

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 — The Power of Love

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

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 brings the book to its powerful conclusion.

The chapter gathers together the major themes of the entire Song:

Love.

Desire.

Commitment.

Purity.

Belonging.

Protection.

Intimacy.

Longing.

Faithfulness.

The bride begins by expressing a desire for freedom to show affection openly.

She longs for closeness without embarrassment or public suspicion.

Then the chapter repeats the warning heard earlier:

“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

Even at the end of the book, love is still connected with:

Timing.

Wisdom.

Restraint.

Purity.

The central section of the chapter contains perhaps the most famous statement in the entire Song:

“For love is as strong as death.”

Love is described as:

Powerful.

Unyielding.

Burning.

Unquenchable.

Priceless.

Many waters cannot extinguish it.

Floods cannot drown it.

Money cannot purchase it.

The chapter then turns to the protection of purity.

The “little sister” must be guarded until the proper time.

The imagery of:

A wall.

A door.

Silver.

Cedar.

Shows that purity requires both:

Protection.

Wisdom.

The bride then says:

“I am a wall.”

She has matured.

She is no longer merely someone others must protect.

She has learned to possess boundaries and dignity herself.

The chapter closes with the bride calling to her beloved.

The book does not end with love fading.

It ends with longing.

“Make haste, my beloved.”

The central truth of Song of Solomon 8 is:

True love is intimate, strong, unquenchable, priceless, faithful, and exclusive; it protects purity, gives itself freely rather than being bought, and remains alive through longing, commitment, and enduring devotion.

I. THE BRIDE DESIRES UNHINDERED AFFECTION

Song of Solomon 8:1 — Love Without Shame

“Oh, that you were like my brother, nursed at my mother’s breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.”

The bride is not literally wishing that her beloved were her biological brother in a romantic sense.

She is expressing frustration with the social limitations placed upon public affection.

A sister could greet a brother publicly with affection without being misunderstood.

The bride longs for the freedom to express love openly without:

Criticism.

Suspicion.

Shame.

Cross References

Hebrews 2:11

Jesus, who makes people holy, and those He makes holy belong to one family, so He is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters.

Matthew 12:50

Jesus said that whoever does the will of His Father in heaven is His brother, sister, and mother in the spiritual family of God.

Song of Solomon 1:2

The bride had already expressed her desire for the affectionate kisses of her beloved because his love was more delightful than wine.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love should not be treated as something shameful.

Key Truth

Godly affection is honorable when expressed within proper boundaries.

II. THE BRIDE WANTS TO BRING HIM HOME

Song of Solomon 8:2 — Intimacy, Hospitality, and Belonging

“I would lead you and bring you into my mother’s house—she who taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranates.”

The bride again uses the imagery of her mother’s house.

This suggests:

Family.

Belonging.

Safety.

Intimacy.

She desires to give her beloved:

Hospitality.

Refreshment.

Affection.

The spiced wine and pomegranate juice communicate richness and delight.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:4

When the bride found the one her soul loved, she held onto him and brought him into her mother’s house.

Song of Solomon 4:13

The groom had compared the bride’s garden to an orchard filled with pomegranates and other choice fruits.

Isaiah 25:6

The Lord is pictured preparing a rich banquet for the peoples, filled with abundant and carefully prepared food and drink.

Spiritual Principle

Love seeks both closeness and shared belonging.

III. THE BRIDE RESTS IN HIS EMBRACE

Song of Solomon 8:3 — Tender Security

“His left hand would be under my head, and his right hand would embrace me.”

This image has appeared before.

The bride longs for the security of her beloved’s embrace.

The picture communicates:

Support.

Tenderness.

Protection.

Closeness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:6

Earlier, the bride described her beloved’s left hand supporting her head while his right hand embraced her.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and beneath you are His everlasting arms. He drives away danger and provides security.

Psalms 63:8

My soul clings closely to You, and Your powerful right hand supports and holds me.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love makes closeness feel safe.

IV. LOVE MUST STILL NOT BE FORCED

Song of Solomon 8:4 — The Final Warning About Timing

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem: do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

This warning appears for the final time.

Its repetition shows its importance.

Love is powerful.

Therefore:

Do not manipulate it.

Do not rush it.

Do not manufacture it.

Do not force intimacy before its proper season.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:7

The bride first warned the daughters of Jerusalem not to awaken love before its proper time.

Song of Solomon 3:5

The same charge was repeated again, emphasizing patience and wise timing in matters of romantic affection.

Ecclesiastes 3:5

There is a time for embracing and a time for refraining from embracing, because life contains proper seasons for different actions.

Spiritual Principle

Love needs freedom to mature in the proper season.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If affection must be forced, manipulated, or pressured, it is already being handled unwisely.

V. THE BRIDE LEANS ON HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 8:5 — Coming Up from the Wilderness

“Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you; there your mother conceived you; there she who gave you birth brought you forth.”

The bride is pictured coming from the wilderness:

Leaning on her beloved.

That image communicates:

Trust.

Dependence.

Closeness.

Companionship.

The wilderness often represents difficulty or testing.

Yet she does not emerge alone.

She is leaning upon the one she loves.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:6

Earlier, a magnificent procession was seen coming up from the wilderness surrounded by fragrance and splendor.

Deuteronomy 32:10

God found His people in a barren wilderness, cared for them, guarded them, and treated them as something precious.

Isaiah 63:1

Isaiah describes a majestic figure coming in strength and splendor, moving with the power to save.

Spiritual Principle

Love is strengthened when two people learn to walk through difficult places together.

Key Truth

The wilderness becomes easier to cross when you do not walk through it alone.

VI. LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH

Song of Solomon 8:6 — The Seal of Love

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and jealousy is as unyielding as the grave. Its flames are flames of fire, a most intense flame.”

This is one of the greatest statements about love in Scripture.

A seal represented:

Ownership.

Identity.

Authenticity.

Commitment.

The bride wants to be:

On his heart.

And:

On his arm.

The heart represents inward devotion.

The arm represents outward action.

Love should be:

Felt inwardly.

Demonstrated outwardly.

Cross References

Ephesians 1:13

Believers who hear and trust the gospel are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, marking them as belonging to God.

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride had declared, “My beloved is mine, and I am his,” expressing mutual belonging.

Romans 8:38

Paul says he is convinced that neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, present circumstances nor future events, nor spiritual powers can separate believers from God’s love.

Spiritual Principle

True love involves total devotion.

Key Truth

Love belongs both on the heart and on the arm.

It should exist in feeling and in action.

VII. TRUE LOVE CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR DROWNED

Song of Solomon 8:7 — Love Is Unquenchable and Priceless

“Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man were to give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly despised.”

The Preacher-like wisdom of this verse is powerful.

Love cannot simply be:

Purchased.

Manufactured.

Traded.

Bought.

It cannot be reduced to money.

True love survives:

Pressure.

Difficulty.

Floods.

Trials.

Cross References

1 Corinthians 13:8

Love does not ultimately fail, even though other gifts and abilities may come to an end.

Psalms 93:4

The Lord is mightier than the roar of many waters and stronger than the crashing waves of the sea.

Proverbs 6:35

When marital betrayal occurs, material payment cannot simply erase the damage or purchase away the offense.

Spiritual Principle

Love has a value money cannot measure.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anything money can buy is not the same thing as genuine love.

VIII. THE FAMILY THINKS ABOUT THE LITTLE SISTER

Song of Solomon 8:8 — Protecting the Immature

“We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?”

The little sister represents someone not yet mature.

The question is:

How should she be protected until the proper time?

The family recognizes responsibility.

Maturity should not be rushed.

Purity should be guarded.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:7

God describes Jerusalem growing from childhood toward maturity, using the imagery of physical development.

2 Corinthians 11:2

Paul says he desires to present believers to Christ with pure and undivided devotion, like a bride faithfully prepared for her husband.

Genesis 24:58

Rebekah was asked directly whether she was willing to go and enter the marriage being arranged, and she answered that she was willing.

Spiritual Principle

Young people need wise protection before they possess full maturity.

IX. PURITY NEEDS BOUNDARIES

Song of Solomon 8:9 — A Wall or a Door

“If she is a wall, we will build on her a tower of silver. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.”

Two pictures are given:

A wall.

A door.

A wall represents:

Strength.

Boundaries.

Resistance.

A door suggests:

Access.

Openness.

The point is wise protection.

If she demonstrates strong boundaries:

Honor them.

If she is vulnerable to unwise access:

Protect her.

Cross References

Nehemiah 6:15

Jerusalem's wall was completed after determined labor despite repeated opposition.

Ephesians 2:21

God's people are pictured as a structure being joined together and growing into a holy dwelling devoted to the Lord.

1 Kings 6:15

Solomon covered the inner walls of the temple with cedar, using strong and beautiful materials in the sacred structure.

Spiritual Principle

Purity requires boundaries before temptation appears.

Key Truth

It is easier to guard a door beforehand than repair the damage after everything valuable has been taken.

X. THE BRIDE DECLARES HER MATURITY

Song of Solomon 8:10 — “I Am a Wall”

“I am a wall, and my breasts are like towers. So I became in his eyes as one who brings peace.”

The bride now speaks for herself.

She says:

“I am a wall.”

She has boundaries.

She possesses dignity.

She is mature.

Her purity is not merely something other people imposed upon her.

She has embraced it herself.

The result is:

Peace.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:4

The groom earlier compared the bride’s neck to a strong tower decorated with the shields of mighty warriors.

Luke 1:30

The angel told Mary not to fear because she had found favor with God.

Esther 2:17

The king loved Esther above the other women, and she found special favor in his sight.

Spiritual Principle

The highest maturity occurs when wise boundaries become personal convictions.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Parents may build the first fence.

Eventually character must choose to maintain it.

XI. SOLOMON'S VINEYARD PRODUCES GREAT VALUE

Song of Solomon 8:11 — The Vineyard at Baal-hamon

“Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he rented out the vineyard to keepers. Each was to bring a thousand pieces of silver for its fruit.”

Solomon owns a valuable vineyard.

Its produce generates substantial income.

The vineyard is commercial.

It is managed.

Its fruit has a price.

This sets up the contrast in the next verse.

Cross References

Matthew 21:33

Jesus told about a landowner who planted a vineyard, protected it, prepared it for fruit, leased it to tenants, and went away.

Isaiah 5:1

Isaiah begins a song about a beloved who planted a carefully prepared vineyard on fertile ground.

Matthew 20:1

Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a landowner who went out early to hire workers for his vineyard.

Spiritual Principle

Some vineyards can be measured economically.

Love cannot.

XII. THE BRIDE'S VINEYARD IS HERS TO GIVE

Song of Solomon 8:12 — Love Cannot Be Rented

“But my vineyard, which is mine to give, is before me. You, O Solomon, may have the thousand, and the keepers of the fruit two hundred.”

This verse is deeply important.

The bride distinguishes:

Solomon's commercial vineyard.

From:

Her vineyard.

Her love cannot be treated as property rented out for profit.

She says:

It is mine.

It is hers to give.

This emphasizes:

Personal dignity.

Willing devotion.

Ownership of one's own affection.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:6

Earlier, the bride said others made her keep their vineyards while her own vineyard had been neglected.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Paul says believers are God's fellow workers and are also compared to God's cultivated field and building.

Isaiah 5:7

Isaiah explains that God's vineyard represented His people, from whom He expected justice and righteousness.

Spiritual Principle

Love must be freely given.

It cannot be legitimately purchased, forced, or rented.

Key Truth

A relationship is strongest when devotion is willingly offered rather than coerced.

XIII. THE BELOVED LONGS TO HEAR HER VOICE

Song of Solomon 8:13 — “Let Me Hear It”

“You who dwell in the gardens, friends are listening for your voice—let me hear it!”

The beloved wants to hear her voice.

The Song has repeatedly connected love with:

Seeing.

Hearing.

Speaking.

Communication matters.

Even at the end of the book:

He still wants to hear her.

Cross References

John 10:3

The shepherd calls his own sheep by name, and they recognize and respond to his voice.

Song of Solomon 2:14

The groom had asked the bride to let him see her face and hear her voice because her voice was sweet and her face lovely.

Revelation 3:20

Jesus says that those who hear His voice and open the door may enjoy fellowship with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not grow tired of hearing the beloved.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When conversation disappears, intimacy usually weakens with it.

XIV. THE SONG ENDS WITH LONGING

Song of Solomon 8:14 — “Make Haste, My Beloved”

“Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”

The final words are a call.

Come quickly.

The bride still desires her beloved.

The Song ends with:

Expectation.

Longing.

Affection.

Love remains alive.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:17

Earlier, the bride asked her beloved to move quickly like a gazelle or young stag across the mountains.

Revelation 22:20

Jesus declares that He is coming quickly, and the response of faith is, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”

Habakkuk 3:19

The Lord God is my strength. He makes my feet steady like those of a deer and enables me to move securely across difficult heights.

Spiritual Principle

Mature love does not necessarily lose longing.

Key Truth

The Song ends the way strong love should continue:

Still wanting the beloved near.

XV. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 8

1. Love Desires Closeness

The bride wants freedom to express affection openly.

Principle:

Love naturally seeks nearness.

2. Love Must Still Respect Timing

The warning against awakening love appears again.

Principle:

The strength of love makes patience more important, not less.

3. Love Is Strong

It is compared with:

Death.

The grave.

Fire.

Principle:

True love possesses remarkable endurance and intensity.

4. Love Cannot Be Bought

All the wealth of a house cannot purchase genuine love.

Principle:

Love has no legitimate price tag.

5. Purity Must Be Protected

The little sister must be guarded.

Principle:

Wise boundaries protect future intimacy.

6. Mature Purity Becomes Personal Conviction

The bride says:

“I am a wall.”

Principle:

The goal of instruction is mature character, not permanent external control.

7. Love Continues to Long

The book ends:

“Make haste, my beloved.”

Principle:

Mature love can remain alive, eager, and affectionate.

XVI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is described as:

Strong.

Burning.

Faithful.

Unquenchable.

Priceless.

This is not shallow attraction.

It is enduring devotion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Real love is not measured only by how strongly it begins but by how faithfully it endures.

XVII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT COMMITMENT

The bride asks to be:

A seal upon the heart.

A seal upon the arm.

That means love must exist:

Internally.

Externally.

Privately.

Publicly.

Emotionally.

Practically.

Spiritual Principle

Commitment is inward devotion made visible through outward faithfulness.

XVIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT JEALOUSY

The jealousy described in verse 6 is connected with exclusive covenant love.

This is not permission for:

Control.

Possessiveness.

Abuse.

Suspicion.

Rather, faithful love rightly resists betrayal because covenant devotion is exclusive.

Key Truth

Healthy exclusivity protects covenant faithfulness without becoming controlling or destructive.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT MONEY

Verse 7 declares that love cannot be purchased.

A person may buy:

Gifts.

Houses.

Trips.

Jewelry.

Comfort.

But not genuine devotion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Money can create opportunities for love to be expressed.

It cannot manufacture love itself.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT PURITY

The chapter presents purity as something worth:

Protecting.

Developing.

Owning personally.

The little sister needs protection.

The mature bride says:

“I am a wall.”

This shows progression.

Spiritual Principle

Purity becomes strongest when external boundaries become internal convictions.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT MATURITY

Immaturity says:

“Someone must always stop me.”

Maturity says:

“I know what I value, and I will protect it.”

The bride has reached that point.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Maturity is not merely knowing the rules.

It is possessing the character to choose wisely when nobody is forcing you.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT DIGNITY

The bride says:

“My vineyard ... is mine to give.”

That is a statement of dignity.

Her love belongs to her.

It is not for:

Purchase.

Rental.

Pressure.

Manipulation.

Spiritual Principle

Genuine intimacy must involve willing devotion.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

The beloved says:

“Let me hear your voice.”

After eight chapters:

Conversation still matters.

Love must continue speaking.

Key Truth

A relationship that stops communicating eventually begins losing intimacy.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 8 TEACHES ABOUT LONGING

The final words are not:

“Everything is finished.”

They are:

“Come.”

“Make haste.”

Love still wants:

Presence.

Closeness.

Fellowship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The goal of mature love is not indifference.

It is deep security without loss of affection.

XXV. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Christian readers have historically found powerful spiritual echoes in this final chapter.

The bride:

Leans on her beloved.

Longs for his presence.

Wants to hear his voice.

Calls for him to come quickly.

These themes naturally remind Christians of:

Dependence upon Christ.

Belonging to Christ.

Longing for fellowship with Christ.

Awaiting Christ’s return.

Revelation ends with a similar prayer:

“Come, Lord Jesus.”

Yet the primary setting of Song of Solomon remains the celebration of faithful human love.

Spiritual Principle

The longing of covenant love can remind believers of the deeper longing to be fully present with Christ.

XXVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why does the bride wish her beloved were “like her brother”?

She wants the freedom to show affection publicly without being shamed or misunderstood.

Question 2

Why does she bring him into her mother’s house?

The image communicates belonging, intimacy, family connection, and security.

Question 3

Why is the warning about awakening love repeated again?

Because love is powerful and must be handled with patience, timing, and wisdom.

Question 4

What does it mean that the bride leans on her beloved?

It pictures trust, dependence, companionship, and support.

Question 5

What does the seal represent?

It represents belonging, commitment, identity, and devotion.

Question 6

What does “love is as strong as death” mean?

It means true love possesses enormous strength, seriousness, endurance, and intensity.

Question 7

What do the many waters represent?

They picture overwhelming pressures and trials that still cannot extinguish genuine love.

Question 8

Can genuine love be purchased?

No.

Money can purchase objects and experiences, but it cannot buy faithful devotion.

Question 9

What does the little sister represent?

She represents someone still immature who needs wise protection until the proper time for mature love.

Question 10

What does “I am a wall” mean?

The bride now possesses strong personal boundaries and mature conviction.

Question 11

What is the meaning of “my vineyard is mine to give”?

It emphasizes that love and intimacy must be freely offered rather than forced or bought.

Question 12

How does Song of Solomon end?

It ends with the bride longing for her beloved to come quickly, showing that love remains alive and eager.

XXVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 8 asks several searching questions.

Is My Love Both Inward and Outward?

Is it:

On my heart?

And:

On my arm?

Is My Love Strong Under Pressure?

What happens when difficulties come?

Am I Trying to Buy What Must Be Freely Given?

Do I confuse gifts with genuine devotion?

Are My Boundaries Strong?

Am I:

A wall?

Or:

An open door to every temptation?

Have My Boundaries Become Personal Convictions?

Or do I only behave wisely when someone is watching?

Do I Respect the Dignity of the Person I Love?

Do I understand that love must be freely given?

Are We Still Communicating?

Do I still want to hear the voice of the person I love?

Is There Still Longing?

Has security become indifference?

XXVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Love Is Too Valuable to Be Bought, Too Powerful to Be Trifled With, and Too Precious to Be Left Unguarded”

Song of Solomon 8 brings together three great truths.

Love is:

Powerful.

Priceless.

Protected.

Because love is powerful:

Handle it wisely.

Because love is priceless:

Do not try to buy it.

Because love is precious:

Guard it faithfully.

Principle:

What is powerful enough to shape a life is valuable enough to protect carefully.

XXIX. SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR HEART

The heart represents:

Inner affection.

Thought.

Desire.

Commitment.

The bride wants to be held there.

Not forgotten.

Not replaced.

Not treated casually.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love says:

“Keep me close within your heart.”

XXX. SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR ARM

The arm represents:

Action.

Strength.

Visible conduct.

Love should not remain merely:

A feeling.

A private claim.

A spoken promise.

It should become visible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love that lives only in words but never reaches actions remains incomplete.

XXXI. MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE

Life brings floods.

Marriage may encounter:

Financial trouble.

Illness.

Grief.

Stress.

Disappointment.

Aging.

Conflict.

Unexpected change.

The verse does not say these waters are unreal.

It says genuine love can endure them.

Spiritual Principle

Strong love is not love without storms.

It is love that refuses to drown in them.

XXXII. LOVE CANNOT BE PURCHASED

Suppose someone offered:

Every possession.

Every account.

Every property.

Every valuable thing.

The text says genuine love would still not become a commercial transaction.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never confuse being provided for materially with being loved relationally.

Both may matter.

They are not the same thing.

XXXIII. “I AM A WALL”

This may be one of the strongest personal statements in the chapter.

The bride has maturity.

Boundaries are no longer merely being built around her.

She has become a boundary keeper herself.

Spiritual Principle

The goal of godly instruction is not to produce people who need constant surveillance.

It is to produce people of conviction.

XXXIV. MY VINEYARD IS MINE TO GIVE

This statement protects personal dignity.

Love cannot be:

Demanded.

Bought.

Forced.

Manipulated.

True devotion must be given.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Covenant love becomes beautiful when commitment is both serious and willing.

XXXV. LEANING ON HER BELOVED

The wilderness appears again.

But now the bride is coming out of it:

Leaning.

That is a fitting picture of enduring love.

Sometimes strength means standing alone.

Sometimes wisdom means accepting support.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love allows two people to support one another without making either person worthless or powerless.

XXXVI. THE FINAL CRY OF THE SONG

The book ends:

“Make haste, my beloved.”

After:

Eight chapters.

Longing.

Searching.

Finding.

Marriage.

Praise.

Difficulty.

Restoration.

Desire.

The bride still says:

Come.

That is beautiful.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mature love should become more secure without becoming less alive.

XXXVII. EIGHT GREAT TRUTHS FROM THE SONG OF SOLOMON

1. Love Is Worth Celebrating

God created faithful human love as something good.

2. Love Requires Timing

Do not awaken love prematurely.

3. Love Requires Purity

The garden must be protected.

4. Love Requires Communication

The beloved wants to see the face and hear the voice.

5. Love Requires Protection

Catch the little foxes.

6. Love Requires Mutual Commitment

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

7. Love Requires Continuing Cultivation

Keep producing fruit, both old and new.

8. Love Requires Endurance

Many waters cannot quench it.

XXXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 8 brings the entire book to its conclusion.

And the conclusion is powerful.

Love matters.

But love must be handled wisely.

Do not rush it.

Do not cheapen it.

Do not sell it.

Do not manipulate it.

Do not leave it unprotected.

The bride says:

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.”

That is total devotion.

Heart:

Love inwardly.

Arm:

Love outwardly.

Then comes the declaration:

“Love is as strong as death.”

True love has power.

That is why it can:

Build.

Heal.

Strengthen.

Comfort.

But powerful things also require wisdom.

Then:

“Many waters cannot quench love.”

Storms may come.

But faithful love can endure.

The chapter also reminds us:

Love cannot be bought.

A person may possess great wealth and still lack genuine devotion.

Never substitute:

Money for affection.

Gifts for presence.

Possessions for faithfulness.

Then the chapter teaches purity.

The little sister needs protection.

But eventually the bride says:

“I am a wall.”

That is maturity.

The goal is not simply to have someone else create boundaries around you forever.

The goal is to become a person who values purity enough to maintain boundaries yourself.

Finally:

The book ends with longing.

“Make haste, my beloved.”

After everything:

She still wants him near.

That may be one of the finest pictures of mature love in the whole Song.

Secure.

But still longing.

Committed.

But still affectionate.

Established.

But still alive.

Therefore:

Love faithfully.

Wait wisely.

Protect purity.

Build strong boundaries.

Give yourself willingly.

Speak affection.

Value dignity.

Keep communicating.

Hold firmly through the floods.

Treasure what money can never buy.

And after years of love:

Still be able to say:

“Come, my beloved.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for teaching us through Song of Solomon that faithful love is:

Beautiful.

Powerful.

Precious.

Pure.

Strong.

Teach us to handle love wisely.

Give us patience.

Keep us from awakening affection before the proper time.

Protect young people from being rushed into relationships and intimacy before they are ready.

Give them:

Wisdom.

Boundaries.

Conviction.

Purity.

Help them become walls rather than open doors to every temptation.

Father, strengthen marriages.

Set husbands and wives upon one another's hearts.

Set them upon one another's arms.

Let their love be:

Inwardly sincere.

Outwardly faithful.

When many waters come, help them endure.

When trials rise, keep them from drowning in:

Bitterness.

Resentment.

Fear.

Distance.

Remind them why they chose one another.

Father, teach us that love cannot be purchased.

Keep us from replacing:

Presence with money.

Affection with possessions.

Communication with gifts.

Teach us to give what money cannot buy:

Time.

Faithfulness.

Attention.

Tenderness.

Loyalty.

Forgiveness.

Father, protect dignity.

Help us understand that genuine love must be freely given.

Protect relationships from:

Manipulation.

Control.

Coercion.

Unfaithfulness.

Teach us to love with respect.

Help us keep communicating.

May we still want to hear the voice of the person we love.

May security never become indifference.

May maturity never become coldness.

May commitment never become mere routine.

Keep love alive.

And above all, thank You for the love of Christ.

Thank You that His love cannot be separated from His people.

Thank You that His faithfulness survives every storm.

Teach us to lean on Him in every wilderness.

And give us hearts that long for His presence.

May we be able to pray with joy:

Come, Lord Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death, and jealousy is as unyielding as the grave. Its flames are flames of fire, a most intense flame.” — Song of Solomon 8:6

Central Truth

True love is intimate, strong, unquenchable, priceless, faithful, and exclusive; it must be protected by purity and mature boundaries, expressed through inward devotion and outward faithfulness, and freely given rather than bought or forced.

Song of Solomon 8 in One Sentence

The final chapter celebrates love as powerful enough to endure floods, precious enough that no wealth can purchase it, sacred enough to require purity and boundaries, and alive enough to end with the bride still longing for the presence of her beloved.

