

# ***PERSONAL RECEIVING***

***DEEP UNTO DEEP - DANA CANDLER***

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## **I. RECEIVING THE BRIDEGROOM'S LOVE**

***“As the Bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.” Is. 62:5***

### **A. Stunning Story**

***“Father I desire that they would be with Me where I am...” Jn. 17:26***

1. We are being introduced to a stunning and terrifying reality in that Jesus, the sovereign King and reigning Lord is a Bridegroom and He has set His affections on weak human beings. It is the most remarkable story of the ages and our natural logic cannot make sense of it. It is a love surpassing knowledge that He has bestowed upon us and the gospel is in fact a story so scandalous, so inconceivable, that for all the ages we will marvel at what God has done.
2. How invasive we find the Gaze of Jesus. Often times, we would prefer the comfort of the corporate dimension. This deeply personal love infringes upon our comfort zones.
3. The reason for this invasion is that there are places in each of our minds that stand in opposition to the truths of His love and His character. These areas of accusation stand against the true knowledge of His heart. As we enter into the intense proximity to His personal affections for us, our hearts become realigned in the truth of His heart.

***“He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous...” Job 36:7***

### **B. Transforming Revelation**

***“Behold what manner of love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” 1 Jn. 3:1***

1. The first part of encountering His love is the revelation of who He is the Lover of my soul and He desires me. The second part is actually *receiving* that love and beginning to drink deeply of its treasury. Our role is to open our hearts wide and *receive*.
2. We allow our old paradigms to be transformed by the Holy Spirit as we gaze on Him in the new light of His immeasurable love. It's a slow transformation with many delays.
3. Our God is the All Consuming Fire. His fiery love is not neutral in its effects upon our hearts. When we encounter this fire, we do not remain the same. His jealous love burns away all things within us that are not everlasting and purifies all that will remain forever.

**II. EACH ONE'S UNIQUENESS BEFORE GOD**

A critical key to encountering the emotions and affections of God's heart is that we understand our uniqueness before His eyes and the pleasure He takes in us as an individual. Unless we move into this very personal experience of His love, our heart will not be transformed by these truths.

A. John

***"Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord who is the one who betrays You?" Jn. 21:20***

1. John the apostle is the standard bearer in laying hold of the truth of being "God's favorite." As John recorded his gospel, the self-descriptions he chose were not chosen casually. They reveal the actual way that he saw himself before God and how he believed God saw him. Within the Word of God, this is how he wanted to be remembered.
2. With this testimony he revealed why he thought his life was important and what made him successful in his own eyes. In this small verse, John very purposefully and specifically whispered the secrets of his entire existence.

B. God's Favorite

1. Each one of us is called *God's favorite*, the unique one before Him. There is a mystery in each heart that answers a determined longing in the Heart of God. He has created each human heart out of His own pleasure and delight and set His affections on each individual.

***"My dove, My perfect one is the only one... the favorite of the one who bore her" S.S. 6:9***

2. To use a word picture: the Creator placed within the deep places of every created heart a specific song from His own being. He brought forth each person in His image as a song to delight His heart. Only that person, with that frame, history, and journey could fulfill His desire for their specific place in His heart. Thus, in our uniqueness before Him both in our design and our response, each one is His favorite.

***"From the place of His dwelling He looks, upon all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works." Ps. 33:15***

***"Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely." S.S. 2:14***

C. Personal

1. God's love for each individual is deeply personal. Just as He did not create generically, He does not love generically. Just as uniquely as the way He created me is the way that He relates to me, speaks to me and reveals His love to me.
2. *The solitary place is important, but more important is the inner sense of solitude...Here there is no question of individual persons being superfluous, or being extinguished or absorbed into some Universal Truth, or Life, or Being – as if redemption consisted in that. Here the whole person is totally awake, ministering lovingly to the transcendent mystery of the encounter between Christ and the Church. Here and now, in my inescapable solitude before God, this encounter is to take place. At this moment in time God's revelation is addressed, not to people in general, but to me. The light of God's loving choice falls on me. Christ is born for me. He dies on the cross for me. He ascends to heaven in order to prepare a place for me. He will come again in glory to take me with him. I need to have a most vivid sense of this here-and-now uniqueness, I must rid my consciousness of every trace of the idea that I am merely part of a crowd going in the same direction, which might do just as well, if not better, without me.*<sup>1</sup>

D. Windows

1. Each heart is a window into the Beloved Jesus Himself and we together are the fullness, a suitable companion to the Man Christ Jesus.  
***“...that you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:18, 19)***
2. He created you out of part of Himself. Within you He fashioned a reflection of His glory, a portion of His great mystery, a living, breathing image of Himself. He placed you on the earth on the day of your birth and said, “Now that *portion* of My heart may live in time and space. Now that *mystery* of My personality may have reflection and image.”

**III. LOVING HIM IN MY UNIQUENESS**

A. Self Acceptance

***“...This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”Matt. 22:38, 39***

1. A tremendous part of loving God is *loving ourselves*, and thus, we must become students of the way He made us and the way He interacts with us in order that we might more quickly recognize and receive His affections and leadings.

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<sup>1</sup> Hans Van Balthasar, Prayer. p 95 - 96

2. Unless we understand this beautiful manifestation of God's cherishing of us individually, we will consistently despair when He does not reveal Himself to us as He does to another.
3. What makes a bride a bride is when she knows that she stands utterly alone in the eyes of her beloved. She knows that she is the unique one and the favorite of her husband. She does not stand before Him as one amidst a massive crowd of blurred faces, but alone in His gaze.
4. *"Our self acceptance is the basis of the Christian creed. Assent to God starts in our sincere assent to ourselves, just as sinful flight from God starts in our flight from ourselves...Knowing the temptation that humanity itself is, knowing how readily we try to escape the harsh distress of the human situation, knowing how difficult it is for us to bear with ourselves and how quickly we feel betrayed by ourselves, knowing how difficult it is not to hate ourselves, we can then understand why God had to prescribe "self-love" as a virtue and one of the great commandments..."*<sup>2</sup>

**B. Distinct Union**

***"A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." S.S. 4:12***

1. God's union with each individual is holy in its distinctiveness. There is an intimacy, a "union," or a "marriage" that only arises from the chambers of *my* heart. He desires from me what I alone can give Him – the movements of my heart toward Him, the love that I return to Him. No one can love Him for me; He waits for my response.
2. The knowledge of God is different for every heart. Every discovery of God is distinctively portioned and appointed for the person that discovers it and cannot be given away to others. The same characteristic of God, when woven together with one person, involving that person's individual fashioning, frame, emotional make-up, perceptions and understandings, creates an entirely different reality than another person's encounter with the same quality of God. In this way, He marries Himself to each soul that loves Him and yet no "union" looks the same.

**C. Personal Journey**

***I will go my way to the mountain of myrrh to the hill of frankincense. S.S. 4:6***

1. It is a personal journey in God that each of us take. As individually as He has formed each heart, each body, each personality, so the distinctiveness of each one's way in God.
2. He has laid out your times and the individual seasons and circumstances to bring you into wholehearted love and the fullness of God for your life. To try to go the way of another only slows our journey for He has formed each one's way for them alone.

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<sup>2</sup> Johannes Baptist Metz, *Poverty of Spirit*. p. 5

D. Exclusive Leadership

***“He...has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:26b – 28a***

1. Each individual life is worth more to God than we could ever fathom or imagine. We will spend all eternity in utter perplexity at just how significant our lives are before Him. His leadership over each of our lives is exclusive in its particularities, uniqueness and individuality.
2. He is vigorously jealous over each one’s journey, never allowing one day to pass without meaning, if we would only respond to His leadership and allow Him to accomplish what He desires.
3. He does not take my brief span of existence in the walls of time lightly; He knows how deeply it influences my eternal existence and thus treats every day, even every hour, with utmost attention and precise leadership. Only my agreement with His leadership and my response to love Him on this journey, in this window called time, is necessary.

E. Agreement

Each of these personal dimensions requires a deep agreement with the way He formed me; my way, and my calling. We must be jealous over “our way” and press in to touch the fullness of what He has ordained for our individual heart in this age.

***“O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance...You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good inheritance.” Ps. 16:6***