

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

BEAUTY

This week let's tackle something that God gave us as a gift: BEAUTY. Beauty is a subject that opens the door for you to share your faith more deeply, to discuss the significance of God's creation, to enjoy God's miracles all around you, and for self-reflection. So, embrace the concept of beauty permeating your heart, from the inside out, and also challenge yourself to see God's beauty in the people and the world around you.

DAY 1

THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S BEAUTY

"WE DO NOT WANT MERELY TO SEE BEAUTY...
WE WANT SOMETHING ELSE WHICH CAN
HARDLY BE PUT INTO WORDS – TO BE
UNITED WITH THE BEAUTY WE SEE, TO PASS
INTO IT, TO RECEIVE IT INTO OURSELVES, TO
BATHE IN IT, TO BECOME PART OF IT."
-C. S. LEWIS

New International Version

Psalms 96:9

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his
holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

DAY 1

PRAY: God, I want to be in the splendor and beauty of Your Holiness. Will You help me to worship You with joy and thanksgiving so that I tremble before You in Your majesty? Let me see You as beautiful. Help me to see Your beauty everywhere and to experience the splendor of Your holiness. I worship You, Oh Lord and ask that You bring me into Your glorious presence so that I am changed forever and can see the beauty in the world You created, through Your eyes. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

REFLECT: What would it mean to see God's holy splendor as beautiful? Is He beautiful to you right now? It could be that we can more easily experience His splendor and beauty when we worship Him. You might need to change your definition of "beauty" to make it more internal and not just an external trait. Come before Him, asking to see the beauty in our world through His holiness. As you do, you may actually physically tremble before Him!

DAY 1

ACT: The media influences us all, and Hollywood has defined beauty to us as thin, sexy, pure skin, shiny hair, etc. We think of celebrities as beautiful people, and yet we don't know what's in their hearts. Change your definition of beautiful so that you are reflecting God's meaning. He cares most about our hearts, minds, and souls – not just our bodies. As you take time right now to worship Him in the splendor of His holiness, ask Him to show the people in Hollywood what His real beauty is and that they too can tremble before Him as they experience His splendor.

DAY 2

EMPTY BEAUTY

"AS THE EXCELLENCE OF STEEL IS STRENGTH, AND THE EXCELLENCE OF ART IS BEAUTY, SO THE EXCELLENCE OF MANKIND IS MORAL CHARACTER."

-A. W. TOZER

New International Version

Matthew 23:27

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

DAY 2

PRAY: Heavenly Father, help me to focus on having a pure heart, and not just on looking good or being impressive. For You tell us that we can be beautiful on the outside but full of dead bones and everything unclean on the inside. Please help me to stop worrying about what other people think of me, but only what You think of my heart. I don't want to be a hypocrite, like whitewashed tombs. I want to be a beautiful person, more than just have a beautiful appearance. Thank You that You are making me beautiful from the inside out. Amen.

REFLECT: Look inside your heart and think about who you really are. Are there any areas where you are a hypocrite? Are you full of dead bones or unclean? Are you more concerned about how you look on the outside than how clean and beautiful you are on the inside? Could you possibly be living your life like a Pharisee? It's actually amazing how godly people are beautiful to others, even if they don't have a gorgeous outside appearance, because God's beauty is overflowing out of their hearts and that's what others see.

DAY 2

ACT: Look up what it is to be a “Pharisee” or a hypocrite. Also, research what God means when He says, “You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.” Choose now to focus more on your heart than on your face, weight, or size. Would you get down on your knees right now and ask God to clean out your hypocrisy and to fill your heart, soul and mind with His beautiful promises and truths. You can choose to be more beautiful, this moment, both in the eyes of God and man.

DAY 3

INNER BEAUTY

"THE BEAUTY OF A WOMAN IS NOT IN A FACIAL MODE BUT THE TRUE BEAUTY IN A WOMAN IS REFLECTED IN HER SOUL. IT IS THE CARING THAT SHE LOVINGLY GIVES, THE PASSION THAT SHE SHOWS. THE BEAUTY OF A WOMAN GROWS WITH THE PASSING YEARS."

-AUDREY HEPBURN

New International Version

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.

DAY 3

PRAY: Lord, let me have a beautiful heart, mind, and soul so that I ooze beauty out of every action, word, and thought. Help me understand I AM beautiful, not because of what I wear or how I look, but because I have great worth in Your sight, a gentle and quiet spirit and a beautiful inner self. I want to radiate Your beauty and love, not just be disguised with gold jewelry and fine clothes. Thank You that I can have inner beauty just by walking in Your presence. Amen.

REFLECT: Reflect on how much time, money, and effort you spend on your OUTER beauty rather than your INNER beauty. Do you spend more time buying clothes, jewelry and skin products, primping in the morning, and getting expensive haircuts, or do you spend more time memorizing scripture, spending time with God, encouraging and serving others and praying? True beauty, that is of great worth to God, does not come from outward adornment. It comes from the inside. So how can you focus more on your heart than your body? Can you re-prioritize your goals to embrace the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit? Now that has great worth in God's sight.

DAY 3

ACT: Choose to do one thing today to make yourself more beautiful on the INSIDE. Decide to give up one thing you usually do to enhance your outer beauty, and spend that time getting more beautiful on the inside. You could memorize scripture, spend quiet time with God, do a random act of kindness to some unsuspecting neighbor. Sacrifice doing something for yourself and take action on building up your heart and soul, for that is of great worth in God's sight.

DAY 4

HE MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL

“NEVER LOSE AN OPPORTUNITY OF
SEEING ANYTHING BEAUTIFUL, FOR
BEAUTY IS GOD’S HANDWRITING.”

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON

New International Version

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its
time. He has also set eternity in the hearts
of men; yet they cannot fathom what God
has done from beginning to end.

DAY 4

PRAY: Lord, would You please give me patience as I wait for You to make things more beautiful in my life, in Your time? I want to have a greater understanding of eternity so that I'm not so frustrated with why things take so long in the present. May I seek beauty both in me and around me so that I can start to fathom what You have done and are doing in my life. Thank You that You make everything in me beautiful in its time! Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: Focus on what it means to "set eternity in your heart." God promises that and yet it's hard to tangibly experience. No one can fathom what God has done, but can you get a glimpse of what He's doing in your life? We know that He makes everything beautiful in its time, but how do we experience the eternity that He has set in our hearts? It's got to be beautiful but maybe it's so incredible that we can't fathom it...

ACT: List three things that God has done in your life—from beginning to end—that are hard to fathom. What miracles have you experienced? What changed lives have you seen? And how has He actually made you beautiful because of changing your heart? List the three top miraculous beautiful acts or things of God that you can praise Him for and that will help you to start to fathom what God has done from beginning to end, both in your life and in our world. Seeing His miracles on earth will set eternity in your heart, and then you can see God's beauty all around you!

DAY 5

YOU ARE ALTOGETHER BEAUTIFUL

"TAKING JOY IN LIVING IS A WOMAN'S
BEST COSMETIC."

-ROSALIND RUSSELL

New International Version

Song of Solomon 2:10 & 4:7

My beloved spoke and said to me, 'Arise,
my darling, my beautiful one, come with
me...You are altogether beautiful, my
darling; there is no flaw in you.'

DAY 5

PRAY: Lord, thank You that You call me Your beloved and You tell me that I am altogether beautiful, without even a flaw, for You created me in Your image. Oh, may I truly believe that and live that way, as a precious, beautiful child of Yours. You have given me the gift of beauty because You are proud of me. I know You want to make my life richer and more meaningful, with no flaws, and I praise You for that! Help me to believe that Lord, so that I can have confidence in who You made me to be! Amen.

REFLECT: Can you honestly believe that you are truly beautiful, and that God calls you "darling" because you are so precious to Him? What would change in your countenance, your confidence, your stature, and your attitude if you really knew that God looks at you as His perfect love, without even a flaw? You can't convince yourself to have a better self-image, but you can depend on the Holy Spirit to change you from the inside out. He wants us to have the desires of our hearts, so if your desire is to truly feel beautiful then ask Him and He is faithful to answer. He'll say, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one."

DAY 5

ACT: Take today as the first day to not allow yourself to question your looks or God's overwhelming love for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see yourself the way God sees you. Don't allow yourself to say anything negative about yourself. Don't beat yourself up or tear yourself down. Stop before you push away a compliment or a kind word from another and just say "Thank you." Embrace your beauty with joy and thanksgiving. And then if you succeed today, do it again tomorrow, and then the next day, and the next... Your goal is to fully believe that you are God's darling, His beautiful one, with no flaw in you – through the power of the Holy Spirit. WOW! Start right now!

DAY 6

TRUE BEAUTY

“IN EVERY HEART THERE IS A SECRET
NERVE THAT ANSWERS TO THE
VIBRATIONS OF BEAUTY.”

-CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

New International Version

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

DAY 6

PRAY: Dear Heavenly Father, may I focus on everything beautiful in my life and especially in what I think about and talk about. You created the world and everything in it by thinking only thoughts that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, and beautiful. Help me to reflect you. Transform me from the inside out as I speak the truth about myself and everyone around me I want to feel beautiful and see Your beauty all around me. I want You to fill me with beautiful thoughts and have them overflow to the people in my life. Oh Lord, show me Your beauty. Thank You! Amen.

REFLECT: What do you think or talk about that is untrue, ugly, negative, mean, cutting, or impure? Does something come to mind that is not praiseworthy or beautiful? If we want to think like Jesus, we have to change our thoughts. He saw the good and the beautiful in everyone and everything. Choose to form a habit of seeking beauty, and stop letting your carnal nature and our culture guide your thoughts, words, or actions.

DAY 6

ACT: Pinpoint one “negative” thought you struggle with and choose to stop thinking it by replacing it with something pure, noble, or beautiful. Decide what you’re going to do any time that thought pops up and re-program your brain to replace it with a beautiful image in your mind. Maybe it’s a person whom you think badly of. Choose the positive, truthful thoughts and/or words that you want to think about and ask the Lord to help you change. You will become a more beautiful person and you will see more beauty in the people around you. Choose now to fill your life with God’s beauty, in thought mind and deed.

DAY 7

THE LORD IS BEAUTIFUL

"HOW MUCH WE NEED, IN THE CHURCH
AND IN SOCIETY, WITNESSES OF THE
BEAUTY OF HOLINESS, WITNESSES OF THE
SPLENDOR OF TRUTH, WITNESSES OF THE
JOY AND FREEDOM BORN OF A LIVING
RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST!"

-POPE BENEDICT XVI

New International Version

Psalms 27:4

One thing I ask of the Lord , this only do I
seek: that I may dwell in the house of the
Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon
the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in
his temple.

DAY 7

PRAY: Dear God, I ask You one thing, as the only thing I seek today—that I may dwell in Your house, close to You, and feel Your beautiful, powerful presence, all the days of my life. Lord help me to dwell on You and Your beauty and that I may seek You everywhere I am and say, “Oh God, You are so beautiful!” May I keep gazing on You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

REFLECT: What does it mean to “seek” God? How can you do that more effectively? And what does it mean to “dwell in the house of the Lord” and to “seek Him in His temple?” And do you think of God as beautiful? Reflect on how to make these concepts real in your life, and how to personally make this scripture come to life for you so that you truly believe that God is beautiful, as you gaze upon His beauty and seek Him in His temple.

ACT: Commit to actively seeking God in a new way. Either spend more time with Him or spend more time each day reading the Bible. Commit to talk to Him all day, bring Him into every conversation, meeting, and decision, and relentlessly pursue Him all the days of your life, because He is BEAUTIFUL! Start by memorizing Psalm 27:4!

For further inspiration, check out Michael McClymond’s audio interview, “Captured by God’s Beauty,” on John Piper’s “Desiring God” website. He discusses understanding how God himself defines beauty. And, check out Tommy Walker’s song, “I Fix My Eyes on You,” on YouTube