

God's Calling Requirements

Part 48

The true adornment

The incorruptible countenance

Purposeful countenance

How to Adorn Yourself? Teaching Against Excessive Makeup and Perfumes

“1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Peter 3:1-6 KJV)

“1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” (1 Peter 3:1-6 NIV)

After Adam sinned, Eve who tempted Him was put under his leadership and this holds good even today. ***“16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3:16 KJV)*** Therefore, in the world today, woman is looking for her independence from man all in the name of feminism and also looking to prove her equality with man.

But if we go to the Word of God we can see that God made man and woman one. ***“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. “ (Galatians 3:28 KIV)*** Paul also stated the same ***“8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.” (1 Corinthians 11:8-12 KJV)***

Therefore, if a woman goes to the Word of God, she will find its place preserved and protected. Apostle Peter in ***1 Peter 3:1-6***, speaks about women who are in struggle with their non-believing husbands. The struggle is inside the family and not between men and women in the society. Peter instructed the women to behave with their husbands as Christ behaved on the cross. He called their attention to the fact that men will observe and notice the following things:

1. ***Speaking without Words (Behaviour): “that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.” (1 Peter 3:1 KJV) “they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.” (1 Peter 3:1 NIV)*** Attitude and behavior of women is the first silent language that men will look for.
2. ***Chaste conversation: “2 While they behold your chaste conversation.” (1 Peter 3:2 KJV) “2 when they see the purity.” (1 Peter 3:2 NIV)*** The gentle and the polite way women speak will draw the attention of God and people and make them win their favor.
3. ***Fear of God: “coupled with fear.” (1 Peter 3:2 KJV) “and reverence of your lives.” (1 Peter 3:2 NIV)*** To be a person who fears God is an asset and a credit to women.
4. ***Not using outward adorning: “3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.” (1 Peter 3:3 KJV) “3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.” (1 Peter 3:3 NIV)*** To receive favour from God and from man, women need to avoid using outward adornment (decoration, beautification, ornamentation, prettification, gilding, frill, trimming, enhancement). Using adornment and beautification is cheating and a dishonest way to win favour. A woman who uses make up to beautify herself to get favor is actually a briber! I am not against using medical lotion to treat skin condition or dryness, but to use enticing colors and smell to attract others is unjust and unfair. Peter told the women of his time not to plait or braid their hair because they had used those styles to attract men. He also did not recommend gold jewelry or costly apparel for beautification. Nowadays, there are other styles that women may use to attract men. Then that particular style we should condemn. If Apostle Peter would be writing the same passage today, he would reach verse 3 and continue to write ***“3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning*** and list down all the designer wears and branded products that are invading the market today.
5. ***Using the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit: “4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” (1 Peter 3:4 KJV) “4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.” (1 Peter 3:4 NIV)*** Women are to use the

Some styles women use today to manage their hair so that their daily work and movement is easier or convenient, is totally acceptable. We should not condemn them.

inner man, the spirit that is in connection with the Holy Spirit, to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their life. Using excessive makeup and alike are considered corruptible things. Manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives is of great worth in the sight of God and will grant us more favor.

6. **Trusting in God:** *“5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.” (1 Peter 3:5 KJV) “5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands.” (1 Peter 3:5 NIV)* The holy women of the olden times adorned themselves by being subject to their husband; they expressed their trust in God and exhibited their gentle and meek spirit to attract their husband to them and to draw them near to God. That is also how they showed their full trust in God. Woman who do God’s will put on the garb of humility to gain the favor of God and man. The church of God is the wife of Jesus and when we abide with God’s will we are in subjection to our Husband, Jesus Christ, and that is more pleasing in the sight of God.
7. **Behave like daughters of Sarah:** *“6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” (1 Peter 3:1-6 KJV) “6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” (1 Peter 3:1-6 NIV)* Sarah is a good example for women to follow, to obey God’s command and follow their godly husband. Sarah got rewarded with Isaac even though she was past the age of child birth and women who follow her example, will also see miracles. When we as a church put ourselves in subjection to God’s will, then He will certainly reward us with His precious promises. We do need to trust God fully and in this way we escape from worries and fear.

Going back to women who smear makeup and dab perfumes to impress others, the following is the message of a Sister to the reader:

“Instead of spending time asking what color of eye shadow will match my outfit today or what shade of lipstick will I use for this or is my blush too shiny or did they notice my new perfume, ladies, isn't it wonderful to use this time and effort in pleasing God? How? By reading and meditating on His Word, by sharing the Gospel to your family, friends and even co-workers, by focusing on the ministry our Lord has given you.”

“We live in a world where make up is highly appreciated, but girl! you don't need it. As stated in the scripture above, let us not concentrate on the outward; instead, let us pay heed to beautifying the inner man, which is not corruptible. A beauty that is lasting is what pleases God.”

“To wash our bodies and to use things that are beneficial is acceptable. By using expensive perfume and painting our faces, we simply attract people around us and at the same time project our low self-esteem and our inability to realize who we are in Christ. It is true that a lot of girls are more conscious about how they smell rather than on how effective they are as the salt and light in this world.”

“13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 KJV)* Jesus said, *“Let your light so shine before men.” (Matthew 5:16 KJV)* Our lives should reflect the light of Jesus and draw people close to God rather than allow our make-up draw people close to us.

“In our work field, (reports, presentations, meetings, meet-ups etc.) many spend hours on their appearance rather than on the content of their report. But regardless of how beautiful you are in front of your boss or clients, they will praise you or judge you based on your work alone. Do not trust your beauty or on how you paint yourself. Trust God; your focus is to deliver the works of your hands victoriously so that you can be a good example of how to be a recipient of God’s favor in your job.”

“30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. 31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37 And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.” (2 Kings 9:30-37 KJV) Jezebe, the daughter of the King of Zidon, had married king Ahab and through her Baal worship was introduced in Israel. She is the first woman mentioned in the bible who had painted her face. I am not saying that she is the pioneer, but I am mentioning her reaction to the events of life that she was passing through. Her husband was dead in battle and her son, king Joram, was just killed by Jehu, and now Jehu was moving towards her to meet her: *“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.” (2 Kings 9:30 KJV)* Now how did she need to respond to the event? Instead of repenting and humbling herself before God, she painted her face and went out to meet Jehu in a defiant way, despising the judgment of God. *“31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, “Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?” (2 Kings 9:31 KJV)* She wanted to remind him about Zimri who had killed his master in order to become a king but he did not succeed and was killed. She wanted to frighten Jehu by telling him that his destiny would be the same, but she forgot to remember all her sins and wrong doings against God and against His people. God was sending his judgment against her but she did not consider repenting. Therefore Jehu executed the judgment of God against her as we read. Nowadays, the life of the Christian people and the church is the same; they will face the struggles of life and the coming judgment of God hiding behind masks and painted faces adorning themselves with empty smiles to cover up sin and the gloominess of heart; their refusal of the truth and their pride hinder them from true repentance, and from opening up their lives to God in total surrender.

Sadly speaking, the Israelites followed the bad example of Jezebel and did the same thing in their lives to face their problems and the challenges of lives. ***“And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments.” (Ezekiel 23:40 KJV)*** Now the Christians are doing the same when faced with the challenges of life; instead of repentance they seek the worldly approach to solve their problems. They make themselves beautiful by putting make up to attract others for their favor; they make friends with influential people of the world and literally sell themselves to curry favour. This will yield no lasting profit. ***“And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.” (Jeremiah 4:30 KJV)***

The situation of Jezebel and how she lived her life is demonstrated further in the New Testament, in the book of Revelation through the words of Jesus to the church in Thyatira: ***“20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.” (Revelation 2:20-123 KJV)*** The Christian church today is not willing to face the struggles of life by dealing with sin and to take measures to bring the people to the point of repentance and into holy living. Instead, the church herself is faced with spiritual poverty and God’s displeasure as a result of their callous ways and indulgence in worldly practices of pleasure and celebrations: Valentine, Halloween, All Saints Day, Father Day, Mother Day, Friendship Day, and the rest of the days to come, and coloring these celebrations, activities and events with performances in worship accompanied by light and sound effects. The performers, the so called worship leaders, try to impress the crowd with heavy make-up, eccentric hairstyles, tattoos, piercings and revealing clothes in order to camouflage their failure to be a chosen generation, and their lack of repentance, in the same manner as Jezebel when she faced Jehu. With such kind of pride and lack of repentance, it is no surprise why churches today face a lot of struggles in the form of poverty, sicknesses, broken families, divorce, second marriage, gay marriage, etc. and are in dire straits.

To face the struggles of life, we need God on our side. The Word of God tells us the following: ***“5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.” (Psalm 34:5 KJV)*** God wants us to turn to him, to come back to Jesus and to His Word that gives light, hope and life, ***“16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:16-18 KJV)*** When there is repentance, there is freedom from sin, freedom from bondages and freedom from limitations; there will be more of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. In this way we can face problems with the assurance that God is with us. We need to submit ourselves to walk in His ways. Nowadays, many Christians wear a mask to hide their spiritual emptiness;

masks of boasting, showing off and worldliness to face the challenges of life. They have no thought of repenting and coming back to God.

Proverbs 7:10-20 KJV tackles an adulterous wife who is living a double life: ***“^{d0} And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.¹¹ (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:¹² Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)¹³ So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,¹⁴ I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.¹⁵ Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.¹⁶ I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.¹⁹ For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:²⁰ He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.”*** Early in the day, that woman was in the temple (church today) offering her peace offering vows. Later on, she attracted a man by (V10-harlot attire, v11and12-always outside, v13 and18-physical connection, v17-perfume)

Deodorants or other lotions can be used to combat the bad smell that sweat produces, but it should be mild and should not draw the attention of people for the wrong reasons.

“That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. “ (Amos 6:6 KJV) The corrupted Israelites women at the time of the prophet Amos, they ***anoint themselves with the chief (expensive) ointments***, to please the people with their smell, and to make them more in love with their own bodies. What they did even reached the prophet Amos and he wrote about it in the Word of God. They were not using ordinary ointments that would serve the purpose but used expensive ones. Anything for the body should be used in moderation.

“That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. “ (Amos 6:6 KJV) Prophet Amos was delivering his message to the Israelites not only to criticize them for the expensive thing they were using, but also draw their attention to other sins they needed to repent about:

- 1- ***That drink wine in bowls:*** They were indulging in drinking wine for pleasure. They were so concerned about feeding their flesh and to consume of all that they liked to ingest.
- 2- ***And anoint themselves with the chief ointments:*** Part of their pride, boasting and worldliness was to anoint themselves with the most expensive ointments. They were glorifying their own flesh using them.
- 3- ***But they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph:*** But those same people were not concerned about the house of Joseph, the lost Israelites, who were living in sin, in painful bondages, in idol worship, in wrong practices adopting the same worthless practices of the heathen nations around them.

The same can be reflected today when the Christians and the church spend much on food, drinks and on makeup, hair styles, and many things to pamper the flesh, with lack of prayer and fasting, lack of humility and lack of concern for others who are lost and in the torment of sin.

Mary anointed Jesus' feet, by using her ointment, ***"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment."*** (John 12:3 KJV) Mary gave up her expensive ointment for Jesus.

If you want to look beautiful and your face to shine with God's glory, go to the bible and learn new things more than what is mentioned above. It further contains Godly methods to do that. Removing this make up and perfumes routines from your daily life will actually help you and draw you near to God to do His ministry, and help you focus on sharing the Gospel. It is high time for you to give up expensive make up and the face painting.

Painting the eyes and the face might attract people but not The Holy Spirit. When God created you His work was marvelous; fearfully and wonderfully He created you as you claim His promise in ***Psalms 139:14 "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."*** It is time for you not only to give up the worldliness of makeup but to employ all what you have and have received from God in God's Kingdom and reach new souls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. What Mary gave to Jesus equaled one year wages, ***"Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?"*** (John 12:5 KJV) At the time of Jesus, the payment of a worker for a day was one penny. ***"And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard."*** (Matthew 20:2 KJV) So the value of her ointment that she poured on Jesus' feet, which cost 300 pennies, was equal to one year's salary. Imagine how many people are wasting expensive perfumes and make up on their bodies and spending huge amounts of money instead of using their resource for the extension of God's kingdom!

God want us to go forward and preach the gospel to the lost and save them from sin and death. The Word of God tells us, ***"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"*** (Isaiah 52:7 KJV) ***"15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*** (Romans 10:15 KJV) The Word tells, ***"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*** It does not tell us how beautiful the painted eyes and faces look. It talks about the beauty of Jesus radiating from people who preach the gospel and dispel the darkness of sin in people's lives. But, if they are so concerned to eat, drink and wear the best, then, what they will preach and what they teach? If they are so worldly they will not preach about repentance and will not help the people to come out of their sins.

Let us continue through the Scripture and found out how we can make ourselves beautiful and find the favor of God.

Moses' face shone without any make up because he was always in God's presence. ***"27 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. 28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. 29 And it came to pass, when Moses came***

down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. 31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. 33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him." (Exodus 34:27-35 KJV) A woman who spends more than an hour to paint her face should rather spend this time to read the bible, and to kneel down and pray in His presence. The message is not only directed to the women but to the men as well. Spending time every morning on face book, listening to breaking news, instead of beginning the day reading the Word of God and praying at the feet of the Lord will be spiritually crippled by this wrong routine. Our attitude in the morning will determine the outcome of the day. If you follow the pattern of Moses, then you will be the manager of the day. But when you manage your morning contrary to what we read from the pattern of Moses, then the day will slave you and you will be the office boy and you will not know from where you are receiving orders. When we read the above Scripture we can discern what Moses did:

- 1- ***He was listening to God: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel."*** (Exodus 34:27 KJV) Moses obeyed what God asked him to do. We need to listen every morning to the voice of God. Some people are interested to listen to the praise and worship songs, but that should not replace listening to the voice of God.
- 2- ***He prayed and fasted: "And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. "*** (Exodus 34:28 KJV) Praying and fasting will makes you hear better the voice of God and that will help you to be healthier and more renewed in spiritual strength. Our faces will shine with the flow of the Holy Spirit and be manifested through our lives to others.
- 3- ***He wrote the Word of God, the Word of the covenant: "And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."*** (Exodus 34:28 KJV) For us writing and copying the Scripture is a command, ***"18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."*** (Deuteronomy 17:18-20 KJV) Reading, meditating, writing the Word of God and spending time on studying it will disclose truths and secrets, promises and blessings contained in it, to those who believe. That attitude of Christ in us will be of such nutritional value

spiritually that will change us, transform us and enable us to receive more of His grace and mercy.

- 4- **He kept the Word of the covenant:** *“And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.” (Exodus 34:28 KJV)* The following are the Ten Commandments: *“3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.” (Exodus 20:3-17 KJV)* Daily routine mentioned above will remind us about our covenant with God and how we need to serve Him and walk in all His ways, doing the whole will of God.

Following the pattern of Moses as the Scripture teaches us; reading the bible, writing the Scripture, praying, fasting, and listening to His voice will enable us to receive the following benefits:

- A. **Confidence, assurance and peace:** *“29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai.” (Exodus 34:29 KJV)* Listening to the voice of God gives us assurance of His precious promises contained in the bible. The voice of God will give us peace, remove anxiety and offer us respite. Just as Moses found himself going down to where God wanted him to, we in the same way will have the peace to go in the direction that the Lord wants us to move.
- B. **Receiving the Word of God and giving it to the people:** *“And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand.” (Exodus 34:29 KJV)* Moses was carrying the Word of God when he came down after meeting the Lord. What a great blessing it is we too can carry to the lost world after being in His presence! *“And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.” (Exodus 34:32 KJV)*
- C. **Physical strength:** *“And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with*

him.” (Exodus 34:29 KJV) Communion with God gives physical strength we need to go and face the people around us with God's truth. Moses was not very aware of the radiance of his face after meeting with God, but the crowd around him noticed it.

- D. **Authority:** *“And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.” (Exodus 34:30 KJV)* People feared Moses after he met with God. In the same way, if we cherish the Word of God and the voice of the Lord, then we will have the authority of God over the people through the Word of God that the Lord would give to us to transform their lives.
- E. **Favor:** *“And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.” (Exodus 34:31 KJV)* People listened when Moses called them and came to him. When we follow God as Moses did, we will find people listening to us and we will have the favor of God and the people around us.

Jesus said, *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:6 KJV)* We face life challenges with prayer and supplication to God. We face them with fasting; Jesus said, *“17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:17-18 KJV)* Jesus recommended that we anoint our head with the olive oil so that we do not appear to men that we are fasting.

Ruth did not need to dab perfume and apply make up to achieve God's will for her life: *“1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. 5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. 6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. 8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. 10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.” (Ruth 3:1-11 KJV)* Ruth was a widow and she was living in a land not of her own but was successful in facing her problems and solving them when she humbled herself and find refuge in God's Word and will.

1. She listened to the advice of her mother in law: Naomi repented from her sins and was willing to go back where God had placed her. Repented people are the best people that you can listen to, in advising you and in giving you the council of God and the will of God.

2. She obeyed the plan of God that she received through her mother in law: *“1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshing floor.” (Ruth 3:1-2 KJV)* She accepted the plan of God for her to get marry from Boaz. He was elder than her and she was a young in age, but she was willing to obey the Word of God to marry the kinsman redeemer to preserve their line and their inheritance, *“10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.” (Ruth 3:10-11 KJV)*

3. She obeyed the instruction that she received from her mother in law: *“3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor.” (Ruth 3:3 KJV)* Ruth did not paint or colour herself to attract the man. She did not put perfume or entice him with her smell. She washed herself and she anointed herself with oil and clothed herself decently. The NIV translation exaggerates the advice of Naomi to Ruth and put it in a worldly way as the following: *“Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.” (Ruth 3:3 NIV)* She did not put perfume, but the truth is that Ruth was instructed to wash herself, put her own dress and use olive oil to anoint herself. The olive oil was used for anointing. *“Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit.” (Deuteronomy 28:40 KJV)* God granted her His perfect will.

There are also other trees and plants that can be beneficial to the skin and hair, natural and without chemical effects, which can be applied externally without side effects.

Daniel and his friends surpassed the others because they determined not to defile themselves with the King’s delicacies, and they were sustained just by eating vegetables and drinking pure water. *“11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. 13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat.” (Daniel 1:15 KJV)* I am not saying that we need to eat vegetables and pulses and drink water to look good, but what I want to say here is that if we obey God doing His will and living away from defilement, then we will be radiant and receive the favor of God and man. When Daniel and his friends were obedient to God, they received the favor of God. Their faces were of better countenance than others. They were able to convince Melzar who was over them to take away the king’s food and give them pulses and water. *“Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.” (Daniel 1:16 KJV)* Their

faces were of good countenances even after ten days. The meaning of Melzar is dubious, and it will be really dubious to put our faith and trust on people, food, or makeup, and not on God.

God will give us the appearance that He wants us to have. It is not the makeup or the expensive food that will make us look good. What is important is how God wants us to appear. God made the face of Daniel look good to enable him to continue by not defiling himself with the food from the king’s table, and that was a good testimony to others and challenged other Jews there in Babylon to separate themselves from the idols of the Babylonians and not to eat the food that was sacrificed to them.

Another example that we have about how God wants us to appear is in the book of Nehemiah. When Nehemiah heard the news about the broken walls and the burnt gates of Jerusalem, he resolves to fast and pray to petition God to restore the city of Jerusalem. At that time Nehemiah was a cup bearer to King Artaxerxes: *“1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. 2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, 3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? 4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers’ sepulchres, that I may build it.” (Nehemiah 2:1-5 KJV)*

Nehemiah was in prayer and fasting and he had a sad countenance while he was serving the king with the cup of wine. The job description of the cup bearer we can read in Genesis 40:11, *“And Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh’s cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh’s hand.” (Genesis 40:11 KJV)* The cup bearer is responsible to prepare a cup of grape juice for the king in his presence and give it to him. The purpose of preparing the cup in the presence of the king was for security reason in order to ensure that no poison is added to his drink. So Nehemiah was responsible to prepare the cup of wine for the king and to put it in his hand. While he was in fasting and mourning for Jerusalem the king noticed his sad face. *“Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,” (Nehemiah 2:2 KJV)* Nehemiah was afraid that the king had noticed his sad face. He was afraid because he was not supposed to look sad while on duty in the presence of the king. The sadness on his face could be interpreted as unhappiness in his work to serve the king. Therefore he was afraid when the king confronted him. The Lord allowed the face of Nehemiah to appear sad, to draw the attention of the king that day in order that the mission of Nehemiah to start rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem will come to pass. It was a direct answer to the prayer and fasting of Nehemiah.

Based on the message above, we can certainly come to the conclusion that we don’t need to worry about of how people estimate our external appearance because as we surrender our will and life to God and as our heart and mind is knit with Him, then He will be the one to give us a certain appearance that would finally be used to serve God’s purpose and will in our lives, as we observed in the example of Daniel and Nehemiah.

Paul said to the Corinthians, ***“15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?” (2 Corinthians 2:15-16 KJV)*** If we delight in God, then we are the sweet fragrance of Christ, even though we might look ugly and have the smell of death to the world. If we set our mind and heart on the things above, then we are hid with Christ in God. Our countenance will be determined by God of how it will be manifested to the people who are around us. If God would like us to appear sad for a certain purpose, then the makeup that people put on, will work against the purpose of the Holy Spirit. And if God wants us to appear fresh and of bright countenance, then God, the Holy Spirit will achieve that in us even if we are fasting or we are surviving mainly on vegetables.

“8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” (1Timothy 2:8-15 KJV) Paul started to talk here about the order of worship inside the family.

1. ***“I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” (1Timothy 2:8 KJV)*** He speaks about how man needs to lead prayer as a leader over his own family without doubt and with a good attitude, away from anger and pride.
2. ***“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.” (1Timothy 2:9 KJV)*** Paul states here how women need to adorn themselves, with modest dress, with ***shamefacedness*** (a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect.) ***and sobriety*** (self control and soundness of mind) and not to use braided hair, gold pearls costly dress. So it is very clear that the writing of Paul is agreeing with the writing of Peter pertaining to this matter inside the family.
3. ***“But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” (1Timothy 2:11 KJV)*** The beauty and the attraction of women is their good deeds that the Lord had prepared in advance for them to do.
4. ***“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” (1Timothy 2:12 KJV)*** In the godly family, the man is the one who leads the family into following God’s will and he is the one to teach the wife the Word of God. Paul is not speaking here that the woman should not teach the Word of God in the church, He is speaking here in the context of the family. In front of her godly husband she needs to keep silent and obey God’s instruction that comes from God’s Word.
5. ***“For Adam was first formed, then Eve.” (1Timothy 2:13 KJV)*** God created Adam first and instructed him with God’s Word, and then He created the woman and

brought her to him to be under the responsibility of the man to teach her God’s Word and to instruct her with God’s commands.

6. ***“14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” (1Timothy 2:14 KJV)*** Paul explains here why he doesn’t allow a woman to teach her husband because she was the first one who sinned. God’s Word reminds us that in the family of Adam, the woman who was put under the authority of man was the one who had sinned first when she was enticed with the lies that Satan had told her. This also confirms that Paul was speaking here in the context of the family and not the church.
7. ***“15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” (1Timothy 2:15 KJV)*** When the woman sinned and let her husband also eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree, the Lord announced curses to fall on the serpent who had enticed the woman and on the woman and on the man. To the serpent God said, ***“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15 KJV)*** So God put enmity between Satan and the woman, ***and between thy seed and her seed***; the seed of the woman is the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” (Galatians 4:4 KJV)*** He was born of a woman and bruised the head of the serpent on the cross of Calvary, ***“15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15 KJV)*** Now the enmity between the woman and Satan and between their offspring is continued even to this day. But what the Word of God says of the woman is, ***Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety***, It will come true if the woman continues to raise up godly offsprings, disciples of Jesus, who carry the mission of the Lord all over the word and even to the next generation.

“Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” (1Timothy 2:15 KJV) That does not just refer to the mere physical pregnancy and child bearing. The woman will nurture as her children the true disciples of Jesus, the church being the wife of Jesus, the Lamb of God, ***“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” (Revelation 21:9 KJV)*** Then the responsibility of the church toward Christ is to go and raise up disciples, who are true followers and workers for Jesus.

My dear and beloved: That is how the church today should beautify and prepare herself for her husband and the wedding supper of the Lamb that will take place when Jesus will come back. ***“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7 KJV)*** by taking the great commission of Jesus our redeemer, to the very ends of the earth and to continue to the next generation until He comes back to take us to heaven.

My prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord, I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message to apply and to teach others and help them to follow Christ. Lord continue to provide

for me and to protect me so I will continue to serve you in reaching new people and making new disciples for you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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