

Chapter 6 – THE DRAWING OF HER HEART BACK TO HIM (continues)

AN OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER SIX: So overcome were the daughters of Jerusalem by the description of the Beloved that their hearts were drawn to Him also. Immediately after the bride had gloriously described her Beloved, the Holy Spirit reveals just where He's having fellowship. After finding Him, the bride is filled with shame and guilt. Gazing directly in her eyes, He reassures her that the fervency of His love for her has not changed one iota. The bride declares His lordship over her life. All the ladies in the King's court have a new, deep appreciation for her. Days of joy and blessed fellowship fill all and for the first time she willingly leaves with her Beloved.

The Daughters speak:

V.1 "Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? Wither is thy beloved turned aside that we may seek him with thee?"

One of the daughters excitedly said, *"We have just seen a miracle! She has been transformed into His glorious image before our very eyes! In the past we have seen and known about the King. But now, let us go and give our hearts to Him. He alone has what we have longed for - transforming love. We will surrender wholly to Him because we desperately need to be transformed and He is the only One Who is able to do it."*

Whenever Jesus is truly lifted up in our attitudes and actions others will be drawn to Him by the Holy Spirit. The daughters of Jerusalem have come a long way since we met them in **1:5,6**. At that time there was jealousy in their hearts toward this foreign lady who had been chosen by the King to be His very special bride. By **3:10** the daughters had grown in their appreciation of the Beloved and had lovingly served Him.

These dear ladies showed just how serious they were in finding Him by asking twice, **"wither is thy beloved..."**? Puzzled, they asked, *"How is it that you do not know where He is after that glorious description? Surely with the description you have given to us, you wouldn't leave Him alone for a minute?"* The bride paused, her head hung low in shame, *"I became self-absorbed (5:3) and insensitive to His work, His ways and His will! O insidious, subtle and spiritually debilitating was my self-will! I am so sorry and I repent of it all. All I want now is to find Him, fall at His feet and allow Him to forever direct my steps."* She began to sing, *"All to Jesus I surrender all to Him I freely give..."!*

What a lesson and rebuke to the bride! The daughters of Jerusalem are ready to drop everything and seek out this wonderful person immediately! Oh dear surrendered bride, may you and I learn a great lesson in attracting people to the Lord Jesus. The bride was totally unaware of the daughters needs. In their hearts was a perpetual emptiness. Nothing they did ever seemed to satisfy or fill up that lonely void. But as the bride was describing her Beloved, something strange took place deep within them. Peace and contentment swept over their souls. There was an unexplainable joy rising up inside of them, ready to burst forth at any moment. With an urgency they said,

"...wither is thy beloved turned aside...that we may seek him with thee."

Oh praise God, they know something that so few believers really know! **"Seek and ye shall find!" (Matt. 7:7)**. You shall find the answer to all of life's problems! Seek Him! **"Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore."** (Psa. 105:4,5)! **"...and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."** (Heb. 11:6)!

They are spiritually right on track. They will be blessed since God is faithful to His promise about those who seek Him! How utterly marvelous, there is no condemnation from Him. They love the bride so much that these ladies want to seek the Beloved together with her.

What a joy it must have been for her to go from total loneliness and despair to loving, longing fellowship with others truly seeking the One she loves! There is nothing more satisfying than being with those who want Jesus only - to pray with them, praise with them, serve with them, worship with them! Can you imagine what it must have meant to the bride's heart to have them with her? What joy! What peace! What anticipation!

One of the ladies spoke to the bride as they walked. *"We are experiencing a love so amazing, so powerful that we are willing to give your Beloved our hearts, our lives, our all!"* The bride, now focused on them, said, *"I have been so taken up with Him that I did not see what was happening to you. You're not the same either! I am beginning to see my Beloved all over you."* They looked at each other and they were astonished! Tears filled their eyes as His holy presence filled their hearts. *"When we first met you we were jealous (1:5,6). But now we are blessed in you – you, who had been '...without*

Christ, being an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, and a stranger from the covenants of promise, having no hope... (Eph.2:12). *But we are one with you! We will go and surely He could find a place in His heart for us too.*" Little did they know that they were already on His heart!

Oh how I love to be with those who seek to bless the Lord of my heart. There is nothing like fellowshiping with those whose only real joy is to share, sing and praise Jesus, their one and only love. When you meet them the first thing on their lips is something about the Lord and what He is doing. It is **Eph. 5:18-21** all over again. In their private devotions and study of the Word they want to see Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. They see Him in the tabernacle! They see Him in the law! They see Him in Joseph, Moses, David, Jonah and so many others (**Luke 24:27**). Nothing else really fills and thrills them. Whether meeting together in homes or in church fellowship they seek with one heart to love Him there, bring joy to His heart there, to be a true bride and pour out their souls before Him there! Together their souls thirst for God, for the living God (**Psa. 42:2**). Not for salvation but to satisfy His heart. Something very wonderful happens when those of a pure heart meet in one accord to bless Him. A holy presence of the Spirit fills the place. From their hearts flow springs of living water over the feet of their Beloved!

How important is spiritual unity? Read **Eph. 4:1-4**. He cannot work where the people are not in one accord, but O the glory and power of unity. They who were jealous of the bride are now in communion with her. Notice what takes place from this point on. There is immediate revelation knowledge given to the bride concerning where her Beloved is located (**v.2**)!

Dear surrendered reader, does your walk demonstrate how deeply in love you are with the Lord Jesus? Is it obvious that the Lord is changing your life so that others may see Him in you and thus be attracted to Him? As they walked, the bride excitedly said, *"Do you smell a fragrance in the breeze? That is His aroma. He is near here ladies, He is near! You're going to meet Him in just a moment."* She now knew just where He was and said to them...

V. 2 "My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed (pasture) in the gardens, and to gather lilies."

The closer they came the stronger the presence of the Lord became! A glowing group of people came into sight, gathered round a magnificent looking Man. All of a sudden the bride became very animated. Catching her breath she exclaimed, *"Look! Over there! That's Him! That is my Beloved! He is in a beautiful garden. It looks like an orchard of lilies!"* How quickly the Holy Spirit restores to full fellowship when Jesus is lifted up! Does this not tell you just how anxious He is to have communion and fellowship restored?

Notice that this verse first uses the word **"garden"** singular, then **"gardens"** plural. The Lord Jesus loves His garden. We who are His blood bought people are one body (**"garden"**) with many individual smaller, lovely gardens making up this one glorious garden of the Lord (**I Cor. 10:16,17; 12:12-27; Eph. 2:16-22; 3:14,15; 4:16** etc.).

The special presence of the Lord is with those who desire to be nurtured and fed by Him. Lilies are surrendered believers (**2:2**) and their hearts are His gardens. He loves to gather His lilies to Himself and enwrap them with His love and discipline (**Heb. 12:6**). What joy it brings to His heart when His lilies are pliable and allow Him to work in their lives, giving and receiving! Can't you see Jesus sitting in His garden with all these **"lilies"** gathered round Him - those who have forsaken all that is empty, meaningless and unfulfilling in their lives and have Jesus as the only reason for living! He fills them with His presence and His Word. They feed His heart because of the flow of **"first love"** love from their hearts to Him. Is this not a picture of the true purpose of the church - all of the Lord's lilies gathered round Him to talk and sing of Him only?

"...bed of spices..."

The spices of God are awaiting the bride and her new found friends. The spices are the multiplicity of promises the Lord gives to us for a walk in all holiness, godliness and stability (**II Cor. 1:20; 7:1; II Pet. 1:2-4**)! There is a promise of God for every circumstance to be stood upon in faith, each will be blessedly fulfilled! Go to Him in His garden and let the Holy Spirit apply the needed **"spices"** for your circumstances. These were all purchased for you in the garden of Calvary (**John 19:41**)! All His promises are confirmed in His blood, attested to by the Words from His lips, and sealed by the Holy Spirit to our spirit!

As she and the daughters approach this beautiful gathering of lilies around the Beloved, the daughters remark to the bride, *"As wonderful of a description you gave to us concerning Him, it doesn't even come close to the glory and beauty before us."* They paused there for a moment and allowed this exquisite scene of glory to fill them. The Holy Spirit began to move powerfully in the bride. She now knew, in crystal clear clarity, what she must confess openly and without reservation.

This was her defining moment of decision. What had been revealed to her by the Spirit of her Beloved would keep her from ever straying from the path set out by Abba Father for her! She knew that acting upon this revelation would guarantee continual, intimate fellowship with Him! There would never again be the need for a scourging (**Heb. 12:6**)! Great expectancy floods their souls as they draw closer to Him! Before Him and all of His lilies, the bride grasps hold of the moment giving testimony to her absolute commitment to her Beloved saying...

V.3 "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies."

You have come to one of the most important moments in the Song of Solomon. This heartfelt declaration is the difference of walking in communion and victory with the Lord or in defeat! DON'T MISS WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO TEACH YOU, IT IS VITAL!

The bride stops and turns to all of the daughters. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit is all over her. There is a strength, boldness - a holy determination in her countenance. With a full heart these words burst forth for all to hear! **"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine...."** *"I now know that my place is with other surrendered lilies."* Pointing to the glow where the other lilies had gathered round her Beloved lovingly says, *"This is where He planned for me to be all of the time."* (**2:16**). With a love filled heart she witnessed to the daughters, *"Do you want to please your King? Do you want to have a spiritual intimacy with Him you never imagined possible? Then let Him possess you! Let Him have total control of every aspect of your life. Tell Him that you belong to Him wholly and totally, that you trust Him and His Word without question! Pray, 'Holy Spirit fill me now and forever with Jesus!' Then and only then will you experience what those spiritually surrendered lilies are experiencing over there!"* There was a long silence. Then, looking up with a fire of finality in her eyes she said, *"My precious companions and true friends, let me say it with all the reason for living that is in me, **I AM MY BELOVED'S NOW AND FOREVER MORE!**"*

"...he feedeth among the lilies."

With that they quietly moved closer to this beautiful garden scene of Holy Spirit filled lilies! Peace, love, joy, laughter, understanding, wisdom and His glory emanated! There was joyful weeping and the shouting of praise! Others were worshiping with a quiet intensity. They could see Him and there was an indescribable joy written all over His countenance. Not only were the lilies being fed, but His heart too was being filled! This was the joy that had been set before Him so long ago as He endured the pain and shame of the cross (**Heb. 12:2,3**).

As He gathered His surrendered lilies around Him, each one poured out streams of love upon His feet. Others who watched broke out in praise, with shouting and holy dancing (**Psa. 149,150**)! His eyes glistened with delight! Sometimes He would ask some lily to repeat what had just been said because it so blessed His heart! There was that wonderful smile of joy they would never forget. Here was blessedness that the daughters had never seen before. Even the bride, thinking back to the most joyful times she had with Him alone realized that it did not compare with the experience of corporate worship, adoration and love. Something truly special was happening. The Holy Spirit whispered in her heart, *"Don't you remember what He said to you so long ago, **'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them?'**" (**Matt. 18:20**)! They all could say with Isaiah, *"...the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee."* (**Isa. 26:8**).*

Having confessed her heart, the bride will never depart from her Beloved again. Sin will become an occasional thing in her spiritual walk with the Beloved. Why, because she will stay ever so close to His side. So very, very few Christians know God's power and His presence in their lives because the spiritual impact of this verse has no place in their lives. Many come so close! They walk to the edge of the glory and then look back. They are given a powerful revelation in their hearts by the Holy Spirit who is wooing them to make this confession, but at the last minute they turn back, holding on to something they know down deep does not please the Lord. It is some "small" idol that they feel they must have. The lady before us surrendered her heart to Him way back in **1:2**. She was given opportunities and experiences to grow in true surrender. She had been lovingly disciplined and each time responded with a right spirit. She never gave up! That's proof of full surrender!

When she found her Beloved in **chapter three** she took Him home with her. In **chapter four**, she allowed Him to minister to her concerning the outside dangers to her soul. She willingly climbed to the top of the Mountain of Myrrh (crucifixion) and then walked in holiness on the hill of frankincense.

She hesitated in **chapter five** but did not cease to look for Him! Her yearning for Him had not diminished one bit. But now, the Holy Spirit led her to the defining moment of truth where surrender turns into true service for her King. She faced a spiritual juncture in the road. One road leading to apathy and deadness, the other leading her up out of the wilderness hand in hand with her Beloved. This absolute commitment (**v.3**) of what is truly important in her life will greatly impact all those around her. Dear reader, you will receive God's best if you will make the same deep commitment of your heart concerning Him. Give everything over to Him.

You and I have come a long way together as we traveled with this bride. We watched her movements, reactions and responses. We rejoiced with her, sorrowed with her, wept with her. Now it is time for you and me to stop everything. Stand with her and the daughters. I am ready to make the ultimate decision that a Christian can make. Are you? Over a long period of time this devotional study was written down. I have wept tears of joy and tears of conviction over many, many passages. My heart burst forth proclaiming with resolute affirmation, "***I am my Beloved's! I am my Beloved's!***" What you don't know about me is: I had been ministering for 30 years as a Martha until one day the Lord broke me and drew me to His Bridegroom's heart of full surrender through this Song! He made me stop all the activities so He could talk to me! Hallelujah! Glory to His name that He bothered to do that with me!

And now let the Holy Spirit unravel the mystery presented on **page eleven**. The answer is the secret to the victorious Christian life. In **2:16** the bride said, "***My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.***" What is the difference between that verse and the verse found in **6:3**? The difference is vital, for had the bride sincerely spoken these words here in **6:3** back in **2:16** she would not have gone through all of that unnecessary heart wrenching pain and suffering!

The difference is in the reversal of the first eight words. In **2:16** the emphasis is on what she thinks belongs to her. The primary thought was, "*I, first and foremost, possess him*" and as a secondary thought, "*He possesses me.*" The first is similar to a young believer saying, "*Jesus is mine!*" That's salvation! The question is does He possess me? Is He Lord of all in my life? Have I given Him all the rights to my life: to mold me, strengthen me, use me, and change me more into His image? (**Rom.8:29; Eph.5:1,2; Gal.5:22,23**)

Now His Lordship is proclaimed loud and clear, "*First and foremost in my life I belong to my Beloved, and of less important now is that I have Him*". THIS IS LORDSHIP! THIS IS WHY JESUS DIED. "***For to this end (purpose) Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord (not just Savior) both of the dead and living.***" (**Rom. 14:9**)! He didn't come to just save you but to sanctify you (set you apart for Himself alone)! This is what surrender is all about! This is where God's power becomes real in your life: power over habits (**Rom. 6:6,11,14**), power over your thought life (**II Cor. 10:3-5**), exercising power over the enemy (**Eph. 6:10-19**), power to experience the precious filling of the Holy Spirit (**Eph. 5:18-21**), power to receive the deep and intimate things about your Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ (**I Cor. 2:9-12**). It will be progressive; your love will grow deeper and deeper just be patient.

She knew that her beloved "***feedeth among the lilies***" in **2:16**. Even way back then He was revealing precious, practical truth to her. Did she act upon that knowledge? No! She had heard the truth but did not abide in it so that it set her free (**John 8:30-31; 15:7,8**). As with many Christians, they have a lot of biblical knowledge in their heads and they can "*talk*" truth real good with others, but the power of God is sadly missing in their daily walk and it is obvious to all. If you want the Lord's power in your life, then there is no middle ground! Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, "***So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.***" (**Luke 14:33**)! Why fear to give it all to the Lord? Will you be deprived? That's a lie from the pit of hell! Consider carefully the following thoughts.

What will cause me to turn everything over to the Lord? Promises such as this, "***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.***" (**Rom. 8:28**). The key is loving God. If I am in love with Him He will cause everything to turn out right, even the attacks of the enemy that I will feel. What does it mean to have Jesus as Lord of my life? What I give up He gives back on loan. I no longer own anything! I am a steward or manager of His property! My wife does not belong to me, she is on loan from the Lord. She belongs to Him. I had better take good care of His "*property*"! I find out what His management manual says about treating my wife along with everything else and do it in His power (**Eph. 5:25-27; John 2:5**).

He gives me back the car I once owned and He tells me to manage His car carefully. If He asks me to take people some place, even though inconvenient to me, I will do it because it is His car, not mine. But O the benefits! You will have in your life the fruit of His Holy Spirit (results of daily surrender (**Rom. 12:1,2**))! Everything people are desperately searching for, you will possess in your daily life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It's Christ's image in you (**Rom. 8:29**).

Why is it that we Christians are unable to truly receive what we already have according to **Eph. 1:3**? "***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***" Did you catch it? It says "*hath*" not "*will*"! This "***blessings***" box is filled with God's promises. The key to unlocking the safe deposit box is simple, trust in God's character that He does not lie (**Num. 23:19; II Cor. 1:20**). Exercise faith. If you are surrendered completely to Jesus, you have no need to worry about Him answering your prayer requests. Why? Because you will not ask for anything that will not bring Him glory (**John 14:13-15; I John 3:21-24**).

His will is found in His promises. Read **I John 5:14,15** and **Heb. 4:14-16** and start waiting on your Abba Father and Bridegroom to pour out the **"spiritual blessings"** upon you! The enemy prowls about like a roaring lion seeking those he may devour (**I Pet. 5:8**). In surrender we have the victory (**II Cor. 2:14**). We'll have trouble, **"Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."** (**Job 5:7**). But, Praise God, we know the Troubleshooter! Surrender to Him and victory is ours!

Surrendering all to the Lord is so important that without it you will never experience the next three chapters of this Song. The whole purpose of this Holy Spirit inspired Song is to get you and me, dear reader, to enter into and live out daily the verse found in **8:5**.

From a distance a group of people are watching a couple coming up toward them. Wondering if it might be the bride and Bridegroom they ask, **"Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved...?"** Answer it by placing your name in the reply, **"Why that's _____ and Jesus!"** We are to be leaning on Jesus, not **"hanging"** in there by our fingertips. Leaning declares I'm weak but He is strong! We will discuss this verse later.

All the joys of former moments with Him had just flashed through her mind; the loving, intimate words He had so often spoken to her (**1:9-11,15; 2:2; 4:1-7,9-15**) which had so filled her heart. Now a darkness seemed to envelope her thoughts. Seeds of doubt and depression were creeping in. **"What is happening to me?"** she thought. It was the enemy attacking her thought life by placing these questions before her. **"To think that I have thrown it all away, how could I have done this? Why did I give it all up? Look at Him there with all those other lilies, He doesn't need me! I am a failure! I am no good!"** She bowed her head and would not go a step further.

The enemy of her soul continued the attack on her mind. He was doing everything to keep her from taking this step in to her Beloved's power. Satan knew that if she did she would have authority over him and all his demonic hoards. Excruciating emotional pain, waves of guilt, replaced the joy of the moment. With tears dropping at her feet, she bowed her head. The bride was so ashamed and did not have the courage to look up. She feared it was too late to have the surrendered intimacy once experienced.

At the very lowest moment in this satanic attack she felt a powerful presence of someone standing in front of her. Her head was still bowed but she cleared her eyes of tears. She went limp as she saw the nail-scarred feet. It was her Beloved! She still could not bring herself to look up. He gently lifted her head and bid her to look into His eyes. He brushed away the tears from her cheeks. O how wonderful that hand felt to her. As her eyes met His, her heart melted! Instantly, every doubtful and depressing thought disappeared from her mind! There was no more attack! An awesome power was flowing through her from head to toe! She was filled with the Holy Spirit, His very special, eternal gift to her!

The enemy could not stay in the presence of the Ruler of her heart. Because of that one statement, **"I am my Beloved's"** she experienced for the first time, surrendered victory. She learned, in a moment's time, that having her eyes on her Beloved during an attack will bring sweet victory! The victory over the enemy of our minds comes when we are focused on Jesus alone, the Bridegroom of all grace! O the words He is about to breathe upon her heart and mind, they will become a total balm of healing so that she could experience, **"...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before..."** (**Phil. 3:13; Isa. 54:4-8**). Rejoicing with great joy the Bridegroom reassures her heart that He still loves her with the same fervent "first love, love" as from the beginning. His love had not changed nor His desire for her though she had brought momentary shame to His name. He forgave her without hesitation. The Bridegroom said, **"I am restoring your soul and will once again lead you in the paths of righteousness for My Name's sake."** The Beloved takes both of her hands in His, and with great delight in His voice tells her what He sees in her:

THE DELIGHTS OF HIS HEART REVEALED 6:4 - 7:9

V.4 "Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely (lovely) as Jerusalem, terrible (fearful) as an army with banners."

With her heart bursting with love, she thought, **"He hasn't changed! He hasn't changed! His 'first love' love for me is still as intense as it was from the very beginning!"** Love entirely engulfed her heart, soul and mind. It was the same spiritual passion, that Holy Spirit electricity, which she had felt the first time He kissed her with the kisses of His Word (**1:2**)! The joy of intimate acceptance sweeps over her soul as the Lover of her soul continues...

"Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah...."

"Tirzah" (Heb. "to be pleased with", "to accept favorably", or "approved") was the capital city of the northern kingdom's ten tribes (**I Kin. 14:19**). Listen to Him speak again to her, **"O My love, you are beautiful, you please My heart so. I completely accept you and approve everything about you!"** Why does He not remind her of the deep failure? Why does

He not speak in ominous, warning tones of strong discipline? Because He knew that her heart had never really walked away from Him. It had always been surrendered even if her walk deviated at times from what was truly in her heart.

A true surrendered believer will always respond to godly repentance worked in the heart by the blessed Holy Spirit. O how this pleases the Beloved. By her very coming to Him, it implied that she had repented! He says absolutely nothing concerning the sin. Repentance makes you beautiful, delightful and lovely in His sight and He tells her as much...

"...comely (lovely) as Jerusalem..." (Heb. "place" or "foundation of peace").

What greater compliment could the Beloved pay the one and only love of His heart by comparing her to Jerusalem? Jerusalem has a special place in the heart of God (**Psa. 48:1-3,8**). It was God's special dwelling place on Earth (the Temple). His glory dwelt in Jerusalem! It was lovely to God because wherever He is beauty is! The Bridegroom could see His peace dwelling in her. It was that confident peace, after describing Him in **5:10-16**, which caused her to boldly proclaim, **"I am my Beloved's...!"** Without His peace as the foundation of your life you cannot please Him or have His plan accomplished in your life (**John 14:27; Phil. 4:6,7**). As her Beloved, the Prince of Peace, gazed into her eyes He saw the peaceful, still waters of her heart and soul resting in Him (**Heb. 4:10**)! To have His total peace activated in her brings a walk of holiness. Peace and holiness complement each other. Listen to **Heb. 12:14**, **"Follow (pursue) peace with all men, and holiness (sanctification) without which no man shall see the Lord."** (See **II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:24; I Thess. 3:13**).

Come with me to **Rev. 21:9** and see yourself described there! **"And there came unto me one of the seven angels...saying, 'Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife'. And he carried me away...and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal (read the rest: vs. 11-27)."** The angel showed John the bride of Christ, and in so doing he showed him the new Jerusalem!

"...terrible (fearful) as an army with banners."

There is nothing more awesome than an army marching triumphantly with its banners and flags flying, celebrating the defeat of the enemy resulting in peace for the nation. He sees this in her. His conquering power has overcome her enemies! The enemies of guilt, doubt, fear, hesitation, coldness, misunderstanding, etc.! His victorious power emanates from her very demeanor. Our enemy attacks us as a roaring lion and at that very moment the Holy Spirit makes us aware that the old serpent has shown up again! He tells us to lift up our banners! It defeats the old dragon every time. What is written on that banner is this, **"His banner over me is love" (2:4)**. God's perfect love for me casts out my fear (**I John 5:18**)! His love is none other than He Himself (**I John 4:8**). Why is His love so fearful? It's a parents' love and a parents' love will do anything to protect their children! He is our banner with many faceted smaller ones. What was written on the myriad of banners flying in the breeze? They are written in **I Cor. 13:4-7** for you to see. Love conquers all things! Jesus' love conquered sin, Satan, death, hell and the grave! And we have that victory living inside of us (**2Cor.4:7**): Himself, His Word and the Holy Spirit! Glory to God! Dear surrendered reader, fling out the banners of: faith, God's promises, Jesus' name, His blood, your position - seated with Christ in the heavenlies (**Eph. 2:6**), the sword of the Spirit, the Spirit filled life!

Note that the Holy Spirit did not say the bride looked like an individual soldier. Rather, she is seen as part of an awesome army! She is with other lilies in the unity of the Spirit! That makes an awesome army and puts bondages and the devil to flight! Dear Christian reader, are you seen as an army in the spirit world? You need to meet regularly with your regiment (**Heb.10:25**) for a review of your orders and the "how to" in defeating the enemy from the training manual (**II Tim. 3:16,17**). Get with a few other lilies as they did in **Mal.3:16,17**.

Meet together to praise, worship, adore and learn from our Commander. That's where the power is! One day the Commander-in-Chief will return claiming what is already His, the final victory. Each soldier will stand before Him for rewards (**I Cor. 3:11-16**). Will He have to ask you why you went AWOL so often and seldom showed up to review instructions for the daily battles? What excuse will you use for not staying with your regiment? Did He not say to you, **"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."** (**II Tim. 2:3**)? He has provided the whole armor (**Eph. 6:10-19**). If you look closely at **v.19** it is what activates the armor!

The daughters stood there overwhelmed, riveted on what had just transpired. They had never seen such infinite, intimate, forgiving love before. They themselves longed for this kind of relationship. Then the Holy Spirit brought to remembrance the process that lifted the bride into the arms of her Beloved. The Holy Spirit said, **"You remember the words of the bride, 'He is altogether lovely!' and 'I am my Beloved's!' Look at her, dear daughters, she is consumed with love for Him. She desires nothing more than His fellowship! His plans! His perfect will for her life! If that is your desire, express it to Him and to others. His heart will fill your soul!"** The Bridegroom looked over in their direction knowing just what the Holy Spirit was proposing to their spirit! His look melted their heart!

PRAY WITH ME: *"Dear Lord Jesus, dear Abba Father, dear precious Holy Spirit - Holy! Holy! Holy! My soul doth magnify the Lord! I am fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of my Bridegroom and I give Him the glory! I adore You! You are my whole life! Never again will I move to the right or the left from the path You have set out for me. I will follow the nudge of Your arm in mine. HALLELUJAH, THE LORD MY GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, REIGNS IN MY HEART! In Your glorious name Lord Jesus, amen."*

He takes her by the hand and says, *"Come with Me and meet My other spiritual lilies who love Me as deeply as you do. They have been anxiously waiting to fellowship with you. I have told them so much about you and what you mean to My heart!"* Then He leans over and whispers quietly to her, *"O how I've missed you My Bride, My love! I missed your surrendered eyes and your beautiful voice! I have longed to share so much from My heart with you. Remember how we would meet in the morning and talk with each other? It was so difficult for Me, especially that first morning you weren't there! I waited and waited but you did not come! But now, O it is so good to have you in My arms once again!"*

As He spoke she laid her head on His breast. Tears of relief and restoration filled her eyes. The other lilies rejoiced for they had experienced the same blessed cleansing. O how wonderful did the strength and peace of His arms feel!

Something strange and wonderful was happening inside of her, she knew that she would never say "no" to Him again, never leave His side. The daughters standing there were still filled with holy wonder and amazement. She beckoned them to come near and meet the Beloved of her heart. He opened His arms to them and was so pleased that they had made the decision to surrender their all to Him also.

Having spoken to the daughters He turned and His eyes met the riveted gaze of the bride. It was almost too much for Him. He was seeing a pure reflection of Himself coming from the windows of her soul, her eyes! Streams of living water flowed from her heart through the windows of her gaze, wave upon wave of love for Him alone. The Bridegroom lovingly commands her to...

V.5 "Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome (Heb. to behave proudly, to act boisterously) me:..."

Place yourself in this scene. The Lord, the Bridegroom of your heart, has just lifted your head and spoken these words to you. All doubt, guilt, depression and self-deprecation have been swept away. Your entire being has been immersed wholly in the Holy Spirit! You just stand there with your eyes fastened to His. Every ounce of love in your heart passes to His heart through your gaze! It is His strong love returning to Him, that love which had been lavished upon her by the Holy Spirit (**Rom. 5:5**).

Can it be that He is affected so deeply by her gaze? This is not a scene of weakness on the part of our Beloved but of being overwhelmed by her deep responsive, repentive, transformed gaze of **"first love"** love! The language of her eyes filled Him with overwhelming joy! It is as if He were saying, *"You make My head swim; you take Me by storm!"* He was seeing eternal beauty, love, care, compassion, longsuffering, joy, submissiveness, peace, kindness, faith and so much more! Think of it, an infinite God experiences unexplainable infinite joy from His bride. He is consumed with **"first love"**, love. The Beloved saw her future, together with Him as if it were now! He saw her ministering with Him in the fields, villages, vineyards and witnessing to her little sisters (all coming in **chapters 7 and 8**)! What does the Lord Jesus Christ see in your eyes dear surrendered believer?

When you say in your heart, *"Lord, I belong to You forever. Do whatever You want in my life!"* an exhilarating joy sweeps over His soul. He sees in your loving, surrendered gaze all that the Holy Spirit will accomplish through you: an intimate love for Him and His beautiful image revealed in your walk. Each one will walk a different path but it will be His steps. Many will be drawn to Him because of His presence in you – drawn to repentance and to an intimate relationship with Him!

V.5 - 7 "...thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead. Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them. As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks." (a repeat of **4:1-3** see comments)

He lovingly reassures her that He sees her glory (hair) submitted to Him as before. It has not lost its submissive beauty. Her teeth are as strong as ever. He will now be able to share with her the deep things of His heart to feast upon. Praise God there is the pomegranate, again saying to Him that her deepest thoughts are of His blood that brought to her soul: grace, mercy, and life filled with worship and praise. Why did He repeat the words from **4:1-3**? This was His loving assurance that the fervency of His love had not changed in the slightest degree toward her! Praise God our Bridegroom never changes!

Jesus, the Bridegroom, looks at her beautiful smile and gleaming teeth and says, *"Look at those spiritual teeth. You, My bride will bring life to others with the Words I will put in your heart. My dove, you will teach others My ways and My wisdom. The words of your mouth will bring glory to Me. The love you have for Me will become the sword of My Word against the enemy."*

"...from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren..."

Dear reader, each day we need a spiritual washing and refreshing. Unsundered believers seldom bother, or it is just half-hearted. If you sin, confess it and have it washed once again in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (I **John 1:7**). Sit quietly with your Lord and allow Him to wash your feet with His Word (**John 15:3**). Your daily walk may step out of His will and become dirty. O how refreshing to have His spiritual hands take our feet and wash them with the water of the Word (**Eph. 5:25,26**). Have your conscience cleansed by the precious blood and your spiritual body cleansed with the pure water of the Word (**Heb. 10:22**).

What joy it is to Him to see purity restored in your soul. What beauty it is for Him to behold! Glory to His name, our Bridegroom has provided all we need to stay clean and pure before Him in love. **"Bearing twins"** speaks of balance. You possess a balanced spiritual mouth to: chew on His Word, utter praise, intercede for others, submit to authority and encourage others. You will not be *"barren"* but you'll be filled to all the fullness of God (**Eph. 3:19**). The precious fruit of His Spirit will be produced in your character and daily walk!

Remember, from the beginning of this Song the bride has been surrendered in heart to Him. The training time is over and the active serving time is about to begin. She has proclaimed His lordship over her life (**6:3**). As a result she has lovingly submitted to an important process in order to be made more beautiful for Him. Note the order in these verses, her eyes riveted on Him. Next, she *"eats"* the Word and is cleansed by it (*"washed"*). As a result, she walks with a new spiritual balance of maturity. This then leads her into a deeper worship of His glorious person and her mind is becoming more and more the mind of her Beloved (pomegranates, temples - I **Cor. 2:16; Phil. 2:5,6**). She values His precious blood even more.

V.8 "There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number."

King Solomon was the most powerful of all the Hebrew kings, and foreign countries wanted to live in peace with Israel. In order to tangibly demonstrate their sincerity they would send to the King ladies who were members of the royal families as a guarantee. It is not our purpose to deal with what God allowed or with the near eastern customs concerning queens, concubines and maidens. Eliphaz, Gideon, Saul, David, Rehoboam, Abijah and Jacob all had concubines. There were biblical regulations concerning the status of concubines (**Ex. 21:7-9; Deut. 21**).

Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit wrote this wonderful Song of Songs! It is absolute spiritual purity at its best. A devotional thought for you - because of your deep love of the Beloved, He will send beautifully surrendered members of the bride of Christ into your life to share with you the breadth and length and height and depth of His love. Wow, what a gift of love to those who are truly intimate and fully in love with Him. The joy of being with others of like precious faith is indescribable.

V.9 "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bore her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her: yea, the queens and the concubines and they praised her."

Say in your heart and speak with your lips to Him dear reader, **"I am my Beloved's!"** and you will hear Him speak **v. 9** to you in your spirit. O how blessed this scene is! The bride is standing there with all of those beautiful ladies along with the daughters of Jerusalem. Praise God, the Beloved is not ashamed to express His deepest thoughts about her publicly (**vs. 4-7**)! Just imagine how she must have felt to have those words spoken in the presence of all around her. Her past failure caused her to see only condemnation in herself when He had already cleansed her!

Then there were all of the beautiful women surrounding her. She thought, *"Why doesn't He choose one of them?"* No sooner had that guilt ridden, self-defeating thought passed through her mind, she felt her Beloved place His arms around her. He spoke in clear, rejoicing tones so that all may hear, **"My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one..., she is the choice one...!"** That is said to you my dear surrendered friend! Receive it and rejoice! He sees you as undefiled! Only our Bridegroom, the I AM, the crucified and risen One could do that miracle! Hallelujah!

"My dove..."

Interestingly Jesus calls her His **"dove"**. The Beloved publicly calls attention for all to look at her eyes, those **"dove's"** eyes whose gaze is locked on Him. Her eyes still belong to Him and the Beloved is thrilled beyond measure. The

Bridegroom wants all to observe carefully what He desires from all who want an intimate, victorious relationship with Him. He asks, *"Do you truly want to be a consistent overcomer? The answer is in her eyes!"* The old hymn says it all, *"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."* How many times have we read **Heb. 12:1-3**? Please take time and read it again and see what her dove's eyes see! When attacked Mary of Bethany said nothing but kept her eyes riveted on Him (**Lk10:38-42; Mk14:3-9**). *Oh, dear Bridegroom of my heart I love to hear You say to me "My dove; My undefiled"! What an awesome, intimate word!*

"...my undefiled..."

To understand the impact of this statement consider the meaning of **"undefiled"** which in the Hebrew language means, *"to be complete", "whole", "healthy", "to perform completely", "to be pure", "a finished product", and "wholehearted"*. This is true sanctification. She is absolutely set apart to her Beloved and for her Beloved. Holiness is real. She is no longer influenced by the sinful *"little"* foxes. There is no *"minor"* leaven to dull the relationship. The fervor of her heart is seen in the sparkle of her eyes. Her eyes continually say, **"The Lord is my portion, saith my soul..." (Lam. 3:24)**. She **"is"** (present tense) not **"will be"** complete in Him (**Col. 2:10**)! Hallelujah! Oh how He sees the end from the beginning now!

"...she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her...."

In all the created universe the bride of Christ is unique! As a human being she was made a little lower than the angels (**Psa. 8:5; Heb. 2:7,9**), but now in Jesus she is exalted to sit with her Bridegroom in the heavenlies (**Eph. 2:6**). Not only is the corporate bride unique, but each one of His surrendered lilies is unique to Him. Individually to them He declares, **"she is the only one...."**! What a great Bridegroom we have who can make each one of us feel O so special to His heart.

It is the woman who gives birth to new life. The Lord uses the term *"birth"* to illustrate just exactly how we were brought into His spiritual family. In this world it is the husband's seed that begins new life in his wife. It is the seed of the Word that is placed in our heart that brings new birth. God Himself, the Holy Spirit placed the eternal seed in Mary, and Jesus came forth. The Holy Spirit places the eternal seed of Abba's Word in us (**I Pet. 1:23-25**) and the new life begins.

Who is our mother who gives us spiritual birth? It is the dear Holy Spirit (metaphorically speaking). In our case, He gives the spiritual seed and spiritually births us. We are born of the Spirit (**John 3:5**). For example, wisdom in Proverbs is called *"she"* but spiritually speaking it is actually representing the Lord Himself (**Col. 2:3**).

The Holy Spirit and His seed brought us forth. As the corporate bride we are the **"only one"** ever or will ever be born of the Holy Spirit! Be humbled with this thought, in all of God's vast creation we are matchless! We are one with Jesus as He is with the Father (**John 17:22**)! That is true family! That is true marriage! We are the choice one! The Father gave us to His Son through the Holy Spirit (**John 10:29**)! There is nothing in all of God's creative universe that compares with us! Not angels! Not Cherubim! Not Seraphim! **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."** (**Eph. 1:4**)! Read **I Thess. 2:13**. You, with all the other believers are His unique bride! Nothing higher or greater, nothing more exquisite or beautiful has ever been created, not even the universe itself!

Can it truly be I am all of that to Him? **"The heavens declare the glory of God...."** (**Psa. 19:1**) how much more His bride! Think of it, since we are one with Jesus and Jesus is one with His Father, then we will have His glory radiating throughout the new Jerusalem through us. **"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was....And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one."** (**John 17:5,22**)! O the glory that is manifested in us when we are fully His!

"...the daughters saw her, and blessed her: yea, the queens and the concubines and they praised her."

Why do the beautiful women want to bless her? It is what they **"see"** in her! In **v.10** it says that this bride **"looketh forth"**! She is to be blessed and praised because she looks like Him! What a joy it is to see Jesus in our brothers and sisters. Many Christians are skilled in talking Christianity but O what a blessing to see someone walking and displaying a living, vibrant Christianity! She is the Ruth of the Old Testament and the Mary of Bethany of the New Testament. Both these ladies were totally committed to God (**Ruth 1:16,17; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 10:38-42**).

Wonder of wonders! Is this the one who lived in the tents of Kedar (**1:5**) and now resides in the King's palace? Is this the one who was treated as a nobody by her brothers (**1:6**) and now is showered with accolades of blessing and praise from the royal household? Can this be the one who considered herself a common desert flower (**2:1**), yet now is told that she is a priceless, exquisite flower of unsurpassed, unequalled beauty and perfection? Glory to the Lord, Yes! O the joy of giving to

Him our bodies as holy, living sacrifices! O the joy of speaking with our lips from the depths of our will, **"I am my Beloved's!"** Oh the purity that is felt! O the fullness that is experienced! O the divine health that is received in spirit, soul, and body! Stunned, they looked at each other in bewilderment. One asked, *"This is not the same person we saw on the street just a while ago is it? We are looking at a miracle of infinite, transforming proportions."* Questions fill their minds...

V.10 "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning (dawn), fair (beautiful, lovely) as the moon, clear (bright, pure) as the sun, and terrible (fearful) as an army with banners?"

This bride had just gone through great suffering and shame because of the sin of hesitation. Her appearance had been anything but lovely. But Oh, when she stepped into the presence of her Beloved (v.3), with her will now totally submerged into His will, a burst of His glorious light radiates from her! The ladies look and are awestruck! This astounding transformation causes them to ask,

"Who is she that looketh forth as the morning..."

Yes, she is like the morning! The Bride is like her Beloved. He is the bright and morning Star! She had just returned to Him, transformed into His likeness! The glory of the surrendered life is beginning to appear like the glow just before sunrise. There is the freshness of a new day in her look, in her eyes, in her ways! The dark shadows of self had engulfed her, but now, a new day in her life was dawning!

Is this true in your life? Each morning there will be a refreshing spiritual newness in your life. You will proclaim with Holy Spirit excitement, **"This is the day which the Lord hath made"; (I) will rejoice and be glad in it.!" (Psa. 118:24).** When you awake, immediately the gentle, loving Holy Spirit will witness with your spirit that the Lord's purpose and plan is already at work in you, preparing you for a new day and new battles already won by the Lord Himself (Psa. 46:5)! In the morning your soul will feel enfolded by His lovingkindness (Psa. 59:16). His joy (Psa. 30:5), compassion and mercy (Lam.3:23) will rise like the dawn in you. There will be a refreshing quiet confidence that His glorious light will shine through you brighter and brighter as the day unfolds (Prov. 4:18).

There is a spiritual freshness for the new day, knowing you are enwrapped in His arms and **"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper...." (Isa. 54:17).** You will rejoice because He has made this day for you. You will walk by faith and not by sight. So you are glad in it, knowing He is in total control of your surrendered life. Isn't it great to be around other believers who don't dwell on the past but look to a new day and a bright future in the Lord with absolute assurance from Him ? Your own spiritual joy is enhanced by them. Praise God for the freshness of the Holy Spirit filled life. The daughters continue to gaze at this miracle before them. One of them exclaims that the bride is...

"...fair (lovely) as the moon..."

The moon gives off a soft and gentle light by reflecting the rays of the sun. Because of sin, this old world in which we live is engulfed by spiritual darkness, hardness and harshness. The world needs to see the **"moon"** in us. In itself the moon is absolutely lifeless, it has no energy of its own. However, the moon continually reflects the light of the sun. The moon's life is the life of another, its gentleness is the gentleness of another, it blesses only by being blessed by another; its glory is totally the glory of another!

As the sun gives beauty to a submissive moon so also the light of Christ, in the power and beauty of the Spirit-filled life, will be reflected in us as we submit all to Him. No wonder they were so delighted to gaze on her. She reflected pure beauty! She reflected Him!

Your spouse, your family, your friends, your co-workers and casual acquaintances all need to see a **"dead"** and **"dark"** former you reflecting the living light of Christ (Gal. 2:20)! Just as the moon uses no energy to bless, so you are not to struggle in your energy to live the Christian life, but you are to surrender each day to the Lord totally so He may touch you and others through you.

The Holy Spirit then arranges all the circumstances in your life that will best reflect Jesus to those who need to see Him in you. You will, for the most part, be very unaware of all that the Holy Spirit is doing, but you will have confidence that He is **"doing!"** Do people need to hear your opinion, wisdom and knowledge? No! A yielded life to the Holy Spirit will reflect Jesus' wisdom and knowledge to all those brought into your life (Col. 2:3).

PRAY WITH ME: *"Dear Abba Father, I want to have Your glory shine through the life that You have created in me. I submit my mind and heart to You. Take them and transform my walk to be in agreement with Your Holy Word. Let the lovely image of my Beloved be daily reflected in me by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is my desire in the wonderful and mighty*

There are many times we are called on to walk through a dark circumstance. Even though it seems at times He is not there, the reflection of His promises say otherwise. The moon is just a reminder that the sun is still there in the darkness. What an encouragement to all of us that the night will pass and the day will dawn whether it be in a deep, dark crisis we are facing or knowing that through the darkness of this world, Jesus, the Light of the world is coming back soon.

"...as clear as the sun..."

As an adjective the Hebrew word for "**clear**" carries with it the meaning of: "pure" or "clean" (see **Psa. 19:8; 24:4; 73:1**). This word "**clear**" comes from a Hebrew word which means: "to purify", "cleanse", "make bright". The sun is the power of our solar system. This is the light that brings life! Are you "**...as clear as the sun...**"? Do you bring life wherever your footsteps take you? The sun is the generating power of our solar system. Without its power and energy all would be lifeless and dreary. She not only reflected Jesus' light as the moon but she possessed His dynamic spiritual power within!

The power cannot be unleashed and seen in us until we have given our all to Him. She has repented from her compromising sins and made Him Lord of her life. She now walks the blameless life (**Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Phil. 1:10; 2:15; Col. 1:22**) before all - clear as the sun. It all happens when we give every aspect of our life to Him without reservation! It's His power that will be seen in us and then, flow out through us! Lives will be blessed, changed, saved, healed, delivered (**Eph. 3:20; Acts 1:8**). Remember, it all began with the defining moment in **6:3**.

He chose you to be His vehicle through which the world may see His purity and love (**John 17:22-23; II Cor. 3:18**). Do they? This poor old world, with its empty lives, gropes for meaning, purpose, usefulness and purity but to no avail. They give up in despair. O Christian disciple, let the world see Jesus in you! Stay daily surrendered and submissive to Him! We are to be pure and clear as the "Son"! That kind of life is at your fingertips if you would take your compromising hands off the controls!

There is nothing like a transparent (clear) believer! You never have to guess about them! They have a clear-cut witness and would do nothing to offend Jesus or you. You know, without question, they are totally in love with Jesus and you, filled with His Spirit, filled with His Word and His ways! Are you perfect? No! But as you confess each failure and sin then repent of them, a little more of Jesus is seen in your life (**John 3:10**)! Your reflection of Him will grow brighter.

"...and terrible (fearful) as an army with banners?"

The Beloved proclaimed this in **v.4** and now the Daughters of Jerusalem absolutely agree with His estimation of her. When Jesus becomes your entire reason for living, then nothing, absolutely nothing can defeat you! His banners over you cause the Prince of Darkness to cringe in fear and retreat!

Glory to God we are in His army and fully equipped to do battle. God Almighty is our banner (**Ex. 17:15**)! As the enemy approaches he sees written on these victory banners over you: "Abba Father"; "Righteous Father"; "The Blood of Jesus"; "The Name of Jesus"; "The Sword of the Spirit"; "It is Finished". As you submit every situation to your Beloved these banners are unfurled by His angels encamped round about you! The enemy must retreat. These banners are filled with His light that the Prince of Darkness hates. Notice she has His light in the morning, at night (moon) and during the day (sun). Twenty-four hours of protection! The Word proclaims, "**...the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended** (Gk. overpowered, overwhelmed, seized) **it not.**" (**John 1:5**).

The bride asked that her very special intimate friends, the virgins and daughters, meet with her for fellowship. The sharing times were always an inspiration to them. More than anyone else, they understood her deep experiences in the Lord. Their own spiritual journey had been very similar. Waiting for the bride to arrive they conversed with one another about how much their lives had changed and of the Bridegroom's love which filled their hearts.

The bride walked in, radiant looking as ever, with an excited tone said, "Dear, dear friends, I just want to say how much I love you. You have been so faithful to me. Look at us here, why do we meet so often like this? It's because of Him! He's everything to us! But I especially have much to be thankful for concerning Him. He has been so gentle with me from the very beginning. He knew long before it ever dawned upon me that I had to go through the growing pains of surrender. But O the joy ladies, you all know what I mean! Remember what I did not want to do (**2:16**)? My Beloved is giving me another opportunity. He is asking me to go with Him into the valley. What I am so excited about is that I didn't hesitate one second this time."

They were all smiles and then at the same moment clapping for joy they broke out in laughter! One of the virgins said, "We'll miss you so much. These times of fellowship are very precious to us. We will be praying for you as you leave on this wonderful journey. We will be anxiously awaiting your return and you'll have to tell us all the details of what it meant ministering so intimately with the Beloved." Everyone gathered 'round and laid their hands on the bride praying a blessing of the Beloved's Word over her.

PRAY WITH ME: "I give You praise, I give You praise, I give You praise! My Father, I love You! My dear Lord Jesus, I love You! Dear, dear Holy Spirit, I love You! I give You all the glory for on me and in me shines Your light from morning to night! I bow before You with a heart filled with thanksgiving. Your banners are lifted up above me causing my enemy to be defeated. Thank You Lord, I submit my heart and life for You to keep it clean and bright before a wicked and perverse generation. Bless others through me, in my Beloved Jesus, amen!"

Before they leave the Beloved explains to her the purpose for this journey. He says...

V.11 "I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits (Heb. "freshness") of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded."

How wonderful is this scene! It is springtime, a time of new beginnings. The Beloved is leaving to examine His spiritual garden to see how fruitful it will be. There was another time He spoke of this in (2:11-13). At that time her heart was not moved. But now He knows she is ready to leave with Him on a spiritually breathtaking journey by faith into His vineyards! Even while speaking about the beauty and fruit of His garden a special glow came upon His face.

The Beloved's great concern is always the condition of His garden. He Himself is the seed that was planted there (John 12:24; 19:41; Mt. 13:36-38). Jesus buried His seed at Calvary and resurrected it in our heart garden. He gave His life so glorious fruit could be produced by the Holy Spirit in the heart garden of each believer! O the power of that SEED to transform the hardest of hearts! Paul prayed, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection..." (Phil. 3:10)! He loves to share His work! He does not want to go alone! It enhances His joy! For a moment He pauses, then explains...

V.12 "Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like (set me over) the chariots of Amminadib."

The Hebrew word "**Amminadib**" is a combination of two words "*am*" and "*nadib*". The first is usually translated "*people*" and the second word can be translated "*willing*", "*voluntarily*", "*inclined*", or "*noble*". Am I seen by Him in the company called "*His willing people*"? O how it pleases the Beloved's soul to be with those who possess a willing spirit to do His perfect will. An inclined heart voluntarily desiring and doing His will causes the Lord Jesus to call us "**noble**"! Are not His chosen called "**a royal priesthood**" (1 Pet. 2:9)? Chariots imply movement from place to place. It is a vehicle that must be controlled and driven by another. Are you spiritually noble by having a willing, submissive spirit obeying His loving commands?

The Beloved looked deep into her spirit and knew she was ready, O so ready and willing to go with Him to the garden! His heart leaped with joy because she was now one in purpose with Him. He could hear her say quietly, "Wherever You want to go I want to go! Your desire is my desire! Your work will be my work! I have to be with You my Love, my Bridegroom, my Lord! Your joy alone is my joy!" He takes her by the hand and they begin to walk toward the valley of orchards! Little was said but a beautiful glowing midst enveloped them as they walked off.

PRAY WITH ME: "Dear Lord, for too long I have held the reins of my soul's chariot deciding where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do! Seldom did I consult with You and find out Your heart's desire. Take the reins out of my hands! I want to hear You say that I am noble because of my willing heart. This is my longing and this is my joy. Praise Your holy name Lord Jesus, amen!"

With tears in their eyes, these beautiful ladies of royalty watched as this wonderful couple walked off in the light of the early morning sun. O how they would miss them! They called out to her with hearts full of love and appreciation for what she had become and said:

V.13 "Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company (Heb. "dances") of two armies (or "encampments")."

They had been overwhelmed and awestruck at the glorious transformation into His likeness since the first time they had laid their eyes upon her in **chapter 1**! Those who have the fullness of Jesus in them are the ones who are truly missed when they depart. Your heart cries out, "Come back, come back, come back! Let me gaze upon Jesus in you once again for it is so refreshing to my soul!" For the first time she is called "**Shulamite**". It has been pointed out by others the name "**Shulamite**" is the feminine form of "**Solomon**". How appropriate that they call her by His name for she now bears His image more than ever before because of her confession and submission of love. Praise God, one day we who love and

adore Him; we who have been chosen as His bride will have His name written across our foreheads for all eternity. **"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."** (Rev. 22:4).

Excitement filled the bride. Quietness gave forth to joyful dancing and skipping down the path to the valley below! The daughters were ecstatic as they watched the bride dance in delirious delight. Praise God for those who are so surrendered and spirit-filled that they can dance like David danced before the Lord (**II Sam. 6:14**)! When you confess that Jesus has total control of you and then obey, the Holy Spirit fills up your soul with joy unspeakable, full of glory (**I Pet. 1:8**). **"Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing."** (**Psa. 30:11**). The scripture tells us to **"...praise his name in the dance."** (**Psa. 149:3**)! The change that had taken place in the bride's life was so dramatic that she could not hold back. Thus, she danced exuberantly before the One she adored! Glory to God! Just like two armies dancing and rejoicing over victories! Reread **v.11**.

As the Bride walks with Him through the garden in the valley she observes the deep, deep concern and care her Beloved has for the spiritual trees, plants and vines in His garden. They are of inestimable value to Him. All of a sudden she remembers that this is where she had found Him (**6:2**) when her life was so dramatically changed. She noticed what great delight swept over His countenance when He, O so lovingly, touched the tender buds. He could envision blessed fruit being produced in the future!

He spoke to her concerning the garden. His hand pointed from corner to corner and said, *"See this vast, beautiful garden ready to bloom, it was a very dead and ugly piece of ground filled with thorns and thistles before I planted My seeds in it. This ground cost Me dearly but it was worth it all. Look how beautiful it is now My love and one day it will be perfect forever without spot or blemish"* (**Rev. 19:7,8; I Cor. 3:11-15**)!"

They walked and talked through this splendid garden. She could feel something strange and fantastic happening in her heart. She was beginning to have the same great love for the garden as her Beloved! All He could talk about was the beautiful, blessed fruit that was being produced. She felt the thrill of it with Him. She shouted with joy in her spirit at this new revelation, *"This is what He saw in me (4:12-5:1)! This whole garden reflects His glorious image (Rom. 8:29). I now see what He is seeing, the beauty and wonder of other surrendered lilies!"* Now she understood the deep concerns of His heart!

Jesus wants us to be concerned about His concerns. He wants us to love our brothers and sisters and see them flourish in the power of the Holy Spirit. Is the vine flourishing, in me? In you? In others (**John 15:1-11**)? That is His deep interest! He is the vine and what delights His heart is to see abundant life budding in the lives of His people. The Beloved looks closely to see if the pomegranates are blooming. Blooming indicates there is heartfelt **"first love"** love being offered in worship to Him from His thankful people.

PRAY WITH ME: *"Dear Lord Jesus, I love You and will gladly allow You to have Your wonderful name displayed in my life and speak it with my lips as long as I live! When people gaze upon me may they immediately say 'Jesus' in their heart! Lord, may I be like Peter and John when others saw and heard them, the people knew they had been with You Lord (Acts. 4:13). So strong were You in their life that people were powerfully affected even by Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15)! Dear Bridegroom of my heart, cause me to be so intimate with You that Your very presence in me will have a positive spiritual effect on others. Praise Your holy name! Amen!"*

COME APART AND REST FOR A WHILE. GO TO THE PRAISE LIST AT THE END OF THIS BOOK AND SELECT A FEW WORDS OR PHRASES WITH WHICH TO PRAISE YOUR DEAR BRIDEGROOM.