

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Song of Solomon 2:4-5 ... "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am lovesick."

A popular belief among young people is that you can fall in love with someone the moment you meet them, or even by seeing a stranger at a distance. Obviously, there are many men and women to meet and be drawn to because of their appearance, smile, or voice. However, love is not the product of what you see, but of what you know about a person. Love at first sight is merely lust – a passion to know someone based upon a first impression about how he or she looks.

Some good marriages do start out as lust and become a marriage of love through the grace of God, hard work, compromise, and submission. But many more fail because they begin with lust. When you marry a person because of how pretty or handsome they may be, or how wealthy they are, you are taking a huge risk because love is not guaranteed to develop, and only love will survive the trials and challenges of marriage. We are not suggesting that you should avoid relationships with attractive people. It simply means that appearance must not be the first priority. If you meet an attractive person that you want to pursue a relationship with, allow yourself plenty of time to carefully assess the person's true character. If a sincere love for that person develops, that is great. But the love between persons who are not necessarily attractive, can be just as great, or greater because they are not distracted by appearances; they evaluate one another's character before physical attraction enters in to the friendship.

The Song of Solomon (called the Song of Songs in some Bibles) is an often overlooked Old Testament book right before Isaiah. It is a romantic and poetic story written by King Solomon about his wife. Please note, it is not about his girlfriend or a stranger he saw riding by on a camel. It is about his wife. The romantic things that he says about his wife are the result of his relationship with her. Although she may have been very beautiful, Solomon's assessment of her beauty is founded on his knowledge about her character, her generosity, and her kindness. It is much easier to be married to an unattractive person who you know and genuinely love, than to tolerate the bad character of someone who is beautiful or handsome. When you fall in love and marry someone for the right reasons (character), you will find them becoming more attractive every day. When you marry someone for the wrong reasons (lust), that person will seem to you to become less attractive every day.

Verse 7 of chapter 8 reads: "Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it..." That kind of love is not found in lust or just appearances. It runs deep and strong in one's heart and mind.

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