

"BEAUTY'S ONLY SKIN DEEP"

I Samuel 16:7 - "But GOD told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. GOD judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart." (The Message Bible)



As we celebrate Valentine's Day and Black History Month, I feel pressed to share with those of you who are suffering with low self-esteem and validation issues. Regardless of how your exterior looks (Psalms 139:14) says, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well." You need to know that no matter what that Man said to you, how badly he treated you or how often he belittled you, you my Sister are Beautiful; and you should be proud of who you are and who God made you to be! Woman of God, how often do you write someone off – especially in the church, based solely on their exterior; how they dress, how they talk, how their hair looks, how their facial features look, how much or how little they weigh, how tall or how short they are, or how light or how dark their complexion is? Every day that you are still alive, you are aging by the minute and your exterior beauty is slowly fading away. The comfort in that is that your real beauty is on the inside not on the outside! (Proverbs 31:30) – "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."

Ladies, how many times do you select clothes, cars, accessories, and food, etc., based on how it looks? Remember these old sayings ... 1) Don't judge a book by its cover. 2) Looks are deceiving. 3) And all that glitters ain't gold!? Let me ask you, "Who do you count out, based solely upon looks?" - The drunk, the prostitute, the addict, the handicap, the elderly, the foreigner or the homeless? You are aware that God knows everything about you? - Your thoughts, the number of strands of hair on your head, your desires, your ending before your beginning, and He even knows your sin. God looks into your heart. That means He can see your thoughts, your desires, your needs and your intents.

I'm so glad God sees and knows my heart! 'Cause with all the wigs and weaves, false eyelashes, fake fingernails, added body parts, colored contact lenses and colored hair that we wear, God wouldn't even recognize some of us if He didn't look beyond the surface and see into our hearts! Thank God for X-ray vision! Sisters, stop getting caught up with the superficial, the fake, and the phony! Love God first then learn to love yourself. Trust me, God made you exactly like He wanted you to be. And He equipped you with everything you need on the inside of you to be the person He created you to be. Stop trying to be someone else and thrive at being the person God says you are. Begin to let the glory of the Lord shine through your countenance instead of Mac or Fashion Fair. Start crucifying the flesh daily and ask God to work on your heart; Out of your heart flows the issues of life!

Let me leave you with a few beauty tips for real beauty that permeates from the inside out... pull off hate and put on love. Wash away sadness and replace it with joy. Straighten out confusion and restore it with peace. File away impatience and buffer it with long-suffering. Massage away harshness and smooth on gentleness. Polish over evil and dry it with goodness. Pluck out fear and brush on faith. Wax away arrogance and blend in meekness. Cut down excessiveness and pour on temperance. Women of God, BEAUTY'S ONLY SKIN DEEP!

Happy Valentine's Day to all of my beautiful Sisters!