

LIFE AND BUILDING AS REVEALED IN SONG OF SONGS

Message Four

Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and Being Equipped to Work with the Lord

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; Eph. 6:10-20; Song of Songs 4:8; 6:10; 7:1, 4, 5, 7, 11-12

I. When the seeking one becomes the city, she is also an army with banners—S.S. 6:4, 10:

- A. She is not just an armory as in the past (4:4), which is defensive, but an army, which is offensive.
- B. It is not just a matter of defending the kingdom but also of fighting for the kingdom.
- C. An army with banners signifies that the seeking one has become an army marching in triumphant victory.

II. Wherever the building of the church is, there is the need for spiritual warfare—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 6:10-20:

- A. The Israelites who worked on the building with Nehemiah labored with one hand to build and with the other hand held their weapons for fighting the battle—Neh. 4:17.
- B. In Ezekiel 37:2-10 all the dry bones, after being inbreathed with life, came alive to be built into the habitation of God; at the same time they were formed into an army.
- C. The city is God's dwelling place, but it is also the fighting army to the enemy.

III. Spiritual warfare is based on the victory of Christ—Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 1 John 3:8:

- A. The starting point of spiritual warfare is standing on the victory of Christ; it is seeing that Christ has already defeated the enemy—S. S. 4:8; Rev. 3:21; 5:5-6:
 - 1. The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil—1 John 3:8.
 - 2. In His incarnation and human living Christ defeated Satan during the temptation in the wilderness—Matt. 4:1-11.
 - 3. Through death the Lord Jesus destroyed the devil, who has the might of death; He abolished Satan, brought him to nought—Heb. 2:14.
- B. The work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory; the Lord has already won the battle, and the church is here to maintain His victory—Eph. 6:11, 13.

IV. Spiritual warfare is a matter of the Body of Christ; we must fight the battle in the Body—Eph. 1:22-23:

- A. Spiritual warfare is not an individual matter; it is a matter of the Body—4:12, 16; 5:30.
- B. The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers together make up this corporate warrior—6:10-20.
- C. If we read Ephesians from chapter 1 to chapter 6, we will see that warfare is a matter of the Body of Christ, and the Body is a new creation in Christ, in the Spirit, and in the heavenlies—2:6:
 - 1. If we do not have the Body life, we are not adequate to engage in spiritual warfare.
 - 2. In order to fight the battle, we must be in the reality of the Body—4:12, 16.
- D. After we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy—6:11-12.

V. "Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, / As beautiful as the moon, / As clear as the sun, / As terrible as an army with banners?"—S.S. 6:10:

- A. She looks forth like the dawn, the breaking of day—cf. 2:17; 4:6.
- B. There is no more shadow, no more darkness with her; she is completely filled with light like the moon and the sun—Prov. 4:18.
- C. "Return, return, O Shulammitte; / Return, return, that we may gaze at you. / Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, / As upon the dance of two camps?"—S.S. 6:13:

1. *Shulammitte* is the feminine form of *Solomon*; the use of this name here indicates that at this point she has become Solomon's duplication, counterpart, the same as Solomon in life, nature, expression, and function, as Eve was to Adam—Gen. 2:20-23.
2. The spiritual significance of the two camps as two armies is that we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37); it also signifies a strong testimony.
3. There being two armies indicates that the country girl, the Shulammitte, was not alone; an army indicates the principle of the Body of Christ—Rom. 12:5.

VI. The seeking one has reached the consummate attainment; she is now qualified to work with the Lord:

- A. "How beautiful are your footsteps in sandals, / O prince's daughter!"—S.S. 7:1a:
 1. *Footsteps* indicate action which has already taken place; it is the beauty of her action and her move.
 2. Her move is not with bare feet but with shoes that keep her feet from the defilement of the earth—cf. Luke 15:22; Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15.
- B. "Your rounded thighs are like jewels, / The work of the hands of a skilled artist"—S.S. 7:1b:
 1. Jewels are precious gems that have been transformed by a skillful workman, who is God Himself as the Spirit—2 Cor. 3:18.
 2. Her thighs like jewels represent her standing power and stability.
- C. "Your neck is like a tower of ivory"—7:4a:
 1. A tower of ivory means that her neck is full of resurrection life.
 2. Her neck is a tower ministering life in resurrection.
- D. "Your eyes, like the pools in Heshbon / By the gate of Bath-rabbim"—7:4b:
 1. Eyes like pools are enlarged and broadened to cover the whole universe.
 2. A gate is for coming in and going out, which implies communication of fellowship.
- E. "Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, / Which faces Damascus"—7:4c:
 1. The function of the nose is to smell; here it signifies the lover's spiritual sense of high and sharp discernment—cf. Phil. 1:9-10; Heb. 5:14.
 2. This is for safeguarding the Lord's work.
- F. "Your head upon you is like Carmel, / And the locks of your head like purple. / The king is fettered by your tresses"—7:5:
 1. A lock is a bundle of hair which has been dealt with, plaited, and bound together, signifying submission—cf. Num. 6:5a and note.
 2. Her submission is so high, with the color of purple, that it brings in the Lord's kingship and authority.
- G. "This your stature is like a palm tree, / And your breasts are like the clusters"—7:7:
 1. She is so full of life that she does not care for her own needs but mainly for the needs of others.
 2. Her stature being like a palm tree signifies that she has the full stature of the fullness of Christ—Eph. 4:13.

VII. "Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the fields; / Let us lodge in the villages. / Let us rise up early for the vineyards; / Let us see if the vine has budded, / If the blossom is open, / If pomegranates are in bloom; / There I will give you my love"—S.S. 7:11-12:

- A. She and her Beloved work diligently not for herself but in the churches (vineyards) for other believers to bud, blossom, and bloom.
- B. In the churches she renders her love to her Beloved.