

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 — The Bride's Longing and Praise for Her Beloved

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 moves through several emotional stages of love.

The chapter begins with delight.

The groom enters the garden and enjoys the love of his bride.

Then the scene changes.

The bride hears her beloved knocking.

At first, she hesitates.

By the time she rises to open the door:

He is gone.

The moment has passed.

She searches.

She calls.

She suffers.

She longs.

Yet her love does not disappear.

When the daughters of Jerusalem ask:

“What is your beloved more than another beloved?”

The bride answers by praising him from head to foot.

She describes:

His appearance.

His strength.

His eyes.

His words.

His presence.

His beauty.

And finally:

His friendship.

The chapter therefore teaches several powerful lessons.

Love should not be treated casually.

Opportunities for closeness can be missed.

Delayed response can produce regret.

Love may endure seasons of distance and disappointment.

And true love continues to see value in the beloved even during difficult moments.

The bride ends with one of the strongest descriptions in the Song:

“He is altogether lovely.”

But she adds something equally important:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Romantic love is strengthened when the beloved is also a friend.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 5 is:

Faithful love delights in intimacy, responds to opportunities for closeness, perseveres through distance and difficulty, and continues to see the beloved as precious, desirable, and worthy of praise.

I. THE GROOM ENTERS HIS GARDEN

Song of Solomon 5:1 — The Joy of Marital Love

“I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice, I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey, I have drunk my wine with my milk. Eat, friends; drink and be filled with love.”

Chapter 4 ended with the bride inviting her beloved into the garden.

Chapter 5 begins with his response.

He comes.

He receives.

He enjoys.

The garden imagery continues to represent intimate marital love.

There is:

Myrrh.

Spice.

Honey.

Wine.

Milk.

Everything communicates:

Delight.

Abundance.

Satisfaction.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:16

The bride invited the winds to blow through her garden so its fragrance would spread, and she willingly invited her beloved to enter and enjoy its choice fruit.

John 2:9

At the wedding in Cana, the master of the feast tasted the water Jesus had turned into wine, though he did not know where it had come from.

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says, “I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and share fellowship with that person.”

Spiritual Principle

Within faithful marriage, intimacy is presented as something joyful and good.

Key Truth

Godly intimacy is not merely tolerated.

It is celebrated within committed love.

II. THE BRIDE HEARS HER BELOVED KNOCKING

Song of Solomon 5:2 — “Open to Me”

“I slept, but my heart was awake. It was the voice of my beloved—he was knocking: ‘Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one. My head is wet with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.’”

The bride is resting.

Yet she hears him.

Her beloved is outside.

He has come through the night.

His hair is wet with dew.

He asks her to open.

Notice the tenderness of his words.

He calls her:

My sister.

My love.

My dove.

My perfect one.

Cross References

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says that He stands at the door and knocks, calling people to hear His voice and open so that fellowship can take place.

Song of Solomon 2:14

The groom had already called his bride his dove and asked to see her face and hear her voice because both were lovely to him.

Luke 12:36

Jesus told His followers to be like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding celebration so they can open the door immediately when he arrives and knocks.

Spiritual Principle

Love creates opportunities for response.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not become so comfortable that you become insensitive to the person seeking closeness with you.

III. THE BRIDE HESITATES

Song of Solomon 5:3 — Convenience Becomes an Excuse

“But I said, ‘I have taken off my robe; how can I put it back on? I have washed my feet; must I dirty them again?’”

Her beloved is at the door.

But she hesitates.

Her reasons are small:

She is already undressed for sleep.

Her feet are clean.

Opening the door will inconvenience her.

This is a striking contrast.

He has come through the damp night.

She hesitates because getting up is inconvenient.

Cross References

John 13:10

Jesus explained that a person who has bathed needs only the feet washed, because the rest of the body is already clean.

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to one another, because you have put away the old way of life and the practices that belonged to it.

Revelation 3:18

Jesus counsels the spiritually complacent to receive from Him what they truly need, including white garments so their shame may be covered and spiritual sight may be restored.

Spiritual Principle

Small inconveniences can create larger relational consequences.

Key Truth

Love sometimes requires getting up when staying comfortable would be easier.

IV. HER HEART RESPONDS TOO LATE

Song of Solomon 5:4 — Her Heart Leaps for Him

“My beloved reached his hand through the latch, and my heart leaped for him.”

The bride’s feelings have not disappeared.

The movement at the door awakens her affection.

Her heart responds.

She realizes:

He is still there.

She wants him.

Now she moves.

Cross References

Revelation 3:20

Jesus describes Himself standing at the door and knocking, inviting those who hear to respond and open.

Song of Solomon 5:2

The beloved had been calling tenderly from outside, asking his bride to open the door to him.

Philippians 1:8

Paul says that God knows how deeply he longs for the believers with the tender affection that comes from Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Affection must sometimes become action before the opportunity passes.

V. THE BRIDE RISES TO OPEN THE DOOR

Song of Solomon 5:5 — Myrrh on the Handle

“I rose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with sweet-smelling myrrh on the handles of the bolt.”

Now she rises.

The fragrance on the latch suggests the beloved may have left myrrh behind.

The fragrance becomes evidence of his presence.

Her hands touch what he touched.

But the scene carries tension.

She has finally responded.

Will he still be there?

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:13

The bride earlier compared her beloved to a fragrant sachet of myrrh kept close to her heart.

John 19:39

Nicodemus brought a large mixture of myrrh and aloes to help prepare Jesus' body for burial.

Psalms 45:8

The king's garments are described as carrying the fragrance of myrrh, aloes, and cassia.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes we recognize the value of someone's presence most strongly after we have nearly missed it.

VI. SHE OPENS THE DOOR, BUT HE IS GONE

Song of Solomon 5:6 — The Pain of a Missed Moment

"I opened to my beloved, but he had turned and was gone. My heart sank when he left. I sought him, but did not find him; I called, but he gave no answer."

This is one of the saddest moments in the Song.

She opens.

But he is gone.

Now she experiences regret.

She searches.

She calls.

No answer.

The opportunity she delayed has disappeared.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:2

Earlier, the bride had gone through the city searching for the one her soul loved when she could not find him.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near.

Proverbs 1:28

Wisdom warns that people who continually reject correction may eventually call for help after consequences arrive and discover that the opportunity they ignored has passed.

Spiritual Principle

Some opportunities should be received while they are available.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not assume every door of opportunity will remain open indefinitely.

VII. THE WATCHMEN WOUND HER

Song of Solomon 5:7 — Pain During the Search

“The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They struck me, they wounded me; the guards of the walls took away my veil.”

Her search becomes painful.

Unlike the earlier encounter with the watchmen in Chapter 3, this encounter brings injury.

She is:

Struck.

Wounded.

Humiliated.

Yet the pain does not end her search.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:3

Earlier, the city watchmen encountered her while she was searching and she asked whether they had seen the one her soul loved.

Isaiah 53:5

The Servant was wounded because of our rebellion and crushed because of our sin; the punishment connected with our peace fell upon Him, and through His wounds healing comes.

John 15:20

Jesus reminded His disciples that servants should not expect to be treated better than their master; if people persecuted Him, His followers could also face persecution.

Spiritual Principle

Love may continue seeking even when the search becomes painful.

VIII. THE BRIDE REMAINS LOVESICK

Song of Solomon 5:8 — “Tell Him I Am Lovesick”

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem: if you find my beloved, tell him I am lovesick.”

The bride does not become bitter.

She does not say:

“I am finished with him.”

She remains lovesick.

Her longing has intensified.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:5

Earlier, the bride asked to be strengthened and refreshed because she was overwhelmed with love.

Song of Solomon 2:7

The bride had warned the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up or awaken love before its proper time.

Psalms 42:2

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. I long to come into His presence.

Spiritual Principle

True affection can survive disappointment.

IX. THE DAUGHTERS ASK WHAT MAKES HIM SPECIAL

Song of Solomon 5:9 — “What Is Your Beloved More Than Another?”

“What is your beloved more than another beloved, O most beautiful of women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you should charge us so strongly?”

The daughters of Jerusalem ask a reasonable question.

Why him?

What makes him different?

What makes him worth searching for?

Their question gives the bride an opportunity to explain her love.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:8

The bride had earlier been called the most beautiful among women and given direction about where to find her beloved.

Song of Solomon 6:1

The women later ask where her beloved has gone so that they can join her in searching for him.

Psalms 45:2

The royal figure is described as surpassing others in beauty, with gracious words flowing from his lips and God’s blessing resting upon him.

Spiritual Principle

Love should be able to identify what it values in the beloved.

X. HE IS DISTINGUISHED AMONG TEN THOUSAND

Song of Solomon 5:10 — Radiant and Outstanding

“My beloved is radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.”

The bride begins her description.

He stands out.

He is not ordinary to her.

“Radiant and ruddy” communicates:

Health.

Strength.

Attractiveness.

Vitality.

Cross References

1 Samuel 16:12

When David was brought before Samuel, he was described as healthy in appearance, attractive, and pleasing to look upon.

Psalms 45:2

The king is described as exceedingly handsome, with gracious speech and God’s lasting blessing.

Revelation 1:14

John describes the glorified Christ with hair white like wool and eyes blazing with penetrating power.

Spiritual Principle

Love sees the beloved as distinct, not interchangeable.

XI. HIS HEAD IS LIKE PURE GOLD

Song of Solomon 5:11 — Strength and Dignity

“His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy, black as a raven.”

Gold communicates:

Value.

Honor.

Excellence.

His dark hair communicates youthful strength and beauty.

Cross References

Daniel 7:9

Daniel sees the Ancient of Days seated in divine majesty, clothed in white, with hair pure like wool and a throne blazing with fire.

Revelation 1:14

The glorified Christ is described with hair white like snow and eyes burning like fire.

Song of Solomon 4:1

Earlier, the groom had praised the bride's flowing hair using imagery from a flock descending Mount Gilead.

Spiritual Principle

The bride's praise is detailed because affection pays attention.

XII. HIS EYES ARE LIKE DOVES

Song of Solomon 5:12 — Beauty and Gentleness

“His eyes are like doves by streams of water, washed with milk, set like jewels.”

The bride uses the same dove imagery the groom used of her.

His eyes communicate:

Gentleness.

Clarity.

Beauty.

Depth.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom had praised the bride's eyes by comparing them to doves.

Matthew 3:16

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested upon Him.

Psalms 19:8

The Lord's commands are right and bring joy to the heart; His instruction is pure and gives light to the eyes.

Spiritual Principle

Mutual love notices and praises similar qualities in one another.

XIII. HIS FACE AND LIPS ARE FRAGRANT

Song of Solomon 5:13 — Sweetness and Fragrance

“His cheeks are like a garden of spices, like beds of fragrant herbs. His lips are like lilies, dripping with sweet myrrh.”

The bride describes him with the same fragrance imagery used throughout the Song.

He is:

Pleasant.

Attractive.

Refreshing.

His lips are associated with sweetness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride had already declared that her beloved belonged to her and that she belonged to him, using imagery of lilies.

Psalms 45:2

The king is described as beautiful and gracious in speech.

Hosea 14:6

God describes restored Israel as spreading branches, possessing beauty like an olive tree, and giving off fragrance like Lebanon.

Spiritual Principle

Words are part of attraction.

A beautiful appearance cannot compensate forever for destructive speech.

XIV. HIS HANDS AND BODY ARE PRECIOUS

Song of Solomon 5:14 — Gold, Beryl, Ivory, and Sapphire

“His hands are like gold rings set with gems of beryl. His body is like polished ivory, decorated with sapphires.”

The language is rich.

Gold.

Beryl.

Ivory.

Sapphire.

These materials communicate:

Value.

Beauty.

Strength.

Craftsmanship.

The bride sees excellence throughout him.

Cross References

Exodus 28:20

Precious stones, including beryl, were set into the high priest's breastpiece as part of its beautiful sacred design.

Ezekiel 1:26

Above the heavenly expanse Ezekiel saw something like a throne of sapphire, and above it a figure with the appearance of a man.

Revelation 21:19

The foundations of the New Jerusalem are described as being decorated with many kinds of precious stones.

Spiritual Principle

Love looks carefully for what is precious rather than continually searching for defects.

XV. HIS LEGS ARE LIKE MARBLE PILLARS

Song of Solomon 5:15 — Strength and Majesty

“His legs are like marble pillars set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, majestic as the cedars.”

The bride now emphasizes:

Strength.

Stability.

Majesty.

Cedars of Lebanon were famous for:

Height.

Strength.

Beauty.

Durability.

Cross References

Revelation 1:15

The glorified Christ is described with feet like refined metal glowing from intense heat and with a voice like powerful rushing waters.

Psalms 92:12

The righteous person will flourish like a palm tree and grow strong and tall like a cedar of Lebanon.

1 Kings 7:2

Solomon built the House of the Forest of Lebanon with great cedar pillars and beams.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love values stability and strength of character.

XVI. HE IS ALTOGETHER LOVELY AND HER FRIEND

Song of Solomon 5:16 — Beloved and Friend

“His mouth is sweetness itself; yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”

The bride concludes.

He is:

Altogether lovely.

But then comes something especially important.

She does not say only:

“This is my beloved.”

She says:

“This is my friend.”

Friendship strengthens romantic love.

A strong relationship needs more than:

Physical attraction.

Passion.

Romantic feeling.

It also needs:

Conversation.

Trust.

Companionship.

Respect.

Shared life.

Cross References

Psalm 45:2

The king is praised for beauty and gracious speech, with God’s blessing upon him.

John 15:14

Jesus tells His disciples that they are His friends when they live in obedient relationship with Him.

Song of Solomon 5:10

The bride began her description by saying her beloved stands out among ten thousand.

Spiritual Principle

One of the greatest blessings in marriage is when your beloved is also your friend.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Romance may begin attraction.

Friendship helps sustain relationship.

XVII. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 5

1. Love Delights in Intimacy

The chapter begins with the groom enjoying the garden.

Principle:

Marital intimacy is presented as something to be enjoyed within faithful love.

2. Delayed Response Can Produce Regret

The bride hesitates.

When she finally opens:

He is gone.

Principle:

Do not repeatedly postpone opportunities for closeness.

3. Convenience Can Compete with Love

Her reasons for hesitation are small.

Principle:

Comfort should not always take priority over relationship.

4. True Love Perseveres

The bride searches even after pain and disappointment.

Principle:

Difficulty does not automatically erase genuine affection.

5. Love Sees the Beloved as Unique

When asked:

“Why him?”

She can answer.

Principle:

Healthy love remembers what makes the beloved precious.

6. Friendship Strengthens Romance

The bride says:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Principle:

Strong romantic love should include genuine friendship.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT INTIMACY

The groom enters the garden because the bride invited him in the previous chapter.

This demonstrates:

Invitation.

Mutuality.

Trust.

Commitment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Godly intimacy is not taken.

It is shared.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

The bride hears the knock.

She hesitates.

Then the moment passes.

Relationships contain opportunities that should not be taken for granted.

A person may be asking for:

Conversation.

Time.

Affection.

Reconciliation.

Attention.

Spiritual Principle

Do not postpone relational needs indefinitely simply because responding is inconvenient.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT REGRET

Once the beloved is gone, the bride's attitude changes completely.

Earlier:

"How can I get up?"

Now:

"I must find him."

Regret often changes perspective.

Key Truth

Wisdom responds before regret becomes the teacher.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT SEARCHING

The bride goes looking.

Again.

Her love moves her toward pursuit rather than indifference.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When healthy connection is lost, do not always wait for the other person to make the first move.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT WORDS

The bride's final description is filled with praise.

She speaks positively about:

His appearance.

His strength.

His speech.

His character.

Healthy couples should be able to explain what they value in each other.

Spiritual Principle

Repeated appreciation strengthens the memory of why love began.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

The final phrase may be one of the most important in the chapter:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

Romantic relationships need:

Friendship.

Laughter.

Conversation.

Shared interests.

Trust.

Respect.

Companionship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If romance is the fire, friendship is part of the structure that helps the fire endure.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT PERSEVERANCE

The bride is:

Rejected by circumstance.

Unable to find him.

Struck.

Wounded.

Yet still:

She loves.

She searches.

She praises.

Spiritual Principle

Real love is deeper than one difficult night.

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 5 TEACHES ABOUT APPRECIATION

The daughters ask:

Why is your beloved special?

She does not say:

“I do not know.”

She gives a detailed answer.

Key Truth

A healthy relationship should have a remembered vocabulary of gratitude.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have often seen spiritual parallels in this chapter, especially in the picture of the beloved knocking.

Revelation 3:20 uses the image of Christ standing at the door and knocking.

This can remind believers of the importance of:

Responding to Christ.

Seeking His fellowship.

Not becoming spiritually complacent.

However, the primary context of Song of Solomon 5 remains the relationship between bride and groom.

Spiritual Principle

The longing of human love can remind believers of the deeper longing for fellowship with Christ.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What happens in verse 1?

The groom responds to the bride's invitation and delights in the garden, continuing the imagery of marital intimacy.

Question 2

Why is the beloved outside in verse 2?

The scene presents him arriving at night and asking the bride to open the door.

Question 3

Why does the bride hesitate?

She has already settled in for the night and does not want to inconvenience herself.

Question 4

What lesson comes from her hesitation?

Small inconveniences can sometimes cause missed opportunities for closeness.

Question 5

What happens when she finally opens?

Her beloved has already gone.

She immediately regrets the delay.

Question 6

Why does she search for him?

Because her love remains strong and his absence now deeply troubles her.

Question 7

What happens with the watchmen?

They strike, wound, and humiliate her while she searches.

Question 8

Does this stop her love?

No.

She still asks the daughters of Jerusalem to tell him she is lovesick.

Question 9

What do the daughters ask?

They ask what makes her beloved better or more desirable than another man.

Question 10

How does the bride answer?

She gives a detailed description of his beauty, strength, dignity, and attractiveness.

Question 11

What is especially important about verse 16?

She identifies him both as:

Her beloved.

And:

Her friend.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 5 teach relationships today?

It should teach us to:

Respond to opportunities for closeness.

Avoid complacency.

Seek restoration when distance develops.

Speak appreciation.

Persevere through difficult seasons.

Build friendship alongside romance.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 5 asks several searching questions.

Am I Ignoring Someone Who Is Reaching Toward Me?

Has convenience become more important than connection?

Do I Assume Another Opportunity Will Always Come?

What important conversation have I postponed?

Do I Wait Until Someone Withdraws Before I Show Interest?

Am I reactive rather than attentive?

If Distance Has Developed, Am I Willing to Seek Restoration?

Or am I waiting out of pride?

Can I Explain Why the Person I Love Is Special?

Have I forgotten what first drew my heart?

Do I Speak Appreciation?

Or have complaints become easier to express than admiration?

Is My Beloved Also My Friend?

Do we still:

Talk?

Laugh?

Share?

Listen?

Enjoy each other?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Do Not Wait for Absence to Teach You the Value of Presence”

The bride had the beloved at the door.

She hesitated.

Then:

He was gone.

Suddenly, everything changed.

Principle:

Appreciate presence before absence makes you understand its value.

XXX. WHEN COMFORT BECOMES THE ENEMY OF CLOSENESS

The bride's hesitation is based on convenience.

She has:

Changed clothes.

Washed her feet.

Settled down.

Getting up would be inconvenient.

Relationships sometimes weaken for similarly small reasons.

We are:

Too tired.

Too distracted.

Too busy.

Too comfortable.

Too occupied with a screen.

Too unwilling to interrupt our routine.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Many relationships do not lose affection first.

They lose attention first.

XXXI. OPEN THE DOOR WHILE THE KNOCK IS THERE

There are relational moments that matter.

A spouse says:

“Can we talk?”

A child says:

“Do you have a minute?”

A friend reaches out.

Someone seeks reconciliation.

The knock may not continue forever.

Spiritual Principle

Wise love recognizes important moments and responds while they are present.

XXXII. LOVE THAT KEEPS SEARCHING

The bride does not let difficulty erase devotion.

She continues looking.

That does not mean every unhealthy or harmful relationship must always be pursued.

But within faithful covenant relationships, perseverance matters.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not confuse one difficult season with the end of every possibility for restoration.

XXXIII. REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE THEM

The daughters ask:

“What is your beloved more than another beloved?”

That question forces the bride to remember.

She answers in detail.

Couples sometimes need to remember:

What first attracted them.

What character they admired.

What kindness they experienced.

What qualities made the other person unique.

Spiritual Principle

Gratitude can restore perspective when frustration has become too loud.

XXXIV. “THIS IS MY BELOVED, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND”

Romance is powerful.

But romance alone cannot carry every season of marriage.

There will be seasons when:

Health changes.

Appearance changes.

Schedules become demanding.

Responsibilities increase.

Stress arrives.

Friendship helps carry love through those seasons.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Marry someone you can love passionately, but also someone with whom you can walk faithfully.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 5 begins with joy.

Then comes hesitation.

Then loss.

Then searching.

Then pain.

Then praise.

That movement is realistic.

Love does not always move in a straight line.

Relationships may experience:

Closeness.

Distance.

Misunderstanding.

Regret.

Renewed pursuit.

Fresh appreciation.

The bride teaches us not to treat opportunities for closeness casually.

Her beloved knocks.

She hesitates.

By the time she responds:

He is gone.

That moment asks every relationship a serious question:

What are you postponing?

A conversation?

An apology?

Affection?

Time together?

Reconciliation?

Listening?

Do not continually assume:

“Later.”

Later is not always guaranteed.

The chapter also teaches that love can survive a difficult night.

The bride experiences pain.

Yet when asked:

“What makes him special?”

She remembers.

She praises him.

That is valuable.

Difficult moments can make flaws appear enormous.

Wisdom also remembers what is good.

And finally:

Build friendship.

The bride ends:

“This is my beloved, and this is my friend.”

That is a powerful picture of lasting relationship.

Be lovers.

But also:

Be companions.

Be listeners.

Be encouragers.

Be friends.

Therefore:

Answer the knock.

Value presence.

Do not let comfort create distance.

Seek healthy restoration.

Remember what you cherish.

Speak praise.

Build friendship.

And never allow familiarity to make something precious seem ordinary.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for the people You place close to our hearts.

Help us never become careless with their presence.

Give us wisdom to recognize opportunities for connection.

When someone we love reaches toward us, help us respond with:

Attention.

Patience.

Kindness.

Interest.

Affection.

Protect us from allowing small inconveniences to become great distance.

Forgive us when we have been:

Too busy.

Too tired.

Too distracted.

Too proud.

Too comfortable.

To respond well.

Father, when distance develops, give us humility to seek restoration.

Keep us from waiting endlessly for someone else to make the first move.

Teach us to:

Speak.

Listen.

Apologize.

Forgive.

Reconnect.

Help us endure difficult seasons without forgetting everything good about the person we love.

When frustration becomes loud, remind us of gratitude.

Help us remember:

Kindness.

Faithfulness.

Strength.

Beauty.

Character.

Friendship.

Father, strengthen marriages.

Help husbands and wives remain:

Beloveds.

And:

Friends.

Give them conversation.

Give them laughter.

Give them companionship.

Give them trust.

Give them tenderness.

Give them renewed appreciation.

Protect intimacy.

Protect faithfulness.

Protect affection.

Protect friendship.

And above all, draw us closer to Christ.

Keep us from spiritual complacency.

When He calls us toward deeper fellowship, give us hearts ready to respond.

May our relationships reflect:

Faithfulness.

Patience.

Grace.

Devotion.

And enduring love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“His mouth is sweetness itself; yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.” — Song of Solomon 5:16

Central Truth

Faithful love treasures intimacy, responds to opportunities for closeness, perseveres through seasons of distance and pain, remembers what is precious in the beloved, and grows stronger when romance is joined with genuine friendship.

Song of Solomon 5 in One Sentence

The bride learns the pain of delayed response and searches for her absent beloved, yet her devotion remains strong as she praises him in detail and declares that the one she loves is not only her beloved but also her friend.