



6/3/26

Ummm... I was about to say, "This is the last passage we'll study on physical intimacy this week." But I just realized that I skipped a passage... so I will be going through Tuesday's passage tomorrow. 🙄 I hope you're more organized in your brain than I am. Hahaha.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Song of Songs 3:1-5, 8:6-7

Tim said on Sunday, "Spiritual oneness and relational oneness are for all believers, but physical oneness is reserved for those who are married." This can be a wonderful subject to look at for a single person as he or she considers the beauty of a relationship to come. It can be a wonderful subject for a married couple who want to be intentional about their love. But it can be a difficult subject for the single if they're really struggling with, "Why am I still single?" And it can be a really difficult subject for those who are struggling in their marriage.

For those struggling, my prayer is that they will bring their struggles to the Lord and let Him soothe their souls. The temptation is to stuff it down and pretend it's not there... but that eats away at us when we do. Another temptation is to complain and lament to other people, but not to the Lord. But He's the only one who can actually bring peace. One other temptation is to take matters into our own hands, thinking He's forgotten us or abandoned us. That's never a good plan. If we can't see God moving in our situation, it's just that we can't see... but it isn't that He's not working. And... He may be working to help us surrender to Him first. That feels really hard and slow... but it's worth it. And the damage we cause when we take matters into our own hands takes a lot longer to unravel and heal.

I pray that above all, we will entrust ourselves to the Lord completely, believing that He truly loves and wants to bless us even more than we want to be blessed. And the most intimate relationship any of us can have is our relationship with Him. Who else knows every fiber of our being, every nook and cranny of our hearts, every thought that we never speak out loud... and loves us so much that He shed His own blood to make us His bride? O Lord, open our hearts to YOU!!!

Now... what can I learn from this very intimate passage?

Song of Songs 3:1-5 ~

"On my bed by night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not." The bride to be is talking about a dream. Dreams are very interesting. Like my feelings, they often reveal what we love or even what we worry about. What was "she" revealing? She was afraid of losing him. They weren't married yet.

I remember the night Tim and I got engaged. I was so so so happy and excited. But then it was time for him drive the 30 minutes back to his house. We didn't have "find my iPhone" then. We didn't even have cell phones then. I prayed and prayed for him until he called me to tell me he got home safely.

Continuing her dream... "I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves. I sought him, but found him not. The watchmen found me as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'" In her dream she asked for help from those who would be most likely to know the answer.

But her dream ended with closure. What a blessing. My dreams often don't. She said, "Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me." In her dream, she found him. She was so excited for their wedding day when they would be able to celebrate their love with complete intimacy, that she dreamt about being with him. I imagine she wasn't exactly sure what that would mean since she was a virgin, so her dream was probably rated PG or even G. But she couldn't wait to celebrate their love with a oneness reserved only for the marriage bed... as Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous." She was holding their marriage bed in high honor.

I pray that I will ALWAYS hold our marriage bed in high honor. Even after 32 years of marriage. I feel like the Lord gave me a blessing in disguise with Tim's tumor. There were many times in our relationship that I did not honor the intimacy that God had blessed us with... too tired, too frustrated, too distant. When we were unable to enjoy that intimacy because of his tumor, I vowed that if his testosterone levels were restored, I would never take our intimacy for granted again. It helps that we're empty nesters, but I'm thankful for that gift from the Lord. What an incredible picture of God's generosity and the intimacy I get to have with Him!!!

She finally speaks to her friends, "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases." Why not stir up or awaken love until it pleases? Because I have to be ready for it. It has to be with a man that the Lord has blessed me with or I will regret the awakening of my love.

I was engaged to someone before Tim. I praise God that He gave me the strength to end that relationship 7 weeks before the wedding date. I would have regretted it the rest of my life. I often say to single women who are struggling with their singleness... "It is far worse to be married and lonely than it is to be single and lonely. Wait for the Lord to bring that man into your life. He will be worth the wait."

Song of Songs 8:6-7 ~

This is a passage I have often prayed for my marriage... "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord." I pray that Tim will have my love sealed on his heart, and his on mine... that I will always love walking arm in arm through life with him. And I pray that nothing but death and the grave will separate us... not just physically, but relationally and spiritually. Love is the very flame of the Lord because love comes from the Lord.

This is a really important point. My love for the Lord will make my love for my husband even more beautiful and strong. When my love comes from the source of love, Jesus Christ, it can only be a strong love that withstands every storm. With that kind of love, "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it." I pray that our love will only grow stronger so that nothing can make our love dry up, and nothing can flood our love out. This takes intentionality. This takes a humble pursuit. This takes a supernatural strength that only the Lord can give. O Lord, I praise You that You don't leave me alone to handle this in my own strength. I love my husband. But I'm a sinner and he's a sinner. We both get selfish. We both get tired. We both say things that hurt the other. It is through humble surrender to the Lord that the Holy Spirit helps us overcome our SELF sabotaging obstacles.

The kind of love God has for us to flow in us and through us cannot be bought or earned. It's a love that comes from Him alone. "If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised." In the profound words of those great theologians, the Beatles... "Money can't buy me love."

When Tim and I got engaged, someone asked him in front of me, "Are you marrying Jonna because you just can't live without her?" He said, "No. I am marrying Jonna because I'm making a commitment to love her till death do us part." At the time, I thought his answer wasn't very romantic. But after 32 years of marriage, a lot of fighting, difficult pregnancies, brain tumor surgeries and all the stuff in between, I'm so grateful for the security he gave me in loving me no matter what comes. That's a love that can't be bought.

O Lord, I praise You for awakening love for Tim in me. I praise You for the life we've had... the good, the bad, and the ugly. I pray that I will be intentional to pursue our relationship so that no one but You understands him and loves him better than I do. Amen.