

# Song of Solomon 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it.

## Analysis

**Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it** (הַיּוֹשֶׁבֶת בַּגָּנִים חֲבֵרִים מִקְשִׁיבִים לְקוֹלִי הַשְׁמִיעֵנִי)—the bridegroom addresses the bride who 'dwells in the gardens' (hayoshevet bagannim, הַיּוֹשֶׁבֶת בַּגָּנִים), recalling earlier garden imagery (4:12-5:1; 6:2). The 'companions' (chaverim, חֲבֵרִים) listen to her voice—she has influence and community. Yet the bridegroom requests, **cause me to hear it** (hashmi'ini, הַשְׁמִיעֵנִי)—he wants to hear her voice personally, not mediated through others.

This demonstrates the beloved's desire for direct, personal communication. Others may listen to the bride, but he wants intimate conversation. The verse teaches that covenant love requires personal communication, not merely public witness. Church tradition saw Christ desiring to hear believers' voices in prayer—not formal rituals but personal communion. The bride dwelling 'in the gardens' represents believers abiding in Christ (John 15:4), while companions represent the broader community. Christ seeks individual relationship alongside corporate worship.

## Historical Context

Gardens represented cultivated beauty and fruitfulness throughout the Song. The bride 'dwelling in the gardens' suggests she's at home in places of beauty, growth, and productivity. The 'companions' (chaverim) may be the daughters of Jerusalem, friends, or broader community who hear the bride's testimony. Ancient Near

Eastern culture valued communal life, yet this verse emphasizes the importance of intimate, personal communication within covenant relationships. Church fathers interpreted this as Christ's call to contemplative prayer—He desires to hear each believer's voice individually, not just corporate worship. Bernard of Clairvaux emphasized that Christ seeks personal communion with each soul. The verse balances community (companions listening) with intimacy (cause me to hear).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance public witness (companions hearing your voice) with private communion (Christ asking to hear your voice personally)?
2. What does it mean to 'dwell in the gardens'—to abide in Christ and remain in fruitful, cultivated spiritual life?
3. When was the last time you gave Christ your undivided attention in prayer, letting Him 'hear your voice' personally?

## Interlinear Text

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הַיּוֹשֵׁב בָּת	בְּגַן יָם	חֲבֵר יָם	מִקְשִׁיב יָם	לְקוֹלִי ה'
<b>Thou that dwellest</b>	<b>in the gardens</b>	<b>the companions</b>	<b>hearken</b>	<b>to thy voice</b>
H3427	H1588	H2270	H7181	H6963
הַשְׁמִיעֵנִי:				
<b>cause me to hear</b>				
H8085				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Song of Solomon 4:16:** Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits.

**Song of Solomon 1:7:** Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

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