

Session 12 The Seal of Fiery Love (Song 8:5-7)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Song 8:5-7 describes the maturity of the body of Christ who cultivated a “leaning heart” and overcame the wilderness by walking in the fire of God’s love. We know the end of the story—the Bride will “come up” out of the wilderness in victory leaning upon Jesus as her Beloved.
- ⁵*Who is this coming up [victory] from the wilderness [testing], leaning upon her Beloved?...*
⁶*Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart...for love is as strong as death... (Song 8:5-6)*
- B. **Wilderness:** This speaks of the testings and temptations in the wilderness of this fallen world.
- C. **Coming up:** The Church will come up or be victorious in love over all that tests her.
- D. **Leaning:** We are to lean on our Beloved as we live in union with Jesus as our life goal and source. To lean on Him includes talking with, looking to, and trusting in His leadership over our lives.
1. Like Jacob, the Bride wrestles with God; thus she limps, leans on, and loves God (Gen. 32).
 2. The Lord’s strategy is to cause us to be totally dependent on Him (Jer. 9:23; 1 Cor. 1:31).
 3. The Lord will “remove the props” that we naturally lean on for false comfort, success, etc.

II. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

- A. The Holy Spirit’s first priority is to establish the first commandment in *first place* in the Church. Jesus’ statement in Matthew 22:37-38 is one of the most significant statements in Scripture.
- ³⁷*“You shall love the Lord...with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*
³⁸*This is the first and great commandment.” (Mt. 22:37-38)*
- B. The command to love God with all our heart does not begin with us. It is one expression of the ultimate reality of the kingdom that existed before the creation of the world—from eternity past, God has loved God with all of His heart—the Father loved the Son, Jesus loved the Spirit, etc.
- C. God also loves His people with all His heart and with the same intensity that He loves within the fellowship of the Trinity. We understand the first command best by seeing it in its eternal context of the fellowship in the Godhead, rather than seeing it as one aspect of kingdom ethics.
- ⁹*“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)*
²³*“...that the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)*
- D. The measure of the Father’s love for Jesus is the measure of God’s love for us (Jn. 15:9; 17:23). This is the ultimate statement of our worth.
- E. The grace to receive God’s love and to love Him in return is the greatest gift the Spirit imparts (Rom. 5:5). It “takes God to love God.”

- F. God first *exhorted* Israel, through Moses, to love Him with all their heart (Deut. 6:5), and later Moses *prophesied* Israel would love God with all their heart in the end times (Deut. 30:1-6). Jesus' statement was both an *exhortation* and a *prophecy*, giving insight into God's plan for us.
- ⁶***“The Lord...will circumcise your heart...to love the Lord...with all your heart.” (Deut. 30:6)***
- G. Jesus elaborated on Moses' exhortation and prophecy by adding two words—*first* and *great*.
- H. ***First***: God's first priority and the Spirit's first emphasis in the Church is for His people to cultivate deep love for God. Without understanding that God is committed to helping us walk in this, we can be confused about His leadership in our life. His first priority in our life and ministry is that we would grow in love, but our natural tendency is to want an easy and happy life and to be popular.
- I. ***Great***: It has the *greatest impact* on God's heart and our heart and is our *greatest calling*.
- ¹⁹***...whoever does and teaches them [commands], he shall be called great in the kingdom...***
(Mt. 5:19)

III. SEALED WITH FIERY LOVE (8:6-7)

- A. The King invited the Bride to seek to receive His seal of fire on her *heart* and *arm* (ministry). I encourage believers to ask Jesus to “progressively” seal their heart and arm with His fiery love.
- ⁶***Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for [God's] love is as strong as death, [God's] jealousy as cruel [demanding] as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters [sin, pressures] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (Song 8:6-7)***
- B. In July 1988 while reading Song 8:6, I began to pray, “Jesus, seal my heart with Your fiery love.” Bob Jones called to tell me that at that very time the Lord spoke audibly to him promising to release grace to walk in Song 8:6-7 across the Body of Christ worldwide. *This speaks of the message of God's love, Jesus as the Bridegroom King, and the first commandment being embraced as first in the body of Christ.* (The first and second commandments are deeply connected to each other and cannot be walked out separately.) The Lord also told Bob that I was to focus on this message.
- C. This passage consists of a command, a description, a promise, and an encouragement.
1. ***The command***: to set Jesus as a seal of fire upon our heart and arm
 2. ***The description of the seal***: being as strong or comprehensive as death
 3. ***The promise***: that nothing can quench this fiery seal of love if we yield to it. Song 8:6 speaks of the anointing of the Spirit or God's grace to reveal and impart God's love to His people.
 4. ***The encouragement***: that this quality of wholehearted dedication will exhilarate our heart in love, leaving us with no regrets for giving so much of ourselves to God.

D. **Seal:** The seal is a *progressive* impartation of the Spirit pouring God’s love in our heart (Rom. 5:5). The seal of love on our heart is our present tense relationship with the Spirit. Thus our fellowship with the Spirit is the seal, not our record of spiritual victories or failures.

⁵***The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit... (Rom. 5:5)***

¹³***In whom, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise... (Eph. 1:13)***

1. In the ancient world, kings put a seal of wax on important documents. They poured melted wax, then stamped it with the king’s signet ring. The royal seal spoke of the king’s ownership, protection, and guarantee that was backed up by the power of his kingdom.
2. This seal is our inheritance and destiny. We must determine that this is ours to walk in. The release of God’s love on our heart and mind is the glory of the New Covenant (Heb. 10:16).

E. **Set Me:** To set Jesus on our heart is to intentionally ask Him to strengthen us by His Spirit until the influences of His love are *progressively* imparted more to our mind, emotions, and ministry.

1. By the very definition of love, we must invite Him. He will not force us into a relationship of voluntary love. He waits until we invite Him in the matters of our heart.
2. Paul referred to this as putting on the Lord Jesus or putting on the new man.

¹⁴***Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh... (Rom. 13:14)***

¹⁰***...put on the new man...¹⁴Above all...put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Col. 3:10-14)***

F. We put Jesus as the seal on our heart by seeking Him earnestly in various ways including prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word, and obedience—these activities, when done in faith and with confidence in grace, *position our heart* before God to freely receive more of the Spirit’s work in us.

G. These activities do not earn us God’s favor. We put our cold heart before the bonfire of God’s presence by seeking Him in the Word. It is related to the time we feed our spirit on His Word.

H. Prayer and fasting are not our seal. The power of God tenderizes and changes us, not spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines *only position us* to receive. They do not earn us God’s power.

I. **Strong as death:** God’s love in us is as strong or comprehensive as death.

1. Death claims everything in the natural realm. *Its grasp is comprehensive.*
2. God’s love will not allow any areas of darkness to escape its grasp.

J. **Jealousy:** God is a consuming fire with jealous love that *demands everything* just as the grave does. The Lord jealously wants all of our heart for a most noble reason—because He loves us so perfectly. We pray, “Lord, we want more of You.” Then Jesus responds to us saying, “I want more of you.”

¹⁴***For the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God... (Ex. 34:14)***

K. ***Cruel as the grave***: God’s jealous love is “cruel” or as demanding as the grave. In other words, God’s jealous love will not allow any areas of brokenness in our lives to escape its grasp. God’s love poured out in our hearts will conquer every area of sin that we continually yield to Him.

⁵***Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?*** (Jas. 4:5)

L. ***Its flames***: Its flames of fire are a most vehement or powerful flame. The anointing to love God is the most powerful gift that the Spirit imparts to a believer’s heart—“a baptism of fiery love.” The 120 believers in the upper room received a token of the baptism of God’s fiery love (Acts 2:3).

¹⁶***He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire***. (Lk. 3:16)

³***There appeared to them...tongues, as of fire, and sat upon each of them***. (Acts 2:3)

M. ***Many Waters***: God’s seal is compared to a flame of divine fire that cannot be quenched by the waters of sin, pressure, or persecution. Water puts out fire unless it is God’s supernatural fire.

⁷***Many waters [sin or pressures] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised***. (Song 8:6-7)

1. The enemy sends the waters of temptation, disappointment, or pain to put this fire out. God’s love, when yielded to continually, is more powerful than the floods of temptation. This fire is stronger than floods of bitterness, addiction, anger, immorality, etc.

2. A flood speaks of great troubles, including end-time persecutions (Rev. 12:15; Isa. 43:1-2).

²***When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you...*** (Isa. 43:2)

IV. THE REWARD OF LOVE (8:7)

A. The highest reward of true love is found in possessing the ability to love more. The anointing to receive and express God’s love is our greatest reward. Those who are wealthy in love do not look at price tags. In other words, there is no sacrifice that is comparable to what Jesus gives us in His love.

⁷***If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised***. (Song 8:7)

B. Paul described love for Jesus that will pay any price to know Him more. Paul laid down his status, prestige, honor, and even open doors of opportunity in his pursuit of experiencing more of Christ.

⁸***I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...*** (Phil. 3:8)

C. You are the only one who can give God all of your love. God will not force us to love Him. It is our gift to Him that we voluntarily give Him our love as we cooperate with the Spirit’s work in our life.

D. Anybody can quit, except a person in love. When we are tempted to quit, the obstacle in our path is that we love God. God is raising up a people who will not quit.