

Life-Study of Song of Songs – Messages 1 - 5

Introduction

The theme of Song of Songs is satisfaction of satisfactions. This book portrays the four stages in the experience of the lover of Christ and can be summarized by the following four sentences:

- (1) A lover of Christ should be one who is attracted by His love and drawn by Him in His sweetness to pursue after Him for full satisfaction.
- (2) A lover of Christ should be one who is called by Him to be delivered from the self through his oneness with the cross of Christ.
- (3) A lover of Christ should be one who is called by Him to live in ascension as the new creation of God in the resurrection of Christ.
- (4) A lover of Christ should be one who is called by Him more strongly to live within the veil through His cross after the lover's experience of His resurrection.

Song of Songs is a portrait of the love of Christ in His union with His **individual** believers. To have the Body life, we must have individual contact with the Lord.

Drawn to Pursue Christ for Satisfaction

The lover of Christ is **transformed** by the remaking of the Spirit. The lover of Christ is transformed from a strong natural person (a mare among Pharaoh's chariots) into a person who lives a life not relying upon herself but trusting in Him (lily) and looking to Him with a single eye (eyes like doves).

The lover is **satisfied with the rest and enjoyment in Christ**. Satisfaction required two things—rest and enjoyment. First, we need to rest and then, as we are at rest, we have some enjoyment. However, Christ does not intend that His lover stay in this first stage. She needs to enter into the second stage of the Christian life of a lover of Christ—the stage of experiencing the cross of Christ for the breaking of the self.

Called to be Delivered from the Self through the Oneness with the Cross

In the second stage, the stage of being **called by Him to be delivered from the self through oneness with the cross**, three critical words help us to interpret this section: **cross**, **self**, and **introspection**. The clefts of the rock and the covert of the precipice signify the **cross** as the place of safety for fallen man. The **self** is very subtle. It is the satanic humanity; it is man possessed and usurped by Satan. Even a lover of Christ, one who yearns for Him, seeks Him, and gains Him, is still troubled by the self. **Introspection** is to examine yourself by looking into yourself. We should not look at ourselves, rather we should always look away unto Jesus. The only way we can go to the cross is by the power of His resurrection.

Called to be Delivered from the Self through the Oneness with the Cross

In the third stage, the **call to live in ascension as the new creation in resurrection**, we need to learn the lesson of **discerning the spirit from the soul**. To live in ascension means to have a Christian life all the time in our spirit. If we do things by the old man in the soul or in the self, we are living on the earth. Our spirit is connected to the heavens by God as the Spirit. In spirit we are therefore in the heavens. We should not think that discerning the spirit from the soul is something that is too difficult for us to learn. We can learn how to do this by always inquiring of the Lord: "Lord, is this the old man, the soul, the old 'I' only, or You with me?"

The union of the bed with its sleeper, the palanquin with its rider, and the bride with her bridegroom, all signify the complete union of the lover with Christ. **Because we have been united to Christ, we have become the new creation**. The new creation is only that which is in ascension in resurrection. Without resurrection, there cannot be a new creation.

(Life-Study of Song of Songs – Message 1 to 5).