

THE CHURCH POSSESSED BY CHRIST

(Part Two)

TEXT: Song of Solomon 4:16; 5:1

INTRODUCTION: Having escaped with her true lover, the Shulamite responds to his praise of her character and inner charm. Her response in 4:16 is really a **prayer** that her “garden” will be ready for her Beloved and that she will be found worthy of His esteem of her. Her prayer is to the “wind,” a fitting symbol of the Holy Spirit. Surely the Bride of Christ is beautifully portrayed here. The graces of our lives as believers will lie dormant and inactive until the Spirit of God “blows” upon them. He may use either the “north wind” of adversity or the southerly zephyr of outward blessing to cause the virtues and graces that Christ has wrought in us to “flow out” to others. We desire that the Lord Himself will come and be pleased with the fruits produced by His Spirit in us. The speaker in 5:1 is the Bridegroom. The prayer of the Bride in 4:16 is obviously answered, because He delights in her. He owns her as His own.

OUTLINE: What qualities is Jesus looking for in us that He might delight in us also?

I. The Bride’s PRAYER (4:16)

1. For the **breath** of Heaven (*“Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow...”*)
 - A. The “north wind” of adversity
 - B. The south wind of favorable circumstances
2. For the **Lord** of heaven (*“Let my beloved come...”*)

II. The Bridegroom’s POSSESSION (5:1)

1. A garden cultivated by Him (*“my garden”*)
2. A Bride endeared to Him (*“my sister; my spouse”*)
 - A. Inwrought graces delighted in by Him (*“my myrrh...spice...honeycomb...honey...wine...milk”*)
 - B. Friends invited by Him to share (*“eat, O friends, yea, drink abundantly...”*)

CONCLUSION: If Christ finds His chief delight in us, should **we** not delight in **Him**? Should not our principal pleasures derive from spiritual things? We can never become “so spiritually minded that we are no earthly good.” We can never get too much of Jesus or be too happy in Him. Let us enter fully “*into the joy of our Lord.*” Let us “*drink abundantly*” from the only well that satisfies!