



# How God Views His Bride

## (Growing in Marriage, Part 3)

### Song of Solomon 4:1-16

THRIVE! Growing and Changing in the Christian Life

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Sunday, May 15, 2016, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“The Lord Jesus wants you to believe and receive the love that He has for you. He wants you to know that you are beautiful to Him; that He delights in you. That’s because of your relationship with Him.”

– **Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth**

1. Expositors class today at 4pm
2. Evening service 5pm
3. Praise the Lord that Bill Ferrell accepted a job in Lemont and will not be moving to Louisville KY.

If you don’t have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Song of Solomon**. The title of our message this morning is “How God Views His Bride.” This is part 3 in our series “Growing in Marriage.” We are looking at Song of Solomon 4 today.

### **Get Your Eyes Off Yourself**

When I was a student at Ponchatoula High School in Louisiana, one of my most transformative and life shaping-classes was Art class with Mrs. Kim Zabbia. One of the lessons taught me that if I wanted to replicate an object, I had to be totally committed to it. I had to get my eyes and my mind off myself and with my pencil, replicate each part of the object with it’s minute details. I had to be committed to every detail, every turn and shape of that object. I had to get my eyes and my mind off myself and on to that object, taking in every detail into my mind, and drawing it with my hand.

This is the secret to a happy, growing marriage. If you get your eyes off yourself and onto Christ, you will get your happiness from the Lord.

We are in Song of Solomon 4, and there we realize how God views us. You may say, He sees everything right? He sees all my failures. He sees the remaining sin and deceit and defilement of my heart.

Oh no, dear child of God, you are in Christ. God has a vision that is so much greater than yours. God is infinite, outside of time. He sees you as you will be in His presence, perfected and complete in Christ.

You are complete right now in Christ. He’s applying His chisel in a thousand ways in your life – through trials and pain and difficulties – in weakness, in difficult relationships, in difficult circumstances.

## Pentecost Sunday

Today is Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate it on a Sunday, but it was 40 days from the resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost is the day that the church was born. On that day, the Holy Spirit came to fill believers. Jesus had ascended, but he sent the Spirit so that believers could have the comfort, guidance, and empowerment of God's presence. The Holy Spirit helps us get our eyes off ourselves and onto Christ.

Today we are in the Song of Solomon 4 and there is a wonderful allusion to the Holy Spirit in the last verse of the chapter. We are going to see that today.

Throughout my life I have struggled with the idea of the love of God. I can preach and teach about it. But we remember **Romans 5:5** (NLT), “...we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

## Stop Looking at Your Own Unworthiness

Marital love is the highest human love, but it does not hold a candle to the love that God puts into every believer's heart by the Holy Spirit.

He loves me! He loves you! The Spirit wants you to be captivated by this love. **Stop looking at your own unworthiness.** That will never change. You will never be worthy. God has made you worthy of His love in Christ.

## A Faint Photograph of God's Love

Marriage gives us a faint look at how God takes pleasure in you. You may be married and can relate with the heightened love language that this couple enjoys. All of the words of this chapter except for the last verse is by Solomon.

This is a picture of God's love for us. God sees you as beautiful. The day the Lord Jesus took you to be His Bride, His heart rejoiced. Can you imagine that we give Him joy?

## I Don't Feel Beautiful

Some of you don't feel beautiful. You feel so unworthy. You feel at times dirtied and soiled and trampled by the world.

Today we are going to see how Christ now sees His Bride as eternally beautiful. You are loved by God today. And if you are in Christ. You are eternally beautiful to Him from beginning to end.

## Outline

When God sees you as His Bride

- He **rejoices** over you, 4:1-7
- He **protects** you, 4:8-11
- He **cultivates** you, vs. 4:12-16, 5:1

When God sees you as His Bride...

- I. He **Rejoices** over you, 4:1-7.

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### 1. BECAUSE OF YOUR BEAUTY IN CHRIST! 4:1a

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## You Are Beautiful in God's Sight

Have you ever grasped the fact that you are precious to Christ, that He takes great delight in you that you are beautiful to Him? Listen to the words of Solomon to His bride, "Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!" (vs. 1a). He's going to repeat this thought two more times in this chapter (4). In vs 7, he says, "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you." He says it again in vs 10.

### The New Testament Context

God loves you. He rejoices over you. And even though you run and hide at times, He is a Relentless Redeemer. He's got you. You cannot outrun or overcome His love for you. You love Him because He first loved you. There's no other reason. He drew you with His love. He called you to Himself.

### God is a Relentless Redeemer

There are so many verses in the Bible that paint for us a great salvation that is by God grace and pleasure and love.

**Revelation 21:2**, John says of you: "I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." You are **adorned by Christ** beloved saint of God!

**Ephesians 1:7-8**, He's **lavished His grace** on you!

**Ephesians 2:4-5**, He's rich in mercy because of the great and **infinite love** He had for you!

**Zephaniah 3:17**, He takes delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all of your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful singing.

**Romans 8:39**, "Nothing in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

He did this not because you are so worthy. You and I are totally depraved and blind and wretched apart from His redeeming love.

But once He glances upon us, He makes us new. We are a new creation (**2 Cor. 5:17**).

### Our Identity in Christ

All throughout the New Testament, we are told that we are no longer depraved sinners, but saints. Yes, we have a struggle with our old flesh, but that is no longer our identity. We have a new identity! Just look at the first chapter of Ephesians, and we see the same glimpse that God has for His Bride. You are the Bride, and you are beautiful in His sight! You can say...

## The Word of God Says in Jesus Christ...

### I am accepted...

- I am faithful (Ephesians 1:1)
- I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
- I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11)
- I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4)
- I am adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5)
- I am given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5, 8)
- I am in Him (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

- I have redemption (Ephesians 1:8)
- I am forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)
- I am included (Ephesians 1:13)
- I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
- I have been brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13)
- I have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18)

### **The Great King and the Country Girl**

In this chapter the Bridegroom, King Solomon goes to great lengths to express the deep love he has for his bride and how beautiful she is to him and how much he delights in her. It's heavy language!

We saw in chapter 1 that this bride does not see herself as beautiful or lovable or worthy of his love. Remember, she was just a plain, ordinary country girl whose skin had been scorched and toughened by doing menial labor on her family farm out in the hot sun.

That's how she saw herself, and that's how she was. But her bridegroom sees her through eyes of love—His love.

### **The Great Outfitting**

You see in the betrothal time, we see in chapter 1:10-11, Solomon promised to get her ready for the wedding. He promised to bejewel her. I'm certain he got her ready with skin treatments, rings of precious jewels, strings of pearls, a head-dress with "ornaments of gold, studded with silver."

And so it is that right now we don't feel beautiful, but God is in the process of conforming us to Christ. Don't despair saint of God, you are beautiful in God's sight!

### **God's Love Story**

God's love is so strong; so intense! There is so much more to God's love that is not yet revealed to you and me. "But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"" (1 Cor. 2:9). Of course God has revealed some of these things to us by His Spirit. But we "see in a mirror dimly, but then, face to face" (1 Cor. 13:

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## **2. BECAUSE OF YOUR EYES, 4:1b**

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4:1b "Your eyes are doves behind your veil." There is an innocence to doves. Doves speak of meekness, of gentleness, of tenderness. We've talked about how Philippians says the dove is mild and harmless. Perhaps he's thinking of her being chaste and faithful or humble. Those words all go along with dove's eyes.

The opposite kinds of eyes you see in other places in Scripture.

- Matthew talks about having "an evil eye;"
- 2 Peter talks about "eyes full of adultery;"
- Psalm 101 talks about a "high and haughty look,"
- or you think about a vulture's eye... always glaring at its prey.

### A Prayer for Doves' Eyes

Call out to your relentless Redeemer, and ask Him for doves' eyes. He can wash you of that proud look. He can cleanse you of a lascivious heart. He can heal you of the emotional torment you feel because of what you have seen. He can give you doves' eyes. Pray to the Lord right now: "O precious Savior, my Relentless Redeemer, give me doves eyes; give me undistracted devotion for only You."

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### 3. BECAUSE OF YOUR COVERING, 4:1c

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4:1c "Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead."

Then Solomon talks about her hair. He says it's like a flock of goats streaming down the mountain cliffs of Mount Gilead. Probably she had dark, flowing hair and it made him think of Mt. Gilead. It's a plateau area that has very high cliffs coming off of it.

Solomon is overcome by her hair, her covering! Long hair for a woman is a very outward display of devotion and submission to God. It was clear that she honored her God.

It makes us want to ask, "Can others see that we are consecrated to Christ? That we honor Him as our Head?" The hair makes us think of that.

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### 4. BECAUSE OF YOUR TEETH (& SPIRITUAL APPETITE), 4:2

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4:2, "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young."

Solomon admires his new bride's teeth. This would have been particularly amazing in that culture where they didn't have all the dentists and the dental care. People's teeth would be falling out and yellowed with age. It was rare to have all your teeth in the ancient world! And not only did this girl have all her teeth, they were very well aligned, like "twins".

It seems that this bride had a sweet smile on her face and she felt happy being married to the king! O the joy that the church has in Christ.

He says, "No, there's a purity here. There's whiteness, cleanness. Her teeth are symmetrical; no teeth are missing. She's lovely; she's beautiful." What do you do with teeth? Well, among other things, they're used for taking hold of and chewing food. Maybe this speaks of our ability to take in spiritual food. To chew it, to digest it, to take the Word and appropriate it into our lives and get it into our system through meditation and prayer.

### Pray to the Lord

Pray to the Lord, "My Relentless Redeemer, thank you for a new appetite and sharp shining spiritual teeth to chew on and savor your Word and your presence."

**Psalm 34:8**, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!  
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

1 Peter 2:2, we are “like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow thereby” in our salvation and walk with God.

Pray to the Lord: “O precious Jesus, give me that which is beautiful to you: a spiritual appetite.”

## 5. BECAUSE OF YOUR LIPS (SPEECH), 4:3a

4:3a, “Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely.”

The lips are a vehicle of expression, right? It’s a means of communication. And he says, “Her speech is lovely.” That’s in contrast to so much of the speech you hear among people today—even, I’m said to say, Christian people.

### **Pray to the Lord**

Ask the Lord to guard your mouth. Ask Him to fill your mind and heart with Him so your words will be pure. Pray to the Lord: praise Him for giving you a new heart with new words! Your mouth is lovely in Christ, because your heart is renewed.

Ask Him to give you lovely speech for Him. We need to pray for edifying speech, joyful speech. We need to praise and thank the Lord at all times. His praise should continually be in our mouths.

## 6. BECAUSE OF YOUR CHEEKS (PURITY), 4:3b

4:3b, “Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.” All of this is while she is still behind her veil. Perhaps the vows have been made but the honey moon has hardly begun. Yet he is admiring her as if for the first time.

Your countenance is now pure in Christ. We who once were shameful harlots are now a covered bride for Christ.

Child of God, I don’t know what sins you have committed before you knew Christ, but they are gone. And even the sins you struggle against day by day. Those are cleansed. You are covered in Christ’s veil. You are precious to the Savior.

### **Pray to the Lord**

Ask the Lord to give you a face and life that is hidden in Christ. There’s too much of you in your life. Ask Him to hide you behind the veil of His love.

## 7. BECAUSE OF YOUR NECK (PROTECTION), 4:4

4:4, “Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.”

This doesn't sound like a complement, but it surely is. Upon David's tower there in Jerusalem would have hung thousands of shields of those warriors who had fought for him. They were a sign of allegiance and love.

Solomon was admiring the jewelry on his bride's neck, and expressing his undying loyalty to her to protect and love her all the days of his life.

### **Our Weapon is the Spirit**

We have no warriors we can hire, but we do have the Spirit of God dwelling in us, giving us vitality in any battle. We have the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Married men, you need to know that marriage is HARD WORK. You need to constantly make sure that your wife feels safe in your marriage.

### **Pray to the Lord**

So often we allow the assaults of the world to cut off our windpipe. We can't breathe because of fear, despair, lust, or anger.

Pray to the Lord to have a neck that is protected from the world. Ask Him that you might breathe the breath of the Spirit. Receive refreshing and invigorating wind of life from the Spirit.

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## **8. BECAUSE OF YOUR FLAWLESSNESS (SECURITY), 4:5-6**

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4:5-6, “Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies. 6 Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.”

So many married people don't want to spent time with each other in such a vulnerable way. Solomon basically says to this ordinary country girl: you are flawless!

Do you realize this is so much more true when God gazes on you?

Christ gazes on you and far more than a husband with his new wife, the Almighty wants to spend time with you.

He is pleased. What He sees is flawless. You are flawless in His sight. You may be in a difficult marriage right now, and you don't feel flawless.

There are men out there who have really messed up who may feel the shame of guilt and the dirt of sin.

You must get your gaze off yourself and on to Christ. Once you realize that you are welcomed and loved by Him, your life will never be the same. You'll be set free from fear, from comparison, from striving to perform and measure up to others. You'll be able to enjoy Christ, to be secure in His love, and to truly love Him and others.

### **Repeat: You are Altogether Beautiful**

Solomon repeats it in 4:7, “You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.” Have you ever really grasped the fact that you are precious to Christ, that He takes great delight



in you, that you are beautiful to Him? Now, we all know that it's not that we have any natural beauty to offer Him. Anything of value that He or others see in us is all the result of His mercy and His grace.

### **We Feel Defiled**

There was a time when it could have been said of us what we read recorded in **Isaiah 1:6**, “From the sole of the foot, even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds. They are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.”

That describes our condition before Christ, but because of His amazing love and His grace and His mercy and His forgiveness, He can now look at us and say, “You are all fair, my love, there is no spot in you.”

### **Pray to See How God Sees You**

Pray will you once again? Pray that the Lord will give you the faith to see who you are in Christ. We often think that we need to “do, do, and do some more.” But Christ says, “No, I’ve done it all. You are beautiful by my grace. You are flawless by my Son’s death and atonement. I am working in you a great salvation by my Spirit. I am the Wonderful Counselor and I abide in you. I am the vine and you are one of my precious branches.

### **Christ Rejoices over You**

Listen, child of God, Christ is right now at this moment praying for you and singing over you and rejoicing over you! When He sees you, He rejoices!

## **When God sees you as His Bride...**

### **II. He Protects you, 4:8-11.**

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#### **1. HE PROTECTS YOU WITH HIS PRESENCE, 4:8**

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### **Song of Solomon 4:8**

“8 Come with me from **Lebanon**, my bride;  
come with me from Lebanon.  
Depart from the peak of **Amana**,  
from the peak of **Senir** and **Hermon**,  
from the dens of lions,  
from the mountains of leopards.”

### **Leave the Mountains of the World**

Mount Senir and Mount Hermon are some of the tallest mountain peaks in all of Israel. They are in northern Israel, and they are more than 9,000 feet high. Mount Amana is about a mile from Lebanon. It's a dangerous place where leopards dwell. The lions and leopards are almost extinct today, but they were flourishing in ancient days.

### **Solomon Wants to be Near His Bride**



Solomon says to her, “Come with me.” We see that he wants her to be with him. He doesn’t want there to be any distance between them. He’s calling her to come with him and look down from Lebanon, which is north of Israel, and to look from the tops of the mountain ranges in Palestine.

### **Depart from Amana**

Christ says, “Depart from the peak of Amana” (SS 4:8). Some of you need to cut your internet and your cable. It’s killing your spiritual life. If you are regenerate, you know you cannot mock the Holy Spirit. He’s convicting you, telling you what to do, and you need to do it.

### **Don’t Drink Water from the Toilet**

A good marriage will keep you from the misery of this world. Proverbs 5:15 tells us, “Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.”

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 7:5, “Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come to-gether again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

Fill your cup at home. Don’t fill it through lustful thoughts. Don’t fill it through other friendships. Don’t fill it by working longer hours and ignoring problems. Come down from the dangerous mountains and fill your cup at home!

### **Find Time with Christ**

Christ is with you always, but you need to depart from Amana, and walk through life with Christ.

There will be time to rest in the heavenly places, but right now there is war in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6** tells us there’s a battle going on in the heavenlies. There are principalities, powers of darkness, demons, and they’re waging war in the unseen heavenly realm.

Don’t fight those battles on your own. Never walk alone!

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## **2. HE PROTECTS YOU BECAUSE OF HIS PASSION, 4:9-11**

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**Song of Solomon 4:9-11**, “You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride;

you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes,

with one jewel of your necklace.

10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!

How much better is your love than wine,

and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

How joyful it is for young newlyweds to be captivated with each other. The word “captivate” here could be literally translated, “to make the heart beat faster” (as in the NASB). Listen just a glance from me, and I can make Jill’s heart beat faster.

We need to make sure our marriage is a place of joy and sweetness. We should learn to enjoy spending time together.

## Marriage Points to True Joy in Christ

And of course, this is a picture of our communion with God. Just as my heart is captivated by Jill's glance, so God's heart is captivated with our glance to heaven in prayer.

### God's Heart Beats Faster

Consider the motivation for communing with God. And just a glance to heaven, and we make God's heart beat faster. God is pleased when you pray—when we commune with Him.

He tells us in **Jeremiah 33:3**, “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Look again at verse 9b at what Solomon is captivated by, “you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace” (4:9).

Where did the bride get a necklace? She gets it from her lover. It is just like when Rebekah met Isaac. She was not embarrassed. Because Isaac had already given her something to wear. He had given her “jewelry of silver and of gold, and [costly] garments.”

Consider God's joy in communing with you! Verse 10, “How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!” Solomon delights in his bride. Her beauty overwhelms him. He love is intoxicating. Her fragrance is more valuable to him than the most expensive spices. This woman is supremely valued.

Get this saints, God is overcome with joy at how beautiful you are to Him. He has prepared you for His Son!

### God Doesn't Just Tolerate You

11 Your lips drip nectar, my bride;  
honey and milk are under your tongue;  
the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

That takes us back to one of the themes of Song of Solomon which is this matter of fragrance. God is wanting us to live a fragrant life as the fragrance of Christ fills us and flows through us to others. I found myself in this study just having a greater desire to have a life that is fragrant, that makes other people think of Christ.

Listen God does not just tolerate you. He welcomes you. He loves you. When I see my children, especially when they are so little and vulnerable my heart just leaps for joy. I walk into the door of my home, and my kids run to me and shout Daddy! They know I delight in them. I deeply delight and rejoice in them.

In that way, God rejoices in you. His banner over you is love. You are more precious to Him than all the gold or silver. You are the apple of His eye. You are precious.

### Fragrance of Lebanon

Andrew Bonar, who is from a past generation, wrote this in his journal, “I felt drawn out much to pray for that peculiar fragrance which believers have about them, who are very much in fellowship with God. It is like an aroma, unseen but felt.”

I want to have the kind of relationship with Christ that when I walk into a room, when I step into a conversation, when I have a meeting, when I'm behind the scenes, when I'm pushed, when I'm disappointed, when I'm frustrated, that what will come out is the fragrance and the aroma of Christ—unseen but very much felt.

## When God sees you as His Bride...

### III. He **Cultivates** and grows you, 4:12-5:1.

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#### 1. HE CULTIVATES YOU WITH IN **COVENANT**, 4:12

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##### Song of Solomon 4:12

“12 A garden locked is my sister, my bride,  
a spring locked, a fountain sealed.”

He compares her to a garden that is fenced with a sealed fountain. It's protected. It's fenced.

Listen, this thing of having a relationship with Christ, it's not just something that's ethereal or romantic. It's based on a **covenant**. As you have a covenant with your mate, Christ has made an eternal covenant with us, and that's why He can call us His spouse. There's an eternal relationship there with Him.

You can safely grow because God has promised you are never going to fall away. Marriage is an imperfect picture. Many marriages disintegrate, but God promises never to leave or forsake you!

##### **He Promises a Full Salvation!**

Christ did not die only to justify us, but in salvation He also sanctifies us, and He will glorify us (Rom. 8:29-30). “God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth” (2 Thess. 2:13). Our Lord died for the ungodly in order to save them from their sins in this life and to save them to the uttermost. It is Christ's work to finish, and it was as good as done from the very foundation of the world.

He says to the sheep on the Last Day: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt. 25:34). Our salvation was secure “from the foundation of the world.” What Christ begins, He promises to finish. His promise is just as true today as when it was given to the Thessalonian church: “ow may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.” (1 Thess. 5:23-24).

What Christ has begun in your justification He will continue in your sanctification and he will complete in your glorification. Remember the words of Paul to the Philippians:

And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ** (Phil. 1:6).

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#### 2. HE CULTIVATES YOU WITH **CARE**, 4:13-15

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There is a “well of living water” that produces healthy fruit in her life. She has been cared for by Solomon. He's given her anointing oils and spices. She is not famished, but healthy and strong.

13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates  
with all choicest fruits,  
henna with nard,  
14 nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,  
with all trees of frankincense,  
myrrh and aloes,  
with all choice spices—  
15 a garden fountain, a well of living water,  
and flowing streams from Lebanon.

So Christ is our fountain of living water! He makes us healthy and strong. He gives us “all spiritual blessings” (Eph. 1:3) and all things we need for life and godliness.

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### 3. HE CULTIVATES YOU WITH FREEDOM, 4:13-15

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#### **Balmy South Winds and Harsh North Winds**

The Bride talks about the southern winds that she wants to come blow on her life. The southern winds are warm, refreshing, balmy—we love those winds, right?

It’s not hard to pray, “Lord, let the warm, balmy southern winds come blowing into my garden.” But she doesn’t just invite those warm southern winds to blow into her life; she also says, “Awake, O north wind.” What’s the north wind like? Those of you who live up here know it’s cold, it’s biting, it’s harsh.

16 Awake, O north wind,  
and come, O south wind!  
Blow upon my garden,  
let its spices flow.

If we think of the wind in the Scripture as being a picture of the Holy Spirit, we realize that sometimes the Spirit’s ministry in our life is warm, it’s that southern wind of encouragement and comfort. But sometimes He needs to blow on our lives with that north wind that is exposing, chastising, convicting. He may use difficult or painful circumstances as that wind to blow into our lives.

#### **We Need Both Winds**

But here’s that fact—we need both the north and the south winds, and both are expressions of His love. That’s why she could pray, “Awake, O north wind, and come, O south!” She welcomes them to come into her garden. And, I wanted to say this, the north winds will come whether we invite them or not. The question is, will we resist them, put up walls and barriers, and lose the benefit they could have on our lives, or will we welcome those cold, biting, harsh north winds as a blessing sent by God, the Master Gardener, intended to make us more fruitful and more fragrant?

**Conclusion: Winds Make Us Fruitful and Fragrant**

You see this in the spring, in those very windy months. There's something happening in the cycle of nature there that is preparing for the new life of spring and summer. Some of those north winds are really important, in nature and in our lives, and they're intended to make us more fruitful and fragrant.

**She**

**4:16c** Let my beloved come to his garden,  
and eat its choicest fruits.

Get your eyes off yourself! He will make you a fruitful garden!