

Beautiful

“Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King.” ~ Psalm 48:2

Somehow I believe our Lord is leading us to discover the beautiful, the wonderful, the majestic things in life. We aim too far in one direction or the other, or possibly we don't aim far enough the best way.

Finding faith is the most beautiful thing we can do. We access the beauty and wonder of heaven. We find the love and miracle that God has made possible. When we do beautiful, our lives take on a higher and better meaning,

Alek Wek, a fashion model who was born in Africa and is now a missionary for World Vision, helps us to look deeper. “The most beautiful things,” she writes, “are not associated with money; they are memories and moments. If you don't celebrate those, they can pass you by.”

Look for and remember the beautiful memories we have already in our lives. Celebrate the beautiful moments which we can find in a day, a week or a year. From the beauty of a new born baby in her mother's arms to the loveliness of a church organ playing majestic music, from the conversation too soon concluded to the word we never saw before but never want to forget, we must seek and treasure them all.

The beauty of nature is such a blessing. From the beautiful sunrise in which can occur in any location, to sunsets which are gone before we have the chance to look, God's paintbrush makes those moments to enjoy. When we go to the mountains, we see the mist and the trees, the people like no other, and give thanks. When we gather by the seashore, see the birds and fish and the waves and the colors, and feel the breeze on our face, it can bring tears of joy.

The trees and the woods they form, with the animals and magical discoveries all around, can beautify a moment in a second. George Washington Carver, an American inventor, writes, “Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise.”

Look all around. Seek the most you can. Hope in places others will despair. Pray in moments others take for granted. And you will see beauty you have never seen before. Camille Pissarro, the famous Danish-French painter's words could almost be another biblical beatitude. "Blessed are they," he says, "who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing."

Some things are so beautiful they cannot be seen. They can only be felt or sensed. The thunder of the heavens, a note of the most delicate song, the blessing of just walking with someone we love. The joy of a task accomplished, the satisfaction of a job well done, the release after a moment of forgiveness, the joy of meeting Jesus, they all move us a little closer to the beauty of heaven.

And then, we must not forget, and we must never doubt, that we can be beautiful to others. Maya Angelou: "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud." Thich Hhat Hanh: "Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful."

Rays Stevens, the country comedian and singer wrote a song I have always loved, partly because it is so true, and partly because the song itself, the words and the music, are so beautiful. Some of the words are quoted here below.

Everything is beautiful
In its own way
Like the starry summer nights
Or a snow covered winter's day

Everybody's beautiful
In their own way
Under God's heaven
The world's gonna find the way

So, have you found or been beautiful today? It is all around us. It is there in the moments of loveliness and faith as expressed during worship on a Sunday morning. It is there in the middle of the deepest despair or the darkest conflict. When we look for it, and God shows us where to find it, we will discover the most magnificent kind of beauty we have ever felt or seen.

Only God can make the truly beautiful. Only God can make the moments and create the things where spiritual rubies glow and blazing diamonds shine.

Discover that as you share the beauty of heaven, and live with the beauty of God inside you that you have beautiful feet, minds, and hearts. Share the beauty God's people find when they gather together to help someone in need.

Seek beauty. Be beautiful. Find the beautiful. Seek the lovely. Look in the places where God has put it. Name it when you find it. Celebrate when you can see it. And find the beautiful as only God can create it.

“It is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!” Romans 10:15