

## ***Beholding God's Beauty: Revelation of God's Emotions***

### **I. THE CHURCH AT THE END OF THE AGE: ENCOUNTERING GOD'S BEAUTY**

<sup>4</sup> ***One thing I have desired...that will I seek: that I may dwell in the House of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold (gaze on) the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)***

- A. Why do we need to understand God's beauty? The Spirit is orchestrating a worldwide prophetic worship and prayer movement that is essential in releasing God's power to the nations before Jesus' Second Coming. This movement is fueled by the revelation of Jesus' beauty. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus' beauty would be greatly revealed in the generation the Lord returns.  
<sup>2</sup> ***In that day the Branch of the LORD (Messiah) shall be beautiful and glorious. (Isa. 4:2)***
- B. David both gazed on God and inquired of Him (speaks of functioning in the prophetic anointing). We gaze on and inquire of God best when our paradigm of God includes His beauty.
- C. The revelation of God's beauty is significant in our quest to live holy. We resist sin much better when our hearts are fascinated by God's beauty.
- D. Understanding God's beauty (glory) involves looking at His emotions, power and wisdom through His Word, redemption, creation, or His leadership through history or in the future (prophecy).
- E. David was a student of God's emotions as the man after God's own heart. He was captured by the ***what of God*** (God's power and wisdom), but even more by the ***why of God*** (God's emotions). The most effective way to do this is to fill our mind with information about God's emotions. We do this by meditating on God's Word.

### **II. HIGHEST MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S GLORY: REVELATION OF HIS EMOTIONS**

<sup>18</sup> ***Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory (beauty)." 19 He said, "I will make My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you..." (Ex. 33:18-19)***

- A. Moses prayed to see God's glory (beauty). God answered Moses by promising to reveal His goodness and proclaim His name to him. To proclaim the Lord's name is to proclaim His character or personality especially, His emotions. In other words, God promised to preach to Moses about His own personality. Imagine the privilege that Moses received as he heard God preaching on God. God will teach us about Himself forever.
- B. We see Moses' great urgency as he prayed, "Please show me Your glory." Moses pleaded with God to talk to him face to face about His glory (personality). God has the best personality in the universe. He is very kind, good, pure, smart, mysterious, passionate, gentle, bold, humorous, etc.

- C. God revealed His glory to Moses by proclaiming His power and wisdom, however, the very pinnacle of God's glory is when He reveals His emotions to His people.  
***6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..." (Ex 34:6)***
- D. ***The Lord is merciful*** – He is tender in how He relates to us in our weaknesses and sin. This is the first aspect of His personality that He revealed because it is the one we need first and most. People often resist, reject and repel God's mercy because it violates their sense of justice. They feel that they do not deserve forgiveness. At the cross, the Father fully satisfied the claims of justice. When we understand the heat of God's wrath poured out on Jesus then we stand confident in receiving mercy knowing that justice is fully satisfied.
- E. ***The Lord is gracious*** – He does not give us what we deserve. He rewards us or pays us so well for our faith and obedience. God remembers every act of obedience (Heb. 6:10). This dignifies and sanctifies every hour of our lives. The smallest and seemingly insignificant acts of service, obedience, and humility are esteemed and remembered by God forever with great reward.
- F. ***The Lord is longsuffering*** – He bears with us and does not write us off. God "suffers long" with our sinful responses to Him. His love for us is greater than the pain we cause Him. He does not lose enthusiasm for us when we fail. He does not retaliate in the way man does. When we understand how much God suffers long toward us, then we suffer long with others.
- G. ***The Lord is abounding in goodness*** – He overflows with good plans for us (Rev. 21-22).
- H. Jesus referenced Moses' experience when He promised to declare God's personality to awaken love in us. Jesus loves to teach us about the greatness and glory of His Father's personality. What God does awes us and awakens our heart in love and purity. The human heart longs to marvel. To know the "whys" and "whats" of the Father's heart and works sets our heart on fire with love.  
***26 I (Jesus) have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. (Jn. 17:26)***
- I. Paul's prayer for revelation (Eph. 1:17) is like Moses' prayer to see God's glory (Ex. 33:18).  
***17 The Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened... (Eph. 1:17-18)***  
***4 Whose minds the god of this age has blinded...lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them...6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:4-6)***

### III. BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF GOD: HIS EMOTIONS, POWER AND WISDOM

*<sup>6</sup> ...The letter (of the law) kills, but the Spirit gives life. <sup>7</sup> If the ministry of death (Old Covenant)...was glorious...<sup>8</sup> how will the ministry of the Spirit (New Covenant) not be more glorious? <sup>9</sup>...it exceeds much more in glory....<sup>11</sup> For if what is passing away (Old Covenant) was glorious, what remains is much more glorious... <sup>17</sup> Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory (beauty) of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image (character traits) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:6-18)*

- A. In 2 Cor. 3, Paul compares the Old Covenant with the New Covenant. He refers to the Old Covenant as the “ministry of death” (v. 7) because of its emphasis of the righteous standards of the law of Moses without the Spirit’s power to enable the heart to obey it. The law informed Israel of how much they were failing in righteousness without giving them power to change their heart. Thus, it was said to “kill” their hearts (v. 6). The essence of the New Covenant is to give liberty or power to be transformed. We are liberated in our heart that we might walk out the righteousness the law exalts (v. 17). The Old Covenant had glory, but the New Covenant has much more (v. 6-11) because it allows us to behold the Lord or to encounter Him in our hearts by the Spirit (v. 17-18).
- B. In 2 Cor. 3:18, Paul refers back to when Moses cried out to behold God’s glory (Ex. 33:18).
- C. Behold the glory (beauty) of the Lord – to behold the Lord means to look at or gaze on the Lord. We do this by looking at God’s emotions, power and wisdom through His Word, redemption, creation or His leadership through history or in the future (prophecy). The most effective way to do this is to fill our mind with information about God’s emotions. We do this by meditating on God’s Word. We turn the Word into an active dialog with God. We must do our part (beholding) and God will do His part (supernaturally transform us).
- D. The “beholding and becoming” principle – whatever we behold (by meditation unto revelation) in God’s heart towards us becomes awakened in our heart back to God (transformation). To behold God’s heart refers to studying it until we understand it more and thus encounter God.
- E. **Principle:** whatever we understand or encounter about God’s heart (passion) for us becomes awakened in our heart back to God. Encounter results in transformation. What we understand about God’s heart is essential to transforming our emotions. Thus, we set our heart to understand God’s emotions.
- F. When God wants to empower us to love Him, He reveals Himself as a lover to us. We love Him because we understand that He first loved us. We enjoy or pursue Jesus because we understand that He first enjoyed or pursued us. This is God’s way to impart God’s emotions to us.  
*<sup>19</sup> We love Him because (we understand that) He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)*
- G. We change our mind, then God changes our hearts. We change our mind (understanding about God), then God changes our emotions (unlocks our hearts).

- H. Prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word and obedience positions our heart before God to freely receive. These activities do not earn us God's favor or blessing in our lives. **Analogy:** we put our cold heart before the bonfire of God's presence by seeking Him in the Word in spirit and truth.
- I. We are promised liberty – freedom from inward dullness and bondage. The essence of the New Covenant is to write God's word on our mind and heart. Our inheritance is a fully alive heart.  
*<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant (promise) that I will make with them... "I will put My laws (Word) into their hearts (emotions) and in their minds (understanding) I will write them..." (Heb. 10:16)*
- J. **Heart** – God promises to empower our emotions until we feel the power of His Word with desire for righteousness. **Mind** – God promises to release the spirit of revelation to our mind.
- K. In this very passage, Paul described how God wrote His Word on the heart of the Corinthians.  
*<sup>3</sup> You (Corinthians believers) are an epistle of Christ...written...by the Spirit...not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. (2 Cor. 3:3)*
- L. We behold the Lord's glory as in a mirror – the quality of the beholding is dim like a mirror in the ancient world. We all by nature "gaze dimly" by lacking vitality and focus in our efforts to meditate on God. This is the only type of beholding that God requires from us. It is a dim beholding of God's glory (heart and beauty), but it is a sufficient one.  
*<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. (1 Cor. 13:12)*
- M. We come with an unveiled face – bold and without shame because the price has been paid. Moses only saw God's backside. We stand before God's face (Heb. 10:19-22).  
*<sup>19</sup> Having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way...<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, (Heb. 10:19-22)*
- N. We are transformed by the Spirit – it requires a supernatural work to move and change the human heart. We must cooperate with the Spirit and cultivate a friendship with Him being careful not to quench or resist Him. The Spirit is our only escort into God's presence. There is a supernatural element to encountering God that we cannot produce. We cannot go forward when the Spirit is quenched in our life. We are helpless to encounter God without His help. We must renounce all that causes the Holy Spirit's work in our heart to be minimized.
- O. We are being transformed into the same image – the same character traits that we behold. Transformation is the result of the Holy Spirit imparting the revelation of the knowledge of God to us (Jn. 17:26). We will never graduate from needing this knowledge to grow spiritually.
- P. We will grow from glory to glory – God usually gives small steps as the way of our growth.
- Q. We are all to behold the Lord – this is the inheritance and is in the reach of every believer.