

# SONG OF SOLOMON

## The Test of Total Commitment

Thoughts come from a wide variety of sources. Some from messages I have heard from individuals, some from assembly Bible studies, some from home life and some from books I have read. The Holy Spirit is the Teacher who makes them real to me.

- "Rise up my love," by C.E. Hocking. Precious Seed publications
- "Exploring the Song of Solomon," by John Philips. Loizeaux Brothers
- "Meditations on the Song of Solomon," by Andrew Miller. Billing and Sons Ltd.
- "Ruth and the Song of Solomon," by John Watt. Loizeaux Brothers, New York

To effectively describe the power, blessings and satisfaction of commitment is really beyond the use of words. The Spirit of God used this greatest of all of Solomon's songs to put the emotions and impact of pure love in a way that people can understand. The holy love of our Lord Jesus Christ for His blood-bought bride, the church, is illustrated by the love of a man and a woman for each other. This goes farther than the love of a new born-again believer to where fellowship and communion with our Lord Jesus becomes intimate and graceful. It reaches to where the heart, soul and spirit of our inner being is known only to our Lord. It is more than verbal expressions we would want to make, but that seem so inadequate.

When a believer who is in close harmony with the Lord Jesus by listening to the words of scripture, the sense of the text becomes a real conversation with Him. To a person who is in close and intimate fellowship with the Lord, the Bible is the air we breathe and the food that nourishes. It isn't merely a book we study and are amazed by its deep and fulfilling content, but it is a means of significant communication that reaches the whole person.

Three ways have been used by those who write about this book to describe the interpretation and why it is in the canon of scripture. These poems resonate in the hearts of young lovers who have gone beyond infatuation and physical attraction to open emotional words that express inner feelings. The words are very descriptive of awakening love and yet maintaining a moral standard that culminates in marital love. Husbands and wives do well to read this aloud and look at each other to see the response each one has to the words.

The opinion of others is that this is a way to describe the future of our Lord Jesus Christ with the nation of Israel when He comes in power and glory as the King of Israel. Another way to learn from this book some lessons is to see the relationship of Christ and the church which is His waiting bride. He is in close contact with us but there are others that seek to turn aside the love of His people towards them and the attractions are real but not that of the love of a young woman (church) for her Shepherd-Lover who will take the church to His Father's house. It is in this last view that I find the most blessing to me personally to the extent it leads to new devotional thoughts. Occasionally I do think about the other two forms of poetic and dramatic presentations of truth and find joy in them.

I have wondered at the point of the Holy Spirit putting this beautiful song in the canon of the Old Testament, but then it comes to my mind that in spite of the enticements of a king to get a beautiful country girl into his harem, she remains true and committed to her "Shepherd-Lover." She is able to conquer all kingly pressure to get her to willingly submit to him, because of her faithful commitment to, and her love for her "Shepherd."

In the Song of Solomon, the subject of sin is not brought up. That reminds us that there are things that are not sinful, but they can hinder our communion and fellowship with the Lord. The legitimate things of everyday life: a job, raising a family, needs of children, pressing problems can crowd out the joys of love between a man and a woman. People, problems and personal matters can seriously affect our joy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Song of Solomon 1

#### EXPRESSIONS OF AFFECTION

The kiss of affection is far different than the kiss of reconciliation. The kiss of affection is proof of abiding love after being absent from a beloved person for a long time. There is no guilt associated with the unbridled emotion of a young woman running and kissing a returning soldier, or a traveler who has been away for extended period of time passionately kissing a loved one for whom the heart has longed. Those passionate kisses are the best way to express gladness of heart and an overflowing cup of joy for a loved one finally being here. It is a demonstration of love which we have as the bride of Christ when our joy in the Lord Jesus passes the boundary of verbal expression. Surely, we find our joy in Him far greater than all the joy that earth can give.

The words of an old hymn seem so appropriate here. "The name of Jesus is so sweet; I love its music to repeat. It makes my joy full and complete; the precious name of Jesus. Jesus, O how sweet the name; Jesus, every day the same; Jesus, let all earth proclaim; the precious name of Jesus." All of the titles, honors and names of our blessed

Lord Jesus Christ bring a fragrance of holiness that we appreciate deeply. His unchanging and unfailing love for His people is always wonderful to me. But in a special way, when as a company of God's people of "like precious faith," join their voices in prayers, praise and worship both silently and audibly, there is something that rises above description.

To believers in the Old Testament times, Jehovah was the name revered and was as "ointment poured forth." The same is true as New Testament believers speak the name "Jesus," and experience the blessing and wonder of the fact that "the Son of God loved me, and gave Himself for me." Our Lord has drawn us to Himself, and He does it again and again when we get our eyes off Him for some reason. The One we run after is not the person who preaches or the one who teaches about Him. We follow "hard after" our Lord Jesus Himself who is our life. The blind man, women from Galilee who ministered to Him, the disciples and others ran after Him when He was here. The love of His people today for Him has them running after Him in a similar way with the same desire to be where He is.

There is a normal human response to what we see with our eyes, and on the "first impressions" we often make a judgment and come to a decision. The Shulamite woman indicated she was black from being out in the sun laboring in the vineyard and the fields. The church is in the world today and under the heat of the world system that opposes the Father; Satan who opposes the Son; and the flesh that opposes the Holy Spirit. There are unmistakable signs of being "in the world, but not of the world." Even though there are things in the world around that affects us in negative ways, the bride of Christ is still "comely (lovely)."

Opposition against the people of God often comes from those who are nearest to us by nature. The young woman apparently neglected what her brothers thought she should be doing for the family benefit, in order to meet the needs of others. Our efforts in outreach with the Gospel are not to be at the expense of our fellowship and communion with the Lord. It is possible to be so taken up with what we are doing, that we forget and neglect the One for whom we are doing it. We need to be where our Shepherd feeds His people. "There is a place of quiet rest; near to the heart of God." That is where we find the green pastures and still waters that restore one's soul. The connection and closeness of the Shepherd to His flock should never be jeopardized by our own efforts to fill the needs of others and our own wants.

The first words of the Beloved in this book to the one He loves, are words of instruction to follow in the footsteps of the flock. It is there she will find the right place to feed and rest, and find Him. The flock will not follow the hard-beaten path of man's tradition that has the same routine to follow over and over. The under-shepherds who are there with the flock, are those who care for the young. When the Beloved describes how He sees His own bride-to-be, they are very impressive. She is beautiful and swift; trained and ready to serve like those beautiful Egyptian horses. She is controlled and able to work together with others like a beautiful band of mounted steeds that are so glorious. They are submissive and orderly at the same time as they are strong and beautiful.

The jewelry she wore was to make her stand out before those who looked on her as the object of her Bridegroom's love. More importantly, they would look at Him who she loved and she had adorned herself to bring glory to Him. The point of the jewelry and the beautiful garments is to please the Bridegroom and to direct the attention of onlookers to Him in the same way she does. Her presentation of herself comes first and then what she does for Him comes as a result of His acceptance of her. That is how the church and the Lord Jesus Christ relate to each other.

Love is seen not only for the joy of shared blessings, but love is most evident in what it suffers for the sake of another. When we think of all our Lord Jesus went through for us, and what He suffered for us, our love for Him seems greater than when we are blessed by what He daily provides for us. The remembrance of our Lord on the first day of the week is often the most significant time of the whole week for many of the Lord's people who gather to Him in His name. That is because we remember Him, and make a proclamation of His death and the sufferings He endured on our behalf.

In all of these descriptions, we are impressed with the joy the Beloved and the lover find in each other. It is in this setting that the bride now speaks only of her Beloved, not of herself. There is nothing in her that refers in any way to the world, the flesh and the devil. It is our Lord Jesus Christ and only Him, who brings fullness of joy in this favored place. There is full fellowship that brings happy unity – the oneness with our Lord that deepens joy beyond expression. "I am the Lord's, O joy beyond expression. O sweet response to voice of love divine. Faith's joyous Yes to the assuring whisper. Fear not, I have redeemed thee, thou art Mine."

**Song of Solomon 1:3.** *"Because of the savor of thy good ointments thy name is poured forth. Therefore do the virgins love thee."*

#### **THY NAME.**

More than words - melody - song in the heart - awareness of the beauty of the moment -  
Passion expressed - experienced - emotion beyond words - actions that speak volumes -

Love that opens the springs of inner joy - so sweet it can be tasted - personal -  
The scent of divine love cannot be mistaken - it is poured forth, and love is the result.

A name - His name - above all other names - no other name - the name of Jesus -  
Draws us - gives us joy - reminds us of being loved - fills the soul with gladness -  
The one who bears that name is unique - He is one of a kind - there is no other -  
We belong to Him - with Him - and the sound of His name is as ointment poured forth.

That name is as the scent of spikenard - precious in value like the finest gold.  
That name is like myrrh - its powerful scent overcomes even the scent of death.  
That name is like cedar - the lasting value of that name will never lose its power.  
That name is like fir (cyprus) - its strength makes even the strongest enemy flee.

The savor stays, even when the sight does not behold Him - good to the senses.  
The ointments are good - they are from Him - they are like Him - good in their nature.  
The name is exalted - extolled - excellent in all the earth - good defining the Person.  
The bride's love is full, and her consorts and the upright, love Him - good in His character.

**“Father, to be identified with the Lord Jesus Christ, far exceeds any other association I could ever have. I share a name with a nation, an assembly, a family and with Linda. Our reputation is linked with those names. The name “Christian” has far reaching effects. May I never sully the savor of His holy name. Amen.”**

## **Song of Solomon 2**

### **UNITED IN LOVE**

The beautiful Shulamite woman who was as “black as the tents of Kedar,” now sees herself through the eyes of her Beloved. That is the wonder of divine grace, so that she can say without arrogance and pride, but in truthful humility, she is now known to Him as “the rose of Sharon” who has unique beauty and fragrance that is not seen in any other combination but in a rose. The rose has a beauty of its own and a fragrance that is suited to its color.

Not only does she appear as the rose of Sharon, but as a lily of the valley of quiet beauty among thorns, not a flower of garrulous color in the city that preens itself among the painted women who live there. True, there are thorns in the valley as a result of the curse that sin brought, but in the same place there is the delicate beauty of the lily that stands out and claims the attention of her Beloved One.

To the bride the Beloved is beyond all others. No one compares to Him. The fragrant blossoms of the apple tree bring abundance of fruit to give satisfaction and pleasure. Seldom does an apple tree grow in a forest, but this One stands out among all the other impressive, but fruitless trees that seem so majestic and yet have no taste to pass on to bless the appetite of the one who sits in its shade.

She delights in giving Him pleasure as He sees her, and He delights in providing a place of shade and comfort with Him from the heat of the day that burns around her. She finds delight in giving Him the sweet tastes of her true love and in finding from Him the assurance of His protection and the great bounty of His full banquet that is spread at His house. In that place of sharing the joys of divine fullness, there is an unlimited supply of the grace needed to live in and ungodly world. There is security under the unfurled banner of love that declares to all that this bride-to-be is His loved one.

The banner of love provides the place of the perfect rest that unfeigned faith gives. The banner doesn't only give a public testimony of the love of Christ for the church, and our security under His protective strength, but it gives warning to those who would impose themselves in falsehood on the church, either universally or locally, that they have no part in this holy unity.

There is full sustenance in the provision of the Beloved for His lover to satisfy, strengthen and give her the joy of every need being supplied. The farther we go in partaking of the full provisions of our Lord to meet our need, the more we realize is there for our taking. It is in times like these that we are overwhelmed with the love of our Lord for us, and we become “faint with love.” Rather than be satisfied, our appetite is stirred and we find our thoughts being brought into captivity; our desire to be obedient to Him becomes very important to us; our guidance by Him is our earnest anticipation.

In such holy and meaningful times, we do not want anything to distract us or disturb the joy and fellowship we have with our Lord. In marital joys, we find such intimacy with our loved one to be of great significance, and we remember such times as high places of real and deep love being expressed. Memories of blessed fellowship and unrestrained joy, filled the mind and heart of both the lover and the Beloved. Now He comes toward her and she hears His voice

before she sees Him. Mountains, hills and walls are between them, but are no obstacle to Him. His voice is unmistakable.

He is coming! He is on his way to get His bride! Nothing will keep them apart when that time comes! His promised coming will happen! We have foreshadowing of His promised return even before our Lord Jesus went back to heaven. He saw and talked with Mary, with Peter and with James. He walked and talked with two on the Emmaus road, opening the scriptures to them as they journeyed into joy. He met with His own briefly on the first day of two successive weeks, and he met with the disciples in Galilee, and with over five hundred believers at one time. Even as He left for heaven from the Mount of Olives, He wanted to be with His blood-bought people. It is no different today as we gather together unto Him.

Yet a greater and more glorious coming is ahead when He calls His bride to be with Him. The cold winter of unbelief and trials will be past. The rains bringing the promises of His coming, like a bow in the sky, will be past and the real Beloved will be seen, "whom having not seen, we love." The promise will be fulfilled. A new day of glory is ahead. We see the "flowers" of promise now. We hear the voice of the "dove" from time to time as we hear good news from far and hidden places telling of the glories of His grace bringing hope and blessing to the lost. People who were dead are now alive and have abundant life. There is even evidence that the "fig tree" (Israel) is starting to grow and a new age for His chosen earthly people is not far ahead.

The true bride of Christ longs to see Him and to hear His voice. He hears her voice in "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." He hears her voice in public and private prayer. He hears her voice in audible and silent worship. He gets from her "The fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." The problem of the "little foxes that spoil the vine," are still a hindrance. Things that may seem small at the moment, can have a very adverse effect on that which maintains fellowship with the Lord Jesus, both in public and private.

The love of the Beloved Shepherd is far greater than that of the lover, but still, He is her life and she is His. He bought her with His blood. He is the Shepherd of her heart; the Lord of her life; the Friend of her soul; the Mediator of the covenant of love between them. The mountains of Bether (separation) will not stop our Beloved, Lord Jesus Christ, when He comes to receive His own.

Today the true church waits and longs for His coming. We keep our eyes toward the promise of His coming, our hearts cleansed from sin that would make us ashamed before Him at His coming. We keep our hands full in His service so that we will be able to present to Him the results of "occupying till He comes," with those spiritual gifts that have been given to us to use for Him. Our thoughts and ambitions are to those things that we can do "as unto the Lord," knowing that our loyalty to Him will bring the fruits of grace that He enjoys.

It will be similar to the rapture of the church to our heavenly Bridegroom, when the nation of Israel is gathered to the King who sits on the throne of David. Two lovers who have been apart find their reunion a very special time of joy and celebration when they are able to say, "I am yours." Times of separation can be difficult – even cold and dark. But at the return of the one who is loved above all others, that reunion is of special blessing and deeper joy than if the separation had never taken place.

**Song of Solomon 2:8-9.** *"The voice of my beloved! Behold, He cometh leaping upon the mountains. Skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, He standeth behind our wall, He looketh forth at the windows, shewing Himself through the lattice."*

#### **THE VOICE.**

##### **The Promise: "I will come again!"**

It will happen as He said - He will come Himself and the voice will be heard.

The voice of the archangel will be heard and the trumpet will sound.

The voice was heard first - "Let there be light!"

The voice was heard in a distant idolatrous place.

The voice was heard in the night, in the fire, on the mountain.

The voice was heard on the waters, in the place of death bringing life.

The voice was heard in quiet instruction, in loud condemnation.

The voice was heard in comfort, in prayer, in appeal, in triumph - on the cross.

The voice was heard in resurrection life, on the road, in the upper room, by the lake.

The voice was heard in a final commission - "Go ye, into all the world and preach..."

Again, it will be heard again, "Rise up, My love, My fair one, and come away."

##### **The Presence: "In the presence of God for us."**

Who would have known He was here among us, lying in the open, in a manger!

The voice of the Obedient Child, growing in favor in the sight of God and man.

The voice of the Carpenter, taking measurements - giving and receiving instructions.

The voice of the Teacher, giving the instructions of the kingdom to His own.

The voice of the Prophet, reading and explaining the scriptures in His own village.  
The voice of the Master, giving the disciples the example to follow in days to come.  
The voice of the Healer, commanding the infirm and hurting, to respond in faith.  
The voice of the Son, always and in every way, pleasing the Father who sent Him.  
The voice of the Savior, forgiving sins, declaring publicly a finished work.  
The voice of the Mediator, unseen, behind the wall, in the presence of God for us.  
Again, the assuring words, though unseen, "Lo, I am with you always."

**The Patience: "One Mediator, between God and men, the Man, Christ Jesus."**

His work for us is on-going, continually appearing in the presence of God.  
The voice of One raised in defense of His people who fail; speaking against the accuser.  
The voice of Him who approached the holy throne of God with His own blood - for us.  
The voice of the Intercessor speaking on our behalf when we do not know what to do.  
The voice of the Savior as angels rejoice over another soul accepting Him by faith.  
The voice of the One who hears our prayers, responding with answers in peace.  
The voice of the Son of God, heard in the Gospel, giving new life to dead souls.  
The voice of the Omnipotent, looking through the windows of heaven, and waiting.  
The voice of the Omnipresent One who gives real comfort through His Word.  
The voice of Omniscience who knows the answers before we ask.  
Again, the truth of the words of the watching One, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself."

**The Person: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."**

We see glimpses of Him wherever we look; He reveals His Person to us little by little.  
He shows Himself through the lattice of creation - He has a plan being worked out.  
He shows Himself through the order of how things are maintained by His word.  
He shows Himself in the conscience of every one as His law is written in our hearts.  
He shows Himself in the words of the Gospel message when "Christ is preached."  
He shows Himself in grace when we have a time of need that only God can meet.  
He shows Himself in the faces of those who enjoy fellowship with Him in prayer.  
He shows Himself in the Christ-likeness of God's people who follow Him.  
He shows Himself in the emblems of His choosing spread weekly on the Table.  
He shows Himself in the faces of those leaving the body who catch a glimpse of Him.  
Again, we are filled with joy, "For when we see Him, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

**"O Father, it is wonderful to see how many ways Christ is revealed to us. Anyone who has a thirst for God can find evidence of the Redeemer wherever they look. Sometimes we must help them to see. Give to each believer the desire to point out something of Christ to every seeker. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."**

### **Song of Solomon 3**

#### **THE ONE AND ONLY ONE**

While we are in this world, there are times of darkness in which our minds and hearts are distracted from our occupation with our Lord. It may be the simple pressures of being "in the world but not of the world." There may be a sense of loneliness and being forsaken in times of sickness and pain that will not go away. In such times our minds are prone to wander from the path of faith, and we wonder if our sense of failure or inadequacy, has affected our relationship with the One we love.

It is in times like these that we need to stop all activity that has disturbed us, and the mind games that temporarily control our thinking, and get back to where we can focus our whole being on the One whom "my soul loveth." This is typically the first stage of love in which we are concerned as to how love affects me. There are a lot of "I's" in the first verses of this chapter and consequently anxiety takes over love for the Beloved. Whenever self is supreme in our thoughts, there will be an urgency as to what I can do, or where I can go to restore what is missing in my relationship with my Lord.

When the lover finally articulated to the watchmen her heart's desire for the "One I love," He was there. This may have been a dream, or a time of reflection in the night, but when reality comes, joy comes. "I found Him!" Now the attention of the bride is on her Beloved, and her joy led her to seize Him, claim Him, and not let Him go. How important it is that in our relationship with our Lord Jesus we make Him the Object of our heart's affection rather than how I feel, or if I am "comfortable" with what seems important to me. When our occupation is on Him and with Him, there is no secrecy or reservation. We can take Him to the "house of my mother" and know that we have nothing to hide in the relationship. The same is true with the true church when the true church is in love with the Lord.

There are a lot of things that are learned in the wilderness that will not be learned or experienced in any other place. Our Lord learned "obedience by the things which He suffered." We learn how weak we are and experience God's strength in our wilderness-weakness. This is where the church is today and also the chosen earthly people of God,

the Jews, are also. The wilderness experience was needed for the Jews to learn who they needed before they could enter the promised land. The same is true of the church of God, the bride, in the world today. There are a lot of professing Christians who find they like being in the wilderness because they are still of the world and they are in the place of their choosing.

The true church, and individual believers in the true church, have learned much by following the “pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day,” during their times in the wilderness. As a result, they are more ready for the joys of holy fellowship with the Lord when He comes. Instead of the bride smelling like smoke when she comes out of the wilderness at the coming of the Lord, she will have the scent of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who came out of the wilderness in victory and glory. The scent of the myrrh perfumes the Person of our Savior with the sweet smell of victory after suffering. The frankincense of holy testimony is upon the bride and the Bridegroom when they both meet. Even the best the merchant of earth has, adds to the beauty and glory as the church triumphant in our day, and the people of Israel in a coming day meet the Beloved and Ruling King. The bride will be dressed in her finest and scented with the most beautiful of perfumes that blend in holy joy with that of the Beloved.

There are the fearless ones who are ready to defend their Lord to the death. Attacks have been made against both His human and divine nature. Others attack His virgin birth, His innocent and sinless life so that He could be our Redeemer.

His atoning death and His literal, bodily resurrection from among the dead, have also been attacked, but all of these foes have been, and are being, defended by His faithful servants who lift up His royal banner and declare their unswerving allegiance to Him. We are called upon like those in the past, to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.”

The time is coming when the wilderness scene will be past and the Lord Jesus will claim His own bride, and after that will come to regather His earthly people. Those will be days of gladness and joy. His appearing will be one of splendor and great glory. Like the carriage of Solomon that he made for himself, the Lord’s glory will be obvious to all who see Him. The cedars of Lebanon release fragrance when the wood is cut and by nature that wood itself is durable and long-lasting. The pillars of silver remind us that the redemptive work of our Lord in paying the price of salvation is on strong stable legs that are not able to be moved. The floor of gold testifies to the glory and greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the King eternal. His kingdom will know no end. He is, was and always will be, the Supreme Authority of the whole universe. His royalty is testified to in the seat of purple, and the crown upon His head. The banner over Him is love and the pavement also is love – love above and below!

What a testimony to the holy joy that will be seen when our Lord who “is now rejected, and by the world disowned,” is revealed to the whole world as the Great King, the Bridegroom. His bride will be seated with Him positionally forever. The mother (Israel?) will crown Him before the eyes of the whole watching world. The glories of all earthly kingdoms will be brought under His authority. “The day of gladness of His heart” will have arrived. All the plans of God as they relate to the earth and His earthly people will be fulfilled. The King and His bride will share the holy joy that came to Him at great cost. That joy of sharing eternal life with His own who He has bought with His own blood will bring blessing to those who are the love of His heart, and He will have their affection forever.

**Song of Solomon 3:6.** *“Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the powders of the merchant?”*

#### **WHO IS THIS?**

He cannot be mistaken, there is none like Him;  
Coming out of the wilderness, He is easy to be seen.  
The scent of Him precedes Him, it is not hard to tell;  
This is He who they said, “He doeth all things well.”

He is the King of glory, strong and mighty He;  
As Lord of hosts, it’s obvious, He everyone shall see,  
Those who know Him, love Him, they hear Him when He calls;  
And when the Bride comes to Him, she will before Him fall.

Our love for this great Person, exceeds the love of men.  
His love for us outstanding, make us to worship Him.  
He comes from Edom, glorious; there He a victory gained.  
As those He has forgiven, His blood has cleansed all stains.

He is known by reputation, for the things that He has done.  
He is known by adoration, for He our hearts have won.  
He is known by adulation; millions call Him Lord.  
He is known as my salvation, when I take Him at His word.

He has come through tribulation, the cross to that attests.  
He has borne our condemnation, we on this fact do rest.  
He has called to every nation, the masses to believe;  
And by virtue of redemption, we cleansing can receive.

He is the Son of David; in the kingly line he's named.  
He is the Son of Abraham, who knew Him before He came.  
He is the Son of Man, one of our own is He.  
He is the Son of God, and eternally shall be.

I know Him as my Savior, I know Him as my Lord;  
I know Him as Redeemer and I know Him as the Word.  
I know Him as my Counselor, I know Him as my Friend.  
I know Him as the Coming King I will live with without end.

**"I give thanks today, O God, for the privilege of knowing Thee and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy to understand how eternal life is so significant when we know God. All of the unseen things around us and all that is lasting takes its character from Thee. I offer praise in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."**

#### **Song of Solomon 4**

##### **THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDE**

What a joy it is to have this description made by the bridegroom of the lover he has set his heart upon. To think that our Heavenly Bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ, looks upon the church, His bride, in such an intimate and descriptive way, takes our minds off the many failures we see in the church. The true church of God is made real and beautiful to us when we see it through our Lord's eyes.

At our first reading, we may find ourselves looking at a scene that is too private and personal to speak of. Then when we take time to consider that fact that the Holy Spirit has arranged for this to be in this Holy Book at this place at the end of the poetic books and at the beginning of the prophecies of the future, we stop to wonder and worship. In spite of all the coming events that will be tragic and troubling, our Lord sees the beauty of His bride in the middle of all the turmoil – and rejoices! To Him, the bride He has purchased with His own blood, has every attribute He desires. He does not hesitate to tell her of His admiration of her unique features of personhood and perfection that fills His heart with love as he looks upon her with delight.

The dove is a clean bird that was able to be used as a sacrifice on the altar of God. The perfect proportions, the beauty and fullness of its outward appearance, the quiet tones of its peaceful coos, and the brightness of the full open eyes, set it apart among other feathered creatures. So, the Beloved begins with a general statement as to how His heart is moved by the beauty of His bride. Then with seven specific descriptions, beginning at the head, He extolls her beauty. He is not afraid or embarrassed to say what He means in most descriptive words and illustrations.

Looking at Him with love in her heart, He sees two beautiful dark eyes that fill her body with light. Expressive eyes can reveal a lot about a person. A smile on the lips doesn't necessarily show in the eyes if the reality of joy isn't there. A lie on the lips cannot be hidden by the eyes. Those who are responsible for upholding the law of the land are taught how to look at the eyes of people and form an opinion as to truth or falsehood. The chaste, quiet and harmless beauty, looking at her Beloved, has the ability to see through the windows to the soul that which is most important to her. She is looking at the Person she loves. When a dove is high in the sky, it can see its way to its home with an uncanny vision of the place to which it belongs. The true bride of Christ is not haughty, but is humble. It has a quietness and calmness that is not moved by the pressures and temptations of the world. She keeps her eyes on the Person to whom she is devoted in love and the place she can call home.

All the noise and fanfare, the drama and confusion of religious activities that accompany the counterfeit church does not attract those who are part of the true church. The focus of attention is on "Him who my soul loves," not on all that is attractive to the worldly mindset of those who have left their first love and find themselves lukewarm toward the Savior. When our mind is "stayed on Thee," our hearts affections are there also. In our Beloved is where we find our contentment, joy and meaning in life.

Enhancing the beauty of the face and eyes of the loved one, is the long, dark, glossy hair covering her head and surrounding her face like a frame enclosing the modesty of her person. Her hair is a glory to her. Not in the sense of personal pride, but in giving honor and dignity to her who is one committed to be obedient to the One she loves. Every long strand of beautiful hair, testifies to a blessing that has come to her because of her submission to the One whose affection for her is reflected in her glowing testimony of being separated unto Him alone. The fellowship and power of separation is the secret of holy communion between the church and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The perfection of her beautiful white teeth is a reminder of her maturity and purity in which she partakes of heavenly food that feeds her inward soul and strengthens her outward testimony of faith. There is an awareness, a consistency in the true bride that faith nourishes as it feeds on the word of God. There are no missing or broken teeth because of trying to partake of that which is not spiritual food. There are no stains caused by eating "sour grapes" that are often seen in a local church that is not truly representing the dispensational bride as it should. The evenness, balance and fruitfulness of the church as the Lord sees it, should give courage to press on in spite of the attractiveness of worldly fare.

The lips of red, and words that are "comely" and lovely, testify to the appreciation of the true church for the cross-work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The open public testimony to the redemption the church gives because "He made peace through the blood of His cross," contrasts with the counterfeit other "gospels" that do not speak of the "precious blood of Christ" that "cleanseth us from all sin." The language that comes from the lips of the true church is not the speech of the world. Words that come from the Holy Spirit of God, are words of grace seasoned with salt.

Her forehead is framed by the glory of her modesty, and it indicates that her intelligence within is that of a meek and quiet spirit. An intelligent mind can color the outward appearance of a forehead when honored or embarrassed. One would need to be as close as the Beloved One to see the evidence of quiet grace when words of love are expressed and a look of affection focuses upon her and colors her forehead. She responds without a word, but with the tilt of her head and the color of her skin revealed her unspoken love and appreciation for her Beloved One. That is the inward adorning that is associated with modesty in the hidden heart of the true believer in the true church.

At first, we might wonder at the neck being described as being like the "tower of David," until we consider that to be a testimony to victory in Jesus. Trophies of battles won, hung on the tower of David for all to see. There in the open for all to see in the bride of Christ, are the trophies and weapons of His battle fought and victories won. Our Beloved has defeated sin, death and hell. He has triumphed in His life over all obstacles that have been raised against Him. In His death, He slew death by dying in His sinlessness and innocence. Death had no power over Him. In His resurrection, the grave and all that it claims, has only a short time to carry out its dark task. Put on display for all to see is the resurrected Lord Jesus. The church declares the Gospel and souls are saved who confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in their heart God raised Him from among the dead.

Those saved declare in baptism that when Christ died, I died. When He was buried, I was buried. When He rose from the dead, I rose to walk in newness of life. In the Lord's Supper another shield of victory is hung for angels and people to see, that our Beloved Victor, is the Person to whom we gather. The victories of our Lord and Savior are extolled by His people every time they meet in local assemblies. All over the world, people in the true church honor our Beloved Lord Jesus Christ as the Mighty Conqueror.

The undivided affection of the true church is represented in the two perfect breasts of the lover. The moral beauty of the church is seen in His people as they grow and mature in affection for the Lord. The grace that demonstrates His mind toward those He loves, and their faith in His unfailing commitment, and unity of purpose, are evident in the true church. The bride and Bridegroom both find their joy in the same place where nourishment needed for love to grow together, joins in holy satisfaction to them both.

It is still night in this world, but the true church composed of children of the day, wait for the dawning of the new day when we will share fully the mountains of myrrh where He suffered to bring us to God, and the hill of frankincense that is full of sweetest blessings that comes to us as the result. The public occupation of the true church will always be the place where our Beloved suffered that He might give us the greatest of all possible blessings – eternal life as a gift, "through Jesus Christ our Lord." The cost of purchasing His bride was high. The blessings as a result are beyond measure.

The descriptions of her beauty as the Beloved expresses how she appears to Him, now unfolds to her His love for her. To Him, she is "holy and without blame." There is no spot or wrinkle. He takes her to the high places where she can see all that she will share with Him as "heirs of God and joint heirs" with Jesus. This is not the heights of Sinai where there is fear and condemnation, but to Amana where the grace of God and the purposes of God will be fulfilled. From the heights of Amana, the panorama of the promised land is open to her view, as together they look at the future they will eternally share. There are present dangers in the world, but He will keep her safe through them all.

His heart belongs to the one He has demonstrated His love for, "in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Such love for one who has cost Him so much will not fade away. A look of appreciation from her eye shows her love for Him. She wears with dignity and honor, all the evidences of His grace toward her. The words of her love for Him and the highest honors she can give Him are open for all to hear and see. What she has to give is all for Him. Her thoughts toward Him are as sweet to Him as honey as are His words and thoughts toward her. They are nourishing

and sweet to the spirit. She is able to give to Him that which He first gave to her. That made it of highest value to her, and now of highest value to Him from her. The smell of the world is not on her, but rather the scent of His creative designs.

A garden is not a field, but is a place set apart for a specific person and specific purpose for the personal desire of the Beloved. The garden is a protected place. The spring of water like a fountain is for use in that chosen place to provide the grace that He shows, and produce what He wants. Even more, is an orchard of fruitful trees that produces holy satisfaction and blesses all who partake of its fruit. In that orchard here are also a wide variety of spices that enhances the flavor, texture and scent of all that is produced in that orchard. The true church has a strong but unrecognized influence on the whole world. Wherever a child of God is found, there is an influence for good and for God in that place. The lover is a springing fountain that brings joy and blessing to the Beloved One.

The north wind is often necessary to bring out the strength of character needed to fulfill the purpose of God. Without the cold and biting wind from difficulties the sweetness potentially contained in a fruit cannot be tasted. A frost-bitten apple has the sweetest flavor of them all. The most lasting scent of an herb comes from those that have been hard pressed. The warm south wind brings comfort. When the spirits of God's people are calm, there is quiet rest. In the garden of the Lord providing, the Holy Spirit is able to provide the right amount of the cold of difficulties, and the quiet contentment that will produce the best results for the glory of God and the blessing of His people. How privileged we are to be in the true church that continues to grow, mature and bring lasting fruitfulness and satisfaction to our Lord and to His people.

**Song of Solomon 4:7.** *"Thou art fair, my love; there is no spot in thee."*

#### **IN HIS EYES.**

**"Thou art fair"** [v.1]: *He looked down through the ages before earth was even formed and saw a bride that would be most beautiful. Every aspect of that bride would be pleasing to Him.*

*Before the foundation of the earth, the Lord made plans for a bride that would be uniquely His. He chose that body of believers to be holy and without blame before Him in love. His will is such that it will bring joy, both to Him as the Bridegroom and the Church, His bride. The bride, in spite of failings and shortcomings at present will exalt Him and be the visible evidence of His grace forever. Onlookers will praise Him for the glory of His grace – and the bride will be forever "accepted in the Beloved." "We will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is."*

**"Thou art all fair"** [v.7]: *A bride was made for the first man who was perfectly suited to him. Eve in all her perfection delighted Adam, even as the bride of the Lamb delights His heart.*

*A perfect earth with everything in place as He made it was incomplete without the bride. From the high mountain where one could see beauty on every side, to the holes in the ground where everything functioned as God desired; all was beautiful to behold – but something was missing. He wanted a bride to share in personal fellowship all that beauty and perfection. His bride filled His heart and He can enjoy the beauty of creation fully now because there is the beauty of requited love.*

**"How fair is thy love"** [v.10]: *A bride was bought by Jacob, and the years he served seemed only as days because of his love for her. A bride was brought to Isaac and he loved her. A bride was given to Joseph who was perfectly suited to him.*

*God Himself provided the bride for His Son. He served long and hard to make her His own. His view of her is one of perfection as He sees of the travail of His soul and is satisfied. Even though the bride is of a different origin, He makes every aspect of that bride to be a reason for His heart to be full of joy.*

**"Father in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ is finding joy in His bride today. How important it is that I too, learn to appreciate the body of Christ. Far too often I look at the imperfections of the present and overlook the glory of the bride when she is presented to the Bridegroom in a future day. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.**

#### **Song of Solomon 5**

##### **WHY IS HE SO SPECIAL?**

The beginning of this chapter is the response of the Beloved to the invitation of the lover. Our Lord Jesus Christ longs for the fellowship of His people who He loves dearly. All the church of God has that is real and meaningful, is our heavenly Bridegroom. "He is my everything, He is my all," is true of our Lord Jesus Christ to every child of God who loves Him supremely. In whatever part of the world they are, whatever age they are and in the situation in which they are found, they are all part of His blood-bought church. He shares with all the family of God that of which each one is able to appreciate and enjoy.

Some of His people experience the bitter myrrh of sorrow with the taste of grace given for grace needed. Others mainly know the blessings and sweetness of the honey of sins forgiven. Those who by reason of a life lived for the Lord, share the wine of mature joy that comes at the cost of going through the wine-press of life's testing times and pressures. The Bridegroom enjoys the taste of fresh milk when those young in Christ are nourished and built up in their "most holy faith" by the sincere milk of the word of God.

The Beloved has enjoyed that which is His portion from the blessings of the garden, His loved ones. Then He turns to His friends who do what He commands as individual believers, and invites them to find their personal joy and blessings in that which pleases Him. When we find what we want in our Lord Jesus Christ, the world and all it offers, holds no attraction for us. "O taste and see that the Lord is good." The exceeding abundance of His provision and His garden are all we need to fill our lives with purposeful labor and significant rewards.

Strangely though, it is possible for us to get used to all we have in Christ, and take for granted the fullness and fellowship of divine Persons and the family of God. In a state of lethargy or dream-like sleep, the lover-bride hears the sound of the voice of her Beloved, but does not rise from her comfortable bed to go across the floor to open the door to her Beloved. She doesn't want to have to put on her coat and go to the inconvenience of washing her feet again.

A condition of half-heartedness in God's people can come very quickly if we get occupied with ourselves and our own comforts in this world. It doesn't take long to get so spiritually sleepy that we find excuses to not attend the gathering of the Lord's people. Then our words of personal testimony relating to the Gospel become fewer and fewer. Private prayer and meditation on the word of God becomes shorter because other temporal and material things claim our interest and attention. But what about the Lord Jesus? What does He think when I don't take time for Him? If I don't make an effort to meet with Him regularly and maintain close fellowship, how does my self-interest affect Him?

Like the sleepy bride, when the hand of the Lord comes near, and we remember again what He went through to save us, and all the blessings He has provided for us, then we are moved in our hearts to rise to see Him and spend time with Him. His love for us has reached our hearts and we finally respond to His voice – only to find He has gone from us. It is harder to get back to the Lord than to get away from Him. Our self-centeredness and careless attitude toward the Savior, has consequences. To try to pray after not having prayed in sincerity for quite some time is hard. To get something from the word of God to feed our soul if we haven't been regularly reading it, will take time and effort to actually hear His voice.

When heaven seems shut to us, and the word of God has become only a book to study, we will know the pangs of guilt and loss. It is at times like that we have to stop as individuals, and take stock of ourselves and seek to reestablish close fellowship with Lord. Fellowship and communion are essential for our joy and effectiveness, both in the local assembly and in the body of Christ. What has happened to "Christianity" in general, is that not a lot of people take it seriously. Biblical Christianity and what claims to be Christianity in the world are very different. Complacency has led to inconsistency. Inconsistency leads to lack of commitment. Lack of commitment soon become apostasy. People then claim they have "my faith and you have yours," rather than faith in Christ. So now most so-called Christians are that in name only. They have never been born again by the Spirit of God and made a new creation in Christ. They are not in God's family and are not in the true church even though they may be part of a local church.

The watchmen of the city, are the world's representatives. They mock and scorn those who mix among the people of the world all the while claiming to be earnest Christians. Unbelievers expect those who God has saved to be different than other people. When there is no difference to be seen, professing Christians are despised. Man's rules and requirements do not fit well into the life of a true child of God. There is a modesty in believers that is in contrast to brazenness in those who are popular in society. There is dignity rather than disgrace.

Humility and repentance are needed when we get away from our Lord. Hopefully there are vestiges of reality that still attract "the daughters of Jerusalem" to a genuine child of God who is getting back to the Lord. The reality of faith will be seen and heard when we speak of our Lord Jesus Christ. One who truly loves the Lord and knows Him as their personal Savior, will be able to describe Him as the One who is the perfect Man, who is the only Savior of sinners. He is pure and undefiled compared to the sinful people for whom He died. That sets Him apart from every other human being.

Beginning at His head, the lover-bride describes His deity. The bushy black hair speaks of His spiritual vitality and vigor. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He lives in an eternal now and never grows old. His strength and vigorous manhood and His eternal deity will never diminish. He is sympathetic and sensitive. His eyes of love toward His own are that of tenderness and compassion for His loved one. There is a fragrance in the revealed character of our Lord that comes from His countenance and His words of grace.

The strength and beauty of His hand give security to those He blesses. The sensitive feeling of our Lord toward His own people is more precious than the brightest of jewels. Our Savior knows and experiences the emotions of manhood and knows personally why they are important. His torso and legs indicate not only the heavenly glory of the Lord, but the security and holy purpose of God in maintaining His own people for Himself. Nothing will shake that which is set in the solid gold of divine purpose and authority.

In His dignity He is as large and imposing as great cedar trees. Wherever we read of our Lord Jesus, He is the most singularly imposing Person of all history in His words, works and ways. The bride's description goes from the blessings of grace that comes from His lips to the on-going sweetness of His love and intimacy with those who love Him. Language fails to allow us to fully describe our Lord. But we who love Him, do so with our hearts as the One who first loved us and cleansed us from sin and guilt, has brought us to God and who has befriended us and our Friend.

**Song of Solomon 5:16.** *"His mouth is most sweet: yea He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."*

### **MY BELOVED.**

#### **The bride in recovery:**

"His head is as the most-fine gold" [v.11]: His mind is a delight to God. The mind of Christ was that of humility and willingness to do the will of His Father. Contrast that with His head crowned with a crown of thorns.

"His eyes are as the eyes of doves" [v.12]: His eyes are directed only to purity. Gentleness is evident in His eyes toward those He loves. As He looked upon those who would reject Him, His eyes were those of a person in mourning. Contrast that with the eyes of the Man of sorrows filled with tears.

"His cheeks are as a bed of spices" [v.13]: The fragrances of stacty, galberrum, and drops of myrrh define His character. Contrast that with the fact that He made His soul an offering for sin. He gave Himself a ransom for all.

"His hands are as gold rings" [v.14]: Every work He did was perfect. Everything those hands touched was blessed. He could truly say, "I do always those things that please the Father."

"His belly is as bright ivory" [v.14]: The seat of His affection is pure in every way. Every character trait is like the heavenly blue of the sparkling sapphires. He has loved us with an everlasting love.

"His legs are as pillars of marble set on sockets of fine gold" [v.15]: His feet are the same as His head. The steps of the Lord were a delight to God. "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The strength of the Lord led Him to walk steadfastly to the cross. His walk inspired interest; was a walk of faith and confidence.

"His countenance is as Lebanon" [v.15]: The beauty of those cedars mixed with the pleasing scent of the unseen part of the trees. Outwardly and inwardly, the Lord Jesus was beautiful. Contrast that with "His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men."

"His mouth is most sweet" [v.16]: People marveled at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth. His were found and eaten, and they become the joy and rejoicing of the heart. Contrast that with the fact that they smote Him on the face. He was beaten and battered by the hands of cruel men.

**The Bride recognizes her Beloved.**

**"O Loving God: these metaphors that picture the Lord Jesus do give an insight into His beauty. If the metaphors are so touching, what must the reality be when we see Him! Amen."**

### **Song of Solomon 6**

#### **WHERE IS HE?**

As observers watch the lives of those who belong to our Lord Jesus Christ see what we do and hear what we say, is there anything that would attract them to our Savior? The bride in this book has much to say about her Beloved, and because of that she is asked by "the daughters of Jerusalem" as to where He is. When our Lord Jesus was a young child, wise men from the east asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" On other occasions those who followed the Lord Jesus Christ were identifiable as those who knew Him, "They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus," and they knew where He could be found. He went to the mountainside some time, and He also went to a garden (Gethsemane), where He prayed.

It is our time now to tell people where our Lord is and how He can "found," by them. If in our lives and testimony we are able to be identified as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, that is a lot to be thankful for. When our conversation, our spare time and our work ethic is consistent with one who fears the Lord, we can expect from time to time those people to question us about our faith and why we live the way we do. Those opportunities are special times of joy and thankfulness to us, and hopefully, there will be those who ask of our faith in Christ, who will respond to God's grace and receive the gift of salvation.

The bride knew where her Beloved One was because she knew what and who He loved. That special garden was known to both of them. It was in that fragrant, beautiful place He found the fellowship and friendship He enjoyed. Communion between the Lord and His people, is precious to both. The bride knew she belonged to the Beloved bridegroom, and He belonged to her. There may be times when communion may be broken, but the relationship remains on solid ground. The Lord doesn't get anything from the world, no matter how wise and attractive the world is to people – even believers in Christ.

His joy is in His people. He can make any kind of world he wants with the word of His power. He is the Source of all power in heaven and on earth. But the appreciative expressions of love and praise from the lover, His people, are what He cannot make or give to Himself. His descriptions of how He sees His heavenly bride come from what they want to give Him. Her beauty is unmatched as the bride stands in glory like two beautiful cities. Those capital cities were beautiful in situation and the pride and joy of all around them. The majestic appearance of the bride to our Lord is like a marching army with the banners of victory overhead. The enemy never captured her banners in warfare nor took away her dignity. The church is, and will be victorious. The Lord speaks well of His people, and His people honor and praise Him. He has loved us and as a result we are more than conquerors of those who oppose the Gospel and the people of God.

The eyes of the lover on her Beloved are so opened by love that he is overcome by His love for her. The repeated description of the bride by the Beloved One is not a redundancy but an assurance to her and others that she is still the object of His divine affection in spite of her coldness and wandering. Her hair identifies her separation from the compromises of the world. Her teeth still proclaim fruitfulness, unity and purity. Her modesty and humility are still evident on her forehead. She is separated and consecrated to her Beloved only.

There may be a multitude of attractions from other sources and places, but her Beloved is attracted to the one who is unique in the beauty of her eternal life. Every other attraction is only temporal. Only those who are in the true church are real Christians because of the new birth, the new nature, and their new life in Christ. People may say there are many ways to God. And opinions and a way of looking at things may vary, but there is only one body that stands alone in the world. That is the true church, the bride of Christ. Israel is an earthly people who will enjoy the blessings of being associated with the King of kings. The church is composed of both Jews and Gentile who have become "one new man," chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

The bride was compared to important and fine cities, and then compared to the glorious beauty of a dawning day, glowing in the east after the darkness of night has passed. A new morning, as beautiful as the moon shining at night, and as glorious as the bright shining of the sun by day, is the heavenly description of the lover. Righteous in the sight of God, majestic in the eyes of the world as she reigns with Christ in a day to come. Anything of value and any victory in the world is through the Beloved One who loves her. What wonderful imagery of the church that expresses what it will be like in a coming day!

It was into the dark valley our Lord Jesus went when He suffered for us on the cross. Now that valley is a bountiful place because of all he got from the travail of His soul. There are trials in the valley, but these same trials produce the water that makes the trees there full of fruit and nuts. No wonder the Beloved goes to the garden to find His delight and satisfaction. The lover is in the garden as well as being the garden like the chariots of His willing people bringing bounty to the Beloved.

The bride and bridegroom are gone at the end of the chapter. He is transported to glory on a chariot, and the church is raptured to glory. The friends call for the return of all those who will no longer be here when the church is taken. She will not return until she comes with Him in the glory of His kingdom. Then the church will be with the One who reigns over all the earth. That will be the time when it will be time to dance. When the Lord Jesus Christ and His church are seen by the whole world, sadness will turn into joy. We will rejoice as never before, although the thoughts of that time bring great joy to those who love the Lord now and know Him personally as "my Beloved."

**Song of Solomon 6:2-3.** *"My beloved is gone down into His garden. To the bed of spices, to feed in the gardens and to gather lilies. I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine: He feedeth among the lilies."*

### **HIS GARDEN.**

Fruits of righteousness send into the air of a polluted world, the scent of the millions of believers around the world who are zealous of good works - from His garden.

Fruits of holiness bring pleasure to Him as the moral purity of those who own Him as Lord respond to His call to "Be ye holy for I am holy" - in His garden.

The gifts and graces of His own "spices" that He has bestowed on each of those He has numbered among the chosen in Him, are mingled together blessing everyone - in His garden.

The union of all the parts brings delight to Him as He comes down, down to where His own live in fellowship with Him whose love remains strong in spite of all that happens - in His garden.  
He is gathering lilies from every part of earth and each is made pure and white by His blood and each one grows bringing pleasure to Him - in His garden.  
Each one planted in the garden now is taking root in earthly soil; preparing for the day when all together, the lilies are planted in heaven - from His garden.  
All that separates the bride and bridegroom is removed; the separation is ended as both enjoy the blessings and beauty - of His garden.

From the gardens comes that on which He feeds as a shepherd; the worship ascends from gathered companies of His own all over the world, and there is communion - in the gardens.  
He refreshes Himself as His own gather around His Person and name His name, Lord Jesus Christ, as our only attraction where He feeds - in the gardens.  
Separated unto Himself as an enclosed place, the Bridegroom and the bride enjoy the blessings of privacy and harmony amidst a noisy, raucous world - in the gardens.  
He gives the attention and the tending needed as He tends the lilies that bring Him delight and reflects His purity - in the gardens.  
He cares for the garden and the gardens; He delights in the garden and the gardens;  
He visits the garden and the gardens - they are His to share with the bride.  
All the beauties and the glories of His Person are reflected - in His garden and in His gardens.

**“Father, I can glimpse a little of what it must have been like when in the cool of the evening, Adam and Eve shared with Thee, the joy of harmonious fellowship. It is kind of like that when the Lord’s people are gathered like lilies in a garden, around the Lord Jesus and we share our words and hymns and inner thoughts as we worship together. I am grateful to be able to experience a little of the delights of the garden. Amen.”**

## **Song of Solomon 7**

### **DESCRIPTIONS OF DELIGHT**

To describe one’s heart-felt thoughts about the one we love is actually beyond the limitations of words. Even illustrations may seem redundant to a listener but not to one who loves another or one who knows they are loved. To the eyes of the Christians in the true church composed of those who know God, our hearts are moved in love to Him who first loved us. Those who are truly saved by His grace and who know Him personally are moved in our hearts to worship when we begin to describe our Lord and Savior with words and thoughts.

In a similar way, the Beloved speaks of the person who is the object of His special personal love. God tells us in His word [Eph.5], that husbands are to love their wives, “even as Christ love the church and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

His descriptions of the Shulamite bride begin with her feet that are dressed. She is not barefoot. The feet of the church are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. Peace, not dissension is the characteristic that should be evident in the “prince’s daughter (bride).” The strong and beautiful legs make it possible for every part of the body to move forward in order to carry out individual functions in coordination with every need of testimony and public witness in the world. The thighs as jewels are a reminder of the subjection of the church to the will of God and the glory and beauty that is displayed because of that dignified submission.

What is within us will flow out. From within every true believer in the body of Christ, there should be that spiritual food that is the “finest of the wheat.” That which will benefit others, will first come from the benefit we have derived from the word of God. Food for our souls can become that which will strengthen and sustain others. Whatever we take in, is what we become. The more of Christ we take in, the more like Him we will become. The perfect breasts of the loved one reminds us of the affection we have for our Lord that nourishes and grows together in purity and beauty.

His description of the head of the lover is not one of persons under bondage, but her neck joins her to the One who has her whole-hearted love. She is free from bondage, there is no yoke on her neck, but she does not abuse that liberty. Her neck stands tall and strong like a pure white tower which is obvious to all who see her. She stands tall for the One she loves in holiness and purity. The eyes in her head reveal the calm peace in her soul that is not disturbed by all the ungodly things going on around her. The still waters of the soul keep one from being concerned with all the gossip and activities going on at the gate. Spiritual understanding takes a person beyond mere observation to the depths of conscious spiritual perception. That allows us to see the cause and effect of things we do.

The nose speaks of discernment; the ability to detect the “smell” of a matter. “That doesn’t smell right to me,” is a common expression when we have a reaction to something said or make a decision. We can tell whether a thing is of God because of the discernment the Holy Spirit gives us. When a matter is tested by the scriptures of truth, the reality of it becomes clear to us. We often know where such false or suspect things comes from.

To our Lord, the church stands out in the world like a mountain on which fruitful things grow. It is covered in purple, signifying the holy, dignified and royal submission of the bride to the bridegroom. She knows who is her Lord and King. Her long hair testifies to the honor she gives Him. He is held in His heart by her appreciation of the flowing blessings (galleries) He provided and she testifies to this with her glory. What delight He gets by just looking at His bride! She means so much to Him that he holds her who is so upright and fruitful, to Himself. Her affection for the Lord increases like clusters of grapes that grow larger in size. There is nothing that is offensive to Him as the odor of fragrant fruit and the taste of sweetness from her brings gladness and blessing to Him.

In the last part of the chapter, the Shulamite lover speaks. She knows what she means to her Beloved. He has centered His love upon His bride, the church. Our Lord Jesus prays for us; He mediates for us; He is our Great High Priest who is our Advocate with the Father. He suffered to bring us to God and now He lives before God on our behalf. The bride is assured that she is fully accepted by her Beloved, so she now longs for a place of privacy with Him. She knows the blessings of giving and receiving from Him. She knows the blessings of solitude and sweetness of being alone with Him. She knows He loves His garden and in that place is working still in His creative and sustaining power. So, it is there she goes back to the beginning of their personal relationship.

Certain places and events stand out in our lives where we have experienced the presence of the Lord in special ways. Love, and the rest it brings, moves us to spend time with our Lord early. It is in such times spiritual fruit develops and the evidence of true love for Him shows. We need to give our Lord His portion of all that He has given us. The fragrance and fullness of all we have received, will move us to lay up in store what we have to give to Him in the appropriate time, place and way. He has given us direction of one of the ways we can do this, so we lay aside a proportion of what He has given us each week to give to Him. We are at times blessed in a certain way with abundance of His grace, so in those cases we know He has some particular need in mind for us to meet. Most of all, He wants us personally: body, soul and spirit to be given to Him as a freewill offering and sacrifice – which is our “reasonable service.”

**Son of Solomon 7:1.** *“How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince’s daughter! The joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.”*

#### **IN HIS EYES #2.**

From the feet to the head, though the eyes of the Lord,  
His view of the Church is sublime.  
He sees with the sight of one way beyond the norm,  
Seeing beauty unknown at this time.

The feet of His loved one are in work - resolute;  
As the work of the Church here progresses.  
United and lovely in the principles of truth,  
Thighs speak of the good life-style she possesses,

The fear of the Lord is health to the navel,  
It is wonderful for Him to behold.  
Her life filled with bounty of prosperity - spiritual;  
Is the nourishment that gives health to the soul.

Nourished by that which is food to the heart;  
He is delighted with what He can see.  
Joined to the Bridegroom in faith from the start;  
Such fellowship He has determined will be.

With nose lifted high, undaunted by fear,  
The true Church is able to discern  
When the enemy comes and danger draws near;  
From the tower of Lebanon, they will turn.

Her head is lifted high above all the turmoil around;  
With eyes of intelligence keen;  
Like the pools of Heshbon, where chaos abounds;  
Her countenance is calm and serene.

In the bride He is delighted to find all He wants,

He admires her attributes and beauty.  
He is impressed with her fullness and her precious fruits,  
He awaits when communion is shared fully.

**“Insights of the Church from His view, Father God, help me to keep a clear picture in my mind of what the Church will look like when we are all able to be one completed whole in Thy presence. What reflected glory that will be! Amen.”**

## **Song of Solomon 8**

### **DEVOTED LOVE**

The previous chapters of the Song of Solomon are recapitulated in a sense in this final chapter. The two lovers are not in the noisy and worldly city, but are in the quiet place from which the Shulamite maiden came. It was here she was found by her Beloved. It is often good to go back to the beginning of our life with our Lord Jesus Christ. The relationships in that place were not that of a group of decked out young women of the city who were either a part of the king's harem or those of the city. Here was where she was at home. Her mother, brothers and young sister all had close ties to the heart of the bride.

When we enter the family of God by faith in Christ, we have a very meaningful relationship of those with whom we share the bonds of the new birth. Those ties have a unique and very personal connection that goes far beyond those of flesh and blood. Those who are in the true church are conscious of the fact they are being watched to see if there is any impropriety in the way we live our lives, and how we conduct ourselves in public. The lover wanted to be able to publicly declare her love for her Beloved One who was in the outside place. So, we go out to Him to show the world, that our Lord Jesus, who was “despised and rejected of men,” is our Savior, our Friend, the Supreme Object of our love.

Where can we lead Him? To the places we go to work? To the homes of those with whom we associate? To the places where we spend our leisure time? To the “house of our mother?” It is in that place we learn what is really important. It is there we learn how to give from our hearts that which we have prepared for our heavenly Bridegroom. It is there we offer our sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, and give to Him of the fullness which He has given to us. When we find ourselves in communion with our Beloved, there is the closeness of an embrace. There is communion and rest in our hearts being together. We are able to give to Him what is most important to Him. Nothing should ever be allowed in my life to disturb or take away that close communion with Him.

Looking ahead we see the bride and her Beloved coming out from the wilderness after the long journey is over. She is leaning on her Beloved in dependence and confidence, even though the wilderness journey was hard and long. There are many things we learn in the wilderness that can never be learned anywhere else. It is in the wilderness experiences we are tested and proven as to reality, quality and sincerity. It is there that which is in our hearts becomes that which is real in our lives. We learn that it is He who raised us up and gave us life when we were dead in trespasses and sins. He has placed us as sons and daughters in heavenly places.

It is his grace that has made us a new creation in Christ Jesus. The Lord is the One who awakened us to new life under the shades of Him who is our “apple tree.” The liberty of faith, who is “the mother” who brought us into that liberty of new life in Christ, started a whole new life for every believer in the church. Added to the work of our Lord and faith in Him, is the work of the Holy Spirit who has set a seal upon our hearts. That testifies to the fact that “we love Him, because He first loved us.” The Holy Spirit also has set an outward seal on the arm that enables us to do what we do “as unto the Lord.”

True marital love is the strongest force in human experience because it doesn't yield to external pressures, and is as “strong as death.” Death has its claim staked out on every person. Love that is stronger than death has come through our Lord Jesus Christ who conquered death by laying down His life in infinite love for us. “God demonstrated His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” His love for us led Him to die for us. Now, as the One who used the keys of life and death that are His alone, He who laid down His life, took it again when He rose from among the dead forevermore. His love remains full and complete, and will never wane.

Love has another part to it. Jealous love is not peevish, but honorable and righteous. When it claims someone to be its very own, it cannot accept a rival, nor can it share itself with another person or thing. God's affections for His own people never fails, and He does not allow the world, the flesh and the devil to share those affections. His love is like a blazing flame of fire that can never be extinguished or conquered.

Not all who are in the family of God have the same spiritual maturity. Therefore, there are those who are plagued with doubts, fears and misgivings because they are inclined to compare themselves to those believers who have experienced the power of divine love for a longer period of time. A wall of protection is needed in which the fullness of

our redemption is made as clear and fully refined as purified silver that shines in all its undefiled glory. The strength and lasting duration of divine truths need to be set in place as a door to the soul of the young sister. Then the weak can be assured of their safety and security. Eternal life, and all it brings to us, keeps us from being tossed about by "every wind of doctrine." The solid door of safety and truth is not only practical, but such a door is beautiful to see and experience as we open it to the vistas that are beyond.

The fully developed bride knows who she is and has the personal experience of giving and receiving love. She knows she is beautiful to her Loved One. She is strong enough to help the weak. And she is strong enough and has the understanding as to how she can bring satisfaction, contentment and joy to her Beloved. Her Beloved One has a vineyard which He let out to others to tend. It still remains for Israel to bring to Him that which is valuable to Him. The bride, the true church, has its own source of fruitfulness and satisfaction. As a bride gives herself to her lover, so the church gives to the Beloved Lord Jesus that which blesses Him, brings glory and honor to Him. All she has been testifying to others about, now ceases as she hears His voice.

He wanted to hear her voice, to be with her, to see her and to claim her for Himself. She in turn is anxious for Him to quickly come to her and for her so their love could be consummated. Such love does not diminish. Rather, doors previously closed to each other are opened to the spirit, soul and body. Devotion and commitment remove the desire to keep secrets from each other. Faithfulness in such a relationship is the key to human love and happiness. Committed, loving and faithful marriages of one man to one woman are reflections of God's committed love for us. What joy is anticipated when the church looks earnestly and longingly for our Lord Jesus Christ to come and catch us away to Himself! We can only imagine the joy and wonder of that time and communion!

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7.** *"Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would be utterly contemned."*

### **LOVE.**

**Love is Permanent:** who can deny that it has left its indelible imprint on the heart of those who have tasted its glory and its pain. The seal is there, never to be removed, even though the object of love is far away, and in some cases, gone, never to return.

**Love is Possessive:** its strength is undeniable; its chains unbreakable; its depth unreachable; its heights unsearchable. It is a powerful master because it reveals itself in ways that are uncontrollable. We cannot turn it off and it cannot be stopped in its course.

**Love is Powerful:** the heat of its passion draws and repels at the same time. Its flame warms in comfort and can burn like death itself. Its emotion cannot be turned off like a flow of water.

**Love is Persevering:** it can be rejected and still it remains. It can be ignored and yet it persists. It can be trampled on and yet it rises up again. It can be overwhelmed by events but is not able to be extinguished.

**Love is Priceless:** a king could own a palace full of priceless goods, but he cannot buy love. A dowry could be ever so large including lands, property, titles and even a heritage but there is no way it can be demanded.

**The Love of our God is Permanent, and will never be diminished.**

**The Love of our God is Possessive, and never will be denied.**

**The Love of our God is Powerful, and will never be defeated.**

**The Love of our God is Persevering, and will never be deterred.**

**The love of our God is Priceless, and will never be demanded.**

**"Father, the Church which our Lord Jesus brought with His own blood, probably doesn't know how valuable she is. Yet when we try to determine the reason for such love as His toward her, we are thankful that we have such scripture portions as this that describe the familiar words, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..." May we never take such love for granted. Amen."**