

## ***Session 13 The Seal of Fiery Love (Song 8:5-7)***

### **I. THE VICTORIOUS END-TIME CHURCH**

- A. Song 8:5-7 describes the maturity of believers who cultivate a “leaning heart” in the wilderness of this fallen world, and therefore they “come up” in victory empowered by the fire of God’s love.

<sup>5</sup>***Who is this coming up [victory] from the wilderness [difficulties], leaning upon her Beloved?...  
<sup>6</sup>Set Me [Jesus] as a seal on your heart...for love is as strong as death...a most vehement flame.  
(Song 8:5-6)***

- B. ***Wilderness***: This speaks of the temptations and persecutions in the wilderness of this fallen world. We will consider an eschatological application to this passage: many believers will love Jesus *more* than their own lives (Rev. 12:11) and come through the Great Tribulation in victory (Rev. 15:2).

***“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...they did not love their lives to the death.”***  
(Rev. 12:11)

***“...a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast...”*** (Rev. 15:2)

- C. ***Coming up***: The Antichrist will overcome the saints *physically* by killing them (Dan. 7:21, 25; Rev. 6:9-11; 13:7, 15; 19:2), but the saints will overcome the Antichrist *spiritually* by their love for Jesus in the face of persecution and temptation (Rev. 12:11; 15:2; cf. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7).

- D. ***Leaning***: We are to lean on our Beloved Jesus as we live in union with Him and trust His leadership. Like Jacob, the Bride will wrestle with God; thus she limps, leans on, and loves God (Gen. 32).

### **II. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: UNDERSTANDING THE “SEAL OF LOVE”**

- A. The Holy Spirit’s first priority is to establish the first commandment in *first place* in the Church.

<sup>37</sup>***“You shall love the Lord...with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’***  
<sup>38</sup>***This is the first and great commandment.”*** (Mt. 22:37-38)

- B. The command to love God with all our heart does not begin with us. It is one expression of the ultimate reality of the kingdom that existed long before the creation of the world: from eternity past, *God has loved God* with all of His heart—the Father loved the Son, Jesus loved the Spirit, etc.

- C. God also *loves His people* with all His heart and with the same intensity that He loves within the fellowship of the Trinity.

<sup>9</sup>***“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”*** (Jn. 15:9)

<sup>23</sup>***“...that the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me.”*** (Jn. 17:23)

- D. The Father’s love for Jesus is the measure of His love for us.

- E. God first *exhorted* Israel, through Moses, to love Him with all their heart (Deut. 6:5). Later, Moses *propheesied* Israel would love God with all their heart in the end times (Deut. 30:1-6).  
**“The Lord...will circumcise your heart...to love the Lord...with all your heart.” (Deut. 30:6)**
1. Jesus’ statement in Matthew 22:37 was both an *exhortation* and a *prophecy*.
  2. In Matthew 22:38, Jesus elaborated on Moses’ prophecy by adding—*first* and *great*.
- F. **First:** God’s first priority and the Spirit’s first emphasis in the Church is for His people to cultivate deep love for God. Without understanding that God is committed to helping us walk in this, we can be confused about His leadership in our life. His first priority in our life is that we grow in love.
- G. **Great:** It has the *greatest impact* on God’s heart and our heart and is our *greatest calling*.  
**<sup>19</sup>...whoever does and teaches them [commands], he shall be called great in the kingdom...**  
**(Mt. 5:19)**
- H. It is a glorious day when a believer sees Jesus’ words—***first and great***—as pertaining to their life.  
**“The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why.”—Mark Twain**

### III. SEALED WITH FIERY LOVE (SONG 8:6-7)

- A. The King invited the Bride to seek to receive His seal of fire on her *heart* and *arm* (ministry).  
I encourage believers to ask Jesus to “progressively” seal their heart and arm with His fiery love.  
***“Set Me [Jesus] as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for [God’s] love is as strong as death, [God’s] jealousy as cruel [demanding] as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. <sup>7</sup>Many waters [sin, pressures] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (Song 8:6-7)***
- B. In July 1988, while reading Song 8:6, I began to pray, “Jesus, seal my heart with Your fiery love.” Bob Jones called to tell me that at that very time the Lord spoke audibly to him promising to release grace to walk in Song 8:6-7 across the Body of Christ worldwide. This speaks of the message of *God’s love, Jesus as the Bridegroom King, and the first commandment being embraced as first in the body of Christ*. (The first and second commandments are deeply connected to each other and cannot be walked out separately.) The Lord also told Bob that I was to focus on this message.
- C. Song 8:6-7 consists of a command, description, promise, and encouragement. It speaks of God’s people receiving grace or the Spirit’s ministry to reveal and impart God’s love in them.
1. **The command:** to set Jesus as a seal of fire upon our heart and arm

2. **The description:** the seal as strong or comprehensive as death
3. **The promise:** that nothing can quench this fiery seal of love if we yield to it.
4. **The encouragement:** we will have no regrets for giving so much of ourselves to God.

D. **Seal:** The seal is a *progressive* impartation of the Spirit pouring God’s love in our heart (Rom. 5:5). The seal of love on our heart is our present-tense relationship with the Spirit. Thus *our fellowship with the Spirit is the seal*—not our spiritual disciplines nor our record of victories or failures.

<sup>5</sup>***The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit... (Rom. 5:5)***

<sup>13</sup>***In whom, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise... (Eph. 1:13)***

1. In the ancient world, kings put a seal of wax on important documents. They poured melted wax, then stamped it with the king’s signet ring.
2. The royal seal spoke of the king’s ownership, protection, and guarantee that was backed up by the power of his kingdom.

E. **Set Me:** To set Jesus on our heart is to intentionally ask Him to strengthen us by His Spirit until the influences of His love are *progressively* imparted more to our mind, emotions, and ministry. The grace to receive God’s love and to love Him in response is God’s glorious gift to us (Rom. 5:5).

1. By the definition of love, we must invite Him or “set Him” on our heart. He will not force us into a relationship of voluntary love. He waits until we call Him in the matters of our heart.
2. Paul referred to this truth as putting on the Lord Jesus or putting on the new man.

<sup>14</sup>***Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh... (Rom. 13:14)***

<sup>10</sup>***...put on the new man...<sup>14</sup>Above all...put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Col. 3:10-14)***

F. We put Jesus as the seal on our heart by seeking Him earnestly in various ways, including prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word, and obedience—these activities, when done in faith and with confidence in grace, *position our heart* before God to freely receive more of the Spirit’s work in us.

G. **Analogy:** We put our cold heart before the bonfire of God’s presence. Prayer and fasting are not our seal. Spiritual disciplines *only position us* to receive. They do not earn us God’s power. The presence of God is what tenderizes and changes us—not our spiritual disciplines.

H. **Strong as death:** God’s love is as comprehensive as death which claims everything in the natural realm. *Its grasp is comprehensive.* His love will not allow any areas of darkness to escape its grasp.

I. **Jealousy:** God is a consuming fire with jealous love that *demands everything*, just as the grave does. We pray, “Lord, we want more of You.” Then Jesus responds to us saying, “I want more of you.”

<sup>14</sup>*For the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God... (Ex. 34:14)*

<sup>5</sup>*...the Scripture says... “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously” (Jas. 4:5)*

J. **Jealousy as cruel as the grave:** God’s jealous love is “cruel” or as demanding as the grave. In other words, God’s jealous love will not allow any areas of brokenness in our lives to escape its grasp. God’s love poured out in our hearts will conquer every area of sin that we continually yield to Him.

K. **Its flames:** Its flames are a most vehement or powerful flame. The momentary “flashes” of God’s fire speak of the times when the Spirit gives us brief moments of inspiration—over time these moments change us.

1. John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would “baptize His people with fiery love” (Lk. 3:16).

<sup>16</sup>*He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Lk. 3:16)*

2. The believers in the upper room were transformed after encountering this (Acts 2:3).

<sup>3</sup>*There appeared to them...tongues, as of fire, and sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:3)*

3. St. John of the Cross spoke of the Spirit as “*the Living Flame of Love*.”

L. **Many Waters:** God’s seal is compared to a flame of divine fire that cannot be quenched by the waters of sin, pressure, or persecution. Water puts out fire unless it is God’s supernatural fire.

<sup>7</sup>*Many waters [sin or persecution] cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. (Song 8:6)*

1. God’s fiery love is much stronger than “waters” of temptation, immorality, disappointment, bitterness, addiction, lust, pain, anger, etc.

2. Scripture describes a “flood of persecution” in the end times (Rev. 12:15; cf. Isa. 43:1-2).

<sup>15</sup>*So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood...<sup>17</sup>*The dragon was enraged...he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who...have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:15-17)**

<sup>2</sup>*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...they shall not overflow you...” (Isa. 43:2)*

#### IV. THE REWARD OF LOVE (SONG 8:7)

A. The highest reward of true love is found in possessing the ability to love more. The anointing to receive and express God’s love is our greatest reward. Those who are wealthy in love do not look at price tags. In other words, there is no sacrifice that is comparable to what Jesus gives us in His love.

<sup>7</sup>*If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (Song 8:7)*

B. Paul described love for Jesus that will pay any price to know Him more. Paul laid down his status, prestige, honor, and even open doors of opportunity in his pursuit of experiencing more of Christ.

***8I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ... (Phil. 3:8)***

C. You are the only one who can give God all of your love. God will not force us to love Him.

D. Anybody can quit, except a person in love. When we are tempted to quit, the obstacle in our path is that we love God. God is raising up a people who will not quit.