



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

September/October, 2015

Pure Passion

Song of Solomon 7:11-14 records Abishag's response to Solomon's passion. She expresses her love and desire for Solomon in these verses. She longs to be alone with Him. She reciprocates the passion that Solomon had expressed.

In **Song of Solomon 8:1-4**, she is still desiring a greater intimacy with her beloved. Without this, she cannot be satisfied. Her words manifest her passion. This is the longing, the yearning, of her heart and body. Her words in **8:1-4** speak of pure passion. This pure passion is to characterize the marriage relationship along with our relationship to Christ.

This text reveals three things about this pure passion:

Pure passion expresses itself (8:1-2)

Abishag begins by saying, "Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother's breasts. If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none

would despise me." In the Ancient Near East, it was considered appropriate only for near relatives to engage in public displays of affection. Kissing a husband in public would have erotic implications likely thought unseemly in public.

Abishag wanted everyone to know how she felt about her husband. She would not overturn accepted social expectations and suffer scorn and ridicule. Yet, this had to be sweet to the ears of her husband. This had to stir Solomon and draw him closer to her. This verse may sound strange to modern Western ears. However, they would have spoken beautifully to the heart of Solomon.

Kind, loving words are welcomed anywhere and any time. They are crucial to keeping us well connected. In a marriage, these expressions of passion are like glue that helps a couple cling together in the mundane days of life to the times of stress and the seasons of despair. Abishag made no assumptions. She left nothing to chance. She expressed her love and passion for Solomon in clear, concrete terms.

This is crucial in the marriage relationship. Are you expressing your love and passion for your spouse? Are you conveying in no uncertain terms the love and desire that you have for him or her? Make no assumptions. Leave nothing to chance. Express your love. Make known your desire for him or her.

The same is true in your relationship to Jesus Christ. Do you express your desire for Him to Him? When was the last time you told Jesus that you loved him and needed Him? Do you praise Him and adore Him daily? We are to make known our desire for Him to Him. This honors Him and draws us closer to Him.

She goes on to indicate that she would initiate this passion, "I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother – she who used to teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate (8:2).

She now fantasizes about an intimate rendezvous with her husband. She is the initiator of the passion. Abishag wants him not just to taste wine but her own sweet juices. The juice of a pomegranate is very rich and flavorful. Her words are sensuous and passionate.

Do you seek to have times of intimacy? Do you initiate times of love and passion? These verses call for expressing your passion not just with words but also with actions. It is a challenge to give your very best to your spouse – to shower your spouse with your love and passion.

This also speaks to our relationship to Jesus Christ. While we are to express our love and desire to Christ, we are to initiate times of prayer and worship. We are to make time to get alone and to get with Him. This is the desire of every believing heart – to have times alone with Jesus to praise, adore, and pour out his or her love on Him.

Pure passion provides protection (8:3)

In **Song of Solomon 8:3**, we have a picture of deep intimacy, "His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me." She longs for Solomon to hold her gently and tenderly. She desires his touch, his caresses. This is a picture of them simply laying with each other, holding each other and loving each other.

What a powerful picture of intimacy! It is this kind of passion that protects a relationship. It is this kind of intimacy that is a safeguard against the temptation to stray. Pure passion provides protection for the relationship.

Solomon offers a powerful contrast in these verses. In **Song of Solomon 8:2**, Abishag says, "I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranates." In **Proverbs 9**, Solomon writes about the woman Folly who offers something different, "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant" (9:17). One has to face a decision between the sweet, abiding intimacy of pure passion or the temporary pleasure of

a fleeting affair. Pure passion provides protection for a relationship.

The same is true in our relationship with Jesus Christ. The only way that we can overcome sin and idolatry is to abide in Jesus. We have to make time for Him. We have to adore and develop intimacy with Him in prayer. We have to listen to His sweet, powerful voice through His Word. We must embrace Him and cling to Him in worship. Willpower is not enough. Pure passion, deep intimacy, is a safeguard against the lure of sin and the world.

Pure passion is patient (8:4)

This text closes with these familiar words, “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you stir up or awaken love until it pleases” (**Song of Solomon 8:4**). Abishag repeats the warning of **Song of Solomon 2:7** and **3:5**. A relationship comes about only with great patience and perseverance. The kind of passion this text speaks of doesn’t come overnight. The intimacy displayed in this verse takes time and work.

This text is a call to pursue this intimacy. It is a goal that spouses are to strive after in their relationship. How can one pursue this pure passion? It starts with prayer. Call on God to help and intervene in your relationship. Ask God to help you love and bless your spouse. Labor to do the little things. Intimacy is often sparked by kindness in the small

things of life. Be committed to this kind of intimacy. Don’t give up or quit. Don’t let discouragement hamper your pursuit. God can and He will help you. Persevere through the hard times. It will be worth it.

The same is true of our relationship to Jesus Christ. Developing an intimate relationship with Christ takes time and work. We have to persevere in the spiritual disciplines – prayer, the Word, worship, fellowship. Keep pursuing Jesus through these things. Stay focused on Christ and that through these things you can develop your relationship to Him.

Hang in there in the tough times – the cold seasons when He seems far away, the times of temptation and backsliding, and the times when your desire is at a low ebb. Keep pursuing Jesus; it will be worth it. Right now, tell Jesus how much you need Him and how you want your passion for Him to be pure, deep, and abiding.

The World Prayer Plan

November

- 1-Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2-Tuvalu
- 3-Uganda-The Church
- 4-Uganda-The Lost
- 5-Ukraine-The Church
- 6-United Arab Emirates
- 7-United Kingdom-The Church
- 8-United Kingdom-The Lost
- 9-United Kingdom-Spiritual Awakening
- 10-England
- 11-Northern Ireland
- 12-Scotland

13-Wales
 14-United States-The Church
 15-United States-The Lost
 16-United States-Spiritual Awakening
 17-United States-Missionary Fervor
 18-United States-Government
 19-United States-Spiritual Unity
 20-Uruguay
 21-Uzbekistan
 22-Vanuatu
 23-Venezuala-The Church
 24-Venezuala-The Lost
 25-Vietnam-The Church
 26-Vietnam-The Lost
 27-Vietnam-Open Doors
 28-Virgin Islands
 29-Revival In Caribbean
 30-Wallis and Futura Islands

December

1-Yemen-The Church
 2-Yemen-The Lost
 3-Yugoslavia
 4-Bosnia
 5-Hercegovina
 6-Montenegro
 7-Serbia
 8-Macedonia
 9-Zaire-The Church
 10-Zaire-The Lost
 11-Zambia
 12-Zimbabwe
 13-Africa
 14-Asia
 15-Caribbean
 16-Eurasia
 17-Europe
 18-Latin America
 19-Middle East
 20-North America
 21-Pacific
 22-The Fall of Islam
 23-The Fall of Hinduism

24-Bible Translation and Distribution Across the World
 25-That The Glory and Power of Jesus Would Be Seen Across The World
 26-More Missionaries
 27-Believers With A Heart For The World
 28-Increase In Giving To Mission Efforts
 29-Destruction of Satan's Grip Over the Nations
 30-Worldwide Prayer For World Evangelization
 31-The Soon Return Of Jesus

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