

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 — Love's Beauty and Invitation

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

Introduction

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 continues the beautiful exchange between the bride and her beloved.

The chapter is filled with:

Affection.

Admiration.

Invitation.

Security.

Desire.

Renewal.

Protection.

Mutual devotion.

The bride compares herself to:

A rose of Sharon.

A lily of the valleys.

The groom responds by describing her as:

A lily among thorns.

The bride then describes her beloved as:

An apple tree among the forest trees.

She finds:

Shade.

Rest.

Refreshment.

Sweetness.

Security.

In his presence.

One of the most beautiful pictures in the chapter is found in verse 4:

“He brought me into the banquet hall, and his banner over me was love.”

Love is pictured as something:

Visible.

Protective.

Public.

Joyful.

The chapter also contains one of the most important principles about romantic love:

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

Love should not be forced.

It should not be manipulated.

It should not be rushed.

There is a proper time for affection and commitment.

The second half of the chapter changes seasons.

Winter passes.

Rain ends.

Flowers appear.

Birds sing.

The vines become fragrant.

The beloved calls:

“Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

The imagery communicates renewal.

A new season has arrived.

But even flourishing love must be protected.

The warning about the little foxes reminds us that small problems can damage a relationship if they are ignored.

The chapter ends with the bride's confident declaration:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

The central truth of Song of Solomon 2 is:

Faithful love brings delight, security, refreshment, patience, renewal, and mutual belonging, but it must be allowed to develop in its proper season and carefully protected from small things that can damage what is growing.

I. THE BRIDE DESCRIBES HERSELF AS A FLOWER

Song of Solomon 2:1 — A Rose of Sharon

“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”

The bride describes herself with simple natural beauty.

She does not compare herself to:

A palace.

A crown.

A jewel.

She compares herself to flowers.

The language communicates:

Beauty.

Delicacy.

Natural grace.

The exact flower translated “rose” may refer to a common flowering plant of the Sharon region.

The point is not extravagance.

It is beauty in its proper place.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:1

The wilderness and dry land will rejoice, and the desert will blossom beautifully like a flowering plant.

Song of Solomon 2:2

The groom responds by saying that his beloved is like a lily growing among thorns.

Hosea 14:5

God promises to refresh His people like dew, and they will blossom beautifully like a lily and become firmly rooted.

Spiritual Principle

True beauty does not need constant display in order to be beautiful.

Key Truth

God often places beauty in ordinary places.

II. THE GROOM SEES HIS BRIDE AS DISTINCT

Song of Solomon 2:2 — A Lily Among Thorns

“Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the young women.”

The groom takes the bride’s picture of herself and strengthens it.

She said:

“I am a lily.”

He says:

“You are a lily among thorns.”

To him, she stands apart.

The contrast communicates:

Distinctiveness.

Purity.

Beauty.

Value.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:1

The bride describes herself as a rose of Sharon and a lily growing in the valleys.

Matthew 13:22

Jesus explained that seed falling among thorns represents someone who hears the Word, but the worries of life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word and keep it from becoming fruitful.

Song of Solomon 6:9

The groom declares that his beloved is unique and precious to him, standing apart from all others.

Spiritual Principle

Love does not merely say:

“You are attractive.”

Love says:

“You are uniquely precious to me.”

III. THE BRIDE FINDS SHADE AND SWEETNESS IN HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 2:3 — The Apple Tree Among the Forest

“Like an apple tree among the forest trees, so is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.”

The bride responds with her own comparison.

Ordinary forest trees may provide wood.

But a fruit tree gives:

Shade.

Refreshment.

Food.

Sweetness.

She finds her beloved different from other men.

In his presence, she finds:

Rest.

Safety.

Pleasure.

Cross References

Psalms 91:1

The person who lives close to the Most High finds shelter and rests safely under the protection of the Almighty.

Hosea 14:8

God says that He is like a flourishing tree under whose care His people find protection, and all their true fruitfulness comes from Him.

Psalm 36:7

How precious is Your faithful love, God. People find refuge under the shadow of Your protecting wings.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love should provide both delight and a sense of safety.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A relationship should not merely be exciting.

It should also be a place where the heart can rest.

IV. HIS BANNER OVER HER IS LOVE

Song of Solomon 2:4 — Love Publicly Displayed

“He brought me into the banquet hall, and his banner over me was love.”

A banner identified:

Belonging.

Identity.

Allegiance.

Protection.

The bride describes love as something displayed over her.

She is not hidden away in shame.

She is openly cherished.

Cross References**Psalm 20:5**

We will rejoice in the victory God gives and raise our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord answer your faithful prayers.

Isaiah 25:6

The Lord will prepare a rich feast for the peoples, a banquet of abundant provision prepared by His hand.

Revelation 19:9

The angel told John to write that those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are truly blessed.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love should not make someone uncertain about whether they are valued.

Key Truth

Love creates security when devotion is clear.

V. THE BRIDE IS OVERWHELMED WITH LOVE

Song of Solomon 2:5 — Weak with Love

“Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am weak with love.”

The bride uses strong poetic language to describe the intensity of her affection.

Love has overwhelmed her emotionally.

She asks for:

Strength.

Refreshment.

Support.

Cross References**Song of Solomon 5:8**

The bride asks the daughters of Jerusalem to tell her beloved that she is overwhelmed by love for him.

Psalms 42:1

As a deer longs intensely for flowing streams of water, so my soul longs deeply for You, God.

Psalms 63:1

God, You are my God, and I seek You earnestly. My soul thirsts for You and my whole being longs for You like dry land longing for water.

Spiritual Principle

Love engages the emotions deeply.

VI. LOVE PROVIDES TENDER SECURITY

Song of Solomon 2:6 — His Arms Around Her

“His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me.”

The picture is gentle.

The bride is:

Supported.

Held.

Embraced.

It is a picture of tenderness and security.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:3

The bride repeats the picture of her beloved supporting her head with one hand while embracing her with the other.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge, and beneath you are His everlasting arms. He drives away the enemy and gives His people security.

Psalms 139:5

You surround me from behind and before, and Your hand rests upon me.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy affection should communicate safety rather than fear.

VII. DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE BEFORE ITS TIME

Song of Solomon 2:7 — Love Has a Proper Season

“I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and the does of the field: Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”

This principle appears repeatedly in Song of Solomon.

Love must not be forced.

Romantic desire is powerful.

Therefore, timing matters.

The verse warns against:

Manipulating affection.

Creating intimacy prematurely.

Rushing emotional commitment.

Forcing a relationship.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 3:5

The bride again warns the daughters of Jerusalem not to stir up or awaken romantic love before its proper time.

Song of Solomon 8:4

Later in the Song, the same warning appears again: do not awaken love before its proper season arrives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is an appointed season for everything and a proper time for every purpose under heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Something good can still become harmful when forced outside its proper time.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love needs more than passion.

Love also needs patience.

VIII. THE BRIDE RECOGNIZES HER BELOVED'S VOICE

Song of Solomon 2:8 — “The Voice of My Beloved”

“The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping over the mountains, skipping over the hills.”

The bride immediately recognizes his voice.

His arrival creates excitement.

The language portrays:

Energy.

Eagerness.

Joy.

He is not reluctantly coming to her.

He is pictured as moving eagerly across the landscape.

Cross References

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace and salvation and declaring that God reigns.

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.

John 10:27

Jesus said, “My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Love learns to recognize the voice of the beloved.

IX. THE BELOVED APPEARS AT THE WINDOW

Song of Solomon 2:9 — Like a Gazelle or Young Stag

“My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, showing himself through the lattice.”

The groom is compared to an animal known for:

Grace.

Speed.

Energy.

He has arrived.

He stands near.

He looks through the opening.

The scene creates anticipation.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:17

The bride later asks her beloved to move with the speed and grace of a gazelle or young stag across the rugged mountains.

Psalms 42:1

As a deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs deeply for You, God.

Malachi 4:2

For those who fear God's name, righteousness will rise like the healing warmth of the sun, and they will go out with renewed joy and strength.

Spiritual Principle

Love delights in presence and eagerly anticipates fellowship.

X. THE GROOM CALLS HIS BRIDE TO COME AWAY

Song of Solomon 2:10 — “Rise Up, My Love”

“My beloved spoke and said to me: ‘Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.’”

The groom invites her.

His words are:

Tender.

Personal.

Affectionate.

He calls her:

“My love.”

“My beautiful one.”

He invites rather than commands harshly.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:13

The groom repeats his invitation: “Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God, and those who died belonging to Christ will rise.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let everyone who hears also say, “Come.” Whoever is thirsty may come and freely receive the water of life.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love invites closeness without destroying freedom.

XI. WINTER HAS PASSED

Song of Solomon 2:11 — A New Season Begins

“For the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.”

Winter represents a season when:

Growth slows.

Cold dominates.

Movement becomes difficult.

But winter does not last forever.

The groom announces:

The season has changed.

Cross References

Isaiah 60:1

Rise and shine, because your light has come and the glory of the Lord is appearing over you.

Psalms 30:5

God’s anger lasts only for a moment, but His favor brings life. Weeping may remain through the night, but joy arrives with the morning.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who belongs to Christ is made new. The old life has passed away, and a new life has begun.

Spiritual Principle

Difficult seasons are real.

But they are not always permanent.

Key Truth

Winter has a season.

So does spring.

XII. THE FLOWERS AND SONGS OF SPRING RETURN

Song of Solomon 2:12 — The Time of Singing

“Flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the dove is heard in our land.”

The landscape changes.

Where winter brought silence and barrenness, spring brings:

Flowers.

Music.

Birdsong.

Life.

The imagery describes renewal.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:2

The wilderness will blossom abundantly and rejoice with singing and joy as God displays His glory and beauty.

Jeremiah 8:7

Even the birds understand their appointed seasons—the stork, dove, swift, and other birds recognize the times God has built into creation.

Psalms 96:11

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; let the sea and everything within it celebrate before the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

God built seasons of renewal into His creation.

XIII. THE FRUIT IS APPEARING

Song of Solomon 2:13 — “Come Away”

“The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines give off their fragrance. Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Spring is not merely producing flowers.

Fruit is beginning to appear.

The vines are becoming fragrant.

The relationship is moving into another season.

The invitation is repeated.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 2:10

The groom first calls, “Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Matthew 24:32

Jesus said to learn from the fig tree: when its branches become tender and leaves appear, you know that summer is near.

Habakkuk 3:17

Even if the fig tree does not blossom, fruit does not appear on the vines, crops fail, and flocks disappear, faith can still remain anchored in God.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love recognizes when a relationship is ready to move forward in its proper season.

XIV. THE GROOM WANTS TO SEE AND HEAR HIS BRIDE

Song of Solomon 2:14 — “Let Me See Your Face”

“O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the hidden places of the cliffs, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

The groom desires:

Her presence.

Her face.

Her voice.

She is pictured as somewhat hidden.

He invites her out.

This communicates the importance of openness in love.

Cross References

Exodus 33:22

God told Moses that He would place him in a safe opening in the rock and cover him with His hand while His glory passed by.

Psalms 27:8

My heart hears You saying, “Seek My face,” and my response is, “Lord, I will seek Your face.”

Song of Solomon 5:2

The bride later hears her beloved knocking and calling to her with affectionate words, asking her to open to him.

Spiritual Principle

Love desires communication, not continual hiding.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Closeness requires both presence and honest communication.

XV. CATCH THE LITTLE FOXES

Song of Solomon 2:15 — Protect the Vineyard

“Catch the foxes for us—the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, for our vineyards are in bloom.”

This is one of the most practical relationship pictures in the Song.

The vineyard is flourishing.

That makes protection important.

The danger is not described as:

A great army.

A devastating storm.

A huge animal.

It is:

Little foxes.

Small problems can cause significant damage.

In relationships, “little foxes” may include:

Unresolved resentment.

Neglect.

Dishonesty.

Careless words.

Jealousy.

Pride.

Unforgiveness.

Lack of communication.

Small compromises.

Cross References

Judges 15:4

Samson captured foxes, tied them together with torches, and used them to destroy the Philistines’ crops and vineyards.

Ezekiel 13:4

God compared Israel’s false prophets to destructive animals moving through ruined places rather than repairing what had been broken.

Song of Solomon 7:12

The lovers later speak about going to the vineyards to see whether the vines have budded, blossoms have opened, and fruit has begun forming.

Spiritual Principle

Small problems become large problems when they are allowed to remain.

Key Truth

Protect love before damage becomes obvious.

XVI. “MY BELOVED IS MINE, AND I AM HIS”

Song of Solomon 2:16 — Mutual Belonging

“My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.”

This is one of the great declarations of mutual devotion in Song of Solomon.

The bride does not say only:

“He is mine.”

She also says:

“I am his.”

Healthy love is mutual.

It involves:

Belonging.

Commitment.

Security.

Faithfulness.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 6:3

The bride later declares again, “I belong to my beloved, and my beloved belongs to me.”

Song of Solomon 7:10

The bride says, “I belong to my beloved, and his desire is directed toward me.”

Jeremiah 31:33

God says that He will place His law within His people and write it upon their hearts. He will be their God, and they will belong to Him as His people.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love produces security rather than constant uncertainty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Mutual commitment says:

“I choose you, and I give myself faithfully to you.”

XVII. UNTIL THE SHADOWS FLEE

Song of Solomon 2:17 — Longing for Continued Fellowship

“Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the rugged mountains.”

The bride ends the chapter with longing.

She desires continued fellowship with her beloved.

The language of:

Daybreak.

Shadows fleeing.

Mountains.

Gazelles.

Creates movement and anticipation.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:6

The groom speaks of waiting until the day begins to brighten and the shadows disappear.

Song of Solomon 2:9

The bride compares her beloved to a gazelle or a young stag, full of energy and grace.

2 Peter 1:19

God’s prophetic Word is like a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Spiritual Principle

Love longs for darkness and separation to give way to light and presence.

XVIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 2

1. Love Recognizes Unique Value

The groom sees the bride as:

A lily among thorns.

Principle:

Faithful love makes the beloved feel uniquely valued, not easily replaceable.

2. Love Provides Shelter and Refreshment

The bride rests beneath the shade of her beloved.

Principle:

Healthy love should be a place of refreshment rather than constant anxiety.

3. Love Must Not Be Forced

The bride warns:

Do not awaken love prematurely.

Principle:

Right feelings still require right timing.

4. Love Has Seasons

Winter passes.

Spring arrives.

Flowers appear.

Principle:

Relationships move through seasons, and wisdom recognizes them.

5. Love Requires Communication

The groom says:

“Let me see your face.”

“Let me hear your voice.”

Principle:

Intimacy cannot grow where communication disappears.

6. Love Must Be Protected

The little foxes can ruin the vineyard.

Principle:

Small unresolved problems can destroy something beautiful if neglected.

7. Love Produces Mutual Security

The bride says:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Principle:

Faithful commitment creates security through mutual devotion.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is:

Beautiful.

Protective.

Patient.

Expressive.

Refreshing.

Love does not merely seek emotion.

It builds relationship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Strong love combines affection with wisdom.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT TIMING

One of the chapter’s clearest teachings is:

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

Timing matters.

A relationship can be harmed when emotional or physical intimacy is pushed faster than:

Character.

Commitment.

Trust.

Wisdom.

Are ready to support.

Spiritual Principle

Never force tomorrow's intimacy into today's relationship.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT SECURITY

The bride sits in his shade.

He embraces her.

His banner over her is love.

She says:

“My beloved is mine.”

All these pictures communicate:

Security.

Key Truth

Healthy love should decrease unnecessary insecurity rather than continually create it.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT RENEWAL

Winter is real.

But winter ends.

Relationships may experience:

Stress.

Weariness.

Distance.

Difficulty.

But renewal is possible.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not assume one difficult season defines the whole relationship.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

The groom wants:

Her face.

Her voice.

Healthy love requires more than physical presence.

People can live in the same house and stop truly communicating.

Spiritual Principle

A relationship becomes stronger when two people can safely be:

Seen.

Heard.

Known.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT SMALL PROBLEMS

The most famous warning in the chapter is about:

Little foxes.

The vineyard is already blooming.

That means there is something valuable to protect.

Small issues may include:

Sarcasm.

Neglect.

Secrets.

Resentment.

Distraction.

Lack of affection.

Poor communication.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Deal with small cracks before they become large breaks.

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 2 TEACHES ABOUT MUTUAL DEVOTION

The bride declares:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Love is not possession in the selfish sense.

It is covenant-like mutual devotion.

It says:

“I belong faithfully with you.”

“You are not alone.”

“I am committed.”

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love creates belonging without destroying individuality.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Many Christians have historically seen spiritual echoes in this chapter.

The bridegroom’s invitation:

“Rise up, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.”

Can remind believers of Christ’s gracious call.

His people recognize His voice.

He invites fellowship.

He gives shelter.

He brings His people under the banner of love.

But the primary setting remains the celebration of faithful human love.

Spiritual Principle

The best human love reflects qualities that are perfectly present in Christ:

Faithfulness.

Tenderness.

Invitation.

Security.

Care.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does the rose of Sharon represent?

It is poetic language describing the bride's natural beauty.

Question 2

Why does the groom call her a lily among thorns?

He sees her as uniquely beautiful and distinct among others.

Question 3

What does the apple tree picture teach?

The bride finds:

Shelter.

Refreshment.

Pleasure.

In the presence of her beloved.

Question 4

What does “his banner over me was love” communicate?

It communicates clear, visible, protective devotion.

Question 5

Why does the bride say she is weak with love?

She is expressing the intense emotional effect of her affection.

Question 6

What is the meaning of the warning not to awaken love?

Romantic affection should not be forced, manipulated, or rushed before the proper time.

Question 7

What does the arrival of spring represent?

It pictures:

Renewal.

Opportunity.

A changing season.

The beginning of fresh growth.

Question 8

Why does the groom want to see her face and hear her voice?

Because love desires:

Presence.

Communication.

Openness.

Closeness.

Question 9

What do the little foxes represent?

They picture small threats that can damage something valuable if ignored.

Question 10

How should “little foxes” be dealt with?

Early.

Honestly.

Carefully.

Before the damage becomes greater.

Question 11

What does “my beloved is mine, and I am his” teach?

It expresses mutual devotion, commitment, security, and belonging.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 2 change about relationships?

It should teach us to:

Value the beloved.

Provide safety.

Respect timing.

Communicate openly.

Protect the relationship.

Welcome renewal.

Build mutual security.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 2 asks several searching questions.

Does My Love Provide Shade?

Do the people closest to me feel safe resting around me?

Is My Banner Clearly Love?

Do people I love know that I love them?

Or do I keep them guessing?

Am I Rushing Something God Has Not Yet Brought to Its Proper Season?

Can I wait?

Am I Recognizing the Season I Am In?

Is it:

Winter?

Spring?

Growth?

Waiting?

Healing?

Am I Communicating?

Can the person I love truly hear my heart?

What Little Foxes Need to Be Caught?

Is there:

Resentment?

Neglect?

Dishonesty?

Pride?

Jealousy?

Poor communication?

That needs attention?

Am I Building Security?

Does my commitment communicate:

“You are valued.”

“You are loved.”

“You are not disposable.”

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Catch the Little Foxes Before They Become Big Problems”

Most relationships are not destroyed in one moment.

Often damage begins through:

Small neglect.

Small compromises.

Small resentments.

Small lies.

Small distances.

Small wounds.

Ignored long enough, they grow.

Principle:

Problems are easiest to repair while they are still small.

XXX. DO NOT AWAKEN LOVE BEFORE ITS TIME

Song of Solomon repeats this warning because it matters.

Romantic love is powerful.

Therefore it should be handled with:

Wisdom.

Purity.

Patience.

Discernment.

Love cannot be manufactured.

True intimacy cannot be rushed safely.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's timing protects what impatience can damage.

XXXI. LOVE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Every lasting relationship experiences seasons.

There are seasons of:

Excitement.

Growth.

Waiting.

Work.

Stress.

Renewal.

Song of Solomon 2 says:

Winter passes.

Flowers return.

Spiritual Principle

Never assume a difficult season means love has reached its final season.

XXXII. THE BANNER OF LOVE

The bride says:

“His banner over me was love.”

This communicates something powerful.

She knows where she stands.

She is not wondering:

“Does he care?”

“Am I valued?”

“Am I wanted?”

His love is clear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Healthy love should not use uncertainty as a tool of control.

XXXIII. LET ME SEE YOUR FACE AND HEAR YOUR VOICE

These words emphasize communication.

Strong relationships require more than:

Living together.

Working together.

Paying bills together.

They require:

Conversation.

Attention.

Listening.

Presence.

Spiritual Principle

Never become so familiar with someone that you stop being curious about their heart.

XXXIV. MY BELOVED IS MINE, AND I AM HIS

This is the heart of mutual commitment.

Love is not merely:

“I want you.”

It is also:

“I give myself faithfully to you.”

Healthy love contains:

Desire.

Devotion.

Responsibility.

Faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest relationships are not built only on attraction but on mutual belonging and faithful commitment.

XXXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 2 is a chapter about love in bloom.

It gives us pictures of:

Flowers.

Fruit.

Shade.

Banquets.

Banners.

Spring.

Birdsong.

Vineyards.

The imagery is beautiful because faithful love should contain beauty.

But the chapter also teaches wisdom.

Love needs:

Timing.

Protection.

Communication.

Commitment.

The bride is delighted by her beloved.

He provides shade.

She feels safe.

His banner is love.

That should challenge any relationship built primarily on:

Fear.

Manipulation.

Confusion.

Control.

Healthy love should communicate:

“You are safe with me.”

“You are valued by me.”

“I want to hear your voice.”

“I want to see your face.”

But love cannot be rushed.

The bride gives the warning:

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

Wait for the right season.

Winter has its time.

Spring has its time.

Love has its time.

And once the vineyard begins blooming:

Protect it.

Catch the little foxes.

Do not ignore:

Small resentments.

Small hurts.

Small secrets.

Small compromises.

Small distances.

Deal with them while they are small.

Finally, build the kind of relationship that can say:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Not with selfish possession.

But with:

Faithful devotion.

Security.

Commitment.

Mutual love.

Therefore:

Love patiently.

Speak clearly.

Listen carefully.

Protect diligently.

Forgive quickly.

Respect timing.

Welcome renewal.

And never allow small problems to destroy something God intended to become beautiful.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of faithful love.

Thank You for creating relationships that can bring:

Joy.

Comfort.

Refreshment.

Companionship.

Security.

Teach us to love wisely.

Help us make the people we love feel valued and secure.

May our love provide shade rather than fear.

May our words provide encouragement rather than continual criticism.

May our presence bring peace rather than anxiety.

Father, teach us patience.

Protect us from trying to force relationships ahead of their proper season.

Give us wisdom to understand timing.

Give us patience to wait.

Give us purity in our desires.

Give us self-control.

Help us trust Your timing.

Thank You that winters do not last forever.

When relationships pass through difficult seasons, give us hope.

Bring renewal where renewal is needed.

Bring healing where wounds remain.

Bring communication where silence has grown.

Bring tenderness where hearts have hardened.

Father, help us catch the little foxes.

Show us the small issues we have ignored.

Reveal:

Resentment.

Bitterness.

Pride.

Jealousy.

Dishonesty.

Neglect.

Careless speech.

Unforgiveness.

Help us deal with them before they cause greater damage.

Teach us to communicate openly.

Help us see the faces of those we love.

Help us listen to their voices.

Do not allow busyness to replace intimacy.

Do not allow familiarity to produce neglect.

Father, build relationships marked by mutual devotion.

Help husbands and wives be able to say with confidence:

“My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

Protect commitments.

Strengthen marriages.

Restore affection.

Renew friendship.

And above all, help every form of faithful human love reflect Your own:

Faithfulness.

Purity.

Kindness.

Patience.

Grace.

May our love honor You.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.” — Song of Solomon
2:16

Central Truth

Faithful love brings shelter, delight, renewal, communication, and security, but it must be allowed to grow in its proper season and carefully protected from the small problems that can damage a flourishing relationship.

Song of Solomon 2 in One Sentence

The bride and groom celebrate a love that provides beauty, shelter, invitation, renewal, and mutual belonging while teaching that love must not be rushed, must be carefully protected, and must grow through communication, patience, and faithful devotion.