

REVIVE CHURCH- VIRTUES OF THE BRIDE

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Last week the emphasis was on the bride getting herself ready for the Bridegroom, with the understanding we are betrothed or engaged and the time we have now on this earth is preparation for the wedding. The sanctification process is beautifying us to look like Jesus and readying our hearts to meet Him face to face. We will be dressed in our righteous acts that flow from the imputed righteousness of Jesus Himself.

Today I want to look at a picture from the Song of Songs that will help us have greater understanding of Jesus love for us and our participation in maturing. This will be a good reminder for some and brand new to many.

God's method to change weak believers into strong believers is to cherish us by removing sin and shame from our lives so that we can experience His extravagant love.

Ephesians 5:27-29 ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

Jesus cherishes us (shows us His tender love) while we are still immature and speaks life over us even when we fall short and stumble. *Jesus does not define us by our weaknesses or failures, He see us from an eternal perspective, He knows who belongs to Him and sees our willing spirit and longings to love and obey Him!* Jesus sees the end of our journey with perfect clarity and knows what we will become if we do not stop persevering! The devil would love for you to feel like a hopeless hypocrite so that we give up, don't listen to him. God is taking our immaturities and purifying them, so we look like Jesus. If your hearts affections are set upon him, you will continue to mature .

We are beautiful to God even in our weakness! That **A sincere believer is beautiful to God even in their weakness is foundational to growth for all of us.** *He receives us through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ at our worst point, He makes us a new creation and willingly transforms us with His love and affection.*

I'm going to do a short teaching from the Song of songs to help us understand how the Bridegroom Jesus loves His bride.

This Song of Songs reveals God's pattern for how we grow in passion for Jesus. It touches the significant principles and practical realities needed to **develop mature love for God. It is filled with symbolic interpretation. Interpreting symbols that lead to a spiritual truth.**

Song of Songs 4:7 (NKJV) You [are] all fair, my love, And [there is] no spot in you.

NIV-You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you.

The bridegroom looks at the bride and calls her spotless! Prior to that statement the bridegroom lists 8 different virtues that the bride possesses that He finds beautiful. These are areas we can all pay attention to knowing that Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to grow and mature into Christ likeness

Song of Songs 4:1-5 (NKJV) 1 (*The Beloved*) Behold, you [are] fair (beautiful), my love! Behold, you [are] fair! You [have] dove's eyes behind your veil. Your hair [is] like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead. 2 Your teeth [are] like a flock of shorn [sheep] Which have come up from the washing, Every one of which bears twins, And none [is] barren among them. 3 Your lips [are] like a strand of scarlet, And your mouth

is lovely. Your temples behind your veil [Are] like a piece of pomegranate. 4 Your neck [is] like the tower of David, Built for an armory, On which hang a thousand bucklers, All shields of mighty men. 5 Your two breasts [are] like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle, Which feed among the lilies.

Lets discuss these **8 developing virtues in the Bride**. *Each characteristic spoken by the bridegroom starts in seed form. In order for the seed to reach full maturity, it must be heard, retained and persevere in good soil.* *Each of these 8 virtues is aimed at our hearts in a specific way and are reflections of the Lord's beauty that He imparts to us.* *We are moved from glory to glory as we gaze upon Him and allow Him to work in both our strengths and our weaknesses.* **The king speaks to his bride in agricultural language that she is familiar with since she attended goats and kept vineyards.** Each symbol is also interpreted by scripture.

1. **Eyes-** (Song 4:1) Your eyes are *like* doves behind your veil

The eyes speak of **spiritual insight**. **Apostle Paul spoke of the eyes of our understanding in Ephesians.** **How we see and what we gaze upon is key to our spiritual maturity.**

The doves eyes speak of purity and loyalty. Doves are known for their loyalty and never mate again when their partner dies. Doves' eyes cannot focus on two things, they have no peripheral vision which speaks of the dedication and singleness of mind the lover of God must have. *That her eyes are behind the veil point to the humble nature/hiddenness of the one who's focus is Jesus.*

1. **Hair-**(Song 4:1) I Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead.

The **brides hair speaks of her dedication and devotion** to God as well as the **beauty of submission to God's authority.**

The Nazarite vow in Num 6 was a vow of dedication: one was not permitted to cut their hair. **In 1 Cor. 11 Paul speaks of the woman's hair as a sign of submission to God's authority.** **Mount Gilead was a very fertile area where goats were known to eat in abundance.** **Jesus is looking for a bride that is fully dedicated and yielded to His leadership.**

1. **Teeth-**Your teeth are like a flock of *newly* shorn ewes Which have come up from *their* washing, All of which bear twins, And not one among them has lost her young

Teeth speak of the ability to chew meat and receive nourishment. **Infants (immature) have no teeth to chew meat.** **Babies in Christ cannot receive the meat of the word, so this virtue refers to the brides ability to receive the word of God which makes her strong, abundant and effective.** **Ephesians 5:26** shows us the power of the word of God to wash us. *{so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,}*

To come up from the washing speak of being cleansed from the dirt. *As we eat the word of God the word washes over us.* **Everyone of the teeth bore twins, none is barren.** **This shows us the power of the word to make us fruitful and break barrenness.** **Jesus is looking for a bride committed to His word.**

1. **Lips-** Song 4:3a Your lips are like a scarlet thread

Lips speak of speech. **Her words bring redemption to others.** **The scarlet strand pictures God's redemption from the blood of Jesus that will give us a new heart that will give us new speech.** **Our new tongue based on**

the finished work of Jesus is capable to pour forth blessings and hope. The bride speaks edifying speech and others are blessed by them.

1. **Mouth-** Song 4:3b your mouth is lovely

In Song of Songs 1:2 the mouth was introduced in context and refers to **intimacy**, fellowship with God. **The lips speak of speech as the mouth speaks of intimacy.** **Song 1:2** May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. **God's mouth brought life to Adam and the kisses of His word give life and edification, they sanctify our soul.**

1. Temples- **Song 4:3c** Your temples are like a slice of a pomegranate Behind your veil.

Temples or cheek reveals ones emotions. Hebrew word can be translated as countenance or cheeks. We can see anger, joy, sadness often times upon the cheeks or the countenance of ones face. **The Bride's godly emotions were like a sweet pomegranate which was a common fruit in Israel.** *The pomegranate was also represented on the hem of the robes of the high priest as well as on the tops of the pillars of Solomon's temple.* **As Jesus cherishes us, He transforms us and it touches every part of us even our emotions and our countenance.**

1. Neck- **Songs 4:4** Your neck is like the tower of David, Built with rows of stones On which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields of the mighty men.

The neck often speaks of the will of a person. If one is stiff necked in scripture they are resistant and unwilling to change. On the opposite extreme if we have an unwillingness to bend toward evil this is a great strength that enables us to live single focused. *David's towers were strong and effective to defend the city, and the bride's intentions to remain focused on the King would enable here to not only resist evil but to pursue Him without fear holding her back.*

1. Breasts- Song 4:5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, Twins of a gazelle Which feed among the lilies **Breasts speak of nurturing others as a mother nourishes her babies.** Fawns are youthful animals. **This speak of the brides ability to nurture others, help them grow and lilies speak of her purity.**

Song of Songs 4:6-9 Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh And to the hill of frankincense. 7 You [are] all fair, my love, And [there is] no spot in you. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, [my] spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards. 9 You have ravished my heart, My sister, [my] spouse; You have ravished my heart With one [look] of your eyes, With one link of your necklace.

Jesus speaks the words of life to us to enable us to abide in Him to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense which both seem scary outside of identity and fellowship.

- **Myrrh is the place of sacrifice it is representative of the death of Christ, and our embrace of the cross;** *We will never climb to the mountain where we belong without embracing the cross and dying to our old self.*

- Frankincense speaks of prayer and gives us the strength to face anything the enemy brings against us. It is our prayer life that will be the fuel to climb the mountain because we never lose sight of His face. The bride commits to climbing the mountain and breaking through her immaturity to become everything Jesus has spoken over her.

Song 4:7 “You are altogether beautiful (fair), my darling, And there is no blemish in you.

The king calls his bride beautiful 13 times throughout the song. The bride has set her heart on Him, has said yes and He sees no blemish in her, no area where she will resist His leadership. *Jesus is consistently affirming His bride even in times of difficulty and immaturity.*

We are equipped to go to the higher places only when we know who He is and who He says we are. Jesus calls out what He sees in us so that we can become those very things. We grow into the fullness as we walk in the truth of His word.