



The Beauty of God

Exploring the “FUEL” for sustaining a prayer movement.

Sustaining a prayer movement is a difficult thing.

An International organization wrote in their Leadership Training Manual *Prayer needs to be nurtured. Prayer interest was very high in the home of Mary, mother of John Mark, because Christians were desperately aware of Peter’s imprisonment. The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to report results in the prison that paralleled the praying of the believers. A critical part of leadership is to report results to pray-ers. Interest declines when intercessors feel nothing is happening.*

A. Teach people to [expect] answers. Matthew 7:7,8

1. Praying people need assurance, hope and encouragement. Share Scriptures with them that teach promises and conditions for prayer. (Briefly, ask participants to volunteer a few Scriptures like these from memory.)
2. Provide opportunities for testimonies from praying people. Psalm 107:8,9

B. Track [results] from praying.

1. Frequently, people forget to report, so answer-information may need to be requested by an intercessor or prayer coordinator. The effort is worth the time because answers [inspire] fervency and persistence in prayer.
2. People who ask for your prayers should agree to report on answers. When they forget to do so, a prayer coordinator should make an inquiry.
3. Display progress and results. See the sample Prayer Tracking Chart page 21

Another well know organization published this:

MANY OF US have shared the experience of beginning a project with great enthusiasm, only to see it slide into oblivion through our failure to sustain interest and commitment. Surely it is much easier to start something than to keep it going. In this section, we’ll review some of the principles for maintaining the dynamic of a prayer movement beyond the initial stages. If your local movement of prayer is up and running, here are some proven recommendations to help you sustain it. The areas we’ll cover are:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Entering into a Covenant | 5. Leadership. |
| 2. Shoring up. (moving around) | 6. Prayer Movements in Middle-age Crisis. |
| 3. Encouragement. | 7. Taking it to the Church |
| 4. Development. (new areas of prayer) | 8. Time Out: Are You Committed? |

My Google search for “how to sustain a prayer movement” reported 749,000 results in .48 seconds.

Prayer Movements can be driven (sustained) by ...

A Vision	if the vision carries or is completed prayer declines
A strong personality (leader)	can only grow to the level of his/her influence
Rewards	over a long period this motive God will not honor
Desperation / circumstances	if blessing comes prayer subsides

---- OR ----

BY PASSION

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

1 Samuel 13:14 The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, ...

Isa. 33:17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...

Isaiah 4:2 In that day,(2nd coming) the Branch of the LORD (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious...

1 Cor. 2:10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

The Seven Longings of the human heart

God created the human spirit with seven longings that draw us to Him and reflect His glory in us. These longings are common in each human heart. They are:

- the longing to make a deep and lasting impact.
- the longing to be beautiful,
- the longing to be great,
- the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God,
- the longing for intimacy without shame (fully enjoy God),
- the longing to be wholehearted and passionate.
- the longing to be fascinated.

These cravings leave us empty until they are satisfied in the grace of God.

We have a God shaped vacuum (gnawing emptiness) until we are touched by God.

To encounter God in these areas describes being fully alive.

If we live fascinated by the Lord we do not need the stuff the world offers~

Only the beauty of Jesus satisfies our longing to be fascinated

Isa. 33:17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty...

When God reveals God to the human spirit, there is a superior pleasure to any other pleasure in life. In the romance of the gospel Jesus not only heals and forgives, but He fascinates our heart with splendor and beauty. We have a beautiful God who beckons His people to fill their lives with His Word and prayer.

Song of Solomon 1:2 "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.

David a man after God's own heart

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

David declared that the primary preoccupation of his heart was to seek God's beauty. The highest goal in David's life was to know God and to be in God's house with 4,000 musicians and 288 singers worshipping God 24/7 (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:7).

1 Chronicles 23:4-5 Of these, 24,000 were to oversee the work of the house of the Lord; and 6,000 were officers and judges, and 4,000 were gatekeepers, and 4,000 were praising the Lord with the instruments which David made for giving praise.

1 Chronicles 25:7 Their number who were trained in singing to the Lord, with their relatives, all who were skillful, was 288.

NOTE: ... There is a lot more to do in the HOP beside music and singing There is a place for everyone!

The phrase, "all the days of my life," is significant as it includes David's teenage years when he sang love songs to God without any audience and throughout his life into his later years as King of Israel.

- ***David sought the knowledge of God in his youth.***
- ***He didn't tolerate God to get a ministry***
- ***The goal of David's life was God***
- ***He sought God's beauty***
- ***During his 20's, as jealous King Saul chased him throughout all of Judah to kill him, in his 30's when he was king at Hebron, and in his later years from his 40's until he died at age 70 as king over all Israel.***

Whether in a season of victory or testing, whether in a time of exhilaration or depression, the primary thing David set his heart on was God's beauty. David described it as, "the one thing he desired and sought." It was the goal and focus of his life. He exerted energy and invested time in this. David was on a life long ***treasure hunt*** to discover the beauty of God.



12 EXPRESSIONS OF GOD'S BEAUTY

Song 5:10, 16 10 My Beloved (Jesus) is white (radiant) and ruddy, chief among ten thousand...16 Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend...

EXPRESSION #1: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS LIGHT, COLOR AND THE VERY ATMOSPHERE AROUND HIS THRONE.

Ps. 104:2 You...cover Yourself with light as with a garment...

Rev. 4:2-3 Behold, a Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. He who sat there was like a jasper (diamond like) and a sardius stone (deep red) in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the Throne, in appearance like an emerald (green).

When we go before the throne we are there in the midst of the lighting, rainbow, lamp stands, etc. Lord thank you for this food ... before the throne!

Light with many colors and splendor emanates from God's person and Throne. The beauty of God's personhood is reflected in the light and color that emanates out of God as well as the weight of glory in the very atmosphere of the Eternal City.

Jesus' light illuminates the eternal city. We refer to feeling the weight of God's Presence. We cannot comprehend weight of God's Presence nearest to His Throne.

Rev. 21:23 The City (New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Is 24:23 The person of Jesus light up the city! He is brighter than the sun ... the sun is ashamed!

God surrounds His beauty with garments of light that hide the undiluted beauty of God from His creation. The angels see even more of His beauty, as the protective covering is lifted--they are overwhelmed as they collapse in the very weight of His Presence. The very light that protects us from His Presence is in itself beautiful but God is even more beautiful than that which protects Him.

1 Tim. 6:16 Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.

At strategic moments, the light that covers God's person is temporarily lifted and the angels collapse. Even the seraphim and cherubim who have the greatest capacity to receive God's beauty collapse. When Jesus stands up in the eternal city and just moves the weight of His Presence, we will feel it a thousand miles away.

Six times in Revelation, the host of heaven around God's Throne collapses.
Rev 4:10; 5:8; 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4

John 3 times Rev 1:17; 19:10; 22:8

There is a tenderizing effect in the weight of His Presence that emanates out of Him. All of the hosts of Heaven and all the redeemed tremble with tenderness in their spirit; the atmosphere is charged with the beauty of God.

EXPRESSION #2: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS FRAGRANCES.

2 Cor. 2:15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ.

Jesus possesses a real fragrance. The fragrance of Jesus is manifold with many dimensions to it. How many scents emanate from God? I assume that there are different fragrances for different occasions in the Eternal City.

The anointing oil used in the tabernacle was very strong in fragrance.

The Throne of God is described as the mountain of spices.

Song 8:14 Make haste...and be like a gazelle on the mountains of spices.

Different fragrances for different purposes Roses, gardenias, etc.

EXPRESSION #3: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE MUSIC, SOUNDS, AND NOISES AROUND HIS THRONE.

Rev. 4:5 From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

Rev. 1:15 His voice as the sound of many waters...

Jesus is a musician, a singer and song writer. Music flows out of God's being.

Many diverse types of music are seen on earth in the different cultures and tribes.

Jesus' Throne is surrounded by angelic choirs. The voice of God is awesome in power and impact.

Three times in Revelation, John describes noises coming from God's throne.
Rev 5:11; 14:2; 19:6;

There are awesome, majestic sounds, including thunder, that shake everything. We will tremble at God's majesty as His sounds of thunder touch us. The entire city will be impacted under the majesty of God's multiple sounds and melodies.

Beautiful and terrifying sounds

EXPRESSION #4: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN JESUS' PHYSICAL BEAUTY IN HIS RESURRECTED BODY. JESUS' BODY IS THE BEST THAT GOD COULD CREATE IN THE TERMS OF A HUMAN BODY.

Phil. 3:20-21 We eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body ...

EXPRESSION #5: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN JESUS' FACE.

2 Cor. 4:4-6 The light of the gospel of the glory of Christ...should shine... For God...has shone...to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus.

Rev. 1:16 His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Ps 45:2 You (Jesus) are fairer (more beautiful) than the sons of men ...

Jesus' beauty is expressed in His smile, His eyes, and the shining brightness of His countenance.

Jesus is a Man with a warm smile filled with God's glory.

His face is holy, powerful and awesome, yet warm and inviting.

The smile on His face will conquer our heart in love.

Eyes of Fire ... - We will be overwhelmed as His eyes of fire impart God's love and holiness to us. His eyes are filled with beauty.

EXPRESSION #6: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS ROYAL COURT WHERE HIS THRONE IS SET UP.

Ps. 96:6 Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Rev. 15:2 I saw...a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Rev. 4:3-6 There was a rainbow around the Throne, appearance like an emerald. Around the Throne were 24 thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting... from the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the Throne... Before the Throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.

The host of angels surround His Throne. Great majesty!

His Throne is adorned with seven lamps of fire, an emerald rainbow and the sea of glass like crystal that is filled with flaming fire.

**EXPRESSION #7: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS DESIGN OF THE ETERNAL CITY
(REV. 21-22).**

The familiar saying that a woman's home is an extension of her heart, can be applied to God's beauty in how He created the Eternal City.

In designing ones dream home, some work with the architects from the beginning. They pick the land next to a lake then design the landscape with trees and a flowing brook. They position the house so the sun comes up at just the right place and in the right angle, so that the light is reflected with just the right contrasts. The decor and furniture, etc. is all carefully chosen to express the personality of those who will live in it. God designed His city with the landscape, and the light with colors, as an extension of His beauty.

EXPRESSION #8: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN THE PARTNER HE CHOSE.

The glory of man is His wife. He chose you as His partner. He imparted His beauty to you. Your beauty is higher than all the rest of created order. We will magnify God's beauty (1 Cor. 11:7).

Prov. 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband...

And He chose you!

Isaiah 61:3 .. He gives us beauty for ashes....

EXPRESSION #9: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS LEADERSHIP OR THE PLANS HE ESTABLISHED.

The script that God is operating from as He leads history and accomplished redemption reveals His beauty. When we hear a great poem or see an excellent movie, we observe that the poem or movie is beautiful. This reflects its author. The story line of natural and eternal history is a stunning revelation of God's beauty. God has devised His blueprint for history from before creation. **We will be awed by His great mind as we are intoxicated and enthralled with each dimension of the script in which God orchestrates all of history.**

His mind is brilliant ... genius magnified!

Eph. 3:9-10 To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God... to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers

EXPRESSION #10: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS MANIFESTATIONS OF POWER.

When God heals, delivers, and provides for us in surprising ways, we see His beauty.

His power shows forth His beauty in the earth and heavens; His power manifestations have such beauty in them.

There are a million stories behind the manifestations of power in creation and history.

*The number of grains of sand on the Earth is equal t the number of stars is the universe ...
Carl Sagin*

EXPRESSION #11: GOD'S BEAUTY IS MOST SEEN IN HIS PERSONALITY, WHICH INCLUDES HIS CHARACTER, AND HIS EMOTIONAL MAKEUP EXPRESSED IN HIS GLADNESS, HAPPINESS AND DELIGHT, THE HOLINESS, THE KINDNESS, THE PASSION AND PLEASURE OF GOD.

He has desire when He looks at you. There is gladness in His heart when He looks at His weak people. The saints of Rev. 15 stand before Him at the time of the Rapture. The first thing the saints say is, "Great and marvelous." In other words they are filled with marvel, awe and wonder.

Rev. 15:2-3 I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory...standing on the sea of glass... They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

EXPRESSION #12: GOD'S BEAUTY IS SEEN IN HIS WRITTEN WORD.

David wrote a number of psalms revealing what he observed about God's beauty in creation. When David looked at the stars, he beheld God's beauty.

Ps. 45:2 You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips.

Ps. 19:7-10 The law of the LORD is perfect... The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure... More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

CONCLUSION

Song 5:16 His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved...

We do not have to wait for eternity

All this is true of God's beauty right now.

We can marvel and be awestruck now.

David knew God's beauty would cause him to be a different man.



Outline of Revelation 4:1-7

Rev. 4:1-7: describes the 15 “doorways” into understanding God’s beauty as seen around His throne. There are 5 main subjects that give us a dynamic picture of God’s beauty.

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| 1. The ultimate reality: | God’s Life (Spirit), Throne, and Person (Rev. 4:2) |
| 2. The beauty of God: | What He Looks like, Feels like, and Acts like (Rev. 4:3). |
| 3. The beauty of God’s partner: | The Church Enthroned, Robed, and Crowned (Rev. 4:4). |
| 4. God and His people in unity: | Manifestations of power (Lightning, Thunder, Sounds; Rev. 4:5a). |
| 5. The Spirit’s fire: | On the Throne, the Seraphim and the Saints (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2) |

Rev. 4:1-6 Behold, a door standing open in heaven....the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet...saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place." I was in the Spirit and...Throne set in heaven, and One sat on the Throne. He...was like a jasper and a sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the Throne... Around the Throne were 24 thrones...I saw 24 elders...in white robes; they had crowns... From the Throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning... Before the Throne there was a sea of glass...around the Throne, were four living creatures...