

V. Bride-Price

-The Bridegroom demonstrated His love for the Bride when He fought for her with everything He had.

-Jesus invaded the earth and went through a tremendous battle to win her.

-Not only did He fight the greatest battle ever, but He gave His life to win her back forever!

-He paid the bride-price, the dowry with His own blood.

I Peter 1:18-19 AMP – (18) You must know that you were redeemed from the fruitless way of living inherited by tradition from your forefathers, not with corruptible things such as silver and gold, (19) But you were purchased with the precious blood of Christ.

VI. The Reward

-The Bride is Jesus' reward for His suffering.

Hebrews 12:2b AMP - He (Jesus), for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

-He was able to endure the cross and the suffering because He had you in His sight!

A SEASON OF MATURATION

Part 2 – A Year of Engagement

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Destiny Christian Church (450) 676-6944 www.destinychurch.ca

I. BETROTHAL

Hosea 2:19-20 AMP – (19) And I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. (20) I will even betroth you to Me in stability and in faithfulness, and you shall know, recognize, be acquainted with, appreciate, give heed to, and cherish the Lord.

-The Heavenly Bridegroom is demonstrating His passion for His bride and His desire to be with her with an even greater intensity.

-We are moving into an intensified and accelerated time of the Bride/Church making herself ready.

II. COVENANT VOWS

1. Forever
2. In righteousness
3. In justice
4. In steadfast love
5. In mercy
6. In stability
7. In faithfulness

Psalm 25:14 AMP – The secret of the sweet, satisfying companionship of the Lord have they who fear, revere and worship Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its deep, inner meaning.

III. LOVE STAGES

-The earth is groaning and longing and looking for the manifestations of the sons of God...while Jesus is looking and longing for the manifestation of His Bride.

1. First Love

-You are taken up with the awesomeness of God and who He is.

2. Fiery Love

-We are filled with a strength that makes us feel as though we can take on the world and conquer it.

3. Covenant Love

-We begin to experience His sweet communion at a deeper level.

4. Desperate Love

-God stirs up within us a desire and desperation for oneness with Him.

-It's a place of exquisite pain; there's an absolute aching in the spirit – it's as if you just can't get close enough to Him.

-It's a passion that becomes all consuming and overwhelming.

Song of Songs 3:1-4a AMP – (1) In the night I dreamed that I sought the one whom I love. She said I looked for him but could not find him. (2) So I decided to go out into the city, into the streets and broad ways, and seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but I could not find him. (3) The watchmen who go about the city found me, to whom I said, Have you seen him whom my soul loves? (4) I had gone but a little way past them when I found him whom my soul loves, I held him and would not let him go.

-Desperate love doesn't care about gifts, works, dignity, reputation – she has one aim – embracing the one she loves.

-It's a love that will not be satisfied until it knows oneness.

John 17:3 AMP – And this is eternal life: to know, to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand You, the only true and real God, and likewise to know Him, Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, Whom You have sent.

Philippians 3:8a AMP – Yes, furthermore, I count everything a loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege, the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly.

**The goal is not greater ministry;
the goal is greater intimacy!**

IV. DIVINE JEALOUSY

-We will see God's jealousy released concerning His Bride.

-God declares: "You are Mine, and I AM yours!"

-When we declare that we are His – He will remove from our lives anything/anyone we desire above Him.