

Session 23: The Bridal Seal of Mature Love Song of Solomon 8:5-7

Well tonight, we are going to continue in our series in the Song of Solomon, and we are looking at session twenty-three out of a total of twenty-four in this series. We are looking at Song of Solomon 8:5-7. Now, this is the high point of the entire book, where Jesus invites the people of God, the Bride of Christ in context, he says “Set me” (Song 8:6).

THEME OF SONG OF SOLOMON 8:5-7 IS FOR GOD TO SEAL OUR HEART

He is calling her to invite Him to come, and touch her heart. He says, “Set me.” He says, “Call upon me to release the seal of fire upon your heart. This seal that I will release upon your heart; its flames are the very flames of God’s fire.” And so Jesus is standing before His church as the fully God, fully man, Bridegroom who wants to release, and impart supernatural fire upon the people who ask for it, who contend, and who believe God for it.

Now, the high point of the book is this invitation of Jesus. It is more than an invitation, it is an urgent exhortation, “Call upon me to put the seal of fire upon your heart!” is what he is saying (Song 8:6, paraphrased). However, it is an invitation from God, it is an exhortation of God with a promise involved that He will come, and release fire upon our heart that no waters of darkness can extinguish.

Now, this is again spoken in the prophetic language of love. This is the high point in the Song of Solomon to receive the seal of fire. Now, this fiery seal is progressive. It is not a one-time deal. This seal of fire actually begins on the day we are born again, when the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. In Ephesians 1:13, it tells us that the Holy Spirit Himself is the seal upon our hearts. What the Holy Spirit wants to do is progressively release the power of His presence. He does this so that our mind and emotions are progressively influenced by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit tenderizes and illuminates our understanding. Now, this is not only the high point of this great eight-chapter love song. It is the high point of the new covenant. I mean this is what the new covenant is all about—that the fire of God’s love would be imparted to us. This seal begins at the new

birth, and continues on through our life in this age, and then into its fullness in the age to come. However the point of this passage, is that in this life if we will cry out for it, if we will believe God for it, if we will focus on it, if we will contend for it, God has much more of the impartation of supernatural love that He will give the human heart if we would make it an object of intentional focus of our faith, and object that we pursue.

SHE BEGINS HER JOURNEY CRYING OUT FOR THE KISSES OF GOD’S WORD

Now in the eight-chapter love song what happens is the Bride of Christ begins as the Shulamite maiden, and overtime, she matures in her love for the King, and she becomes the mature bride by the end of the song. She starts off in chapter one, crying out for the kisses of God’s Word.

In Chapter 1:2, she says “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his Word” for the mouth of God is where the Word of God proceeds. She says, “I want to know the kisses of your Word,” and that is where the journey begins (Song 1:2). Well, the journey ends beyond anything she could have ever imagined, with a supernatural seal of divine fire touching her heart; beloved, above and beyond anything we can ask, or think. We ask for a little bit of intimacy with God. We ask for his Word to come to us in living understanding, but God has intended all along to seal our heart with supernatural fire. A fire that begins in this age that grows substantially in this age to those who believe God for it, pursue it, and then it goes on to fullness in the age to come.

Paragraph C. Just a quick review from session one (we are on session twenty-three), but going back to session one for those who are new with us in this class for the first time on the Song of Solomon. I think it is important as a qualifier. That the Song of Solomon is a love song, and it can be interpreted in two ways. Both of them are biblical, and both of them are wholesome.

NATURAL VERSUS SPIRITUAL INTERPRETATION

The first way to interpret this love song is in the natural way. The way in which Solomon wrote it originally, it is the way he intended it to be understood. He was writing a love song to a Shulamite maiden who went on to be his bride. And this eight-chapter love song is a very excellent, quality book that is extolling and honoring the beauty of married love. The Holy Spirit uses this love song in that way to strengthen God’s view of marriage, and God’s view in the context of marriage. However, that is not the limitation of this song. This eight-chapter love

song is not exhausted by the natural interpretation. There is a spiritual interpretation.

It is not King Solomon, and his Shulamite bride, but it is King Jesus and the Bride of Christ. It is revealing the principles that enhance our relationship to King Jesus. Now in three thousand years since King Solomon first wrote this song, the majority of the commentators throughout all of church history have used the spiritual interpretation. However, that is not to minimize the natural interpretation because that is honored and blessed by the Holy Spirit as well.

JESUS SPOKE OF HIMSELF FROM ALL THE SCRIPTURES TO THE DISCIPLES

Paragraph D. To be sure that this is speaking of Jesus, when Jesus met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, He said that He opened all of the Scriptures, each of the books of thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, and he spoke about himself from all of the Scriptures. Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit who inspires the Word of God, and he said “He expounded...in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Lk. 24:27). “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (Jn. 16:14).

Paragraph F. And you can be sure that the Word of God lasts forever. Now marriage only lasts in this lifetime. When Jesus was talking about the resurrection, he said in Matthew 22:30: “In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage.” In the resurrection, there will not be marriage, as we know it now.

However, the Word of God will exist for billions, and billions of years we will be reading the Song of Solomon. And for billions of years, it is not possible that one book of the Bible is irrelevant, reminding us of that time way back on earth. No, this book will have an eternal relevance for inspiring love for Jesus, and magnifying Him. We will sing this song throughout all of the ages.

FATHER’S COMMITMENT TO BRING FORTH JESUS’ ETERNAL COMPANION

Paragraph G. The context for understanding our pursuit of this fiery love—the context is the knowledge that God the Father has promised His Son an inheritance. The Father promised Jesus an inheritance, and that inheritance is an eternal companion who loves Jesus in the way that Jesus loves her. He promised her a companion who would be equally yoked together in love.

Now part of Jesus' inheritance is that all of creation would obey him. Every demon in hell obeys Jesus by virtue of the fact that they were sent to hell. They were sent at his Word. Every unbeliever in the lake of fire will go there in the obedience to Jesus. Every living creature will obey Jesus—that is mandatory, and that is a settled issue. However, there is more that God wants for His Son than mandatory obedience. He wants voluntary lovers. He will not force anybody to love Jesus. Everybody will obey Him. Everybody will bow their knee. Every single tongue will confess He is Lord, and they will obey him. But, He is looking for those who say "yes," and choose to will love Him. However, what was in the heart of the Father is that He would bring forth voluntary lovers. Now, Jesus prayed for these voluntary lovers in John 17:26 known as the High Priestly Prayer, right before He goes to the cross. And He said, "Father I have declared your name to them," and the end result is "so that the love with which you love Me would be supernaturally imparted into them" (Jn. 17:26).

Now, that is a most remarkable prayer because you can be sure Jesus prayed this in the will of God, and it will come to pass. What is it that Jesus prayed? He prayed for the love with which the Father loved Jesus would be supernaturally imparted into human beings. Beloved, this is remarkable. You and I have every reason to believe with confidence that the same quality of love that the Father has for His Son will be supernaturally imparted to us in part in this age, and in fullness in the age to come. However, Jesus is praying for His eternal companion. He is praying for His inheritance: "oh that she would love Me with the love wherein you love Me, the love with which you love Me. Father, the way you love Me impart it to her supernaturally." That is the context of believing for this seal of fiery love.

IT TAKES GOD TO LOVE GOD

Paragraph I. It takes God to love God. What I mean by that is that it takes the power of God for weak and broken human beings to love God. We cannot love God by the force of our own determination—we must decide. Love by its very nature cannot be forced; it must be a free-will decision to love Him, or it is not love Him.

However, even though we make the decision to love Him, even under the inspiration of the grace of God to grow in mature love to love God like God loves God, and to love Jesus like the Father loves Him, there is no way by determination that we could ever experience that. We need the Holy Spirit's help, and that is what

this promise is that He will put this seal of fire on our heart. He says “I will help you by the Holy Spirit even in this age”—that Jesus would help us to love Him by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The anointing to love God always, always overflows to loving people, or loving others. It is impossible for this love to tenderize our spirit, and it not flow like a river to other people, believers and unbelievers alike.

Now, the Holy Spirit is an all-consuming fire. The all-consuming fire that we sing about is a Person. He is the “Living Flame of Love,” as described by some of the different people throughout church history who spoke of Jesus as “the Living Flame of Love” (i.e., Saint John of the Cross particularly). However, it is a phrase that you have heard of through the years. “The Living Flame of Love” is a Person. He is the Holy Spirit. God has poured Him out into the human heart. The Holy Spirit wants to bring our mind and emotions under the influence and inspiration of this supernatural love. Jesus, or John the Baptist, was speaking when he talked about Jesus and said “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Lk. 3:16). When the Holy Spirit comes, He will impart supernatural fire into your heart.

Beloved, we want to be baptized in fire, the very fire of God’s love, the Living Flame Himself. And I do not want just the down payment the day I am born again. I want it to fill my mind and emotions. I want to feel the inspiration of it in this age to the full degree that God will give the human spirit. Beloved, we do not just do it a little bit better than we used to, or a little bit more than the group down the road does. We want all that God will give the human spirit in this age. That must be our vision for the Holy Spirit to pour love in our heart.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY BELIEVERS IN THE UPPER ROOM

In the Upper Room, the one hundred and twenty intercessors are praying and suddenly, like a mighty rushing wind, the Holy Spirit breaks in, and He rests upon each one of them as fire. Beloved, that was a token of what is coming in the days ahead. I believe before the Lord returns that the Holy Spirit, it says here: “there appeared unto them tongues of fire.” They saw the fire with their eyes! Can you imagine looking around at a prayer meeting and, “Brother you have got fire on you?”

“Boy it feels like something is on me!” I mean what if you saw the fire on them? It says, “It appeared to them...tongues, as of fire, and sat upon each one of them” (Acts 2:3). This is only a down payment. I believe that the church before the Lord returns will experience that fire, but even beyond that. And, of course, that is our focus in this age. But, this fire is going to be in us, and on us forever, and ever. We were created for love. It is our destiny. It is our inheritance to be swept up in the power of the grace of God to have hearts radiant in love.

THE SEAL OF GOD’S LOVE POINTS TO THE FIRST COMMANDMENT
Paragraph K. Jesus he tells us in Mark 12:30 that we “shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength;” he points out four areas (Mk. 12:30). And by the way, this is not only an instruction, it is a prophecy. He did not say you “ought to” he said, “You shall!” He was prophesying to the people of God from the promise God gave Moses in Deuteronomy 30:6. God said, “In that day, they will love the Lord their God with all of their heart” because God will circumcise their hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was actually quoting a promise when he was prophesying over the people of God.

It is a commandment, but it is more than a commandment, it is a promise. However, beloved this commandment that “we would love the Lord our God with all of our heart, and all of our strength” the reason God gives this commandment is because this is the way that He loves us. I mean can you imagine that He loves us with all of His strength, and all of His mind? I mean you look up at the stars, and the science says today that there are over a hundred million galaxies in the known universe, and some say a much larger number. A hundred million galaxies of which the Milky Way Galaxy is one, and it is one of the smaller ones. You look up to the stars, and we only see a portion of the Milky Way Galaxy. It is one of a hundred million galaxies! He is really smart. Beloved, God loves you with all of His mind; with that vast mind, He loves you, and He says “I want you to love Me with all of your mind because that is how I love you. All of my strength is focused in loving you!” You cannot exaggerate the love that God has for the people who say “yes” to him in the grace of God.

Well this seal of fire of Song of Solomon 8:6 is the same truth; it is the same reality as the First Commandment as “loving God with all of our heart.” The seal of fire is God’s promise to enable us to walk in a supernatural dimension, or “the anointing to love God with all of our heart” because it takes God to love God.

JESUS PRAYED OUR HEARTS WOULD BE ONE WITH HIS AND EACH OTHER'S

John chapter seventeen is another passage that talks about the seal of fire. Now, it does not mention the seal of fire from the Song of Solomon. However it is the same truth, that we would be supernaturally unified with God's heart. To be unified with God's heart in His emotions or to love Him with all of our heart is the same thing. It is the same reality. Therefore, whether it is love the Lord your God with all of your heart, or whether it is in the way that the Father and the Son are one, we will be unified with Jesus in the way that He is unified with the Father. Then, we will be unified with one another in the overflow of that reality. Well, let us not focus right now on the overflow dimension that you and I will be one.

Before we have this unity of heart and mind, we experience it with Him, and then it overflows in our relationship with one another. Let us think about that: you and I would be one with God? What does it mean to be one? It means that our mind and our emotions would be in full agreement with His mind and His emotions. It does not mean that somehow we lose our individuality, and we are merged into God some way like some of the cults, and the Eastern religions confuse truth. Us being one with God mean that by the anointing of the Spirit that our thinking, and our emotions will be in agreement with His. He will have more thoughts and more capacity than we have. However in as much as our capacity, it will be in unity with Him.

Then, when we relate to one another because we are unified in our thinking, and in our feelings with God, then we have unity with one another. Now that unity, here is the part that is staggering: If you read John 17:21-22, that unity with God's heart and God's mind is available in this age while unbelievers can witness it, and then become converted.

THE CHURCH'S DESTINY TO WALK IN THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

This is not just something that happens in the age to come. Now, obviously the fullness of it does. This is remarkable. Jesus is praying that we would enter into an oneness of mind and heart with the Father and the Son in such a remarkable degree that unbelievers would witness it. It says it two times in verse twenty-one of chapter seventeen of John, and verse twenty-three, that the unbelievers will see it, and that they will know that Jesus was sent from God. Now, it is going to happen

in the age to come, but it is going to happen in this age. There is only been the smallest release of this kind of the glory of God. In John 17:21-22, He says it is going to happen by the glory of God. It is going to happen by the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit.

I appreciate unity meetings. I go to them, you know, when all of the leaders get together in the city, and have unity meetings. I think they are important. I really do, and I am not in any way minimizing that, but beloved the unity that we are after, though I believe in working for us now, but the unity is far greater that we are believing for when the glory of God is manifest.

Then, the people's hearts are tenderized, and their minds are illuminated with living understanding of the Word. That is where the unity comes when He gives His glory to His people. I believe that we have a measure of His glory right now. We need to walk in unity right now by the measure of the glory that we have, and we need to work for unity. That is a Biblical reality. However it is more than that, there is a great incoming of God. This prayer will be fulfilled in a dramatic, substantial way in this age, while unbelievers can still see it, and then in the age to come. Well, I look at two thousand years of church history; certainly, you see this unity in Acts chapter two, and you see it in Acts chapter four, but you do not see much of it since then—except little tokens of it here and there. This is going to be a global reality in the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Now, this is the same thing as the seal of fire—to be one with God's heart means that our minds, and our emotions are in unity with His.

WE APPLY PRINCIPLES OF FAITH TO GROW IN THE ANOINTING OF LOVE

Paragraph M. Mark 11:23 is the great passage that is used in what is commonly referred to as the "Faith Movement" that has been well known and growing for about the last four or five decades—the Faith Movement. Mark 11:23 becomes really one of the key verses—if we believe, and do not doubt, mighty things will happen. Well, beloved, the Faith Movement and believing the Word of God, and taking our stand is not limited to external things. We need to operate in the spirit of faith to see a supernatural release of God in the inner man as well. The Faith Movement is not only about the outer man, and the external life. We can believe in the prayer of faith for a supernatural dimension of the anointing of love to touch our heart. And that is what Jesus was saying through Solomon.

He said “Set me as the seal! Believe me, press into me! Call upon me. Urgently contend with all of your heart, until I release a seal of fire upon your heart.” And He will not do it without us crying out for it. Now you do not have to use the term “the seal of fire.” We can call it, “Lord I want to love you the way that your Father loves you” (Jn. 17:26, paraphrased). Or you can say, “I want to love you with all of my heart,” or you can just say “I want to be holy.” He understands any term that you use. Or you could say, “Father I want to be one with your heart as the Father and the Son are one I want to be one with you!” That is a huge statement. “I want to be one with you Jesus like You and Your Father.” I mean that is hard to choke that one out. Well, Jesus says it is more than the fact of John 17:21 “You will be one with me.” For in John 17:26, a few verses later, He says, “You will love me like the Father loves me.” It is not just we will have the same mindset, we will love Jesus like the Father loves Jesus.

Beloved, I want to use my faith now. I want to use the Word of God to believe God for this kind of release in my inner man, not only to believe God for things in our circumstances to change. I want to do that too, but let us not limit our faith to external things. I want everything that God will give the human spirit in this age.

“THE KINGDOM OF GOD SUFFERS VIOLENCE AND THE VIOLENT TAKE IT”

Matthew 11:12, Jesus said “The kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent take it by force.” There is a violent resolve; there is a violent calling out for Him to set His seal upon our heart. He says “Set Me as a seal. Call out to Me. Ask Me, invite Me, and beckon Me to come!” Beloved, there is a spiritual violence, and He says “If you do this, the violent will take it by force” when applying to the kingdom, and the kingdom promises.

I cannot think of any kingdom promise more dynamic than the anointing to love God because that will overflow into every single area in our life. If you get the anointing to love God at a greater level, and you will love people, you will be effective in ministry, your circumstances will be touched in the wake of that increased anointing in our heart.

We cry out, “Lord I want more!” The Lord says, “I want more because I have more for you.” It takes spiritual violence, and the violent take it by force. Part of my focus in this class is that you would have a fierce determination that you are going to walk in the anointing of love (whether you use the First Commandment “You

will love the Lord your God...” that may be the verse you use, or you may use Song of Solomon 8:6 “I want you to be the seal of fire!”) Both are good to use, as that verse that is good too.

You may use John 17:21: “I want to be one with your heart Jesus, like the Father is,” or John 17:26 “I want to love you with the love wherein your Father does.” You are praying the same prayer in any one of those directions. Beloved, do you have a violent pursuit after this? And the violent pursuit—just so you know—is not some mysterious formula. It is the every day, day in and day out, the praying, the dimension of fasting that should be a part of our lifestyle. A faith and obedience in serving, and blessing our enemies, it is Matthew chapter six of blessing, serving, giving, praying and fasting. It is the normal activities of the kingdom. Some people say, “I will do this! I want the secret, mysterious answer, the key!”

No, the answer is so simple. It is that coming to Jesus by meditating on the Word, believing Him, and obeying Him. I mean it is very, very simple to understand what to do. It is the normal things everybody knows to do, but we have to do them with a violent resolution, not a casual “I will do them on the days I feel good.” Jesus said, “If you get violent about this” which means resolved “you can have it”—the kingdom promises. You will take them by the force with your dedication, your resolve, and tenacity of faith, you will refuse to be denied. You refuse to be denied, and that is it. You take these promises by force, by refusing to be denied, and refusing to back up upon them.

JESUS CALLS US TO INVITE HIM TO COME AS THE JEALOUS BRIDEGROOM

Well, let us look at some of the language itself of this glorious exhortation of Jesus, and the promise that goes with it. Let us look at the proverb that magnifies the love of God, as it just takes a few moments to go through the details of Song of Solomon. It is really setting the context of it to understand—that is what I think is important.

Jesus starts off, I mean Jesus is speaking, as He says, “Set me” in Song of Solomon 8:6 “as the seal upon your heart.” He is saying, “Call upon me to release the seal of fire, it is the seal upon your arm”—that speaks of ministry. The heart speaks of our inner life. The arm speaks of our works. And He goes on to say “for this love”—this seal of love, God’s love. “It is as strong as death;” He says “It is God’s

jealousy, and it is as cruel or as demanding as the grave is.” He says, “Let me explain this love, this divine love or this divine jealousy. It is the flame of God. It is not human love. It is not human jealousy. It is a supernatural love, a supernatural jealousy.” “It is the flame of God himself, a most vehement flame” is what this translation says New King James Version (NKJV). Other translations say the New American Standard (NAS) says, “It is the very flame of God” that is what the Hebrew word means: “a most vehement flame” or you can translate it as “it is the very flame of God Himself that God is going to seal our heart with.”

Then He goes on to give a promise. First He describes it. He calls us to beseech Him, and to pursue Him for this. He calls us to press into Him for a greater increase of the seal because remember the seal is progressive. It grows in terms of the manifestation of God’s grace that influences our heart, and our emotion more and more as we press into this. I mean we receive the seal in its down payment form, Ephesians 1:13, the day we are born again. It is called the seal of the Holy Spirit. Now He goes on in verse seven, and gives the promise when He says, “The waters of sin, the waters of pressure, pain and disappointment, they cannot quench it. They cannot put it out, nor can the floods of persecution. It cannot drown it.”

And then, He goes on, and He gives a proverb of love. He says “If a man would give the wealth of all of his house for love he would utterly despise it” (Song 8:7). What that means is that if a person—for the sake of love—gave everything, they would utterly despise the recognition that they did something noble. They would say “No, I did nothing outstanding. It is for love!”

THE REWARD OF A LOVER IS THE POWER ITSELF TO LOVE

Because beloved, the reward of a lover is the power itself to love; the highest reward of a lover is the ability to love. And so, He said that when you give yourself all the wealth of your house for this cause, you will not be disappointed. You will not be at the end, burnt out, jaded, and angry: “I gave all of this, and look where it got me!”

He says “Oh no, when they magnify and extol the virtues of your commitment, you will say ‘Don’t, don’t say I gave so much, no, for love’s sake!’” They would utterly despise the recognition that they did something above and beyond, something extraordinary. Because the true lover, when their heart is in love that is the reward itself, not the accolades of men. Well, He goes on. Let us break this down a little bit.

GOD’S LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH

Paragraph B. It says, “For this love is as strong as death” (Song 8:6). Now what does that mean? Well, death in the natural realm is comprehensive, meaning everything that has life according to the natural order dies whether it is a plant, an animal, or a human being. According to the natural order of things, I am not talking about the Rapture. Every single thing that has life dies in the natural life, it is comprehensive. Nothing in the natural can escape the grasp of death. Therefore, what Jesus is saying to us through the Word of God is that as prevailing and comprehensive as death is in the natural realm, so the power of the love of God is, if you will yield to it.

The power of the love of God, if you will follow its inspiration, it is that demanding and comprehensive in the spirit realm. Now, of course, death is negative, and God’s love is positive, so there Jesus is comparing His love to the most comprehensive thing in the natural realm— death. There is nothing more comprehensive than death. Nobody escapes death, or no plant, no animal, no nothing. However, His love is the same way in the spirit realm. If you say “yes” to it, it will demand more. You say “yes,” and it will demand yet more. When you say “yes,” and His love will demand yet more. It will keep speaking and asking for more until it consumes every single area of your life.

Beloved, if you say “yes” to the light that you have, the Holy Spirit will give you more light. If you say “yes” to that, He will give you more light, and the more light we receive, the more supernatural ability we have to walk in love. Now somebody may say, “Oh man if I say “yes,” then He is going to ask me for more!”

“It sounds heavy the more I say ‘yes’ the more He wants”. However what He tells us in this proverb of love at the end of verse seven, He basically is saying, “you will not despise it because you were made for love!” You are never more true to yourself than when you walk in love. You were made for light. Death, darkness and selfishness depress us, and break us down.

Life and love in the Holy Spirit causes us to enjoy life fully. You were created for love, and what Jesus is saying is “I will ask for more” and as you understand it, you will rejoice in it. The reason we resist the higher demands of the Holy Spirit is because we do not have all of the information. With the limited information, we have the idea that God would ask more and more it seems like, “No, I do not want to get into a relationship with Him where He asks for more! I mean He wants my

time; He wants what I look at with my eyes, my words, my money! The more I say ‘yes,’ the more He asks for!” It is like, “Wow, that seems like a heavy relationship.”

He says, “No, no, no you will not despise it. You will not despise the giving of yourself. You will only despise that you would be given accolades that you did something remarkable by receiving my love.” That is the only thing that you will despise because when you get all of the information, and when you experience this love, your spirit will be radiant on the inside.

JESUS AS THE JEALOUS GOD WHO WANTS ALL OF US

Jesus goes on to say that “God’s jealousy is as cruel as the grave,” and it is the same idea that love is as strong as death (Song 8:6). Being as strong as death meaning death is comprehensive. Being as cruel as the grave, some translations use different words than “cruel.” It is the same thing as “as strong as the grave” (Song 8:6). The jealousy of God is as demanding and comprehensive in the Spirit as the grave is in the natural. It does not leave anything out of its grasp. You say “yes” to love, and God will ask for more and more. However, you enter into more of a radiant heart. You will walk more into how you were created to be. Peter said it best in 1 Peter 1:8, Peter called it “joy unspeakable and full of glory.” Loving God and obeying Him will not bring death; it will bring unspeakable joy in our inner man. That is what he is talking about there.

Paragraph C. Jesus as a jealous God because when He is saying “Set me as a seal.” He says, “I do not mean just set me as the Savior to seal you, as I have already forgiven you; it is not just as the healer, I have already healed you; it is not just as your master, I am giving you directions. Ask me to come near you as the Jealous, Bridegroom God and see what happens.” “When I come near you as the Jealous, Bridegroom God, I will require everything from you in the Spirit like death does in the natural.” Beloved, the more that we say “yes,” the more light, and the more light, we get the more ability we have to walk in the Holy Spirit.

“FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS, IS A JEALOUS GOD” (EXOD 34:14)

Exodus 34:14 when He spoke to Moses, He said: “Moses, be sure of this as I am a jealous God.” Beloved, a jealous lover in this age sets us back. However when the Jealous Lover is pure, infinitely pure in loving, for Him to consume us means that His infinite joy, love, and light touches our spirit—that it is good that He is jealous.

It is good that He wants more and more. I mean normally a king with his power, I mean the natural thing that a king would do is “I do not want more from you, you just kind of stay out of my way.”

He says, “No, I want deep interaction, I want all of your thoughts I want to be that close to you.” What an honor that He even requires that of us. You could not find another person in the world that would be this interested in you. Therefore, instead of saying, “Lord what are you doing?”

He says, “I am interested in you like nobody else is! Nothing about you bores you. I am interested in your thoughts. I am interested in your time, and your money in a way that even the person who loves you most, could maintain this kind of interest.” He wants to reveal Himself as the Bridegroom God—not just a Savior who forgives us. He has so much more to say to us than just forgiveness, though I love forgiveness. He has more to say than just as a Healer and Provider. He is more than a Provider, He is the Jealous, Bridegroom God. I love the song that we sing, “He will not relent until He has it all!” Beloved, that is a powerful reality when we give Him some, He wants more, and He wants more.

GOD’S SEAL IS A FLAME OF DIVINE FIRE THAT CANNOT BE QUENCHED

Roman numeral III: Jesus said “Set me as a seal...its flames are a flame of fire”—now this is a seal of fire (Song 8:6). Now Solomon, who wrote this love song, would have been familiar with the king’s seal which was a wax seal. However, this is not a wax seal. The king would place his documents in a container, and then he would have put an encasement of wax around the container. Then, the king would have put his signet ring on it to guarantee the contents of what was in that container. Therefore, when a person received a sealed document, it was a wax seal with the king’s signet ring. This signature then what he was saying was, “All the armies of my kingdom will back up what is in that wax, sealed container.”

SEAL OF WAX TO STAMPED WITH THE KING’S SIGNET RING AS ROYAL SEAL

He said, “It is not a seal of wax, it is a seal of fire, and the entire power of my kingdom will back up the promises of what that seal is about.” All the power of God will back it up. Well, the enemy raises up opposition, he wants to send water to put the flame out. However, naturally according to nature, water always puts out fire, but this is not according to nature. This is supernatural. This fire will put out

all of the water. The water of sin and temptation, it does not matter what kind of addiction, pain, sin, perversion, or the depths of darkness that water cannot put out supernatural fire. If you will yield to that fire, it will overcome the power of immorality, the power of addictions, or the power of bitterness. The fire cannot be put out by darkness—it is a supernatural fire.

It says in Revelation 12:5, it describes how Satan is going to vomit out of hell, a flood of trouble against the people of God, he will flood them with persecution”. However the end-time Church will have a fire burning in them that is more powerful than the floods of darkness. Whether it is the perversion that is increasing so rapidly, or the bitterness, anger, addictions, all the different things that are happening, or the floods of persecution itself, I tell you there is a fire that is so supernatural that water cannot put it out. Now, we have to call upon the Lord for it.

WE SET JESUS AS THE SEAL ON OUR HEART BY INVITING HIS PRESENCE

Roman numeral IV: Jesus calls her to set Him as a seal. We must invite Him, by the very definition of love, we must voluntarily respond. If this was something else, Jesus might give it to us automatically, but by the very definition of love, it cannot be forced. He waits on us to take our stand to believe Him, and to call upon Him, for an increase of this. In the matters of the heart, the Holy Spirit will not violate our free will. He allows us to come on our own. Now some people will look at their Bibles, and different translations of the Bible that have different outlines. They will pay a scholar of a different translation to create the outline, so the outline says that the Bride is talking here. Well again, those are not inspired, they paid a guy, you know ‘x’ amount of money. Then, the translator put the outline in that part of the Bible, and there you have it, it is his opinion. Do not go by the outline of the Bible translator, or go by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. No, I have about one hundred fifty at last count a couple of years ago, so over one hundred fifty commentaries on the Song of Solomon.

I have a passion about the Song of Solomon and many scholarly commentaries. Many of them are just popular or really practical, however I have many scholarly ones. And many of the scholarly commentators will point out that the pronouns in this passage, you cannot be certain on it. Some think it is the Bride calling out to Jesus, and others think it is Jesus speaking, and I believe that it is the right way. Jesus is speaking.

Beloved, it is theologically impossible that the Bride is saying to Jesus “Put me on your heart. Please love me, do not let the fire go out?” Jesus does not need us to ask Him to love us. His love is eternal; it is infinite. This is Jesus speaking. It is not the Bride beckoning Jesus to love her. It is Jesus saying “Set me as the seal and you will be surprised at the level, and quality of what I will give to you.”

MY OWN PERSONAL JOURNEY

My own story really quickly in closing: it was in July, 1988, near twenty years ago, and I had read a wedding invitation, and it had this verse on it: “Set me as a seal upon your heart” (Song 8:6). I thought, “what a great verse.” And so, I opened my Bible to Song of Solomon 8, and I read it, and as I began to read it, the presence of the Holy Spirit began to be manifest in a very unusual way in terms of intensity. So much so that I called the receptionist, and I said “No matter who calls, no matter what happens, please do not interrupt me for an hour or so, whatever just for some time.” I said “The Holy Spirit is touching me in a very unusual way right now,” and in thirty years of ministry I have only done that one time ever. I mean it was that distinct; it was that unusual that I would make that phone call.

I was praying John 17:26, I was saying, “Lord the love” because it had been my life verse for many years, so I just applied it. “Jesus, the love wherein the Father loves you, release the love of God in my heart! I just turned it right into John 17:26: “Release the love of God,” and I began to weep, and the presence of God was on me in such an unusual way. It was ten minutes later, and the phone rings. I cannot believe the phone rings, I am under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the ecstasy of divine love, and in less than one second, I am mad and, I am in the flesh. Now, I know none of you can relate to that. The seal had not taken place, the water put it out for just that one moment. This was such an awesome moment. And again, I have never, ever in thirty years, called the receptionist, and said please something so unusual is happening right now do not interrupt in any way.

So the receptionist says, “You know I really apologize because you said something really special is happening but Bob Jones is on the line,” and most of you know Bob Jones a man who had spoken prophetically to me many times with profound accuracy. She says, “he is on the line, and he only has one minute, but he heard the audible voice of God for you. I was kind of in a jam. I know God is visiting you, but the audible voice of God, I just kind of figured you would want to know.”

I said, “Always, good choice, always let him in. Bless you, bless you.”

I got the fire back you know. I said “Bob.”

He said “I literally have sixty seconds. They are out in the driveway with the car running. I have to go to the airport, and I am running late, but the most remarkable thing just happened.”

I asked, “What?”

He said “I heard the audible voice of the Lord—I mean awake with my ear. Not my “inner kind of I had a thought I heard it.” I heard the audible voice of God. And the Lord said this audibly, ‘Song of Solomon 8:6-7’”

I am on my knees with Song of Solomon 8 looking at it with the phone. I said “Yes” I did not even say “yes” to be honest. I just said “Hello Bob,” and I said “thank you” those were the only two phrases I said in the entire sixty seconds conversation. I said “Hello” he gave it, and I said “Thank you,” and hung up.

That was it. I was so overwhelmed. He said “Song of Solomon 8:6, I heard it audibly. He told me two things: that the focus of your ministry all of your days is to be focused on this reality, and He will help you, and He will anoint you. He will be with you in this.”

And I thought, “Wow this is intense”

“And secondly he told me that this promise He is going to release it unrelated to the promise to me, He is going to do it sovereignly across the earth. He is going to release this anointing of Song of Solomon 8:6 to the Body of Christ across all the nations. He is going to release it in this coming generation.” Now, here is the strange part, Bob said, “Mike, I just heard this. I have not even looked the verse up. I do not even know what it is. I hope it makes sense. I am sure it does.”

I said “thank you.” In sixty seconds, the power of God and the presence of God was on me, and I just began to weep.

He came back to me about a week later, Bob said “Does that verse mean anything to you?”

I said, “You have no idea!” I was so excited I called my wife after the sense of it had lifted. I said, “The Lord spoke audibly it is the most amazing reality.”

She said “Wow!” This was early in the morning. I go home late that night, and she is all excited she said, “Hey, the audible voice of the Lord aren’t you excited?”

I said, “Well not really.”

She said, “How could that be?”

I said “I have never read the Song of Solomon until today. I mean I have read it a little here and there, but I do not know if I can do this book” because I could not connect with it. I had the commission before I had any understanding of it at all, and of course the Lord changed that around over the years.

THE REWARD OF LOVE IS FOUND IN POSSESSING THE ABILITY TO LOVE

However, beloved, the Lord has made it really clear to me that this is my focal point of ministry, it is not the only thing I will do, but it is my focal point to reveal the Bridegroom God, and to call the Bride of Christ to the First Commandment to walk in the anointing of love. They will always overflow in love to the people if they love God in a supernatural way. There are people in this room you have the same calling. There are people who are watching this class by television, by internet, and you have the same calling as well. John 3:29 gives us a biblical term for that calling. John the Baptist had it, it is called “A friend of the Bridegroom.” It is a ministry that focuses on revealing the Bridegroom God, and preparing the Bride to respond in love. I just believe that there are thousands or millions, I do not know the number all around the world that God will be sovereignly visit, and He will in the days to come. For some of them, this will be clarified in their own life by this very testimony.

THE END-TIME CHURCH WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN LOVE

God is calling you to be a friend of the Bridegroom, like John the Baptist as a forerunner to prepare for the Second Coming. And in that, you are going to proclaim the realities of Jesus the Bridegroom God, but you are going to have to go deep in that message, if you are going to proclaim it. You may proclaim it through song, through intercession; you may proclaim it through writing, poems, drama, theatre, evangelism, one-on-one discipleship, or in the children’s ministry. There

are many ways you can prepare others where you do not have to have a teaching ministry in the traditional sense.

What is the message? To call people to the Bridegroom God, and secondly to call the people to believe God for the seal of fire to be released in their heart (and they do not have to use that term). They can say the anointing to love in the First Commandment.

MINISTRY TIME

I want to have you stand right now, if you feel this calling. I am going to ask the worship team to come up. I am going to invite any of you in this room who say, “I know that is my calling. And when the Lord spoke this to me through Bob Jones, by the audible voice of the Lord, “Tell him this is his focus,” I am convinced that it is not only my single focus, but it is the premier focus of the IHOP movement.

It is a movement focus, not just an individual one; these are the marching orders, this is the promise of the anointing in the grace of God to make this message known. And it is not necessarily just the Song of Solomon, but it is the reality for which the Song of Solomon represents. You do not have to say it through the Song of Solomon language, but the principles are clear. It is the calling forth of the Bride of Christ, calling forth the Bride of Christ to respond in wholehearted love by believing God for the anointing of love to increase in their life.

For those of you in this room who know this is your life focus: it is not the only thing that you will do, but whether you do evangelism, discipleship, intercession, writing, dramas, plays, or whatever, you know this is your premier focus. I want to invite you to come, and stand before the Lord , if that is your focus right now.

Amen.