

SESSION 19: The Bridal Seal Of Mature Love (8:5–7)

SONG 8:5-7

5. *Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved? I awakened you under the apple tree. There your mother brought you forth; there she who bore you brought you forth.*
6. *Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame.*
7. *Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.*

I. OVERVIEW OF SONG 8:5-7

- A. The Holy Spirit is preparing a bride that has a loving and leaning heart. This is one of the key truths of the SONG, and the main purpose of her journey, which culminates in these three verses. She comes forth leaning and loving at the end of history.
- B. The Holy Spirit's prophetic declaration of the Bride's victory (8:5a,b). Jesus reminds her of her past journey (8:5c,d,e), then manifests Himself as our bridal seal (8:6a). Jesus is the divine source (8:6e,f) and the great reward (8:7c,d,e) of the bridal seal.

Verse By Verse Study of SONG 8:5–7

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PROPHETIC DECLARATION

WHO IS THIS coming up from the wilderness? Leaning upon her Beloved? (8:5)

- A. The Holy Spirit gives a prophetic proclamation of the Bride's final victory.
 1. As the Holy Spirit looks over human history, He asks the rhetorical question: "Who is this who has persevered through tribulation unto a mature Bride?"
 2. The Holy Spirit knows how she persevered through trials and tribulation during each season of the progression of holy passion.
 3. He is prophesying her inevitable victory. He can see a mature Bride at the end of history.

- B. Enduring the pressures of a fallen world.

Who is this coming up FROM THE WILDERNESS? Leaning upon her Beloved? (8:5)

1. The wilderness, in a personal sense, speaks of our testing, temptations and difficulties in this life as God trains us in righteousness.
2. The wilderness, in a general sense, speaks of the fallen world that is filled with sinful human beings and under the influence of Satan.

- C. The Bride's victory over all obstacles.

WHO IS THIS COMING UP from the wilderness? Leaning upon her Beloved? (8:5)

1. The Lord sees the people of God come up in victory through the wilderness. She comes up. She is not descending, rather she is ascending. She did not quit in the wilderness.
 - a. “Coming up” speaks of her victory in the midst of testing, temptations and difficulties that purified her in this life.
 - b. “Coming up” also speaks of ascending at the Second Coming or in the resurrection from this fallen world to enter the eternal city.
2. In SONG 2:8-10, the Bride was urged by Jesus to rise up to go with Him to the mountains. In fear she refused, and experienced purification in the following chapters. She now ascends in full love and victory, joyfully meeting her Beloved on the mountain of spices (SONG 8:14).

Make haste, my Beloved...on the mountains of spices. (SONG 8:14)

3. In SONG 3:6 the Holy Spirit asked this same question, “***Who is this coming up from the wilderness?***” He was describing the Lord Jesus coming up after the cross and in the resurrection from the wilderness of this fallen world as He ascended to the right hand of the Father. Now in SONG 8:5 the Bride comes up from the wilderness in His embrace (SONG 8:4).

- D. The Bride is motivated and empowered by love and gratitude.

Who is this coming up from the wilderness? Leaning upon HER BELOVED? (8:5)

1. Jesus is the “lover of her soul,” her Beloved. The ascending Bride so loves Him. She calls Him Beloved as she leans on Him. She comes up victorious in love.

I saw...a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)

2. Divine love revealed and imparted is the only way that we will not quit in the wilderness.
- a. Anybody can quit except a person in love.
- b. When we are tempted to quit, the big obstacle in our path is that we really love God. Her gratitude and love for Jesus is the motivation behind her diligent life of obedience not religious motivation of shame, fear and guilt.

- E. She fully embraces weakness as she acknowledges Jesus as her only life goal and life source.

Who is this coming up from the wilderness? LEANING UPON her beloved? (8:5)

1. This speaks of apostolic weakness that Paul embraced. This is a voluntary weakness, which is a rare and yet essential dynamic of spiritual maturity.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE MOST GLADLY I WILL RATHER BOAST IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

2. She is leaning as one who is fully dependent on Him. He Himself is now her life goal and her source of supply. She is saying, “You are the Reason I live and You are the Source from which I live.”
 3. She is resting in the Lord’s embraced (SONG 8:3) as she embraces voluntary weaknesses.
- F. John the apostle leaned on Jesus’ breast as a prophetic picture of the church fulfilling SONG 8:5.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. (Jn.13:23)

1. Mary of Bethany poured her life out in love for Jesus and is a picture of a woman in the New Testament leaning and loving Jesus.
2. The Holy Spirit has prepared a bride with a loving and a leaning heart. This is one of the key truths of the whole SONG.
3. She has an experience likened unto Jacob. She has wrestled and is now limping. She is leaning, limping, and loving. Our trouble increases when our agenda and His agenda are different. Our agenda is to be happy on the earth and His agenda is that we would come up leaning on the One we love with a heart of love.
4. The Lord’s strategy is to produce in her an attitude of total dependency on Him (Jer. 9:23; 1Cor. 1:31). Paul said that he has no confidence in his flesh, but he glories in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:3). Paul spoke of leaning upon Jesus alone for wisdom, for provision and for sanctifying influences etc. (1 Cor. 1:30).
5. The Lord promises His Son a Bride with a leaning heart of loyal love that does not stray in seasons of prosperity or adversity.
 - a. The history of God’s people reveals that we don’t often lean and love in the midst of blessing. Eventually, we stand in our own strength, becoming our own source. We often use the blessing of God to further our own ends.
 - b. The heart of fallen man is not prone to lean. Our hearts are prone to self-assertion and a spirit of independence.

6. All through history when God prospers a people, they often end up not leaning or loving at the end of the journey.
 - a. A fact of redemptive history is that many that start out anointed end up snared in sin and pride. The kings of Israel did not lean upon the Lord in the seasons of blessing. This is what distinguished king David. They ended up drunk with power.
 - b. In the history of revivals, the anointed person starts off crying out for God's blessing and holiness. Then when the blessing of God rested on them, they eventually become intoxicated with their importance. They begin to falsely think that the Lord needed them because so many thousands were responding to them. They think they are indispensable to God's Kingdom. The most common problem in the history of revival is that the main leaders became carnal when they prosper. Often such leaders lose their sense of dependency.
 - c. The Lord wants to anoint His people in a way that leads them to lean and love even in times of blessing

- G. She has a deep revelation of her inadequacies and weaknesses. The Holy Spirit has revealed these to her in a way that has created a dependency in her heart.
 1. In the wilderness season of testing the Lord revealed her pride to her. He revealed to her the weakness of her flesh. Walking in the knowledge of our weakness is a great sign of maturity. I'm not referring to morbid introspection.
 2. She comes up with an understanding of who she is in the flesh, as well as, who she is in the Holy Spirit. Her first confession in SONG 1:5 was ***'I am dark, but lovely.'*** She has come to mature understanding in both issues. She holds them in proper balance.
 3. Even at the end of his life, Paul the apostle said, “, ***I am a chief sinner.***” This does not mean that he sinned more than others. Paul meant that he had more revelation of his sin than anybody around him.

- H. Ways that we lean upon Jesus—
1. **For salvation** - she trusted in His work on the cross, not in her own deeds.
 2. **For attaining victory** - leaning involves looking to her present tense relationship with the Holy Spirit as her source of power. She does not trust her discipline, nor in her religious rules. Neither does she look to her past victories, or her past defeats.
 - a. She won't trust in her own rules or religious regulations. What she trusts in is the active present tense fellowship with the Holy Spirit. That is the source of her power.
 - b. She leans on Him in humility. This leaning involves the reaching of our heart to the person of the Holy Spirit. There is no self-sufficiency, no trust placed in her own heart. She won't even lean on her past victories. She has a deep revelation of her own inadequacy and sinfulness. She does not trust her discipline.
 3. **For wholeness** - She has laid down the self-protecting behavior that "shields" her heart from risks and conflicts. She depends upon Him with genuine vulnerability. He is working in our lives to bring us to a discovery of our own inadequacies.
 4. **For direction** - in God's plan the ordering of our steps takes divine intervention to help circumstances line up correctly. She understands that she does not have the wisdom or power to arrange her own life. It takes a sovereign King who has all knowledge of the future and power over all circumstances. She is no longer leaning upon her own understanding (Prov. 3:5).
 5. **For provision** - the Lord arranges circumstances in a way that He alone is seen as her source of supply. She has the confidence to take a nap in the boat in the midst of a storm, because she has confidence in the provision of God.

III. VOLUNTARY APOSTOLIC WEAKNESS

- A. Jesus wants a Bride who voluntarily remains in weakness as she feels the power of the Holy Spirit on her. This is how Jesus walked while on the earth.
1. She voluntarily chooses to submit her strengths or resources to the Holy Spirit in weakness rather than use them to establish her in strength in natural things.
 2. Voluntary weakness – to consciously submit to a place of weakness out of conviction before God.
 - a. For example the fasted lifestyle is voluntarily submitting to weakness.
 - b. We can refuse this type of weakness because of self will, pride etc
 3. Mandatory weakness – trials and pressures that come upon us that we do not choose. Rather, we typically use of our resources to be delivered from this type of weakness.
- B. She sees her strengths as that which can hinder her in her deep life in the Holy Spirit unless they are consciously submitted to Him.
- C. This speaks of apostolic weakness that Paul embraced. This is a voluntary weakness, which is a rare yet essential dynamic of spiritual maturity.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE MOST GLADLY I WILL RATHER BOAST IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

- D. She voluntarily embraces weakness in the way she uses her spiritual influence with people who desire to receive from her.
 - 1. She refuses to take advantage of those who will do anything for her.
 - 2. She refuses to direct people using her spiritual authority.

- E. She voluntarily embraces weakness in the way she uses her spiritual influence with people who resist and oppose her.
 - 1. She does not use her position of power and influence to battle her enemies.
 - 2. She does not use anger and strife to pay back those who oppose her.

- F. She voluntarily embraces weakness in the way she operates in her ministry.
 - 1. She refuses to manipulate in ministry contexts
 - a. Hype
 - b. Pretense
 - 2. She refuses fleshly exhibition in her ministry style.
 - a. Showmanship and theatrics
 - b. She is modest in her ministry style

- G. She voluntarily embraces weakness in the way she spends her money.
 - 1. She continues in her conviction to minister to the poor even as abundant finances are available as a result of the anointing on her life.
 - 2. She continues in the fasted life style in the midst of economic prosperity on her ministry.

IV. JESUS REMINDS HER OF HER PAST JOURNEY

I awakened you under the apple tree, there your mother brought you forth; there she who bore you brought you forth.

A. The Lord awakens us and then we respond in obedience.

“I awakened you under the apple tree” (8:5c)

1. *“Under the apple tree”* – The apple tree is the place of refreshment. The refreshment of the apple tree is where she received a life-changing revelation of His love (2:3).
2. Jesus is reminding her of her beginnings in the refreshment of God’s grace. When she had no thoughts of God, God awakened her heart by refreshing her with His kindness. He is bringing her back to her beginning.
3. *“I awakened you”* – The Lord is responsible for sovereignly initiating all the spiritual progress in the Body of Christ. He reminds her that He awakened her at the very beginning when she was initially born-again under the apple tree. Jesus accomplishes this when He knocks on the door of a compromising, Laodicean church to awaken it to holy passion (Rev. 3:20). It is the power of His knock that awakens the church and the door is opened.

B. God is the author of our natural and spiritual birth.

“There your mother brought you forth, there she who bore you brought you forth” (8:5d,e)

1. *“Your mother”* – the church is the mother from SONG 3:11. However, the agency He uses for our natural birth is a woman, i.e. our mother. The agency He uses for our spiritual birth is a member of the Body of Christ, i.e. the church. God is our father and the church is spoken of as our mother. Paul spoke of the New Jerusalem (the church in the eternal city) as our “Mother” (Gal. 4:26).
 - a. She speaks of the impact that her mother, or the church, had upon her in the plan of God.

- b. The church effectively brought her forth. During the times of crisis she wanted to leave her involvement in the body of Christ. At key times He always directed her, and even mandated her to find herself in the midst of the people of God. At the very end the Lord says to her, “Didn’t I tell you the truth? You thought it would be easier on the outside, but I caused you to have to face issues and I brought you forth in the context of the people of God.”
2. **“Brought you forth”** - The church ministered to her effectively, bringing her into the refreshing love of God’s grace. She led Jesus into the house of her mother (8:2).
3. **“She who bore you”** - Jesus reminds her of her spiritual lineage. We owe much to the church through history that labored to bring us forth. He wants us grateful to our spiritual roots, instead of despising them. He also wants us to acknowledge the whole church that contributed to our progress today and not just to those who believe just like us.
4. **“Brought you forth”** – the statement is repeated twice in this verse for emphasis.
5. **“There”** - Where? From under the apple tree, the revelation of the affections of God.

V. JESUS IS OUR BRIDAL SEAL

Set Me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (SONG 8:6-7)

- A. Jesus invites her to set Him as a seal on her heart.

SET ME as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. (SONG 8:6)

1. Jesus is the bridal seal. Jesus is extending an invitation to her to take Him as the seal on her heart.
2. Her journey started with a longing for His kisses (1:2) and ends with a seal of love upon her heart. It starts with a longing; it ends with an impartation of divine love upon her heart.

3. Some Bible notes indicate that the Bride is talking, and others indicate that the Lord is talking. The Lord Jesus is inviting the Bride to set Him as a seal upon her heart.
 - a. It is not reasonable for the Bride to ask the Lord to set her on His heart. That is completely out of the flow of everything happening here.
 - b. It is unreasonable that she would plead with the Lord to love her after all He has spoken to her throughout the entire book. He does not need to be urged to love her. She has been on His heart from eternity.
- B. In the ancient world a royal seal authenticated royal documents such as title deeds and military strategies.

Set Me AS A SEAL upon your heart, AS A SEAL upon your arm. (SONG 8:6)

1. It was a wax Seal. A title deed was a royal document sent from one king to another. This wax seal covered the entire document and then the king used his signet ring to seal the document. It was like a personal signature because a king's seal was distinguished one from another, so that the king receiving the document could know that it came from the Caesar.
 - a. This wax seal spoke of the king's ownership, protection and authority.
 - b. It distinguished a king from another king much like a signature does today.
2. The king's army fully protected the king's seal. A king's Seal was sacred. It spoke of his word or his guarantee, and was backed up by all the power and might of that king. This seal spoke of the king's ownership, his protection and his authority. Even if a Roman senator, someone in the king's court, opened that seal, that document and broke that seal, he would do so at the cost of his life. The king's army fully backed up the king's seal.
 - a. Breaking a royal seal was a serious crime leading to the death penalty. If even a government official broke the royal seal without the king's permission, he would be put to death.

- b. The army of the king backed up the seal. A hundred soldiers were sometimes used to transport a sealed document from one nation to another. If the Seal was broken, all hundred soldiers were executed.
 - c. The entire army stood behind the king's Seal. The power of the whole empire would be behind the king's Seal.
 - d. The seal protected the contents of the document. When the king put his seal on it, it was protected; it spoke of his ownership and his authority. It spoke of the king's ownership, protection and his authority.
3. The Divine guarantee is behind His seal. Seal speaks of a king's guarantee. God is putting a Seal on the heart of His people. He protects and guarantees what is in the Seal.

VI. THE DIVINE SOURCE OF THE BRIDAL SEAL

- A. It is a Seal of fire that He puts on the hearts of His people.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...ITS FLAMES ARE FLAMES OF FIRE, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love...(SONG 8:6-7)

- 1. It is a seal made up not of wax but Divine fire. The Seal is none other than the power of Jesus released by the Holy Spirit, called the "Fire of God".
 - a. God Himself inspires fiery love in the heart of the Bride for Jesus. It is the sovereign work of the Spirit.
- 2. This Seal can be referred to as "Sealing love." It takes God to love God. God seals our heart with the Seal of Divine love.
- 3. It is the Father's love empowering sinful human hearts.
 - a. It is God loving Jesus through us. It takes God to love God. The flame of fire has power over all sinful flames. It is a powerful flame that can dominate even the most powerful perversions when we yield to it consistently. The source of fiery love is divine

- b. Jesus prayed in John 17:26, “Father, the love that You have for Me would be in them.” The Father will keep His promise to put His love into people of God for the Lord Jesus.
- c. The Holy Spirit will release the very flame of God in the human heart. We love what He loves most- His church. We are the main dream that He has (SONG 7:10).

B. The very fire of God

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire, A MOST VEHEMENT FLAME. Many waters cannot quench love (SONG 8:6-7)

- 1. The phrase, “the most vehement flame” is often translated as “the very flame of God” (NAS).
 - a. The construction of the Hebrew phrase “vehement flame” ends with the letters “el,” which speaks of God.
 - b. Whether it is translated as “a most vehement flame” or as “the very flame of God,” it means the same, because God’s flame is the most vehement flame.
 - c. The NIV translates the phrase as “like a mighty flame.” Then it adds in the margin an alternative translation of the phrase “like the very flame of the Lord.”
 - d. The main truth is to understand that it is God’s very fire burning in the human soul. It is a supernatural flame.
- 2. **“A most vehement flame”** - No power can overpower the force of fire, water, death or the grave. These are the most powerful metaphors of human life describing the power of the love of God in the conflict of the human heart against sin. In the same way, this divinely inspired love and jealousy cannot be overpowered by anything in the natural arena.

C. This is the source of the bridal seal.

“Its flames are flames of fire” (8:6e)

1. This fire of love manifests itself by tenderizing our hearts so that we feel some of what He feels. Our hearts are by nature hard, dull and insensitive to the things that God feels. There is nothing more precious and pleasant to us than to be empowered to feel what He feels. It takes God’s help for us to be able to feel God. The Holy Spirit pours the love of God into the heart. (Rom. 5:5).

2. ***“Its flames”*** - NAS translates the phrase “flames” as “flashes.” God’s fire flashes in the human heart. A flash of fire comes powerfully, suddenly, and then soon wanes until the next flash. God’s fire often comes to us in this way. There are times when He tenderizes us suddenly as a flash of fire. Then sometimes as suddenly as it comes, it seems to leave. Our heart waits with great anticipation for the next visit of His flashing tenderizing fire.

D. One of the first revelations of God in Scripture is God as a consuming fire, a jealous God (Deut. 4:24).

a. He is not jealous in the carnal way. However, He is an emotional God. He has fiery emotions. He cares intensely about His people. He is a jealous, passionate consuming ocean of fiery love.

b. His jealousy does not mean He is mad at everything. People think if God is jealous, He is mad all the time. His jealousy means He has hot desire for His people. He is a burning Fire of hot emotion.

E. ***“Its flames”*** - The source of this power and impact is the flame of God which speaks of the Holy Spirit.

1. In Dan. 7:10, when Daniel saw the throne of God, he saw a river of fire proceeding out of it. That river of fire is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

2. The river of God is a river of living water, but it is also a river of divine fire imparting passion in the hearts of God’s people for the Son of God.

3. Fire penetrates and purifies its object. This speaks of the impartation of divine love into the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit. This is the love of God poured into the heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). Fire penetrates and purifies its object (Mal. 3: 1-6). This fire does not consume us; it only consumes the dross.

 4. People often think of God's fire first in terms of judgment. God's fire is first an expression of His passionate emotion. Yes, it does destroy that which hinders love. His fire is first His love. The judgment aspect of God's love is that which removes what hinders bridal love. Jesus
- F. The fire of God is fascinating!
1. God's Person is described as a consuming fire. The throne of God is ablaze with fire. There are wheels of fire under the throne.
 2. There is a river of fire coming out of the throne.
 3. The place that the saints stand to worship is on a sea of glass like crystal that is mingled with flaming fire Rev. 15:2.
 4. The angels possess fire.
 5. The atmosphere has fire all around it when Jesus returns. Jesus' eyes are filled with fire. When He looks at His Bride He will awaken Divine fire in her all through eternity.
 6. The fire did not consume the bush next to Moses (Ex.3: 2).

VII. JESUS IS THE SEAL

- A. This seal is our heavenly King's seal. It is not the wax seal of an earthly king. It is a seal of fire by the Holy Spirit.
1. This seal operates as the person of the Holy Spirit releasing the power of Jesus Christ. The seal is none other than the person of Jesus released by the Holy Spirit.
 2. This seal is not the wax seal of an earthly king, but a supernatural seal of a heavenly King.
 3. The seal is none other than the power of Jesus released by the Holy Spirit. God Himself inspires fiery love in the heart of the Bride for Jesus.
 4. It is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. This seal could be referred to as "sealing love" – it takes God to love God.
- B. "*Set Me*" - NIV translates the phrase "set Me" as "place Me." NAS translates it as "put Me."
1. David said, "I have set the Lord continually before me" (Ps.16:8). Set or place the Lord on your heart by communing with Him.
 2. Open your spirit to Him. Jesus is the sustaining seal that keeps us loyal. He releases the activity of the Spirit in us.
 3. He is inviting us to an active present-tense partnership with the Holy Spirit. An important part of cooperating with the Holy Spirit is the posture of soul that is reaching to Him for fellowship.
 4. Make time to interact with Him in prayer. Give yourself to Him.

- C. There is no other seal besides “Jesus in the present tense.” In other words, the Holy Spirit touching our hearts in the present tense.
1. He invites us to active present tense partnership with the Holy Spirit. When He says, “Set Me,” He is saying come into partnership with the Holy Spirit, fellowship with the Holy Spirit, or intimacy with Jesus.
 2. The important part of cooperating with the Holy Spirit is the posture of soul that is reaching to Jesus for fellowship.
 - a. Make time to interact with Him.
 - b. The prayer and fasting is not the Seal rather, it is Jesus touching our heart in the present tense.
 - c. However, spiritual disciplines do increase our capacity to receive and to become tenderized. The power of God changes us, not these disciplines.
 - d. The power that actually tenderizes us is the power of God, not the spiritual disciplines. They do make us more receptive to receive more easily. However, these spiritual disciplines do not earn us the power of God.
 - e. They spiritual activities merely put us in a position to freely receive the tenderizing impact of the Holy Spirit in a greater way. Therefore, fasting and prayer do not earn us anything. They do increase our capacity to receive.
 - f. Some people think that there is something magical about spiritual disciplines. It is the Spirit that has power not the disciplines.
- D. The seal speaks of the way that we carry our heart, or the way we identify and define our life. In other words, how we determine our spiritual identity
1. Our past victories are not the seal. The seal is fellowship with Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

2. There is no other seal besides Jesus. “Jesus in the present tense.” It is Jesus today that keeps our heart protected. The seal is not primarily our past experiences with Him. It is communing with Him in the present tense that causes the authority of God to protect us from the warfare that is at each side.
3. The Seal on your heart is not our past record of failure. It is not your record of mistakes and sins.
4. To some their seal is their future promises. Some people define their life by their future expectations.
 - a. They have such strong expectation of being anointed or of having certain type of natural circumstances.
 - b. These people live too much in the desire for future promises to be released on their earthly lives. Therefore, they become very vulnerable to disappointment because the future never seems to turn out as they expect.

VIII. THIS SEAL OF FIRE IS A PROGRESSIVE SEALING

- A. The Holy Spirit seals us the day we are born again. This seal includes the manifestation of the presence of God on our hearts that causes us to grow in love over the years.
 1. It is the wedding ring; it is the earnest payment. At the new birth we are engaged officially to the Lord.
 2. God wants to progressively cause our hearts to be sealed with His presence to come forth in love in a greater way.
 3. I believe the Holy Spirit first marks the believer for God and then the antichrist marks the rest of humanity that refuses the Holy Spirit (Ezk. 9:6).

IX. JESUS' INVITATION: THE 2-FOLD BRIDAL SEAL

Set Me as a seal UPON YOUR HEART, as a seal UPON YOUR ARM; for love is as strong as death. (SONG 8:6)

- A. He first says, "Set Me as a seal upon your heart," then second He says, "Set me as a seal upon your arm," Both of the 2 great commandments are spoken of here.

- B. The arm speaks of our work and the heart speaks of our affection.
 - 1. The seal of love on the heart speaks of her affections as she lives out the first commandment; ***"You shall love the Lord God with your whole heart."***
 - 2. The seal of love upon the arm, (our ministry), speaks of her labors in ministry as she lives out the second commandment, ***"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."***
 - 3. God is imparting love to her heart unto intimacy with God and community with people. This seal fulfills both elements of her original prayer in SONG 1:4 - to be ***"drawn"*** into intimacy and to ***"run"*** unto community.

- C. The sealed heart speaks of her affections and emotions being impacted by the power of God

"As a seal upon your heart"

 - 1. The seal of love on the heart speaks of the first commandment - wholehearted love for God.
 - 2. Jesus Himself wants to be the protection of our heart from backsliding, sin, bitterness, fear, and slander. He wants to protect us from fear.

- D. The sealed arm speaks her labors in ministry being anointed by the power of God

“As a seal upon your arm”

1. The seal of love upon the arm speaks of the second commandment, wholehearted love for people.
 2. The seal upon the arm speaks of the ability to impart this passion for God to others through our labors. In our counseling or deliverance, or evangelism or Bible studies, we want to lead people to become lovers of God. We want our arms sealed. We want our labors in ministry to inspire love.
 3. The sealed arm speaks of the sanctified acts of believers instead of the arm of the flesh. This speaks of Holy Spirit inspired activities. All of her activities are focused and limited to doing the will of God while refusing every ministry idea and opportunity that does not flow from the Holy Spirit.
 - a. This speaks of the discernment and willingness to say no to the arm of the flesh activities.
 - b. We want an arm that is sealed in the love of God. It means that we don't just go through the mechanics of ministry but we actually imparting this Seal to others in through our arm of ministry.
- E. The Seal on the arm is more than imparting passion. He wants to protect us in our labors so that we don't burn out. So that we don't end up quitting because of pain or shame. It is so much more difficult to keep our passion fresh and alive in the midst of ministry. The Seal of love on our arm is also protection from compromise and defilement in our ministry. It is easy to become defiled in the midst of laboring. It is easy to become bitter as people lack gratitude after we serve them. Jesus desires that this holy passion protect her from compromise and defilement as she serves other people.
- F. She wants to be drawn into intimacy (1:4), and she wants to run with Him in ministry. The two commandments - the heart and the arm including intimacy and impact. In other words, being a worshiper and yet being a help to people

X. THE COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF THE BRIDAL SEAL

A. He describes the nature of the seal of love as being as strong as death.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...FOR LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire... (SONG 8:6-7)

1. How strong is death? How comprehensive is death? Death claims every living thing in the natural order of things. Nothing escapes it. He will manifest to us a love that is as comprehensive as death and the grave. This is the meaning of these metaphors.
2. In other words, the nature of this imparted love is comprehensive, nothing created can overpower it. Just as death consumes everything so also nothing will escape the grasp of the God's love that He will give to us.
3. The Holy Spirit in the New Covenant as an indestructible life.
...but according to the power of an indestructible life. Heb 7:16 (NAS)
 - a. Anger is destructible. Lust is destructible. Demonic bondages are destructible. Yet, God's Spirit, when yielded to is indestructible. It can overpower every single human bondage when we consistently fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The New King James translates it as an “unending life” emphasizing its duration in terms of time instead of power. I believe this passage is describing power whereas it is unending in power.
...but according to the power of an endless life Heb 7:16.(NKJ)
4. The seal of love that is like the grave is a seal that is all prevailing, all comprehensive, all powerful. In other words, no area in our life is outside the scope of the power of this redeeming transforming Divine love.
5. The seed of this divine love is planted in our heart at the new birth. It will grow as we cultivate it. There is an act of our will. There is an active cooperation with Him. There is no bitterness, sexual sin, covetousness or demon stronger than this comprehensive, all-encompassing love of God to those who will continue to say "Yes!" to it. We say yes to God's love with boldness in your spirit, knowing who you are in Christ as a worshipper.

B. A jealous love for God

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...for love is as strong as death, JEALOUSY AS CRUEL AS THE GRAVE; its flames are flames of fire... (SONG 8:6-7

1. “*Jealousy*” - Jesus was consumed with this zeal for His Father (Jn. 2:17). God is jealous for His Son and His people (Deut.4:24). God’s jealousy is a pure manifestation of His love. It is a divine jealousy for godliness.
 - a. The spirit of jealousy for God consumed Phinehas and he drove sin out of the camp (Num.25:1-13).
 - b. God's own jealousy will be imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. God's jealousy is as demanding or as cruel and as comprehensive is the grave.
 - c. The jealousy of God claims everything in our life if we expose ourself to it.
2. “*As cruel as the grave*” - NIV translates “cruel” as “*unyielding.*” NAS translates it as “*severe.*”
 - a. The grave is cruel or unyielding in that it demands the total submission of all. No one escapes it. Nothing escapes the severe grasp of the grave in the natural order of things. Nothing escapes the power of this holy severe love.
 - b. It is going to be a divine jealousy imparted by the power of the Holy Spirit to the human heart. Everything will come under it is grasp, just like everything comes under the grasp of the grave.
 - c. NAS translates “grave” as “Sheol.”

C. SUMMARY—He will release a love upon us that is as comprehensive as death and the grave. This love will include every secret area of life. We long for a comprehensive love that captures every area of our lives for Jesus. We don’t have to live in failure.

XI. THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF THE BRIDAL SEAL

- A. Many waters of affliction cannot quench this kind of love, because it is a supernatural work of God in the heart for the Lord Jesus.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE, nor can the floods drown it. (SONG 8:6-7)

1. “*Many waters*” - Waters speak of the obstacles and pressures of every day life that hinder us from receiving this impartation of divine love and holy jealousy.
2. Water naturally puts fire out. But this is a supernatural fire. It can not be put out by any water in the natural.
3. There are many different types of waters in Scripture. These are negative waters that the enemy will use to try to quench Divine love in our soul.
4. There are many diverse waters to quench the fire of God in our hearts. It cannot quench” the impartation of divine love when we yield to it in our spirit in a consistent way. Why? Because it is the Father’s love for His own Son. This passage is not speaks of just about the love of God to us. It is refers to the love of God imparted in us that we might become mature lovers of God. The very flame of God Himself is to be the seal upon our heart. The source of love is God Himself. It has nothing to do with our personality or temperament. It has nothing to do with whether we have been abused or if we are addicted to pornography or drugs. It is stronger than any “sinful flame” in our life.

- B. Five types of quenching waters

1. The first types of quenching waters are difficulties that tempt us to be offended with God because of their severity (Mk. 4:17).
 - a. He declares that even the negative waters of disappointment like sickness, failure, cannot quench this flame.
 - b. We can overcome all of these things that would cause our hearts be quenched by disappointments.

2. The second types of quenching water are the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches (Mk. 4:19).
3. The third type of quenching water is accusation and condemnation from the enemy as we experience our own failure in sin.
4. The fourth types of quenching waters are temptations. Joseph felt the waters of temptation when Potiphar's wife said, "come lie with me." But the fire of God was kindled in his heart and that the waters of immorality couldn't put it out. There is a fire that keeps us loyal to God in the face of the sinful pleasures.
5. The fifth types of quenching waters are prosperity. The enemy uses prosperity and pleasure on one hand and then poverty and shame on the other to quench the impartation of the love of God.

C. The violent floods of persecution can not put out this Divine fire.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, NOR CAN THE FLOODS DROWN IT. (SONG 8:6-7)

1. "***The floods***" - of persecution. Floods speak of great obstacles that create great crisis. A flood is not a positive thing. By the natural order of things, fire is extinguished by water. But not even a violent flooding river can put out this fire. This is not a natural fire. Nothing can put it out.
2. The waters are one thing, but the floods are an excessive amount of water.
3. "***Drown it***" - NAS translates as "***overflow it.***" NIV says, "***wash it away.***"

4. The enemy will rage like a flood against the end-time church (Rev.12:7-17). This great persecution has already begun in various places around the world. This demonic rage against the church **will not** drown out God's love for Jesus in the heart of the Bride.

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, ...So the great dragon was cast out...he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted...So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood...the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev.12:7-17)

XII. THE GREAT REWARD OF THE BRIDAL SEAL

- A. As her journey ends, the Lord gives her a proverb concerning unquenchable love. This proverb speaks of a man who would sacrificially give everything to help one that he deeply loves.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire...Many waters cannot quench love...IF A MAN WOULD GIVE FOR LOVE all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (SONG 8:6-7)

1. Wealthy people buy gifts without looking at price tags. When the wealthy walks into a store, they do not need to look at price tags. One sign of their wealth is that cost no longer matters.
 - a. He is talking about "love that has no price tags."
 - b. A person in love does not recognize sacrifice
2. The Bride is wealthy in love. She obeys without any regard to cost. Holy love has no limit to how much it will give. The Holy Spirit is going to impart wealthy love, which does not care what the price tag is.

B. The Bride's total commitment

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire...Many waters cannot quench love...If a man would give for love ALL THE WEALTH OF HIS HOUSE, it would be utterly despised. (8:7c,d,e)

1. The house is more than the specific home one lives in. It speaks of his family inheritance and all that his family has accumulated over generations. It speaks of everything that we are in the past, the present, and the future.

2. Paul the apostle did this very thing.

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; (Philippians 3:3-5)

3. He gave up these things that gave him a tremendous future in fleshly standards.

C. The reward of the Bride of Christ is simply that she has received the power to wholeheartedly love Jesus.

Set Me as a seal upon your heart...its flames are flames of fire...Many waters cannot quench love...If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, IT WOULD BE UTTERLY DESPISED. (8:7c,d,e)

1. Suddenly Solomon shares this proverb about love.

2. The point is that the love itself is the reward.

3. An illustration of such love could be seen in the parents of a 5-year-old child that has a terminal sickness. The doctor informs the parents that in order to see their child healed they will need to sell their expensive home and empty their sizeable bank account. Everything they have ever saved and inherited will go towards their child's medical costs. This young couple sells all, they empty their bank account, sell their family business, and nothing of value goes untouched. They go from financially wealthy to poor overnight, paying the expenses for their child. However, their child is healed and they are thrilled. Then the neighbor comes to them and says, "This is incredible what you have done for your little child." The response of both parents is; "We utterly despise such recognition, or even the thought that what we have done is noble". This depth of love sees no price tag nor desires recognition. The love itself is the reward!
 4. She loves Him with all of her strength by the goodness of God. That is all that she ever wanted. Her reward is the love itself.
- D. Paul gave up many things that gave him a tremendous future in fleshly standards. He considered them as rubbish when compared in the balance of the man Christ Jesus.
- But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I ALSO COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and COUNT THEM AS RUBBISH, that I may gain Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (Philippians 3:7-10)*
- E. Such love despises recognition of being heroic and noble for giving all. The very love itself is the reward. She would despise the idea of comparing her sacrifices for Him as equal to His great love for her. She has received from the Spirit the kind of love that is free from self-awareness and self-congratulation.
- F. Jesus taught new believers to count the cost before they make sacrifices. Mature believers already know that they do not give up anything comparable to what they first received. They despise recognition for what others call "sacrifice." They want no recognition whatsoever because they did it in light of the indescribable beauty of Christ Jesus. It was for the Son of God who gave Himself.

- G. In the beginning of her journey, she prayed for what she desired most. She asked for the kisses of His mouth (1:2). All she really wanted was the power to love God fully. Over the years, she received His kisses. Her heart became tenderized. This is her reward.

**XIII. PROPHETIC WORD CONCERNING THE BRIDAL SEAL
(JULY 1988)**

- A. In July 1988 I had one of the most powerful experiences in my life. I was in my office one morning, having my usual devotion time. I was reading the Song of Solomon chapter 8 verses 6 and 7 while praying, “Oh Christ Jesus I set You as the seal on my heart. I open my spirit to You.” I was asking the Father to keep His promise to His Son by causing me to love Jesus like He does. I prayed, “Father, I want to love Your Son like You do. Oh! give me this love” (John 17:26). I was waiting on the Lord to be strengthened in my love for Jesus according to Jn.17:26. I was putting Jn. 17:26 together with SONG 8:6-7, and I felt the tenderizing of the Holy Spirit on me.
- B. My heart was being tenderized as I felt the sweetness of God’s Presence. So I asked the receptionist to hold phone calls for one hour. The tenderizing of the Spirit increased as I wept before the Lord. I continued, “Lord, I want more of this love that is stronger than death.”
- C. The phone rang in spite of my request to be undisturbed and I was given a life changing prophetic word.
1. “The Lord told me by His audible voice to give you Song of Solomon 8:6-7. The Lord also told me to tell you that this is what He is going to release to the Body of Christ in this generation.” One of Jesus’ worldwide purposes for this generation is to release to the Body of Christ the Song of Solomon 8 verses 6 and 7!
 2. And he said, “The Lord told me to tell you that this is going to be the main focus of ministry for the rest of your life.”

3. The Lord has given me permission to pray for people that the Lord is calling to this same main focus of their ministry. He is raising up people right now who will call others to wholehearted love for God as their main ministry focus. As a pastor, I speak on many subjects, but my main focus of ministry is calling the church to wholehearted love for God (the first commandment). To various degrees most ministries call people to wholehearted love. However, God will call some of you, to have this as your main focus in ministry.

- D. God is going to release mature bridal love. It is because of the Father's promise to His Son. It is not related to the nature of your temperament etc. This is my strong hope for weak people like you and me. The Lord is going to empower His Church with divine love. He wants us to reach to Him in faith for this.

- E. Prayer Ministry—Holy Spirit, release two things to the people who read this. First, put Your seal of love upon their hearts. Recapture the focus of their heart by renewing this seal (a progressive work of God). Secondly, anoint people to impart wholehearted love for God as their main ministry focus.