

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

April 15, 2025 – Song of Songs: The Journey into Wholehearted Love – Rendu Paras

Day 46 – The First Test of Maturity: When He Withdraws (Song 5:6)

“I opened for my Beloved, but my Beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when He spoke. I sought Him, but I could not find Him; I called Him, but He gave me no answer.”

— Song of Songs 5:6

This moment marks a significant turning point in the Bride’s spiritual journey. She hears His voice, rises in obedience, and opens the door with longing, only to find that He’s gone. No answer. No presence. Just silence.

But this time is different.

Earlier in Song of Songs (chapter 3), the Lord withdrew because of her hesitation. Then, it was discipline for reluctance. But here in chapter 5, she is fully obedient, wholehearted, surrendered, and willing. So why would He hide His face now?

Because this is the first true test of spiritual maturity. He is not punishing her; He is maturing her.

God often deepens our love not through abundance, but through absence, at least the feeling of absence. He withdraws the tangible sense of His nearness, not to discourage us, but to draw us deeper. It’s the spiritual equivalent of a parent stepping back to let a child learn how to walk. He is not gone. He is inviting us into deeper love.

It’s in this silence that our hearts are tested:

Will we still seek Him?

Will we still love Him?

Will we still trust Him, even when He feels far?

This is where mature love is born. Not a love dependent on emotion, but a love rooted in covenant. A love that says, “I’m in this not for what You give me, but for who You are.”

Many of us have walked through this. We begin to seek the Lord with sincerity and passion. We’re not perfect, but our hearts are set on Him. And yet, we don’t feel Him. We pray, and there’s no answer. We worship, but heaven seems silent. We ask, “Lord, what am I doing wrong?”

But maybe... nothing’s wrong.

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Maybe He's drawing something out of you. Maybe He's asking:

"Will you still love Me, even if you don't feel Me? Are you in this for the feelings, or are you in this for Me?"

We see this same pattern in Scripture. Look at David. As a young man, he encountered God, walked in favor, and was anointed to be king. But suddenly, the favor lifts. Persecution comes. He is driven into the wilderness, wrestling with despair and confusion.

What happened?

God hadn't abandoned him. He was forming him.

"I am making you into a king and a lover of My heart."

This is the hidden part of the calling. The process. The refining. The silence that draws out steadfastness.

So if you find yourself in that place today where you're seeking, but not sensing, don't lose heart. He's not far. He's forming something deeper in you. Let that silent space become sacred. Let it mature your love. Let it prove your devotion.

Because in it all, His promise remains:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." — Hebrews 13:5