

“GOING DEEPER” SESSION SIX: *Overview of the Song of Solomon*

I. MY JOURNEY INTO 24/7 PRAYER AND THE BRIDAL PARADIGM OF THE KINGDOM

⁴ One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)

A. During the Solemn Assembly of May 1983, the Lord spoke audibly about Ps. 27:4, saying: “I will release 24-hour prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.”

B. In July 1988, the Lord said that He would release a supernatural anointing to love.

⁶ Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for (God's) love is as strong as death, (God's) jealousy as cruel (demanding) as the grave; its flames are flames of fire...⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6-7)

C. In November 1995, in a prophetic dream, the Lord said to call the people Hephzibah.

⁴ You shall no longer be termed Forsaken...but you shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...⁵ For as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. ⁶I have set watchmen on your walls...they shall never hold their peace day or night...⁷ give Him no rest till He establishes...Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Is. 62:4-7)

Note: The speaker only covers section I in the notes. The rest of the notes are included for your own personal study.

II. SONG OF SOLOMON: THE DIVINE KISS & THE BRIDE'S LIFE VISION (SONG 1:2-4)

- A. The theme of the Song of Solomon is the Bride's spiritual journey to be drawn near to Jesus in intimacy and then to run in deep partnership with Him in ministry.

She matures in these two realities as she experiences the kisses of God's word touching her heart.

² Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth (Word). For Your love is better than wine...⁴ Draw me away (intimacy)! We will run after you (ministry). (Song 1:2-4)

- B. Song of Solomon has two main sections.

1. Song 1-4 is focused on receiving our inheritance in God.
2. Song 5-8 is focused on God receiving His inheritance in us.

III. HER JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE PARADOX OF GRACE (SONG 1:5-11)

⁵ I am dark, but lovely...⁶ my own vineyard I have not kept. (Song 1:5-6)

- A. She is dark in her heart but lovely before God. Jesus gives us the gift of righteousness that makes us lovely in God's eyes (2 Cor. 5:17-21). She has a desperate cry to have more of Jesus.

¹⁷ All things have become new...²¹ we become the righteousness of God... (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

⁷ Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock... For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? (Song 1:7)

- B. Jesus tenderly reveals His heart for her. Then He reaffirms her sincerity (Song 1:8-11).

⁸ *...O fairest (most beautiful) among women... (Song 1:8)*

**IV. UNDERSTANDING HER IDENTITY IN GOD’S BEAUTY
(SONG 1:12-2:7)**

- A. She has an initial revelation of the beauty of the King.

¹⁶ *Behold, You are handsome, my Beloved! Yes, pleasant!
(Song 1:16)*

- B. She receives revelation of her identity in Christ as a beautiful rose in God’s sight.

¹ *I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. (Song 2:1)*

- C. He begins to establish the superior pleasures as He woos her with lovesickness. The goal of her life is happiness which is most deeply experienced when God’s presence seems near to her.

³ *I sat down in His shade with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. ⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love. ⁵ Sustain me...refresh me...for I am lovesick.
(Song 2:3-5)*

V. CHALLENGING THE COMFORT ZONE (SONG 2:8-17)

⁸ *The voice of my Beloved! Behold, He comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. ⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, He stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows...¹⁰ My Beloved spoke, “Rise up, My love, My fair one, and come away. ¹⁴ Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.” ¹⁷ Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, Turn, my Beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag upon the mountains. (Song 2:8-17)*

- A. Jesus is pictured as effortlessly skipping and leaping over the mountains. The mountains speak of obstacles both human and demonic; Jesus bounds over every obstacle with power over everything. She is accustomed to being fed with grapes and raisins, at His table, under the shade tree (Song 2:3-4).

- B. She tells Him to turn and go to the mountain without her (Song 2:17).

Her painful compromise is due to her immaturity, weakness and fear, not rebellion. She is afraid. She feels that 100% obedience will cause her to miss out. She loves Him, but does not think she has the strength to fully obey. She has fear of losing safety and comfort.

VI. DIVINE CHASTISEMENT (SONG 3:1-5)

¹ *By night on my bed I sought the One I love...but I did not find Him.*
² *I will rise now...I will seek the one I love. ⁴...When I found the One I love. I held Him and would not let Him go... (Song 3:1-4)*

- A. She experiences the discipline of God as He hides His face from her.

The sweetness of Song 2 is gone. He disciplines us out of His affection (Heb. 12:5-12). God's correction is not the same thing as His rejection. The Father promises to pry our fingers off what holds us in bondage. The Father loves us too much to allow us to come up short of partnering with Jesus as His Bride.

- B. She soon "arises" to obey the call to leave her comfort (Song 3:2). Jesus' manifest presence returns in response to her obedience (Song 3:4).

VII. A FRESH REVELATION OF JESUS AS A "SAFE SAVIOR" (3:6-11)

Jesus reveals Himself as one who is safe to obey 100%. She believes that 100% obedience is the only safe place in life. Being with Jesus on the water is far safer than being in the boat without Him.

VIII. PROPHETIC HEART OF THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM (SONG 4:1-8)

- A. He reveals to her how beautiful she is to Him.

¹ Behold, you are fair (beautiful), My love! Behold, you are fair (Song 4:1)

- B. He describes eight distinct virtues of her beauty that He sees emerging in her life. (Song 4:1-5). Jesus prophetically proclaims her "budding virtues."

He calls things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). He looks into her heart and sees the cry in her spirit. He defines her by the cries in her spirit. God names us according to the cry of our heart (not our failures).

- C. The life of total commitment is foundational for all mature ministry (Song 4:6).

Initially, she refused His call to come to the mountain (Song 2:9-10). However, in this season she commits to go to the mountain. She is only in the initial stages of her obedience. Later she becomes mature.

⁶ I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh... (Song 4:6)

**IX. RAVISHED HEART OF THE HEAVENLY BRIDEGROOM
(SONG 4:9-5:1)**

⁹ You have ravished My heart...My spouse; you have ravished My heart with one look of your eyes...¹⁰ How fair (beautiful) is your love...How much better than wine is your love... (Song 4:9-10)

- A. Jesus is revealed as a heavenly Bridegroom.

His heart is ravished with desire for her. Jesus has passionate affection for His Bride. She has been equipped, by the revelation of His ravished heart, to fully embrace the Cross. Jesus describes His pleasure over her character (Song 4:10d-11) giving a seven-fold description of the Bride (Song 4:12-15).

- B. She desires that Jesus receive His inheritance in her.

Her garden speaks of her heart and life. She cries out for increased anointing (Song 4:16). The north wind speaks of the cold bitter winds of winter. The south wind speaks of the warm refreshing winds of the summer. God knows we need the north and south winds for our maturity. She is no longer afraid of the testings of God.

¹⁶ Awake, O north wind, and come, O south! Blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out. Let my Beloved come to His garden and eat its pleasant fruits. (Song 4:16)

- C. “Let my Beloved come to His garden.” In the first four chapters she was only concerned with her inheritance (her garden). However, in the last four chapters, Jesus’ inheritance in her is her focus. From now, my heart is *Your* garden. She now defines her life radically different. Nine times He uses the ownership word “MY.”

¹ I have come to My garden, My sister, My spouse; I have gathered My myrrh with My spice; I have eaten My honeycomb with My honey; I have drunk My wine with My milk (Song 5:1).

X. THE ULTIMATE TWO-FOLD TEST OF MATURITY (5:2-8)

² *...it is the voice of my Beloved! He knocks, saying, “Open for Me... My love...My perfect one; for My head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night.” (Song 5:2)*

- A. Jesus embraced the Cross in the long and lonely night in Gethsemane. Jesus comes to her as the Man of sorrows in Gethsemane (Song 5:2) and invites her to share His sufferings (Phil. 3:10).

- B. Jesus asks her to “Open up that He may come to her as the Man of Gethsemane.” Jesus wants to be the goal of her life and not just the stepping stone to her agenda of success and happiness.

- C. She responds in obedience saying she took off her dirty robes and washed her feet (Song 5:3).

She is not afraid of obeying Jesus and thus asked for the bitter north winds of pressure. She rises immediately with a heart yearning in love for Him. The locks of her heart have myrrh on them, which speak of her heart commitment to embrace death in her pursuit of Jesus.

⁴ *My heart yearned for Him. ⁵ I arose to open for my Beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh...on the handles of the lock. (Song 5:4-5)*

- D. She experiences her first test of suffering: His withdrawn presence in intimacy (Song 5:6).

God’s presence leaves her for the second time in the Song (Song 3:1). However, this time it is not related to disobedience (as in Song 3:1-2), but rather to her mature obedience. Some medieval teachers called this “the dark night of the soul.”

⁶ I opened for my Beloved, but my Beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when He spoke. I sought Him, but I could not find Him; I called Him, but He gave me no answer. (Song 5:6)

- E. She experiences her second test of suffering—persecution and rejection (Song 5:7).

The watchmen struck and wounded her and took her veil (spiritual covering) away so that she can no longer function in the Body.

⁷ The watchmen...struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me. (Song 5:7)

- F. Summary: the Lord called her to join Him in Gethsemane. She responded in instant obedience. Then He gave her a two-fold test related to her life vision prayer in Song 1:4.
- G. The Lord asks her, “Will you be Mine even if I withhold the things you deeply desire? Are you still Mine when you cannot feel My presence? Will you still love and trust Me when you are disappointed by negative circumstances?”
- H. She responds, “Yes! I am Yours regardless.” She says, “Yes!” at the deepest level of love. She responds in deep humility by asking for help from the daughters of Jerusalem (who are less spiritual than she is).

⁸ O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my Beloved...tell Him I am lovesick! (Song 5:8)

XI. THE BRIDE'S RESPONSE TO THE TWO-FOLD TEST (SONG 5:9-6:5)

- A. The daughters of Jerusalem ask the Bride a question. In essence, they ask, "Why do you love Him so much that you charge us to go find Him? He has abandoned you. He took His presence away from you (v. 6) and let the elders wound you as they took their ministry from you" (v. 7).

⁹ *What is your Beloved more than another Beloved, O fairest among women? (Song 5:9)*

- B. Her answer reveals her source of love for Jesus. She gives 10 descriptions of Jesus' majestic beauty (5:10-16). This is one of the greatest proclamations of Jesus' beauty in the Scripture.

¹⁰ *My beloved is white (dazzling, NAS)...and chief among ten thousand.* ¹¹ *His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy...and black as a raven.* ¹² *His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters...* ¹³ *His cheeks are like a bed of spices...His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh.* ¹⁴ *His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory inlaid with sapphires.* ¹⁵ *His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.* ¹⁶ *His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend... (Song 5:10-16)*

XII. JESUS PRAISES HER AFTER THE SEASON OF TESTING (SONG 6:4-10)

- A. Jesus finally breaks the silence and lavishes His affection and praise on her now that the season of testing is over.

Jesus describes the Bride's beauty (Song 6:4). He described her as beautiful as Tirzah (which became the capital city of the northern kingdom) and as lovely as Jerusalem which was the spiritual and governmental capital city of the nation.

He added that she was as awesome as a victorious army with banners. When an army in the ancient world returned victorious from battle, they displayed their banners in a military procession to proclaim their victory. He is saying to her that she passed the two-fold test of Song 5:6-7. She defeated the greatest enemies, those that were found in her own soul.

The strongest powers to conquer are the forces in our own heart, not the demons around us. She has come before Him as a victorious army with banners.

⁴ O My love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners! (Song 6:4)

- B. Jesus is conquered only by His Bride's extravagant love (Song 6:5a, b).

Her eyes of devotion have overwhelmed and conquered the heart of God. All the armies in hell cannot conquer Jesus, but the eyes of the redeemed conquer Him when they are true to Him in times of testing.

⁵ Turn your eyes away from Me, for they have overcome Me. (Song 6:5)

- C. Jesus describes the Bride's maturity (Song 6:5c-7) and pre-eminence (v.8-9).

⁸ There are 60 queens and 80 concubines, and virgins without number. ⁹ My dove, my perfect one, is the...only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her... (Song 6:8-9)

- D. The Holy Spirit describes the Bride's crown of glory (Song 6:10).

¹⁰ Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon, Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners? (Song 6:10)

XIII. THE VINDICATION OF THE PERSECUTED BRIDE (SONG 6:11-7:9A)

- A. As the Bride walks in this revelation of who she is before the Lord, she is persecuted.
- B. Mature love and commitment to serve the whole Church (Song 6:11) overcomes her (Song 6:12).
- C. She receives a sincere response from some within the Church (Song 6:13a,b) yet a hostile response from others (Song 6:13c,d). The Bride is vindicated by discerning saints (Song 7:1-5). The Bride is vindicated by Jesus Himself (Song 7:6-9a).

XIV. THE BRIDE’S MATURE PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS (SONG 7:9B-8:4)

She walks out mature partnership in her every day life. Bridal partnership is expressed in mature obedience to Jesus (Song 7:9b-10). She expresses Bridal partnership in her intercession for more power (Song 7:11-13). She expresses Bridal partnership in her boldness in public ministry (Song 8:1-2). She expresses Bridal partnership in their full union (Song 8:3-4).

XV. THE BRIDAL SEAL OF MATURE LOVE (SONG 8:5-7)

Jesus invites her to receive the seal of fire upon her heart. God is a consuming fire and desires to impart His fire into our hearts. This is His supernatural love that seals our heart. It empowers us to live without the fire of our love being quenched.

**XVI. THE BRIDE'S FINAL INTERCESSION AND REVELATION
(SONG 8:8-14)**

- A. The Bride intercedes for the Church (Song 8:8–9) and for Jesus' return (Song 8:14). In Song 8:8-9, her apostolic passion for the Church is seen.

- B. In Song 8:10, her three-fold confidence is as a wall (selfless motives), as a tower (her supernatural abilities to nurture) and as one with peace (emotional hindrances are removed).

- C. In Song 8:11-12, she experiences the power and enjoyment of living before His eyes instead of before the eyes of men.

Her sense of importance is rooted in eternity as she has revelation of giving account before God (Song 8:11). The Bride has a revelation of her own spiritual maturity before God (Song 8:12).

- D. Jesus' final commission to the Bride (Song 8:13-14). The Bride's urgency is expressed in intercession.

¹³ You who dwell in the gardens, the companions listen for your voice—Let me hear it! ¹⁴ Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices. (Song 8:13-14)

Going Deeper Session 6 Study Guide Questions

- What might be holding me back from embracing the Bridegroom's call to go up higher and embrace a life of faith?
- How can I allow my love to mature deeply as the Bride of Christ?