

The Cross in the Song of Songs

Part Four “New Maturity”

Introduction

There is a long dry season from the former rains of early spring when seeds are first planted to the latter rains of harvest time when fruit begins to come forth. During this dry season, the heat can be intense and the growth is hidden beneath the soil's surface. During these long hot days the temptation comes to leave the principles of the Cross that first saved us and by which Christ was sown into hearts, and start trying to produce fruit on our own. In our attempt to appear fruitful we may labor, wrestle, and cry out for God to help us as we “take our labor under the sun” (Ecclesiastes). Like children striving to do an adult task, we try to handle the things of God on our own rather than waiting for the Lord to come forth as our fruit. Finally we realize that our love, strength, patience, wisdom, forgiveness, etc. is utterly insufficient for the mission. We return to the Cross and fall down in surrender. This time we are not surrendering our things or our problems, but ourselves. Our heart cry is no longer; “I will try harder,... I will be better,... I will do your ministry”, but rather now we cry; “I am not,... I am crucified,... not I but Christ must live through me”. At this point everything changes. As we hug the Cross that crucified us (Romans 6. Galatians 6:14), we find Christ's life filling us in new ways. Old, dead religious duties become gardens blossoming with God's fruit. Our bibles become brand new; each verse resonating with the living testimony of Christ Who is now in us. Scriptures that seemed boring and dry begin to open as the Spirit reveals Christ in ways that are wonderful beyond description. I share all of this as the introduction to “Part Four and Five” to simply help the reader prepare their heart for the season the Shulamite is now in. She has just passed through the things we just discussed. In her weakness she is discovering new motives within her heart that emanate from His Life in her. His strength is quickening her in new ways. Even things like “rest” and “fellowship” are altogether new and filled with Life. May God draw our hearts to run with her into truly knowing what Life is... Christ Himself filling us (Ephesians 3:18-19). May we surround ourselves with the company of those who “hug/embrace” the Cross that crucified us so that we might joyfully enter into knowing the fullness of Christ within!

Song of Songs 1:9 "I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots."

Here we see her motive is no longer to carry forth her own life with its desires, will and purpose, but to carry forth Him. She is now a vessel purposed to bear His life and not her own.

Song of Songs 1:10a "Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels..."

Her cheeks are flushed, not by the exertion of fleshly efforts but by a new flow of Blood which signifies His Life in her. She is now energized by the power of an endless Life, which is Christ's and not her own (Hebrews 7:16). She can go the extra mile and carry Him forth in ways she never could before.

Song of Songs 1:10b "thy neck with chains of gold"

Her neck is lifting Him up as her Head now. (Colossians 1:18). Her neck is gird and strengthened with chains of gold, which represent deity. The divine work of God through the Cross has now joined her to Him, body to Head. She is empowered and strengthened by the Spirit of God to bear Him as Head in the forward movement of His Life as it flows forth through His body. Before her neck was stiff, only willing to go and do what she wanted. But now she exists to lift Him up and do His will as one joined in life-union.

Song of Songs 1:11 "We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver"

A whole new emphasis has motivated her. Now she seeks to be built as His habitation rather than working on her own virtues and fruit. She seeks for Christ (gold) to be formed within, held by the silver of His redemptive Cross and not the works of her flesh. She has found that unless the Lord builds the house she labors in vain (Psalm 127:1). She will not "build in vain" again, trying to bring forth something for Him through her own works. She is discovering that all resources to be built as His habitation must come from God unveiling His Son in her. In Ecclesiastes she was concerned with beautifying the vessel, but now her emphasis is on the Treasure. What will make her His habitation is that HE is able to dwell in her.

Song of Songs 1:12 While the King sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the fragrance thereof”.

Now, not only is she being formed as His habitation, but the inhabitant is finding rest and communion within His home (His bride). The King sitting at His table is a picture of Christ having entered into His rest in the believer (Psalm 132:13-14). He is a King, a governor, established in the place of inward fellowship that is sending forth savor. When Christ is given place as Lord and Life, we release more that correct actions or proper doctrines for His essence is released from this living union within His dwelling place. She can now “make manifest the savor of the knowledge”, because He is her fullness and not man’s religion (II Corinthians 2:14). Before this time she sat at the table and there was no savor or fragrance of Christ going forth, just the fellowship of man. Now there is a communion of His Life, both in her and through her to others.

Song of Songs 1:13-14 “A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved unto me, he shall abide all night in my bosom. My beloved is unto me as a cluster of henna flowers in the vineyards of Engedi”.

Her heart has made a determination by faith to abide in this new found relationship of union. If darkness surrounds her and she feels nothing, or if she feels pain and persecution... she will not force Him to leave His rest. She will not release her faith that He is in her now as her life (Romans. 10:6-8).

Whether His fruit appears through her, or outwardly she yet looks barren... she has found Him to be her fountainhead of life and fullness. All fruit is Him to her, and she will never let Him go to separate and establish her own righteousness and outward show. All is found in Him and He is the Source of All. Whether the Son is shining like the Day Star at high noon, or hidden from sight at midnight, He is intoxicatingly Life to her now, and she will hold on to Him by faith.

Song of Songs 1:15 “Behold, thou are fair, my love; behold, thou are fair; thou hast doves eyes”.

Now His approval of her is based on her embrace of His Cross and relationship with the Holy Spirit to see according to the resurrection. Her fairness is seen in a “beholding” of herself as in Him. She is not fair outside of Him... she is corrupt and

crucified. But the Holy Spirit (Dove) is awakening her to His reality, and she is beginning to see as He sees.

Song of Songs 1:16a "Behold, thou art fair, my beloved"

Her response is the correct response. Immediately she identifies that anything of beauty He sees in her is actually HIS beauty, and not her own. Therefore she says, "THOU are fair. You are my beauty, my virtue, my righteousness, and my life".

Song of Songs 1:16b "pleasant; also our bed is green".

She then goes on to exalt in the wonder that their place of rest is also a place of Life (green). She is finding that embracing her death with Him has only led her into the realm of the living... all is of LIFE in resurrection, for all things are become new, and Christ is the newness of all things (II Corinthians. 5:17)! It is the place IN SON that so far exceeds all she has known working in her vineyards "under the Son" as shown in Ecclesiastes.

Song of Songs 1:17 "The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters of fir".

Psalms 132:3-6 "Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob. Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood."

She is overcome with a desire, (like David's dad Solomon's had), to build for the Lord a habitation. Solomon is the Son of David who in type and shadow represents the risen Son who now has a Body to inhabit. The Shulamite here is discovering that as she embraces the Cross that is bringing forth His Life in her... He is getting a habitation. The house is being built as His Life finds place in her through the in-working of the Cross. Like David, her heart is stirred beyond her comfort to think about His needs and desires. She uses words such as "OUR" bed and "OUR" house. Her rest comes from her place in Him, and His rest comes from His place in her.

*"Her rest comes from her place in Him,
and His rest comes from His place in her."*

Part Five

“Being Established in Union”

Song of Songs 2:3-5 "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love."

We find her identifying in Him in living ways as she is being established IN HIM. She has left the old ways of relating in the separateness of doing things for Him through the works of her flesh. She is now finding the blessed rest and fullness that before seemed like only a dream. She has found this IN the Son, whereas before she was searching everywhere UNDER the Son for rest and fullness. She is now finding the blessedness of being accepted in God's Beloved Son, and resting in Him as her identity. In Him there is exceeding abundance of fruit. He is her land of plenty. He is her true Vine filled with endless supply. Being "in Christ" to her is like resting under the shade of a fruit tree while partaking of the fruit freely. Being in Him is like being in a banqueting house, partaking of all fullness by grace because of His love. In verses 3-5 she feasts and basks in the wonder of being found in Him Who is all-sufficiency. She continues declaring the wonder of this position in Him in verse 6:

*Song of Songs 2:6 "His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand doth embrace me".*

She is discovering the blessed relationship that is hers IN Christ. *"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6).* She did not earn her place in Him, God put her in Christ based on the work of His Cross. Her position in Him is settled and stable, so she can rest there without constantly trying to maintain favor through her own works. She is realizing that HE has made her to SIT, and by His arm alone has God raised her up to her position in Christ. *"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6).* It is important to see the order here in both the Song of Songs and in the Book of Ephesians. Before any walking or standing occurs, all must first be established in the grace and permanency of being accepted in Christ. If that

foundation is not laid first, then all subsequent growth could be seen as a form of earning or maintaining our position of oneness in Christ. That would make the Song of Songs a book of the law rather than a song of love. No, all is of grace in Christ. She will grow in grace as she continues to know Him through partaking of His Divine nature. *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).*

Although she is beginning to receive the grace of Life as she partakes of Him as her Source, she will be ever mindful of her position of utter weakness and complete reliance in Him. She entered into this realm and season of blessedness only through accepting that "I" had been crucified with Christ. She had come to a bitter end of herself which opened her up to knowing Him as her Life. She is dead and now Christ is her life (Colossians 3:3). His left hand being under her head shows that she can no longer lift herself up in her own strength. He alone carries her as Source. His right hand is embracing her in the oneness of resurrected union. He holds her in oneness with Himself, and nothing that she is or does keeps her in this blessed union. She is His now, even as a body belongs to the life filling it. She is held, secure, filled, and one.

Song of Songs 2:7 "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love until He please".

She has found this place of rest so blessed, so pure, so alive with the Son that she fears man's influence of trying to bring it back into the activity of the flesh rather than the activity of His will. She will earnestly contend for her new-found relationship in Him, rebuking anything that would seek to move it from the realms of Life and back into the activity of the flesh

He has complimented her and brought her into tender fellowship... even the communion of Life, but it is her place to keep her heart abiding as His hidden one, mindful of her true state as crucified and the vessel of His Life alone. She charges the daughters to not disturb this rest by trying to awaken the Lord unto our own times and purposes. He is now the Head, and her times and season are in His hands. He will live according to His purpose and timing in His own Body, and not man's will.

*"He is her land of plenty.
He is her True Vine filled with endless supply."*