

The Song of Songs

Part 4 – The Pursuit of Intimacy: 'Let Us Run Together'

I. The Cry for Intimacy Expanded

1:4 Draw me after [away with] You and let us run together!

1. The cry for intimacy (1:2 'Let Him kiss me') is further expanded.
2. Even beyond experiencing His love, her heart is crying for something more – to run with Him – to be with Him where He is – a living and active relationship with a living and active God.
3. For the heart in love, an open door policy is not enough. What we love becomes our pursuit.
4. The bride's cry is to know where He is, so that she could go to Him. She is not content with waiting for the next time that He comes to where she is.

1:7 Tell me, O You whom my soul loves,
Where do You pasture Your flock, [Where Thou delightest]
Where do You make it lie down at noon? [Where Thou lighest down at noon]
For why should I be like one who veils herself [a veiled woman]
beside the flocks [ranks] of Your companions?

II. The God Who Moves

2:8 The voice of my Beloved!

Behold, He comes,
Leaping on the mountains,
Skipping on the hills.

1. One of the most awesome realities about God is the fact that He moves. He is the living God.
2. John in **Revelation 4 and 5** sees God – seated serenely on His throne in the midst of chaos.
3. Ezekiel has a slightly different perspective in **Ezekiel 1** and it's terrifyingly awesome. Ezekiel sees throne of God from below. He looks up at the bottom of the crystal sea, and he sees the inner workings of the throne of God.
4. Ezekiel gets to see where God's throne is... or more accurately where it goes. He sees God's throne hovering over the earth, moving throughout the whole earth – carried by the eyes of the Spirit – searching to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him (**2 Chronicles 16:9**).
5. Ezekiel sees that God is on the move – rushing like a whirlwind all across the earth. Ours is the God whose throne has wheels.
Daniel 7:9 “ I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
6. And he sees something about the burning ones: wherever the Spirit wants to go, that's where they go. Without turning, eyes fixed on the One upon the throne, they track the movements of His heart. They maintain their nearness to His presence by following Him.

III. Tracking the Movements of God's Heart

1:7 Tell me, O You whom my soul loves,
Where do You pasture Your flock, [Where Thou delightest]
Where do You make it lie down at noon? [Where Thou lighest down at noon]
For why should I be like one who veils herself [a veiled woman]
beside the flocks [ranks] of Your companions?

1. One of the biggest reasons we need a life of prayer is to track the movements of God's heart. God where are You moving? Where are You resting?
2. God is not to be known only for what He did or what He's going to do, He is to be known for what He is doing. He is not only the God of the gospel or the God of heaven. He is also the God of earth and the God of you and me.
3. The context of our relationship with God is not the pages of history or the distant spiritual realm of eternity. God created the earth and all that is in it as the scenario in which He chose for us to grow to love Him. God planted a garden, and He set man in it to tend it.
Genesis 2:8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;
4. One of the most important things we can be asking God is 'what are You doing?' 'What are You doing in my life?' 'What are You doing in the world around me?'
5. God not only allows us, but wants us to know what He's doing and what He's on His heart. He invites us to join our heart to His and our will to His.

IV. The Call to Follow

2:10 My Beloved responded and said to me,
Rise up, My love, My fair one,
And come away with Me.

1. The cry to run is not ignored, He responds. He calls her to run with Him just as she had asked.
2. The God who moves has called us to follow, and not just to follow His commands, but to follow Him.
Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 20 At once they left their nets and followed Him.
3. Jesus had two types of followings during His earthly ministry: the multitudes, and the followers. Some came to see Him when He was ministering in their town. Others made following Him their life pursuit.

4. Our journey with God is just exactly that – a journey. It is a pilgrimage from strength to strength, glory to glory until we arrive before God.
Psalm 84:5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.
5. It is an invitation, day after day after day, to wake up and ask God where He's going and what He's doing that day.
6. Those who view their walk with God as something that affects only their eternal destiny have missed the glory of loving a living God.
7. If we're bored with God we need to take up the pursuit of actually following Him – of actively taking part in what He's doing in our lives and around us. There is no greater adventure than following God.
8. When our heart is set on knowing His heart and our will on 100% obedience to all that we find, life is a never-ending adventure of pursuing the One we love.
Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

V. The Call to Overcome

2:15 Catch for us the foxes,
The little foxes that ruin the vineyards,
Our vineyards that are in bloom.

1. The call to rise up and run includes a call to throw off everything that hinders our race.
Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
2. It's a call to rise up and overcome as He has overcome – to leap on the mountains with Him – the mountains of separation.
3. God is in the business of removing everything that stands between Him and us, but as with everything, He insists on our active partnership.
4. He comes leaping over every obstacle that hinders His love... except one.
2:9b Behold, He stands behind our wall,
Gazing through the windows,
Peering through the lattice.

5. The one obstacle God will not leap over is 'our wall' – the boundaries that we have set around our hearts. We have to voluntarily surrender that safety and step out to join Him.
6. If we're honest, we've lived much of our lives in dread of God speaking. We're afraid He's going to speak correction, or ask us to do something that makes us uncomfortable. If we can get a revelation of running with God – we will love to hear that voice.
7. The good news is we're following a God who is fully able to overcome every mountain that He calls us to run on. And not only that, He enjoys it. He doesn't just walk over the hills – He leaps and He skips.
2:8 The voice of my Beloved!
 Behold, He comes,
 Leaping on the mountains,
 Skipping on the hills.
8. He calls us to overcome, not so that He can watch us to see if we make it, but so that He can run with us and write a story in us.

VI. An Invitation Missed

- 2:16** My Beloved is mine and I am His;
 He pastures His flock among the lilies.
 17 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away,
 Turn, my Beloved, and be like a gazelle
 Or a young stag on the mountains of separation.
1. As always, God plays the perfect gentleman – He invites, but He will not force. And the bride does not respond to His invitation.
 2. Her revelation of His love at this point is centered largely on what she has in Him – it will later shift to what He has in her. She's totally missed His longing for her (or else she's playing hard to get).
2:14 O My dove, in the clefts of the rock,
 In the secret places of the cliff,
 Let Me see your face,
 Let Me hear your voice;
 For your voice is sweet,
 And your face is lovely.
 3. She's enthralled by His love – ever so enjoying that He has come after her, that He's gazing in her window... but she hasn't connected that this is exactly what she asked for when she asked to love Him – to run with Him. She tells Him to turn and go on running – she'll watch from the safety of her window.
 4. But it doesn't last long – she comes to a profound revelation: 'I miss Him.' Running with God is not optional if we're going to experience the depths of His love. There is only so much of His love we can know from behind our window. If we're not responding to His invitations to run we will find that He's going places without us – and then it's time to rise up and go after Him.
3:1 By night on my bed I sought the One I love;
 I sought Him but did not find Him.
 2 I will rise now and go about the city,
 in the streets and in the squares;
 I will seek the One my soul loves.