

Transformed by Beholding God’s Beauty Narrative

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). David wrote Psalm 27 in a time of personal and national conflict (27:1-6). Delighting in the beauty of Jesus is essential to walking in victory—in times of escalating fear, lust, offense, and violence.

²When the wicked came against me...³Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...⁴One thing...will I seek...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD...
(Ps. 27:2-4)

- B. ***The beauty narrative:*** We embrace the truth about a beautiful God who has a beautiful plan for our life, in which He uses His power to impart incorruptible beauty into our life that continues forever (Rom. 8:28). David was intentional about focusing on the “beauty narrative” of his life (Ps. 27:4).
- C. ***The dark narrative:*** The enemy wants us to entrap us into a negative narrative of how bad we are treated, how hard things are, what we do not have, how much we fail, and how worthless our life is. We must refuse to let a dark narrative dominate our heart and internal conversation.

II. JESUS IMPARTS HIS BEAUTY

- A. The beauty that Jesus possesses is the very beauty that He imparts to His people.

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me...³to give them beauty for ashes. (Isa. 61:1-3)

- B. ***Imparted beauty:*** Our choices for love and godly character are aspects of His beauty imparted in us. We embrace what the Word says about how God sees beauty in us—in a gentle and quiet spirit.

⁴...let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Pet. 3:4)

1. ***Hidden beauty:*** Peter provided significant insight when he taught on the hidden person of the heart. God sees incorruptible beauty in His people. We do not see it, but God sees it. We only know that God esteems humility as beautiful because the Scripture says He does.
2. ***Very precious:*** The beauty of humility is very dear to God. Jesus sees our lives so differently from us. Many believers see their life mostly as weak, broken, irrelevant, and a failure. Jesus sees beauty growing in them. He imparted it to them as part of His gift of salvation—to begin to cultivate beauty in our life in this age and then to bring it to fullness in the age to come.
3. ***Incorruptible:*** God sees humility as incorruptible beauty, or beauty that will never diminish. It will last throughout the age to come. There is continuity with this life in the age to come.
4. ***Gentle spirit:*** Some translate gentle as *humble*. Every choice for humility is beautiful to God.
5. ***Quiet spirit:*** Having a quiet spirit speaks of trusting the Lord’s leadership in our life, especially in times of difficulty, rather than being fearful.

- C. The beauty of our life is “hidden” in Christ—it will be fully manifested when Jesus returns in glory. Only after Jesus appears at His second coming, will we will see the full story and glory of our life.
- ³...*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)
1. The challenge with the beauty that He imparts to us now is that it is hidden from our 5 senses, but the Word says it there. If the Word says it, then that must be our confession, or testimony.
 2. We are to be intentional in searching for God's beauty, because it is hidden. This is a glorious, new way of looking at our life. The Lord has the final word over what we look like to Him.
 3. We do not have to wait until the resurrection to *rejoice with gratitude* over the real storyline of our life, because our life is ordered by a beautiful God who imparts beauty in our life.
 4. Many believers do not realize that God sees beauty in them. They live in despair, because they cannot connect with what is happening in their life from God's point of view.
- D. This life is the womb of eternity. Jesus is committed to fill the earth and all society with His glory—His beauty, love, humility, etc. He began to do this in part in this age and He will do it fullness after He returns (Num. 14:21; Ps. 37:11; 45:4; Hab. 2:14; Zeph. 3:12; Mt. 5:5; 11:29; 1 Pet. 3:4).
- E. Paul elaborated on the transforming power of beholding the Lord's beauty. Beholding God's beauty includes seeing His beauty in creation, redemption, and His leadership of history, but it also highlights the beauty that He imparts to His people—the “beauty narrative”
- ¹⁸*We all...beholding...the glory [beauty] of the Lord, are being transformed...* (2 Cor. 3:18)
- F. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize Jesus' beauty in the generation of His return (Isa. 33:17; cf. 4:2; 28:5; 61:3; 62:3-5), and that God's people will find strength by delighting in it (33:6). The “beauty narrative” will bring strength in a time of escalating lust, fear, and persecution.
- 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)
- G. Isaiah was undone when he saw the Lord's holiness or transcendent beauty (6:1-5). Seeing God's holiness empowers happy holiness in affectionate obedience with a spirit of gratitude and humility.
- ¹...*I saw the Lord sitting on a throne...*²*Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* ³*And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”*...
⁵*I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone...for my eyes have seen the King...”* (Isa. 6:1-5)
- H. The word *holy* means to be “*separate from*”—There are two applications of God's holiness. God is holy or *separated from all that is sinful*. This speaks of His purity and moral perfection. God is holy or *separated from all that is common or created*. He is infinitely superior to all that exists—speaking of His *transcendent beauty*—in all His attributes love, purity, wisdom, power, etc.
- I. Paul prayed for others to receive greater insight into the knowledge of God's beauty (Eph. 1:16-19).