



Empowering People to Change the World

Cultivating a Passion for the Beauty of God

Part II

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Cultivating a Passion for God's Beauty Part 2

- We are all hardwired for beauty! We notice beauty and I realized this most vividly when I met Liz! Wow.
For example:
 - Being in Japan, it was the gardens.
 - Being on an elk hunt deep in the Aspen forest.
 - Being on a river fly fishing with the steam coming off the river and the mountains in the background.
 - Being in worship with you, the saints, this morning.
 - Reading biographies of great men and women.
 - Watching great movies: *Amazing Grace* the other night.
- I challenge you to cultivate a new worldview, a new outlook—
Passion for Beauty!!
- Beauty is a powerful pointer to truth...the hard sciences are discovering this.
- **In *The New Story of Science*, Robert Augros and George Stanciu develop the growing conviction that in the sciences, and perhaps most of all in physics, beauty is considered the most powerful pointer to the truth of a theory.**
 - They are finding that the elegance of an equation is often better evidence of its truth than an experiment would be.
 - They write, “All of the most eminent physicists of the 20th century agree that beauty is the primary standard for scientific truth.”
 - Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize winner for his work on quantum electrodynamics and one of the most noted 20th century physicists remarked, “you can recognize truth by its beauty and simplicity.”

- At The Road we are cultivating Worshippers and Warriors, a Davidic generation. The greatest love songs and worship songs are about to be imparted. We need to write songs on the beauty of God. We need to study beauty through Outlier University.
- Hans von Baltshasar, “Within the beautiful the whole person quivers.”
- GK Chesterton remarks, “how frustrating it must be for the atheist to be struck with the splendors of reality and have no one to thank for it.”
- The glory supreme is Jesus and the Masterpiece of His work of art is man!
- **Ephesians 2:10** says that we are God’s poem: ***For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***
- Cultivate an appetite for beauty!
- We are increasingly seeing the intersection of theology, science and reality in ordinary life through the lens of beauty.

For example, as a freshman at UGA ,walking to biology class and experiencing a kind of “baptism into the beauty of God.”

Psalm 27

- We become like what we focus on. We become what we behold.
- David’s identity was wrapped up beauty! David’s identity was wrapped up in loving God and being loved by God.
- David’s identity was not in being king, but in a life with God. He could not wait to get alone with God and worship Him!!

- What I love about Psalm 27 is how down to earth and real this Psalm is.

Psalm 27: 1-2

¹ A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

- **The Fear Narrative**
- David wrote this in a time of conflict
- Not just one but many coming after David—"armies surrounding me." They were attacking his life, his reputation, they wanted to kill the king, steal the kingdom, steal his money, kill his family. This is intense. This is not just a little social media criticism.
- Problems abound all around David.
- The temptation is to stay and set up camp in that fear narrative and just take it, live in it and accept it.
- Wicked people are out there. Even in the church, they accuse, they attack, they lie.
- The enemy wants you to shift your narrative, your thinking, your focus into the negative and fear!

Psalm 27: 3

Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I will be confident.

- **David is making a choice to focus his heart away from fear to faith in the beauty of God.**

- We all focus on something. You cannot generally focus on more than one thing. David is choosing to focus on “one thing.”
- He is preaching to himself. Circumstances have not changed but David has. He is not going to camp out in fear.
- Only you can change you! Contend for a new mindset. Press into a new worldview.

Most people never change! We have over 80k thoughts a day and neuroscientists find that 90% of them are the same as before. In other words, the ditches we have dug through our thinking are deep and rarely change. Your thoughts are the emotions of your brain just as your feelings are for your body.

- Actions follow feelings and feelings follow thinking. Our emotions and actions are a result of how we think.
- Unless our thinking changes, we will not change our actions.

Psalm 27: 4-6

⁴ One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

- **The Beauty Narrative, The Faith Narrative**
- David is choosing another narrative for his life.
- David is fascinated by God’s beauty—his power, forgiveness, grace, love, integrity, creativity and presence.
- He is renewing his mind as he focuses on the beauty of God and it is changing his heart!

- He is moving from fear (versus 1-2) to joy and praise (versus 5-6.)

You have to quit focusing on the Fear Narrative of your Emotions and Start Focusing on the Biblical Faith Narrative of your Life.

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- Divine beauty is so beyond our imagination or experience, that the Bible calls it glory. Thousands of books have been written on God's glory and beauty. Most authors would say that the glory of God is undefinable.
- We are conformed by how much time we spend in God's glory, beholding the glory of God. When you spend a lot of time beholding the Lord, your character will be transformed more deeply.
- Every time we take time to relax and enjoy the Lord in worship, God is changing your heart and life.
- The Holy Spirit will change us if we choose to behold the glory of the Lord.
 - "from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit"
 - Many fillings, many encounters with the Holy Spirit and each one changes us.
 - You become what you behold—you behold porn you become porn, you behold sports you become sports, you behold fear, you will become fear, you behold beauty, you become beauty.

Look back at Psalm 27

- We all focus on something:
 - Fear or Faith
 - Man or God
 - Circumstances or Outcomes
 - Problems or Solutions
- David is facing massive obstacles in his life, but he is not focusing on them.
 - David is focused on “one thing” the beauty of God.
 - David is choosing to hide himself in God in the “secret place.”
- The outcomes is going to be beautiful. God’s outcome is goodness, beauty, courage and strength for your heart.
- Look at **Psalm 27: 13-14**
***¹³ I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.
¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!***

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- God has raised us up, the church. He invites us into His glorious presence.

- It is an intimate exchange of a personal encounter with God. We are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and we can stand before Him. God is looking for worshippers.
- When you were born again and are uniquely equipped to be a worshipper. You can reengage yourself with the glory of God. God is looking for worshippers.
- You are designed by God in everything in you to be a worshipper. Christ in you the hope of glory.

Study 3 things:

1) **The Glory Supreme; God's Beauty**

Study the Gospel story; read about Jesus, meditate in the red.

St Augustine sings to God,

“He is beautiful in heaven, beautiful on earth; beautiful in the womb, beautiful in his parent’s arms, beautiful in his miracles, beautiful in inviting to life, beautiful in not worrying about death, beautiful in giving his life and beautiful in taking it up again; he is beautiful on the cross, beautiful in the tomb, beautiful in heaven. Listen to the song with understanding and let not the weakness of the flesh distract your eyes from the splendor of his beauty.”

2) **Crown of the Cosmos**

The beauty of people—study great men and women of God—their virtue, their courage, their boldness. Look at Psalm 139.

- Read authors like: Sam Storms, Thomas Dubay, Richard Foster, Henri Nouwen, Madame Guyon, John Piper, Bernard of Clairvaux.

3) **God's Divine Art Gallery**

Nature and creation, study the human body, study the cosmos. Psalm 19.

- For example, we need people in film, in the church, in music, in social media—fill the earth with this beauty narrative.
- At The Road we are cultivating Worshipers and Warriors, a Davidic generation. The greatest love songs and worship songs are about to be imparted. Write songs on the beauty of God.
- Look up Psalm 19 and see the beauty in the heavens! His handiwork. Heavenly Art Gallery.
- Piper says: “letting our eyes run up the beam of the beauty of the original creation.”
- The symmetry—the stars, the trees, the leaves, the flowers.
- The universe in the macro and micro creation.
- David got it right!
- Brilliance behind the vastness of the galaxy—100 billion in our galaxy.

St John of the Cross prayed:

Let us so act that by means of this loving activity we may attain to the vision of ourselves in Your beauty in eternal life. That is: That I be so transformed in Your beauty that we may be alike in beauty, and both behold ourselves in Your beauty, possessing now Your very beauty; this, in such a way that each looking at the other may see in the other his own beauty, since both are Your beauty alone, I being absorbed in Your beauty; hence, I shall see You in Your beauty, and You shall see me in Your beauty, and I shall see myself in You in Your beauty, and You will see Yourself in me in Your beauty; that I may resemble You in Your beauty, and You resemble me in Your beauty, and my beauty will be Your beauty and Your beauty my beauty; wherefore I shall be You in Your beauty, and You will be me in

Your beauty, because Your very beauty will be my beauty; and therefore we shall behold each other in Your beauty.