

Who Do You Think You Are? (Part Three)

By Wayne Vasilenko

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In this series I have attempted to show how we can be manipulated by Satan and others through mere words. I have attempted to show how powerful mere words can be affecting our self esteem. How you see yourself is the result of words. The words Beautiful or Ugly bring to mind opposing images however there is an old saying, "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder." Years ago I worked in a large production plant. Among the workers was a young lady who in no way was what one would equate the word beauty. She had such a homely appearance people would either stare at her, or some would abruptly turn away repulsed by what many considered to be a hideous appearance. If you ever saw the movie "The Elephant Man" this pretty much sums up the reaction people had to this woman. Everyone in the plant was of the opinion that this woman could only be described as ugly... all but one young man. In the opinion of this man she was the most beautiful woman that ever walked the earth! He fell madly in love with her and within months she was wearing quite a large diamond on her left hand. I don't know what became of the two of them but witnessing this taught me a valuable lesson that has stuck with me. No matter what you look like, or what people say about you, someone loves you. Above all, that someone is Jesus.

While We Were Yet Sinners

As we go through life we are exposed to a lot of opinions and propaganda with the sole purpose of bringing us down, or to manipulate us to conform to a different standard. Many times that standard is opposed to that which we know to be the "correct standard" in relation to God's Word. None of us are immune to this as the Bible passage below illustrates. Here we have a High Priest, Joshua tormented by Satan just as we are!

Zechariah 3:1 (Amplified Bible)

THEN [the guiding angel] showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at Joshua's right hand to be his adversary *and* to accuse him.

How many times have you stood before a mirror beholding your reflection, thinking to yourself what a failure you are as you recall past sins (perhaps recent ones)? You hear a voice telling you how unworthy you are and what a sorry Christian you are. You start feeling ashamed and "Unqualified" to share the Gospel of Christ. So rather than going to your Christian friends for help you avoid them, rather than praying to God, you go off and sulk over your shortcomings. Years ago I told a new convert to Christianity, "Satan cannot take away your salvation, but he can take away your joy and your witness." He usually goes about it using mere words and accusations. However, if we concentrate on God and what He has done for us we can overcome Satan's attacks. Consider the verses continuing in Zechariah.

Zechariah 3:2-5 (Amplified Bible)

² And the Lord said to Satan, The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! Even the Lord, Who [now and habitually] chooses Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this [returned captive Joshua] a brand plucked out of the fire? ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and was standing before the Angel [of the Lord]. ⁴ And He

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spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And He said to [Joshua], Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with rich apparel. ⁵ And I [Zechariah] said, Let them put a clean turban on his head. So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with [rich] garments. And the Angel of the Lord stood by. These verses were but foreshadows of what Jesus Christ did for me - you - and all of humanity! Jesus came not only to save us from the penalty of our sin, but also to give us an abundant and joyful life.

Romans 5:8-11 (Amplified Bible)

⁸ But God shows *and* clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us. ⁹ Therefore, since we are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation *and* wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more [certain], now that we are reconciled, that we shall be saved (daily delivered from sin's dominion) through His [resurrection] life. ¹¹ Not only so, but we also rejoice *and* exultingly glory in God [in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have now received *and* enjoy [our] reconciliation.

When I look into the mirror I see myself, a person thankful for what Jesus did for me. Since becoming a Christian, I cannot say I have not sinned. Satan is quick to remind me when I do and if I do not lay that sin at the foot of the cross so to speak, it will eat at me until it becomes unbearable. To combat this I have to go to God's Word so that I can see myself as God sees me. When He looks at me He sees Jesus. Read the following passage:

Hebrews 10:16-18 (New King James Version)

¹⁶ *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* ¹⁷ *then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these, *there is no longer an offering for sin.*

Romans 6:9-11 (Amplified Bible)

⁹ Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him. ¹⁰ For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin *and* your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus.

Just as the young man found beauty that no one else saw in the woman I mentioned earlier in this lesson, God found beauty in you whom He created; so much so He gave His life for you. So, no matter what people say about you and no matter how much Satan tries to heap guilt on you if you should sin, remember when God sees you He sees Jesus. This should bolster your self esteem... You Are A Child Of God! God Bless You.