

# Song of Solomon 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.

## Analysis

**Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb** (nopheth titopha siphteykha kalah, נֹפֶת תִּטּוֹפָה שִׁפְתֵיךָ כָלָה)—the image of lips dripping honeycomb celebrates the bride's words as supremely sweet and desirable. Nopheth (נֹפֶת) refers to fresh honey dripping from the comb, the purest and sweetest honey. The bride's speech brings pleasure, nourishment, and delight.

**Honey and milk are under thy tongue** (devash vechalav tachat leshonekh, דֵּבַשׁ וְחָלָב תַּחַת לְשׁוֹנְךָ) suggests abundant sweetness in her speech—not just surface pleasantness but deep, nourishing wisdom. Honey represents sweetness; milk represents nourishment. **And the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon** compares her fragrance to Lebanon's cedars and spices—fresh, clean, naturally beautiful. This verse celebrates comprehensive beauty: sweet speech, nourishing wisdom, and pleasant presence. The Church's words, when filled with gospel truth, are honey and milk to hungry souls (1 Peter 2:2-3).

## Historical Context

Honey was Israel's premier natural sweetener—the Promised Land flowed with "milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8), representing abundance and blessing. Fresh honeycomb was prized delicacy. The combination "honey and milk" represented optimal nourishment and pleasure. Lebanon's cedar forests and spice gardens produced legendary fragrance—expensive and exotic. The beloved celebrates the

bride's speech as both delightful and nourishing, her presence as naturally fragrant. Early church fathers saw the Church's "honey and milk" as sound doctrine—sweet truth that nourishes believers. Christ gave the Great Commission to a Church whose words would carry gospel honey to the nations. The Reformers emphasized that gospel preaching should be both sweet (attractive, compelling) and nourishing (substantive, truth-filled). The Puritans taught that gracious speech—encouraging, wise, truthful—beautifies a person beyond physical appearance.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. Do your words "drop as honeycomb"—bringing sweetness, encouragement, and spiritual nourishment—or do they spread bitterness and poison?
2. How can the Church ensure her message contains both "honey" (attractive gospel grace) and "milk" (nourishing biblical truth)?
3. What spiritual disciplines help cultivate speech that is consistently gracious, wise, and life-giving?

## Interlinear Text

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נִפְּתַ	תִּטְּ כָּנָה	שִׁפְתֹתַי יִן	כָּל הַ	דֵּבֶשׁ	וְחֵלֶב
as the honeycomb	drop	Thy lips	O my spouse	honey	and milk
H5317	H5197	H8193	H3618	H1706	H2461
תַּחַת	לְשׁוֹנִי יָן	כֶּרֶם יָם	שְׁלֵמֹתַי יִן	כֶּרֶם יָם	
H8478	are under thy tongue	and the smell	of thy garments	and the smell	
	H3956	H7381	H8008	H7381	
לְבָנוֹן:					
of Lebanon					
H3844					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 5:1:** I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

**Genesis 27:27:** And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

**Song of Solomon 5:13:** His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

**Song of Solomon 7:9:** And the roof of thy mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

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