TITLE: A Testimony to Please God (The Bride’s Testimony)

TEXT: Song of Solomon 4:15-16

SOS 4:15 *A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. 16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.*

v. 15 “A Fountain of Gardens” “a well of living waters” and “streams from Lebanon”

1. **Jesus Christ is the Author, Source and perfection of all life**
   1. Life comes from Him

*John 1:1-4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (John 6:53; 1 John 4:9 ; 5:12)*

* *We cannot produce spiritual life and fruit without the Holy Ghost!*

Ac 17:28; Heb 12:2; 1Sa 3:12; Re 1:8 I

It is not a matter of having ‘natural goodness.’ But bearing the marks of Christ’s influence on me. Without the Holy Ghost, we will not accomplish anything spiritual. (Matthew 7:22) He is the author and finisher!

* He is the Beginning He is the ending. A Life of growth

Re 1:11, 17; 2:8, 19; 22:13

* Wherever the Fountain goes there is life.
  + 1. Fountain of life
    2. Fountain of growth and beauty in abundance
    3. Fountain of revelation of His Holiness

1Th 3:13; Heb 12:10; 2Co 13:5; Ga 4:19; Php 1:6; 2:5; Col 1:27; 3:16; 2Th 1:12; Phm 1:6

With Jesus there will be a garden

1. a well of living waters.
   1. Wherever the Well is there is living waters
      1. Well of life
      2. Well of knowledge, wisdom, prudence in abundance

2Pe 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

1. Well of the deep things of God

Da 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1. streams from Lebanon
   1. Wherever the streams are flowing there is life and victory
      1. Streams of life
      2. Streams of progress, growth, development
      3. Streams of divine truth of end-time deliverance

Ps 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Ps 78:16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

Ps 126:4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

The beginnings of mercies encourage us to pray for the completion of them.

A prayer for the perfecting of their deliverance.

1. Jesus Christ’s life makes us grow
   1. His Word is the Word of life

Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

1Jo 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1. Growth is automatic in the spiritual
   1. You won’t stay the same, you will grow
   2. Something is wrong with you if you do not grow and develop properly.

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16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

1. The Holy Ghost is sent in Christ’s Name
   1. `The Wind is of the Holy Ghost
      1. North wind Persecution
      2. South wind comfort (fresh new growth) blew softly Ac 27:13
         1. Pleasing Him
         2. Satisfying Him
         3. Glorifying Him
            1. Pleasant fruit
            2. Fresh grown fruit
            3. Fruit to perfection

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Heb. 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Ro 15:19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Ro 15:30 ¶ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

Ro 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The winds of fresh growth or the winds of persecution

Many will be right here during the North winds of persecution in the tribulation hour

Ps 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

Jer 4:11 At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse,

Ho 13:15 Though he be fruitful among his brethren, an **east wind** shall come, the wind of the LORD shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up: he shall spoil the treasure of all pleasant vessels.

Ex 10:19 And the LORD turned a mighty strong **west wind**, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

De 33:23 And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Ge 13:10 ¶ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

As paradise was watered by the four neighbouring streams, and as Egypt was watered by the annual overflowing of the Nile; so were the plains of the Jordan, and all the land on the way to Zoar, well watered and fertilized by the overflowing of the Jordan.

1. How much he had an eye to the goodness of the land instead of the goodness of God.
2. How little he considered the wickedness of the inhabitants
3. Though all have sinned, yet some are greater sinners than others. The men of Sodom were sinners of the worst magnitude, sinners before the Lord,

Ge 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Isa 3:9 The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Ezr 9:6 And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

Jer 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jer 8:12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

2. That some sinners are the worse for living in a good land. So the Sodomites were: for this was the iniquity of Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness; and all these were supported by the great plenty their country afforded, Eze 16:49. Thus the prosperity of fools destroys them.

3. That God often gives great plenty to great sinners. Filthy Sodomites dwell in a city, in a fruitful plain, while faithful Abram and his pious family dwell in tents upon the barren mountains. 4. When wickedness has come to the height, ruin is not far off. Abounding sins are sure presages of approaching judgments. Now Lot's coming to dwell among the Sodomites may be considered,

(1.) As a great mercy to them, and a likely means of bringing them to repentance; for now they had a prophet among them and a preacher of righteousness, and, if they had hearkened to him, they might have been reformed, and the ruin prevented. Note, God sends preachers, before he sends destroyers; for he is not willing that any should perish.

(2.) As a great affliction to Lot, who was not only grieved to see their wickedness (2Pe 2:7,8), but was molested and persecuted by them, because he would not do as they did. Note, It has often been the vexatious lot of good men to live among wicked neighbours, to sojourn in Mesech (Ps 120:5), and it cannot but be the more grievous, if, as Lot here, they have brought it upon themselves by an unadvised choice.

Without me you can do nothing

With me you can do all things

Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. {without me: or, severed from me}

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Isa 58:11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Jer 31:12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

The 2010 census on religion, which is stored by the Association of Religious Data Archives, showed that 27.6 percent of Mainers claimed a religious affiliation compared with 36.4 percent a decade ago.

The three states with the highest percentage of residents claiming a denomination were Utah with 79.1 percent, Alabama with 62.9 percent and Louisiana with 60.6 percent.

⇒ The unaffiliated evangelical church members totaled 25,689.

⇒ Mormons one of the fastest growing in maine and USA.