

Faithful Commitment

Song of Songs 7:1 - (He) **How beautiful your sandaled feet**, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of an artist's hands.

Song of Songs 7:11-13 - (She) Come, my beloved, **let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages.** 12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom—**there I will give you my love.** 13 The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, **both new and old**, that I have stored up for you, my beloved.

Springtime moments - "Spring love" - Keeping things fresh in their marriage - Older now but but creating spring moments. - New and Old - We will remember the old and create the new

To get what you once had, do the work you once did.

Lasting love takes work. Gardens have to be worked to keep fruit growing, your relationship takes work to keep fruit growing forever.

Song of Songs 8:5-6 - (Friends) 5 **Who is this** coming up from the wilderness leaning on her beloved? (She) Under the apple tree I roused you; there your mother conceived you, there she who was in labor gave you birth. 6 **Place me like a seal** over your heart, like a **seal** on your arm; for **love is as strong as death**, its **jealousy unyielding as the grave**. It **burns like blazing fire**, like a mighty flame.

God is a jealous God - I'm jealous for my wife's heart...Want to do whatever to keep her heart

Committed Love is Permanent

Song of Songs 8:7 - (She) 7 **Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away.** If one were to give **all the wealth** of one's house for love, **it would be utterly scorned.**

Waters cannot quench - It can't drown and it can't be swept away by the currents of life - In other words we are committed to not allow anything to take out our love.

Committed Love Perseveres

Marriage is intended to be an anchor that holds.

Song of Songs 8:8-9 - (Friends) 8 **We** have a little sister, and her breasts are not yet grown. **What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?** 9 If she is a **wall**, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a **door**, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

Committed Love Protects

Brothers were protecting her - Great picture of not only natural family but spiritual family
- Surround yourself with people who will protect you. Get people in your life who know what's going on and are strong enough to tell you this guy/girl isn't good for you.

Song of Songs 8:10 - (She) 10 I am a **wall**, and my breasts are like towers. Thus I have become in his eyes like one bringing **contentment** (peace; shalom).

Committed Love Is Peaceful

When you are committed to each other, doing it God's way, your marriage becomes a place of peace and trust. **Doing it God's way doesn't excuse you from conflict**, but brings peace in the middle of your conflict.

Song of Songs 8:11-14 - (She) 11 **Solomon had a vineyard** in Baal Hamon; he let out his vineyard to tenants. Each was to bring for its fruit a thousand shekels of silver. 12 **But my own vineyard is mine to give**; the thousand shekels are **for you, Solomon**, and two hundred are **for those who tend its fruit**. (He) 13 You who dwell in the gardens with friends in attendance, **let me hear your voice!** (She) 14 **Come away**, my beloved, and be **like a gazelle** or **like a young stag** on the spice-laden mountains.

Strong marriages aren't measured by feelings, they're measured by commitment.

Commitment doesn't grow out of feelings, feelings grow out of commitment.

Love is a choice we make every day

Love isn't a feeling - It's a choice when you don't want to love. To love anyway. When the storms come and you don't feel like loving. Love is an action based on a choice.

Colossians 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And **over all** these virtues **put on love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Being loved like this gives you the ability to love like this

God has had compassion on us, showed kindness to us, been gentle, patient and has forgiven us over and over again.

1 John 4:19 - 19 *We love because He first loved us.*

Faithful commitment to your spouse...starts with a faithful commitment to Jesus.