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## The Kisses of Christ

*“Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth”<sup>1</sup>*

### The Church pleads with the Father

I [the Bridal Church] pour out my petition to Thee, the Father of my Spouse, beseeching Thee to have compassion at last upon my love, and to send Him, that He may now no longer speak to me only by His servants the angels and the prophets, but may come Himself, directly, and kiss me with the kisses of His mouth - that is to say, may pour the words of His mouth into mine, that I may hear Him speak Himself, and see Him teaching. The kisses are Christ's, which He bestowed on His Church when at His coming, being present in the flesh, He in His own person spoke to her the words of faith and love and peace, according to the promise of Isaiah who, when sent beforehand to the Bride, had said: *Not a messenger, nor an angel, but the Lord Himself shall save us.*<sup>2</sup>

### The soul is kissed by the Word

For as long as [the soul] was incapable of receiving the solid and unadulterated doctrine of the Word of God Himself, of necessity she received ‘kisses,’ that is, interpretations, from the mouth of teachers. But, when she has begun to discern for herself what was obscure, to unravel what was tangled, to unfold what was involved, to interpret parables and riddles and the sayings of the wise along the lines of her own expert thinking, then let her believe that she has now received the kisses of the Spouse Himself, that is, the Word of God.<sup>3</sup>

### The soul asks for a kiss

As often, therefore, as we find some problem pertaining to the divine teachings and meanings revealed in our heart without instructors' help, so often may we believe that kisses have been given to us by the Bridegroom-Word of God. But, when we seek the meaning of something of this sort and cannot find it, then let us make this prayer our own and beg from God the visitation of His Word, saying: ‘Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth.’ For the Father knows each single soul's capacity and understands the right time for a soul to receive the kisses of the Word in lights and insights of this sort.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Song of Songs 1:2

<sup>2</sup> *Commentary on the Song of Songs* 1.1 (p.60)

<sup>3</sup> *Commentary on the Song of Songs* 1.1 (p.61)

<sup>4</sup> *Commentary on the Song of Songs* 1.1 (p.63)