

Song of Solomon 7:9-13

**Song of Solomon 7:10-12 I am my lover's.
I am all he wants. I'm all the world to him.
Come , dear lover - let's tramp through the
countryside. Let's sleep at some wayside
inn, then rise early and listen to birdsong.
Let's look for wildflowers in bloom,
blackberry bushes blossoming white, fruit
trees festooned with cascading flowers.
And there I'll give myself to you, my love
to your love.**

The words and demeanor of the young man have had their effect. The history of the couple, their story, has advanced to where we now find them. Again, the primary speaker in the Song is the woman. We see now that she is completely convinced that her young man is crazy about her. This conviction has lent her assurance and confidence so that she is free to meet him halfway and to even take the initiative in the plans they make together. Her heart is full of love and she has imagined herself demonstrating this love in ways that are new and old.

Our couple has demonstrated the power that uplifting speech and attitude can bring into a relationship. We are not isolated individuals. The words of our loved ones are very important to us. We are able to

choose words that build up, that encourage, that strengthen the one we love. When we do this we invest in the one we love. We give - but with a purpose. Our intention is to see our beloved gain stature and even exceed their own dreams in terms of what is possible for them to achieve.

To have the power to build up also infers the power to tear down. This aspect is absent in the Song. The Song is about love and tearing down is not what love does. Those who build up and then tear down manipulate. Both acts, building up and tearing down intend to exercise control over the 2nd party. It is not the relationship that is valued but having one's own way.

If you choose to only build up your loved one you will assist them in blossoming. You will become a part of their success. Those who seek to exercise control over another will seek to hold them back. Those who give the gift of support and encouragement will set their loved one free to become, to fulfill their dreams and reach their potential. In a romantic relationship, the partner who builds and sets free will often experience the kind of response that we witness in the Song.

This is not to say that problems cannot be addressed or the wrongs cannot be

confronted. No one is perfect and surely no one expects anyone else to think that they are. We can confront misunderstandings without tearing each other apart and trying to establish some kind of dominance over the other.

The Song here is a witness to the love that God has for each of us. In our humanity we will struggle to only build up and never tear down, to set free rather than to seek to control. But God has shown us another way. He has confessed that His creation of our world and all that is in it was given as a gift to mankind. He has set us free to subdue the earth and all that is in it. When Adam and Eve chose disobedience then God demonstrated just how much He values us by sending His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins and for our salvation. At the time when the disciples were very discouraged and disheartened not even knowing the extent of their own experience of loss, Jesus said to them, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus accomplished the difficult task. He confronted the disciples sense of abandonment while he assured them that they were valued .