

Quest For True Beauty *by Lois Burgher*

Lounging again in the crowded airport, awaiting the boarding of our second flight of the long day ahead of traveling, I found myself fascinated by the great variety of people and particularly the wide range of women that were streaming past me to find their gate to depart on their journeys. It felt as if I were replaying some scene from a dream I had had years ago.

There was every body type ranging from obese to extremely thin, every race including Caucasian, African and Hispanic. Every kind of fashion and adornment imaginable was represented; every age, and every imaginable expression was manifested on their faces. We are all created so uniquely different – every one having their own imprint of female individuality.

And again I thought of this question: “What is true beauty?” What really makes a truly beautiful woman? Many of us are grasping to come up to the standards of this world to be considered beautiful: from facelifts and breast implants to wearing the newest fashions and exercising till every part of our body is considered acceptable and beautiful. Many of us feel that we are racing against time, when the inevitable reality of old age will overcome us. But what is the unfading beauty the Word of God talks about?

I believe that every woman was created with a God-given beauty intended to shine forth from her in a way that is all feminine, knowing she is accepted, loved, cared for, and protected. I have been so blessed among women to have my husband Rex for almost 28 years, who has cared for me in all of these ways. But one thing I have learned in ministering to hundreds of women and in my own life is that only God can fill the deepest void in our hearts, because we were created to love Him and to be loved by Him. You see we were created for relationship and intimacy with our heavenly Father. The bridegroom is calling forth His bride...He knocks at the door waiting for us to answer. What a merciful, merciful God. Even when we are distant He shows us mercy. He draws us close to His heart. He longs for us to come into His loving arms, and He will never ever leave us or forsake us. He is always faithful, and nothing can separate us from His love.

I read recently that the thing that women fear most in life is abandonment. They are afraid of being left all alone, unloved, discarded, and rejected. As I have said often in other articles Satan is the author of the orphan spirit and it is his intent do everything he can to destroy us and convince us that we are all alone. But the truth is this, as said in Romans 8:37-39, *“No; in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Many of us have heard these verses and read this part of Paul’s epistle to the Romans and believed it as we would believe a love letter written to us, a letter that really could change or be different tomorrow. But this is a promise that is much more than a pie-in-the-sky love letter. It is our heavenly Father calling us forth to know and experience this unfathomable love that He so longs to pour out on us. It is a love that has no limits, no boundaries, and no what ifs. Who can fathom the depth of His love? Taste and see that He is good, He is so good. He is like sweet honey from the rock, like peace that flows like rivers, like nothing in all of creation. He is beauty itself, and has created us in His own image. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

This is what it means to be in the secret place; the secret place is the place of being and knowing unconditional, endless love. The secret place knows this peace, this place of rest, this tasting of the sweetest honey that only He can produce. There is no other that can take His place.

So we come back to this quest for true beauty, a quest that we especially as women are always trying to achieve. What does Peter mean when he says in 1 Peter 3:3-4, *"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it 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"?*

First of all, I do not believe it literally means that we should not wear jewelry, or braid our hair, or that it means only quieter women are of great worth. I believe Peter is saying that true lasting beauty can only be found within. This is the beauty that comes from being in that secret place with God, from knowing "all is well" because He is in control, we are dearly loved, and we never have to fear His leaving or abandoning us. True beauty comes from the Peace that He gives that surpasses all understanding. It is the peace that can only be given supernaturally by Him because of the Spirit of God that lives within us, and is beside us.

I find it fascinating that in many verses in the Bible it tells us to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. As in Psalm 96:9, *"Oh worship the LORD in the **beauty of holiness**: fear before him, all the earth".* And again in 2 Chronicles 20:21, *"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the **beauty of holiness**, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever".*

You see holiness is true beauty. Worshipping His holiness brings forth the true beauty of the Lord that comes forth as a shining light that never ever ends. And when we partake of that beauty we also will be transformed into His likeness and made complete; made complete as His child, His friend, His bride, Holy and dearly loved, and the apple of His eye.

It is my prayer for you today that you would partake of this unfading beauty, taste His sweetest of honey, know His everlasting peace that flows like a river, and be literally transformed by Him. This quest, yes this quest for true beauty can only be found in Him. THE END