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The Beauty of Trusting in God

We are examining the importance of matters of the heart. Specifically, the hidden person of the heart which, because of a relationship with God, should emulate Jesus in His gentle and quiet spirit. We should come with warning stickers, “**Under ReConstruction: Being Rebuilt Into His Image.**”

Why the warning stickers? Construction sights are messy, and remodels can be even worse because before the new walls get framed in the old must be demolished. Then there is the cleanup. Personally, I find cleanup both rewarding and challenging. Rewarding when the big debris are removed and challenging in getting all the small stuff—the nitty-gritty little debris in the corners. But nothing can replace the feeling of seeing the place cleared out and ready for the new.

It is a similar process in our hearts. As we are undergoing this “rebuild,” we may be seeing and hearing our behavior and words in a new light. As the Holy Spirit begins the process of demolishing old patterns of behavior and thinking, it can get messy as we struggle to learn new ways. But, as the new is built up within us, we will enjoy the rewards of the hard labor of the heart remodel. What is happening internally will become evident externally to everyone around us. Yep! You will be transformed into a S.H.W.O.G.!



Let us continue! The next ingredient in God’s Beauty Recipe. . . **Trust!**

*Let it (your beauty) 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.
For in this manner, in former times,
the holy women **who trusted in God** also **adorned themselves**. . .*

-1 Peter 3:4-5a

Before we go any further, take time to **define trust**. (Yes, look it up!) Also note synonyms and antonyms to further enhance your definition.

We discover from the definition of trust that the **object of our trust** is SIGNIFICANT! In What or in Whom we trust is foundational to how we live. This is a crucial ingredient in God's Beauty Recipe for us ladies. Without trust in God, the recipe will utterly fail. We will not be able to have a "quiet and gentle spirit" because we will be fighting a losing battle in our own strength and resources rather than relying on our Creator who knows us from the inside-out and who gives us the ability to be "remodeled" and transformed.



To better understand this issue, we must go back to the beginning to understand the **ultimate** Beauty Buster and its repercussions.



Turn to Genesis 3 and read verses 1-13 carefully and then answer the following:

1. What did the serpent do to God's word in verse 1? (Compare to Genesis 2:16) What was the serpent's purpose in doing this?
2. What did Eve do to God's word in verses 2 and 3? (Compare to Genesis 2:17) Why is this a problem?
3. Describe in detail the implications of the serpent's response in verses 4 and 5.
4. As Eve reexamined the fruit in verse 6, what made it attractive to her? Which senses or emotions were also involved? Compare your discoveries to 1 John 2:15-17.

What is the Pattern of this Beauty Buster?

- James 1:14-15, How is this pattern like Adam and Eve's pattern?

What will Happen or should Happen to this Person?

- Genesis 3:22-24
- Matthew 7:26-27
- Deuteronomy 8:19-20
- Hebrews 3:12-15

The Name(s) of this Beauty Buster: _____

What are the "tells" of this Beauty Buster? Describe them and how you have witnessed them in your own life.



Trusting God!

We have witnessed the devastation of doubt and unbelief in God and His word. We must ask ourselves what are the benefits of believing and trusting His word implicitly—without question?

King David had issues! (Don't we all? 😊) However, he was also described as a “man after God's own heart. So despite his transgressions and sin, David understood God's mercy and grace. He got it right by trusting God. His love coupled with the divine direction of the Holy Spirit compelled him to write out his feeling and thoughts in many of the Psalms. Let's discover what David knew about his God.

Those who trust in God are. . .

- Psalms 2:12
- Psalms 5:11
- Psalms 7:1
- Psalms 9:9-10
- Psalms 16:1
- Psalms 18:1-3, 30
- Psalms 25:20
- Psalm 34:22

Which of these stand out to you and why?

Blessings of Belief/Trust in God. What do you learn from the following verses? (You will also see contrasts. . .)

- John 3:16 and 36
- Ephesians 1:18-19, What 3 things can those who believe in Jesus know? How are they worked in us?

Final Thoughts

The children of Israel **HAD IT MADE!** Not only did God hustle them out of Egypt by breaking this powerful nation, but God did it with unquestionable power as seen in the plagues and then the drowning of the entire Egyptian military. It was an absolute and complete rout.

God promised them a land of their own, one that was abundant “flowing with milk and honey.” He would be with them, lead them and fight for them to bring them to a place of rest. He had already demonstrated His leadership with pillars of smoke by day and fire by night, His ability to fight and protect in annihilating the Egyptians, and His provision with water and food. His promise was a “sure thing.” The *only* requirement was TRUST. That is it—nothing else, only trust.

Yet, despite what they had witnessed, the children of Israel hardened their hearts towards God repeatedly choosing wickedness, rebellion, and sin. I used to get so mad when I read about them in the scriptures thinking, “How could they?” Then the Lord revealed how fickle my heart can be blowing hot and cold... Oh, oh, oh, mixing hot and cold is not good! Luke-warm believers—yuck! Jesus declared he will “vomit them out of His mouth.”¹ That is QUITE the picture!

I firmly believe, if we trust God and believe His word is true, the ornaments of a quiet and gentle spirit are more easily “put on.” We will not be cantankerous, contentious women because our confidence is in the One who can do all things.² We will not be manipulative because we know that our heavenly Father delights in His children³ and if we make our desires known to Him and ask for His provision, He will hear and answer.⁴

This will allow us to take our “thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ”⁵ and not allow the weeds of discontent, divisiveness, bitterness and all the Beauty Busters to grow in our minds or take root in our hearts. It is imperative for us to “weed and feed” regularly with His Word. As we spend time feeding on His word, our Shepherd will show us truth to weed out lies we have believed or that the world has tried to feed us.⁶ We will be well nourished, content and satisfied.

If we truly trust that God will work ALL things out for good and His glory,⁷ we will not fret over our circumstance. The concept is simple, but THIS IS HARD IN PRACTICE! This is a walk of faith and at times blind faith/trust because we are unable to see the end. But God Does See it, ALL of it! His ways are higher than our ways⁸ and sometimes we just cannot figure out how He is going to use a situation to be glorified. However, if we continue to trust Him, He will work it in and through it and we will not be fretting and anxious. Yay!

¹ Revelation 3:16

² Psalm 57:2

³ Psalm 147:11

⁴ 1 John 5:14-15

⁵ 2 Corinthians 3:5

⁶ John 8:31-32

⁷ Romans 8:28

⁸ Isaiah 55:9

A few interesting studies if time permits:

1. Looking at the MANY times Jesus mention unbelief. It's a great work study and sobering.
2. Follow the progress of unbelief as outlined in Romans 1:18-32.

Continue to Memorize:

Let it (my beauty) 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.*

For in this manner, in former times,
the holy women who *trusted in God* also adorned themselves. . .

1 Peter 3:4-5a



A Wise Woman **builds her house,**
But the foolish **pulls it down** with her hands 
(or her lips). 

Proverbs 14:1

I will **love**  You, O Lord, **my strength.** 
The Lord is **my rock** and **my fortress**  and my **deliverer**;
My God, **my strength,**  in whom I will **trust**;
My **shield**  and the **horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Psalm 18:1-2

