

Crystallization-Study – Song of Songs

Empowered and Encouraged by the Resurrection of Christ

- After the experience of the cross is the experience of resurrection. Resurrection is always an empowering and an encouraging factor.

A Romance in Poetic Form

- The book of Song of Songs is a **romance** in poetic form between a **king** and a **country girl**.
 - A figure of the **romance of God and man**.
- God intends not to improve us but to **re-create** us, to make us **new persons**.
 - He does this first by **regeneration** and second by **transformation**.
 - Transformation is a divine metabolism. It is **not an outward change** but an **inward process** to transform us into different persons.
 - Eventually, we will be **conformed** to the image of Christ.
 - Conformation implies transformation and consummates in **glorification**.
- In the church life there is also our gaining of Christ and His gaining of us—a **mutual gaining**.
- Following the initial stage, the Lord comes in to call us to go on to the **stage of the cross**.

The Work of the Cross

- The cross is precious to the uttermost because the cross terminated all the enemies of God.
 - Satan
 - Sin
 - The flesh
 - The world
- Christ **crucified** all the negative things and then **released** something positive to supply God's eternally chosen people.

The Accomplishments of the Resurrection

- Following the cross is the **resurrection** of Christ, in which **three** great things took place.
 - In the resurrection of Christ, Christ in His humanity was **begotten to be God's firstborn Son**.
 - He, as the last Adam, **became the life-giving Spirit**.

- God **regenerated** all His chosen people.

The Experience of Christ's Death and Resurrection

- The Lord wants us to **experience His cross** so that we may **enter into His resurrection**.
 - The Beloved calls His lover in **chapter 2** into the **springtime**, out of the dormancy of **winter**.
 - When the seeker **looks into herself**, it is the **wintertime of dormancy**. But when she **looks away to the resurrected Christ**, she enters into the **stage of spring**, signifying the **resurrection**.
- The **reality** of resurrection is the **pneumatic Christ** who is the **consummated Spirit**.

Empowered by the Resurrection of Christ

- It is by the power of Christ's resurrection that we, the lovers of Christ, determine to take the cross by **denying our self**.
- It is also by the power of Christ's resurrection that we, the lovers of Christ, are **enabled to be conformed to His death**, to be one with His cross as staying in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the precipice.

Encouraged by the Flourishing Riches of His Resurrection

- Christ encourages His seeker by the **flourishing riches** of His resurrection.

Christ Being Resurrection

- Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, was **resurrection before His death**.
- Resurrection is **God Himself**.
- Christ as the last Adam **became the life-giving Spirit in resurrection**.
- The resurrected Christ became the life-giving Spirit as the **reality** of His resurrection.
 - This life-giving Spirit **indwells** our spirit.
 - This Christ as the life-giving Spirit becomes the **heavenly ladder** that brings heaven to earth and joins the earth to heaven at Bethel—God's dwelling place in the spirit of the believers on earth.
- In order to experience the life-giving Spirit as the reality of resurrection in our spirit, we have to **discern our spirit from our soul**.

(Crystallization-Study of Song of Songs – Message 6)