all things loss for the excellence [beauty] of the knowledge of Christ. (Phil. 3:8)*
¹⁸*We all...beholding...the glory [beauty] of the Lord, are being transformed... (2 Cor. 3:18)*
- C. The beauty that Jesus possesses is the very beauty He imparts to His people. Our choices for love and godly character are aspects of His beauty in us. The beauty of our life is "hidden" in Christ—it will be fully manifest when Jesus returns—we are to embrace how the Word defines our beauty.
¹*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me...³to give them beauty for ashes." (Isa. 61:1-3)*
⁴*...the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit... (1 Pet. 3:4)*
³*For...your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear [the hidden glory of God in you will be seen] with Him in glory [beauty]. (Col. 3:3-4)*
⁴*If you seek her as silver...⁵you will...find the knowledge of God [God's beauty]. (Prov. 2:4-5)**
- D. Delighting in the beauty of Jesus is essential to walking in victory—especially in this hour when fear, lust, offense, and violence are increasing. David wrote Psalm 27 in a time of conflict (v. 1-6).
²*When the wicked came against me...³*Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...⁴*One thing I have desired...to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:2-4)***
- E. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize Jesus' beauty (33:17) in the generation of His return, and that God's people will find stability and strength by delighting in His beauty (33:6).
⁶*"...knowledge [God's beauty] will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation...
¹⁷*"Your eyes will see the King in His beauty..." (Isa. 33:6, 17)**
- F. God's beauty includes how He thinks and feels, what He does, how He looks; His creation, redemption, leadership; and how He designed humans to act and interact. **His beauty is seen:**
1. **In sights, sounds, fragrances**—colors, brilliance, music, melodies, harmonies, fragrances
2. **In knowledge**—we are moved by advances in science, medicine, technology, architecture, etc.
3. **In noble character**—life stories of courage, generosity, compassion—bios, novels, movies, etc.
4. **In human abilities**—singers, musicians, athletes, writers, artists, composers, producers
5. **In society**—when justice prevails and reconciliation occurs between races, nations, etc.

II. GOD'S BEAUTY SEEN IN CREATION

- A. God is beauty itself. All the beauty that we see in this world is a dim reflection of the source of ultimate beauty—God. I have been greatly blessed by Sam Storms' book *Onething: Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God*, and by Thomas Dubay's book *The Evidential Power of Beauty*.
- B. David exhorted us to look up to see God's beauty in "His heavenly art gallery" (Ps. 19:1). John Piper refers to letting our eyes run up the beam of beauty in creation to the "Original Beauty."
¹The heavens declare the glory [beauty] of God. (Ps. 19:1)
1. The *Milky Way* galaxy contains over 100 billion stars and is 100,000 light years in diameter! Astronomers estimate that there are over 100 billion galaxies, each having billions of stars.
 2. After the sun, the nearest star to us is *Proxima Centauri*—it is 25 trillion miles from earth. The *Pistol Star* releases 10 million times the power of our sun, unleashing as much light in 20 seconds as our sun does in a year.

III. HOW TO GROW IN OUR ABILITY TO DELIGHT IN GOD'S BEAUTY

- A. Our delight of His beauty grows by *meditating on*, *blessing* (praising), and *declaring* (sharing) it (Ps. 145:5-12). As we verbalize what we see of God's beauty, our insight and delight increase. Our heart is realigned to His beauty as we verbalize it in praise to God and share it with others.
⁵I 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. (Ps. 145:5-11)
1. ***Meditating on God***: Search out and think deeply on who He is and what He has done
 2. ***Blessing/praising God***: Speak what we see back to God with gratitude and affection
 3. ***Declaring/sharing with others***: Share what we admire about God so others delight in Him
- B. "We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment. The delight is incomplete until it is expressed." **C. S. Lewis**
- C. We glorify or magnify God when we discern and delight in His beauty by treasuring, enjoying, celebrating, and making much of His name and beauty and by declaring it to others and reflecting it in our lives. "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." **John Piper**
- D. "Beauty is the battlefield where God and Satan contend...for the hearts of men." **Fyodor Dostoevsky**
- E. Paul prayed for others to receive greater insight into the beauty of God (Eph. 1:16-19). The Holy Spirit is raising up those who will proclaim the riches of Christ as 'theologians of His beauty.'
¹⁷...that...the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened." (Eph. 1:17-18)
⁸To me...grace was given, that I preach...the unsearchable riches [beauty] of Christ. (Eph. 3:8)