

New Hope Church of God

Women of the Kingdom

Newsletter

His Banner Over Me is Love

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love” (Song of Solomon 2:4).

Recently, I was asked



to minister at a dance conference under the theme, “His banner over me is love.” The facilitator of the conference definitely had her spiritual antennae up, as this is one of my favorite pieces of scripture.

The Song of Solomon itself is one of the most beautiful books in the Bible to me because it paints an allegory of the intimacy that Jesus desires with His church. It is this desire for intimacy with the Lord that stands as the driving force of my life.

In the beginning of Chapter 2 of the Song, the Shulamite refers to herself as “the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys” (v. 1). The Rose of Sharon and lilies are actually common

flowers found in Israel. In other words, the Shulamite was telling Solomon that, “I’m just an ordinary girl.” Solomon contradicts this thinking in the next verse: “As a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.” In Solomon’s eyes, she is absolutely, positively extraordinary! She is lovely beyond compare! Then he does something incredible: He takes her to a party and erects a banner over her.

The word banner comes from the Hebrew word, *degel*, meaning, “a flag, a banner, a standard.” When armies go to war, we know that the banner stands as a representation of identity -- a nation or a particular side is identified by its flag or colors. There is a sense

of belonging., but it doesn’t stop there. *Degel* is a derivative of the word, *dagal* which means “to flaunt or to be conspicuous.” Putting all of this together, I can hear Solomon saying, “Friends, Guests, I want to introduce to you this amazing person that I am head-over-heels in love with! And she’s mine!” Everyone knows that she’s Solomon’s because he’s flaunting her, he’s showing her off; he’s proud and honored to be seen with her. Wow! This is the heart of Jesus. His love conspicuously marks us and calls us out as His own! At times, I don’t particularly feel as if I’m



Woman of the Kingdom Spotlight

Name one way that God has revealed His love to you.

When I was first saved, I got a fuzzy feeling. No matter what mistakes I make, Christ lets me know in the Word that He loves me like no human can.

How has experiencing God's love impacted your relationships with others?

It’s much easier to show love to people by little things. A smile just to let them know that I love them. If it’s the right situation, I will give them a hug. I had a lady tell me that she hadn’t been hugged in a very long time, not even from her children. That really hit me. Everybody needs to know that she is loved in her life and that

Jesus loves her. It’s overwhelming. There are times I just want to cry because people are hurting so much and nobody is showing affection or friendliness.

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Birthday: May 21

Favorite Color: Green

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anything extraordinary. I actually feel like I'm a mess. Yet, He lavishes His care and anointing on me and singles me out by saying to the world, "That Kim is something else. She's captured my heart. She belongs to Me!" His unconditional love targets me and reminds me that I'm accepted in the "Beloved" . . . no matter how I feel about Kim.

Recently, a dear sister came up to me during our Sunday offering and said, "You are absolutely beautiful! You look so radiant!" I immediately responded, "That's the Lord!" When we understand the fact that He invites us to commune with Him daily, and we choose to take Him up on

His offer, there is a physical manifestation that is visible. We can't help but to exude His presence because the banner of His anointing hovers over us. This manifestation isn't only for people to tell us how great we look, its purpose is to attract others to the person of Jesus Christ. As we dwell under this raised banner, it draws all people unto Him and opens the door for sharing the Gospel.

So I end this piece by saying that we are adored; Jesus thinks we're amazing. Selah! No matter how we may or may not feel about ourselves, Beloved. . . whether it's a good day and we feel that we've

done everything "right" or whether we feel like pulling the sheets over our heads and staying in bed, we are God's. He makes a definitive choice to be identified with us; we are precious to Him. He loves spending time with us, and just as He covers us with the banner of His love, He goes absolutely wild when we raise a banner of love up to Him through our worship, our obedience, in prayer, in our study of the Word just because we want to. When we make intimacy with Him the priority of our lives, His banner of love is there for all to behold.

~Kimberly Rae Ross

First Lady's Corner-God's Love Story

"As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."

Song of Solomon 2:2

Women are known to be soft-hearted, very emotional, and sometimes mushy. Some say, "Women thrive off of love." Most women enjoy a good love story. When was the last time you read a GOOD love story? What was the last love story you read or saw with a joyous and eternal ending?

There isn't any love story with a joyous and

eternal ending compared to the Bridegroom (Christ) taking His Bride (the Church) home (Heaven) for good. In most love story, it begins with people smiling and loving life. Then somewhere in the middle, deceit and turmoil comes and destroys what was viewed as perfect. After much tears and speculations, the love story ends with separation or a valuable loss.

Hallelujah! That is not the case with the love of God. Solomon tells us, "As the lily among thorns,

so is my love among the daughters." Song of Solomon is God's love story to the church. God lets us know, even in the midst of test and trials, His love will always be with us. How do we know this? He said, "amongst the daughters". Are you His daughter? Is He your Heavenly Father? Are you the Bride of Christ? Ladies, never let the trials of life cause you to forget the power and eternal love of God.

First Lady

Upcoming Events

August

Saturday, August 27 - WOK's Bible Study

Friday, September 9 at 7:30pm - Marriage Enrichment Seminar in Ed Bldg

Saturday, September 24 - WOK's Bible Study

WOK Newsletter Needs You

Has God gifted you to write? Do you have a favorite family recipe you would like to share? Women of the Kingdom Newsletter is looking for writers to contribute articles, poems and recipes. Please contact Linda Sothern, lindasothern@yahoo.com for more information.