



True beauty!

[**beautiful** adj. 1. Having qualities that delight the senses, especially the sense of sight. 2. Excellent; wonderful.]

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised (NKJV)

What is beauty?

Is it a look? Is it a feeling? Or maybe it is character. Is it in a mountain or lake, an animal or a flower? What is true beauty?

In our culture (North America) we are told to believe that beauty is packaged in a size 3, 5'11", perfect hair, perfect complexion, perfect teeth and perfect posture body. And, if you order it online, it comes (for a limited time only) with a full version of Photoshop installed!

I don't know about you, but I want more than this ... I know there is more to beauty than this!

I remember being out with family a number of years ago and one of these 'perfect' women walked into our restaurant. She was a model for sure, and one of the most glamorous that I had ever seen. She seemed to capture the attention of the whole room. Our eyes were captivated by her 'beauty'. All of a sudden she started to speak to someone and what spewed out of her mouth changed everything! We were appalled and the 'perfect princess' image shattered like thin glass!

So, again I ask: What is beauty? Is there a kind that you can get that is durable and that sticks ... kind of like good oatmeal porridge? Let's have a look...

Charm is not the essence of beauty; beauty is the essence of a healthy soul.

"The essence of a woman is beauty. Every woman possesses beauty..."
-Captivating, John & Stasi Eldredge

Physical beauty is fleeting.

1. Charm is a powerful motivation that we need to respect and use properly.

- *It can be very misleading and very hurtful.*
- *Listen to some of the Synonyms for charm: 1. attractiveness, allurements, bauble (a showy, usually cheap, ornament), enchantment, spell, fascinate, captivate, entrance, enrapture, ravish; allure, bewitch.*
- *We must be careful not to use our charm as a tool for selfish gain as it will bring harm. I call this 'negative woman power'. [Just think of Eve with Adam, Rebekah with Isaac, or for an extreme example look at Jezebel with Jehu (2 Kings 9:22,30)]*

2. To use beauty as a charm is demeaning and skin deep. Remember, we are not for sale!

3. True beauty does not have to charm, perform or even be made up. True beauty just is.

There is also a beauty that unfortunately fades with time. It is temporal, but real and something that we all have to face up to and deal with.

- *We are dust and will become dust again... sigh. (Genesis 3:19)*
- *Our world tries to hold on to the youthful look. I think it is part of our body groaning. If we are not looking forward to Heaven, we will always be trying to get rid of the discomfort of aging instead of allowing it to draw us toward God & heaven. (Romans 8:21-23)*
- *'God-in-us' helps us as we age; keeps us renewed! (Romans 8:11)*
- *Be content with where you are at, but don't be lazy.*

True beauty is timeless, but not necessarily perfect or pretty...

1 Peter 3:3,4

*Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather 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.*

Think about these examples:

- *Esther – both lovely and beautiful (Esther 2:7)*
- *Abigail – a woman of good understanding (intelligent) and beautiful form (appearance & countenance) (1 Samuel 25:3)*
- *Joni Eareckson Tada – lovely and beautiful, handicapped and exuding Jesus. (www.joniandfriends.org)*
- *My granny – lovely and beautiful, sweet and pure.*
- *Jesus – not so pretty (Isaiah 53:2) – but oh, so beautiful!! He portrayed God’s glory. (John 1:14)*

“There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look.”
Isaiah 53:2 MSG

Get to know the Source of true beauty.

1. **Look at Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.** (Hebrews 12:2)
2. **Desire the beauty of the Lord. Seek Him.** (Psalms 27:4)
3. **Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Come into His beautiful – pure, holy, powerful – presence.** (1 Chronicles 16:29)
4. **Know His promise: “that beauty is a growing thing” – and if I dare say; an aging thing. It increases as we spend time in the presence of His holiness.** (2 Corinthians 3:18)
5. **Allow His beauty to cover you and saturate you. Take His yoke on you and be blessed.** (Psalms 90:17; Matthew 11:29,30)
6. **Know that He adores you and is absolutely enthralled with your beauty! The Message Bible actually says that He is *wild* about you!** (Psalms 45:11)

Oh, I am drawn like a bug to the light! There is safety in Him & peace. His light is life to my bones.

“So, what is beauty? It is an aroma coming from the heart; from the depths. It is sweet and pure, holy and unselfish. It is stress free, for it does not strive to be noticed, it just is. Beauty comes from a heart that knows that God adores her and that nothing will ever come between His love for her.”

Make this your prayer:

“Oh God, keep taking me from glory to glory. Rise up in me and saturate me with the beauty of your holiness. May I exude your beauty and be everything you have made me to be.”

Some more thoughts:

Beauty creates movement – like a ripple. We have to purposely hold it in if we don’t want it noticed. It can be contained, but it begs to be let out.

If we will rest and allow ourselves to ‘just be’ ...

We will touch the world around us with beauty. We will bring blessing and sunshine to others.

*True beauty is when love is released with full invitation to respond,
But no demands on its return.*

My purpose is to bring beauty to the world – an aroma of life – and the most beautiful I can be is when I am giving the Holy Spirit free access to not only penetrate my being, but to flow through me to others – the ripple effect, or glory pouring out.

Some questions to ponder:

- Do I fear beauty or certain aspects of it?
- Why is beauty so hard for many of us to face?

- Do you think that you are beautiful?
- Do you feel more beautiful now than 10 years ago?
- Do you love more?
- How do little girls act out beauty?

- Do you remember doing those kinds of things?
- Did you have a daddy that expressed his adoration & pleasure for you in a godly way? ... and a mom who did as well?

The Challenge:

- Recommit to wanting the beauty of God
- Thank Him for making you so beautiful. Declare it outloud, even if you don't believe it.
- Ask Him to help you release your beauty (His beauty working through you). Ask Him to help you be yourself.

***“And let the beauty and favour of the Lord our God rest on us,
let Him establish and affirm what work we are to do;
yes, the work of our hands.”
(Psalm 90:17)***

***“Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear:
Forget your people and your father's house.
The King is enthralled by you beauty;
Honour Him, for He is your Lord.”
(Psalm 45:10,11)***

***“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into
His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
(2 Corinthians 3:18)***

***“The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”
(Zephaniah 3:17)***

[Take a moment and read Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

***DO NOT FEAR HIS LOVE FOR HE IS BEAUTIFUL IN EVERY WAY.
HE IS SAFE AND HE IS ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY!***

I AM PRAYING FOR YOU ~Wanda