

A Word of Encouragement
June 2007



“The Beauty of the Lord”

Our God is a God of Beauty. In Creation God made the Garden of Eden – a place of beauty. The trees were beautiful – “pleasing to the eyes and good for food” (Genesis 2:9 NIV). The Promised Land (Canaan) was described as a “magnificent country” – where the fruit was so big a cluster of grapes had to be carried on a pole! (Numbers 13:23, 14:27). The Tabernacle – built and appointed by commandment (God to Moses) was in every way beautiful – from the structure to the priests garments (Exodus Chapters 35-40). Every part had a function and was designed for beauty. The description of heaven in Scripture – a place of beauty. It says much about our God.

Beauty is many things to people. To an architect a building that goes up according to plan and design (even while it is being built) is a thing of beauty to him. To a musician a piece that is played skillfully and from the heart is a thing of beauty – able to touch other senses and move the heart of the hearer. To a dessert lover a home-made chocolate cake is a thing of beauty – not just because it is pleasing to look at but great to the taste and satisfying. Something that is beautiful creates desire in us.

Beauty (beautiful, lovely) are defined (using Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language and L.O. Richards Expository Dictionary of Bible Words) as follows: (1) having the form that pleases the eye (2) that which pleases the senses other than the sight (3) consists in whatever pleases the eyes of the beholder; the other senses, or to the understanding (4) a particular grace or excellence (5) joy and gladness (order, prosperity, peace, holiness) (6) pleasing, agreeable (7) amiable; that may excite love, possessing qualities which may invite affection (8) fair (9) appearance (10) pleasantness (11) desire, a desirable thing (12) fine, noble and praiseworthy (13) seasonable, appropriate to its time.

We can see from these definitions that beauty is more than outward appearance. Isaiah declares “*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him*” (Isaiah 53:2 NIV) Yet to us He is a Beautiful God!

David said, “*One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I will seek, inquire for, and (insistently) require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord (in His presence) all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty (the sweet attractiveness and the delighted loveliness) of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.*” (Ps. 27:4 AMP). The same scripture in the Living Bible says “*delighting in his incomparable perfections and glory.*”

David wanted to dwell in God's presence to behold and gaze upon His beauty and then to inquire of Him. Could it be that being in God's presence revelation came to David of the Lord Himself and not just what He could do? David wanted to KNOW HIM, who He really was, what made Him God, His loving heart, His character, EVERYTHING about Him. Yes – He was the God that David prayed to, worshipped, followed after and sought. There was a deep desire in his heart (just like us) to experience something beyond what he knew and sensed about his God. It was more important to him than provision, protection, answered prayer and all else we seek Him for (and He does meet our every need). If we have deep longing and desire within us we will be drawn by and to the One who is called, "altogether lovely" (Song of Solomon 5:16 NIV). That which He reveals to us about Himself, He will work in us and we will be changed. He is a splendid and glorious God. *"God Himself is the Crown of Beauty that shines with splendor as the focal point in the life of His people."* (L.O. Richards see Isaiah 4:2 and Isaiah 28:5). "God's beauty then, is found in His splendor but also is favorable toward His people." (L.O. Richards)

In Ecclesiastes 3:11 KJV the Word says, *"He has made everything beautiful in his time."* There is a beauty in God's people that is without comparison. We will draw others to Him by that beauty that goes well beyond physical appearance. The work of God in us is deep and ongoing and yes, we are being conformed to the image of His son Jesus (Romans 8:29). That which He reveals to us is not only for us but for others as well. As you walk with the Lord you have the promise, *"Your eyes will see the King in His beauty, and the highlands of heaven far away"* (Isaiah 33:17 LB). Zechariah 9:17 KJV declares *"For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!"* Psalm 149:4 KJV says, *"... he will beautify the meek with salvation."*

To us Women of God – consider this Scripture: *"The King is enthralled by your beauty; honor Him, for He is your Lord."* (Psalm 34:11 NIV). *"Your royal husband delights in your beauty. Reverence Him, for He is your Lord"* (Psalm 45:11 LB). You are beautiful in His sight! Someone desired by the Lord Himself! Someone who gives Him pleasure and delight!

In 1 Peter 3:3-5 NIV the Word says, *"Your beauty Should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful."*

There is transformation in the Presence of the Lord. Draw near – that the longings of you heart may be satisfied, that His work in each one of us will be sure, and that He will bring forth beauty – to the Glory of His Name.

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us..." Psalm 90:17 KJV

Toni Quinn - "For His Glory Women's Ministry
"He is the Lord Himself who glows with true beauty, and his people find their beauty in the reflection of his splendor." L.O. Richards