

## Message Eight

### **Taking, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Our King, Our Lord, Our Head, and Our Husband for the Building Up of the Body of Christ to Consummate the New Jerusalem**

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:22, 26-28; 2 Cor. 5:14-15;  
Rom. 14:7-9; Col. 2:19; S. S. 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 11:2-3

- Ezek. 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.
- Ezek. 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.
- Ezek. 1:27 Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.
- Ezek. 1:28 Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.
- 2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.
- Rom. 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;
- Rom. 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
- Rom. 14:9 For Christ died and lived again for this, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
- Col. 2:19 And...holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- S.S. 1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.
- S.S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine.
- S.S. 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; / Your name is like ointment poured forth; / Therefore the virgins love you.
- S.S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers—/ We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.
- 2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- 2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would

be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

## **I. We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our King:**

- A. The highest point in our spiritual experience is having a clear sky with the throne above it—Ezek. 1:22, 26-28:

Ezek. 1:22 And over the heads of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the sight of awesome crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

Ezek. 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

Ezek. 1:27 Then I saw something like the sight of electrum, like the appearance of fire encased all around, from the appearance of His loins and upward; and from the appearance of His loins and downward, I saw something like the appearance of fire. And there was brightness all around Him.

Ezek. 1:28 Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

1. The kind of sky we have as Christians depends on our conscience; our conscience is connected to our sky—Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:12.

Rom. 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor. 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

2. When there is nothing between us and the Lord and nothing between us and one another, our sky will be crystal clear, and we will have not only a good conscience but also a pure conscience—Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3; cf. Matt. 5:8; Prov. 22:11; 2 Tim. 2:22.

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

1 Tim. 1:5 But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;

1 Tim. 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;

1 Tim. 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

2 Tim. 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day,

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Prov. 22:11 He who loves pureness of heart / And whose speech is gracious will have the king as his friend.

2 Tim. 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- B. The throne is the center of the universe, and it is the Lord's ruling presence; the throne in our spirit is actually Christ Himself—Isa. 22:23; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:21; Rev. 22:1:

Isa. 22:23 And I will drive him as a peg into a sure place, / And he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

- Rom. 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

1. If we have a clear sky, the throne will be present, and we will spontaneously be under the ruling and reigning of the throne; for God to have the throne in us means that He has the position to reign in us—cf. Dan. 4:17, 25-26; 5:18-31; Isa. 6:1-8.

- Dan. 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills and sets up over it the lowliest of men.
- Dan. 4:25 You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls do and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.
- Dan. 4:26 And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.
- Dan. 5:18 Regarding you, O king, God the Most High gave to Nebuchadnezzar your forefather kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty;
- Dan. 5:19 And because of the greatness which He gave to him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him; whomever he wished he slew, and whomever he wished he kept alive, and whomever he wished he raised up, and whomever he wished he brought down.
- Dan. 5:20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and his glory was taken away from him.
- Dan. 5:21 And he was driven from the sons of men, and his heart was made like that of the beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys; men fed him with grass as they do bulls, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he came to know that God the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and sets over it whomever He wills.
- Dan. 5:22 And you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this;
- Dan. 5:23 But you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have not honored.
- Dan. 5:24 Then that part of the hand was sent from before Him, and this writing was inscribed.
- Dan. 5:25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.
- Dan. 5:26 This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE-God has numbered your kingdom and brought it to an end;
- Dan. 5:27 TEKEL-You have been weighed in the scales and found to be lacking.
- Dan. 5:28 PERES-Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
- Dan. 5:29 Then Belshazzar commanded; and they clothed Daniel in purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and they made the proclamation concerning him that he should rule as the third ruler in the kingdom.
- Dan. 5:30 In that very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

Dan. 5:31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

Isa. 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a high and lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Isa. 6:2 Seraphim hovered over Him, each having six wings: With two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Isa. 6:3 And one called to the other, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Jehovah of hosts; / The whole earth is filled with His glory.

Isa. 6:4 And the foundations of the threshold shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

Isa. 6:5 Then I said, Woe is me, for I am finished! / For I am a man of unclean lips, / And in the midst of a people of unclean lips I dwell; / Yet my eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.

Isa. 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with an ember in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

Isa. 6:7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, Now that this has touched your lips, / Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged.

Isa. 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.

2. To have the throne above a clear sky is to allow God to have the highest and most prominent position in our Christian life; in our spiritual experience, to reach the point of having the throne above a clear sky means that in everything we are completely submissive to God's authority and administration.

C. In Ezekiel 1:26 "the likeness of the throne" is "like the appearance of a sapphire stone"; a sapphire stone is blue in color, which is a heavenly color, indicating the heavenly situation, atmosphere, and condition of God's ruling presence—Exo. 24:10.

Ezek. 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

Exo. 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.

D. God desires to manifest Himself through man and to reign through man; He wants man to express Him and to exercise His authority; God's complete salvation is for us to be saved in life and to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness—Gen. 1:26; Rev. 11:15; 3:21; 22:3-5; Rom. 5:17, 21.

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

Rev. 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

Rev. 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;

Rev. 22:4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their forehead.

Rev. 22:5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

- Rom. 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom. 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## II. We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our Lord:

### A. We must be people who live to the Lord, not merely for the Lord—2 Cor. 5:9, 14-15:

- 2 Cor. 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
- 2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

1. For the love of Christ to constrain us means that it forcibly limits us and shuts us up to one line and purpose, as in a narrow, walled road; in such a way the apostles were constrained to no longer live to themselves but to the Lord—vv. 14-15.

- 2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

2. To live to ourselves means that we are under our own control, direction, and governing and that we care for our own aims and goals; but the apostles were determined to gain the honor of being well pleasing to the Lord by living to Him—vv. 9, 14-15; Col. 1:10; Heb. 11:5-6.

- 2 Cor. 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.
- 2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;
- 2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.
- Col. 1:10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God,
- Heb. 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God.
- Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

3. The love of Christ constrains us to live to the Lord; to live to the Lord means that we are absolutely under the Lord's control, direction, and governing and that we want to fulfill His requirements, satisfy His desires, and complete what He intends.

4. Paul sought to please the Lord not by doing a work but by living to Him in every aspect of his daily life; likewise, we today should not seek to please ourselves but seek to please the Lord by living to Him; all that we do must be to Him.

### B. "Whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's. For Christ died and lived again for this, that He might be Lord..."—Rom. 14:8-9:

- Rom. 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
- Rom. 14:9 For Christ died and lived again for this, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

1. Christ died on the cross for our judicial redemption, and He lives again in resurrection within us for our organic salvation so that He might be our indwelling Lord, the Lord Spirit in our spirit, as the One who rules within us.
2. Because we have been bought with the price of the precious blood of Christ, "we are the Lord's" (v. 8), and we should continually exalt Him as Lord, giving Him the first place in our life and in our work; we are those who labor in the Lord for the work of the Lord, which is the work of the ministry to build up the organic Body of Christ—1 Cor. 6:19-20; 15:58; 16:10; Eph. 4:11-12.

- Rom. 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
- 1 Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
- 1 Cor. 6:20 For you have been bought with a price. So then glorify God in your body.
- 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Cor. 16:10 Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without fear; for he is working the work of the Lord, even as I am.
- Eph. 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
- Eph. 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,

- C. "We do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5); among the believers, besides Christ there should be no other lord; all should be servants, even slaves (1 Pet. 5:3; Matt. 20:26-27; 23:10-11).

- 2 Cor. 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 1 Pet. 5:3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.
- Matt. 20:26 It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant,
- Matt. 20:27 And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;
- Matt. 23:10 Neither be called instructors, because One is your Instructor, the Christ.
- Matt. 23:11 And the greatest among you shall be your servant.

### **III. We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our Head:**

- A. Our being headed up in Christ rescues us from the heap of the universal collapse in death and darkness, which was caused by the rebellion of the angels and the rebellion of man; the believers participate in Christ's heading up by being willing to be headed up in the church life, by growing in life, and by living under Christ's light—Eph. 1:10; John 1:4; Rev. 21:23-25; Eph. 5:8-9.

- Eph. 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- Rev. 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- Rev. 21:24 And the nations will walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

Rev. 21:25 And its gates shall by no means be shut by day, for there will be no night there.  
Eph. 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light  
Eph. 5:9 (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

- B. To hold Christ as the Head is not only to take Him as our unique authority but also to stay intimately connected to Him so that His riches and life supply are dispensed into our being to cause us to grow with the growth of God, growing up into Him in all things and functioning out from Him so that all the Body causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.

Col. 2:19 And...holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- C. God's surpassingly great power that is presently being transmitted into us is the transcending Christ Himself as the fourfold power of the Triune God (1 Cor. 1:24); the normal, genuine, proper, and real church comes out of this great fourfold power—resurrecting power, ascending power, subjecting power, and heading-up power—for the building up of the church as His Body (Eph. 1:19-23):

1 Cor. 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Eph. 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

Eph. 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph. 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1. To the church (v. 22) indicates that the divine power, which includes all that the Triune God has passed through, has been installed into us once for all and is being transmitted into us continually, causing us to enjoy Christ richly and to have the proper church life with the reality of the Body of Christ.

Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

2. The transmitting of the transcending Christ is to transfuse into the church, the Body of Christ, what the Triune God has accomplished, attained, and obtained in Christ; this is not only for producing the church but also for growing, establishing, and building up the church.

- D. We must ask the Father to strengthen us into the inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts through faith with the power that raised Christ from the dead, that seated Christ at the right hand of God in the heavenlies, that subjected all things under His feet, and that gave Him to be Head over all things to the church—3:16-17; 1:19-23.

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph. 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph. 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph. 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph. 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph. 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

E. God is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think concerning the church as the Body of Christ, according to this fourfold power that operates in us, so that God is glorified in the church—3:20-21.

- Eph. 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

#### **IV. We must take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our Husband:**

A. The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be personal—1:4a:

- S.S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers—/ We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

1. We must follow the pattern of Abraham, who was the friend of God for the desire of God (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23; Gen. 18:1-33), and the pattern of Moses, who was a companion of God for the interests of God (Exo. 33:11).

2 Chron. 20:7 Did You not, O our God, dispossess the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it forever to the seed of Abraham Your friend?

Isa. 41:8 But you, Israel, My servant, / Jacob, whom I have chosen, / The seed of Abraham My friend;

James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness"; and he was called the friend of God.

Gen. 18:1 And Jehovah appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

Gen. 18:2 And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and there were three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them. And he bowed down to the earth

Gen. 18:3 And said, My Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass on from Your servant.

Gen. 18:4 Please let a little water be fetched, and do wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

Gen. 18:5 And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may sustain yourselves. After that you may pass on, since you have come to your servant. So they said, Do as you have said.

Gen. 18:6 And Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, Quickly prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it, and make cakes.

Gen. 18:7 And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.

- Gen. 18:8 And he took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set them before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- Gen. 18:9 And they said to him, Where is Sarah your wife? And he said, There, in the tent.
- Gen. 18:10 And He said, I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and then Sarah your wife shall have a son. And Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind Him.
- Gen. 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah according to the manner of women.
- Gen. 18:12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?
- Gen. 18:13 And Jehovah said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I indeed bear a child when I am old?
- Gen. 18:14 Is anything too marvelous for Jehovah? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.
- Gen. 18:15 Then Sarah denied it, saying, I did not laugh; for she was afraid. And He said, No, but you did laugh.
- Gen. 18:16 And the men rose up from there and looked down upon Sodom. And Abraham walked with them to send them away.
- Gen. 18:17 And Jehovah said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,
- Gen. 18:18 Since Abraham will indeed become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him?
- Gen. 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him to keep the way of Jehovah by doing righteousness and justice, that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken concerning him.
- Gen. 18:20 And Jehovah said, The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah, how great it is; and their sin, how very heavy it is!
- Gen. 18:21 I shall go down and see whether they have done altogether according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.
- Gen. 18:22 And the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before Jehovah.
- Gen. 18:23 And Abraham came near and said, Will You indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked?
- Gen. 18:24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed destroy and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?
- Gen. 18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put to death the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked. Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of all the earth not do justly?
- Gen. 18:26 And Jehovah said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place for their sake.
- Gen. 18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Now behold, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord, though I am but dust and ashes.
- Gen. 18:28 Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five? And He said, I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.
- Gen. 18:29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, Suppose forty are found there? And He said, I will not do it, because of the forty.
- Gen. 18:30 And he said, Oh may the Lord not be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there? And He said, I will not do it if I find thirty there.
- Gen. 18:31 And he said, Now behold, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there? And He said, I will not destroy it, because of the twenty.
- Gen. 18:32 And he said, Oh let the Lord not be angry if I speak yet once more. Suppose ten are found there? And He said, I will not destroy it, because of the ten.
- Gen. 18:33 And Jehovah went away as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Exo. 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

2. We must follow the pattern of David and Asaph, who sought the shining face of God in and for the house of God—Psa. 27:4, 8; 80:3, 7, 14-19.

Psa. 27:4 One thing I have asked from Jehovah; / That do I seek: / To dwell in the house of Jehovah / All the days of my life, / To behold the beauty of Jehovah, / And to inquire in His temple.

Psa. 27:8 When You say, Seek My face, / To You my heart says, Your face, O Jehovah, will I seek.

Psa. 80:3 O God, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

Psa. 80:7 O God of hosts, restore us; / And cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

Psa. 80:14 O God of hosts, turn, we beseech You; / Look down from heaven and see, / And visit this vine,

Psa. 80:15 Even the stock which Your right hand has planted / And the son whom You have strengthened for Yourself.

Psa. 80:16 It is burned with fire; it is cut down; / They perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

Psa. 80:17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, / Upon the son of man whom You have strengthened for Yourself;

Psa. 80:18 Then we will not turn back from You. / Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.

Psa. 80:19 O Jehovah God of hosts, restore us; / Cause Your face to shine, and we will be saved.

3. We must follow the pattern of the Lord Jesus, who lived in the presence of God without ceasing—Acts 10:38c; John 8:29; 16:32.

Acts 10:38 Jesus, the One from Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all those who were being oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

John 16:32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has come, that you will be scattered each to his own place and will leave Me alone; yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

4. We must follow the pattern of Peter, whose love for the Lord was restored for him to shepherd the Lord's sheep and follow the Lord unto martyrdom without any confidence in his natural strength—21:15-19; Mark 16:7.

John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

John 21:18 Truly, truly, I say to you, When you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.

John 21:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had said this, He said to him, Follow Me.  
Mark 16:7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee. There you will see Him, even as He told you.

5. We must follow the pattern of Paul, who was constrained by the love of Christ to live in the person of Christ as an ambassador of Christ to be well pleasing to Christ—2 Cor. 2:10; 5:9, 14, 20.

2 Cor. 2:10 But whom you forgive anything, I also forgive; for also what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, it is for your sake in the person of Christ;  
2 Cor. 5:9 Therefore also we are determined, whether at home or abroad, to gain the honor of being well pleasing to Him.  
2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;  
2 Cor. 5:20 On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors, as God entreats you through us; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God.

B. The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be affectionate—1:1-2:

S.S. 1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.  
S.S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine.

1. The Lord who indwells us is our Father, and grace is our mother—Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:24-26; Isa. 66:12-13.

Rom. 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!  
Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.  
Gal. 4:24 These things are spoken allegorically, for these women are two covenants, one from Mount Sinai, bringing forth children unto slavery, which is Hagar.  
Gal. 4:25 Now this Hagar is Sinai the mountain in Arabia and corresponds to the Jerusalem which now is, for she is in slavery with her children.  
Gal. 4:26 But the Jerusalem above is free, which is our mother;  
Isa. 66:12 For thus says Jehovah, / I now am extending to her / Peace like a river, / And the glory of the nations / Like an overflowing stream; / And you will nurse, you will be carried on the hip, / And you will be bounced on the knees.  
Isa. 66:13 As one whom his mother comforts, / So will I comfort you; / And you will be comforted in Jerusalem.

2. The Lord who indwells us is our Husband (Matt. 9:15; 2 Cor. 11:2-3) and our Brother (John 20:17; Rom. 8:29).

Matt. 9:15 And Jesus said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.  
2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.  
2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.  
John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.  
Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

3. The Lord who indwells us is our Friend (Matt. 11:19; John 15:12-17) and our Counselor

(Isa. 9:6).

Matt. 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking; and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Yet wisdom is justified by her works.

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

John 15:13 No one has greater love than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 You are My friends if you do what I command you.

John 15:15 No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all the things which I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.

John 15:17 These things I command you that you may love one another.

Isa. 9:6 For a child is born to us, / A Son is given to us; / And the government / Is upon His shoulder; / And His name will be called / Wonderful Counselor, / Mighty God, / Eternal Father, / Prince of Peace.

4. The Lord who indwells us is our Advocate (1 John 2:1), our Comforter (John 14:16; 16:7, 13), and our Shepherd (Psa. 23:1; 1 Pet. 2:25).

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous;

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.

Psa. 23:1 Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.

1 Pet. 2:25 For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

C. The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be private—1:3-4:

S.S. 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; / Your name is like ointment poured forth; / Therefore the virgins love you.

S.S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers—/ We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

1. We must contact the Lord and spend time with Him privately in a secret, definite, and prevailing way, opening our entire being to Him for His enlightening and infusing, so that we can glow with God and shine forth God—Matt. 6:6; Exo. 33:11; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; Isa. 60:1, 5a; Matt. 14:22-23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:28.

Matt. 6:6 But you, when you pray, enter into your private room, and shut your door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Exo. 33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. And Moses would return to the camp, but his attendant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart out of the tent.

2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

- 2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
- Isa. 60:1 Arise! Shine! For your light has come, / And the glory of Jehovah has risen upon you.
- Isa. 60:5 Then you will see and you will beam, / And your heart will be in awe and will swell with joy, / For the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, / The wealth of the nations will come to you.
- Matt. 14:22 And immediately He compelled the disciples to step into the boat and to go before Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.
- Matt. 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.
- Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still night, He went out and went away to a deserted place, and there He prayed.
- Luke 5:16 But He Himself often withdrew in the wilderness and prayed.
- Luke 6:12 And in these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.
- Luke 9:28 And about eight days after these words, He took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray.

2. We must experience and enjoy Christ as our hiding place, our dwelling place, and our secret of sufficiency—Psa. 90:1; 91:1; 31:20; 18:1-5; Phil. 4:7-13.

- Psa. 90:1 O Lord, You have been our dwelling place / In all generations.
- Psa. 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- Psa. 31:20 You hide them in the hiding place of Your presence / Apart from the conspiracies of men; / You lay them away secretly in a shelter / Apart from the contention of tongues.
- Psa. 18:1 I love You, O Jehovah, my strength.
- Psa. 18:2 Jehovah is my crag and my fortress and my Deliverer; / My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; / My shield and the horn of my salvation, my high retreat.
- Psa. 18:3 I called upon Jehovah, who is worthy of praise, And from my enemies I was saved.
- Psa. 18:4 The cords of death encompassed me; / And the torrents of destruction assailed me.
- Psa. 18:5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me; / The snares of death confronted me.
- Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
- Phil. 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
- Phil. 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.
- Phil. 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because now at length you have caused your thinking for me to blossom anew; for which matter you had indeed taken thought, but lacked opportunity.
- Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Phil. 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil. 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

3. We must ask for the counsel of the Lord related to every problem that we encounter; we

must bring every matter to the Lord and consider, examine, and determine things before Him and in fellowship with Him—cf. Josh. 9:14.

Josh. 9:14 And the men took some of their provisions, but they did not ask for the counsel of Jehovah.

4. In this respect every believer needs to be weak to the extent that he does not have his own ideas, make his own decisions, or take any action related to what he encounters without contacting the Lord and consulting with Him, allowing Him to make the decisions; this is the sweetest living of a Christian—2 Cor. 12:9-10.

2 Cor. 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

2 Cor. 12:10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.

5. We have no alternative but to fellowship with God in all things, discuss all things with Him, and allow Him to handle all things, speak in all things, and make every decision; it is glorious for a Christian to be dependent on another One—God—at every moment and in every matter—Phil. 4:5-7; Prov. 3:5-6; 2 Cor. 1:8-9.

Phil. 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Phil. 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, / And do not rely on your own understanding;

Prov. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, / And He will make your paths straight.

2 Cor. 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.

2 Cor. 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;

- D. The romance in Song of Songs portrays that our relationship with the Lord must be spiritual—1:4b:

S.S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you—The king has brought me into his chambers—/ We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

1. Christ visits us spiritually because He is the life-giving Spirit in our spirit; our spirit is the Holy of Holies, the chambers of the pneumatic Christ as the Lord of lords and the King of kings—1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; Rev. 17:14; 19:16.

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

2 Tim. 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

Rev. 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.

Rev. 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

2. In the book of Ephesians, Paul shows that in order to contact Christ and enjoy Christ for the Body of Christ, we must exercise our spirit—1:17; 2:22; 3:5, 16; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.

Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Eph. 3:5 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph. 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

Eph. 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

3. In the book of Romans, Paul stresses that whatever we are (2:29; 8:5-6, 9), whatever we have (vv. 10, 16), and whatever we do toward God (1:9; 7:6; 8:4, 13; 12:11) must be in our spirit.

Rom. 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.

Rom. 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Rom. 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom. 7:6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom. 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

Rom. 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

4. The Father is seeking true worshippers, those who will exercise their spirit to contact God the Spirit by drinking of the living water; to drink of the living water is to render real worship to God—John 4:23-24, 10, 14; 7:37-38; Isa. 12:1-6.

John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.

- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- Isa. 12:1 And you will say in that day, / I will praise You, O Jehovah. You were angry with me, / But Your anger has turned and You have consoled me.
- Isa. 12:2 God is now my salvation; / I will trust and not dread; / For Jah Jehovah is my strength and song, / And He has become my salvation.
- Isa. 12:3 Therefore you will draw water with rejoicing / From the springs of salvation,
- Isa. 12:4 And you will say in that day, / Give thanks to Jehovah; call upon His name! / Make His deeds known among the peoples; / Remind them that His name is exalted.
- Isa. 12:5 Sing psalms to Jehovah, for He has done something majestic! / Let it be made known in all the earth!
- Isa. 12:6 Cry out and give a ringing shout, O inhabitant of Zion, / For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

5. We must build up the habit of continually exercising our spirit by praying in the Holy Spirit to keep ourselves in the love of God (the Father), awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Son at His second coming—2 Tim. 1:16-18) unto eternal life (to become the totality of the eternal life—the New Jerusalem)—Jude 19-21.

- 2 Tim. 1:16 May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain;
- 2 Tim. 1:17 But being in Rome, he sought me out diligently and found me.
- 2 Tim. 1:18 May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day. And in how many things he served me in Ephesus, you know best.
- Jude 19 These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit.
- Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

**V. Taking, experiencing, and enjoying Christ as our King, our Lord, our Head, and our Husband is for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:11-12, 16; Rev. 19:7; 21:2.**

- Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph. 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
- Eph. 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared

as a bride adorned for her husband.