

## ***Session 8: The Bride's Life Vision***

Tonight, we are going to be looking at session eight in the studies in the Song of Solomon, covering this verse-by-verse through twenty-four different sessions, or twenty-four classes.

Session eight is the Bride's life vision—Song 1:4. This is the vision that the bride proclaims throughout the eight-chapter love song. Throughout the whole long song, this vision is constantly in tension with where she is, and what the Holy Spirit is working it out in her life. We will see that as we open the book chapter by chapter.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Roman numeral I: introduction. In this session, we are going to look at Song 1:4, where the bride describes her spiritual goals, and she describes her life vision. This is a power-packed passage. Song 1:4 has many ideas that lie beneath the surface that are not maybe automatically obvious through a casual reading. She cries out to the Lord in verse four, “Draw me away,” and then she continues the second part of her prayer, “and we will run”—together in essence. I am adding the word “together.” “We will run after You, Jesus.”

She declares to the King—that is the secret to her life right here. This is the power of her spiritual life. Her vision cannot go forward apart from this reality, “The King has brought me into His chambers” (Song 1:4).

Then, she gives the confession of her faith that holds her steady in trials—the confession of her faith that holds her steady in temptation—the confession of her faith that continues to inspire her throughout the journey of her spiritual life.

### **IN SONG 1:2-4, THE BRIDE HAS A THREE-FOLD CONFESSION**

It is a three-part confession in verse four: “We will be glad in You. We will rejoice in You,” which is the second part. Those are similar, but there are distinctive. Song of Solomon 1:4: “We will remember Your love even more than the wine of this world”—the positive and the negative experiences in this world, or temptations. The negative wine is the temptations of sin. The positive wine is in context to a marriage celebration. It is even the blessings of God. “We will remember Your love even more than the good blessings or the distracting temptations in our life.” This is the confession that she is going to need to maintain

throughout the entire love song, if she is in fact going to fulfill her life vision to be drawn away after God's heart in intimacy, and then to run together with Him in ministry.

### **THE EXPRESSION OF HER FERVCENCY: TWO-FOLD LIFE VISION**

Roman numeral II—the expression of her fervency for the Lord. Her fervency for the Lord is seen in this two-fold life vision. She wants to be drawn to the Lord. She wants to be drawn after His heart in ministry. That is her number one cry before Jesus when she stands before Him, but that is not the only thing she wants.

She wants to run together with the Lord and with others that the Lord joins her to in the Body of Christ. She wants to run in ministry. She wants partnership with His heart. It is not enough to have intimacy with the Lord just in the secret place. A dimension of our life in God is partnership with Him in bringing the gospel to others, and I do not just mean to people who have never heard it—certainly for those who have not heard the gospel—but just establishing the kingdom, and the purpose of God amongst others, whether they are believers or not.

The Lord wants us to experience the drawing, but He also wants us to know grace and power of the Spirit in running. He wants us to have perseverance in the running. Many people pick one or the other. They determine their life is going to be only about being drawn in intimacy, or there is another group. They do not like that. They think it is a waste of time. They love in the general sense, but they think life on this earth is only about running in ministry to bring the message and the purpose of God to others. The truth is that God wants both of them deeply established in right order, in right priority in our life. He does not want us to leave either one of those behind.

### **“DRAW ME AWAY! WE WILL RUN AFTER YOU” (SONG OF SOLOMON 1:4)**

Paragraph A. Her two-fold life vision and goals, she offers them in the form of a prayer: “Draw me, Lord. Draw me away. I want to be taken away from what is before me now in the secret place, and in my private life in God where no one else peers into what is going on between my heart and your heart, and we will run together after You” (Song 1:4, paraphrased).

Again, the two-fold vision—paragraph A—she prays, “Jesus, draw me away. Draw me close to Your heart. Draw me away from all of the things that are shutting my

heart down and bring me to a place where I can encounter You.” In other words, she wants to be an extravagant worshipper. She wants to be a wholehearted lover of God. She wants to love God with all of her heart, all of her strength, which is the same thing as being an extravagant worshipper of God. This is not just an idea. This is a concrete, real vision in her heart. This is the reason we have life on the earth—to be drawn away with You, Lord, to be an anointed, extravagant worshipper of God, to love God with all of our heart, all of our strength, and all of our mind.

### **SHE LONGS TO SERVE PEOPLE IN MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS**

Paragraph C. She is talking to the Lord in this prayer, “We will run after You” (Song 1:4). “We” and “running” are in the plural. It is always in the plural. It does not mean that there is an afternoon that you cannot be alone and minister to somebody. That is not what it means.

In the overall of our life, being drawn by God, to God’s heart is singular. We run after God, I mean, we are drawn to God in the secret place, but we run together in relationship in the Body of Christ, and we run in relationship with Jesus.

We are running with Him, and we are running after Him. He is the One who is setting the pace. It is not just that we are running for Him or running with Him. We are running after the ministry that is in His heart for us. Some people are content to run for Him. As long as they are busy, and they are working morning, noon, and night in the ministry they are happy. What is better than that is not running for Him, but running with Him and running after Him because He has a ministry that is in His heart that God the Father has fashioned for you. He wants us to do it together with Him.

It says in Mark 16:20, “The Lord working with them” (the disciples). 1 Corinthians 3:9 says, “For we are God’s fellow workers;” we work with Him, and in the language of the Song of Solomon, we are running with Him, and we are running after Him. He is the one setting the pace.

### **RUNNING WITH THE LORD: NOT AHEAD AND NOT BEHIND HIM**

Now that has two dimensions to Jesus’ setting the pace. We naturally think, “Well, do not run ahead of the Lord,” because kind of the thing we talk about when we talk about running with the Lord is running ahead of the Lord. Beloved, I think the problem is equally weighty that we are running too far behind the Lord. Again, lots

of people talk about running ahead of the Lord, but I believe that much of the Body of Christ is running way back from the pace the Lord is running in their life.

He is wanting them to go onto new levels of dedication, new levels of risk, and I do not just mean find the craziest thing that you can think of that you are probably going to go broke, and in prison then do it. That is not what I am saying. I am not interested in getting people into a bunch of frivolous activity because it seems cool. We want to walk with Him. We want to run with Him. We want to work together with Him. It is about partnership with the Man in a very specific way.

**“YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF” (MATTHEW 22:39)**

Running is plural. She wants to serve people in ministry while relating to other people—those who the Lord will bring together in team ministry—and they are partnering with Jesus. We want to love our neighbor as ourselves. Now the balance of our spiritual life throughout the Song of Solomon, this eight-chapter love song, is the passion for Jesus and compassion for people. In my thirty years of ministry, I have watched that so often, in my own life the tension. The tension is never solved. There is always the tension because both of them are so important to the Lord.

Throughout our entire life, we will be in this tension where we are doing one more than the other, but we feel the tug in the other direction. It is the tension between drawing, and running. Drawing and running. Many ministries are focused on one at the neglect of the other.

Here at IHOP, I do not want us to only be drawn after the Lord. I want us to be drawn after Him at the heart level so that we are empowered to run with Him, to bring the purpose of God, the Word of God to believers and to unbelievers to bring it to Him in power. Someone said, “Which is most important?” “Well,” I said, “we do not have to pick. We can do both. You do not have to pick which is your favorite—your liver, your heart, or your kidney. You get all of them.”

We do not need to pick between these. We need to run hard with the Lord in ministry to bring the gospel and the Word of God to others, and I find that the more that we are drawn in our private life, the more empowered we are to run in an effective way.

I remember when the Lord first called me to a life of prayer. He spoke it really clearly that prayer would be a priority in my life. It was some years ago, and I was a very energetic evangelists. I was one of those guys where I got a bullhorn, and went into the school cafeteria at the university with nobody's permission, and nobody liked it. I had a little team of guys, and somehow I always got voted to be the guy with the bullhorn. I did not even like it, to be honest. I thought, "Oh no, I did it last time," and somehow the lot always fell my way. We would go in restaurants and just preach. That sounds kind of cool, but it was really foolish to be honest.

We would street preach. I had friends who would time their hours—eight hours a day of preaching and witnessing—like a job. When the Lord called me to prayer, I could not fathom it because a life of prayer was an evangelist who went astray. I mean, really, a man or woman of prayer I was very suspicious of because I thought it was a potential evangelist who went astray. I had trouble with this. I did not like it. I did not want to pick between loving Jesus and fulfilling my mandate in God to preach the gospel to unbelievers. I was not even thinking of teaching the Body of Christ. That is a very valid ministry as well.

I cared about soul winning. I used to get in the car and hitchhike from one end of the city to the other for the sole purpose of trapping the person in the car with me. I remember one time I hitchhiked across the nation. I got forty rides exactly. I calculated them. I wrote them all up and had them all figured out.

I witnessed to forty people, and I went after them. They would get in the car, and I would just start right after immediately. Here is the point: when I first began to hear of the call to prayer by the Holy Spirit, I was confused. I could not manage this in my thinking because, again, an intercessor was an evangelist who went astray. I began to find out over the years that if you are being drawn into Jesus' heart, the safest place that an evangelist can take place is in the heart of Jesus because He is the ultimate evangelist.

People would over the years, as people would be really devoted to prayer in a really focused way. They would take a year or two and do it in a really exaggerated way, and I would say, "Do not worry. They have so much burnout and so much rust in their pipes spiritually speaking. They need a little detoxification. "Do not worry. They are in good hands. They are running into Jesus. They are saying, 'I love You. Speak to me, Jesus. I love You.' He is the Man who died for the lost. Do

not worry. We are going to be in good shape because He is going to speak to them.”

A man or a woman who has a living relationship where their heart is feeling moved (I do not just mean living in the technical sense where they are born-again), they might not feel the power of it in their spirit. A man or a woman with a living relationship with Jesus will have some emotional traffic out of their mind and out of their heart. They will have significant amounts of sin and anxiety and fear, much of which, it is not all gone, but much of it is at a much lower level, and they have more space in their emotional and mental hard drive as I was talking about in the last session. They have a lot more energy to focus. So, I do not want to just get people busy. I want to get people with their hearts settled down and alive in the Spirit busy. That is a different kind of worker, and lovers will always outwork workers.

### **LOVERS OUTWORK WORKERS**

That is one of the things that we have said over the years. Workers, that is good, but lovers always outwork workers. They stay the course for years. They stay steady with it.

So when we started IHOP, and I have lots of, I had many comments, “What about, what about, what about?” I said, “No, we will lead more people to the Lord, we will see more healings, and we will have more prophecy teams.

We will have more people fed, have more money raised, if we cry out night and day because God did, in fact, call us by the audible voice to pray night and day. We will only be better, as those who run in ministry. We will not be lesser. We will be more effective in it. Well at the beginning of the race, or the relationship with the Lord, many people choose to run. When somebody gets excited about the Lord, mostly they think, “What can I do?” That is a very natural thing. I have watched this over the years of ministry.

First year, or two, or three, or four, they are nearly all about running. They love the Bible a little bit. They want to run. They want to get things going, so they focus on running without being drawn in intimacy. Then what happens is running brings conflict, and that is new to them because they are thinking, “I am going to run, and Jesus is going to take care of me, and people are going to be happy.”

No, it is going to bring rejection, persecution, misunderstanding, and then three, four, five, maybe ten years later, some of them make it ten years. Some only make it four or five. It is a short amount of time if you are thinking of a seventy-year life.

Then, they burnout because their feelings get hurt, they get rejected, they get tired, and their spirit, their heart is not feeling the power of God. That is what they mean by burnout. They overreact, and they go, "I am never going to run again. I am only going to be drawn. That is what I always should have done." No, you should have had the reality of being drawn to Jesus first in your life, but it is not the only thing. We are to run together with Him in ministry. We are to do both in each season of our life.

### **THE BALANCE OF BOTH**

I have found that the Lord will highlight one of those more in one season than another, and it is only in the fifty-year picture where you can see the wisdom of God of how He might cause you to focus in one area more than another. In whatever focus the Lord has you, there will be running and there will be drawing. They will just be different proportions. So you do not need to be excited or nervous if somebody is running a little bit more in this season or being drawn into the Lord's heart more in this season than the other. The Lord might have them in a season for three, four, or five years. Again, in all seasons we are to do both, but the proportion changes.

From the fifty-year picture of a person's life, you can see the wisdom of God, so it is not a problem, but we are not to neglect either one of these. Now I find that what most people are afraid of is people's opinions. I have found that the people who have never been involved in a really aggressive prayer environment, they get a lot of criticism by their friends back home who do not have a prayer life. They think, "Bah humbug, you are backsliding because you are going to go, and encounter Jesus' heart."

Then, I find the opposite after a few years of being around the prayer ministry and worship. Then they get, "Oh no, if God calls me to go out in a more extravagant way in ministry, then I am going to get criticized by the other group." Beloved, you are always going to have people criticizing you for whatever season you are in, so do not go by that. We cannot take our signals on the popularity poles. We have to take them from the Word of God, and we have to take them from what God is putting in our hearts.

## **THE GENERAL ORDER IN THE KINGDOM IS TO BE DRAWN, THEN TO RUN**

Now the general order of the kingdom—paragraph F—is to be first drawn to intimacy with Jesus. That is the divine order. This is not man's order. This is God's order, and you will never succeed, you will never be more successful in God by violating God's order. Obeying God's order is the key to succeeding in God—first to be drawn in intimacy and then secondly in the overflow of our heart being alive in Jesus, the overflow of a vibrant, vital relationship with Jesus, we run in ministry.

It might be ministry in our home. It might be ministry in our neighborhood. It might be ministry one-on-one. It does not have to be a preaching ministry in public to be in ministry. It could be your ministry in the marketplace.

What happens to a lot of folks in the marketplace is that they really even see their ministry in the marketplace, but they spend very little time being drawn after the Lord, so they get really wounded and beat up running with the Lord in the marketplace. I have watched it for years people doing that, and they think, "What is wrong?"

"You are out of kingdom order. You do not have to quit your job and join IHOP. That is not the answer, but you need to be drawn after Him while you are running after Him. Both of them need to be in place in divine order."

## **TO BE AN EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIPPER OF GOD AND DELIVERER OF MAN**

When I was about eighteen years old, and I am saying this for the sake of the eighteen or nineteen year olds that we have here. I am saying it for your benefit, and for others as well. I went to a seminar, and they told me, I believed the guy. He told me that without a life vision I would never really enter into the fullness of what God called me to do.

I go, "What is a life vision?" He said, "A life vision is the overall purpose for your life, and it is bigger than what your occupation is. It is bigger than your family status, your economic status. Your life vision is the reason that you are alive on the Earth."

Now, you can have goals in your occupation and vocation. You can have goals in your family, relationship, economics, but it is bigger than your relationships. It is bigger than your calling to the marketplace. It is bigger than your calling whether you are serving in a church ministry somewhere.

Your life vision is bigger than those, and these other parts of our lives are secondary. So I spent some time thinking about this, and I modified it a few times. I worked on it a lot. He said, "You have to get it clear. You have to figure out what is the thing that you will sacrifice everything else for?"

They said, "Make it very simple, but be clear." So I will offer this to you, and you can of course do what you want with it. I determined and said, "Here is what I am going to do. Here is what I want to do on the Earth. I want to be an extravagant worshipper of God, and I want to be an anointed deliverer of people. That is it."

### **FULFILL THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS WITH POWER**

In other words, I want to fulfill the two great commandments but with power. I want to love God with all of my heart, and then I want to be anointed in delivering people, and I had no thought when I was eighteen years old of being a preacher. I was not talking about being a public preacher.

What had happened in that season of my life is that I had a vision to be a medical doctor. As a matter of fact, I had applied to medical school and had gotten in. I was excited, and my heroes were all medical missionaries. My main hero was J. Hudson Taylor—the medical doctor who went to China and led a lot of people to the Lord. So I was going to move to a foreign country. I had this vision for years, I mean, about five years, to be a medical doctor with no thought of being a preacher or pastor. It never actually entered my mind. Again, I got accepted to the medical school, and I was excited. The Holy Spirit, I will not tell you how because it would take too much time, told me so clearly, "No, no, no." I was devastated. I remember calling up the school and saying, "I am not taking it."

They said, "No, this is a very big thing. You have to take it." The odds of getting in were one out of a hundred. They had 1000 applicants and 75 got in.

They said, "No, this is," I was talking to a Christian lady, and she said, "This is God."

I responded, “No, it is ‘no, no, no.’”

My point being is this: I was planning those years to be a doctor. Being an extravagant worshipper, and a deliverer of men had nothing to do with preaching in a pulpit. I had no thought of having a public meeting to a large group of people sitting in a room. I was just going to do one-on-one witnessing and one-on-one discipling. That was the only vision I ever had.

So when I had the idea of being an anointed deliverer, it was one-on-one to lead someone to the Lord and to powerfully disciple them one-by-one. As the years went by and twenty became twenty-one, it became clear to me that I was going to be preaching as my vocation, so my vocation changed from being a medical doctor to a preacher, but my life vision did not change when my vocation changed, in terms of my understanding. I determined when I said I wanted to be an extravagant worshipper and an anointed deliverer that I wanted to get it really simple. What are the one or two things that you would sacrifice everything else for?

### **TO KNOW THE BIBLE, AND TO WALK IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

I said, “I want to know the Bible, and I want to learn to walk in the Holy Spirit.” That was the same thing as being a worshipper and a deliverer. I said, “I want to know the Bible. I want to be a man of the Scripture,” and again, at that point of time, I did not have a vision of being a teacher.

I did not want to learn the Bible, so I could give Bible studies. I wanted to learn the Bible because I wanted to know God. And the reason I say that is some people cannot get excited about going deep in the scriptures because they do not have a pulpit. They say, “Give me a pulpit, and I will start reading the Bible more.”

I respond, “No, you will just give people information if that is how you are studying. We do not need more preachers who search for information and stories to entertain a crowd. We need more men and women who are feeding their spirit on the Word for God’s sake and their own heart, and then they give the overflow of it to other people.”

### **A FOCUSED LIFE HAS AN OVERALL LIFE VISION AND LIFE GOALS**

Paragraph H. I have a series called “The Power of the Focused Life,” which I take several sessions and go through the necessity, the importance of having a life

vision, having a focused life. You have to have an overall life vision, and then you have to have life goals.

I have life goals for my spiritual life, my relationships, my vocation, which happens to be the Director of IHOP, but back in the day it was not that kind of thing. I had other different assignments in the marketplace. Yes, I have had a real job before.

Ok, I have had vision for my ministry, for my economics, for my physical life, and for rest. You need to have part of your life vision about what are you going to do about rest? I think that is a very important subject because if you do not think it through, you will end up doing it wrong—way too much or way too little, and of course the spirit of our culture is way too much at this point in time in terms of culture

The issue of rest is a critically important issue. How do you do it? Why do you do it? Where do you do it? What are your goals related to rest? Rest is a critical part of your life, and without a clear plan, rest will get out of sync one way or the other.

### **AN ACTION PLAN FOR SUCCESS**

So we need an action plan, which is what they taught me, and a schedule. I had goals for each one of these areas. I really want to urge you to do this because under the master plan of your life to be an anointed deliverer and an extravagant worshipper, there are these other areas of your life that you need to have goals for as well.

Some people's goals, or some people's life vision is just to fall in love and see what happens and have enough money to where they do not become broke. I say, "No, you have to get a real life vision."

"I do, I just want to get married and, you know, be happy and serve God."

I respond, "And?"

They say, "You know I do not want to live on food stamps. I do not know what I want to do. I just want to be in love, basically."

I respond, "That is going to get you seriously derailed if that is your primary vision for your life. You will have so many chances to get your heart destroyed and

wounded. You need to have a far more clear vision than just being happy and in love. Get something to where that is one of the subunits of your life vision. That is not your life vision. That is the guaranteed way to a very, very painful life filled with confusion and disaster.”

We need to have a vision bigger than our circumstances. Anyway, so you can think on that, but the bride starts off very clear in her declaration, “I am going to be drawn after You.” That is not a small thing. That is a huge point in the foundation of her life.

### **THE GROWTH OF FERVENCY: THE CHAMBER EXPERIENCES**

Roman numeral III. Let's talk about the chamber experiences. This is how she is going to grow in fervency for God. The two-fold vision is right there. She has locked her heart to go all the way with God. Now she has to sustain it. She has got to grow in this fervency for God. She has got to be able to have the power to walk out her life vision, and it is the chamber experiences.

She says, “The king has brought me into his chambers” (Song 1:4). Now, in the Song of Solomon, the King's chamber is the bridal chamber. It refers to the times in her life where she develops her secret life in God. Everybody in the kingdom of God has a secret life in God. Maybe they do not think much about it, but they have a life in God that God records which others do not see, and it is our secret life in God, which is our most important part about our life is our secret life in God.

It is not our financial life. It is not whether we are in love, or not in love, or whether we found them, or we did not. Those are important things, but there is something that is actually more important; it is your secret life in God. It is what happens in your heart when you are in the Lord's chamber and being in the Lord's chamber. These are the times where God forms and fashions our inner man. I have here that God woos, and He warns us. He promises and He confronts us in those chamber experiences. It is not always positive. He wants us to grow in the Spirit. What she had just prayed is: “Lord, draw me after You” (Song 1:4). In other words, she is asking the Lord to take initiative. Draw me, help me, help me to encounter You.

### **CHAMBER EXPERIENCES OF OUR SECRET HISTORY IN GOD**

God has a part, and we have a part. We position our heart in the Word of God, and in a place of obedience. I call them the chamber experiences. I do not just mean

your personal private life in God, but the chamber experiences are those few experiences in the Lord in a person's life. You can count the smaller experiences to the more dramatic ones. It is where the Lord carries you. He brings you into a place of encounter with His own heart.

She says, "Draw me" (Song 1:4). In Song of Solomon 2:4, she says "He brought me into the banqueting house." I like to think of the Lord carrying us into His chambers. He brings us into the chamber. You cannot get there by yourself. You can position yourself in a life of obedience, through prayer and the Word, and a life of servanthood. I look at my own life, and I have had those rare experiences. Sometimes, it is just in the Word where the Lord speaks those few times in a year.

I am not talking about every day and every week. I am talking about those several times in a course of a year, and maybe not every year. I do not know. It is not like I have added them all up. It is where I have unusual clarity about my life in God from the Word or maybe it comes from another person prophetically or a dream. I call them the chamber experiences, and these are more than my intimacy with God, or your intimacy with God. The Lord will bring you. He will cause you two, three, four times a year (maybe more and maybe less), and the Word touches us with a clarity, a mandate, and the Lord speaks to us.

Now people love the chamber times except for here is the problem, here is the other side of the chamber experiences is that when we have them God holds us accountable to them. The chamber times are not just for Christian bragging rights, so you can tell somebody you had one. The Lord gives us these times when the Word draws near to you in an unusual way in those two, three, four or five times a year.

He speaks more clearly about an issue in our life, our character, issue of our finances, or an issue of our future. He gives us promises and warnings. He gives us challenges in very definitive way whether just the strength of the Word touching us, or a full Holy Spirit experience of a higher level where you see an angel or you hear the audible voice of the Lord. Those are very rare of course. Jesus talked about the shepherd that found the sheep, and He laid it on His shoulders, and He carried it rejoicing. I say, "Lord, carry us into the chambers." It takes the strength of the Lord for us to get there into those chamber experiences.

## **THE CERTAINTY OF FERVENCY: THE PROPHETIC ASSURANCE**

Roman numeral IV. Then it is what I call “the prophetic assurance,” or I could even put “the need for the confession of our faith.” It is the being stable, and sustained in her fervency. It takes the confession of our faith. What I mean by that, let’s read the passage here in Song 1:4: “The king brought me into the chambers.” There, He gave me these assignments, He gave me these promises, and He gave me these unique challenges. Again, it is a small amount of time in terms of the percentage of the days of your life that something like this would happen.

Then she says her next thing: “We will be glad, we will rejoice in You. We will remember Your love more than the distracting wine of sin or even the blessings in life” (Song 1:4, paraphrased). We are going to be glad and we are going to rejoice in You, and we are going to remember You. This is not a small thing.

When we have a chamber experience, even if it is just our private life in the Lord, and the Word stirs us, I would call that a chamber experience. After, the enemy is going to come to test us and to steal that from our heart, time will go by, and it will seem like it will never come to pass, but we need to rejoice in God. We need to remember that Word. and we need to declare the truth of it. We need to give the confession of our faith each step of the journey.

I mean the chamber experience is exciting, but that is only the conception so to speak. That is only when the promise or the warning or the challenge is birthed in you. The need is to walk it out day by day, and she gives her confession. I am glad in Jesus. I am rejoicing in who He is. I am rejoicing in what His promises are, and I will not forget His love even in the darkness, even in the temptation, even when I do not feel it.

I will remember His love. I will remember these encounters even though these chamber encounters might even be subtle ones. They are not only huge visitations to the third heavens where the angel of the Lord appears to you type of thing. That might happen once in a person’s life or that kind of thing. I am talking about the chamber encounters, and the chamber experiences in a more regular part of our every day life in God. I mean they are still rare because they happen a few times a year, but not so dramatic that it happens once in ten years.

## **WE REJOICE IN HIS TENDER MERCY, EXCELLENCIES AND LEADERSHIP**

Paragraph B. We will be glad, we will rejoice and we will remember (Song 1:4). I have three ways that I have laid out here not that this is the fullness of it. In our weakness, in the chamber experiences, the Lord says something like “I am going to cause you to walk in power and in victory.” You know this to be a promise of God in your heart, the chamber experiences is when God promises you things as well.

Then we stumble and we fall. The devil comes and says it is over and you have gone too far, just give up and give in. What we have to do is we have to rejoice in the redemption of Jesus, and who He is. We do not just wallow in our sorrows and our condemnation. We have to remember His love, and not just feel our sorrow.

When people fail, they get far more into their condemnation, and they forget the Love of God. They do not rejoice in Jesus. What they do is they magnify their failure. Beloved, magnifying your failure is not going to get you anywhere in the Spirit. We need repent of it. We need to push delete on it, and we need to remember the love of God, and to rejoice in the redemption of Jesus.

When I sin and come up short, I feel like a failure, and I do not like that feeling, I want to wallow for a while. Does anybody relate to that? You want to wallow for a while, at least for a little while. The Lord say, “I do not want you to do that. I want you to repent, and I want you to get back into the battle. I want you to take your stand before Me rejoicing in Me.”

Number two is how we carry our heart, how we rejoice in His Excellencies, and how fascinating He is as a Man. We rejoice in Jesus. So sin is coming and knocking at our door, but instead of giving ourselves to the sin we are rejoicing in the Lord. Not in the potential for sin, we are rejoicing in who He is, and the reality of His desire, His ability to fascinate our spirit with Himself. This talks about the way we carry our heart in temptation.

We rejoice in, and remember His leadership in times of difficulty. So we need a healing, a financial breakthrough, a relational breakthrough and we say, “Lord, what are You doing?”

He says, “Remember My love and rejoice in My leadership. Do not give the devil; do not give the lies of darkness supremacy in your inner man. Rejoice in Me.

Remember My love. Remember Me and do not remember only the disaster and the lies of the enemy. Remember Me.”

## **IN FAITH, WE CONFESS THAT GOD IS GOOD AND THE DEVIL IS A LIAR**

The faith confession in the time of despair, and the faith confession in a time of failure is an act of spiritual warfare. It is a really important part of our spiritual warfare. Look what it says in Revelation 19:7 at the marriage supper of the Lamb: “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage supper of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

We will rejoice and be glad. Our confession that we will be glad and rejoice in Him in this life is a foreshadowing of our celebration at the marriage supper. We are using the very language we will use on the last day: the Bride in the Song is using it in her day-to-day journey to war against the things that cause darkness to lodge into her heart.

## **REMEMBERING CAUSES US TO LOVE GOD**

Roman numeral V. It says in the next part of the verse that, “We will remember Your love more than wine,” and she repeats what she said back in verse 2: “Rightly do they love You.” She said people who will rejoice in the Lord each step of the way must remind God of the chamber experiences and the promises. Beloved, we cannot just have those experiences, and they just take care of themselves. They do not. We have to speak the Word, and we have to hold the line. The enemy comes to attack us, sin comes to completely take us out, and we have to confess in temptation, in difficulty, and failure that we rejoice in Jesus. He is good, He makes our heart glad, we remember His love, and we are not forgetting it. When we do that, what happens is that it is only reasonable, or right that people will love Jesus, if they live in this way.

Now just to sum it up, as we are bringing it down to just the last moment here. She gives her two-fold vision. She is going to be drawn together, she is going to be drawn after Jesus in intimacy, but she is also going to run with Him. She is really clear about this. Then, she is going to need chamber experiences. She is going to need these special times in a course of a year. Again, it is not every day. I am not talking about every day experiences, but neither am I talking about once in a lifetime either. These chamber experiences are those where the Lord gives us promises, mandates and challenges that are specific.

Then after we have these chamber experiences, the enemy comes to derail us, we have to confess who Jesus is to us. We have to rejoice in Him as an act of our faith. We can rejoice in the Lord in an overflow mode. I know what it means to have the overflow where I have the overflow because I really feel happy. I also know what it means to not feel anything. I rejoice, and I make a decision to declare His promise over my life. I remember His love as an act of faith, and as an act of my will and not because I feel it at all.

Then what happens is that the natural result as she cries out. The people who do this (because she is talking about herself) are those who she is joined with—these daughters of Jerusalem. We will do this together, and we will hold our confession together. This is not just confessing in a worship service. That helps, but we are talking about the real nitty gritty of life. She says, “Rightly do they”—we all—“love You”(Song 1:4). God’s order will be in our lives. We will end up being people who walk in love.

Amen, let’s stand.