He That Loveth Father or Mother More Than Me Is Not Worthy of Me

In our relationship with the Lord Jesus, Scripture sees us in several roles. We are seen as disciples, as servants, as brothers of the Lord and as His betrothed. He is our Master, our Teacher, our elder brother, but He is also our Bridegroom, and we are His betrothed!

Today we are going to study Scripture from the point of view of our betrothal to the Lord Jesus.

Like you, I have heard many sermons, and I have heard of people turning to God when they were told that if they did not repent they would go to hell.

Some of them repented and believed in His sacrifice so that their sins would be forgiven. But God's purpose was not simply to have a people whose sins are forgiven. Our calling is much higher: it is to be the Lamb's wife. That is our calling.

Many people think today: "Let me just squeeze in at the very back, the last one through before the door shuts." But we are not called to come in last. God designed His plan so that we would be the bride of the Lamb.

This is God's plan. And if we do not fit into God's plan, if all we want is to be saved, just to have our sins forgiven, we will be in for a great surprise at the end of our life on earth.

He wants us to be the wife of His Son, and that requires preparation on our part. We will read several passages to see this plainly. Some people think only about the forgiveness of sins and want to be somewhere on the edge of the Kingdom; they say that being the Lamb's wife is too much for them. But that is the standing to which we are called.

We will read a few verses about this plan of God, and we will see that everything is subordinate to this plan, to this magnificent purpose God has for us.

We read in Revelation, chapter 19, verses 7 and 8: *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."* Amen. What a glorious day that will be, the day of the marriage of the Lamb and His bride.

We also read from chapter 21, verse 9: *"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."* Amen.

This is God's plan for man, the crown of His creation.

We will also read from 2 Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 1 and 2: *"Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."* Amen.

The apostle Paul is speaking to the church in Corinth, a church with many problems, if you remember. And yet he tells these people that he has betrothed them to the Lord Jesus.

We too, here today, are called to enter into this betrothal with the Lord Jesus. We all know that betrothal comes before marriage.

Scripture tells us about Mary, who was with child, that she was Joseph's wife and Joseph was Mary's husband, though they were only betrothed. *(Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband… Matthew 1:18)*

In the Old Testament, a young couple who were betrothed were called husband and wife for the whole period of the betrothal. If during the betrothal the young woman lived in fornication, her betrothed could break off the engagement. It is the same in the spiritual realm. If we, as the betrothed, live in spiritual fornication, the Lord Jesus can break off the betrothal.

Do we understand what God's plan for man is? If we think about an ordinary, earthly engagement, for two young people to become engaged they must be drawn to one another; there must be deep love on both sides, and a firm decision on their part. These things must exist between the two for a true engagement.

It must be the same in our relationship with the Lord Jesus, whom Scripture describes as our Bridegroom. Let us ask ourselves: Is our relationship with the Lord Jesus of such a kind that it moves Him to call us His betrothed? Can we say what the psalmist says in Psalm 73, verse 25: *"Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee."*

The Lord Jesus sets us very strict conditions that we must fulfil, and without them there can be no talk of betrothal. We read about these conditions in Matthew, chapter 10, verses 37 to 39: *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."* Amen.

I read these verses many times in the past and did not understand that here the Lord Jesus is speaking about my entering into a betrothal with Him. I did not see that the relationship between Him and me had to be so close.

Let us consider: is the Lord Jesus asking impossible things of us? Let us ask ourselves: What do two young people who love each other and get married usually do? We read about this in Mark 10:7: *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife."* They leave their parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and their partner becomes their

first priority.

This is what the Lord Jesus calls us to as well. He has called us to love Him more than mother and father… that is why He tells us: whoever loves father and mother more than Me, his Bridegroom, is not worthy of Me.

This is how we must view our relationship with the Lord Jesus. Many say they love Him, but for them the Lord Jesus is present only at church meetings. They sing to Him, they say they love Him, but their life goes on almost the same as before, with all the little pleasures it offers. The Lord Jesus is somewhere far away from them, and their connection with Him is almost nil.

The intensity of our love for the Lord Jesus must be like that of two young people during their engagement, when they are so drawn to each other that everyone else around them takes second place.

When two young people are drawn to each other and in love, they want to be together all the time and to talk to each other.

They find their delight in each other. There is deep love there, and a man leaves everything for the one he loves. That is how my relationship with the Lord Jesus must be: from now on He must be my delight and my joy. *(Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4)*

These young people leave home, parents, family, brothers and sisters, and their partner becomes the most important person. They are joined and make a family, and the Word of God says that the two must leave their families.

If someone does not leave his family and still loves his parents more than his wife, very serious problems arise. If we listen to the voice of a parent, if the wife listens to her mother's voice and not her husband's, major conflicts arise.

If a mother tells her daughter, "You don't have to do what your husband says," and she listens, her relationship with her husband will be ruined. The Lord Jesus tells us very clearly, and let us remember that this is a commandment: *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me"*, not worthy to be betrothed to Me. In other words, the Lord Jesus will not begin a relationship with us.

Our relationship with the Lord Jesus must be very much like this, because we are called to a betrothal. It cannot be a business relationship that works by the rule: *"You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours; you don't, I won't."*

Let us remember these verses from Matthew 10:37–39, which are very important. Unless we love the Lord Jesus more than anything in this world, He will not begin the betrothal with us.

We very often hear that we are saved by faith. That is very true, but faith involves love, without which there is nothing. Without love on our part, the Lord Jesus does not begin the betrothal. We enter into betrothal only through love.

The Lord Jesus does not accept a half-hearted love, where we give Him a few moments of our life as well; He wants complete devotion from us. In practice, our love for Him must be so great that it moves us to give up absolutely everything, even our own life. *"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."* Scripture tells us plainly that if we do not love Him so much that we take up our cross every day and follow Him, we are not worthy of Him.

What love there must be for you to be moved to give up your life for your Bridegroom! What a close bond there must be, what power is there!

God calls us to be the wife of the Lord Jesus, and that is the most glorious thing a human being can be called to.

The two shall be one flesh. So that we could understand what relationship we must have with the Lord Jesus, God created the man and then the woman, whom He took out of the man and gave to him as a wife, to be a help to him.

We read Mark chapter 10, verses 6, 7 and 8: *"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."* Amen.

These are words we do not understand very well. Two strangers meet, they are drawn to each other, they fall in love, and after deciding to become husband and wife, they are joined and become one flesh before God.

That is why there are so many divorces: people do not understand this extraordinary oneness. And God says: What God has joined together, what God has bound, what God has united, let not man put asunder. Man cannot do it.

The two shall be one flesh; the man shall cleave to his wife and leave his mother and father. He leaves those he has lived with all his life and who have loved him, and now he loves his wife more. Until then he lived with his brothers and sisters, and some of us have been through this and understand that this is exactly what happens.

There is a capacity God has placed within us. This love appears that moves us to be joined as husband and wife and to leave those who love us.

Just as this union takes place between a man and a woman, so, this time on the spiritual level, it takes place between us and the Lord Jesus. We will read a few passages and see that it is the same in the spiritual realm. What happens naturally in marriage is a faithful picture of what is spiritual.

We read from 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 13: *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**."* We have all been betrothed to the Lord Jesus to form one body with Him. We have been baptized by one Spirit to form one body with the Lord Jesus. He is the Head of the body, the Word of God tells us, and we are members of His Body.

We will also read from 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verses 15 to 17: *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."* Amen.

We read in Mark 10 that a man cleaves to his wife and becomes one flesh with her. Let us look at the spiritual realm in the same way: "He that is joined unto the Lord becomes one with Him, one spirit with Him."

We are called to be joined to Him, and if we do not give up completely the things of the world, and our family, we are not worthy to be joined to His body.

And Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 4, verse 4: *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."* Amen.

There is one body. We have read that the two shall cleave together and be one flesh. Do we really understand what God means, what we are called to? Not just to be forgiven. Of course there must be forgiveness of sins as well, or else He will not receive us into His body; He cannot receive us unclean.

God's purpose is not merely that our sins be forgiven. The purpose is that we be one body with Him. Paul says he has espoused us to one husband, to present us as a chaste virgin to Christ.

God's plan was for us to be the betrothed of the Lord Jesus. This is what we have all been called to. We must have the courage to tell everyone that we are the Lord's betrothed, and to behave as a chaste virgin behaves towards her bridegroom.

If we do not behave like this towards the Lord Jesus, we cannot speak of a true beginning. We were not called to be the last one in before the door shuts, nor merely to the forgiveness of sins, but to be the Lamb's wife.

"We have all been called to the same hope, to be one body with Him." Amen. We have all been baptized by one Spirit to form one body. There is no life outside of being joined to the body of Christ. There is no betrothal, there will be no marriage, there will be nothing.

The Word of God is very clear. We read from John chapter 14, verse 15: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* The condition "if ye love me" comes first, and then the keeping of the commandments. If I love Him with all my heart, I am ready even to die for Him, not just to keep His Word.

If we do not love the Lord Jesus, if we are not in love with the beauty of His character more than anything on this earth, we are not worthy to enter into a relationship with Him.

Love must come first, as a result of being drawn by the beauty of the Lord Jesus; it does not come afterwards. He will not receive us into betrothal unless we love Him. He tests whether we love Him, and He will enter into betrothal with us only if we love Him with all our heart and all our

understanding, as we find written in Mark chapter 12, verse 33: *"And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

Only there is the beginning, and then, as a result of walking with Him, I come to the love from above that He has, the fruit of the Spirit. The love I must have at the beginning is different from the love that is the fruit of the Spirit's work in those who love the Lord.

We can be drawn by the beauty of the Lord Jesus' character and love Him, because God has placed this in us. This capacity to love is in every person, placed there from birth, and it is not the same as the love from above that comes as a result of obeying, of keeping His commandments.

People have this capacity: to love and to choose. We read in John 3, verse 19, that people can love, but look at what they want: *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

The Lord Jesus puts it so beautifully: even the publicans and sinners love those who love them.

That is why the Lord Jesus says: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* And in verse 21 we will read the test we can apply to ourselves to see whether we love Him with all our heart. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." That is the proof that we love Him.

"And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Verse 23: "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Amen. At that moment the relationship between us and the Lord Jesus begins. He promises us: *We will come unto him, I and My Father.* He will come to me, He as the Bridegroom and I as the betrothed, and He will make His home with me.

The Song of Solomon is a book about the love between two young people, which we must view on the spiritual level in order to see what relationship there must be between us and the Lord Jesus. He must be the beloved of our heart, as we read in verse 23: *"If a man love me… I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

The purpose of the Song of Solomon is to show us what relationship we must have with the Lord Jesus. It was written so that we would understand how the Lord Jesus loves us and how we must love Him, so that we would understand that it is a relationship of mutual love.

We will read from chapter 2, verse 14, and then verse 16: "O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely."

And verse 16: "My beloved is mine, and I am his." Amen. There is union, a perfect cleaving between the two. No longer are there brothers, sisters, parents, relatives or other things more

important than the Lord Jesus. *(Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. Psalm 73:25)*

We read from chapter 3, verses 1–4: *"By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go."* Amen.

I found him whom my soul loveth. I held him and would not let him go. Remember the expression used here: "him whom my soul loveth".

We read from chapter 5, verse 7: *"The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love. What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?"* Amen. Let us note that it says here: what He *is*, not what He has given me.

Why do we love the Lord Jesus? Let us ask ourselves: Could we tell someone why we left everything to enter into this betrothal? Could we say why we love the Lord Jesus?

Many only think they love Him, but in fact they value Him because He takes them to heaven, because He saves them from hell, because He gives them a home in heaven, because there is no more suffering there, because there are no more tears.

Many value Him for what He gives them. But if a young woman loves a young man because he gives her a house, a car, money, what would you say? Is that true love, or self-interest? What will happen to her love when the young man has no more money?

The Lord Jesus tells us in John 12, verse 32: *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* He draws us, He draws us with cords of love, the Word of God tells us. *(I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love. Hosea 11:4)*

For us to be drawn to the Lord Jesus and to love Him, someone must introduce Him to us and show us His beauty. With what can the Lord Jesus draw us to love Him? We do not see Him with our physical eyes, so we cannot be drawn by His physical appearance. We can only see Him with the eyes of the heart.

We are called to love the beauty of His heart. It must be a relationship from heart to heart. This time it is not a physical relationship. He draws us with the beauty of His character and with nothing else. We must love Him because we are drawn by His beauty, by the beauty of the character of His heart.

He can draw us only by who He is, that is, by the beauty of His character. We must be drawn by the extraordinary beauty of His character, so that it awakens in us this deep love for which we would leave mother, father, brothers and sisters, even our own life.

In Matthew chapter 10 are verses 37–39, which we must keep in mind at all times: *"If anyone loves father, mother, or even his own life more than Me, he is not worthy of Me."*

We will also read from Ezekiel about this unique relationship to which we are called.

We read from chapter 16, verse 8, about the marriage relationship to which we are all called: *"Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine. Then washed I thee with water; yea, I throughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil. I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk."*

Only when love awakens in us, when love comes from our side, does the Lord make a covenant with us. Because it is a marriage covenant.

That is what is written here. He does not make a covenant, He does not swear faithfulness to us, until love for Him is stirred up in us. We read this in the Song of Solomon chapter 8, verse 4: *"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please."*

He will not make a covenant with us unless we are wild with joy when He speaks to us, until we are sick with love.

When we say we have made a covenant with the Lord, what covenant did we make? Was it a covenant of love, or a business deal in which He gives us salvation and we give Him worship and thanks for what He has done for us?

Let us look back. Was the covenant one of love, of entering into marriage with the Lord Jesus, or did we make a covenant to escape hell?

The betrothed life with the Lord Jesus does not begin unless we are drawn by the beauty of His character, a character we must long to have ourselves. We can look back over our past and find that most of us loved Him out of self-interest. We came to Him for entirely different reasons.

Many of us did not come because of the beauty of His character, longing to have it ourselves.

The Shulamite knew very well what the beloved of her heart looked like, and when she was asked, she described his portrait in detail: *"My beloved is white and ruddy… His head is as the most fine gold… His eyes are as the eyes of doves…"* She knew what he looked like and fell in love with him because he was the fairest of all the young men.

Verse 16: "His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem." Amen. This is my beloved. The Shulamite had very good

reasons to love him, because he was the fairest.

Let us think about a few things. How can we describe the Lord Jesus? How can we describe the portrait of His heart?

What will we answer when we too are asked: **What is thy beloved more than another beloved?**

The Lord Jesus is meek and lowly in heart. He is longsuffering. The beloved of my heart is full of goodness, He is merciful, He is full of love.

What else does the beloved of your heart have? He is the King of righteousness; He loves righteousness and hates iniquity. If we love Him, we must also love His righteousness. We must hunger and thirst after righteousness.

There are people who love evil more than good, lying rather than truth, destructive words rather than words that build up. Can we love God and love these things too? If we do, we are deceiving ourselves badly. We find this written in Psalm 52, verses 3, 4 and 5: *"Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living."* Amen.

He is the Prince of peace. He does not get into conflict with anyone; He does not resist at all those who do Him harm.

The beloved of my heart obeys His Father in all things; He does nothing of Himself. My beloved is godly; He made Himself a servant to His Father, and He calls me to the same obedience.

As He obeys His Father, so I must obey Him. This is the relationship of love. I love Him because He is obedient. He never steps outside the Father's will, and I love Him deeply for these extraordinary traits of character, and I want with all my heart to live as He lived.

We must love Him and we must also be as He is, because husband and wife become one; they are one flesh and in practice they live in complete oneness, after the pattern that exists between the Father and the Son.

The Lord Jesus' prayer in John 17 tells us about this perfect oneness: *"Father, I pray for them, that they may be made perfect in one, even as we are one"*, but one in a relationship of obedience, not one in a relationship of equality. We are not equal with God. We cannot say to God: *"This far and no further. From here on I make the rules."* If we think we can do that, we are one hundred percent in Satan's hands.

We are saved by faith, by grace, not of works, lest any man should boast. But whoever does not love the Lord Jesus above everything is not worthy of Him.

If anyone does not deny himself, if he does not hate even his own life, he is not worthy of the Lord Jesus. Do we understand what we are called to?

I came to the Lord out of fear of hell, so as not to end up in hell. But that is self-interest, not love. We must come because we have found Him the fairest of all, as Solomon was to the Shulamite.

We will read Psalm 27, verse 4: "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple." Amen.

David wanted to behold the beauty of the Lord and to marvel at God's temple.

Thou hast left thy first love

We will read from chapter 5, also from the Song of Solomon, about a sad episode in the love between the young Shulamite and the beloved of her heart. We read verse 2: *"I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved **that knocketh**, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled..."*

And the Lord Jesus says something similar to us in the book of Revelation 3:20: *"Behold, I stand at the door, **and knock**: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

Verse 3: "I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? [KJV: how shall I put on it?] I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?"

Verse 5–6: "I rose up to open to my beloved... I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone." He had disappeared. Amen.

What should our relationship with the Lord Jesus be like? This young woman delayed a little, she lingered only a little. And when she decided to go and opened the door, her beloved was no longer there. This young woman did not respond with the same intensity to the love of her heart's beloved, and by what she did, she caused him to leave.

Betrothal is a relationship of total love on both sides. The Shulamite's beloved reacted very strictly to this young woman's indifference.

It is a relationship of deep, very powerful love. And in this relationship of very powerful love something can go wrong on our side.

If we are not careful, we can grieve the Spirit, we can quench the Spirit, and be left alone. The Spirit can very easily depart from us if our love relationship becomes something secondary. That is why He asks us to love Him as He loves us. He made us after the image of His Son in order to give His Son a wife. Let us remember this.

Let us read from Revelation chapter 2, verse 1: *"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's

sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted."* Amen.

The church in Ephesus was a steadfast church. The Lord Jesus says many words of praise about it. *"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."* Amen.

What does first love mean? The love you had for Me at the beginning, for which you left mother, father, brothers and sisters for My sake… and because of which I came to you and betrothed Myself to you, because you left everything and loved Me with all your heart.

This young woman in the Song of Solomon lingered a little; she lost some of her first love; a slackness crept in. *"I have put off my coat; how shall I put on it? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?"*

This first love, without which nothing begins, is today completely neglected by most of us. For most people the new life with the Lord Jesus has not yet begun.

Is it serious if we leave our first love? We can have many good things: suffering for His name, testing false prophets, works, labour, being unable to bear those who are evil. What great things these are!

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." God rebukes the church in Ephesus for this sin, which moves Him to leave it. Our love for the Lord must be fervent, with all our heart, and must stay that way to the end.

Just as the Shulamite was asked, so we must ask ourselves: "What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that you were beside yourself when He spoke to you?" Are we beside ourselves with joy when the Lord Jesus speaks to us? *(Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors. Psalm 119:24)*

Perhaps at the beginning I was beside myself when He spoke to me, and now His words are no longer so attractive? What has happened?

Our relationship has worn thin. Repent and return to your first works, to your first love. Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. The Lord Jesus' candlestick holds the light from above, so that we can live in the light. If you do not repent, says the Lord Jesus, I will come and take away your light.

And if He takes away our light, we are left in darkness and can no longer see. And this happens if we leave our first love.

Let us remember that first love is our part; it is what moves the Lord Jesus to enter into a covenant with us, a covenant of love.

May the Lord help us understand what each of us is called to. There are many passages showing us that God loves us with an everlasting love. And how must we love Him? What is the first

commandment of the Law? *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind. This do, says the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt live."*

In the Song of Solomon we see that love is mutual, and when this love starts to falter, God withdraws from us. Many believe that once saved they are saved forever, even if they sin.

Only the Bride who has made herself ready takes part in the marriage of the Lamb. That is what the Word of God tells us. May the Lord help us examine ourselves very carefully, and not come to bargain with God, because that cannot be done. Let us seek Him, find His beauty, and let ourselves be drawn by this beauty that has no equal. Only then will the Holy Spirit change us from beauty to beauty, into the image of God. May the Lord help all of you, and me as well. Amen.

Source: *He That Loveth Father or Mother More Than Me Is Not Worthy of Me* — Unmodified Word
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