

SONG OF SONGS: THE BRIDE'S VISION OF LIFE

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Songs. 1:4

"Draw me away! We will run after you. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you"

I. THE EXPRESSION OF HER LIFE'S VISION IN TWO FACETS

- A. In this portion, we will see how the Bride describes her spiritual goals and vision for life. She longs to be intimately drawn to Jesus to receive grace to follow Him along with the other believers in ministry. The Bride expresses her vision of life in the form of a prayer to God.

Songs. 1:4 "Draw me away! We will run after you..."

- B. She asks her beloved to continue to draw her to Him with the revelation of His knowledge and His affection because she longs to be brought closer and closer to the heart of God in deep intimacy as an extravagant worshiper who loves the Lord with all her heart, just as Jesus prophesied over us:

Matt. 22:37 "Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

- C. The maiden prays, "**We will run after you.**" Being attracted is in the singular but running with Him is in the plural. **She longs to follow Jesus in the company of those who love Him. Running means a life of service motivated by compassion for those around us.** We run after Jesus because He is the one who sets the pace, and we do so by relating to others.

Matt. 22:3 "Y el segundo es semejante: Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo."

- D. **The balance is in having passion for Jesus and also compassion for others.** There is a tension during our spiritual journey between "being drawn" and "running." **At first, many are focused on rushing into the ministry without being drawn into intimacy with Jesus causing them to tire quickly..**
1. Many faint, as the maiden did in **Songs. 1:6b**, because running after the Lord can bring conflict, rejection, and even persecution. A few others focus only on being drawn to Him without having any vision to run in ministry.
 2. In **Songs. 2:8-13** we will see how Jesus answers the Bride's prayer to be "drawn to Him" but she loses her balance and temporarily refuses to step out of her comfort to run in service to God. Jesus answers the two parts of his prayer throughout the eight chapters of **Song of Solomon**.
- E. **We must both be drawn to Jesus and advance or run at each stage of our life.** It is not enough just to approach the heart of God in intimacy. Nor is it enough just to run in the ministry. Often the Lord emphasizes one of these

two aspects during the different stages of our life. We should not neglect any of them nor should we fear what others may say when the Lord emphasizes any of them at a specific stage of our life.

Mat. 4:10 *"...You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."*

- F. **The general order of the kingdom of God is first, to be drawn into intimacy and then to rush into ministry in the flow of our intimate relationship with Jesus.** The first commandment focuses on loving God with all our hearts, which strengthens us to walk more effectively in the second commandment, which is to seek relationships and serve others. The Bride's 2-faceted life vision speaks of the two great commandments (**Mat. 22: 37-40**) and the Great Commission (**Mat 28:19-20**). **Our vision of life must always contain both aspects, "being drawn and running."**
 - G. **We must establish a vision of life regardless of our occupation, family or economic position.** We must determine to be **extravagant worshipers of God and anointed and active ministers in the work of God.**
 - H. **The components of a focused life include having a life vision with life goals in every area of our life;** in the **spiritual** (prayer life, fasting days, Bible studies, etc.); in our **relationships** (family, friends, etc.); regarding our **vocation** (call to business, etc.); in **ministry** (both inside and outside the church); **economically** (income, expenses, giving, saving, investing); in terms of **physical** health (exercise, diet, etc.) and **rest** (recreation, vacations, entertainment, etc.)
- Pr. 29:18** *"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint..."*
- I. **We must have an action plan for each goal,** be it short-term (3 months to 3 years) or long-term (10 years or more), for each area of our life. **We must plan the habits that lead us to fulfill those goals, to help us focus and above all keep our priorities and organize our time properly.**
- Ef. 5:16** *"making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (ESV)*

II. THE GROWTH OF PASSION

- A. **v.1:4** *"**The king has brought me into his chambers;**"* The king's chamber is the bridal room. The young woman asked the Lord to draw her after Him (that he take the initiative to help her) and Jesus responded by taking her to his rooms.
- B. **It refers to the times when the maiden develops her secret life in God.** We all have a secret story in God where Jesus draws us to Him in His word and by His Spirit. **The times in the chamber shape and mold our inner being. These are the times when the Lord conquers us, warns, promises and confronts us so that we grow in the Spirit.** The King's chambers are also times of preparation, in which we must love and obey Jesus with all our hearts as He prepare us for future tasks.

Matt. 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

- C. The experiences of the chambers refer to the times when God takes us to Himself, granting us unusual experiences in the Spirit (revelations, encounters, impartations).

III. THE CERTAINTY OF PASSION: PROPHETIC DECLARATION OF JOY

Songs. 1:4 ...We will be glad and rejoice in you..."

- A. The Bride declares to the daughters of Jerusalem, with courageous resolve and assurance of faith, that together, ***"they will rejoice and rejoice in God and remember his love in all stages of their lives."*** This was her confession of faith through every stage of her life. We will rejoice and rejoice in Jesus and remember His love in three ways:

1. First, **we rejoice and remember His tender mercy in our weaknesses as we reject condemnation.**
2. Second, **we rejoice and remember His excellencies and stimulating affection, which is superior to the wine of sin.**
3. Third, **we rejoice and remember His reign over our lives in times of difficulty and trial.**

Ro. 12:12 "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (ESV)

- B. **This confession of faith in times of despair and trial is an expression of spiritual warfare by declaring that God is good and that the devil is a liar.**

IV. REMEMBERING MAKES US LOVE GOD

Songs. 1:4 "We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you"

- A. **The goodness of Jesus' love makes us love him powerfully.** When we remember the love of Jesus and His goodness, our hearts awaken to the love of God. The Bride understands how God changes the human heart.
- B. **The Bride is showing the way to maintain the passion that she received in the experiences of the chambers.** God holds us responsible for remembering these experiences by positioning our soul to be refreshed by not forgetting what God spoke to us in these times.

Psal. 103:2 "...forget not all his benefits."

- C. **We participate in spiritual warfare by proclaiming the word of God when darkness assaults our hearts.** We must renew our minds, refusing to lose anything that God has given us in the experiences of the chambers.

D. The joy that comes from faith requires setting our hearts in accord with the confession of our faith in times of difficulty. **The joy that is by faith remembers the love of Jesus and refuses to give up.** We must regularly redirect our soul to the word of God. There are times when we have to make our soul joyful by faith.

1. **In difficult circumstances, we actively rejoice in God and confess His beautiful leadership instead of drowning in anxiety.** We declare that we rejoice in His leadership. In the midnight darkness, we remember the revelation that He gave us in His chambers.

Songs. 2:4 "his banner [leadership] over me was love."

Ro. 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good..."

2. **In temptation, we rejoice in God and confess that His affections and promises are better than the wine of this fallen world.**
3. **When we fail, we confess His love by believing in His tender mercy rather than sinking in condemnation.** We will not accept accusations from the enemy. Satan tells many that they are rejected by God and therefore flee, instead of running to Him in their weakness.

E. In difficult circumstances and temptations we declare that the Lord is good and that His mercy is forever. (**1 Cr. 16:34,41; Sal. 100:5; 106:1**)

Ezr. 3:11 "And they sang... giving thanks to the Lord: For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel..."

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Have you asked the Lord to keep drawing you near to Him? How do you think He did it?
2. Do you consider that you have a balance in your life in terms of being intimate with Jesus and serving His people? Explain
3. Describe a time when the Lord has placed you in His secret chamber? What has been your story with the Lord in the secret place?
4. Describe an experience in your life in which the joy of the Lord has kept you through a difficult time, a temptation, or a fall you have had?