

# Do You Believe You Are a Captivating Woman?

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## I. What does “captivating” mean?

A. Definition: to hold the attention, the fascination, and the charm of someone

1. We hold the attention, fascination, and charm of God
2. It is a journey of the heart

## II. Captivating is an essence that God puts in each of our hearts

A. It is a *journey*.

1. We are never going to “be there” until we come face to face with our Savior.
2. Our heart is always growing, even when our hearts are full.
3. Everyday God grows our hearts to love more, to know more, and to understand more.

B. It is a journey toward *restoration*.

1. The garden was perfect.
2. Restoration is a journey back to the place where it was perfect.

## III. The way God sees us.

A. When a person becomes a believer, God sees him or her as though back in the garden.

1. God sees the believer as glorious, powerful, and captivating.

B. We are inviting, tender, alluring, embodying mercy, and fiercely devoted.

1. We bear the image of God.
2. This description sounds like Christ.

## IV. The way you see yourself.

A. Women struggle to see themselves as God sees them.

B. The way you see yourself began very early in your life.

1. You learned femininity from your mother.
2. You learned the value of a woman from your father.

3. Many women receive imperfect messages, and most children believe what their parents tell them or display to them.
  4. Damage is done that is only made worse by continuing to believe things that are not true about ourselves.
  5. Take these deep wounds to the Lord.
- C. Shame enters into these wounds.
1. It haunts us.
  2. It tells us: “You’re flawed. You don’t measure up. You are unworthy. You are broken.”
  3. You are not that Proverbs 31 woman.
- D. We try to hide this shame by looking beautiful on the outside.
- V. What is God’s view of beauty?
- A. It flows from a heart at rest.
  - B. It indwells every woman.
  - C. It sets aside defenses and shows vulnerability.
  - D. Beauty offers grace to be and the room to become.
    1. God loves you right where you are at.
    2. He loves you enough to not leave you there.
  - E. Beauty beckons others in.
  - F. Beauty invites others to live life just as they are.
  - G. Beauty shares from the heart.
- VI. Every woman possesses a captivating beauty.
- A. Not just the externally beautiful.
  - B. Not those who have it all together.
  - C. Because we possess the image of God, we are beautiful.

VII. Let God do the restoration.

- A. This takes time.
- B. Time for:
  - 1. Solitude
  - 2. Silence
  - 3. Refreshment
  - 4. Laughter
  - 5. To listen
  - 6. To practice responding to the nudges of the Holy Spirit
  - 7. To abide
  - 8. To pay attention to God's voice
  - 9. Living from a depths of a soul that can only be obtained by time
- C. We put up walls around our hearts that we think will protect us.
  - 1. When you shut down, everything shuts down.
    - a) You can't just hide part of yourself.
  - 2. Take the walls down.
  - 3. Help other women take the walls down.
  - 4. Surround yourself with people.
  - 5. Let Jesus heal you, and ask Him for healing.
  - 6. This requires openness and vulnerability.
  - 7. God is longing for intimacy with you.

VIII. Cultivating Intimacy With God

- A. Be desperate for it.
- B. Fight for the time to be with him, and protect it.
- C. Be captivated by HIS beauty.
- D. Fight the thief that seeks to destroy your lovers gifts.
- E. Recall the times he has spoken to you in your loneliness.

## IX. Seeing Your Purpose

- A. Look at your relationship with God as a partnership to bring life to a damaged world.
- B. Your feminine heart is an invitation by your Creator to have a role in God's story.
- C. You may not know the dream yet, but you know the longing.
- D. Give that dream to Him.
- E. Do not wait until you think you have your life all together. That day will never happen.
  - 1. God uses us in the midst of our pain and weaknesses.
  - 2. Be authentic and real.
- F. Isaiah 61:1-3 - "The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion--to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified."
  - 1. This is the verse Jesus picked to publicly announce His ministry.
  - 2. This mission is of utmost importance.

*Beauty is an essence that dwells in every woman, given to her by God. Given to you. Your beauty is powerful. It speaks, it invites, it nourishes, comforts, inspires, and is transcendent. Beauty is your core. It can impact the world for good. The only thing standing in the way of your captivating beauty are your doubts and your fears. Let God handle those and let beauty flow from your heart. Let your defenses down. Choose to set aside your normal means of survival and just let your heart show up. Your beauty will accompany it. A woman of true beauty is a woman who in the depths of her soul is at rest, trusting God, because she knows Him to be worthy of her trust. So she exudes a sense of calm - peace - as she journeys in this broken world. - Stasi Eldredge*

Study Questions

A. When do you feel beautiful? Where does that beauty come from? Does it match God's definition of beauty?

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B. What things are you allowing to clutter your heart, preventing rest? How will you go about turning those things over to God on a regular basis? Why is this challenging for us?

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C. What are some of the beautiful things in you that display God's image?

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D. Summarize the purpose found in Isaiah in one sentence. What would it look like to partner with God and use your beautiful qualities to accomplish this purpose? Give specific examples.

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