

# A LILY OF THE VALLEY

## Apostle Mark Kauffman

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*“The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's. Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. Because of the savor of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.” Song of Solomon 1:1-4*

The book of Solomon is allegorical. It is speaking figuratively. There are many theologians of old who have said this book should not be included in the Bible because it has nothing to do with Christ, but it absolutely does! This book tells of the love story between Jesus Christ and His beloved wife (the Shulamite woman) the Church.

*“Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth. His love is better than wine.”* The word *kiss* in this passage means *to burn or catch fire*. The Lord Jesus Christ is searching for a bride who will burn with a deep love for Him. He desires a people who are passionate and pursuing to become more intimate with Him.

God does not like, nor does He respond to mediocrity, lukewarm or passive Christianity. In Revelation 3:16 God is

speaking to the church of Laodicea who have become lukewarm, *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.”*

The word *spew* in this verse is a nice way of saying *vomit*. King James used the word *spew* but *vomit* expresses what God is saying more clearly. You only vomit something that does not agree with you. *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”* Amos 3:3. It is important that you and I continually stay in agreement with God. In order to do so is to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Coming into agreement brings real intimacy into your relationship with the Lord. One day I asked the Lord regarding Revelation 3:16, *“Why are we in your mouth? I thought we were in your hand?”* The Bible says that Jesus told the Father, *“I have never lost a one you put in my hand”*. But God answered me saying, *“No, you are in the mouth of God”*. In the Song of Solomon we learn that God came down to *“feed among the lilies”* Song of Solomon 2:6b. So why would anyone be in the Lord's mouth? The answer is because He feeds among the lilies, and figuratively speaking we are the lilies. Being in the mouth of God speaks of a people who have come into a place of intimacy with the Father.

*“I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”*

Song of Solomon 2:1-2

When I was growing up, we had what I call a “songbook theology.” Meaning, we would sing songs from our hymnbooks and think that the scriptures said what we were singing simply because it said so in our hymnal. For example, we used to sing *He* is the rose of Sharon, *He* is the lily of the valley and *He* is the bright and morning star, but that is not what the Bible says. He is not the lily of the valley, *YOU* are the lily of the valley, and it is the Shulamite woman found in the Song of Solomon who is saying, “*I am the rose of Sharon and I am lily of the valley.*”

In this hour, God is raising-up and resurrecting His people in the midst of their valley experiences. We will experience many valleys in our walk with God. The key to coming out of a valley is to understand that we do not GO out, but we GROW out of our valley. As a lily we grow and mature. The lily always speaks of resurrection. When God plants us in a valley, a dry and dark place, rest assured that the resurrection power of Jesus Christ is about to be manifested in your life! Sometimes, until you are resurrected, you may feel like you are the only person going through a valley experience. The Shulamite woman expressed it this way, “*I am a lily among thorns.*” She was not able to identify with anyone or anything else around her. She felt alone and surrounded by “thorns”. Your “thorns” can be anything that is contrary to you; your mother-in-law, your neighbor, an employee or employer, a financial situation or sickness. While planted in the valley God will permit people and situations to “grow” around you, but their purpose is to cause you press towards the heavenlies so you can outgrow your valley. The thorns are designed to transition you from walking in

your flesh and to teach to walk in the spirit—a level of maturity obtained as you ascend into a higher realm in God. The only way you can remove the thorn from your flesh is not to remove the thorn, but to remove the flesh. In Colossians 3:3 it says, “*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*” When you come to a place where you die to yourself the flesh is removed and nothing can hurt you. It is impossible to hurt a dead man. In 2 Corinthians chapter 12, the Apostle Paul speaks of a thorn in his flesh that he had asked the Lord to remove from him three times. But instead of removing the thorn God responded by saying, “*My grace is sufficient for thee.*” God did not remove the thorn from Paul’s life because His purpose was to remove the fleshly nature out of Paul. God is more interested in dealing with our flesh than in making us comfortable. If we desire to experience resurrection life, we must first experience death to ourselves.

The lily has other attributes from which we can learn as well. The lily that we are speaking of is white which denotes holiness and purity. God is causing us to mature and grow into a people of holiness and purity who will walk in and demonstrate the character of Christ. We will act just like Him. The lily will close its petals in darkness, but it will open itself to the light



of the sun. God is developing a people who will close themselves to places of darkness, not permitting sin and perversion to dwell in them, but who open themselves up wide to the Son of God. They are a pure, sanctified, spirit-filled, holy and righteous people. The lily also speaks of worship and warfare. When we worship we are opening ourselves to the Son and everything He desires for us. The lily never grows crooked, but always grows upright and straight. A militant bride arises out of worship who stands upright and strong in the midst of adversity (valley experiences), not breaking rank, but maintaining her position until victory is achieved. The lily when it opens up resembles a trumpet which speaks of the prophetic. Lilies were found in the Temple of Solomon signifying a prophetic voice. We are developed into a prophetic people as we grow in our valleys. We receive a testimony that no one has. This is why the Shulamite woman is able to say, *"I am the lily in the valley."* She is proud to be God's lily. There may be other lilies in other valleys, but *she* is the lily in *this* valley. No matter what circumstances you are in you need to stand upright, open up your mouth and say, *"I am the lily in this valley!"* Take possession of your valley. Just like this Shulamite woman we must come to the realization that everything around us is being used for our benefit, causing us to mature into what we were born to be. Greater is He who is in us than any thorn that is in our patch!

*"His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: His lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh."* Song of Solomon 5:13

*"His lips are like lilies."* When God kisses you He resurrects you! Remember when you entered into salvation and Jesus kissed you

for the first time? It was a kiss of intimacy. He kissed you right on the lips and breathed His life into you. The first kiss ever given by God was to Adam. He breathed His resurrection life into him which awakened Adam to his purpose. Some of you need a good kiss from heaven. You need to get intimate with God because He wants to awaken His purpose inside of you, and He doesn't intend for you to experience a once-and-for-all kiss. God desires to have an ongoing intimate relationship with you so that He can awaken your spirit everyday to new realms in Him. If you want to move into your destiny and purpose and the next dimension that God has called you to- it is going to take intimacy.

*"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine".*

Song of Solomon 1:2

*His love is better than wine!* Wine is good but the Word says that His love is better. Wine speaks to us of the gifts and baptism of the Holy Spirit, the supernatural realm. He did not say that we should not pursue the wine, but He is saying His love is *better*. As we fall in love with Him He will give us the wine of the Holy Spirit, but His love is what we must pursue. However; we must not turn away from the gift of the Holy Spirit as it is also an essential part of our relationship with our Beloved. In John chapter 2 a wedding is taking place in Cana. During the celebration, after the marriage covenant has been established, they run out of wine. Jesus, who is in attendance, performs His first miracle by turning the water in six large vessels into wine. What is God saying? Covenant is good, and it should be celebrated with wine. When wine (the Holy Spirit) is in the church it is a sign that

God has made a covenant with the people and He is celebrating His covenant with them. People will be laughing, being healed and rejoicing, and all of this is directly linked to those in the house who are in love with Jesus. Those who have kissed the Son and caused God to bring the wine, loose the Holy Ghost and celebrate the marriage between Him and them.

So what must we do to enter into such a covenant with the Lord? Luke 12:27 tells us to, *“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”* Jesus was not speaking here about some flower in a garden, He was talking about us. We do not have to toil and work so hard to be a Christian. All we need to do is receive the *rain of heaven* that God pours out, receive the *heat and light* that comes upon us, and just let God *grow* (mature) us in our relationship Him. We often think that the things we do, or the works of our flesh, make us look more like Jesus. They do not. That kind of a mentality is a religious spirit which is destructive to us because it shifts our focus from being in love with Him to doing things for Him. Falling in love with Him is all we need to do. God will clothe us in His likeness and nature. It is not by our might or by our own power, it is by His grace. *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* *Philippians 2:12* Our responsibility it to *work out* our salvation, not *work for* it. We “work it out” by “walking it out”. It takes the inner working of the Holy Ghost everyday to mature and

develop us into becoming more like Him. All we need to do is receive it.

*“My Beloved is mine, and I am His. He feeds His flocks among the lilies.”*

Song of Solomon 4:16

*“He feeds among the lilies.”* It is God’s whole purpose and desire to feed among us. The Garden of God is not a specific place geographically or a natural location, but it is the same garden experienced by Adam and Eve--a place in the spirit realm where heaven and earth come together. *In the Song of Solomon 5:10* it reads, *“My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.”* In this scripture the Bride of Christ (us) is speaking of the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ). The name Adam means ruddy or red. He was made of the red clay of the earth. White speaks of the divinity of Christ. Jesus came as all God (white) and all man (red). God and man meet in the God-man of Jesus Christ and in this meeting we connect with heaven. This is where heaven and earth come together in the garden of God. When we enter into praise and worship together we open ourselves to God, and create a garden where God can feed among His lilies. It is amazing to think that God would come to feed upon us.

*“My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies.”*

Song of Solomon 2:16

The Shulamite woman’s confession is ‘He is mine’. Most of the church never moves beyond this realm which is really only the beginning. God always works within His people in threes, meaning there is a progression in our walk with God. For example, let’s look at the tabernacle of

Moses as it demonstrates how our relationship with God deepens as we mature. We all begin at the Outer Court (salvation) where most people are content to stay, but our walk does not stop here. From the Outer Court we move into the Holy Place where we experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the spirit are stirred within us. We learn how to be led by the Spirit, not the flesh, and begin to operate in the power of God. Finally we enter into the Most Holy Place where the Presence and fullness of God dwells. This is a place of intimacy and total dependency upon our Beloved. In this scripture the Shulamite woman declares 'He is mine' much like we do when we enter our initial encounter with God. We say, "He is my Savior", He is my deliverer, He is my healer, He changed my life and this is who He is to me. But the woman goes on to say, "I am His". Can you see the progression here in her pursuit of her beloved? She moves beyond her only interest being on what He has for her, and enters the realm of understanding that she too belongs to Him. She has something to give to Him as well. God expects a new Christian to be focused on what He has done for them, but He does not expect you 30 years later to still be saying, "well my beloved is mine". By remaining in that same shallow relationship you will move into self-centered Christianity. You will love the promises of God more the God of the promises. It is imperative that we move forward and progress in our walk with God.

*"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies."*

Song of Solomon 6:3

Now she says *"I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine"*. She has made a shift in the spirit. Something has begun to mature and change on the inside of her where she is now giving and consecrating herself to Him. She is surrendering her life and entering into covenant. In covenantal relationship you "bleed" to meet the "need", meaning you remain faithful to the one you are in covenant with no matter what happens. Covenant is not two different worlds coming together, but it is two different worlds becoming one. You become inseparable. In churches today people come to see what they can receive and not what they can give into it, and they remain as long as they agree with how the church is operated, this is not covenant. Covenant is covenant whether or not you agree. It is not sameness. We must learn to work out our disagreements and understand that even though we may not always agree, our ultimate goal is the same-to become passionately in love with our Beloved. If we cannot establish a true covenant with one another we will remain in a state of infancy (babyhood) instead of maturing into an infantry (a militant church). It is time the church begins to mature and move from self-centered Christianity to a Christ-centered lifestyle. We cannot enter into the next realm until this shift occurs. The entire book of the Song of Solomon is about a woman who is self-centered until finally in chapter 8 she becomes Christ centered. She is leaning on her beloved coming out of her valley.

*"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me."* Song of Solomon 7:10

Notice the progression of the love and maturity this woman has now grown into. Her love and commitment to the



relationship is not based upon what He does for her any longer, but upon who He is. Why do people leave churches? Simple, they cannot have it their own way. They are not receiving what they think they should so they leave. The truth is, He is better than anything! What she is saying is that the Beloved himself is better than anything He could *give to her*.

*“Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee. My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.”*

Song of Solomon 6:1-2

*“I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?”*

Song of Solomon 3:2-3

In the first passage we see that the Beloved has withdrawn himself from his lover. Have you ever felt like God has withdrawn Himself from you and you could not find Him? During these times we must not draw back, but instead we must pursue Him like we never have before! The people who have not yet developed an intimate relationship with the Beloved ask the Shulamite woman, “Where is your beloved?” “Where has He gone that we may seek Him with you?” As shown in the second passage her desperation as she pursues her Beloved

with great intensity, and they want to experience the same love that has consumed her. The greatest way to harvest a community is to be so passionately in love with Jesus that it draws others to follow, and desire that same relationship. They will only come when they see that our lover is better than theirs. I think it is time we begin to fervently pursue Jesus so that we will arise into higher realms of praise and worship. When people walk into our churches and experience such intimate worship they will say, “Where is this beloved?” “Let us find Him with you.” Then they will leave their lover for ours.

The second passage also says that she looked for Him in the ‘broadways’ which speaks of the world, and in the ‘city’ which speaks of the religious church. She did not find Him in either place. You will not find God in most of the churches in America today. His name is on the sign outside of the building but He no longer dwells there. Some will boast that their church experienced a move of God 20 years ago or that He manifested Himself in a service last month, but where is He now?

The Shulamite woman did not stay in the city, and like her, if you are intimate with Jesus you will divorce religion and move out of the place you are in. There are people in churches today who are hungry for Him and they are crying out for the Beloved. Many of them are beginning to leave their dried up churches and travel from far and near to seek after the presence of God. They want to find the place where the kiss of the Beloved is felt. These people are not looking for a church, but a garden.

Where is the beloved? He has gone down into His garden, where His lilies grow. A place where heaven and earth have come together and a people are opening themselves up to Him in praise and worship, and who are feeding Him and He is feeding them. I believe this is a season when our Heavenly Father wants to apprehend us and take us into a new realm that we have never experienced. It is important that our hearts be full and overflowing with expectation to meet Him in that place. We must desire to become deeply intimate in order to surpass our current experience with Him. Just one kiss from the Father is all it takes.



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He is married to Jill Kauffman, who pastors along with him, and has 3 sons Anthony, Ryan & Christian Mark and a granddaughter, Alexandra Irene.