

“GOING DEEPER” SESSION 5: *The Seven Longings of the Human Heart*

I. THE BRIDAL PARADIGM OF THE KINGDOM

²⁶I will declare it (Father's name), that the love with which You loved Me may be in them. (John 17:26)

⁵The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.. (Rom. 5:5)

- A. God will bring forth a Bride that will love Jesus just as the Father loves Jesus (John 17:26).

She will be empowered by the grace of God until she overflows with holy lovesickness for her Bridegroom Messiah. *It takes God to love God.* We need the Spirit's impartation of God's love to equip us to love God.

Our desire for God is God's gift to us. Our love and desire for God is an expression of His desire for us. All the emotional resources necessary for His people to walk victoriously in love will flow out of our enjoyment of God as we walk in our Bridal identity.

- B. Before the Lord returns, the Church will have a fierce and determined spirituality. Passion for Jesus with extravagant obedience will be the norm in the Church. This passionate love is imparted to us most effectively in context to the “bridal paradigm” of the Kingdom of God.
- C. The “Bridal Paradigm” is not a precise theological term. Rather, it is a practical term that communicates a body of truths related to Jesus' heart as a Bridegroom God and our experience before Him as a cherished Bride.

Our experience of Jesus as the Bridegroom God can be described according to seven longings that are common in each human heart. They are the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God, the longing to be fascinated, the longing to be beautiful, the longing to be great, the longing for intimacy without shame, the longing to be wholehearted and passionate, and the longing to make a deep and lasting impact.

These seven longings comprise the theological core of our experience in context to the "Bridal Paradigm."

- D. The redeemed across the earth will one day see their Messiah as their heavenly Bridegroom. In the overflow of that revelation, we will redefine ourselves as the cherished Bride.

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)

- E. God will empower our hearts for new measures of enjoying Jesus by answering these seven longings. In the overflow of enjoying God, we will find power to extravagantly love Him.
- F. The Holy Spirit will satisfy our heart with the superior pleasures of the gospel that are related to these seven basic longings.

The Lord built these seven desires into every human heart to reflect aspects of His own glorious personality. He will bring us into the knowledge of who we are in Christ, especially related to our bridal identity.

As He does this, He will satisfy these "designer longings" that He sovereignly put into each one of us. God desires to free us from the dominion of the "inferior pleasures" of sin by introducing us to the "superior pleasures" of the gospel.

- G. Why is the Bridal Paradigm necessary?

The generation in which the Lord returns will be filled with emotional brokenness that is unprecedented in human history. The perversion and woundedness of the human heart will reach proportions unknown in history. Sinful perversions, occult activity, divine judgments and martyrdom will reach the highest intensity ever seen.

Jesus described the people in the last generation as being filled with bitterness, offense, and betrayal, with hearts growing cold in love. There will be an explosion of pornography through the rapidly growing technology industry. The same increase will occur in the occult.

H. God will bring His people to victory.

The Bridal Paradigm has been reserved by God to empower the Church to overcome the coldest, most lawless, demonic, and sexually perverted generation in history. The Church *will* live in the power of lovesickness as she walks in victory over sin.

²⁶ That He (Jesus) might...cleanse her (Church) with the washing of water by the Word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:26-27)

I. Supernatural emotional strength will be vital in light of the coming global crisis of social, spiritual, economic, political and emotional disruption.

Only satisfied people that are happy in God will be equipped to stand in that hour. Thus, the seven longings related to the bridal paradigm are significant for today. Paul prayed that we would be strengthened with Divine might in the inner man (Eph. 3:16). God will do this as He releases truth in our inner man.

¹⁶ Grant you...to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man... (Eph. 3:16)

II. LONGING #1: THE LONGING FOR ASSURANCE OF BEING ENJOYED BY GOD

- A. There is a craving in every heart to be pursued, delighted in, and enjoyed, first by God and then by our families and friends. Understanding God's affection for us is where we begin our journey in the "romance of the gospel," where our heart is exhilarated in God's love. In the gospel, we are beckoned to receive God's embrace.

⁵ *Sustain me...refresh me...for I am lovesick. (Song 2:5)*

⁸ *If you find my Beloved...tell Him I am lovesick! (Song 5:8)*

- B. We are emotionally drained and sometimes devastated if we "feel" rejection and shame from God or those we love. The sheer "feeling" of it can knock the wind out of our emotional lungs.

- C. I believe the most prevailing stronghold of the mind is related to the fear of rejection and the trauma of shame.

Our fundamental longing to be enjoyed (loved) is related to the revelation of God's emotions (affections) as Father and Bridegroom. We will only be satisfied as we grow in the revelation of God's affections.

The foundation of this begins with understanding the finished work of the Cross. When we understand *what* Jesus did on the Cross, then we can understand *why* He did it.

- D. Most people desire romance. Such desires are powerful and sometimes devastatingly painful. Many have experienced the pain of being scorned and rejected in love. God wants to use our disappointments in love to drive us into His holy romance.

- E. It is not so difficult to believe that God enjoys and loves us in heaven or even on the earth as long as we are mature in the Spirit. However, God enjoys and delights in us even now, as young believers with spiritual immaturity! (Luke 15:4-5, 8-10, 20).

He actually wants to marry us. Yes, even you. He enjoys us even now. When Jesus corrects us with His discipline, He does not reject us. He corrects us because He so desires us. We often mistake correction with rejection.

¹² For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. (Prov. 3:12)

- F. Our Bridegroom King desires, pursues and enjoys us as His Bride. When our heart is assured that we are deeply enjoyed, then something powerful is awakened within us. Over time, this truth changes our emotional chemistry. It seems too good to be true, but it is gloriously true.

¹⁰ I am my beloved's, And his desire is toward me. (Song 7:10)

- G. It is normal to resist this reality until our mind is renewed by the Word. Jesus longs to satisfy our deep longing to be enjoyed. He does this by revealing to us that we are pursued and desired by Him. In the assurance of being enjoyed our hearts will be set afire.

III. LONGING #2: THE LONGING TO BE FASCINATED

¹⁷ Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Is. 33:17)

⁴ One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD... (Ps. 27:4)

- A. There is a craving in every human spirit to be fascinated and to marvel.

We long to be awestruck and filled with endless wonder. The secular entertainment industry has identified this human longing and has targeted it commercially. They have exploited this foundational craving to their own profit and to our ruin. Because of our Divine design, we need a sense of wonderment in the core of our beings.

Many search through secular entertainment and recreation to fulfill this God-given craving to be fascinated. Without having a sense of awe, we live aimlessly and spiritually bored. This makes us vulnerable to Satan's tactics. A spiritually bored Church is weak. A fascinated believer is strong and thus equipped to face temptation.

- B. The Lord will answer this longing by unveiling the beauty of Christ Jesus. In the End Times, Jesus, as the Branch of the Lord, will be manifested as beautiful.

²In that day the Branch of the LORD (Jesus) shall be beautiful and glorious... (Isaiah 4:2)

- C. God will fascinate His people beyond anything they have ever known. God the Spirit will reveal God the Son to the Church.

When God reveals God to the human spirit we experience "divine entertainment" at its highest. This exhilarates our hearts. A new anointing is being released on the Church to perceive Jesus' beauty in order to answer our craving for awe and wonder.

IV. LONGING #3: THE LONGING TO BE BEAUTIFUL

³To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning (Is. 61:3)

¹⁷Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us... (Ps. 90:17)

⁴For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Ps. 149:4)

- A. Every one of us longs to possess beauty and to feel beautiful.

The glorious news is that the beauty that God possesses is the very beauty that He imparts through redemption. His beauty is transferable to human beings through Jesus! This is a staggering concept! God imparts His beauty through redemption to formerly demonized, hopeless, sin-ridden people. A beautiful God created us in such a way that we long to possess and feel His imparted beauty.

- B. Our culture has an obsession with physical appearance as it seeks to answer this legitimate longing in a wrong way. Most people pursue beauty at great lengths because we feel so unsettled and unhappy when we feel ugly. Our heart vigorously chases after the realm of beauty.

V. **LONGING #4: THE LONGING TO BE GREAT**

²⁶ Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave (Matt. 20:26-27)

¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...¹⁹ whoever does and teaches them (God's commandments), he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:12-19)

⁴ Whoever humbles himself...is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:4)

- A. In the core of our being, we long to be successful and noble.

The great God created us with a pursuit of greatness deep within our emotional genetics. Sometimes we misunderstand this longing and assume that we must repent of it, but this isn't true.

- B. We cannot repent of the God-given longing to be great, but only of pursuing it in a wrong way. We were made for greatness and honor. Jesus declares that His people would one day be exalted to His very right hand.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Rev. 3:21)

- C. He meets this longing for greatness and nobility by granting His Bride a position of authority that surpasses even the highest ranking angels.

In the embrace of our Bridegroom King, we co-rule with Him. Believers are at the very pinnacle of power in the created order. The Church is part of the aristocracy of eternity. Yes! You are a part of the ruling class.

In Jesus, you married into indescribable wealth and power. As the Church takes hold of the truth of who we really are as honored and esteemed heirs of God's Throne, then our lives will portray a divine inner strength and a fierce determination to be wholly His.

VI. LONGING #5: WE LONG FOR INTIMACY WITHOUT SHAME

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (1 Cor. 13:12)

31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery. I speak concerning Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5:31-32)

- A. We each long for intimacy without shame in knowing and being known before the Lord. Jesus will entrust to His Bride the secrets of His heart.

Intimacy involves not only our knowledge of His secrets, but also His knowledge of our secrets. He understands all the secret aspects of our life that are unknown, unnoticed and misunderstood by others. To be fully known without shame and to be free of fear of being left alone is exhilarating.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him... (Ps. 25:14)

- B. We will mutually share the secrets of our heart with Jesus.

God desires to give His secrets to the redeemed. Because of our value to Him, we are invited into this mysterious realm of Divine knowledge. God put this longing in us because He wants us to find our satisfaction in what is in His heart. He will share His secrets with us forever.

- C. He has many secrets that He will reveal to His Bride, ones that the angelic and demonic principalities and powers do not yet know. He trusts us with the secrets that even the highest ranking in the angelic host do not know.

¹⁰ The manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the Church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places... (Eph. 3:10)

- D. He has intimacy in our victory and prosperity.

He knows our true greatness and the full implications of our spiritual identity. He sees the heights of our nobility in redemption. He alone fully understands our greatness. He rejoices and celebrates with us as He shares our triumphs. He knows the depths of our longings, dreams and intentions to love Him. Even our failed intentions to love Him are seen. Much of our life is unknown as it goes unnoticed and is misunderstood.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice... weep with those who weep... (Rom. 12:15)

- E. He has intimacy with us as He feels our pain and struggle with sin.

He forgives us, feels our pain in failure, and protects us by not disclosing the vast majority of our sin. He knows our shameful deeds, yet believes in us and treats us with honor.

- F. He has an intimacy with us in our sacrifices.

In the heroic struggles of the martyrs and in all the heroic struggles that every believer goes through to walk in faith and obedience, there is an intimacy in the pain of that into which He has already entered.

- G. He has intimacy in knowing the passions of our heart.

He knows the depths of our longings, dreams and intentions to do good. He knows your longings and your dreams. He knows the cries of your spirit, the longings you have in time and eternity.

VII. LONGING #6: THE LONGING TO BE WHOLEHEARTED AND PASSIONATE

*³⁷ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...
(Matt. 22:37)*

- A. God will restore the First Commandment to first place.

We desire the ability to give the deepest affection of our heart back to God. The “joy of lovesickness” is exhilarating. Oh, the joy and power of being lovesick for Jesus. Loyal love frees us from the burnout of spiritual boredom.

- B. He imparts to us the power to be passionate because He is a passionate God.

We cannot function properly until we have passionately given our heart to a Person and purpose beyond ourselves. *If we don't have something to die for, then we don't have anything to live for.*

The human heart does not work properly in half-heartedness. The passive heart is bored and therefore vulnerable to many destructive lusts. In order to be emotionally whole, we must live wholeheartedly.

- C. We long to possess the power to be abandoned to Him so that we might never be spiritually dull. Spiritual passivity, disloyalty or compromise leave us broken and bored.

VIII. LONGING #SEVEN: THE LONGING TO MAKE A DEEP AND LASTING IMPACT

⁴² Whoever gives one of these...only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. (Matt. 10:42)

¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Heb. 6:10)

- A. We are desperate to live with meaning and to work in that which is filled with relevance and significance.

We desire to make a contribution to the lives of those we care about. God designed us to long to make a difference in the lives of others. We delight to share things that cause others to be changed and brought into joy and goodness. This longing is satisfied by service that results in eternal impact and rewards. We need to know we are making a contribution that is significant to God and one that He esteems and remembers forever.

- B. Working together with Jesus to awaken other hearts in love is essential to our emotional health.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (3 John 4)

- C. Jesus called us to work together with Him in the holy mandate that the Father gave Him to disciple the nations (Matt 28:19). We find great pleasure in walking out the Second Commandment instead of continuing in self-centered isolationism.

7 For unclean spirits...came out of many... and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. There was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:7-8)

- D. We love to communicate to those we love that which excites them.

They are exhilarated and we are exhilarated in their exhilaration. For example, when Jesus healed the blind man, I imagine that he came back to his blind friends to tell them the news of the healing meeting tomorrow.

Going Deeper Session 5 Study Guide Questions

- Which of the seven longings of the human heart do I need revealed to my heart? How can I attain breakthrough in these areas?
- What inferior pleasures do I run to instead of running to the superior pleasures of the Gospel?