

Our Worth as Temple Caretakers

How would you rate your worth? Most of us immediately tend to evaluate ourselves by the world's standards first. How do we feel about our looks, our accomplishments, and our talents? What do we prioritize in our lives?

Our Ladies Friendship Connection has randomly been working on some of our goals while we primarily seek the Holy Spirit's guidance. Sandy Harber's teaching has been concentrating on the Holy Spirit which is the most important of how God teaches us **His goals**. We have been talking about how the Holy Spirit wants to **cleanse our hearts**. We also need to talk about the temple that we present to others. This is partially addressed on goal number 4 that we established in the beginning of this group.

To refresh your memory, I am repeating this goal:

4. Become WOW (women of worth) women. Recognize that we are women of our worth in Jesus. It is not about self-esteem. It is about recognizing who we are to our Lord. As my husband shared in one of his first sermons, **"We are valuable, lovable, forgivable and redeemable."** We are all in need of Jesus to guide us through the struggles of life. He uses the tough times of our lives to draw us closer to Him. God has great plans for us. He has all the resources and power we need to become what He wants us to be. **As we surrender our will to God, we learn that our worth comes from Him alone. (Matthew 10:30-31)**

Our first thought about our worth is often on beauty or our outward appearance. it's true that **God mentioned beauty 49 times**, He also adorned His temple with gold, silver, precious jewels and spectacular quality in every detail. He made man in his image and made woman to be attractive to men. But he also gave each of us unique gifts and responsibilities. Physical beauty may get the first glance, but **God's word uses the word countenance 52 times**. My husband always tried to teach woman to concentrate on countenance more than beauty and to dress to not emphasize our bodies or cause lust.

I googled Biblical beauty and this is part of what it posted: **to God**

- **Heart Over Appearance:** While society focuses on outward, physical beauty, God evaluates based on the heart.
- **Virtuous Living:** It is characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

I was surprised that google concentrated on Biblical beauty in this way.

It's true that God recognizes beauty and He designed us each with unique looks that are sometimes considered to be more attractive to others, but He also has a very special plan for each of us since he formed us in the womb and Psalm 139:11.

God doesn't make junk. He has a very special plan for each of us. The more we reflect Christ, the more beautiful we become by God's standard.

God cares about how we are clothed.

He loves to see us clothed in His strength and honor and speaking with wisdom and kindness. Our speech also becomes part of how we present ourselves.

Proverbs 31:25 **Strength and honor are her clothing**; and she shall **rejoice** in time to come.

Proverbs 31:26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Proverbs 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

The best beauty and clothing tip from God is joy and the garment of praise.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the **garment of praise** for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Our worth, therefore, includes how we present our inward and outward temple. **Our worth totally hinges on what God says we are worth**, but we still have to allow Him to do complete His work in our lives.

God has great plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11). He has given each of us unique gifts and talents. He also gives us the resources to we need to do whatever He asks (I Thes. 5:24).

As God's valued children we also know that we have an adversary that wants to steal our joy and try to keep us from living the victorious lives He plans for us. I have found that what most helps me to live above satan's attacks and efforts to discourage me is to consciously strive to live in praise and thankfulness. I challenge each of us to consider counting our blessings more each day and learn to praise Him in all things. How many times have you praised the Lord today? When we live in praise to our Lord, we are dwelling in God's realm in which He can protect us more and answer our prayers. I picture myself being in a place where satan can not reach me as easily. Psalms 91 tells us we can dwell in the secret place of the most high under the shadow of the Almighty.

God also provides soldier attire.

He provides armour to combat the enemy each day.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saint

Just as our country relies on our brave soldiers to protect us and give us freedom, God wants to clothe us in everything we need. I remember hearing about a girl who stated that she had an automatic attraction to a man in uniform. God is building an army that is not only impressive to look at but an army that represents strength and majesty. We serve a King. He greatly values each of us and through Jesus, He gives us all the tools and authority we need to become conquerors. We become more beautiful inside and outside as we let the Holy Spirit work in and through us to exalt Jesus.

As children and soldiers of the King, do we act and look like we know our real worth?

-- Sandy Yates

♥ You are Beautiful~Ps. 45:11

♥ You are Unique~Ps. 139:13

♥ You are Loved~Jer.31:3

♥ You are Special~Eph.2:10

♥ You are Created with a Purpose~Jer.29:11

♥ You are Cared For~Eph.3:17,18,19

♥ You are Lovely~Dan.12:3

♥ You are Precious~1-Cor.6:20

♥ You are Strong~Ps.18:35

♥ You are Important~1-Pet.2:9

♥ You are Forgiven~Ps.103:12

♥ You are a New Creation~2-Cor.5:17

♥ You are Protected~Ps.121:3

♥ You are Empowered~Phil.4:13

♥ You are Chosen~Jn.15:16

♥ You are Family~Eph.2:19

♥ You are Mine~Is.43:1

You Are Who God Says *You Are*

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