

Hello! This is Dorothy -

In the opening chapters of **Song of Solomon**, we read that the Christian is likened to **a lily among thorns. Chapter 2, verse 2, Song of Solomon.** If you have a Bible, do please open it. Those of you who have a garden know that thorns have a way of growing up just by themselves. They do not need sowing; they just appear. Or as is commonly stated, “Well, what do you expect about my life? I am only human!” That is how people see themselves; they liken themselves really to **thorns**. A thorn speaks of a life of a child of disobedience in Adam before you and I, if we receive Jesus, know Him in our life. So, first we are in Adam; then we are in Christ, our personal Lord and Saviour.

In **Genesis 3** —

17 And unto Adam, he- God - said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

18 Thorns - notice that word - also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust

thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

So it is with the Christian that we are likened to when we become one who has been born-again, **a lily among thorns**. One who is in Christ, whereas before we were in Adam.

In **Exodus chapter 3:2**, when God spoke to Moses, we read -

2 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. In spite of the fire, there still remained the bush of which was literally thorns, which God used to get Moses to deal with the Israelites and the Gentiles according to Himself, and not according to man's natural life. You might remember, Moses miserably failed by killing and burying an Egyptian, thinking he was helping the Israelites, but instead he was ridiculed and had to leave the country. He was dealing with an enormous problem of how to deliver his people, but he was dealing with it in his flesh. Hence, the Lord came to him and it was in the thorn-brushes — in that thorn bush— He was showing, "This does not get rid of the flesh; only I get rid of the flesh." The thorns are not the lilies. Moses' best intention of how he could do it had to be shown that it is only by being in Christ; otherwise, everything we do simply backfires upon us.

So back to **Song of Solomon, chapter 2**. The Lord likens us to a

lily among thorns as He sees the life of the believer sufficient only in Christ's sufficiency. So you have your problems and you wonder what is happening. Don't you understand that the whole idea of being in Christ is that in everything our sufficiency is Him? Let's realize that God will only use what comes from Himself. Now that blows our mind! We think somehow it is going to be different, but it isn't.

3 . . . I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. Sitting under the apple tree amongst the trees of the wood . . . *Now this particular apple tree was what was called a bergamot orange tree. It tasted a bit like a lemon and an orange and it looked like a pomegranate. But it was different from the apple trees you might know about. It was an evergreen plant and overshadowing and very fruitful. You could not think of a better description in speaking of our Lord Jesus when we realize He is that One: He is the covering; He is fruitful; He is our All in all when we enjoy His protective rest and His fruit.*

Over in **chapter 1**, we read —

4 . . . the king hath brought me into his chambers. . .
*- the secret place, where we were free to enjoy much desire, speaking of our consecration unto the Lord Jesus. In other words, we can come before Him and this is a wonderful thing. But notice now, the maiden, in this allegory of **Song of Solomon**, has been brought to the next place for now we read in **chapter 2 and verse 4***

- **He brought me to the banqueting house. . .** - *what does that speak of? It speaks of revelation. The revelation we enjoy in the presence of the king, understanding . . . his banner over me was love.* He is my banner unfurled, that unfurling of a banner which is all based on love. Such joy in His presence can be exhausting. Therefore, she needed reviving. She needed quietness. The king ordered this. The Lord shall rest in his love. He gives grace to rest in.

Can I explain it simply? Are we first **a lily among thorns**? Also, are we conscious that He brings us from that place of enjoying what He has done to understanding Who He is within us, to understand He is the All-sufficient One; to understand His rest in the midst of any situation; and to understand that He loves us and deals with us individually for His glory?

In Jesus' Name. Amen.