

As we open the pages of this holy book, called in (V1), The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's, I believe there are some prerequisites to understanding and enjoying what is written in these sacred pages:

First and Foremost: Faith in the existence of the God of the Bible:

Hebrews 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"

When we open the Song of Solomon, as with any other portion of the Word of God, we must believe that we are coming to God, to be spoken to by God!

The reward from God that I WANT YOU TO WANT, here in the Song of Solomon is that you would "enter into and experience" this love relationship that exists between Christ and His church.

THIS LOVE should not be foreign to you, child of God, and yet, you should know that this love is foreign to this world. If you would be a partaker of this love, you must first be united in love to Christ!

I begin here, with the loveliness of the love of Christ, because I know that will be times when we find ourselves to be distant and cold in our hearts toward our Lord, (regrettably there will be times like that); but when those times do come, what do we do?

Beloved, you must never be content with a cold, unfeeling heart, when you have embraced another love, and when your Lord seems to have withdrawn Himself from you! When you do find yourself in such a dreadful place, retrace your steps, and repent of your sins.

Do you remember the church at Ephesus: Revelation 2? In all her good labor, diligence, patience, and hatred of sin, yet the Lord warned her of her ONE major offense; I am not your First Love!

Revelation 2:4-5: "Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works"

O that we would repent when we find ourselves in such a state! O that we would cry out as did the bride: Song 5:6-9!

In each of our hearts, there should be an ardent and fervent desire NOT ONLY Love Christ MORE (than before treading the pages of this book), but to KNOW the love Christ "more than anything else"!

It is helpful to understand that the Song of Solomon is written as a spiritual allegory, the design of God, (I believe) is to uncover and reveal, and to describe THIS special love relationship between Christ and His church to the eyes of our understanding.

Remember I said that THIS LOVE relationship should NOT be foreign to you? But what should be foreign to you, what should be cause for alarm in your spirit is when it is NOT THERE; when it is withdrawn!

That is why we MUST NOT STOP at revelation and understanding, there must also be a fervent desire (in your heart) to "enter into and be a partaker/participant" in this love relationship. Understand that YOU ARE the bride, her expressions of love toward the bridegroom should be YOUR EXPRESSIONS of love to Christ. Ephesians 3:14-21

The Song of Solomon must not be less frequented than other rich and green pastures in the Word of God.

If it were not to be enjoyed by the people of God, it would not be included in the canon of the Holy Scripture. It ought to be read, studied, expounded, meditated in, mused upon, and greatly enjoyed by the church of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Song of Solomon is GOSPEL RICH, in it, the special love between Christ and His church is described! And we must also not miss that the love of Christ was commended and communicated to us when we were helpless, polluted, wandering and filthy sinners!

Listen to the expressions of love from God to Jerusalem; when she was full of her abominations, filthiness, and her sins! Ezekiel 16:1-14

What a beautiful picture of the love of Christ toward us sinners!

In this Song of songs, you will understand Christ's wonderful, perfect, and unwavering love for His church, and you will see the church's ardent, yet imperfect and at times deficient love for Christ. But as imperfect as your love to Christ is, nonetheless, this heaven-borne love should be in you!

1 John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not"

As I said before: This love is NOT of this world, it did not originate here, and yet, YOU, child of God, should KNOW the intimacy of this love, which is of that eternal, blessed, otherworld, and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Listen to me and understand this: The most intimate expressions of love, which we read of in the Song of Solomon, between the bridegroom and bride are secret, hidden, unseen, and NOT experienced or felt by unspiritual, faithless, and carnal minds.

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things NOT SEEN"

Christ's constant and unwavering love and affection for His church (His bride) can only be experienced and enjoyed by faith, fervent prayer, and obedience to His Holy Word.

Translation: Alone with Christ, united to Christ, married to Christ; in the Intimacy of His presence!

This is where you may KNOW and EXPERIENCE THE LOVE of Christ which passeth knowledge, this love, which is foreign to so many!

If you would enter into this love relationship, if you would be "brought into the King's chambers" you must enter through faith, deliberately, and on-purpose. Your expressions of love to Christ should be one and the same with the woman and bride in the Song of Solomon.

And yet, for all of the rich and satisfying expressions of love between Christ and His church written therein, you will not find any proper names of God in all of the Song of

Solomon, like the Book of Esther, in which, God's Name is never written, yet, in both of these portions of the Holy Scriptures, God's powerful presence and love for His own people is conspicuously present.

Characters of this Song are not only Christ and the bride, although they are the main (2) characters:

There are the watchmen, the daughters of Jerusalem, the keepers of the vineyard, the bride's mother's house, the bride's mother, and the bride's mother's children.

Some of the primary features of the Song of Solomon:

In the Song of Solomon, you will note the bride's love to be (at times) weak and imperfect, but not the love of the bridegroom toward the bride:

She has failings, infirmities, she is hated in the world, and a lily among thorns.