

## ***Session 3 The Divine Kiss: Transformed by the Word (Bridal Paradigm)***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

<sup>2</sup> ***Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth (Word) -- for Your love is better than wine. (Song 1:2)***

- A. What is a Bridal paradigm? A paradigm is a point of view or a perspective. It is the lens through which we interpret our worldview. In July 1988, the Lord began to lead me to see the Kingdom of God through the eyes of a cherished Bride who is to be fascinated with the beauty of Jesus as the Bridegroom God. I began to see Jesus' beauty in a whole new way, even in familiar passages.
- B. The dominant theme in the Song is the King's emotions or affections for His Bride. We must make it a priority to study and meditate on the subject of God's emotions. This is important to our own emotional health. We are transformed as we understand the way God thinks and feels about us, especially in our weakness. This revelation causes us to run to Him instead of from Him. It causes us to have confidence in His love and to open our spirit to Him in our weakness. Many sincere believers seek God with a condemned heart or a closed and guarded spirit.
- C. In the grace of God, our experience of God's love is not to be quenched nor drowned by any flood. Many have a quenched heart in which their ability to experience God's love has been drowned. The truths of the Song unlock our heart by the fire of God.

<sup>6</sup> ***Set Me (Jesus) as a seal upon your heart...for love (God's love in us) is as strong as death...its flames are flames of fire...<sup>7</sup> Many waters (persecution, sin, condemnation, pressures, etc.) cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6-7)***

### **II. THE KISS OF GOD'S WORD**

- A. The focus of this session is to understand the Divine kiss of God's Word. The eight chapter love Song unfolds the implications of receiving the Divine kiss. This is the theme of the Bride's life.

<sup>2</sup> ***Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth (Word) wine. (Song 1:2)***

- B. There are different types of kisses in Scripture. Examples are the kiss on the cheek of a friend, or the kiss on the feet of a servant. The kiss of the mouth speaks of holy married love or intimacy.
- C. The maiden requests the kisses of the King's mouth. The Word of God is what proceeds from God's mouth. Our heart can only live by that which comes from the mouth of God. Jesus quoted Deut. 8:3 in His wilderness temptation (Mt. 4:4). For 3,000 years, rabbis have referred to the "kisses of the mouth" in this verse as the "kiss of the Torah".

<sup>3</sup> ***That He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. (Deut. 8:3)***

- D. The Divine kiss is a metaphor for intimacy with God. We are to think of God's hand touching our heart by the Holy Spirit to expand our capacity to receive His love and to give ourselves back to Him in love. It speaks God's invitation to go deep with Jesus. The kisses of His mouth speak of the release of the Word of God that tenderizes our hearts in the love of God. We are NOT to think of kissing Jesus on the mouth. This is entirely outside the boundaries of God's Word. We renounce all interpretations of the "kisses of the Word" that come from sensual imagination.
- E. The Song of Solomon was written to extol the beauty of married love and to give us insight into our relationship to Jesus as our Bridegroom God. All that the Spirit teaches motivates us to love Jesus more. It is inconceivable that the Spirit would inspire Scripture that did not point to Jesus.
- <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (Jn. 16:14)*
- F. The Word of God covers many different subjects such as relationship skills, ministry skills or apostolic strategies for outreach (Book of Acts). The Word as it pertains to growing in these skills and insights is very valuable to us. However, in Song 1:2, the Bride cried out specifically to receive the Word of God in a way that would reveal and impart God's love to her heart.
- G. There are three metaphors of intimacy with God in the Song. They are the Divine kiss (1:2), the Divine seal (8:6), and the Divine embrace (2:5; 8:4).
- H. The Bride's journey started with a longing for the kisses of His Word (Song 1:2) and up ended up encountering Jesus in His holy jealous love (Song 8:6-7). He came to seal her heart with holy jealous love which is the ultimate expression of maturity in the Song.

### III. THE DIVINE KISS: THE BRIDE'S SUPREME REQUEST

- A. The maiden made her request to One with authority over the King instead of directly to the King. She said, "Let Him..." She asks One who could influence the King in personal matters.
- B. Solomon writes this love Song in a way that is reminiscent of his own experience with God. In Solomon's early years as king of Israel, God visited him in a dream to test him (2 Chr. 1; 1 Kg. 3). The Lord tested Solomon by allowing him to make one supreme request or to ask God for anything. He asked for a supernatural impartation of wisdom and knowledge to serve God better.
- <sup>7</sup> God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"...<sup>10</sup> Now give me wisdom and knowledge...for who can judge this great people of Yours?" <sup>11</sup> God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people...<sup>12</sup> wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like." (2 Chron. 1:7-12)*

- C. In a similar way, the Lord has invited the Church to ask for anything in His will. As the Bride, we stand in the Father's presence to ask for what we want most. We cry "Father, let Him kiss me with the kisses of His Word." We ask for the deepest things that God will give the human spirit.
- <sup>22</sup> *And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. (Mt. 21:22)*
- <sup>23</sup> *Whoever...does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. (Mk. 11:23)*
- <sup>13</sup> *Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. (Jn. 14:13-14)*
- D. God continues to test His people by allowing them to ask for anything. The Bride's supreme request from the Father is the Divine kiss of the Word. She wants this more than power, prominence and earthly comforts. God is raising up a people who long for the kisses of God's Word as their supreme request. There are many necessary things to ask for. They are secondary. The greatest prayer of faith is to receive grace to love God with all our heart and strength.

#### IV. THE 3-FOLD NATURE OF THE CRY FOR THE KISS OF GOD'S WORD

- A. First, this is the great *prophetic cry* that expresses *where* the Spirit is leading the Church in the nations. The Spirit will restore the First Commandment to first place before Jesus returns. God promised Moses that in the End-Times, He would circumcise the heart of His people so that they would love God with all their heart. The Church will cry out with a bride's love, "Come, Jesus!"
- <sup>37</sup> *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart..." (Mt. 22:37)*
- <sup>6</sup> *The LORD your God will circumcise...the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. (Deut. 30:6)*
- <sup>17</sup> *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)*
- B. Second, this is the great *philosophical cry* of the human spirit that answers *why* we exist in time and eternity. The ultimate purpose and meaning of our life is to experience intimacy with God. The absolute definition of success is to a wholehearted lover of God. When we know that we are loved by God and desire to be a wholehearted lover of God, then we are truly successful.
- C. Third, this is the great *psychological cry* that answers *how* our heart functions. It answers the mystery of how our heart experiences true happiness and is satisfied. God designed us so that experiencing His love is the most pleasurable reality available to the human make-up. We were created to love God with all our heart. When we do not love God with a passionate heart, then our emotional life is out of balance. Life does not work without pursuing this. We were created in such a way that we can not live in wholeness without the pursuit of being wholehearted for God. If we have nothing to die for, then we have nothing to live for. Many in the Body of Christ are suffering from spiritual boredom because they are not passionate in their pursuit to love God.

## V. THE 2-FOLD SPIRITUAL REST OF THE BELIEVER

- A. ***The rest of forgiveness:*** we experience this with the knowledge that we are fully forgiven as a free gift in Jesus. We rest in receiving forgiveness because of Jesus' finished work on the cross.
- B. ***The rest of intimacy:*** we experience this as we pursue intimacy with God. There is no rest until we conclude the highest purpose of our life is intimacy with God. Augustine (354-430 AD) wrote, "Man does not rest until he finds his rest in God." We only find our ultimate purpose for life in being wholehearted in our love for God. This is our highest life purpose that brings us peace and happiness in this life. Many believers who have the assurance of being forgiven are striving to find purpose and happiness. It is not an issue of going to heaven but how and why they live on earth.
- C. There is a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts that can only be fulfilled in the rest of intimacy. Without resting in this area of our lives, we are far more vulnerable to sexual bondage, addictions and bitterness, etc.

## VI. LIVING BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

- A. I heard the story of a concert pianist in the last century that longed to play in the great concert hall in Vienna. When he finished his first concert before thousands, the people gave him a long standing ovation. Afterwards, he was asked, "Was it the greatest moment in your life to receive this long applause?" The concert pianist replied, "No! I liked it, but it was not the most important thing to me." He said, "When the people all sat down, an elderly man who sat in the top corner of the balcony simply nodded his head at me. That was the greatest moment of my life because he is the master who taught me for 30 years. One nod from him was worth much more than the long applause of the masses."
- B. We must learn to live before an audience of One. Receiving the nod from our Master has great power in the hearts of those who love Him. It has more power than the approval of all others.

## VII. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: SEEKING THE KISSES OF GOD'S WORD

- A. The cry for the kisses of God's Word is the same reality as living before the audience of One.
- B. We receive the kisses of God's Word by pray-reading God's Word or in meditation on it (as covered in session 2) as we set our heart to receive the deepest things that God will give us.
- C. In times of temptation, we speak this truth before the Lord. We say, "I will not yield to sin. Father let Him kiss me. My life is about receiving the kisses of God's Word. This is who I am." When people mistreat us. We declare, "My life is not primarily about being more popular, I live for the kisses of God's Word."