Choosing the Right Clothes

"Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure. She rejoices over the future—the latter day, or time to come [knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]." Proverbs 31:25 Amplified

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Before I put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior, outward appearance was very important to me. A lot of time, thought, and attention went into how I looked on the outside. I wanted people to admire me, to like me; it was very important to me. However, in my heart and soul, I was full of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness toward those who had beaten and abused me as a child. I was full of pain, fear and insecurity. Growing up in an abusive, alcoholic home, my heart and soul were also full of sin.

So I worked hard on my hair and my body, my weight, always wearing nice clothes; I thought my outward appearance could cover up my inward sin and suffering. Outwardly, I acted so strong. It was all to cover up my fears and feelings of unworthiness and inferiority. On the outside I acted so dignified, while on the inside my life was in ruins.

After I acknowledged that I was a sinner and repented and put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I cried out to God to forgive me, to take the bitterness and hate out of my heart, and to heal me. God's amazing grace truly was amazing. God gave me His grace to return to Scotland to forgive my mother and all those who had abused me. I prayed with my mother to put her trust in Christ as her Savior. As I forgave, Jesus delivered me of the hate and bitterness and started to heal me. God's grace lovingly brought me to repentance for all the sin I had been involved in for years.

As I would daily read and obey God's Word, the Holy Spirit was cleansing my heart and soul and renewing my mind. It was also changing my priorities. My time, energy, and money were now spent in getting to know my Heavenly Father, my Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. My desire was to know and to please Him, to know and fulfill His plans for my life. It was so different than all the wasted years of trying to please and impress others and please myself. For the first time in my life, I was free—free in Jesus Christ. Now I did not have to act strong; my strength was in Jesus. Now I did not have to act dignified; my honor and dignity came from my relationship with Jesus and being part of God's family.

Through Christ I have been adopted into God's family as God's royal daughter; I praise Jesus for that. Jesus has clothed me in His robe of righteousness. Now I dress to honor my heavenly Father and not people. How about you and your clothes? Is your outward appearance a cover up for suffering and sin? Are you trying to live in your own strength? Are you clothed in Jesus and allowing Him to strengthen you?

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