

## ***Transformed by Delighting in God’s Beauty***

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

- A. One of King David’s lifelong goals was to be intentional about beholding God’s beauty regularly. He prioritized seeing God’s beauty and delighting in his relationship with God. The biblical vision of the Christian life is a lifestyle of enjoying relationship with God by delighting in His beauty.  
***<sup>4</sup>One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:4)***  
***<sup>4</sup>Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. (Ps. 37:4)***
- B. ***Transformed:*** If we can see what Paul saw about Jesus, then we can respond to Him like Paul did.  
***<sup>8</sup>I also count all things loss for the excellence [beauty] of the knowledge of Christ. (Phil. 3:8)***  
***<sup>18</sup>We all...beholding...the glory [beauty] of the Lord, are being transformed... (2 Cor. 3:18)***
- C. Delighting in the beauty of Jesus is essential to walking in victory—especially in this hour when fear, lust, offense, rejection, and violence are increasing. David wrote Psalm 27 in a time of conflict (27:1-6). He was attacked by many enemies, and tempted with fear, bitterness, and despair.  
***<sup>2</sup>When the wicked came against me...<sup>3</sup>Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...<sup>4</sup>One thing I have desired...to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:2-4)***
- D. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize King 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).
- E. ***“Beauty is the battlefield where God and Satan contend...for the hearts of men.” Dostoevsky***
- F. God’s beauty (glory, majesty) speaks of all that is attractive about Him. It includes how He thinks and feels, what He does, how He looks, and the power and knowledge He possesses. His beauty is displayed in His creation, redemption, leadership, and even how He designed humans to interact.  
***<sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God [including God’s beauty]. (Prov. 2:4-5)***
- G. We can see God’s beauty in creation and many aspects of human life and interaction, for example:
1. ***In sights and sounds***—colors, brilliance, hues; melody, pitch, rhythm, harmony
  2. ***In fragrances***—flowers, spices, costly perfumes
  3. ***In knowledge***—stimulating the mind with mathematics, science, medicine, technology, etc.
  4. ***In life stories***—stimulating the heart with biographies, novels, dramas, movies
  5. ***In noble character***—acts of courage, generosity, compassion, perseverance, faithfulness
  6. ***In human abilities***—singers, musicians, athletes, writers, artists, composers, producers, etc.
  7. ***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 and 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."

**<sup>1</sup>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—that is, 6 trillion miles per year.
2. After the sun, the nearest star to us is *Proxima Centauri*—it is 25 trillion miles (4 light years) from the 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.
3. 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. The closest galaxy to the Milky Way is *Andromeda*. It is over 2 million light years from earth (15 quintillion miles—15 with 18 zeros). One galaxy is over 10 billion light years from earth.

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

- A. We grow in our delight of His beauty by *meditating on*, *blessing* (praising), and *declaring* (sharing) it (Ps. 145:5-12). As we verbalize what we see about God's beauty, our insight and delight increase. We receive more from the Spirit as we declare God's beauty in worship and share it with others.

**<sup>5</sup>I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty [beauty]... <sup>6</sup>I will declare Your greatness ... <sup>10</sup>Your saints shall bless You. <sup>11</sup>They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom. (Ps. 145:5-11)**

1. ***Meditating on God***: Searching out and thinking deeply on who He is and what He has done
  2. ***Blessing/praising God***: Speaking what we see back to God with gratitude and delight
  3. ***Declaring/sharing with others***: Sharing 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." C. S. Lewis
- C. God is glorified when we discern and delight in His beauty. We glorify and magnify God by treasuring, celebrating, and making much of His name and beauty. We glorify God when what we know of Him empowers us to enjoy Him, and by delighting in who He is and declaring it to others.
- D. Paul persistently prayed for others to receive greater insight into the beauty of God (Eph. 1:16-19).

**<sup>17</sup>that...the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup>the eyes of your understanding being enlightened." (Eph. 1:17-18)**

**<sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>then you will...find the knowledge of God [including God's beauty]. (Prov. 2:4-5)**