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saturday@theHOP Core Values ***The Beauty of God***

I. Introduction

- A. The Subject** of God's beauty is the same as the subject of His holiness and glory. Studying these topics is like studying the core of who God is. It is the intangible subject of His Divine Nature which is expressed in multiple ways.

Every expression of who God is, what God feels, and how God acts point to the inner life of God. God gives us impressions and expressions of His inner life that are meant to propel us into a deeper understanding of His nature, glory, holiness, and beauty.

1. There is a compelling power in the revelation of beauty. It answers an ache in our soul that was put there by God. We cannot live to our fullest spiritually without the revelation of beauty. Beauty is intrinsic to our emotional and spiritual health. It is a vast subject.
2. The pursuit of the deep things of the knowledge of God is the highest and most difficult reality in the Spirit. It is the Mt. Everest of the Kingdom of God. The study of God's beauty takes time and work. It comes slowly. Do not be impatient, but persevere with a marathon pace as you mine for gold. Our life is a long treasure hunt into God's beauty.
3. Why do we need to understand God's beauty? The Spirit is orchestrating a worldwide prophetic worship and prayer movement that is essential in releasing God's power to the nations before Jesus' Second Coming. This movement is fueled by the revelation of Jesus' beauty. Isaiah prophesied that the revelation of Jesus' beauty would be revealed in the generation He returns.

*"In that day the Branch of the LORD (Messiah) shall be
beautiful and glorious."*

- Isaiah 4:2

4. We study the beauty of God by studying and meditating on these expressions that are given by God to be "on-ramps" into a deeper knowledge of God's inner life. Through the Word, through revelation, through testimonies, signs and miracles, through the works of justice, mercy, and compassion; through the love of God revealed to our hearts in expressions of His emotions; these all serve to point to an inner dimension of God's nature.

5. The expression “seeking God’s face” is the same thing as beholding His beauty. God’s hand is meant to make us aware of His presence so we can then gaze upon who He is. Moses and David are two examples of men who maintained a strong desire to see God’s face, even in the midst of seeing great expressions of God’s hand. The temptation is to fix our eyes on the hand of God and not learn about His nature.

*“My heart says of You, “Seek His face!” Your face, Lord,
I will seek. Do not hide Your face from me...”*
- Psalm 27:8

*“The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks
with his friend... ‘But,’ He said, ‘you cannot see My face, for no
one may see me and live’”.*
- Exodus 33

B. David: A Life Vision for Studying God’s Beauty

*“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.”*
- Psalm 27:4

*“The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart,
and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people...”*
- 1 Samuel 13:14

1. David was a man that was a lifelong student of the beauty of God. David declared that the primary preoccupation of his heart was to seek God’s beauty. The highest goal in David’s life was to know God and to be in God’s house with 4,000 musicians and 288 singers worshipping God 24/7 (1 Chronicles 23:5; 25:7).
2. The phrase, “all the days of my life,” is significant as it includes David’s teenage years when he sang love songs to God without any audience and throughout his life into his later years as King of Israel.
3. David sought the knowledge of God in his youth. The goal of David’s life was God. He didn’t tolerate God to get a ministry He sought God’s beauty. During his 20’s, as jealous King Saul chased him throughout all of Judah to kill him, in his 30’s when he was king at Hebron, and in his later years from his 40’s until he died at age 70 as king over all Israel.
4. Whether in a season of victory or testing, whether in a time of exhilaration or depression, the primary thing David set his heart on was God’s beauty. David

described it as, “the one thing he desired and sought.” It was the goal and focus of his life. He exerted energy and invested time in this. David was on a life long *treasure hunt* to discover the beauty of God.

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6:20

“...so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery (hidden knowledge) of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

– Colossians 2:2

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.”

– Proverbs 25:2

Remember, God is not hiding Himself *from* us, He’s hiding Himself *for* us. He wants to be discovered and He designed it that you end up discovering yourself in discovering Him.

C. Reviewing the 7 Longings

God created the human spirit with seven longings that draw us to Him and reflect His glory in us. These longings are common in each human heart. They are:

1. The longing to make a deep and lasting impact
2. The longing to be beautiful
3. The longing to be great
4. The longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God
5. The longing for intimacy without shame (fully enjoy God)
6. The longing to be wholehearted and passionate
7. The longing to be fascinated

You cannot repent of these longings; you can only repent if seeking to fulfill them with the wrong things. These cravings leave us empty until they are satisfied in the grace of God. We have a God shaped vacuum (gnawing emptiness) until we are touched by God. To encounter God in these areas describes being fully alive.

1. The Longing to be Fascinated

If we live fascinated by the Lord we do not need the stuff the world offers. Only the beauty of Jesus satisfies our longing to be fascinated.

God has designed the human heart for wonder, awe, amazement, and fascination. We just do not function properly if we aren't fascinated. The arts and entertainment industry has identified and targets this longing, as many seek to find fulfillment in movies and other forms of entertainment.

God has designed it so that we are most entertained when we're entertaining Him.

2. The Longing to be Beautiful

When God reveals God to the human spirit, there is a superior pleasure to any other pleasure in life. In the romance of the gospel Jesus not only heals and forgives, but He fascinates our heart with splendor and beauty. We have a beautiful God who beckons His people to fill their lives with His Word and prayer.

"The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation."

- Psalm 149:4

"Your eyes will see the King in His beauty..."

- Isaiah 33:17

"To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

- Isaiah 61:3

Understanding the beauty of God helps us to understand our own beauty hidden in Him. When God touches this longing in our heart, it strengthens us and protects us from being allured or giving in to lesser pleasures and beauty of sin or of the world. We are romanced in the Gospel and become fascinated with the Beautiful One and become ruined for that which is eternally beautiful.

"For you died, and your (inner) life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

- Colossians 3:3

II. Beholding the Beauty Realm

A. Revelation 4 and 5

These chapters give us the highest revelation of God's beauty in Scripture. They describe the Holy of Holies of the Eternal City. God could have put anything around His Throne that He wanted. What the beautiful God put around Himself expresses His beauty to creation. It is all very purposeful. I call Revelation 4-5, the "beauty realm of God" and the "heavenly symphony." Here we see that the great Governmental Prayer Center of the universe is fueled by God's beauty.

"Behold, a door standing open in heaven....the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet...saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place." I was in the Spirit and...Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. He...was like a jasper and a sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the Throne... Around the Throne were 24 thrones...I saw 24 elders...in white robes; they had crowns... From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning... Before the Throne there was a sea of glass...around the Throne, were four living creatures..."

- Revelation 4:1-6

Revelation 4:1-6 describes the 15 "doorways" into understanding God's beauty as seen around His throne. There are 5 main subjects that give us a dynamic picture of God's beauty.

1. The ultimate reality: God's Life (Spirit), Throne, and Person (Rev. 4:2)
2. The beauty of God: What He Looks like, Feels like, and Acts like (Rev. 4:3).
3. The beauty of God's partner: The Church Enthroned, Robed, and Crowned (Rev. 4:4).
4. God and His people in unity: Manifestations of power (Lightning, Thunder, Sounds; Rev. 4:5a).
5. The Spirit's fire: On the Throne, the Seraphim and the Saints (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)

B. 12 Expressions of God's Beauty

"My Beloved (Jesus) is white (radiant) and ruddy, chief among ten thousand...Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend..."

- Song 5:10, 16 10

1. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS LIGHT, COLOR AND THE VERY ATMOSPHERE AROUND HIS THRONE.

“You...cover Yourself with light as with a garment...”
- Psalm 104:2

“Behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. He who sat there was like a jasper (diamond like) and a sardius stone (deep red) in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the Throne, in appearance like an emerald (green).”
- Revelation 4:2-3

Light with many colors and splendor emanates from God's person and Throne. The beauty of God's personhood is reflected in the light and color that emanates out of God as well as the weight of glory in the very atmosphere of the Eternal City. Jesus' light illuminates the eternal city. We refer to feeling the weight of God's Presence. We cannot comprehend the weight of God's Presence nearest to His Throne.

“The City (New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”
- Revelation 21:23

“The person of Jesus light up the city! He is brighter than the sun ... the sun is ashamed!”
- Isaiah 24:23

God surrounds His beauty with garments of light that hide the undiluted beauty of God from His creation. The angels see even more of His beauty, as the protective covering is lifted--they are overwhelmed as they collapse in the very weight of His Presence. The very light that protects us from His Presence is in itself beautiful but God is even more beautiful than that which protects Him.

“Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting.”
- 1 Timothy 6:16

At strategic moments, the light that covers God's person is temporarily lifted and the angels collapse. Even the seraphim and cherubim who have the greatest capacity to receive God's beauty collapse. When Jesus stands up in the eternal city and just moves the weight of His Presence, we will feel it a thousand miles away. Six times in Revelation, the host of heaven around God's Throne collapses. Rev 4:10; 5:8; 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4 John 3 times

Rev 1:17; 19:10; 22:8 There is a tenderizing effect in the weight of His Presence that emanates out of Him. All of the hosts of Heaven and all the redeemed tremble with tenderness in their spirit; the atmosphere is charged with the beauty of God.

2. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS FRAGRANCE

"For we are to God the fragrance of Christ."

- 2 Corinthians 2:15

Jesus possesses a real fragrance. The fragrance of Jesus is manifold with many dimensions to it. How many scents emanate from God? I assume that there are different fragrances for different occasions in the Eternal City. The anointing oil used in the tabernacle was very strong in fragrance. The Throne of God is described as the mountain of spices.

"Make haste...and be like a gazelle on the mountains of spices."

- Song of Songs 8:14

Different fragrances for different purposes Roses, gardenias, etc.

3. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE MUSIC, SOUNDS AND NOISES AROUND HIS THRONE

"From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices."

- Revelation 4:5

"His voice as the sound of many waters... Jesus is a musician, a singer and song writer. Music flows out of God's being."

- Revelation 1:15

Many diverse types of music are seen on earth in the different cultures and tribes. Jesus' Throne is surrounded by angelic choirs. The voice of God is awesome in power and impact. Three times in Revelation, John describes noises coming from God's throne. Rev 5:11; 14:2; 19:6; There are awesome, majestic sounds, including thunder, that shake everything. We will tremble at God's majesty as His sounds of thunder touch us. The entire city will be impacted under the majesty of God's multiple sounds and melodies. Beautiful and terrifying sounds.

4. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN JESUS' PHYSICAL BEAUTY IN HIS RESURECTED BODY. JESUS' BODY IS THE BEST THAT GOD CAN CREATE IN TERMS OF A HUMAN BODY.

"We eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body..."

- Philippians 3:20-21

5. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN JESUS' FACE

"The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ...should shine... For God...has shone...to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus."

- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

"His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength."

- Revelation 1:16

"You (Jesus) are fairer (more beautiful) than the sons of men..."

- Psalm 45:2

Jesus' beauty is expressed in His smile, His eyes, and the shining brightness of His countenance. Jesus is a Man with a warm smile filled with God's glory. His face is holy, powerful and awesome, yet warm and inviting. The smile on His face will conquer our heart in love. Eyes of Fire ... - We will be overwhelmed as His eyes of fire impart God's love and holiness to us. His eyes are filled with beauty.

6. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS ROYAL COURT WHERE HIS THRONE IS SET UP

"Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."

- Psalm 96:6

"I saw...a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God."

- Revelation 15:2

"There was a rainbow around the Throne, appearance like an emerald. Around the Throne were 24 thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting... from the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the Throne... Before the Throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal."

- Revelation 4:3-6

The hosts of angels surround His Throne. Great majesty! His Throne is adorned with seven lamps of fire, an emerald rainbow and the sea of glass like crystal that is filled with flaming fire.

7. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS DESIGN OF THE ROYAL COURT IN REVELATION 21-22

The familiar saying that a woman's home is an extension of her heart, can be applied to God's beauty in how He created the Eternal City. In designing ones dream home, some work with the architects from the beginning. They pick the land next to a lake then design the landscape with trees and a flowing brook. They position the house so the sun comes up at just the right place and in the right angle, so that the light is reflected with just the right contrasts. The decor and furniture, etc. is all carefully chosen to express the personality of those who will live in it. God designed His city with the landscape, and the light with colors, as an extension of His beauty.

8. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE PARTNER HE CHOSE

The glory of man is His wife. He chose you as His partner. He imparted His beauty to you. Your beauty is higher than all the rest of created order. We will magnify God's beauty (1 Corinthians 11:7).

"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband..."
And He chose you!

- Proverbs 12:4

"...He gives us beauty for ashes..."

- Isaiah 61:3

9. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE LEADERSHIP AND PLANS HE ESTABLISHED

The script that God is operating from as He leads history and accomplished redemption reveals His beauty. When we hear a great poem or see an excellent movie, we observe that the poem or movie is beautiful. This reflects its author. The story line of natural and eternal history is a stunning revelation of God's beauty. God has devised His blueprint for history from before creation. We will be awed by His great mind as we are intoxicated and enthralled with each dimension of the script in which God orchestrates all of history. His mind is brilliant ... genius magnified!

"To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God... to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers."

- Ephesians 3:9-10

10. GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS POWER

When God heals, delivers, and provides for us in surprising ways, we see His beauty. His power shows forth His beauty in the earth and heavens; His

power manifestations have such beauty in them. There are a million stories behind the manifestations of power in creation and history.

“The number of grains of sand on the Earth is equal to
the number of stars in the universe...”
– Carl Sagin

11. GOD’S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS PERSONALITY, WHICH INCLUDES HIS CHARACTER, HIS EMOTIONAL MAKEUP EXPRESSED IN HIS GLADNESS, HAPPINESS AND DELIGHT, AND THE HOLINESS, KINDNESS, PASSION AND PLEASURE OF GOD.

He has desire when He looks at you. There is gladness in His heart when He looks at His weak people. The saints of Rev. 15 stand before Him at the time of the Rapture. The first thing the saints say is, “Great and marvelous.” In other words they are filled with marvel, awe and wonder.

“I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory...standing on the sea of glass... They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!”

- Revelation 15:2-3

12. GOD’S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS WRITTEN WORD

David wrote a number of psalms revealing what he observed about God’s beauty in creation. When David looked at the stars, he beheld God’s beauty.

“You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips...”

- Psalm 45:2

“The law of the LORD is perfect... The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure... More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

- Psalm 19:7-10

“His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved...”

- Song of Songs 5:16

We do not have to wait for eternity All this is true of God’s beauty right now. We can marvel and be awestruck now.

III. The End Time Revelation of the Beauty of God

A. Exploring the “Fuel” for sustaining a prayer movement.

Prayer Movements can be driven or sustained by:

- ❖ A Vision if the vision carries or is completed prayer declines
- ❖ A strong personality (leader) can only grow to the level of his/her influence
- ❖ Rewards over a long period this motive God will not honor
- ❖ Desperation / circumstances if blessing comes prayer subsides
- ❖ Or by passion.

“In that day,(2nd coming) the Branch of the LORD (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious...”

- Isaiah 4:2

“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

- 1 Cor. 2:10

Worship and prayer are sustained night and day in dramatic ways through the progressive revelation of God’s beauty. As each wave of revelation passes over the angels and the elders they cry holy, holy, holy as they behold anew a fresh glimpse into the heart of God and His Nature. (Revelation 4-5)

The Spirit is orchestrating a worldwide prophetic worship and prayer movement that is essential in releasing God’s power to the nations before Jesus’ Second Coming. This movement is fueled by the revelation of Jesus’ beauty. Isaiah prophesied that the revelation of Jesus’ beauty would be revealed in the generation He returns.

B. The Spirit of Revelation Unveiling Jesus

“He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”

- Isaiah 53:2

The Father veiled the glory of the Son at His first coming to test the hearts of men and to reward those who were hungry. But at the Second coming, the Lord is returning, perfect in beauty, with a resurrected body, and in all of the Father’s glory. His appearing will be in the context of darkness so that the full light of His splendor and glory will be on display for all to see.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven,

and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

- Matthew 24:29

“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...”

- Isaiah 33:17

For in a little while I will shake the nations, and then the desire of all nations shall come, and I shall fill this house with glory.

As the end of the age draws closer and closer to this glorious Day of Jesus return, the Holy Spirit will draw many believers into new depths of discovering God’s beauty.

The book of Revelation is a revelation of the Beauty of Jesus. It should give us a sense, even a prophetic prototype if you will, of the types of revelations and encounters the Lord wants to have with us.

“Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.”

– Revelation 1:12-18

John is given a glimpse of the majestic beauty of Jesus and it caused him to lose all strength. Beloved, the Beauty of Jesus is a fearfully wonderful thing to behold! Oh, the terrible beauty of a Man so pure!

John receives a revelation and is told to write it down. Then, in each of the letters to the churches, he shares this revelation. Each church is equipped, edified, and exhorted with an aspect of the Beauty of God.

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and

your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”

– Acts 2:17

C. A Bride Adorned for her Husband

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

– 2 Corinthians 3:18

The End of age Church will be a beautiful Bride adorned for her Husband. The Holy Spirit is beautifying the Church with beauty treatments in the knowledge of Jesus, and in the End, the “The King shall desire your beauty.”

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

– Ephesians 5:25

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

– Revelation 21:2

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.”

– Revelation 21:10-11