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INTIMACY IN THE DARK NIGHT

*I slept, but my heart was awake.
Hark! my beloved is knocking.
“Open to me, my sister, my love,
my dove, my perfect one;
for my head is wet with dew,
my locks with the drops of the night.”
I had put off my garment,
how could I put it on?
I had bathed my feet,
how could I soil them?
My beloved put his hand to the latch,
and my heart was thrilled within me.
I arose to open to my beloved,
and my hands dripped with myrrh,
my fingers with liquid myrrh,
upon the handles of the bolt. (Song of Songs 5:2-5)*

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*I desire for you to open fully the door of your heart to Me, your beloved Bridegroom...  
I knock continuously on the door of your heart, your inner chamber, but many times you do not  
hear My knock, for you are distracted with many things, and My presence leaves you. (9/12/26)*

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On the Most Holy Name of Mary, I felt Jesus prompt me to open my Bible to the Song of Songs and begin reading chapter 5. After I read the chapter, He placed these words in my heart:

My little one, My bride, I, too, as the Bridegroom in the Song of Songs wait for you “sick with love” (Song of Songs 2:5, 5:8). I desire for you to open fully the door of your heart to Me, your beloved Bridegroom. I desire to see you dressed in the splendor of all the virtues, clothed in purity. I desire to smell your fragrance of sanctity. Meditate your mystical bridal gown (8/15/12) (5:5)— this is, My beloved, the longing and waiting of your Bridegroom. I knock continuously on the door of your heart, your inner chamber, but many times you do not hear My knock, for you are distracted with many things, and My presence leaves you (5:2-8). Now, My beloved, My bride, I allow you to come out of yourself to seek Me, yet I do not allow you to find Me, for this is the dark night (5:6). Yet, the seeking of your soul for your Bridegroom in the dangerous dark night of the city perfects you, My bride, in perfect faith, hope, and love. As the bride in the Song of Songs, is wounded by the “watchmen” (5:7), you, too, are now being allowed to be wounded by Satan’s attacks on you and My little mustard seed. Yet, the bride of Song of Songs doesn’t give up, but perseveres, because of her love for her Spouse, in seeking Him with all the passion of her feminine heart. I have allowed the darkness of evil to wound you only to make you My perfect “garden” (4:12, 5:1), the splendor of God, so that God Trinity may finally be fully glorified through your perfection in Him. Therefore, persevere through

this dark night, and soon, and very soon¹ (Revelation 22:20), you will be possessed by the light of God, God's perfect and holy bride made perfect in His image and likeness. Go in peace. 9/12/26

Jesus, our Bridegroom, in this most recent message, invites us to live the intimacy of the dark night consumed in Him, Love crucified, and to enter the depths of chapter five of the love poetry of the Song of Songs. The bride in chapter 5 is moving out of the “honeymoon” phase into a deeper, more mature union with the Bridegroom. This new phase is the “dark night of the soul.” Therefore, the theme of our retreat is *Intimacy in the Dark Night*.

The Lord is expressing the immensity of His love and desire for us, His bride. He is *sick with love for us*. Just remain pondering those few words. Jesus is *sick with love* for me. He is waiting for me and you to open our hearts fully to Him. This must bring each of us to ask: what part of my heart has not been open to my Beloved? What deep part of myself remains closed off to Him and also to myself?

Chapter 5 of the Song of Songs expresses the Bridegroom and the bride's deepest desire for true intimacy of heart. The deepest longings of the Heart of the Bridegroom desiring the intimacy of spousal union; an intimacy where there are no longer two, but the two become one; the intimacy of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, who are three distinct Divine Persons yet fully One.

In verse 2, the bridegroom awakens the bride by knocking and calling for her. “**My beloved is knocking**” alludes to Rev. 3:20: “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*”

The words “gather”, “eat”, and “drink” from the 1st verse all symbolize intimacy. Nina Sophie Heereman, in her book *Athirst for the Spirit*, explains the intimacy of the sacrament of the Eucharist:

The Eucharist is the sacrament in which this wedding is consummated, as the bridegroom gives himself unreservedly to us, like a bridegroom to his bride in the sacrament of marriage.²

Jesus comes daily to you and me in the Eucharist and gives Himself totally to us: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. In that spousal union, He desires that each of us finally arrive at the point where we give ourselves TOTALLY to Him. The bride and the Bridegroom become ONE!

This brings my memory back to 2006, when the Lord knocked on the door of my heart one early morning as I lay asleep in my bedroom in Medjugorje. I opened the door of my heart, and He said, *Will you be My victim soul?* I realize now that His words were inviting me to go deeper in intimacy with Him; it was the initial invitation to a long journey with Him into the depth of my heart and into the depth of His Heart, a journey of a beautiful love affair to live spousal ecstasy with the Bridegroom.

¹ The biblical language “soon” often signifies certainty rather than specific time frame.

“Soon and very soon” see also messages 6/7/23, 4/9/23, 11/3/17, 8/17/15, 7/23/15, 7/17/15

² Nina Sophie Heereman, *Athirst for the Spirit* (Ohio: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2023), 93.

The bridegroom says, “*Open to me*” (5:2). He, our Beloved, seeks intimacy with us.

In a Christopher West YouTube video, he spoke about these few words, *Open to me*, from the love poetry of the Song of Songs. He revealed a painting by Beth West, “Bridegroom in the Garden”, of a woman opening her heart to the presence of Christ through the wound in Christ's hand, allowing His blood and water to flow into her heart.



Christopher West explained the etymology of the word intimacy. It comes from the Latin word *intimus*, which means the inmost, the innermost, the deepest. Therefore, to be intimate means I am sharing my inmost with you. I am opening my deepest places to you, and I'm welcoming you here.

As I ponder this painting, I am drawn to the woman's complete openness to receive from her Bridegroom. She is totally vulnerable, totally open in body and spirit to receiving from Him, to allowing Him to enter the deepest recesses of her being to cleanse her, wash her, change her. This purification, this bathing, makes her a precious and holy garden, representing the beauty of all the virtues.

Is not this “open to me” the essential condition for living the *Simple Path*: continuously going deeper into the recesses of our hearts?

Christopher West explained that the word intimacy also comes from *intimere*, meaning to be not afraid.

Notice that the bride in verses 3-5 doesn't hurry to the door to open to her Beloved; she hesitates. Why? We carry many fears, blockages, wounds, many of which we are not conscious of, along with countless distractions that keep our hearts covered, locked up, hidden, at times even from ourselves.

Melody Hwang, in her article, “*Dark Night of the Soul*”: A Commentary on Song of Songs Chapter 5³, powerfully draws us into the intimate love relationship between us, the bride, and Jesus, the Bridegroom:

There is discomfort in responding to Jesus’ invitation. The Shulamite (bride) was already lying warm and cozy in her comfy bed. She had taken off her robe. She had washed her feet. Must she get up and get dressed again? But that is exactly what her Beloved is asking for. When God knocks on our door, it often requires an uncomfortable response. We have to get up and get out of our comfort zones. We have to be okay with disrupting our own “agendas” and breaking free of our complacency.

The fact is: God’s not in the business of making us feel good. His ultimate goal is not to give us an “easy life,” contrary to what many Christians may believe. In fact, His goal is actually to *kill* our old selves in order that our *true* selves may be set free. This is what “carrying our cross” is all about. There’s a part of us that needs to be crucified, and that needs to die. God’s invitation for us to go *higher* usually implies a greater level of sanctification. He works to purge us of our *need for comfort* and other worldly pleasures that placate our spiritual hunger.

Becoming one with God, consumed in the Father, through the Son, with the Holy Spirit, will require the death of self. Over the years, the Lord has been intimately purging us of self to bring us to the summit of spousal ecstasy. For example, in December 2025, He said:

The third nail of crucifixion, as I have already told you, is your complete death to self. You become fused to Me, your God and Savior, and through Me, with Me, and in Me you live as Abba’s daughter, restored in My image and likeness, in His embrace... My deepest desire, My spouse, is to have your heart totally empty so that I can fill it with everlasting treasures. 12/2/25

In verse 5, when the bride goes to open the door for her Beloved, her hands are dripping with myrrh. In the Bible, myrrh symbolizes anointing, purification, and sacrifice. Therefore, to open wide the door of our hearts to Christ, our Bridegroom, we must be open to being drenched in His Blood of suffering, willing to die to self so we can rise to new life in Him. Our hearts must be open and willing to suffer all with Him, as one with Him, for this is true love. This is the path of the Cross, the *Simple Path* our Lord, as our Bridegroom, has been leading us through.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:5)

³ <https://mybelovedmelody.wordpress.com/2019/03/27/dark-night-of-the-soul-a-commentary-on-song-of-songs-chapter-5/>

Reflection:

- Remember your first intimate encounter with Christ, an encounter which did not originate from you but was a surprise visit from the Bridegroom. Relive in detail this encounter which awakened your heart to Love and began the seeking, the going out into the “dangerous dark night of the city” (5:7) to find Him.
Yet, the bride of Song of Songs doesn't give up, but perseveres because of her love for her Spouse, in seeking Him with all the passion of her feminine heart. 9/12/26
- Remember the “knocking” of the Bridegroom in the inner chamber of your heart, inviting you to be His victim soul. Did you open right away, or did you hesitate? How did you feel when you finally opened and said, “yes”? Relive those intimate moments with Jesus, thanking Him.
- Do I really want to be intimate? Do I want to go on the pilgrimage, the lifelong journey into the depths of my own heart to encounter God, my Bridegroom?
- What fears, anxieties, wounds, and distractions in my inner being and life keep me from hearing and opening the inner chamber of my heart to the Bridegroom's gentle knock?