

# *Song of Solomon*



**by Linda Lariscy**



# SONG OF SOLOMON

For Brenda Newsome  
“A Vessel of the Lord”

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## *Song of Solomon Introduction*

The Song of Solomon is a beautiful love story that for some holds an enigma. People throughout the ages have debated and questioned the meaning of this Holy Writ. Some have deemed it to be just as it appears the love story of King Solomon and his Queen. And although it may indeed be such a love story, scripture demands that it carry with it a far deeper meaning. ***“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God” (Heb 10:7 KJV).*** When you understand that on every page of the Bible you find Jesus Christ, the eternal meaning of the Song of Solomon shines forth. The meaning of this book far surpasses marital love to portray the intimate relationship Christ seeks with every believer. It is a love song between the Bride of Christ, the church, and the Bridegroom, who is Jesus Christ. Though rarely taught this book of the Bible contains a wealth of wisdom inestimable in its worth. The treasures of this song hide underneath the shroud of the mundane. The treasure seeker must discover its beauty along an unfolding path of glory that transcends the temporal to an eternal realm that few find. Great insight is within its pages as well as enduring comfort. The seeking believer who hungers to experience the depths of Jesus Christ will revisit the pages of this book throughout his or her life. Every person desires to reconnect to God. Somewhere buried within every person lays the memory of his first home, the garden of delights, the Garden of Eden. Man’s soul in this garden was whole and in unity with His Creator. Now banished from this earthly place of peace man’s fractured soul seeks to find it again. Such peace cannot be found on earth except through Jesus Christ. He alone is the lover of man’s soul. So we see within the pages of this book the way to find peace. Even its name The Song of Solomon gives a hint of what the book expresses. The Hebrew word for Solomon means peaceful. Interestingly enough, Shulamite, the epithet of Solomon’s queen, also means peaceful. Anyone who comes into union with Christ, the Prince of Peace, will be full of peace.



This book has eight chapters. Each chapter is a song in itself. One can briefly summarize the Song of Solomon as the story of a simple shepherd girl who falls in love with someone she thinks is simply a shepherd, only to discover he is the great King Solomon. The gospels clearly reveal Jesus as the shepherd-king. Jesus came to earth as a common man to reveal himself as the Son of God, the King of Kings. The shepherd girl represents the church. She is a common “country girl” and yet the King chooses her to be his bride. Jesus Christ chooses you be His bride in all of your ordinariness and simplicity. ***“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong” (1Cor. 1: 26-27).***

The love relationship between a man and his wife is a crystal-clear example of the love relationship God is seeking with you. Earthly marriage, despite its imperfections, illustrates the union of Christ and the believer. ***“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:28-32 KJV).*** A mystical union exists between every believer and Christ. Though it is not easily grasped or explained nonetheless it is real. There is no better metaphor on earth than the love relationship between man and wife to picture the love Christ has for the church. While reading The Song of Solomon understand that the Holy Spirit is using an earthly illustration, marital love, something you know and are familiar with to reveal something which is unknown and sublime.

Are you seeking a closer walk with God? Do you hunger for a deeper spiritual life and more of God in your life? As you read and reread this

book, keep foremost in your mind the desire for Christ to come into complete union with you. I pray that this beautiful love story will become a daily part of your devotional life enflaming your passion for Jesus Christ, the lover of your soul, the one in whom you have your very being.



*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 1*

# ***Song 1:1-17***

## ***It Begins with a Kiss***

***Solomon's Song of Songs. 2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth- for your love is more delightful than wine. 3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you! 4 Take me away with you-let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you! 5 Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. 6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected. 7 Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends? 8 If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds. 9 I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh. 10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels. 11 We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver. 12 While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. 13 My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts. 14 My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi. 15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves. 16 How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. 17 The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.***

Solomon's Song of Songs is the most excellent love song. No other love song can surpass it. Why? It is the love song between the Lord and his bride, the church. “***Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth- for your love is more delightful than wine.***” Eternal bliss begins with a kiss. You see the imagery of Prince Charming waking up Sleeping

Beauty with his kiss. The kiss of Jesus stirs the sleeping church to a passion for God. Jesus is the kiss of life. Love for God cannot emerge within you without such a kiss. You love Jesus only when you realize His all consuming love for you. ***“We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:1 NIV).*** Do you yearn for more of God in your life?

If you ask Him for a deeper intimacy and love relationship with Him you will receive it. Kiss me with the kisses of your mouth. Kiss my hurt and make it better. I want more of you. I desire you. Breathe upon me precious Spirit of God for you are my life and my very being. ***'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring' (Acts 17:28 NIV).*** Forever seal me, with your kiss of intimacy, the kiss of commitment. With his kiss you know He forever accepts and loves you. He kisses you to signify that you are His. Just as the groom kisses his bride to conclude the marriage ceremony Christ must kiss you. What greater joy on earth is there than to know someone loves you and will never leave you. Joy flows out of love just as wine flows out of the fruit of the vine. Nothing can compare to Christ's love for you. No thrill on earth can compare to his love. Once you come to know Him you desire him all the more.

***“Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out No wonder the maidens love you!*** Christ offers you his fragrance and His name which is so pleasant and attractive to everyone who loves and seeks Him. As you remain close to Him His signature fragrance becomes your own. In marriage it is customary for the woman to take on her husband's name. Coming into Christ is essentially coming into His identity. True Christianity is actually taking on His identity. The closer you come to Christ the more you will love and become like Him. People who love Him delight to hear His name just as people who do not love Him disdain to hear His name. The aroma of Christ and the name of Christ both attract and repel people.

***“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in***



***Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God” (2 Cor. 2:14- 15 NIV).***

***“Take me away with you-let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.”*** Your prayer should be,” Oh Lord bring me into your presence.” It is He who draws you to Himself. You cannot ever hope to know Him except He disclose Himself to you. Indifference to Christ handicaps you. Your deepest desire must remain to be with Him wherever He is. Wherever He runs you must desire to run. He desires that you run the race of life faithfully until you reach the prize. For Christ to take you with Him you must disencumber yourself from every weight that slows you down or inhibits your freedom with Him.

***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Heb 12:1-2 NIV).*** When you ask Christ to draw you to Him He will bring you to His private chambers, His dwelling place. The place He wishes to share with you is a place of intimacy. In His presence there is only sweet relief and abundance of love. Jesus lifts your burdens as you commune with Him. He knows of your every sadness and weakness. He understands the human condition. His presence brings joy to your inner being. In His presence you come to know true friendship with God. Incredibly Jesus Christ desires you as a friend. ***“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:14-15 NIV).*** Is this not reason enough for you to delight in Him? ***“We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!”*** Everyone who finds the secret place of the Most High ardently loves the Lord. God’s love is intoxicating and His charms are

unending. You cannot get to this place of intimacy alone. He must take you. If you ask Him He will take you there.

The secret place of His presence reveals your own faults and inward sins which are always obscured by the recognition of the faults of others.

***“Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon.”*** Though He clearly shines

His love light on your imperfections He does not condemn or accuse you. On the contrary you realize He greatly loves you. In spite of your shortcomings you are able to love yourself because you know Christ loves you. You know He totally forgives you and in spite of all your deficiencies you are indeed lovely to Him. When you fall in love with Christ you are willing to uncover yourself and stand before Him naked.

Christ removes your shame and you are free to be. Shame is a consequence of sin. It was not so in the very beginning. In the heart of every man lies a weak but flickering memory of what was in the beginning. In the beginning... in God’s garden of delights shame was non-existent. ***“The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Gen 2:25 NIV)***. As you take a long hard look at yourself you cannot but help to fall on the mercy of the Lord. You can do this because Christ assures you of His unconditional love. Seeing your depravity is severe yet necessary as it breaks you of all pride and self-indulgence.

***“Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar” (Ps 138:6 NIV)***. The power of His love will change you when you see your helpless estate and call out for His mercy.

***“Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun.”*** As you commune with the Lord, change will be evident in your life. So evident in fact those who know you well may stare in amazement at the change in you. The change in you may make some feel uncomfortable and thereby reproach you. ***“My mother’s sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected.”*** People close to you may feel you are neglecting them for your inner life. They may even become angry with

you and demanding of your time. They may become jealous of your relationship with God and the time you are devoting to the Lord. Temporal relationships though necessary should never usurp the place of God in your life. Perhaps your spouse has no desire for the intimate things of God. Does this hold you back from loving the Lord in a deeper way? You must not allow temporal relationships to hinder you from coming into union with Christ. The time you spend with the Lord should only enhance your relationships with others. The more you know the Lord the more you will love those around you. Loving God above all else puts every relationship you have in proper order. And herein lies the rub. You see God is not only a changer but He is also a re-arranger in your life. God desires you to love Him with all your heart and to reserve this privilege only for Him. Aligning our relationships aright is painful and prickly at times.

***“Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?”*** When pulled away from your beloved Lord in order to please others your soul will cry out to Him. Obligations and associations break your focus and although the Lord is near, you feel estranged from Him. The distractions in your life point out how important your need of Him is. You must learn that your need for Him outweighs the urgency of anything else in your life. As you learn that He alone nourishes and feeds you, your desire to return to His presence deepens. ***“If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds.”*** In times of bewilderment when you cannot find the Lord it is best to turn to those who faithfully follow Him. Spend time with people who are mature in the Lord and seek the counsel of godly people. They will help you find your way back to Him. The Lord continually draws you even when you feel forsaken, imperceptibly he continually woos you. In due time He will reveal himself to you. Do not doubt that He is with you and continue to seek Him and you will find Him. Do not mistake his aloofness as uncaring for he is intently watching you as from afar. You are beautiful to Him and His love overflows to you even when

you cannot sense His presence. He is only testing your heart. ***“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Ps 63:1 NIV).*** When you diligently seek Him you will find Him.

***“I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh. Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels. We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.”*** The Lord calls you his darling... you are precious to Him. He describes you as a beautiful mare implying you move with grace and beauty and the strength of endurance. Do you see the Lord’s desire to lavish his bride with words of affirmation? You might say the Lord doesn’t see all this in me... but oh you are so wrong. The Lord can see because He looks through the magnifying glass of love. Remember the Lord brings into existence those things that are non-existent. God is our creator and we reflect his beauty. The Lord looks at you as a diamond in the rough. He draws out of you the beauty within you as you come into His presence daily. He spares nothing in his praise for you... he lavishes his love upon you. He knows that you need his love more than you can comprehend. You must learn to soak in His love for you become so dry in this world of care, worry, and distraction. ***“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him” (1 John 3:1 NIV).***

***“We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.”*** The Lord wants to give His bride only good and perfect gifts. The Lord desires to adorn His bride; in fact He desires to lavish His bride with gifts above and beyond expectation. ***“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17 NIV).”*** Just as a husband may give his wife gold and pearls, etc, to adorn the outward person, the Lord desires to adorn your inward person. Silver and gold are precious metals in man’s sight but do you know what is precious in God’s sight? It is a gentle and quiet spirit. ***“Whose adorning let it not be that***

*outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peter 3:3-4 KJV).* The adornment of the inner man is a gift from God and is received as you daily commune with Him.

***“While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.”***

The table of the Lord is an intimate place. This is not a place of public consumption but it is a place of privacy. You come to this table by the King’s invitation. The Lord’s Table is a place of rest. Where is the Lord’s resting-place? It is within you, above you and beneath you. God is in Christ who is hidden within you. Much of your prayer life is simple communion. You express your love to Him through the heart with words unspoken. Love exudes from you as perfume emits a silent but potent fragrance. Great intimacy is the result of the unspeakable joy of His presence that leaves you in silent reverence. At times of great communion you are left speechless for the Lord knows your heart and there is no need for words. Intimacy brings such great joy that words cannot express your thoughts. Your mouth may be silent but your body and whole being reverberates in praise and thanksgiving. ***“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8 KJV).”*** The manifest presence of the Lord magnifies every good thing in you. In His presence your love, joy and praise of God pours out of you in abundance. His presence in your life cannot be hidden. The evidence of His presence though unseen is evident just as you sense fragrance wherever it may be. ***Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Ps 16:11 KJV).*** Where are you drawing your strength? Is it from outward amusements or distractions or from the quiet place within you? Are you uncomfortable with silence? You gain a greater measure of peace when you contemplate heavenly things in the midst of your busy life. Draw from the well that will never run dry. You must draw upon the living waters of the Holy Spirit who continually flows within you.

The Lord wants to meet you in the private place of your heart. Christ increases His fragrance on you and extends it to others as you daily abide in His presence.

***“My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.”*** The bride speaks of Jesus as a bundle of myrrh. Myrrh was a very valuable commodity and was known for its fragrance. The ancients used myrrh as an embalming agent to prepare the body for burial. Bringing Jesus so very close to your heart will mean death to many things that vie for your attention. The love of Christ will become your focus and the center of your life when you remove the high places of idolatry from your heart. Death to the self-life and everything that really eats at your inner beauty is a result of growing closer to Christ. You should welcome this death. This death brings the sweet-smelling aroma of Christ into your life. Your love for Christ deepens as does your love for others. ***This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us (1 John 4:10-12 NIV).*** Sacrificing the self-life is a choice you must make everyday. Would you rather have self-importance or His importance? Is self-appointment or His appointment your desire? The trials of life have a way of purifying you of self-reliance and bring you to a place of humility and complete dependence on the Lord. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. The trials of the soul are necessary to perfect the bride. The fire of the Holy Spirit is a purging fire. The Spirit removes barriers within you that block the release of the flow of God’s love and power in your life. Jesus desires to fill you with the fullness of the Spirit. ***“My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.”*** The fullness of the Spirit of Christ dwelling within you emits such a pleasant fragrance. His fragrance is like a “cluster of cypress” or a “cluster of henna blossoms.” Such fragrance is deeply affecting. Fragrance elevates mood and is therapeutic. The fragrance of Christ upon you draws people to Him. ***Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will***



*grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. Men will dwell again in his shade. He will flourish like the grain. He will blossom like a vine, and his fame will be like the wine from Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-7 NIV).* As you abide daily in Christ you change from within and thus you become a catalyst for change in others. The inner light of your being radiates and guides others to Jesus. *“How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.”* Jesus sees beauty in the saint though not blind to the sin and the weaknesses of the believer. Jesus is able to look at you in faith. He sees not only the beginning but also the end. Faith calls those things that are not as though they are. *“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were” (Rom 4:17 KJV).* If you could see yourself through the eyes of Jesus you could be the beautiful person you really are in Him. As you become more of your new nature in Christ a transformation will take place. You must fully agree that you are dead to sin and alive to Christ. Once you see yourself as Christ sees you, you will make much spiritual progress. Being aware that Christ fully accepts you will help you accept yourself and others. *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Rom 15:7 NIV).* You can accept who you are when you believe in your heart that Christ fully accepts you. Self-acceptance makes you more responsive to Christ and more passionate in your praise and of worship of Him. *“How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming!”* When you know He loves you unconditionally and desires to make you whole you openly and readily adore Him. *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15 KJV).*

The believer who rejoices in Jesus is making spiritual progress when he or she can speak of the things of the Lord as his or her own. *“And our bed is verdant. The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.”* Jesus’ joy must become your joy. His peace must become your peace. His love must become your love. His desires must become your

desires. In true oneness with your Lord you can no longer separate Him from your own being which includes the innermost workings of your heart. What you must come to terms with is that you and your Father are one. Jesus knew that He and the Father were one. He did not act on His own only in tandem with His Father. ***“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (John 17:21-23 KJV).*** Unity with the Son and the Father brings an explosion of abundance into your personal life and the world around you. Fusion brings power and the outpouring of God’s life on earth. In unity with the desires of Christ your prayer life takes on a whole new perspective. You honor the Lord in your life because His interests become your own. You know what He wants and you give it to Him. ***“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume” (John 12:3 NIV).*** God’s house is your house and it is fragrant and appealing. ***“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple” (1 Cor. 3:16-17 NIV).***” When you dwell in Him and He dwells in you wherever you go you will bear the aromatic fragrance of joy, peace, and love.

***Dearest Lord Jesus, I come asking... kiss me with the kisses of your mouth. Bring me to yourself.... Draw me into your presence that I might bear your fragrance and lead others to you. I want to know you intimately and love you passionately... Change me Lord with the power of your love!***



## *Song of Solomon*

### *Chapter 2*

# Song: 2:1-17

## Sweet Surrender

*I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.<sup>2</sup> Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.<sup>3</sup> Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. <sup>4</sup> He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. <sup>5</sup> Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. <sup>6</sup> His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me. <sup>7</sup> Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.<sup>8</sup> Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. <sup>9</sup> My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. <sup>10</sup> My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. <sup>11</sup> See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. <sup>12</sup> Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup> The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."<sup>14</sup> My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. <sup>15</sup> Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.<sup>16</sup> My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. <sup>17</sup> Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.*

*"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys"* The bride speaks here not in boast but as a reflection of the beauty of Christ. She has no light of her own but her light is that of Christ. She knows her beauty comes from the Lord as it is with you, dear believer. The Lord takes away your shame and He gives you inward beauty. Both the rose and the lily are

known for their simple beauty and their fragrance. Simplicity in life and of mind is found only in Christ. ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"***(Matt. 11:28-29 NIV). Christ desires to simplify your life. He comes to subtract the things in your life that are burdensome or unnecessary. He divides the bad from the good in your life. As you allow the Lord to prune your life and continue to surrender to Him daily, order will come and a sense of purpose. You will have a balance and harmony in your life that is beautiful.

***"Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens."*** Jesus declares of his bride that she is a lily among thorns. Christ gives you rest and satisfaction when you dwell in Him. Not all Christians know this sense of rest and peace. You find such tranquility as you practice the presence of Christ in prayer and meditation. God desires peace for His children. The cares of the world deprive you from this peace and joy. ***"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"*** (Matt. 13:22 NIV). Christ is able in spite of the cares of this world to keep you in His peace as you experience His radiant presence. Jesus provides your every need as you put His interests above your own. ***"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"*** (Matt 6:28-33 NIV).

The relationship Christ desires to have with you is an all consuming one. He wants you to look to Him as your source of life and all things. ***“Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”***

Here the bride speaks of her pure delight in the King. Knowing Christ in this way, you come to the understanding that He is the tree of life. Draw on Christ for your enjoyment and refreshment. Christ is an apple tree among the wild trees of the forest. Wild trees bear sour fruit. In the world there are many wild trees that offer a “shady” sense of peace and refreshment. Though the fruit may appear to be pleasant to the eyes and other senses once eaten it becomes gall to the soul. Jesus is the only true source of nourishment and refreshment. There is no other who can provide like Jesus.

The blossoms of the apple tree bear a sweet fragrance as does the aroma of Christ. ***“... and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph. 5:2 NIV).*** When you know Christ gave Himself up for you it is reasonable to believe that He will surely give you all good things. He does this because He simply loves you. How does He provide for you? He leads you on the right paths and He brings people into your life to help you. He gives you wisdom to make right choices. You must taste and savor the goodness of the Lord. Do not just nibble on his love but go after it with all your appetite. You must desire the Lord more than the delicacies of this life. ***“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth” (Ps. 119:103 KJV). “Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him” (Ps 34:8 NIV).*** Knowing the Lord is like a path that continues to unfurl before you. He gently leads and patiently guides you to follow Him. He is not brash or forceful. He is meek and lowly of heart. Tasting of the



Lord is experiencing Him in your life. The Lord is a real person. He is more than knowledge or a theological concept. He desires a love relationship with you that permeates your whole life. Receiving what the Lord wants to give you is how you taste of His goodness. ***He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.*** He brings you to a banqueting table to feast upon His unconditional love. This is where you learn of His love for you and the whole of His creation. To be happy and fully functional in this life you must first understand His love for you. You must come to know that He loves you or else you will remain only a shadow of who you really are. He enables you to “be” as you identify with Him. Christ must bring you to this understanding for only He can reveal His love to you. ***“for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Phil. 2:13 NIV).*** He is your creator. He desires to conform you to His image. As you come to know the love of Christ you will desire to conform to Him. ***“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29 NKJV).*** Your destiny is to become like Him. Alas, though this is God’s best for you, many believers never come to the banqueting table. The Lord cannot bring you to this table unless you fully surrender to Him. You are willful and resist the loving arms of the Lord when you believe you can carry yourself to the table. Oh that every believer would surrender to Jesus. He desires to bear you up and carry you for His banner over you is love. Surrender means victory rather than defeat for the saint. You win when you surrender. ***But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Cor. 12:9-10 NIV).*** The Lord covers you with His strength when you embrace your helplessness.

Surrendering to Christ ushers in a sense of His overwhelming love. When you surrender you depend on His refreshment and strength. At the point of surrender the Lord takes over and rescues you. ***“Daughters of***

***Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.***” This passage speaks of the mystery of God’s love. In full sight God hides His love. You cannot force Him to reveal Himself. Nor can you press someone to receive His love. Pressuring someone to know the Lord is as futile as trying to pet a wild gazelle or doe in the field. No one can open up to the love of God without first becoming ready. Your loved ones are at different stations on their spiritual journey. You must relinquish those you love to His ever patient and diligent hand. The Christian life is total surrender. You must learn to relinquish yourself as well into His loving and all knowing providence. You must learn to give everything in your life to God. You must move from striving to know God’s love to a mindset of abandonment to his grace. The Lord reveals Himself when you are ready. ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”*** (Eph. 2:8-10 KJV). If grace saves you, do you not know that it is grace that also sustains you, matures you, and secures you? You are God’s workmanship. He is the potter. You are his clay. ***“Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture”*** (Ps. 100:3 KJV). ***“So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me: “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel”*** (Jer.18: 3-6 NIV).

***“Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills”*** Christ ardently desires an intimate relationship with you. He is passionately in love with you. ***“For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For***

*this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Eph. 5:29-30 KJV).*

You must realize that His zeal for you is endless. *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2 KJV).*

Christ gave himself for you. *“Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.* Christ runs to you but he stops short of bombarding the door of your heart. He stands outside. *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me (Rev. 3:20 NIV).* He sees you and waits for you. He will not compete for your attention. The Lord is ever so patient with you. In your busy life of distractions you are not aware that His eyes are upon you. Your life is dear to the Lord. *“O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways” (Psalms 139:13 KJV).*

*“My lover spoke and said to me, “Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.”* The Lord invites you to come and go with Him. His invitation is without hesitation or reserve. You must decide whether you will abandon yourself to His way or remain among the old and familiar.

*“The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.”* The truth expressed here is the new life in Christ Jesus. There is a “newness” in Jesus. You see the imagery of the springtime abounding in fruitfulness and arrayed with flowers. The winter represents your past life without Christ which is death clothed in the old nature.

*“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4 KJV).* In Christ there is no death or stagnation of any kind. He is an

eternal Spring. Christ always wants you to flow in the power of the Holy Spirit as a channel of living water. ***“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:13-14 KJV).*** As you reach into the depths of God’s love there is always something beyond you. Christ desires you to advance in knowing who you are and who He is.

***“Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”*** To go with Jesus you must leave your past behind and for many saints this is not easy to do. The familiar often masquerades as a safe place. You must break away from the old order. The habits and thoughts of the old nature hinder your new life in Christ. In your past there is no future. You must forsake the false images of yourself forged in past events and maintained in your memory. You must leave them behind because they detract from God’s desire to conform you to His true image. ***Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God"(Luke 9:60-62 NIV).***

The Holy Spirit can only manifest His gifts and grace through you when you walk in your new image in Christ Jesus. You must learn to renew your mind to the image of Christ. His thoughts and His ways must become your own. His opinion is the only one that matters! If what you think of yourself does not coincide with what He thinks of you whose opinion is right? God’s precious gifts to you will not function if you do not believe that God has made you righteous in Christ. In Christ you are a beautiful human being. When you believe that God is daily transforming you to His image you will shine so others may know Him. You become His true and faithful witness.

***“My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your***

***voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.***” The Lord calls you out of hiding. He calls you to a place in Him where there is no fear, shame or regret. He desires to see your face and hear your voice. He desires for others to see you and hear your voice.

***“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.”*** Such should be the cry of every saint for it’s the little things, the little sins, which spoil your advancement in the Holy Spirit. Foxes are small but very crafty. Deceptively they devour the fruit under the cover of darkness. The little sins that you don’t acknowledge will spoil your fruit. Worry, too much focus on material things, and a desire for pleasures easily stunt the growth of Christians. Desiring the good rather than the greater good is a trap satan cleverly designs to beset you. Standing still in your faith rather than pressing on in your devotion and desire for Christ is just as treacherous as back-sliding. To quote Andrew Murray: “To cease effort is to lose ground. To slacken the pace, before the goal is reached, is to lose the race.” ***Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever (1 Cor 9:24-26 NIV).*** Often what hinders your growth in Christ is not what you do but what you do not do. ***“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17 KJV).*** ***As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right (1 Sam 12:23 KJV).*** Christ must catch the little things that lead you away from simple devotion to Him. ***“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2Cor. 11:3 KJV).***

***“My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.”*** May this confession be true of your life. Ask yourself this question “am I His as He is mine?” Is my desire for Him only? Have I given up all rights to myself? Have I surrendered my spirit, soul and body to Him? Rest is

what you find in Christ when you fully surrender to Him. ***Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it (Luke 17:33 NIV).*** Losing your life requires abandonment to God.

Abandonment to God requires a conscious intention on your part to move out of reasoning and debate into complete trust of God.

Humanity's trouble began when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They began to mistrust the good intentions of God. Satan planted suspicion in their mind about God's faithfulness to take care of them. Suddenly they became afraid of God and began to lean on their own understanding. ***Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid"(Gen 3:8- 10 NIV).*** How do you move away from the constant debating and endless analysis of your mind? You must eat of the Tree of Life only. The Tree of Life is the presence of God not the mere knowledge of God. God offers you Christ rather than a mere religion of certain beliefs and doctrines. A Christ-less Christianity is a dead religion. In His presence you realize the Lord is your shepherd. Because the Lord is your shepherd you lack nothing. As Christ browses among the lilies He will catch the little foxes that spoil your vine. As you daily commune with Him He will gently show you what He desires to remove from your life. The lilies remind you that though they neither spin nor toil, God displays them in great glory. And so will He display you as you completely rest in Him.

***Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.*** Every day on your earthly journey you must look to Him for all your needs. In Him you find your strength. ***Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand (Ps. 20:6 KJV).*** Everyday is a victory when you put it in the strong hand of the Lord. The way of life here is not always easy. You have many enemies on earth which steal and snatch your joy. The trials



of life come your way to prove to you that the Lord is your deliverer. Expect trials to come into your life. Trials are common to all true believers. ***Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified (1 Peter 4:12-14 KJV).*** The rugged hills of life remind you that Christ is your strength and provider. He is your anointing to break every heavy yoke. Every time you encounter a mountain of difficulty you will remember that He delivered you before and He will deliver you again. Trials actually increase your faith in God. The Lord may not take away the rough patch on the path of life but He will make your feet to stand strong on it. He will light your way to keep you from stumbling. The Lord does not ask you to follow a path never trod. He has already gone before you to give you sure footing like the feet of a deer. ***The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places (Hab 3:19 KJV).*** One day your journey on earth will be over.

Enjoy your journey here while you look ahead to the glories of heaven. He is preparing you to enter the splendor of heaven by cultivating His beauty and grace in you on earth. When the day breaks and the shadows flee away you will be in heaven's home. In heaven there is no night. There is no need for the sun where God is the sole source of light. As He is there, He is also here! ***And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever (Rev 22:5 KJV).***

***Dear Jesus My Lord, I surrender to your love. I abandon myself to you. I give up all rights to myself for I am Yours. Apart from you I can do nothing. Your grace alone sustains me as I have no other god before you. Thank you for conforming me to your image and remind me daily that in you I have eternal life, joy, hope, peace, and beauty.***



*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 3*

# Song 3:1-11

## *Finding the Treasure*

*All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him. 2 I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him. 3 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?" 4 Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me. 5 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. 6 Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant? 7 Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel, 8 all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night. 9 King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon. 10 Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem. 11 Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon wearing the crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.*

As you begin this chapter you must remember that the symbolism of this book points to the everlasting relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. *"All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him."* Prepare yourself for night seasons in your relationship with Christ. Just as seasons of fall and winter come before the springs and summers of your outward life so it is in your inner life. Winter seasons appear to bring little life with them. Things are very rarely how they seem. Life is teeming beneath the winter glaze of ice on the lake's surface. Though the branches of the

maple tree may be bare in the winter, abundant life is within its roots. In every life seasons come and go. Every season prepares you for the next season in your life. ***To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: (Eccl 3:1 KJV)*** Times will come when you will feel you have lost touch with Jesus or He is hiding from you. Do not allow this to alarm you for such times accelerate great spiritual growth as you continue to seek Him. Will you continue to seek the Lord's face if it appears that He has withdrawn His giving Hand from you? Are you merely seeking an experience or are you seeking Him? Will you seek Him just because you love Him? What you must come to terms with is your love for Him. Is it real? Real love compels you to pursue and chase after the One you love. Christ will reveal to you a greater depth of His love and person-hood as you seek His face in the midst of His apparent elusiveness. The Lord wants you to believe Him when everything you see and feel contradicts your faith. Enduring a season of darkness increases your faith. You come out of it convinced that Christ will never leave you or forsake you. ***"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Cor 5:7 KJV).***

When you are faithful to the Lord yet your prayers go unanswered you may question His love and doubt His faithfulness. Such times call for perseverance and trust as you continue to seek Him. Your love for Him will compel you on your way. The Lord proves your love for Him during these seasons. He desires to prove your love not for His sake but for yours. You must come to know how deeply you love Him. The word of God encourages you to never give up praying but to persist until you obtain an answer. ***Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge***

***says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth"(Luke 18:1-8 NIV)?*** The meaning here has little to do with the unkind and unresponsive judge but with the persistent widow. She refused to take no for an answer. She believed an answer was due her from this judge. She knew that if she persisted long enough the judge would meet her need. Jesus was using hyperbole to get his point across that if this unkind judge would eventually do the right thing certainly God will respond to you when you seek Him. ***"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened (Luke 11:9-10 NIV).***

You must approach God knowing that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. The Lord desires to answer every one of your prayers. He desires to reveal Himself to you completely. But many of your prayers remain unanswered because the Lord sees mixed motives in your heart. The Lord abhors mixture. The intentions of your prayers must be for your good as well as others. If you are praying for a marriage partner rather than a godly marriage you may be put on hold for a season. He must wait to answer your prayer until you see as He sees. You must remove the vile from what is precious in your heart for the Lord to give you the desires of your heart. If you believe God would hold anything that is good from you then you are double-minded and your prayers will go unanswered. You cannot have a double-mind on any matter and receive an answer from God. ***If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does (James 1:5-8 NIV).*** God desires to remove every false image from your life. God uses the night seasons of your life to do just

that. *For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning (Ps 30:5 KJV).*

Night seasons also enter your life through unconfessed sin.

Disobedience is a wedge between you and Christ. *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear*

( *Isa. 59:1-2 KJV*). Pleasures and self-comforts that crowd God out of your thoughts must fall away from you. Just as the leaves drop from the trees in winter, vain amusements and pursuits must drop from you. Such things obstruct your view of God's plan for your life. Sin always brings death. Just as dead leaves fall from the winter trees sin must fall away from you. This will happen when you realize that you are dead to sin.

*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 6:11 KJV).* The new nature of Christ within you is utterly dead to sin. Have you reconciled yourself to this truth? *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity"*

(*Jeremiah 29:11-14 NKJV*). Though you give yourself to sin the Lord is very merciful when you return to Him with all of your heart.

*I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him.* The shepherd girl desires to find the one her heart loves.

Only the love of God can capture your heart like this. She is desperate to find Him. No hint of reservation is in her voice. She is resolute in her search for Him. She will not allow anything to stop her. Question yourself. Are you desperate for Jesus in your life? Is He the one whom your soul loves? Why does she love Him so much? She loves Him

because she realizes He alone is the lover of her soul. The Lord is your treasure. A treasure hunter pays a price to find his discovery. Sacrifice is the offering of something valuable to God and so it is an act of your worship. Seeking God and praising Him when you are distraught or feel forsaken is a sacrifice which is the essence of worship. You have a tendency to undervalue things that come too easy for you. As your relationship grows with your Lord, you understand that He is a never-ending source of life and light. He never leaves or forsakes you in spite of how circumstances may appear. He continues to reveal His love as you continue to trust Him. ***"Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:8-12 NKJV)"***. The secret of life is following hard after the Lord for He is the sole source of well-being and peace in your life. ***My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me (Ps 63:8 KJV)***. Christ loves your soul. The soul is the seat of your mental and emotional being. Your soul is made up of your personality, your thoughts and emotions. Jesus died and was resurrected to redeem your soul in order to make it like His. His desire is to make your soul complete. A whole soul is a peaceful soul whatever the circumstance. As you completely trust God through the trials of life He will keep your soul and preserve you for His own glory. He is a faithful and skilled creator. ***"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19 KJV)***.

***"The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city." Have you seen the one my heart loves?"*** Who are these watchmen that find this girl seeking her beloved? Shortly after her encounter with them she finds her beloved. God has His people everywhere. God is the Head of a wonderful sending agency that specializes in customization. In the midst

of any trial He sends just the right person or persons to help you if you are willingly to receive. God uses messengers of all sorts to guide us along life. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, teacher-pastors are spiritual leaders who are set in the Body of Christ to guide you along your way.

***“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb 13:17 KJV).*** What these watchmen told the girl is unknown.

Perhaps they merely pointed the way. The Lord is merciful. Everyday His mercies are new. Each day is an opportunity for you to find the Lord and recognize that God is all around you. Who is pointing the way for you at this very moment? When you loose your way God will send someone to help you find your way back to Him. Be keen to see the hand of God in the ordinary especially in people. You must be willing to ask help of others on your journey of faith. On your way be careful not to alienate yourself from others. Alienation is not the path of God for your life. In fact to say you love God with all your heart while remaining estranged from people is incongruous. ***If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen (1John 4:20 KJV)*** You must learn to recognize that people are doors that God intends to open for you. Each person God sends you is an opportunity for you to find Him. They may be all around you but if you isolate yourself and withdraw into your own little world you may miss the very face of God!

***“Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.”*** When you find the Lord in times of great darkness, your communion in Him is so sweet. He renews and strengthens you. The trust you have in Him deepens. His steadfastness and comfort in times of suffering increases your love for him. The Lord's comfort is like that of a mother's love and the



consolation of one's childhood home. A strong bond exists between daughter and mother, a close and intimate one. In Christ you have an everlasting bond. In Him you find the love and protection you may have never had in your childhood home. His love is pure without fear or manipulation. In Christ you find a safe dwelling place. You cannot force or hurry yourself along in this process of knowing God's love. Ever-increasing is His revelation of Himself to you as you give yourself to Him. ***In your patience possess ye your souls (Luke 21:19 KJV).***

Patience is how you win over doubt and trouble in this life. Determine to confidently seek Him through failure, crushing disappointment, and times of grief and you will prevail. ***And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: (Jer 29:13-14 KJV)*** The Lord does not require you to seek hard after Him because He is reluctant to show Himself to you. You must press toward Him so you can turn away from yourself. ***Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-14 NIV).*** You'll never find abundant living if you cling to your self-life. You first must release the poverty from your own hand to receive the wealth of God's hand. When you release yourself into His hands you will find Him. Who you are apart from Christ and what you desire to be in Christ are at odds within your soul. This opposition is your struggle in life and you conquer it by taking hold of Christ.

***“Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant? Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel, all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night. King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon. Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem. Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at***

***King Solomon wearing the crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.***” As the shepherd girl brings what she assumes to be her shepherd lover into communion with herself a great transformation takes place. Her shepherd lover is in fact the royal king. By letting go of herself the shepherd girl becomes a royal queen. Your journey in Christ is designed to conform you to the image of royalty. You become a mighty one, a true over-comer as you win each battle of faith. You are a warrior bride tested by hardship and experienced in battle. You are prepared for any emergency fully aware of who you are in Him. You are transformed by His perfection and through His grace.

Jesus is your shepherd king. He is meek and lowly in heart and yet he is coming for you in great glory as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus meets you where you are. He humbled Himself to be in communion with His Bride, the Church. ... ***he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2:8-11 KJV).*** Though you may feel like a speck in the universe Christ the anointed One chooses you to be His royal bride. In fact you too are a king. You are a royal priest. ***And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth (Rev 5:10 KJV).*** Do you know who you are in Christ? Do you know that you too are anointed? Do you know that on His wedding day His heart rejoiced for you? And how can this be? He gave His life for you that you might give your life to Him. You may think of yourself as inferior and worthless but in reality your value to Him is priceless. ***“The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift, men of wealth will seek your favor. All glorious is the princess within [her chamber]; her gown is interwoven with gold. In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to you. They are led***

***in with joy and gladness; they enter the palace of the king” (Ps. 45:11-15 NIV).*** God does not measure your worth by your successes or failures. He created you in His image and therefore you are precious to Him. As you honor this truth you will find honor.

Remind yourself daily who you are in Christ, the anointed One. Prepare yourself for His return. Royal bride, the king is coming for you! The expectation of His coming results in purification of your heart.

***“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2-3 NKJV).***

***Dearest Lord Jesus, I seek you as a precious jewel. I want to find you and come to you completely. I trust you and refuse to lean on my own understanding. I believe you love me and desire me to come into your presence. Lord, teach me your ways and help me to be! Reveal your love to me. Show me my worth in you.***



*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 4*

# Song 4:1-16

## Take Me with You

*How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. 3 Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. 5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. 6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. 7 All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards. 9 You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. 10 How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! 11 Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. 12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. 13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, 14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. 15 You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon. 16 Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.*

***“How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. Your neck is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. Your two breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.”***

The language of this chapter is striking in its portrayal of Christ's intimate knowledge of the Bride. The intensity of the language leaves no doubt that Christ passionately loves His Bride. These are words that Christ speaks to you from His Spirit to your spirit. He sees you, born again, through the redemptive work of the cross. Jesus affirms your beauty and arouses your true nature, with words of acceptance and love. He mentions no past failures or present imperfections. The spirit within you is the house of the Lord. The way you know Christ is through your born-again spirit which houses the Holy Spirit. He accepts you through the blood of His own sacrifice. He sees you at the vantage-point of the finished work of the cross. In Christ you are a new creature and you mirror the beauty of the Lord. The tone of the language reassures you that Christ loves you. The greatest strategy of the enemy of your soul is self-rejection. Self-rejection is a highly crafted scheme of the devil to keep you out of God's love. As long as you look to yourself you will never find acceptance. You must look away from yourself to see God's love for you. You must ignore the voice of self to hear His voice of acceptance. You must come to know and believe that He loves and highly favors you. Listening to the voice of truth will pave the way for you to embrace your new nature and identity with Christ. Self-acceptance is possible by believing with your heart that you are indeed a new creation. Christ makes you new! How can you misconstrue His love for you when you believe He sent His only son to consume all your sins? God wanted to have communion with you and there was only one way to bring you back to Himself and that way was Jesus. He did this before you loved Him. He did this before you knew His kindness. He did this

while you were yet dead in your sins. ***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8 NIV). We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19 NIV).*** You do not know what love is until you know Him. In heaven you will clearly see the beauty of the Lord. As a result of seeing Him face to face you will no longer have doubts that you are like He is. When you see Christ there will be no condemnation in His eyes only acceptance and deep affection. Christ sees you as He sees Himself. He sees the end from the beginning. ***How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure (1 John 3:1-3 NIV).***

***“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense.”*** On earth the best way you can understand the love of Jesus is through the cross. You can’t really know Jesus without knowing the Lamb of God on the cross. He came to die so you could live. As you live daily in His presence He will conform you to His beauty. Remember the cross each day for out of it flows forgiveness and eternal life. The work of the cross in you is that of death... death to your old self nature. Dying to the old untrue self releases you to live in the new true self of Christ. The mountain of myrrh speaks of death. The night prior to Christ’s crucifixion He was on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane. The serpent, the devil, was in this garden to test the last Adam as he did the first Adam. Gethsemane which means oil press is where Christ resisted sin to the point of sweating drops of blood. ***Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood (Heb 12:3-4 NIV).*** The path to the cross was not easy for the Son of Man. Jesus fulfilled the will of God. He laid down His life for the sake of doing all that the Father asked Him to do. ***Jesus went out as usual to the***

*Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground (Luke 22:39-44 NIV).* The Father asked Jesus to take upon Himself the sins of the whole world. The consequence of such an act would separate Jesus from His Father for it is impossible for God to be in union with sin. On a hill called Mt. Calvary, the hill of incense, is where Christ became the sweet-smelling sacrifice necessary to take away the sins of the world. Christ took upon Himself your sin so that you could take on His righteousness. He died to remove the sins that separate you from your Heavenly Father.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NIV).* Christ took your place. He is the only person who can do that. Christ knows the heartache of sin. He knows the shame of estrangement. He is the only one you know who can truly say "I've been there." *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin (Heb 4:15 NIV).* Just as Christ laid down His life for you He asks you to lay down your life for Him. Christ compassionately calls you to extend yourself to others that they might come back to the Creator of their souls. This is the heart of Christianity. *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ*



***laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (1 John 3:16 NIV).***

As you see yourself from the foot of the cross you are better able to grasp that you are fully His. Christ is without spot or wrinkle and therefore in Him you too or without flaw. ***“All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.”*** In the course of your day say that to yourself over and over and see the difference it makes in your thinking and demeanor. ***All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.”*** Christ presents you to Himself as a bride without stain or wrinkle. ***“and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Eph 5:27 NIV).*** As you come into greater truth you have greater freedom. Hear the voice of the Lord crying “you are so beautiful to me”. When you believe this you will be able to live a life of beauty.

***“Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Descend from the crest of Amana, from the top of Senir, the summit of Hermon, from the lions' dens and the mountain haunts of the leopards.”*** Christ calls you away from your familiar habits and haunts that draw you from Him. You must abandon your secret sins that you so cleverly hide from yourself and others. Soothing yourself through familiar things and drawing comfort or strength from anything other than Christ is your way of finding a substitute for Him. You must realize that in order to go with Him you must turn to Him alone. ***“Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house” (Ps 45:10 NIV).*** He calls you beyond the safety and comfort of your parents. No longer will your father or mother take His place in your life. You belong to Him. He calls you beyond your children who can no longer be an idol before Him. Your children belong to Him as well. You can no longer rely on your accomplishments or high ideals to appease your conscience. The Lord wants you to look beyond everything else in your life to Him. ***The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one (Ps 28:7- 8 NIV).*** You must

realize that He alone is the source of your strength.

***“You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!”*** Jesus speaks in the familiar to you. He calls you both His sister and bride. Here we understand the purity of His love. His love for you is not fleshly in nature but spiritually discerned. The love Christ has for you is a chaste love. He abounds with affection for you. ***“God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Phil 1:8 NIV).*** Your love and affections delight Him. He sees your love for Him as beautiful. ***“Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.”*** Christ longs for you to share your love with him. Your words of affection and praise bless Him. The Lord desires to hear your voice. It is sweet to Him. Pleasant words are sweet to His soul. They are like honey and the honeycomb. ***“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth” (Ps 119:103 NIV)!*** The garment of praise is yours because Christ gives you a royal robe of righteousness, which exudes the fragrance of your Lord. ***“I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isa 61:10 NIV).*** You love to praise Him for all that He has done for you. ***“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Heb 13:15 KJV).***

***“You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.”*** You are God’s

garden. He locks you away for his very own. God allows no one to trespass on His private property. You are God's possession. ***"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1Peter 2:9-10 NAS).***

You belong completely to the Lord. You cannot live to your fullest until you recognize and come into agreement that the Lord is your master. You do not belong to yourself. What you share with Him is unlike anything else in your life. The relationship you have with Him is exclusive. He is like no other in your life. ***"How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you... (2 Sam 7:22 NIV).*** He is your well that springs forth daily with living water. He makes you fruitful by pruning you in and out of season. He takes away from you what is dead and of no good in your life. ***"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15: 1-8 NIV).*** The fruit you bear in life shows in vivid colors your relationship to Christ. He desires that you bear much fruit. The fruit of your life affects others. The more fruit you bear the more people you influence to find Him. He wants you to be conspicuous in your faith. His plan is for

you to be a stand out in this life. God didn't create you to blend into your surroundings. Wherever you go there is a spotlight on you. As a matter of fact Jesus said you are the light of the world and a city on a hill. You display His creativity and power as you come into agreement with who you are in Christ. ***You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matt 5:14-16 NIV).*** What makes you stand out is the love of God flowing out of you. The Holy Spirit within you produces the fruit of love. Out of love, an abundance of fruit flows. God's love is pure and it is most fragrant. The fruit of the Spirit releases the fragrance of Christ in your life. ***"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task" (2Cor 2:14-17 NIV)?*** The Lord desires to make you a well-watered garden. His desire is to prosper your soul and to give you a never-ending supply of His grace and love. ***"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isa 58:11 KJV).***

***"Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits."*** How does the bride respond to the one she loves? Come Lord Jesus, come! Come Lord and have your way with me. The Lord's breath is life. Everything that breathes lives and nothing lives without the Lord. The breath of God on you is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, likened to wind in the scriptures, will empower you to be Christ's witness. ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NIV).*** You

may not see the wind but you know when it blows and its effects are evident. Wind can be powerful and destructive as well as gentle and calming. The Holy Spirit gives you power over the devil and destroys bondages in your life. The Holy Spirit in you will spread your fragrant influence both near and far for God's glory. The infilling and overflowing of the Holy Spirit is so vitally important for you to intimately know Christ and enjoy your life on earth. ***And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, (Acts 2:2-4 KJV)*** The north wind brings the rain which is so necessary for fruit to grow. Without rain the fruit in your life will be sparse and bitter. ***The north wind brings forth rain (Prov. 25:23 NKJV)***. Rainy days come and the dark clouds loom but even so their by-product in you is a stronger faith. Both the north and south winds must blow upon you to develop your faith and stabilize you. You can welcome trials because they make you stronger. ***Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4 NIV)***. The Holy Spirit blows on you to remove what is not God's best for you. He blows also to pacify the sting of this world's unkindness.

God desires to work all things out for your good. You must abandon yourself to this truth. No matter what comes your way you must rely on His love and faithfulness to bring you through. You abandon yourself to God when you relinquish your will to Him. Often the trials you encounter in life get your attention and lead you to recognize the counter-productive thoughts and ways that God desires to cut away from you. ***"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28 NIV)***. The Lord delights in you, His garden. He desires to remove all the things from you that keep you from reaching your highest purpose. The Lord works from within your heart. Open wide your heart

to the Lord for He opens His heart to you. As you surrender your heart to Him he will cut every tie that binds you to lesser things.

***My Lord, I open my heart to you. Do your work in me. Lead me wherever I am to go with you. I surrender. Though I am weak Lord, I know you are strong. Faithful Creator, I entrust my soul to you. Refine me as pure silver. Remove the dross that dulls the shine of my countenance. Lord I trust you, for in you I find no disappointment.***



# *Song of Solomon*

## *Chapter 5*

## Song 5:1-16

### *Altogether Lovely*

*I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers. 2 I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." 3 I have taken off my robe- must I put it on again? I have washed my feet- must I soil them again? 4 My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. 5 I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock. 6 I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. 7 The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls! 8 O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you- if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love. 9 How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so? 10 My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 11 His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 12 His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13 His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14 His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. 15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16 His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my*



*friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*

As you proceed to chapter five you must look again at verse sixteen of the previous chapter. ***“Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”*** The metaphor here is that every Christian is a garden belonging to God. As you yield more and more to the master gardener the fruit of your life becomes more abundant and sweet. The fruit of your garden is the fruit of the Spirit which comes as a result of your ever-deepening relationship with Christ. ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal 5:22-23 NIV).***

The fruit of your garden is also the fruit that comes as a result of your works of faith in Christ. ***“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Col 1:9-10 NIV).*** Apart from Christ you cannot bear this fruit. ***“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5 NIV).*** The north wind brings the rain and the south wind brings pleasant weather conditions. The Father produces the sweetest and most abundant fruit in your life as you trust in Him through dark times as well as the good times. You need both these conditions for maximum growth in the Lord.

***“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.”*** Farmers produce gardens that are lush and green by diligent work. Your life in God is a continual work. Your Father God is a master gardener. Gardens need periods of warmth and light as well as rains and even cold periods when nothing appears to be alive. As Christ enters your life, his garden, He gathers myrrh and spices. Myrrh is found 16 times in the whole of the Bible. Interestingly enough it is found seven of those 16 times in this small book, The Song of Solomon. It is

found twice in Genesis and once in Exodus, Esther, Psalms, Proverbs, Matthew, Mark and John. Myrrh is a significant symbol in The Song of Solomon. Derived from the myrrh bush this gum resin was a very valuable ingredient in anointing oils and incense used in the tabernacle. Myrrh, highly praised because of its power to perfume, has a long-lasting and pungent aroma. For this reason people used myrrh during biblical times as an embalming agent. The Hebrew root word for myrrh means bitter. The taste of myrrh is very bitter. Death of any kind is not a pleasant experience and yet it is necessary for transformation to take place. A Christian must die to all that is false within the soul in order to live unto God. ***“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20 NIV).*** Dying to self though unpleasant brings sweetness into your life. Like myrrh death to your fallen nature may taste bitter but it brings such a sweet and beautiful fragrance into your life. Death to the self-nature often comes through adversity such as difficult challenges or hard choices. Saying no to the things that are unnecessary in your life is often painful but needful. God desires all of you, both the good and the bad of you. He cuts the bad out of your life so He may reconcile you to His goodness. Surgery cuts away what is unhealthy so life can continue. When certain habits and attitudes are cut out of your life as well as relationships and affinities, sorrow may swallow you. Godly sorrow brings you to repentance, which brings you greater freedom and great anointing for the work of God. ***“yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done” (2 Cor. 7:8-10 NIV).*** You realize the sweetness of dying to your false self when the true self in Christ arises within you. You become more conscious of the reality of Christ’s presence within you and thus you take on more and more of His

likeness and His power. Your inner life with Christ becomes stronger and takes on a greater significance. As your false self decreases Christ presence increases. When you have more of the true and less of the false in your life you bear more of His fragrance and beauty.

***“I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.”*** Jesus speaks of eating honeycomb and honey and drinking wine with milk. God’s word is likened to both honey and milk in the scriptures. The word of God is sweet to your soul. The milk of God’s word lays the foundation for proper growth in your life. ***“The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward”*** (Ps. 19:9-10 NIV). ***“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good”*** (1Pet. 2:2 NIV). The milk of the word is very weak without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Wine is a metaphor of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Every time you read and study the Bible you should rely on the Holy Spirit to teach you and make it alive to you. The Lord speaks to you both by His written word, the Bible, and His spoken word. God confirms every truth of the universe in His written word. The Lord quietly speaks to you through the Holy Spirit in your inner person. You must always recognize and welcome the ministry of the Holy Spirit to teach and counsel you as you read God’s word. When you plant God’s word in your heart you become fruitful. As you invite Jesus into your life and partake of Him you also invite Him to partake of you.

The false self does not welcome the Holy Spirit or His ministry. You see in the bride a picture of the flesh opposing the Spirit in her life. ***“I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." I have taken off my robe- must I put it on again? I have washed my feet- must I soil***

***them again?"*** The selfish nature ignores the Holy Spirit's counsel and remains untouched by the presence of God. You may feel like you have little time to read God's word or to pray. During the course of your day withdrawing to a quiet place of communion with Christ is rarely convenient. The Lord will often call you to Himself at times which may seem unsuitable to you. To find the Lord we must be willing to seek after Him with all of our hearts. ***"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want" (Gal. 5:16-17 NIV).*** The Spirit is always drawing you to follow Christ, to love and obey Him. The Lord yearns to commune with you. To fully commune with the Lord you must open your heart to Him. He delights in your words of love and praise to Him. In response to the Spirit's call to pray and read the Word or to praise and sit quietly in His presence you may make excuses. Excuses flow out of the lie while obedience flows out of truth. Here we see that Christ comes to His Bride at an inconvenient time. She is comfortable in her warm bed. She is too sleepy to awake. This is all too true of you. You sleep to close your eyes to your own disobedience and lack of passionate desire for your Lord. ***"Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matt 26:40-41 NIV).*** Christ, in spite of your indifference, stirs passion within you to awaken you. ***"My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him."*** His hand comes down upon you to stir you. ***"LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me" (Ps. 38:2 NIV).*** Godly sorrow causes you to wake up from your slothfulness and your lack of diligence. As you realize your unresponsiveness to a gracious and loving Lord your heart comes under great conviction and you turn from indifference. Christ seeks full commitment from you. He saves you wholly and thus desires every part of you.

***“I arose to open for my lover, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the lock. I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer.”*** When the bride arises to open the door to the one she loves she is unable to find Him. The myrrh dripping from her hands and fingers represents her willingness to surrender and die to her own self-comforts. As she opens the door Christ is not seen. Jesus will never leave you or forsake you but at times He hides Himself from you. ***Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done (Micah 3:4 NIV).*** He hides that you might seek Him. When you realize that you have neglected Christ you should repent and actively respond to Him. Jesus desires you to be alert toward Him in every way and to cast off the shroud of passivity. ***So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet (1Thess 5:5-9 NIV).*** When He calls, respond quickly to Him, otherwise you will grieve Him. The Lord desires you to seek Him with all your heart. If it appears that He has removed His presence from you do not lose heart. Seek Him all the more and He will reveal Himself to you. If you have sinned through neglect or compromise repent and receive His forgiveness. ***“The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls!”*** The watchmen in this passage in contrast to the previous song do not guide her to the Lord but actually strike her and take her cloak from her. Things are not always as they appear. The seemingly cruel actions of the watchmen are actually necessary. In your walk with the Lord there will be times when He will rebuke and yes even discipline you. ***“Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it” (Ps 141:5 NIV).*** ***“Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness”***

***(Heb 12:9-11 NIV). “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Prov. 27:6 KJV).*** The Lord rebukes you when you are blind to your sin. Denying your sin leads to devastating consequences. Once the Holy Spirit exposes sin in your life you must either repent of it or suffer its fallout. Once the watchmen took away the bride’s cloak there remained no excuse for her sin. ***“If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin” (John 15:22 KJV).*** If you love the Lord you will press hard to find Him. The trials of life will not defeat you. Even when the Lord seems distant you will continue to follow hard after Him. You understand that His deep and abiding love will never fail. Because you have experienced His goodness and absolute kindness you remain steadfast despite your negative circumstances. ***Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me (Ps 63:3-8 NIV).*** These are the words of one who loves God with all his heart. Every moment of the day you are conscious of His presence. You think of Him all through the day. Your heart desires His presence and you pour out your praise to Him. This is true Christianity and anything other than this is false.

***“O daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you- if you find my lover, what will you tell him? Tell him I am faint with love.”*** The bride turns to the “daughters of Jerusalem” for comfort and help. The kindred spirit of other believers will bring you comfort in times of discouragement. ***“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb 10:25 NIV).*** In your time of despair look for God in the faces of fellow believers. He gives you friends in the faith to help you bear your burden. ***“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2 NIV).*** Friends in the Lord

talk to each other about the Lord and lift one another up in prayer. The Lord takes account of it. ***“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name” (Mal 3:16 KJV).*** When you are in love with Jesus you seek out people who love Him in the same way. It is proper to speak of your love for Him among others who love Him also.

***“How is your beloved better than others, most beautiful of women? How is your beloved better than others, that you charge us so?”***

Conversations shared between people who love the Lord are indeed uplifting and full of light. Such discussions draw you into His presence.

The Lord manifests his presence when two or more meet in His name.

***“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt 18:20 NIV).*** Abundant praise flows out of hearts intimately acquainted with the Lord. Look at the words of adoration that fill the mouth of the bride for her Lord. ***“My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”*** Devotion and affection are seen in every line. A true worshipper absolutely adores Christ. Only someone who personally knows Christ can love Christ.

The relationship you have with Christ is to be like none other. Even when you feel distant from Him you know despite your feelings that He will never leave or forsake you. He is altogether lovely to you. Though the bride cannot find her Lord she has only words of praise and exaltation for Him. Her words for Him carry no trace of shame or recrimination. Take heart my friend, for though at times you may not sense His love, nothing can separate you from His love. ***“For I am***

***convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39 NIV).*** The Lord draws you to Himself even when circumstances seem to say that He is not there. He is always with you. He is the lover of your soul, your advocate forever. Learn early in your journey with Christ that feelings are deceptive. What you feel today you may or may not feel tomorrow. You must not put stock in your feelings. You are born again of the invisible God; the God that leaves no footsteps. Nothing on earth pleases Him more than simply believing Him. The just shall live by faith. ***But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him” (Heb 10:38 NIV).***

***My precious Lord, I love you. Come to me and breathe on me your sweetness and your strength. I turn to you and place you in the highest place of my heart. O, Lord you are my Lord. I am confident that even when I cannot feel your presence you are still with me. Lord, my desire is to seek after you with all my heart for in you do I put my trust forever.***





*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 6*

# Song 6:1-13

## *The Lily of the Valley*

*Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you? 2 My lover has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies. 3 I am my lover's and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies. 4 You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, majestic as troops with banners. 5 Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead. 6 Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone. 7 Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. 8 Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; 9 but my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her. 10 Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession? 11 I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom. 12 Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people. 13 Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?*

*“Where has your lover gone, most beautiful of women? Which way did your lover turn, that we may look for him with you?”* Times and troubles come in life that provoke people to question where God is. Your intimate walk with Christ remains unbroken through heartache and suffering when you understand that Jesus is always with you. Remaining radiantly in love with Christ in spite of heart-wrenching circumstances is a mighty witness to both unbelievers and believers alike. Your faith and serenity in the midst of turbulent times speaks of the reality of Christ in

your life. The circumstances of your life should not dictate your spiritual condition. Christ remains in you always and whatever state you find yourself you abide blessed. ***For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit (Jer 17:8 KJV).*** The bride answers the daughters of Jerusalem by saying my lover has gone down to His garden. ***“My lover has gone down to his garden, to the beds of spices, to browse in the gardens and to gather lilies. I am my lover's and my lover is mine; he browses among the lilies.”*** In times of trial Christ touches a deeper place within you with His grace. He desires to perfect you and refine you from within. No matter where you are in Christ He desires for you to go deeper in Him. The depths of Christ are unfathomable. ***“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God” (Rom 11:33 NIV).*** Christ goes down to His garden to gather His lilies. You are His garden. He is watching over you. He looks at your growth and takes pleasure in your maturity. The lily is known for its beauty and sweet fragrance. Lilies grow on the valley bottoms. They are slow growing but once they take root they spread in abundance. This flower is capable of growing in the shade as well as the bright sun. It will grow in both dry and moist soil. The valleys of your life are full of challenges to overcome. The difficult days and the hard times come to develop patience in you. Deep in the valley is where you grow more in love with Christ. You love Him more because He reveals to you a side of Himself that you did not know before. Times of sorrow prove best His compassion. In times of sorrow you are more aware of your weaknesses. In such times you know you are helpless, naked, and blind. ***“The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. (Ps 145:14 NKJV).*** His plan is to keep you as a green leaf in the midst of drought. He wants you to know that in spite of your feelings in the valley you are still fruitful. As you near the end of your mortal life, you will see that you grew most in times of challenge and hardship. Remember you are under the watchful care of a master gardener who knows how to perfect you. If Christ knows when a tiny sparrow falls from a tree don't you realize that He watches over you?

***Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows (Luke 12:6-7 NIV).***

When the Lord seems to be absent or forgetful of you He is actually very near. ***“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Ps 34:18 KJV).*** The Hebrew word for contrite is a picture of powder. God crushes your idols, the false images you have of yourself, in the crucibles of life. God is most near you when you understand with every fiber of your being your depravity. During these times the Holy Spirit takes a broom to your heart and sweeps away pride, self-sufficiency, and everything that vaunts itself against the truth. In the valleys of life you are most likely to admit your weaknesses and your need for Him like nowhere else. The Hebrew word for decision is “charuwts” which figuratively refers to a threshing-sledge with sharp teeth. Decisions in the valley are penetrating and life-changing. A threshing sledge clears the fields from weeds to make it ready to produce a good crop. The difficult decisions you make in the “valleys” of your life often prove to be life-changing. The Holy Spirit shows you what you must die to or what you must overcome in your life. Life-changing decisions bring something to an end as well as something to a beginning. Jesus goes before you to prepare you to face issues in your heart that deal with your self- life. The Lord lovingly prunes you to remove the weeds of bitterness and selfishness from your heart. In the valley of injustice will you decide to forgive? In the valley of opposition will you love your enemies? In the valley of despair will you trust in His unfailing kindness? When God exposes your sin will you humble yourself and confess it without rationalization. Brokenness comes in the valleys where the lilies grow. What you must learn is that God only uses broken vessels. God’s love flows out of you with ease and without self-effort because you’ve become a broken vessel. The valleys of life sorely test you. In Christ there is light in your valley because He is the light. He is there with you to comfort and give you wisdom to prevail. ***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no***

***evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over (Ps 23:4-5 KJV).***

Suffering is necessary in life to unite you with Christ. As you suffer the tribulations of this world you identify more fully with Christ. Christ suffered and so will you in this world. ***“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:21-24 NIV).*** You do not take on suffering alone for you are abiding in Christ. Only Christ can bear your suffering. He alone can handle it. When someone falsely accuses or judges you unfairly, how you will respond? In all of life’s unfairness you must learn to respond in the love of Christ. Never believe that the villainy thrust upon you can sully your spirit. Defilement is the result of how you respond to the injustice not the mere injustice alone. ***Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, ‘Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean’ (Mark 7:14-15 NIV).***” The Lord calls you to overcome evil with good. You are a victor not a victim when you obey His call. You learn such obedience through suffering.

***“Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Heb 5:7-9 NIV).***

Trials come in your life to perfect your faith in Christ. As you patiently endure every test and temptation sent your way Christ gives you the grace to overcome. His grace can guard your lips from speaking harsh words. His grace can give you courage to speak up for Him in situations that demand it. He creates within you a heart that is pure from hatred and every evil thing. He makes you lovely as He is lovely. Christ gazes on you with great love. He declares your beauty. ***“You are beautiful, my***

*darling, as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, majestic as troops with banners. Turn your eyes from me; they overwhelm me. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep coming up from the washing. Each has its twin, not one of them is alone. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number; but my dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The maidens saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines praised her. Who is this that appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession?"* Dying to self

may be painful but it engenders such beauty in you. Saying no to indulgence while saying yes to diligence is difficult but the rewards are worth it. Holiness is beautiful. Holiness is not an impossible dream. The Lord requires you to be holy. Without holiness no one will see the Lord. His grace is available to purify you from sin and selfish desires. Purity is so very beautiful to the Lord. A pure heart has no desire to sin. It closes the door to sin and stays out of its company. A pure heart seeks the will of the Lord above all else. When you are willing to suffer rejection and malice for His sake you are able to say no to every temptation.

*"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God"* (1 Peter 4:1-2 KJV).

*"I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the vines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom. Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people."* The Bride of Christ must go into the valley with Lord.

She knows in the valley new growth comes and tremendous blessings. Once the season of suffering ends Jesus sets you in a great place.

*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it*

***be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 1:6-7 KJV)*** The end result of all suffering in Christ is praise, honor and glory. Suffering is not a way of life but a means to a way of life. You are to live a glorious life in Christ. You were born for glory! You must look beyond your time of suffering because joy is ahead. ***Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:2 NIV)***. Joy is the way of life God prepares for you. Christ sees the end from the beginning. As you take on more and more of the nature of Christ people can see the beauty of the Lord in your life. Are you following Him “down to His garden” to see for yourself just what kind of fruit is within you? You will not know what is within you until the tests of life squeeze you. Learn to obey Christ in all subjection. Learn to live the rest of your time on the earth according to God’s will and not your own. Christ desires that you follow Him all the way. If you are willing to humble yourself before Him He will exalt you. Suffering is something you share with Christ. Christ suffered for the greater good of all mankind. You too must suffer for the greater good. Suffering that is of God always produces glory in your life. Look ahead for there are better times and great glory coming your way. ***And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom 8:17-18 KJV)***.

The bride goes down to the garden and looks at the fruit there. The saint who is willing to go all the way with Christ finds great fulfillment. The bride’s decision to follow her lover into the valley overwhelms her. Metaphorically, following Christ into the valley is giving up the desires born of sin and self for the desires born of the Lord. Better still it speaks of making Christ your one desire. This is the outcome of suffering. Everyone and everything you have given up is given back to you in Christ. He always honors those who honor Him. ***“Before I realized it, my desire set me among the royal chariots of my people.”*** Forsaking

your life for His life will never disappoint you. In fact you will discover that He makes His desires your own desires. Your old life is peasantry compared to your royal life in Christ. Humbling yourself under God's almighty hand will indeed lift you up. ***"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6 KJV).*** When you humble yourself and surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your life you glorify the Lord and in turn He glorifies you. Before honor comes there must be humility. ***"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility" (Prov. 15:33 KJV).***

The bride received honor from those who she never thought would praise her, familiar friends and family. She is incredulous to see that those around her would praise her. ***"Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back, that we may gaze on you! Why would you gaze on the Shulammite as on the dance of Mahanaim?"*** When others praise her she says *"why would you gaze on the Shulamite"*. Abiding in the presence of the Lord transforms you. People sense something otherworldly about you when you daily abide in God's presence. You may not sense the difference about you but others know when you have been with Jesus. Others know when you have exchanged this world's desires for those of heaven. The dance of Mahanaim is a holy dance of victory that comes as the result of transformation. The power and grace of God in the midst of tragedy or triumph changes you or figuratively renames you just as Jacob's name was changed to Israel. The veil of sorrow is lifted when you turn to the Lord and allow Him to transform you. ***But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Cor 3:16-4:1 NIV).***

Transformation empowers you to live on purpose for God doing mighty exploits in His name. Your will and God's will become one as God



transforms you. You become so fully united with Christ that you can say as Paul did “Yet not I but Christ liveth in me” This synchronization of wills produces a power harnessed for God’s greater works. But even so the purpose of God for your life is an unfolding one. Bringing your will into unison with the Master of the Universe is a progressive act not a one time event. Becoming one with the Master is a lifetime achievement you reach only through diligence and patience. Unity with Christ in purpose and desire is a pleasant way to live. Anointing, God’s precious ointment of power which heals and lifts burdens, flows out of unity with Christ. ***Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; (Ps 133:1- 2 KJV)***

Jesus tells you to daily take up your cross and follow Him. Your cross is your purpose; the reason you have come into being. To take up your cross will mean a sacrifice on your part but one that is well worth it. ***Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self (Luke 9:23-25 NIV)?*** As you follow Christ wherever He leads, you will see your purpose unfold. You must be willing to give Him everything. You cannot cling to any self-interest. His interests, His desires must displace any self-desire in your life. ***For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ (Phil 2:21 NIV).***

Are you willing to go down in the valley where the lilies present their purity and sweet fragrance? The Lord beckons you to come. Come and partake of Christ who is your life and peace. Nothing you gain or lose in this life can take the place of Jesus. He is the fairest of ten thousands.

As you follow Jesus in humility you will arise and be victorious. Greatness comes to all who become as a little child. God desires that you be great but greatness comes packaged in servant hood. ***Instead,***

***whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:43-45 NIV)”. Going down in the valley does not mean defeat. Drawing near to God is how you overcome. As you trust God with every concern of your life and give Him complete control you will win the battle of life. (“...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5 NIV).***

***Dearest Lord Jesus, I am yours fully. I will go down in the valley with you and wherever you lead I will follow. I trust you to never leave or forsake me. I know you will help me in times of trouble and despair. I am not afraid for I know you are with me and you surround me with songs of deliverance. I believe that whatever befalls me will not defeat me. You will raise me up victorious and uphold me by your right hand of righteousness. Give me your grace that I may live for you.***



*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 7*

# Song 7:1-13

## Uncovered

*How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. 2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. 3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. 4 Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. 5 Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses. 6 How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! 7 Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. 8 I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. 10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me. 11 Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. 12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom- there I will give you my love. 13 The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.*

Verses 1-9 depict the many graces Christ attributes to His Body, the church. *How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held*

*captive by its tresses.* How interesting that the first physical attribute mentioned in this discourse are the feet. Christ finds your feet beautiful. He mentions the hair last which is one of the most distinctive features of the human body and for many the most beautiful. The feet are often unsightly and yet to God they are quite beautiful. Feet establish you. People fall at the feet of the authority they worship. Like Mary, Martha's sister, you are to worship at the feet of Christ. ***Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-42 KJV).*** Your own feet demonstrate the authority you follow by where they take you. Where your feet take you uncover the true motivations of your heart.

Submission to God's rule in your life makes your pathway right. God desires to order your steps. He knows the way of success for you. ***The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand (Ps 37:23-24 KJV).*** The Bride's feet are beautiful because they go where God sends her. Beautiful feet symbolize obedience to God. ***How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isa 52:7 NIV)!***

Christ loves His Body. Every part of the Body of Christ is beautiful. The hair, eyes, nose, and feet as well as the navel are all beautiful. Christ loves your comely parts as well as your uncomely parts. The Lord chooses you with all of your frailties intact so that He may demonstrate His power through you. ***"and the parts that we think are less honorable***

***we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other” (1 Cor. 12:24-25 NIV).*** You have a place, a function in the Body of Christ which is the church. You must find your place in His church to radiate His glory and beauty. You grow and mature within a family of believers. Your place of service is within His Kingdom. The church is Christ’s representative on earth. You are a gift to the world. You possess gifts through which the Holy Spirit can manifest His love and healing grace. The Spirit of God is within you. His presence does not come down from heaven to you but actually flows out of you. You are to join yourself with others who also embody the presence of Christ. The whole body working together in harmony is beautiful. The human eye is lovely and functional in its proper place within the body. Separate from the body it is grotesque and dysfunctional. If you are a new believer or an old one you must not forsake assembling yourself with other believers. Christ is the great shepherd. He knows you are safe within the fold and can grow up in your faith surrounded by faithful followers. He provides pastors/teachers, apostles, prophets and evangelists for you who will equip you in your faith. ***It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:11-13 NIV).*** God intends for you to grow with others in the faith. Within the Body of Christ you learn to honor the body. You also learn how to give and receive love. From the very beginning God saw that it was not good that man should be alone. Among people you learn how to forgive and receive forgiveness. The test of true love and spirituality is how you interact with others. ***Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one***

*another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful (Col 3:12-15 KJV).* Though you love the Lord and trust yourself to Him you may be shy of others. You may be afraid to open your heart to others and let them see inside you. Your fear of rejection or intimidation is an enemy of your soul. Love has no fear in it. Love reaches out and takes a risk to love others without looking for anything in return. In fact you cannot love God unless you love others. You will never receive love unless you give it away. You must conquer your fear by loving others. The safest place to give and receive love is among people who know and love the Lord.

Do you realize the great appreciation Christ has for you? ***“How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights!”*** He acknowledges your beauty in great detail and extravagantly bestows His love on you. ***“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him” (John 3:1 NIV).*** He delights in you. ***“For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds” (Ps 149:4-5 NIV).*** As we come to know the Lord better we are better able to accept ourselves.

***Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth.*** As you reflect on this beautiful song it becomes increasingly apparent that the Lord's desire is for his people. He desires an intimate relationship with all who call upon His name. You cannot ignore the erotic language in this passage. You may even think that such language is not suitable to describe the kind of relationship Christ desires with you. How could this

be a picture of the Lord's love for His people? Love is stronger than the grave. Love is passion. What better metaphor could humans relate to than the sexual passion inherent in the man and woman relationship? Human sexuality reveals the unique capacity of mankind to experience intimacy. The sexual union is a sacred thing between a man and his wife. It represents oneness. There should be no shame or defilement in the marriage bed only pure surrender, which brings pure joy and satisfaction.

***“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb 13:4 KJV).***

Unfortunately for many people the sexual act brings with it a canopy of shame and guilt. Yet in fact, it is irreproachable and glorious in God's sight. Marriage sanctifies the sexual union making it holy. Just as God sanctifies sex through marriage He also sanctifies the union you have in Christ. He makes you holy in Christ. ***But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and***

***sanctification, and redemption: (1 Cor 1:30 KJV)*** In Christ there is no condemnation. In Christ there is no guilt or shame. ***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1 KJV).*** When you fully open your heart and become one with Him your guilt and shame can no longer hold sway over you. Do you believe Christ yearns for your presence? You must not allow self-condemnation or shame to hinder you from fully pursuing the Lord. ***“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God” (1 John 3:20-21 KJV).*** This chapter exudes the praise Christ has for all those who love Him with a sincere heart. He knows that you are a new creation in Him. He knows that the old has passed away and behold the new has come. There is no hint of reproach in His words only love and affirmation. If you have a mind-set of unworthiness in relationship to yourself and others you hinder Christ from opening the doors to the intimate places of God's heart. Do not allow such false images of yourself to shut you out of the presence of the Lord. Christ wants you to understand that you are worthy because He makes you worthy everyday! You must realize that Christ values you and desires to conform you to



His image.

As the shepherd king lauds his bride she responds to him in like manner. ***“I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me”*** No one in reading the pages of this book can escape the theme of intimacy within its course. Christ calls the church to a familiar place within Him. He desires a true and intimate relationship with you. A relationship that is based upon mutual love banishes fear. Intimacy is seeing the heart of Christ and allowing yourself to fully open your heart to Him. Can you say to Christ “I desire full disclosure of myself to you?” Upon entering the presence of the Lord, you experience that His banner over you is love. Experiencing God like this increases your faith that He loves you and sees you as lovely and complete in Him. Coming to understand Christ’s never- ending love for you increases your desire to mirror His love to others. When you trust that He is indeed conforming you to His image you begin to mirror that image of beauty. If the Lord of the universe desires you, how can you not accept yourself and others?

***Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages.***

The shepherd girl responds to her lover by saying let us go to the countryside and let us go to the villages. She no longer sees herself apart from her lover for she sees herself together with the one she loves. The desire of Christ is that you be one with Him. You must die to your own identity and take on His. Taking on a new identity is taking on a new life. ***We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life (Rom 6:4 NIV).*** His life is peace. His life is eternal. In Christ you are no longer your own person. You belong to Him. As you draw closer to the Lord He gently removes the many veils that cover your inner eyes. Your vision of Him becomes stronger and clearer. As you see Him as He is, you become more like Him. ***“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2 NIV).***

Your union with Him becomes more and more a reality to you as you realize His desire is set upon you. When you accept the truth that the living Christ indwells you in actuality a whole new way of life will unfold for you. ***“For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known” (1 Cor 13:9-12 NIV).*** As you surrender to God you become more confident in His love for you. You are able to confidently say “I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.” Having confidence in the Lord’s love and desire for you frees you to enter a deeper level of insight and glory in Christ. Essentially Christ’s personhood becomes real to you. He is more than just an image or an icon of the ages. God is real! The relationship you have with Him is also real. Trappings of formality and ritual may have their place in corporate worship but in a personal relationship they become perfunctory. Pretense with Christ is idolatrous. ***For men shall be lovers of their own selves... Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away (2 Tim. 3:2, 5 KJV).*** A.W. Tozer put it like this... “The essence of idolatry is entertaining thoughts of God that are unworthy of Him.” In a passionate relationship with Christ you experience His presence, power and purity. Form has its place in society but it cannot substitute for the reality of Christ in your own life. ***Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom- there I will give you my love.*** The words of the bride bear no hint of ceremony to her King. She speaks to Him with familiarity. Are you one with the Lord? Do you base your relationship with Christ on ritual or worse pretense? Ritual does not in itself give evidence of Christ’s presence in your life. Only your faith is the evidence that God knows you and that you are reconciled to Him. ***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1 KJV).*** Without faith it is impossible to please God. In order to come to God you must believe that God is. He is love. Every

action and every desire of God is born of love alone. Thinking of God in any other way is dangerous because it leads you into deception. Deception leads you to sin and sin results in corruption.

Chapter seven closes with the imagery of the garden. There is a delight in the bride as she desires to show to her King the fruit of their garden.

***“The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover.”***

She delights in the Lord’s garden which is the growth she sees in her inward self. You find undiluted joy when you reach such a level of intimacy with the Lord. Looking inward to acknowledge the fruit you are bearing because of His indwelling presence makes life worth living. His love produces the fruit of the Spirit in your life. This is the treasure you store up for the Lord. Out of your heart will spring love, joy, peace, gentleness and all good and pleasant things. The treasures of heaven include everyone you will see there. The fruit of the Spirit in your life will influence many to come to Christ and receive eternal life from Him.

What a joy to know your life has eternal significance. ***“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt 6:19-21 KJV).*** A heart

surrendered to Christ bears abundant fruit. The ancients believed the mandrake plant was an aphrodisiac as well as a means to bring about conception. True intimacy is not possible between a man and wife without surrender. True intimacy requires mutual surrender. Just as physical intimacy between a man and His wife produces children, spiritual intimacy with Christ produces fruit also. Such intimacy produces life. Wherever you go you bring with you the life-giving spirit of Christ. You make a difference in this world because His eternal life and healing love flows out of you. The wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit and His infinite grace and power abound beyond you as you daily partake of the Lord. Christ crowns your life with great reward and satisfaction. ***“And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the***

*name of the LORD your God that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed” (Joel 2:26 KJV).*

*Dearest Lord Jesus, Please come and see into my heart as every part of me belongs to you. Show me your heart and what you purpose for me. May I abide in you forever and know you as you know me. Breathe on me your divine love and lead me with your right hand. May I dance to your heartbeat and move to the rhythm of eternity. Create in me a clean heart and a right spirit within me. Establish the works of my hand and may your beauty be upon me.*



*Song of Solomon*  
*Chapter 8*

# Song 8:1-14

## *Eternal Embrace 8:1*

*If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me. 2 I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house- she who has taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates. 3 His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me. 4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. 5 Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover? Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth. 6 Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. 7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. 8 We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for? 9 If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar. 10 I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment. 11 Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver. 12 But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit. 13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice! 14 Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.*

*“If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.”* The bride desires to enter into a relationship with her Lord that supersedes formality and ritual. Is this the kind of

relationship you desire to have with the Lord? A believer in Christ is in the family of God. God is your Father and Christ is your brother. ***"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*** (Mark 3:33-35 NIV) Christ calls you to such a relationship. Christ offers you a pure love devoid of mixed or selfish motives. Speaking of your love for the Lord should be such a natural and easy thing for you to do. How sad but true that many believers are afraid or embarrassed to proclaim their love for Christ. Speaking of your love for Christ should be as natural as proclaiming your love for your brother, sister or mother. Like the psalmist believers are to cry out and profess their love for the Lord openly. ***"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."*** (Ps 116:1 KJV) Christ desires your affection and praise.

The love between a mother and daughter carries with it deep and long-lasting bonds. The influence of your mother resonates throughout your lifetime whether for the good or bad. Familial cords though, strong in your life, should never replace or surpass your love for Christ. ***"I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house- she who has taught me."*** The fervent and glowing love you have for Christ overshadows that of your family members. ***"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"*** (Matt 10:37 KJV). The reality is that in the scope of eternity Christ sums up all familial relationships in Him. In heaven, your parents who have known the Lord become your brothers and sisters as do your spouses. The bride desires to bring her Lord into her inner circle reserved only for those whom she counts dear. Christ is so dear that no one in your life could ever take His place or even share it. ***I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates.*** You must give everything to Him and hold nothing back. Your life's energy and all your abilities and gifts are to be His. You love Him with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength when you surrender to Him. Christ desires your total devotion. He alone is to be the desire of your

eyes. Christ alone sustains you in this life. He is the excellency of your strength. ***His left arm is under my head and his right arm embraces me.*** His left arm gives you strength and his right arm comforts you. You are to lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus. ***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light"*** (Matt 11:28-30 NIV). He is your rest and safety from every harm or distress. Leaning comes only with trust. When you come to know the love of the Savior then you can lean on His arms. He is the one to lead you through the dance of life.

The Bride declares... ***"Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires."*** Do you desire to know the love of the Savior? You must be ready to know the love God has for you. The Lord cannot force love or bring it to bear prematurely in your life. Love takes time to mature. Long after you come to know the Lord you will realize He has always been there for you. The hardness of your heart dulls your ability to sense His presence. Fear and shame throttle the mind and hinder you from fully receiving His love and gifts. Christ is patient and in time as you yield He brings you to Himself.

Abiding communion with God is yours through Christ. Such communion produces both inward and outward transformation. In Christ, what you inherit from Adam passes away and all things become new. Christ changes you inwardly, which in turn produces change outwardly. You become unrecognizable because your actions and attitude change. You do things you never did before and you stop doing things that once characterized you. The thoughtless become the thoughtful and the fearful become the fearless. ***"Who is this coming up from the desert leaning on her lover?"*** The answer to this question is the saint who depends on the Lord. Learning to totally rely on Christ changes you. Your whole persona changes when you cast all your care on the Lord. You lean on Jesus because you know He changes you by His love. As you draw close to Jesus and fully open your heart to Him



you realize that He is all you need. He brings you up out of the desert. He is your desire in a scorched place. ***"And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:11 NASU).*** He meets all your needs because He knows you better than you know yourself.

***Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth.*** As you continue to deepen your relationship with Christ the issues of life become clearer. The truth is that Christ is your *alpha* and *omega*. He is your beginning and your end. He loved you before time began. He loves you with an eternal love. ***For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight (Eph 1:4 NIV).*** He knew you before you were in your mother's womb. ***My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Ps 139:15-16 KJV).*** The Lord has always known you. Nothing about you is a surprise to the Lord. He knows all your ways and loves you still. Your value comes from your Creator not your family background or social standing.

***"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame." Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.*** The Lord's passion for you is so evident with His plea for you to seal your heart with His. The seal guarantees authenticity of the relationship. The Holy Spirit is that seal. ***"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are***

***God's possession-to the praise of his glory" (Eph 1:13-14 NIV).*** As you walk in the Holy Spirit you show your love for Him. The seal also specifies ownership. ***"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Cor 1:21-22 NIV).*** Christ knows you belong to Him. The seal of the Holy Spirit is like a wedding ring. It signifies to others that you belong to Him. The Holy Spirit in you is your guarantee that you belong to Jesus. ***"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," (Rom 8:16 NKJV).*** Love bought you and paid the price for you. Love is what held Christ to the cross. You cannot buy love. Love is given freely or it is not love. Christ freely gives because He is love. Love is stronger than death and the grave. Love moved Christ to die and then arise from death after three days in the grave. The grave could not hold Jesus down. Love is never-ending. Nothing can separate you from the love of God. Nothing can turn you away from his love. ***"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35-39 KJV).*** No experience, regardless of its nature can keep the Lord from loving you. The Lord's passion for you is clear. He despises the allure the world has for you. His love for you is pure and He desires that you give Him the same.

***"We have a young sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. What shall we do for our sister for the day she is spoken for? If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar."***

The bride here speaks in the plural. She speaks for both herself and her

Lord. She has come into oneness with Him. The bride asks of her Lord instructions on how she can be helpful to a young believer. His answer sheds light on how you grow in the Lord. Even though God is almighty He allows you to choose what life you will live on earth. Will you be a wall with a sure foundation or a swinging door that swings to and fro? If your life in Christ is like a swinging door you are not stable and God cannot commit to you His treasures and deepest desires. He cannot commit you to His highest purposes. Your faith is up and down. Fears as well as pleasures swing you this way and that so you cannot advance in your spiritual journey. You are unable to mature in your faith because the cares and pleasures of this life overtake you. ***Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful (Mark 4:18-19 NIV).*** Are you a door that easily gives entrance to the things of the world that ruin the fruit of your vineyard? If so then, God must hem you in to shelter you from harm and from harming others. You are too weak to resist the evil of the world and too unstable to influence others to live for Christ. If you choose to be a wall with a sure foundation you will grow to be strong and full of faith. You will not give sway to anything that would lead you astray from Christ. You grow into maturity when you have a sure foundation. God gives you a sure foundation by rooting and grounding you in His love. Christ desires to establish your well-being in Him.

***“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Eph 4:14- 15 KJV).*** Make your choice like that of the Bride when she exclaims... ***“I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. Thus, I have become in his eyes like one bringing contentment.”*** Are you a walled vineyard, separate from the world’s pollution? Is there a tower in your garden that stands watch for any little thing that may spoil the fruit of your vineyard? What joy the mature believer brings to the Lord. As you grow rich in the word of God you will bear much fruit in your life and you will have a life of great

purpose.

Over and over again The Song of Solomon bears out this theme of bearing fruit and being a garden. You are God's garden. You do not own yourself because you are bought with the precious blood of Christ... ***For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Cor 6:20 KJV).*** The Lord places you in this world to bear fruit. The fruit of your life bears a sweet fragrance which leads people away from death and false pursuits to know the true and living Lord. ***Solomon had a vineyard in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver.*** Baal Hamon means lord of the multitudes. Baal, an idol worshipped by the ancient Canaanites represents false religion in the world. Multitudes of people do not know the true God and are hopeless in this world. ***"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Cor 4:4 NIV)"***. What a pity that many Christians are very poor stewards of the light God gives them. They do not understand their importance in helping people find their way out of darkness into the arms of Christ. Dear friend, do you realize that you are the light of the world? You must bear fruit so people can see your light, which will lead them to Christ the lover of their souls. ***You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matt 5:14-16 NIV)*** Do you delight in the Lord and give yourself freely to Him? Do you give yourself to others asking for nothing in return? Do you want the Lord as well as those around you to partake of your fruit? Do you proclaim as the bride does... ***But my own vineyard is mine to give; the thousand shekels are for you, O Solomon, and two hundred are for those who tend its fruit."***

Our soul is the garden of God. The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus works deep within you to make you fruitful. You waste much of your life here

on earth by not attending to the inward life of the soul, the seat of your desires. If your desire is to change those things that pertain to the outward life you must first address the inward life. You delude yourself if you do not understand that God works internally to produce change in the externals of life. The Kingdom of God is within you. To dwell in His Kingdom is to commune with Him, to know Him in a most personal and private way. God is Spirit and you must learn to communicate with Him spirit to Spirit. The more you dwell in the garden of God's kingdom the less you desire the kingdoms of this world. And, yet, God sends you to the world. Just as God sent Jesus into the world, He also sends you, His beloved one. He desires you to demonstrate to others what He has shown you in that very private place, in the garden of your heart. He desires for you to advance His kingdom and to bring all other worldly kingdoms under His dominion.

To everyone who loves this Song, listen to the bridegroom's words. ***"You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, let me hear your voice!"*** The Lord's cry to you His beloved is "let *me* hear your voice." Your voice is like your fingerprint. It is distinctive from all others. He knows your voice and He created it for you to commune with Him beyond all others. There is no one who desires to hear your voice more than the one who created it. Oh, how wonderful is your voice to the Lord. He loves to hear the sound of your voice and waits expectantly to hear it. May you, like David, cry unto the Lord... ***"but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me" (Ps 66:19-20 NIV)!*** In prayer and meditation, you commune with the Lord in your inward being. The precious Holy Spirit unveils your eyes to see Him in all of His purity and deep abiding affection. You come to understand how precious you are in His sight and that makes all the difference in your present life. You come to understand that you are valuable because He values you. When you acknowledge your own value, you keep yourself unspotted by the world. ***Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.*** Knowing that Christ longs to be with you your heart cries out to Him. As you cry "Oh, Lord,

come quickly,” He will surely come! “***He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus***” (Rev 22:20 NIV). Forever you will live in Him and never shall you part.

***Dearest Lord Jesus, I turn to you completely. You are my hope and my life. Place your seal over my heart Lord and breathe on me your holiness. I give you the seal of my love for there is no one I desire above you. Come to me, Lord, and hide me in the depths of your love. I come up to where you are, my Lord, for there is no other who can give me life. Forever will you love me and forever I am yours.***