

Song of Solomon 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.

Analysis

My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door (dodi shalach yado min hachor, דודי שלח ידו מינ-חור—the beloved reaches through the door's opening, attempting entry despite the bride's hesitation. This demonstrates persistent love that doesn't abandon the reluctant beloved but continues seeking access. The imagery is both literal (physical door) and metaphorical (the heart's door).

And my bowels were moved for him (umeay hamu alav, ומעי חמו עליו)—the Hebrew meay (מעי, bowels/inward parts) represents the seat of deep emotions. Hamu (חמו, were moved/stirred/yearned) suggests intense emotional response—the bride's heart is stirred to action. Seeing her beloved's hand reaching for her breaks through her complacency. This teaches that experiencing Christ's persistent, reaching love overcomes spiritual lethargy. Revelation 3:20 echoes this: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock"—Christ persistently seeks entrance to lukewarm hearts.

Historical Context

Ancient doors had openings or latches that allowed someone outside to reach through and manipulate the lock from inside. The beloved's reaching hand demonstrated both his authority (he could enter) and his patience (he waited for welcome, not forcing entry). The physical gesture became spiritually powerful—seeing his hand moved the bride from excuses to action. Early church fathers saw this as Christ's incarnation—He "put in his hand" by becoming human, reaching

into our world to open the door we had closed. Christ knocks but doesn't force entry—He invites response. The Reformers saw this as prevenient grace—God's loving initiatives that stir hearts toward repentance. The Puritans warned that experiencing stirred affections ("my bowels were moved") must lead to action, not merely pleasant feelings.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When have you experienced Christ's hand reaching into your life, stirring your heart from complacency or resistance?
2. How does Christ's patient, persistent love—knocking but not forcing entry—demonstrate both His respect for human will and His determined pursuit?
3. What stirred affections or convicted conscience should move you from spiritual hesitation to active obedience and renewed fellowship?

Interlinear Text

רָדוֹךְ	נָשַׁל	יָדָוָה	מִן	רֹחֶךְ	בְּהַרְחֵךְ	וְמַעַן
My beloved	put in	his hand	by	the hole	of the door and my bowels	
H1730	H7971	H3027	H4480	H2356		H4578

בָּמְנַעַן	בְּלִי
were moved	H5921

H1993