

*Song of Songs—  
the **Progressive Experience**  
Of an Individual Believer's Loving Fellowship with Christ  
For the Preparation of the Bride of Christ*

**I. Drawn to pursue Christ for satisfaction — 1:2-2:7**

- SS 1:2 Let him **kiss me** with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.  
SS 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; Your name is like ointment poured forth;  
Therefore the virgins love you.  
SS 1:4 **Draw me**; we will run after you — The king has **brought me into his chambers** — We will be glad and  
rejoice in you; We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

**II. Called to be delivered from the self through the oneness with the cross — 2:8-3:5**

- SS 2:8 The voice of my beloved! Now he comes, **Leaping** upon the mountains, **Skiping** upon the hills.  
SS 2:9 My beloved is like a **gazelle** or a **young hart**. Now he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the  
windows, He is glancing through the lattice.

**III. Called to live in ascension as the new creation in resurrection — 3:6-5:1**

- SS 3:8 All of them wield the sword *and* are expert in war;  
Each man has his sword at his thigh Because of the night alarms.  
SS 3:9 King Solomon made himself a **palanquin** Of the **wood** of Lebanon.  
SS 3:10 Its posts he made of **silver**; Its bottom, of **gold**; Its seat, of **purple**;  
Its midst was inlaid *with* love From the daughters of Jerusalem.  
SS 4:12 A **garden enclosed** is my sister, *my* bride, A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.  
SS 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates With choicest fruit; Henna with spikenard,  
SS 4:14 Spikenard and saffron; Calamus and cinnamon, With all the trees of frankincense;  
Myrrh and aloes, With all the chief spices.  
SS 4:15 A fountain in gardens, A well of living water, And streams from Lebanon.  
SS 4:16 Awake, O **north wind**; And come, O **south wind**! Blow upon my garden:  
Let its spices flow forth; Let my beloved come into his garden And eat his choicest fruit.

**IV. Called more strongly to live within the veil through the cross after resurrection — 5:2-6:13**

- SS 6:10 Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn,  
As beautiful as the **moon**, As clear as the **sun**, As terrible as an **army** with banners?  
SS 6:13 Return, return, O **Shulammite**;  
Return, return, that we may gaze at you. Why should you gaze at the **Shulammite**,  
As upon the dance of **two camps**?

**V. Sharing in the work of the Lord — 7:1-13**

- SS 7:11 Come, my beloved, let us **go forth into the fields**; Let us lodge in the villages.

**VI. Hoping to be raptured — 8:1-14**

- SS 8:13 O you who dwell in the **gardens**, My companions **listen for your voice**; Let me hear *it*.  
SS 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, And be like a **gazelle** or a **young hart** Upon the mountains of spices.

**1<sup>st</sup> stage: Is drawn to pursue Him for satisfaction**

*“Let him **kiss** me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.” (SS 1:2)*

*“**Draw** me; we will run after you —*

*The king has brought me into his **chambers** —*

*We will be glad and rejoice in you;*

*We will extol your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.” (SS 1:4)*

## I. The progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ.

### ➤ In the **first stage**: The lover of Christ is drawn **to pursue Him** for satisfaction—1:2 – 2:7

- **SS 1:4** says, “*draw me*” - **Personal relationship**
  - **Hos. 11:4a** indicates that God loves us with His divine love on the human level—the **cords of man**
  - the cords of man through which God draws us includes –
    - Christ's incarnation
    - Human living
    - Crucifixion
    - Resurrection
    - ascension
- **SS 1:2** says, “*kiss me*” - **Affectionate way**
  - **Psa. 2:12** commands us to “*kiss the Son*”
  - **John 13:23** the apostle John reclined on the bosom of the Lord.
  - **Rev. 3:20** the Lord set up a feast and invites us to the feast with Him.
  - we need to love Christ, pursue Him, and enjoy Him as our satisfaction
- **SS1:4** says, “*The King has brought me into his chambers*” - **Private relationship**
  - **1Cor. 3:17** we are one spirit with Him
  - to have private fellowship with Him
- **SS 1:4**, Christ visits us in our regenerated **spirit** as His inner **chamber** - **Spiritual way**
  - **Eph. 2:22** our spirit is the dwelling place of God, His habitation
  - our regenerated spirit mingled with and indwelt by Him as the life-dispensing Spirit
  - pursue Christ for satisfaction, receive Him and contain Him

✚ All the spiritual principles are contained in the first stage and they are **repeated in a deeper way**. Regeneration brings the gene of God into us, and all the experiences of our whole Christian life are in this gene—1John 3:9

#### ✚ **PROGRESSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE 1<sup>st</sup> STAGE:**

[Transformed by the remaking of the Spirit]

- ✓ **SS 1:9** – we are a **mare** (horse) among Pharaoh's chariots
- ✓ **SS 1:15** – we become an **eyes like doves**
- ✓ **SS 2:1** – we become a **lily** of the valley, as **lily** among the thorns

### **2<sup>nd</sup> stage: Is called to be delivered from the self through her oneness with the cross of Christ.**

“The voice of my beloved! Now he comes, *Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills.*” (SS 2:8)

“My beloved is like a gazelle or a young hart. Now he stands behind our *wall*;  
He is looking through the windows, He is glancing through the lattice.” (SS2:9)

“My beloved responds and says to me, *Rise up, my love, My beauty, and come away;*” (SS 2:10)

### ➤ In the **second stage**: The lover of Christ is called to be **delivered from the self** through her oneness with the cross of Christ—2:8 – 3:5.

- **SS 2:8-9** says, “*Leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.*” - vitality of resurrection
  - look away unto Jesus, (Heb. 12:2) not to look into ourselves
  - Christ is **likened** to a gazelle or a young hart, showing forth His **resurrection power** over difficulties
  - we need to seek for and know Christ's **mountain-leaping** and **hill-skipping** presence
    - Mountain and hill refer to **difficulties** and **barrier**
    - It is by the power of resurrection that we **take the cross** by **denying our self** (Matt.16:24)
    - It is by the power of resurrection that we are enable **be conformed to His death** (Phil. 3:10)
  - to be one with His cross as staying in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the precipice (SS 2:14)
- **SS 2:9** says, “*he stands behind our wall*” – the lover of Christ falls into **introspection**

- introspection as wall that **keeps her away** from the presence of Christ
- because of her **over caring** for her spiritual condition
- as a **wall** that keeps her away from the presence of Christ
- **SS 2:10**, Christ encourage her to “**rise up my love**” - come out of her low situation to be with Him.
- **SS 2:11**, the lover of Christ also hears the Lord telling her that the **time of dormancy**, “**winter is past**”, and the **trial** “**rain is over and gone**.”
- **SS 2:12-13**, Christ also tells her that, “**time of singing has come**” the **spring time** has come,
  - she is entreated and encouraged by the Lord with the flourishing riches of resurrection,
- **SS 2:14-15** says, “**in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the precipice**” – experience of the cross
  - the Lord wants us to experience His cross so that we may enter into His resurrection
  - it is by the power of resurrection the lover of Christ is enable to be conformed to His death by being with His cross, (Rom. 8:2, 4, 29)

✚ The reality of resurrection is the pneumatic Christ as the consummated Spirit, who indwells and is mingled with our regenerated spirit. It is in such a mingled spirit that we participate in and experience the resurrection of Christ, which enable us to be one with the cross to be **delivered from the self**

- ✓ Learn the lesson of the power of resurrection
- ✓ Learn the lesson of the riches of resurrection
- ✓ Learn the lesson of the life of the cross

#### ✚ PROGRESSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE 2<sup>nd</sup> STAGE:

[Called to be in the oneness with the cross]

- ✓ **SS 2:14** – we become a **dove**, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the precipice

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Is called to **live in ascension** as the **new creation** in resurrection

*“King Solomon made himself a palanquin Of the **wood** of Lebanon.” (SS3:9)*

*“Its posts he made of **silver**; Its bottom, of **gold**; Its seat, of **purple**;  
Its midst was inlaid with love From the daughters of Jerusalem.” (SS3:10)*

*“A **garden** enclosed is my sister, my bride, A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.” (SS 4:12)*

#### ➤ In the **third stage**: The lover of Christ is called to **live in ascension** as the new creation in resurrection–3:3-5:1

- To **live in ascension** is to live continually in our spirit, although we are on earth, we are joined to God the Spirit in the heavens.
  - learn the lesson of **discerning** the spirit from the soul, Heb. 4:12
  - learn the lesson that our regenerated spirit is joined to God the Spirit in the heavens
- **SS 3:7** mentioned, “**Solomon’s bed, sixty mighty men surround it**” – for rest and victory in the night
  - by the Spirit’s transforming work in us we become **bed** of Solomon (Christ) to rest in at night
  - night signifying the church age, during the spiritual warfare
- **SS 3:9-10** says, “**a palanquin**”, “**inlaid with love**” – becoming a moving **vessel**–for Christ move
  - by the Spirit’s transforming work in us, we become a moving **vessel**–for Christ move
  - with the resurrected and ascended humanity of Jesus (wood of Lebanon)
  - our **external** structure is the resurrected and ascended humanity of Jesus
  - our **interior** decoration is our love for the Lord
  - the lover of Christ is the **containing** Christ, He moves in her and with her,
- We are **remodeled** with:
  - Christ’s redeeming death (post made of silver)
  - God’s divine nature (base of gold)
  - Christ’s kingship as the life-giving Spirit ruling within us (seat of purple)
- **SS 4:12-15**, The lover of Christ become “**a garden enclosed**” **mature** in the riches of the life of Christ
  - a garden to Christ for His private enjoyment, Christ’s fragrance in any environment, v.16
    - difficult environment – north wind
    - Pleasant environment – south wind

✚ The humanity of Jesus, the divinity of God, and the redemption of Christ are all wrought into us hence we become a palanquin to God.

✚ **PROGRESSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE 3<sup>rd</sup> STAGE:**

[Called to live in ascension as the new creation]

- ✓ SS 3:6 – we become like **pillars of smoke**, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense
- ✓ SS 3:7 – we become Solomon's **bed**; sixty men surrounds it
- ✓ SS 3:9 – we were made a **palanquin** of the wood of Lebanon
- ✓ SS 3:11 – we become Solomon's **crown**

[Called to live in ascension – (corporate)]

- ✓ SS 4:12 – the lover become a **garden** enclosed (enclosed for His personal satisfaction)

**4<sup>th</sup> Stage: Is called more strongly to live within the veil through the cross after resurrection**

*“Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn,  
As beautiful as the **moon**, As clear as the **sun**, As terrible as an **army** with banners?” (SS 6:10)*

*“Return, return, O **Shulammite**; Return, return, that we may gaze at you.  
Why should you gaze at the **Shulammite**, As upon the dance of **two camps**?” (SS 6:13)*

➤ In the **fourth stage**: The lover of Christ is called more strongly to **live within the veil** through the cross after resurrection–5:2-6:23

- SS 6:4 says, “*beautiful as Tirzah*”, “*as lovely as Jerusalem*” – a building, not single piece of stone
  - signify God's sanctuary, dwelling place as King
  - a building – principle of the Body
- SS 6:10 says, “*beautiful as the moon*”, “*as clear as the sun*” – transformed into the heavenly bodies
  - our path is like the light of the dawn, the sunrise, signifies both Christ second coming and our being revived every morning
  - we are shining brighter and brighter until the full day–Prov. 4:18; John 1:5
- SS 6:13, the lover of Christ becomes, “*Shulammite*” – the feminine form of “Solomon”
  - become the same as He is in life, nature and function (but not in the Godhead)
  - as the reproduction and duplication of Christ to match Him for their marriage
- SS 6:13, She is likened to the **dance of two camps**, two armies (*mahanaim*)–Gen. 32:1-2
  - two armies signifies the strong testimony that we are more than conquer
  - just like Jacob's weak ones, we are counted worthy to be overcomers who depend on the Lord
  - the fighting is not in our hands but in His hands

✚ We can be **luminaries** as the moon reflecting the light of the sun in the church age (Phil. 2:15). We will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom age (Matt. 13:43).

✚ We should be in the Holy of Holies living within the veil, in oneness with Him.

✚ We become the counterpart of Christ, has become the **same as He is** in life, nature, in expression and function (not in the Godhead) for the carrying out of God's economy.

✚ **PROGRESSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE 4<sup>th</sup> STAGE:**

[Called more strongly to live within the veil]

- ✓ SS 6:4 – corporately, become beautiful as **Tirzah**, as lovely as **Jerusalem**, terrible as an **army** with banners
- ✓ SS 6:10 – as beautiful as the **moon**, as clear as the **sun**, as terrible as an **army** with banners
- ✓ SS 6:13 – now become the same as Solomon–the **Shulammite**

**5<sup>th</sup> Stage: The lover of Christ shares in the work of the Lord**

“Come, my beloved, let us *go forth into the fields*; Let us lodge in the villages.” (SS 7:11)

“Let us *rise up early* for the vineyards; Let us see if the vine has *budded*,  
If the blossom is *open*, If the pomegranates are in *bloom*;  
*There I will give you my love.*” (SS 7:12)

➤ In the **fifth stage**: The lover of Christ **shares in the work** of the Lord—7:1-13

- SS 7:4 says, “*your neck is like a tower of ivory*” – means beauty in her submissive will,  
“*your eyes like the pools...*” – open to the light, clean, full of rest, and accessible,  
“*your nose is like a tower...*” – her spiritual sense of high and sharp discernment
- SS 7:11 says, “*go forth into the fields*” – the work is for the entire world,  
“*lodging in the villages*” – means sojourning from one place to another
  - we should not be sectarian in carrying out the Lord’s work
  - keep the work in one Body
  - we work together with the Lord, and our work must be His body (Col. 1:28-29; 1Cor. 12:12-27)
- SS 7:12 – “*Let us rise up early for the vineyards; Let us see if the vine has budded, If the blossom is open, If the pomegranates are in bloom;*” – able to relate the Lord’s work to the Lord Himself
  - we can express our love to the Lord at the place of His work
  - we must be mature in life and we teach the high truth
  - we need to be one with the Lord, and our work must be for His Body
- SS 8:11 says, “*Solomon had a vineyard*” and “*he let out the vineyard to keepers*” – taking care of the churches and the believers on the whole earth.
  - we must have a work that is for the entire world—establishing local churches
  - bring all the local churches in the realization of the Body of Christ

✚ We need to have a broadened vision that our work should be for the Body.

**6<sup>th</sup> Stage: Is hoping to be raptured**

“Who is this who *comes up from the wilderness*, *Leaning on her beloved*?  
I awakened you under the apple tree:  
There your mother was in labor with you; There she was in labor and brought you forth.” (SS 8:5)

“*Set me as a seal on your heart*,  
As a *seal on your arm*; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol;  
Its flashes are the flashes of fire, A flame of Jehovah.” (SS 8:6)

“O you who  *dwell in the gardens*, My companions *listen for your voice*;  
Let me hear it.” (SS 8:11)

“*Make haste, my beloved*,  
And be like a *gazelle* or a *young hart* Upon the mountains of spices.” (SS 8:14)

➤ In the **sixth stage**: The lover of Christ is hoping to be **raptured**

- SS 8:5 says, “*comes up from the wilderness*”, - coming from the earthly realm  
“*leaning on her beloved*” – she is like Jacob, her natural strength has been dealt with
  - we leave the world behind and come up again and again until the Lord comes to take us away
  - we are powerless, unable to walk, and we are burden for Christ to carry us
  - we, as if, the hollow of our thigh has been touched (Gen 32:24-26)
  - we are pressed beyond measure, and this seems to last until our journey is over
  - we need a trusting life which is indispensable, only the Lord can prepare us for the rapture
  - we need the Lord’s preservation, whether we can endure to the end depends on Him, no spiritual perfection can sustain us until the Lord’s return
- SS 8:6-7 says, “*set me as a seal on your heart*” – everything depends on God’s love  
“*as a seal on your arm*” – everything depends on His preserving power
  - we need to realize that in everything we need to depend on God’s love and power

- we need to pray that He will set us permanently as a seal upon His **heart**, (place of love)
- we need to pray to set as indelibly as seal upon His **arm**, (place of strength)
- **SS 8:13** says, “*who dwell in the gardens*” – Christ dwells in the believers as His garden  
“*listen to your voice*” – we need to maintain fellowship with Him
  - we should always listen to the Lord in all the work that we do
  - we need to be slow to speak in order to be quick to hear,
  - we need to adopt the attitude of a hearer
  - we need to stop talking about trivial things in the earthly realm
  - we cannot and will not move by ourselves any longer
  - our lives hinges totally upon the Lord’s speaking
  - our lives depends on the Lord’s word
  - our work depends on the Lord’s command
  - the central point of our prayer should be our longing for the Lord’s speaking

✚ Lord remember us constantly in Your heart and sustain us with Your arm. All our hopes are in Your love and power, on everything we depend on Your strength and Your love.

## II. The lover of Christ pray that her Beloved (Christ) would make haste to come back.

- **Coming back in the power of His resurrection and to set up His sweet and beautiful kingdom, which will fill up the whole earth.**
  - **SS 8:14** says, “*make haste my Beloved.. like a gazelle or a young hart*” – come back in the power of His resurrection.
    - such prayer portrays the union and communion between Christ and His lover
    - “come Lord Jesus” is the last prayer in the entire Bible
  - **SS 8:14b**, says, “*upon the mountain of spices*” – the condition of the Lord’s coming and His kingdom
    - our experience will be like a drop of water that has disappeared into the ocean
    - that is there will be no more room of advancement
    - all that is left in the world will be our body—hence, we can only say—“*make haste my Beloved, come quickly*”

✚ When the Lord comes, **faith** will be turned to **facts**, and **praise** will replace **prayer**.

✚ Love will consummate in a **shadowless perfection**, and will serve Him in **sinless domain**.

✚ **As the concluding word of this poetic book**, the lover of Christ prays that

- her Beloved would **make haste to come back** in the power of His resurrection (gazelle and young hart)
- to **set up His sweet and beautiful kingdom** (mountains of spices), which will fill the whole earth—S. S. 8:14; Rev. 11:15; Dan. 2:35