I Gave Away My Pretty Things

Then She Explained One Word

Dear friends,

Have you ever given up something you enjoyed because you sincerely thought it was what God wanted? I did. When I read Peter's words about outward adornment, I gave away beautiful things—sparkly jewelry and hats I had loved wearing. I wanted to honor the Lord, and I thought getting rid of those things was the godly choice.

Then I sat beside Myrna White. She looked so beautiful, with her dress, her jewelry, and her painted nails. I finally asked the question that was troubling me: How did those lovely things fit with what Peter had written?

I have never forgotten her kindness. "Angela, dear," she said, and then she helped me understand that one word: merely. The NKJV says, "Do not let your adornment be merely outward." Myrna helped me see that I had been concentrating on what to remove from my wardrobe while overlooking what needed to grow in my heart.

The lesson was not that pretty things could make me beautiful in God's sight. It was that outward adornment could never do the work of inward beauty. Peter directs our attention to the hidden person of the heart and the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.

We can enjoy a lovely dress or a piece of jewelry while asking a deeper question: What are we allowing God to form within us? Are we giving attention to our words, our kindness, and the spirit we bring into our homes?

This week, as we get dressed, let us take a moment to pray over the heart beneath the clothing. Long after that conversation, I still treasure what Myrna helped me understand. The beauty God values deserves our daily attention.

A brief prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeing the heart beneath our outward appearance. Help us understand Your Word and give our attention to what You treasure. Form in us a gentle and quiet spirit, and let Your love be reflected in the way we treat others. Amen.

With love,
Angela

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Prepared with AI assistance.