

## SONG OF SONGS: YOUR LOVE IS BETTER PART II

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### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. On this occasion, we will see why the love of Jesus is better than the delights (wine) of this world. There are seven fundamental principles to help us understand God's affection for us in our weakness. It is not difficult to imagine God loving perfect believers in heaven. The hard thing is believing that He has affection for weak and hurt people in this age.

**1 Jn. 4:19** *"We love Him because He first loved us."*

### II. FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE: SPIRITUAL IMMATUREITY IS NOT REBELLION

- A. When we repent and believe in the gospel we receive the saving grace of God and our position before Him changes, we are now righteous and we count on His favor; not so much for what we do but for what He did on the cross (**Rom. 3:21-31**). Repentance is a change of attitude that turns away from sin and turns to God while receiving understanding at each stage of the spiritual journey. **Repentance consists of breaking our agreement with the darkness, to align ourselves with God in our thoughts, words and actions.**

- B. God has different emotions related to the way people respond to him. Some live confused, not knowing if God is sad, mad or glad with them. **We should not live in condemnation, thinking that God is angry with us when He really delights in us, although we should not live in arrogance, thinking that He delights in us when He is actually displeased by our sin.**

- C. **Spiritual immaturity is not the same as rebellion.** Many are confused by this. Our actions are important to God, however, He sees beyond our actions, he sees our heart.

**1 Sam. 16:7b** *"...For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

- D. **Someone who genuinely loves Jesus sincerely seeks to obey him with a willing spirit.** A sincere but still immature believer repents in every area where he/she receives light even if he/she sometimes fails. Jesus values our love for Him, even when is weak.

**Mt. 26:41b** *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

- E. **The rebel says "no" to God and has no intention of obeying.** Premeditated sin is far more serious to God than stumbling over spiritual immaturity (**Heb. 10:26**). On the other hand, seeking total obedience is not the same as obtaining it. The Lord is pleased with us the moment we dispose our hearts to obey Him, which happens long before our obedience matures.

- F. **The believer who sins shows his sincerity by repenting immediately and resumes his/her war against that sin.** We should not think that we are already discarded when in fact we are only spiritually immature. **A hypocrite is someone who says a thing but does not seek to obey it.** Struggling to obey is not the same as being a

rebellious hypocrite. A sheep that falls into the mud is not the same as a pig that rolls in the mud.

- G. **Conviction tells us that our actions are wrong. Condemnation tells us that our person is wrong.** Are you a slave to sin who struggles to love God or **a lover of God who still struggles with sin?** Many are defined by their failures. **Thanks to the work of Jesus, we are much better in God's eyes than the worst we have ever done.**
- H. **If we confuse this we can live condemned or condemn others which can hurt their faith; And that is the opposite of the conviction of the Spirit, which gives us confidence to go deeper in God.** God saw the spiritual immaturity of the apostles differently than the rebellion of the Pharisees. David seemed to have committed more serious sins than Saul's, but God's favor continued with David. And it was because when David sinned, he afflicted his heart before God. When Saul sinned, although he was confronted, he continued in his sin. He only pretended repentance as he continued in his rebellion (**1 Sam. 15:22-23**).
- I. God's mercy gives us assurance that we can have a new start with God when we repent. **We are defined by God's passion for us, receiving the gift of justice, and by our heart's sincere cry to be someone who loves God with all our hearts.**

### III. PRINCIPLE # 1: GOD LOVES AND BLESSES EVEN UNBELIEVERS

**Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

**Ro. 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

- A. **God allows blessings on bad people but we should not confuse His blessings on them as approval of what they do.**

**Mt. 5:45 "for He [God] makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."**

- B. God does get upset about rebellion and if there is no repentance there will be punishment (Esau, Saul, etc.).

**Mt. 7:22a-23 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name...? 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"**

### IV. PRINCIPLE # 2: GOD ENJOYS AND DELIGHTS IN IMMATURE BELIEVERS

- A. Jesus rejoices in us when we begin the growth process with sincere repentance.

**Lk. 15:4-7 "What man... having a hundred sheep... does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing; 6 ... he calls together his friends... saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."**

- B. Jesus has compassion for prodigal children and revealed our Heavenly Father's joy

for those who return to Him by showing us how He fully receives and restores the one who was lost. This newly repentant son had many areas of his life that still needed transformation.

**Lk. 15:18-22** *"[the prodigal son said:] I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned...'<sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.<sup>22</sup> the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his fee.'"*

- C. The Bible says that God **delights** to have mercy on us.

**Mic. 7:18** *"...He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy."*

**Jer. 9:24;** *"...That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord"* (LBLA)

- D. God gives the repentant believer a **fresh start** as a "first-class citizen" every time he repents.

**Lam. 3:22-23** *"...Because His compassions fail not.<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness"*

- E. God remembers and understands our weakness more than we do. He does not discipline us to the degree that we deserve it.

**Psal. 103:10-14** *"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him...<sup>13</sup> As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him.<sup>14</sup> For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."*

## V. PRINCIPLE # 3: GOD'S JOY IS NOT THE SAME AS HIS APPROVAL

- A. Just because God delights in us does not mean that He overlooks or approves of the areas that need to be transformed in our lives.

**Heb. 12:10** *"For they [our parents] indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He [God disciplines us] for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."*

- B. God is **patient** but we cannot confuse His patience with His approval.

**Ap. 2:21-22** *"And I gave her [Jezebel] time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.<sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.."*

**Ecc. 8:11** *"Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."*

- C. When we refuse to honestly and completely confront sin in our hearts, we are **no less loved by God, but we do have losses in various ways.** We minimize our ability to experience the joy of our salvation, the spirit of revelation, fellowship with others, and receiving everlasting rewards. God patiently supports us in His love as He works to lead us to repentance.

**Ro. 2:4** *"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and*

**longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"**

## **VI. PRINCIPLE # 4: GOD'S DISCIPLINE DOES NOT EQUAL HIS REJECTION**

A. God's correction is not rejection, but a proof of His love.

**Pr. 3:12 "For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights."**

**Heb. 12:6 "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."**

B. Jesus rebukes, but it is because He loves believers who need repentance.

**Ap. 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.[!] Therefore be [m]zealous and repent."**

C. Being disciplined by God means that He cares about us and that he has not given up on us. It is terrible when someone "gets their way" with sin because it means that God is letting that person continue in their evil.

**1 Co. 11:32 "But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."**

**Ro. 1:24 "Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts..."**

D. God did not forget His people Israel even though they were in a stage of disobedience.

**Psal. 78:37-39 "For their heart [the people of Israel] was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant. <sup>38</sup> But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath; <sup>39</sup> For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again."**

## **VII. PRINCIPLE # 5: GOD IS AFFECTED BY THE PERSISTENT EVIL OF HIS PEOPLE**

A. Jesus will vomit lukewarm believers out of His mouth. This is not to say that He is throwing them out, but rather that He is disappointed or distressed about their lives.

**Ap. 3:16 "So then, because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth."**

B. God feels the pain for those whom He disciplines and continues to consider them His loved ones.

**Is. 63:9 "In all their affliction He was afflicted... In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old."**

**Jer. 12:7 "...I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies."**

C. We can only fulfill our calling and destiny in this era by walking in faithful obedience and with a history of diligence seeking God. Faithfulness does not win our call but rather positions us to receive grace in order to fulfill it..

**2 Thes. 1:11 "Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and**

***the work of faith with power"***

- D. We must be sure that God, in His love for us, will manifest His zeal for us, which requires that we live in wholehearted obedience. He jealously insists on what deepens our relationship with Him and results in our growth.

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

**VIII. PRINCIPLE # 6: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES DO NOT GIVE US MORE FAVOR FROM GOD**

- A. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation, etc.) are ordained by God as a necessary way to position ourselves for more grace. Power is in the "furnace of the presence of God" not in our cold hearts, which are positioned before it.
- B. **God gives in the measure of hunger we have for a relationship with Him and not for how much He loves us (Mt. 5:6).** God honors the value we place on the relationship by giving us more, according to our spiritual hunger (**Gal. 6:8**). God will not delight an obedient believer in eternity any more than he delights today (**Mal. 3:6**).

**IX. PRINCIPLE # 7: MATURITY ALLOWS US TO RECEIVE MORE (NOT TO BE MORE LOVED)**

- A. God loves us all equally, but he entrusts a greater measure of power to the one who is mature. The Lord determines the measure of power that He has planned for each believer (**Mt. 25:15**). Our obedience positions us to walk according to the measure that He has already planned.

**Phil. 3:12 "Not that I have already attained, [c] or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."**

- B. **God no longer loves people with great ministerial power or influence.** He will entrust us more, according to our maturity. We are given spiritual gifts through faith (**Acts 3:11-12; Gal. 3:5**) yet our spiritual maturity provides protection against Satan's attack (**Lk 14: 30-32**) in those who operate in the anointing. There are four things that increase when we experience more of the power of the Holy Spirit (the zeal of God, the wrath of Satan, the demands of man, and our emotional capacities).

**X. REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Which of the points about God's love touched you the most and why?**
- 2. How does knowing that God delights in you make you feel despite your weakness and immaturity?**
- 3. Do you consider that by receiving this kind of love from God you can impart it to others? Explain**