

Foreword

Are you truly free? Do you want to know more of Jesus? Do you long to understand why the process can be so difficult at times? If so, then this book is for you! It's your personal "guidebook" for spiritual maturity.

For many years I've known Kay-Chong to be uniquely God-gifted to equip Christians in the ways of God. In this book, with divine insight, wisdom and knowledge he skillfully brings seemingly paradoxical truths of Scripture into clarity and balance. With precision, he dispels the myths that surround the Old Testament book, *The Song of Solomon*, as little more than a manual for marriage counseling. Instead, he draws from it truths concerning intimacy, maturity and wisdom.

In this wonderful book about the "motion of relationship," Kay-Chong explains what relationship means and how it evolves to maturity. He points out the differences between disobedience and immaturity, holiness and purity and offers us a workable plan that will help us live for Christ Jesus throughout each season of our lives.

Maturity's not one-dimensional; rather, it's the dichotomy of personal and ministerial growth process. Unless and until we understand the growth process, we'll not reach maturity. This two-dimensional concept is what will lead us to the fullness of Christ. I love the way Kay-Chong unravels and presents the "simplicity of complexity" and points us to the "pathway-to destiny."

Growth is the process of becoming. For a baby to become an adult he or she must experience life as a toddler, a child, a teenager and only then as an adult. Likewise a plant grows from seed to sprout, to shoot and then to a fruit-bearing mature plant. So it is with us personally and in ministry. Once we are born again, the Spirit of Christ is like a seed placed inside us that begins to grow. Soon He begins to be seen, heard and experienced through us—His Bride! The question each of us must answer is, "Am I ready for a chamber-based intimate relationship with Christ that will enable Him to be fully-formed in me?"

The understanding Kay-Chong reveals will answer the heart-cry of true believers for personal and professional freedom, integrity and ministerial balance; and will develop in them the heart, character and motives of the Lord Jesus. This rich book is destined to mentor men and women for generations to come.

Dr. Alice Smith, Houston
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Author and internationally-known conference speaker

About Alice Smith

Alice Smith is cofounder and executive director of the U.S. PRAYER CENTER in Houston, Texas.

She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee, the International Reconciliation Coalition, and the International Strategic Prayer Network. Alice has earned her Doctorate of Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Alice's first calling is to intercessory prayer and to represent a life of integrity and transparency to the body of Christ. She has always been willing to go minister to the masses of people or even to the few. She and her husband, Eddie, travel each year to preach and serve people worldwide, as well as the Christians in the United States. Alice conducts seminars, retreats and conferences on a variety of subjects including intercessory prayer, spiritual intimacy, personal freedom, spiritual warfare, and spiritual mapping.

She is a regular contributor to Charisma, Ministries Today, Spirit-Led Woman, and Pray! magazines. Alice is a regular guest on CBN's 700 Club, and an occasional guest on Benny Hinn's, This is Your Day. She is the editor of Insight, a weekly teaching email newsletter that goes to thousands of praying Christians in more than 70 nations. In addition, she and Eddie offer a 52-week free Internet course on prayer that serves to train Christians worldwide who have few resources.

Her favorite activities are to enjoy her family, spend time with her husband, and play games with her four grown children and five grandchildren.

Alice Smith is an internationally-known conference speaker, and the author of the best-selling books:

- Beyond the Veil: Entering into Intimacy with God Through Prayer,
- 40-Days Beyond the Veil: Experience Daily Encounters of Divine Intimacy,
- Beyond the Lie: Finding Freedom from Your Past, and her newest book -
- Delivering The Captives: Understanding The Strongman - And How to Defeat Him
- Spiritual Intimacy: Moving Joyfully into the Deeper Life

Preface

Do you long to know God in a deeper way? Do you want to understand how He sees you, how He feels about you? Nothing empowers the human heart like the revelation of God's affections for us. Although this love is seen throughout the Bible, the Song of Songs unveils this divine romance like no other. The Song of Songs is an eight chapter love song revealing the passionate desire of the Bridegroom God for His bride. The revelation in this series will help you make sense of the journey you are on and the next steps He is bringing you in your spiritual journey. By this understanding, your heart will be empowered to trust Him in all seasons of life.

The Importance of Song of Songs

Song of Songs is a must-read book for every believer who yearns for intimacy with God. Its uniqueness is found in the focused and concentration of truths regarding intimacy with God – all in one book. Through this book, the Holy Spirit shows us the biblical principles necessary for us to go deeper in our pursuit of growing in love and full passion for Jesus:

We must devote our time and energies to this book. There is no short cut because intimacy with God is not about receiving an impartation or anointing. It is about knowing a Person. If there is one word that can describe our faith, it is 'WALK'. As we walk with the Lord, we will discover more about Him, what He likes or dislikes and fall deeper in love with Him (Col. 2:6-7).

The whole book is like a road-map with signposts along the way, guiding believers in their pursuit of God. It is illustrated through the journey of the Shulamite woman – starting out in the first chapter with her immature in her faith, and as she keeps walking, she grows into someone who is fully mature and closely intimate with God in love and partnership.

The goal for every believer is to become mature in Christ. We often 'settle' at where we are or do not have a focused way of growing deeper in Christ. Song of Songs sets forth divine principles of progression in our maturity in Christ. For example, inheritance statements are strategically located in the book, giving us a glimpse of the Bride's maturity at every point. When we become mature in Christ, loving God has become an end in itself. Everything we do is for Him and everything is about Him. *"I am my beloved's and His desire is towards me."* (Songs 7:10 – the final inheritance statement of the Bride).

When we struggle with sin, do we run away *from* God or run *to* God? Song of Songs teaches us that He delights in us, even when we are weak and immature. This means that we should have confidence in approaching Him, even as we struggle in our sins. This revelation awakens us to a lifestyle of passionate pursuit of Jesus.

How to Approach the Song of Songs

The focus of this study guide is to interpret this book as an allegorical love story between Jesus and the individual believers as His Bride. This approach offers practical spiritual insight into our personal lives as we grow in our personal passion for Jesus. It helps us to see the spiritual truths in our relationship with Jesus behind the natural love story.

On the surface, the book may seem challenging and intimidating with all the poetic terms used. Don't give up! Press in, pray, meditate on it and ask for the spirit of revelation to help you fall in love with the One the book is all about, our bridegroom King - Jesus!

The Song of Songs cannot just be understood merely in our mind. We need to know it in our heart. It is a "heart-book". Turn it into a prayer book, use it to talk to God and engage heart-to-heart with Him, using the language in the book to express our passion and love for God - "I am lovesick for you, O God...draw me away... I will run with you..." The key is to encounter Jesus through this book and fall deeper in love with Him!

May God kiss you with the kisses of His word and exhilarate your heart in your pursuit of Him!

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Song of Songs – Our Journey of Intimacy with God

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