

You are in for a treat! We have carefully chosen excerpts from *The Man of Your Dreams/The Woman of His!* that will give you help, hope and direction immediately.

You can have a dream marriage. Regardless of the pain you are experiencing today, this book can bring the miracle to your marriage that you need.

Sometimes, a wife will ask us how to get their husbands to read the book. Your peers have had success in the following ways:

1. Just leaving the book in the bathroom.
2. Tell your husband that it speaks to both men and women. He will read in order to find out what YOU are doing wrong. In the process, the Holy Spirit will get HIM!
3. Tell him that the book is about a pastor who fell into adultery while actively ministering from the pulpit every Sunday.
4. Read Chapter 20 to him. It is on sex. He will love that. Tell him that he has to read the other 19 chapters for you to fully experience Chapter 20!

We want you to order the book. You need the book to get the full value of what God has given us to share with you. Please do not expect the full benefit from these excerpts alone. You need the book. We need your \$15!

In the meantime, enjoy the pages we are giving you for free right now!

To Order Complete Book, Go To  
[www.joelandkathy.com](http://www.joelandkathy.com)



*The Man  
Of Her Dreams*



**UPDATED  
FOR 2008!**

*The Woman  
Of His!*



**Joel and Kathy**

*Husband and Wife*

*Lovers, Parents,*

*Pastors, Friends*

Photography by Brian Pike Photography

## FOREWORD

Thousands of books have been written on marriage. There are all kinds describing all kinds of marriage problems but most of them leave you cold! ...And with the same problems as you had before.

I have never read a book as cleverly written as *The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!* This book puts into a nutshell the answer to every problem in every marriage. It is so simple, so easy to read and yet so totally challenging if you are having problems in your marriage.

Even if you are not having problems in your marriage, it can be a supernatural blessing.

We would recommend that you read this book and give a copy of it to every married friend you have.

**Charles and Frances Hunter**

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“We rejoice for the help that this book will give people wanting a better marriage.”

***Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty***  
***Victory Christian Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma***

“I believe that “*The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!*” is the best book on marriage that I have ever read. It is a tremendous book that is a work of the Holy Spirit, totally inspired by God. Every Pastor should have several copies on hand.”

***Dr. Richard Sigmund***  
***Author: A Place Called Heaven***

“I am very pleased at the approach Joel and Kathy take in “*The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!*” It’s real people with real answers. I am using it with my clients and I highly recommend its use to other professional marriage counselors.”

***Lisa Winchell, Licensed Pastoral Counselor***

“The grace of God is very evident in the lives of Joel and Kathy. The Davissons became part of our new church family in 1991. Only a miracle could have saved their marriage back then. God gave them that miracle through His Word and their tenacious determination to prevail. Now, their insights shared through *The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!* will surely help preserve other marriages needing help.”

***Pastors Jim & Pam Dumont***  
***Erie Christian Fellowship Church, Erie, Pennsylvania***

“My wife Sandi and I married in our teens. God by His grace has helped us to enjoy a dream life together. If the story and principles in this book can direct even one couple to dreams fulfilled, it will be a plus in a 'marriage world' that has too many sad endings. The first twenty-five years are the hardest, so to anyone who reads this book, I say ‘don't give up.’”

***Pastor Jerry Barnard***  
***International Christian Center, Daytona Beach, Florida***

## PREFACE

**By Paul Hegstrom, Ph.D.**

I remember Joel in the sessions at Life Skills. He was in a real blame game. Questions and challenges came! "What about her?" "When does this program deal with the wife?" "If she would get her life straight I would be okay!" The barrage of denial came fast and furious. I tried to be nice but that did not work so I had to directly confront the whole situation.

I became extremely firm and felt total resistance. I made the statement, "The wife is the responder and the husband is the activator so own your behavior and your attitude." As time went by, Joel's resistance did not decrease and his anger seemed to increase.

After the seminar was concluded, Kathy called me and we talked it out. I just knew Joel had tremendous potential if he ever got the truth of the Life Skills message. Well, it happened! He got it! The gracious God we serve used the truth to bring permanent change.

Change takes time. I told Joel that three years is average for change to grip our spirit. At that time three years was an eternity in Joel's mind, yet God's principles worked. You must read this book about Joel and Kathy's recovery. This book has a happy ending. Joel and Kathy, God will bless your message because of your transparency. Reader, you will be blessed also by the truth.

**Life Skills International  
Aurora, Colorado  
(303) 340-0598  
[www.lifeskillsintl.org](http://www.lifeskillsintl.org)**

**From Joel and Kathy:** In 1994, our marriage was in shambles. We attended Life Skills International in Aurora, Colorado, under the guise of being trained to be facilitators at an LSI Center. Our pastor at the time felt helpless in the face of our situation and arranged the trip. Paul, not realizing that we were brought for healing instead of training, commented in exasperation that this particular group of potential facilitators was the most needy that he had ever attempted to train in the history of Life Skills!

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## ***The Man Of Her Dreams/The Woman Of His!***

*Published by Joel and Kathy™*

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Joel and Kathy share the Word of God as a unique ministry team. They flow together harmoniously as they share the Word of God and the principles of marriage restoration that they live. Their ministry brings life, strength and encouragement. The Word that God spoke to Joel in 1983 is now coming to pass: “You and Kathy will be married and I will touch many through you as a couple.”

The ministry is a family affair. Joining Joel and Kathy in leading praise and worship, special music presentations, dance, healing the sick (and in baseball!) are their four young people: Chris (19), Jenifer (18), Josiah (14), and Shekinah (13).

Joel and Kathy emphasize family relationships and believe that ministry flows out of both successful husband and wife relationships and successful relationships with the children. Joel and Kathy minister a strong word of marriage restoration drawn from their years of struggle and the victory they now live. Joel and Kathy’s unique “Weekend Marriage Intensives” bring miracles to worst case marriages.

### **DVD Seminar, Audio Book**

#### ***Livin’ It and Lovin’ It!***

Joel and Kathy offer an 8-hour DVD seminar and Audio Books of *The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!* and part 2 - *Livin’ It and Lovin’ It!*

Both are available at [www.godsavemymarriage.com](http://www.godsavemymarriage.com)





**Special Thanks to Elizabeth, Joel's mother,** for the many hours that she dedicated to editing, critiquing and proofreading the first and second editions. You are an inspiration and a blessing to us.

**Heidi L. Rau:** We are so grateful that we met you at the Houston Astrodome. Thank you for the many hours that you spent helping us upgrade this third edition with your wonderful additional editing, formatting and fabulous suggestions. Your skill and selfless dedication are so greatly appreciated.

**Paul and Judy Hegstrom:** We thank God that you paid the price of restoration in your marriage and are presenting the principles that you learned through your ministry at Life Skills International.

**Charles and Frances Hunter:** Thank you for sharing your secrets of passion and love in marriage and for teaching us to minister in the supernatural. Thank you for renewing our wedding vows on our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Houston Astrodome. Finally, thank you so very, very, much for the wonderful foreword you have written for this book. We are so glad you liked it! You are truly awesome examples of what it means to serve the Lord with 100% dedication.

**Pastors James and Pam Dumont of Erie Christian Fellowship:** Thanks for being there for Kathy to call upon in times of need in that critical first year. Your support and affirmation of the call upon our lives gave us courage to press on. Your encouragement for us to focus exclusively on recovery as a family was a Word from God.

**Roger Pugh:** Your obedience in 1991 became an anchor. We had just stepped out of full time ministry to pursue family restoration. Your prophetic words were, "You will be a father and you will be a mother in the Body of Christ. If the Lord has His way in your life you will be in full time ministry." God has indeed had His way in us.

**Pastors Gordon and Marilyn Shoemaker:** That trip to Life Skills International saved our life!

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***Dedication***

**To Chris, Jenifer, Josiah and Shekinah**, our four wonderful, unique, talented, sweet, loving and energetic young people! Our love for each of you grows more every day. You will be good husbands and wives or you will have us to deal with!

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## INTRODUCTION

Wow! Guess What? If you are holding this book right now you are holding onto dynamite! Wait... don't drop it! Remember dynamite is often used to explode old, ugly buildings so that something of practicality and beauty may be built in its place. The principles of *The Man of Her Dreams*, *The Woman of His!* may shatter your "cemented" ideas. They may cause you to re-think your values. They may irritate you, they may tickle your funny bone, they may bring some tears. Just know that whatever stage of marriage you are experiencing, it really can get better. It can become wonderful. If you are happy, happy, happy in your relationship, give thanks. There's always room for "more happy!" You'll find it by using the principles expressed in this book. If your marriage has reached the bottom of an ugly pit, hang on! It can change. There is hope. If you're somewhere in the dull, boring, "in between" you are ready for a treat. It's time for an explosion into joy.

*The Man of Her Dreams*, *The Woman of His!* is not just words, theory or educational facts. It is life experience. It is the honest (very honest) exposure of the reality of a marriage on the rocks, in the rocks, under the rocks, crushed by the rocks. It is the story of a toxic, ugly relationship made beautiful by the dynamite explosions of the old and the building of the new. It is the story of my son. It is the story of my daughter-in-law. Nothing is held back. I am very proud of Joel and Kathy – my kids! I have been extremely blessed to see them grow into one of the most fulfilled couples I know.

Sixteen years ago I saw the marriage as very sad, dysfunctional and hopeless. It has been a miracle brought about by Joel and Kathy actually believing and working out the marriage principles of *The Man of Her Dreams*, *The Woman of His!*

Joel and Kathy made a choice. Today you are given that choice. For each of you it will be different. For some it will be to stay in the boring ho-hum of your relationship. For some it will be to stay in a trapped, abusive situation. For some it will

be satisfaction with a marriage that seems as OK as the next. I trust that many of you will choose to open the doors of your hearts and minds – let the dynamite of God’s power and the application of biblical principles transform your marriage into the joyous, fulfilling experience that God intended.

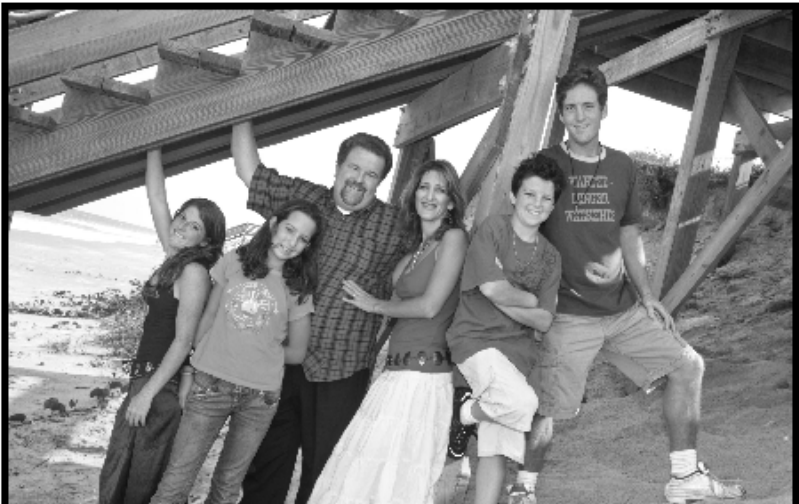
**By Elizabeth Jameison,  
Retired American Baptist Pastor**

***The Man of Her Dreams/Woman of His!** put the icing on the cake of our already good marriage! We are now living a **dream** marriage! When Doug and I got married 26 years ago we were born-again, committed Christians, earnestly seeking God's will for our lives. Shortly after marrying, though, it all fell apart. Between babies, bills and business our marriage deteriorated to the point that I wanted a divorce. In 1999 Doug attended a conference which resulted in his recommitting his life to the Lord. He came home a changed man. I had a new husband. It was very pleasant for 6 years as we communicated in healthy ways, treating each other with respect and dignity. This was wonderful – but little did I realize how great it could be! Doug read your book in 2005 and began to treat me like a queen. Here are some examples:*

*When Doug comes home from work, he often asks me if there is anything that I would like to talk about. After I share my heart, he asks me if there is anything else. He listens and lets me know how glad he is for me to share whatever it is that I feel like sharing. I feel like I am in heaven.*

*Our daughter got married last month... During the entire trip and wedding preparations Doug could not have been more loving and attentive. He knew and met my needs even before I was aware of them myself.*

*A few months ago, we spent a few days at a resort. We reached a new level in our relationship... it was awesome being together, just focusing on having fun and being in love. Just like with God, there's no limit to the level of intimacy and closeness you can achieve when both parties are giving and loving and enjoying each other. We are like two teenagers in love after 26 years of marriage. Every day gets better. Thank you for putting the fun back into our marriage through your book. Doug and Kelley Matton, FL*



Jenifer, Shekinah, Joel, Kathy, Josiah, Chris

Photography by Brian Pike Photography

## Chapter One

# All Of The Answers Lie In This One Question:

## How Do I Become The Man That God Has Called Me To Be?

It was 1979. I was in solitary confinement for aiding  
and abetting in an armed robbery.

I was 17.

I was a drug addict. I could not speak clearly from  
their effects. I had no hope.

I asked Jesus into my heart.

I gave Him my life.

### My Prayer?

**“Lord, make me into the man that  
You created me to be.”**

*I had no idea how He would answer that prayer.*



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*When wisdom enters your heart and **knowledge**  
**is pleasant to your soul**, discretion will  
preserve you; **understanding will keep you.***

*Proverbs 2:10-11*

Authors' note: Throughout this book, certain words in scriptural citations have been bolded for emphasis.

On April 1, 1972, the pastor of a local church left his wife a letter. In the letter, the pastor outlined how she should handle the children, how she should handle the finances and what her first actions should be to minimize the damage to the church and household. He had been involved in an affair and was leaving her to be with the other woman, who had been his wife's best friend.

Nineteen years later, on April 1, 1991, another pastor left his wife a letter. In the letter, he outlined how she should handle the children, how she should handle the finances, and what her first actions should be to minimize the damage to the church and household. He had been involved in an affair and was leaving her to be with the other woman, who had been his wife's best friend.

The first pastor was my father. I was ten years old when he divorced my mother. I had no information regarding the day he left. I had no information regarding the letter he wrote. All I knew was my dad was a pastor who had divorced my mother when I was ten years old.

The second pastor, who left his wife 19 years later, was me! When my mother read the letter I had left for Kathy, she told me it was déjà vu. The letter I had left for

Kathy was virtually identical to the one my dad had left for her 19 years ago, to the day.

Although the stories began identically, they are unfolding differently. My father and my mother divorced and went their separate ways. Kathy and I, however, remained married – and in October of 2004 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our marriage by renewing our wedding vows on stage at the Houston Astrodome during an historic evening when Charles and Frances Hunter led their final Healing Explosion.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

We are not just married. We are outrageously happy. We are pastoring a wonderful church. We have four wonderful children who presently are between the ages of 13 and 19. We are madly in love with each other. I have become the man of her dreams and she surely is the woman of mine.

A question begs to be answered – a question that lies at the very heart of this book: My mother and father were divorced. Kathy and I were restored. What did we do differently than they did? For that matter, why do more than 80% of couples in ministry end up divorced in the wake of adultery rather than being restored? Why do so many couples simply endure a mostly dreary marriage, even if they never faced adultery or other major problem? What have we done to give us such a happy marriage, while so many others are simply surviving?

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This book is dedicated to communicating the principles we have learned and have been living for more than ten years. Thanks to these principles, we have developed an outrageously happy marriage.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

The adultery made me face these deeper issues, which, if left unchecked, would have sentenced Kathy and me to a life-long marriage that would have been mediocre at best. We struggled for three painful years after the adultery before we received the knowledge that was needed for us to find complete healing.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

***“If Joel and Kathy can do it,  
so can you!”***

Yes, there **is** hope for you!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

## **Calling All Men!**

Regardless of whether your character flaws lie in the areas of abuse, adultery, workaholic tendencies or substance abuse there is hope for you. If your challenge is that you simply cannot figure out how to improve your marriage relationship, there is hope for you, too!

You can overcome your issues. You can become the man that God has called you to become.

**The answer to every issue a man may have lies in the answer to one question.**

The **answer to adultery** lies in the answer to one question.

The **answer to an abusive relationship** lies in the answer to one question.

The **answer to how you can have an absolutely fabulous marriage** to the wife of your youth lies in the answer to one question.

The key that will enable your wife to **become the most fabulous wife who fulfills your hopes and dreams** lies in the answer to one question.

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**HOW DO I BECOME  
THE MAN THAT GOD  
HAS CALLED ME TO BE?**

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## Chapter Two

# The Dream

*Where there is **no vision** the people perish.*  
*Proverbs 29:18*

*Whatsoever things **you desire** when **you pray**,  
believe that you receive them and **you shall have**  
**them.***

*Mark 11:24*

*By Kathy*

I have been asked many times what kept me in the marriage with Joel during those first 10 hard years.

All things considered, I did the only thing I could. I clung to and relied upon the Word of God.

The Word declares that you must have a vision for your marriage or it will perish. In my heart of hearts, I have always known that without a vision our marriage would have perished – and I have acted accordingly.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

At one time every woman had a dream. It might be a dim memory today but it was once crystal clear. Take it from me, that dream can become a reality.

What is the dream? It is the one you had as a little girl: the dream that one day you would marry a man, who would treat you first like a princess – and then like a queen.

Your thoughts and feelings, your desires and cares would be as important and as valuable to this man as they would be to you.

Maybe those exact words did not cross your mind as a little girl but the dream of the **wonderful way** you would be treated by your future husband, the man of your dreams, certainly did.

You watched “Cinderella” and, even though you knew it was a fairy tale, you were sure the man you would marry would be equivalent to any fairy tale prince.

**YOU AND THE  
THINGS YOU HAD  
TO SAY WOULD BE  
VERY IMPORTANT  
AND VALUABLE TO  
THIS MAN.**

Unbelievably, your husband actually had a dream of being a prince to his princess!

He really thought that he could get married and automatically be the perfect husband for the perfect wife!

Tragically, this dream goes by the wayside for most men in about three days after the wedding when they realize this marriage relationship is going to take work to enjoy!

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You grew up, fell in love and got married. In a few days, months or years the **reality of your** married life hit and you became painfully aware that the reality you were experiencing did not match your cherished dream!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

Your picture of his arriving home and the two of you enjoying the rest of the evening was replaced by a reality of his not wanting to do anything to be a blessing to you.

The idea was that his workday was done and it was time for him to be served while you continued your 18-hour day of childcare, cook, housekeeper and sex goddess!

Your dream of him opening doors for you is gone. The dream of him asking, “What can I do to help you?” “What would you like to do tonight?” or “What movie would you like to watch?” vanishes. Instead you hear, “Where’s the TV remote control?”

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

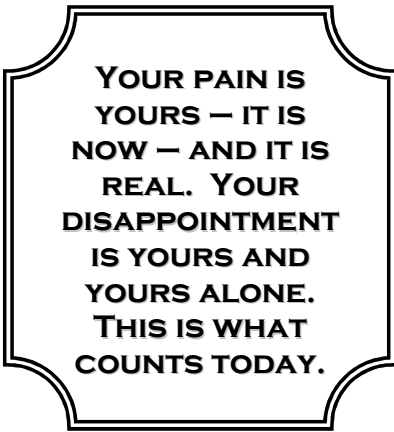
Ladies, you might not be experiencing a nightmare marriage to the degree that Tamara is. You might not be experiencing emotional, spiritual and mental abuses to the degree that I experienced with Joel – but you are suffering. Your pain is **yours** and **yours alone** – it is **now** – and it is **real**. Your **disappointment** is yours and yours alone. This is what counts today.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

Our message to both of you is that there is hope! Your dream **can** be a reality! Dreams do come true! The honeymoon does not have to end. You **can** have a honeymoon that lasts an entire lifetime!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

“If Joel and Kathy can do it,  
You can do it too!”



You **can** have a dream-come-true marriage. It does not matter if you currently have an average marriage or an above average marriage. It does not matter if you have a bad marriage or a marriage that is on the rocks.

You can see improvement in your marriage. Your marriage can be restored or even resurrected from the dead!

How can this happen? That is what this book is all about. Your husband can make your dreams come true and you can make his dreams come true.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

I knew what I had to do – as hard as it was. I made a quality decision to forgive and forge ahead. I wrote Joel a letter that very night, a letter flowing with



forgiveness, a letter letting him know that God and I had not given up on God's dream for us. I chose to believe that God could restore us! That was God's grace and peace working through me. My confidence in God assured me that if I bought some time, God would work on Joel and once again capture his heart.

This same confidence in God and His wonder-working power, which I had seen demonstrated many times in my own life, gave me the strength, commitment, and patience to begin the necessary work on my marriage.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

For the first ten years of my marriage, I stood, but change did not result. The change resulted when Joel was finally confronted by truth. Your days of “standing” are coming to a close. The truth in this book is your fork in the road; as it was for us. You are going to discover new ways of looking at marriage that will set you free. Your patience will now be coupled with knowledge that works! The truth will set you free, and the truth will set your husband free!

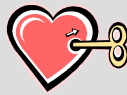
## **How did I do this?**

Ladies, in the portions of the book I have written, I am going to share with you what I did to keep peace in our home until this knowledge came. I am going to let you in on what was my part in keeping Joel and me together long enough to give God time to work on my behalf. In the process I will share practical things that you can do to improve your marriage relationship starting **right now**.

In addition, Joel and I will stand on your husband's toes. We will require him to grow up and quit resisting your desire that he be the man of your dreams! And when you respond positively to his efforts it will make his transformation from "selfish heel" to the "man of your dreams" a little easier and a little quicker! This transformation will not only benefit the two of you, it will benefit any children you may have. They will learn from your example that married life can be peaceful, happy, safe and secure – and very, very exciting!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAM  
YOU CAN LIVE THAT DREAM**

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*Joel and Kathy,*

*We met at the National Christian Counselors Association meeting in Orlando. I want you to know your book is changing lives!*

*My husband has changed his attitude and is treating me like I'm his bride. We've been married 15 years. I hooked him on the book by reading him chapter 20 first! Hee hee hee!*

*One of my brothers is reading it and can't put it down. After 20 years of marriage, his wife says he is now making changes and is even getting up in the middle of the night to read it. He is going to buy one of your books and give it to my other brother for his birthday.*

*I am getting such wonderful results with "The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!" in my counseling practice. I work for a secular organization and one of the therapists has ordered four copies from me! He says he is going to give them to his daughters. I am so excited!*

*I plan to make the books available to our church near Valentine's Day. I know I will get a great response from our congregation.*

*I'll be in touch,  
Allyssa Monroe, Alabama*

*Authors' Note*

*As soon as marriage counselors see the change that comes when they "prescribe" this book to their clients, it becomes an indispensable tool to bring lasting change to those who seek their guidance. Each reader can help by introducing a professional Christian marriage counselor to "The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!" in your area.*

## Chapter Three

# This Woman You Gave Me, Lord!

*But it was the woman you gave me who  
brought me the fruit and I ate it.*

*Genesis 3:12 (NLB)*

*By Joel*

When our marriage was going through its worst times I was a master at manipulating Kathy. I did it in a manner that would enable me to convince anyone in our world that Kathy was at fault for any problem we had.

Boiled down to the bottom line, the problems all worked like this: Kathy would express a need. I was childish and therefore the need would touch my insecurities and overwhelm me. I could not bring myself to simply meet her need.

I despised any signs of weakness in Kathy. Instead of embracing her when she would express a need, I would be repelled. I would recoil in anger at her attempts to touch a place of tenderness in me. My insecurities stopped me from welcoming her into my heart and propelled me away from lovingly meeting her need. Understand that I was often tender but it was always on my terms and in my

timing, yet when Kathy needed and requested tenderness from me, it was not available.

Instead the walls would go up and I would say something to put her off. “You don’t need a hug right now.” “You don’t need to talk to me. You need to talk to God.” “I did not look at you in a condescending way.”

From here things would escalate to the point where Kathy would scream or throw a plate at me! Now I had my ammo! I had all the proof that I needed to justify **that I was the good guy**. Kathy was unstable!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

When we landed in Colorado for the Life Skills Ministry seminar on marriage counseling I had years of evidence of Kathy causing problems in our marriage.

I had been successful at convincing everyone in our world that Kathy was the source of the trouble in our marriage. When Kathy would reach out to a pastor or anyone else who might help, I could easily convince the person that Kathy was to blame. If I had read this paragraph at the time, my response would have been, “Well, that is just great for you, but in my marriage, Kathy really is the one at fault.” Not only would I have said this, I would have firmly believed it. Compounding our problems was that Kathy had been “duped” by wrong teaching in the church; teaching that told her that God could “fix” our marriage if she would only submit, respect me and pray more. This is a recipe for failure in a troubled

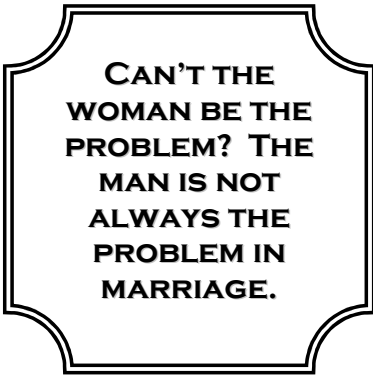
Christian marriage. Is there any wonder that we have a 50% divorce rate in the Body of Christ?

We sat for the first few hours as the founder of Life Skills International, Paul Hegstrom, emphasized the role of men in a relationship and **their responsibilities** to their wives. Finally, I could stand it no more. I publicly asked Paul, “Okay, so we have been talking to men for a few hours now. When do we talk about what the women have to do?”

To this he replied, “When a man gets his issues straight and meets his wife’s needs, most of her issues will go away and she will begin to respond in a positive way.” I **did not** like that answer! That answer insinuated that our problems might partially be my fault when clearly they were all Kathy’s fault! I just knew that I could convince Paul of this fact if given the

chance, so I waited for my opportunity.

A few more hours into the training, I repeated the question in another manner. “Can’t the **woman** be the problem? The man is not **always** the problem in marriage.” Of course I gestured toward **my problem wife!** This continued into the second day until Dr. Hegstrom finally had enough. He told me point blank that I was the problem in my marriage. He told me that Kathy



was desperate to have a great marriage relationship for that is how God made her.

He continued, saying that my issues had caused the problems in our marriage and that if I would get healed and change that I would have a most incredible wife. He emphatically stated that she might have some very minor issues that need to be addressed but that she will deal with those on her own **after** I have dealt with mine.

Paul told me that God made Kathy a responder and that her problems were a reflection of her responding to my treatment of her. He said that when I grow up and

**IF I HAD  
MUTUALLY  
SUBMITTED TO  
HER INSTEAD OF  
DEMANDING THAT  
SHE SUBMIT TO  
ME, WE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN SAVED  
FROM YEARS OF  
GRIEF.**


lay my life down for my wife as Christ did for the church that I would be amazed at how wonderful a wife I have.

*End of current excerpt –  
beginning of next*

I could not admit when I did something wrong. My insecurities were too deep, my pride insurmountable. I felt like I would lose something if I admitted that I had made a mistake. As God began to let me see our marital problems in the light of truth it all began to dawn on me. I had been the problem all along! If only I had been dead to myself while being willing to meet my wife's needs, we would not have had 99% of our problems.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

My growing up and meeting Kathy's needs was a very difficult process. Paul Hegstrom and a lady pastor that Kathy would confide in both told her that the time would have been shortened had she separated from me. It was a personal decision that Kathy made not to leave. We never tell women that they are required to stay in an abusive situation regardless of whether the abuse is physical, mental, emotional or spiritual.



**MEN, HERE IT IS.  
YOUR WIFE  
WANTS A  
FABULOUS  
RELATIONSHIP  
WITH YOU. GOD  
MADE HER THAT  
WAY.**

Kathy has always been dedicated and committed to our having a successful marriage. She looked for every positive sign that I was making progress and that there was hope for our relationship.

I almost broke this mechanism in her, but by the grace of God, Kathy stuck with it. In the recovery years after Life Skills, she was not just blindly “standing” with no relief in sight. Kathy was holding me accountable to change using what we learned and had the “right” to speak up regularly in defense of herself. It was my job to acknowledge her concerns and change.

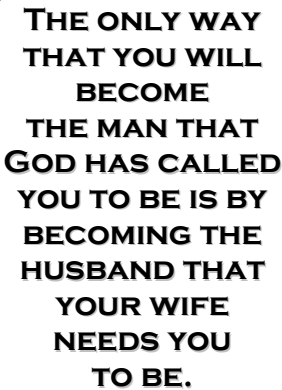
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It was difficult for me to bring down the walls of “self protection” in my heart when Kathy expressed a



need to bond with me. It was not just difficult. It was almost impossible. I could not stand the negative feelings that were generated in me when she would ask me to “listen to her heart” or “listen to her feelings.” She was hurting and I was the cause. I did not want to hear that!

I protected myself from bonding with Kathy by “throwing down the gauntlet” regularly. If we were



**THE ONLY WAY  
THAT YOU WILL  
BECOME  
THE MAN THAT  
GOD HAS CALLED  
YOU TO BE IS BY  
BECOMING THE  
HUSBAND THAT  
YOUR WIFE  
NEEDS YOU  
TO BE.**

discussing something and I wanted to quit talking about it I would tell Kathy that the subject was closed. She would try to get me to talk it out in order to get that all-important sense of closure. I would tell her that she was being rebellious and unsubmitive. “I said that the conversation is over and so it is over! I am the head of this house and it is sin for you to demand

that we talk further about it. You have to repent and get your heart right.”

A horrible example was when I came back from the adultery. I demanded, “The adultery is over. I have repented and you can never mention it again.” I was too insecure to handle the “feeling” of her pain.

For three years I could not bring myself to embrace the depths of hurt that my action had caused. I did not want to “go there.” Adultery hurts a wife worse

emotionally than any other thing that a husband can do. A husband who does this is the “lowest of the low.” It is amazing that these same husbands still see themselves as “God’s gift to women!”

Male adulterers are almost incorrigible flirterers! Kathy had to point out to me repeatedly for a couple of years when I was flirting so that I could recognize and stop it! The first few times Kathy said that I was flirting I resisted her but then I started to recognize the pattern. Listen to your wife, men. God gave her to you to help you grow up and become the man that He has called you to become!

I put a lot of effort toward loving Kathy in those first ten years of marriage. It was on my terms, of course. I would pour out tokens of love on her, we had regular “date nights” like all of the marriage books suggest and I made sure that all of the special occasions were celebrated.

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**YOUR WIFE WANTS A DEEP,  
MEANINGFUL, BONDED,  
SUCCESSFUL  
RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!**

## Chapter Four

# Did I Ever Feel Like Quitting?

*God is not unjust to **forget your work and labor of love, which you have shown toward his name in that you have ministered to his servants.***

*Hebrews 6:10 (condensed)*

*By Kathy*

The Holy Spirit spoke to Joel telling him that we would be married and that He would touch many people through us as a couple. I was excited to get onto this God-inspired train! Joel loved the Lord and was called into ministry. I loved the Lord and wanted to work with him. **Life would be easy!** Joel and I would serve the Lord together, have children and live happily ever after!

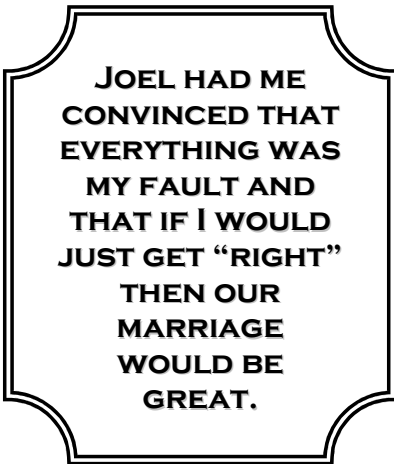
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I soon realized that instead of a nice relaxing ride on rails through the countryside, our marriage was more like a rollercoaster! I found the perfect coaster to describe our life when we visited “Islands of Adventure” in Orlando, Florida. It was “The Hulk.”

“The Hulk” catapults you into the unknown, where you experience high speeds, sudden turns and you are even riding upside down two or three times!

Our marriage was always quite an up and down event. We had fun times punctuated by screaming sessions. There were exciting ministry adventures accompanied by the revelation that Joel was a master of manipulation and control. We enjoyed a variety of travel while I endured the stings of Joel’s public put-downs.

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A decorative frame with a double-line border and a scalloped edge. Inside the frame, the text is centered and reads: 

**JOEL HAD ME  
CONVINCED THAT  
EVERYTHING WAS  
MY FAULT AND  
THAT IF I WOULD  
JUST GET “RIGHT”  
THEN OUR  
MARRIAGE  
WOULD BE  
GREAT.**

We always have enjoyed plenty of lovemaking while at the same time Joel would not be sensitive to my thoughts and feelings.

I tried everything that I could to make our marriage a success including reading many books on submission and practicing what they taught. I dedicated myself to making sure that everything was done Joel’s way. I would leave love notes and cards in places he would find them. All the books told me to do this. I enjoyed it but it seemed like he could have cared less.

Joel had me convinced that everything was my fault and that if I would just get “right” then our marriage

would be great... After all, he was the “knight in shining armor!” I just did not **appreciate** all that he was doing for us.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

The four years that immediately followed the adultery were the most difficult years for me. Joel’s controlling nature and lack of sensitivity continued to keep our marriage on pins and needles. It was during this time that the grace and peace of God in my life was greatly tested.

Did I ever feel like quitting? You bet! There were many times I thought I was going to **have** to leave concluding, “Enough is enough.” But I had the dream, the vision, the prophetic word that **God** had spoken and **I could not let it go. It broke my heart to think that God’s dream for us might not come to pass.** If we had been exposed to better information, our bad years could have been shortened. At that point in our history, I only had the “wives should just pray for, submit to and respect their husbands” message. This wrong message (that Joel loved) extended our misery.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

Joel discovered that he could use the Word to justify his inflicting emotional abuse upon and playing mental head games with me. I called Joel my “iron fist.” The iron fist would come down anytime I disagreed with him or asked him to treat me with respect.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

I lived for years being reminded regularly that the man is the head of the home and that I had to submit to him if I was going to live according to the Word of God. “Anything that he says goes.”

There was no talk of mutual submission as the Word of God teaches. If I questioned Joel’s authority and position as head of our home then I was that “**nagging wife** and **dripping faucet**” that Proverbs **warned** him about!

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We teach husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church and gave his life. For the sake of discussion, I am going to assume that your husband will read this book and “buy into” the ideas we present. If he starts to change before your very eyes, what will you do?

You may have been very hurt and you may not want to trust. You might not believe that the changes your husband is going through are real. This is a normal reaction. It may be a while before you begin to trust again. It took six months before I believed that what I was experiencing was real. While we were in Colorado, God had given me a vision of an apple seed. This represented the great work he had begun in Joel.

Would that seed grow on its own? No! When God says **He** is going to do something, He often means that He will **help you** do it! I had a part to play by responding to the changes that God was working in Joel. As I

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responded to the changes that were occurring in him, God made additional changes in me.

Christ laid his life down for the church. As we respond by giving our lives to Him He is able to work in us and make us the bride He needs us to be. Marriage works in this same way. As your husband loves you unconditionally, laying his life down for you, it is easy for you to respond positively.

***End of current excerpt – beginning of next***

Another way that you can respond to your husband is to get involved in some things that he likes to do. Like most men, Joel enjoys watching football games. Is your husband a football fanatic? Don't be resentful about the football season! Join in! Watch a game or two with him each week! Learn the sport!

I learned the sport and have enjoyed it so much that Monday Night Football has become a much-anticipated private date for us with all of the popcorn, cheese and cracker trimmings! As Hank Williams Jr. sings every Monday night by way of introduction, "Are you ready for some football? A Monday night tradition!"

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**RESPOND WARMLY AND POSITIVELY  
TO ANY EFFORT  
YOUR HUSBAND MAKES TOWARD  
IMPROVING YOUR MARRIAGE.**



## Chapter Five

# What Would Her Answer Be?

*By Joel*

**“Does your husband love you?”**

What would your wife’s answer be?

What would your wife’s answer be if her best girlfriend asked this question of her in strict confidence? I am **not asking** you what her answer would be if she were fielding this question from **you** or your **pastor** or one of your **mutual** close friends. What would her answer be if her best friend asked her this when they were out shopping and she felt truly safe that you would never hear her answer?

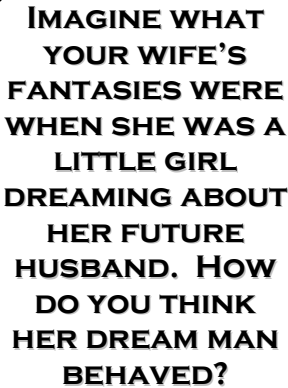
Does that make you nervous?

Would her answer be “Oh yes, he loves me so much and he shows it to me every day! He is so wonderful! You would just not believe how attentive he is to my needs and how he is always complimenting me. I am always his first priority and he loves to be with me.”

“I can talk to him about anything; when he treats me poorly I simply have to mention it. He immediately

apologizes and tries to avoid repeating it. We always give each other love touches. We really enjoy making love as often as possible and it is enjoyable for both of us. It is as good or better now than when we were first married!”

Or would her answer be something along these



**IMAGINE WHAT  
YOUR WIFE'S  
FANTASIES WERE  
WHEN SHE WAS A  
LITTLE GIRL  
DREAMING ABOUT  
HER FUTURE  
HUSBAND. HOW  
DO YOU THINK  
HER DREAM MAN  
BEHAVED?**

lines, “Well, yes, my husband loves me in his own way. He may not show it much but you just have to understand my husband! You see he works really hard. He is a steady, dependable husband. We don’t do too much fun stuff. Of course we argue regularly like every couple does. We don’t make love very often but as ‘everyone knows,’ sex is not that

important after 20 years.”

“We have worked out a comfortable living arrangement. I am content in that.”

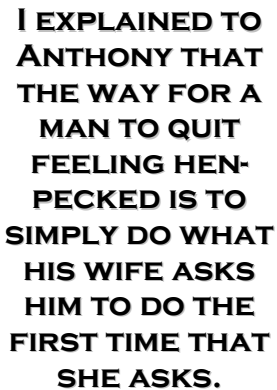
If your wife would answer along the lines of the latter options then we have some work to do!

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Anthony told me that his marriage was miserable. He and Samantha owned two restaurants and they really had no relationship at all. He ran one restaurant while

Samantha tended to the second. According to Anthony, divorce seemed to be their only option.

I mentioned to Anthony that Kathy and I did marriage counseling and that I could help him if he would like. He consented to listen so I gave him a 15-minute crash course in marriage. I told him that the reason he had a bad marriage was most likely because he was not listening to his wife and that he probably had quit meeting her needs years ago.



**I EXPLAINED TO ANTHONY THAT THE WAY FOR A MAN TO QUIT FEELING HEN-PECKED IS TO SIMPLY DO WHAT HIS WIFE ASKS HIM TO DO THE FIRST TIME THAT SHE ASKS.**

He nodded his head so I continued, “The facts are, Anthony, that men do not have a clue how to meet their sweetheart’s needs. Your wife probably gets on your case all the time about things that she thinks you are doing wrong in your relationship doesn’t she?” Anthony smiled a bit again, agreeing with my statement.

I then offered this gem. “I bet that you feel hen-pecked, don’t you?” This revolutionary insight also received a positive reaction. I explained to Anthony that the way for a man to quit feeling hen-pecked is to simply **do what his wife asks him to do the first time that she asks.**

Most men let their pride get in the way and they resist everything that their wife asks them to do. I told him that his wife desperately wanted a good relationship with him and if he would simply do the things that she has been asking him to do and take time to listen to her heart she would open up to him and their marriage would drastically improve.

Anthony questioned this tactic saying that it sounded like he would be letting his wife be in control of him. I assured him that the opposite would happen. When Anthony met Samantha's needs she would relax and he would not feel at all like she was trying to control him.

I shared with him for a moment how I formerly would resist Kathy's stated needs telling her that they were too deep for me to meet. This tactic would then cause us to get into huge arguments. When I later decided to drop my pride and listen to her heart Kathy miraculously turned into a fabulous wife! I promised him that if he would do as I did he would enjoy the same results in having a happy wife and a more fulfilling marriage.

I did not see Anthony again for six months. I knew he would either be enjoying an improved marriage or that he would be divorced. To my inquiry as to "How's the love life?" Anthony happily reported that he did what I suggested and that he and his wife were getting along really well. I have been in touch with Anthony twice a year and he continues to tell me that they are doing well. Fifteen minutes changed his life.

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A year later I stopped at their restaurant and Samantha was acting as hostess. She had a peaceful and relaxed look about her even in the midst of people waiting in line to get a table and a lot of general confusion on the busy night. Knowing that men always think that their marriages are more successful than they really are, I asked Samantha how things were going with Anthony and she also reported that things were going well.

Anthony and Samantha did not read this book. Anthony and Samantha have not been to our marriage seminar nor have they attended our church. Fifteen minutes of **truth** and a **committed response** was the key to saving their marriage and giving them a happy relationship.

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Make sure that your wife **knows** that you love her by **listening to her heart** and **meeting her needs**. This way she can give a glowing report when she is asked that soul-searching question,  
“Does your husband love you?”

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**BEGIN TODAY TO SHOW LOVE  
IN WAYS THAT ARE UNMISTAKABLE  
AND UNDENIABLE**



*Dear Joel and Kathy,*

*My mother has just left my father after 45 years of marriage! She said that after reading your book a couple of times she realized she was not to blame for the problems in the marriage. She really grasped every word that was written.*

*It helped her toughen up and take a stand against the emotional and spiritual abuse of my father. (He is an assistant pastor of a non-denominational church.) He says one thing in the pulpit and another thing at home. I am so proud of my mother for taking a stand. Right now she is staying in a motel, and she and my father are talking things through.*

*This is all good! Praise God for your story.*

#### TEN DAYS LATER...

*You are not going to believe this! My mom stayed in the motel for one week. Dad read the book during that week and God took the scales off his eyes. He is a changed man and is willing to testify to this fact in front of the whole church and also his children. They are going to renew their vows February 13, reception and all. Dad went out and bought mom a whole set of rings and a wedding dress! This is too awesome!*

*What an awesome God we serve!*

#### ONE MONTH LATER...

*My folks are doing great! Mom said dad is like a little kid in a candy store...*

*God Bless,  
Allyssa Monroe, Alabama*

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ONE WEEK AFTER THE CEREMONY...

*Dear Joel and Kathy,*

*Mom and dad had a beautiful ceremony, Unity candle and all. They also took communion, just the two of them! All five of us children were in it, too; we lit our candles to represent our birth order, and our family unit. There were a couple of songs sung, and then the pastor told the congregation that in all 30 years of preaching, he had never seen a transformation like my father has made!*

*Dad told the congregation that he will never raise his voice in anger to mom ever again. He said he had the knowledge of the Bride of Christ in his head all these years but didn't have it in his heart. Once it made it to his heart, he understood how he was supposed to treat my mom. There were two wedding cakes, bride and groom's cake, gifts and a honeymoon, too. Because my husband works at a resort, we were able to get them a two-bedroom condo for one night (with a fireplace). All of us kids pitched in and gave them money to pay for their room and going out to eat.*

*After they had checked into their room and went out to eat, my husband and I drove to the resort and had the front desk take to their room a food basket with all kinds of goodies that I had put together: chocolates, cheese, grapes, sausages, and a candle.*

*They are on cloud nine! Praise God! I went ahead and gave my other two brothers each a book for Valentine's Day. Now my sister and all my brothers have your book. I can't keep them! My mom cleans my house and was here yesterday and took two, one to give to a woman at her church and one to give to her biological sister. They are going like hotcakes around here! I'll be ordering more when their testimony is in your next edition. You guys have no idea how many lives you have touched.*

*God Bless,  
Alyssa Monroe*

## Chapter Six

# Rate Your Marriage On A Scale of 1–10

*By Joel*

How do you rate your marriage on a scale of 1–10? How would your wife rate your marriage? This is your starting point. The only way to measure the current state of your marriage is to honestly evaluate it.

More than likely, your wife will be wary of this exercise. Chances are that when talking about your relationship she has been met with a deaf ear, ridicule, arguments or justifications.

In order to get an **honest** evaluation from your wife you must guarantee her a “safe place”. There are three places that must be safe in life: family, church and friendships. In most homes it is not safe for the wife to tell her husband that she is unhappy in their relationship. Begin by assuring her that you would like an honest estimation of your marriage in order to work on **your** issues that might be contributing to any discord in your relationship.

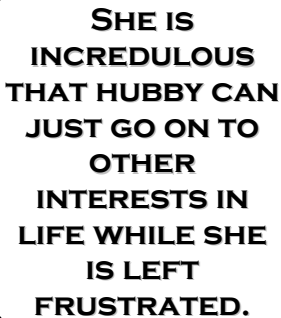
Most men will rate their marriages about a 7-9 on a scale of 1-10. Their wives will normally rate **the same**



marriage a 5-7! This is completely normal. Women spend a lot more time “feeling” about their marriage relationship than men do.

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The wife on the other hand does not section these things off as well. If there are issues that have not been brought to closure they stay with her. In her mind the whole marriage is difficult because of the unsolved issue. She is incredulous that hubby can just go on to other interests in life while she is left frustrated.



**SHE IS  
INCRECULOUS  
THAT HUBBY CAN  
JUST GO ON TO  
OTHER  
INTERESTS IN  
LIFE WHILE SHE  
IS LEFT  
FRUSTRATED.**

When our family was on the road full time for the purpose of recovery after the adultery we had opportunity to eat out often and enjoy family activities. I was in sales work at the time. I could not understand why Kathy was not being lighthearted, carefree and happy. This was very frustrating to me and caused many arguments.

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I could not do this simple thing. I had to be in control. I had to keep Kathy off balance. I would tell her that she was ridiculous and wrong to “hold onto her pain.” I forbade her to bring the subject up. It was classic control and manipulation emanating from unwillingness

on my part to embrace her pain. I refused to give Kathy a safe place to share her heart, her hurts and especially her deeply felt feelings. It was easier to just tell her that everything she said and felt was wrong.

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There are some things that you can do that are very easy to help the process. Shining your crown is a good place to start. Compliment your wife, build her up, praise her and be sure that she realizes that you value her over friends, hobbies, work or ministry. Her value cannot consist of, “After Bible study, after prayer, after work, after church; if there is any time left we will spend that together.”

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Let her know that you really **want** to begin working on improving your weak areas. Assure her that you can only do this if she is totally, perhaps even brutally honest. Tell her you are going to be a big boy and take your medicine without arguing, justifying, berating or accusing! If you can get your wife to open up then you will have successfully completed step one on this road to marital bliss!

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## **GOLDEN KEY**



**RATE YOUR MARRIAGE  
ON A SCALE OF 1-10.  
ASK YOUR WIFE TO DO THE SAME.  
COMPARE SCORES.**

## Chapter Seven

# Your Personal Marriage Manual

*Likewise, ye husbands, **dwelling with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife** as unto the weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life **that your prayers be not hindered.***

*I Peter 3:7*

*By Joel*

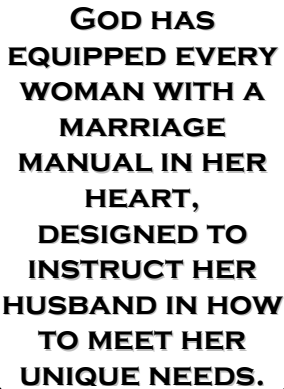
***Live with your wife according to knowledge,**  
**so that your prayers will not be hindered.***

God has equipped every woman with a marriage manual in her heart, which is custom designed to instruct her husband in how to meet her individual and unique needs. A man who can learn how to tap into this marriage manual and heed its instructions will have all of the information needed on how to have heaven on earth in his marriage.

God did not give this marriage manual to men. A man is basically born without a clue as to how to meet his wife's needs. You are reading this book, which probably means you have a desire to experience a good marriage.

The goal of this book is really to help you to turn your heart toward your wife and be willing to become the husband she needs you to be by listening to her heart.

Many wives are quite vocal. For the first few years of marriage they will attempt to communicate to their husbands what it is that they need from them in order to



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UNIQUE NEEDS.**

feel loved. The problem many times is that the husband thinks that he knows what is best for the marriage! Perhaps he **has** read some books on marriage. Perhaps he understands some **general** principles of marriage that have helped **other couples**. Thinking he knows how to meet his wife's needs, he begins to feel like his wife is

attempting to manipulate him when she shares her heart with him. After years of trying to communicate her desires a wife will finally give up.

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If it were not my idea, I would resist! If she wanted to talk, I would buy her flowers. If she wanted to get some flowers, I would take her out to dinner. I was insistent that Kathy be grateful and thankful for the expressions of love that I wanted to show to her instead of listening and responding to her heart.

Controlling husbands can often be considered “great guys” to onlookers and even to their wives. They can be charming, romantic, good providers, they can go out of their way to do nice things and at times they can be extremely attentive. I was all of these, when I wanted to be.

***End of current excerpt – beginning of next***

Kathy’s marriage manual often told me that I was not spending enough time with her. My reaction was to tell her that we were together in the house all day and that she should be happy because most guys had to leave the house to go to work. At least I worked at home and she was with me all day. She would inform me that the dog also was in the house with us! Kathy’s marriage manual also told me that I often looked at her in a condescending way. To this I would reply that she was too sensitive and needed to “get a grip”.

Your wife is equipped with “red flags” and “warning buzzers”. When you do not treat her correctly those red flags will be waving in her heart. When she shares these concerns with you, your first reaction many times will be to resist, deny or argue the point. If you can realize at this point that you are called to love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave his life for her then it will be much easier for you to listen and respond positively to your wife’s request.

Kathy’s marriage manual “red flags” would really go off when she would make a mistake and I would give

her that much-used “put-down look” that was often accompanied by condescending words.

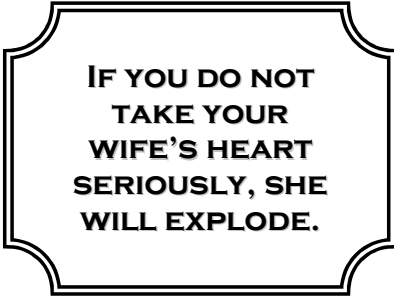
This tactic kept Kathy off balance, causing her to doubt herself, which was my desired outcome as an abusive husband. Her marriage manual would tell me that I was acting like something was wrong with **her** because she made a mistake when it was simply a part of life. This really hurt her feelings. My response was to get defensive and angry, basically telling her to toughen up. Again, I did not have a clue.

It is very simple. When your wife’s marriage manual points out that you have violated her in some way, your job is to hear her heart and accept what it is that your personal marriage manual is saying to you.

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For many years, Kathy had **no voice** in our marriage. **She could not talk to me without losing.** I could turn anything around and then spend hours bringing the message home to her as to why her thoughts and feelings were illegitimate. Naturally, only **my** thoughts and feelings were right! Kathy resorted to writing letters to me so that she could bring her thoughts across to me “just right” and without interruption. She would spend up to three days perfecting the letters utilizing the sandwich theory. She would compliment me on what I did right, give me the bad news and end by again telling me something positive.

This tactic did help her cause occasionally. The majority of the time, even these letters did not move me. I really disliked receiving the letters! I would read the masterpiece that she had labored and agonized over. In a



huff I would scribble my argumentative replies in the columns and leave the letter for her to find. Sometimes she would change her mind and not even give me a letter that she had prepared. Now those were the letters that I liked!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

If you ever hope to become the man that God has called you to be you will have to let your wife know that it is safe for her to share her heart with you. Tone of voice, eye contact, facial expressions, show of interest, sincere desire and patience with the answers are all part of the message you send. You will have to promise that you will not ridicule, belittle or argue with her over the things she shares. If you have been caustic to her needs for years this might take a while. You may have violated her trust so many times that she has closed the marriage manual.

Your job is to convince her that it is safe to try again.

This time you will listen.



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## **GOLDEN KEY**



**LISTEN TO YOUR WIFE'S HEART!  
IT'S YOUR PERSONAL  
MARRIAGE MANUAL**

## Chapter Eight

# He Who Finds A Wife Finds A Good Thing

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.*

*Proverbs 18:22*

*By Joel*

Kathy is a good thing for me! At one time I was not so sure but time has proven that indeed Kathy is a good thing for me. Because of her I have obtained favor from the Lord.

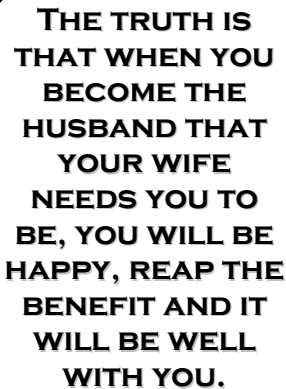
You might be thinking that your wife does not seem to be a blessing to you and certainly not a route to experiencing the favor of God! Maybe we can change this!

In Proverbs 18:22, “good” is the Hebrew word “towb,” one of the twelve Hebrew words for prosperity. It also means “good in its widest sense; beautiful, best, better, cheerful, at ease, prosperous, bountiful, fine, glad, joyful, loving, merry, most pleasant, sweet; favor, pleasure, kindness, goodness, wealth and to be well favored.” The promise is that your wife will be good for you! She will be

beautiful, the best, cheerful and bountiful. Your wife will bring you favor. She will be joyful, loving, merry, most pleasant and sweet. Your wife will add wealth to your life. Selah. Pause and think calmly about that!

This word “towb” also refers to the glory and the goodness of God! In Exodus 33:19, Moses asked God to

let him see His glory. God said that He would make His goodness pass before Moses. The goodness of God is the best part of His Glory! When you found your wife you found the goodness of God in your life, the **best part** of His Glory!



**THE TRUTH IS  
THAT WHEN YOU  
BECOME THE  
HUSBAND THAT  
YOUR WIFE  
NEEDS YOU TO  
BE, YOU WILL BE  
HAPPY, REAP THE  
BENEFIT AND IT  
WILL BE WELL  
WITH YOU.**

*End of current excerpt –  
beginning of next*

What benefits can you anticipate? Your wife will be a fruitful vine in the heart of your home. She will begin to respond to **your** needs. The desire for you that God created within her will leap to life. Her issues will diminish. Your sweetheart will begin to do the things that you have desired. She will start to meet your physical and emotional needs. You will be **her** Knight in shining armor! You will **be her hero! Her man!** She will **want** to do things for you! Suddenly she will be bringing you your coffee! She will begin to brag about you in public!

**This is your crowning moment! When your wife is telling everyone what a wonderful husband you are! Her praise is your crown of glory!**

Kathy is now everything that I have ever hoped for in a wife. She has fulfilled my fondest imaginations that I pictured in my future as a young man. Kathy is always asking me what she can do for me. Many times I say “nothing really.” It is certainly nice that she asks though! When she is working with the kids it is as if she always has her “antenna” up to include me in anything that might bless me.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

When you do, you will say with me, “My wife truly is the goodness and the glory of God manifest in my life.” You will be well on the way to becoming the man that God has called you to be. If you will put forth the effort necessary in your relationship with your wife, the Bible promises you that:

1. You will be happy. “When Momma’s happy, everybody’s happy!”
2. Your wife will permeate every area of your life manifesting the glory and the goodness of God!
3. It will be **well** with **you!**

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## **GOLDEN KEY**



**YOUR WIFE IS THE  
GOODNESS OF GOD  
MANIFEST IN YOUR LIFE**

## Chapter Nine

# That Time Of Month... Man's Best Friend!

*Husbands, love your wives as Christ also loved the church **and gave Himself for her.***

*Ephesians 5:25*

*Agree with your adversary quickly!*

*Matthew 5:25*

***By Joel***

Your wife is not your adversary! Your wife is your lover and best friend. Confused and surprised by our amazing insight, husbands often exclaim to us that their wives say these exact words to them all the time! If a husband is full of pride and responding out of insecurity though, he may **create** an adversary out of his wife!

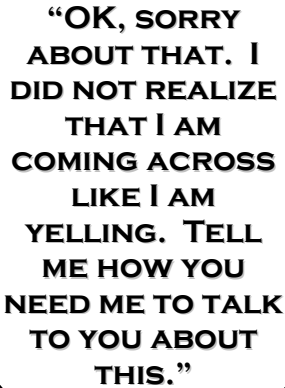
When you listen to the marriage manual in your wife's heart you will appreciate it when she opens up and talks to you about what you are doing that is hurting her or your relationship. This is a key to your growth as a man of God.

**“Thanks For Pointing That Out!”**

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Here is a simple key to success. When your wife points out an area in your life that needs changing, the correct response is “Thanks for pointing that out!”

You have **no idea** how the things you are doing or saying, or not doing or saying, are affecting your wife. Gary Smalley points out that women are like butterflies, men are like bulls!



**“OK, SORRY  
ABOUT THAT. I  
DID NOT REALIZE  
THAT I AM  
COMING ACROSS  
LIKE I AM  
YELLING. TELL  
ME HOW YOU  
NEED ME TO TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT  
THIS.”**

When the wind blows, a butterfly is blown about and carried wherever it goes. It is sensitive and responsive to the slightest breeze. A hard wind will knock the butterfly to the ground and break its wings. It will lie on the ground, helpless until it breathes its last. This happens from a simple gust of wind!

The bull on the other hand would not have even noticed that the wind was blowing. For that matter, it would not even notice if it stepped on the gasping butterfly as it struggles for survival.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel*

*and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers be not hindered.***

*1 Peter 3:7*

Your aim is to read the marriage manual that is in your wife's heart. This is the means by which you can discover things you can **do to be the man of your wife's dreams** and things you can **eliminate** that **hurt** your relationship.

Your biggest challenge is to get her to open up and talk to you honestly about what you can do differently to improve your relationship.



God has given us a gift that will aid us in our efforts! This gift is designed to help us hear our wife's heart concerning things that might be bothering her. If all else fails, your wife's marriage manual will definitely open once a month!

This is why we say that **your wife's monthly is your best friend!**

"What's that? That time of month is man's best friend! **You have got to be kidding me!** PMS stands for 'Pack my suitcase!' All that I want to do is **get out of here** when it is that time of month!"



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At one time, I felt the same way. I was convinced that the only reason Kathy would get upset when that time came was because **she** had a problem with which **she** had to deal. This problem had nothing to do with **me** as far as I was concerned. I “felt badly for her” that she would get so **touchy and uptight** but what **really** upset me was that she would **point out things that had been secretly bothering her all month!**

When she would start down this road I would argue with her, “This has not bothered you **all month** and now, **just because you are on your monthly**, it’s a problem! This is not fair. Just get over it. In three days it won’t bother you anymore.”

Sure enough, when three days went by the issue would get safely tucked back under the rug. Many times the same issue would suddenly “re-appear” like clockwork... month after month after month. My response was to make a few half-hearted attempts at satisfying her “demand” and then “fluff it off” as soon as the eruption subsided.

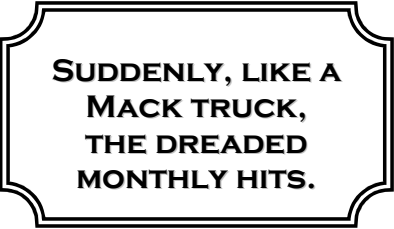
What is really going on when this happens? It is very simple. Your wife wants a good relationship with you. She is **desperate** for a **happy** marriage.

All month long your sweetheart puts up with the little, inconsiderate things that you do: the mean looks, the harsh words, the put down sounds. On top of this she has to beg you to do your fair share around the house. I can hear you argue with her, “I work all day, I should not have to help around the house.”

All month long, your wife puts up with these childish, immature postures in relationship to your responsibilities as a husband and father.

Suddenly, like a Mack truck, the dreaded monthly hits. Now, your wife's defenses are not as strong. Suddenly, when you hurt her feelings she cannot overlook it as she has done all month.

Suddenly, when you refuse to lend an ear she feels rejected and lashes out at you. The fact that you **bow** with the **guys** twice a week and only spend **30 minutes** of quality time with **her** has also **suddenly** become an issue.



**SUDDENLY, LIKE A  
MACK TRUCK,  
THE DREADED  
MONTHLY HITS.**

This is it! This is your Best Friend! Why? Because **suddenly** you get a chance to discover areas in which you have to grow!

**Suddenly** you become painfully aware that you have been acting like an adult child all month and not meeting your wife's needs!

The adult child responds to his wife's every mood, positive **or** negative. When she gets negative he gets even more negative and the situation escalates. This is why these male children cry in unison,

“She **made** me angry.”

“If only **my wife** would get **off** my **case** I would **treat** her better.” “She **made** me hit her.”

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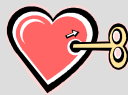
Mature men do not **respond** to their wife's negativity; mature men **initiate** actions or words of love and kindness to meet their wife's need. This brings security and healing.

He grows up emotionally and the dreaded monthly loses all of its power. Her needs are met. He is maturing. Everyone is more peaceful and the relationship is satisfying and fulfilling. The marriage is beginning to look like a marriage made in heaven.

Kathy and I have not had a bad "time of month" together in years! Previous to 1994, they were a living nightmare!

Thank God for this gift! If it were not for "that time of month," you might have gone on living like a child for the remainder of your married life!

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**THANK GOD FOR  
YOUR WIFE'S MONTHLY:  
MAN'S BEST FRIEND!**

## Chapter Ten

# Why Make The Effort?

*He who is married cares about how he may  
please his wife. She who is married cares  
about how she may please her husband.*

*1 Corinthians 7:33-34 (condensed)*

### *By Kathy*

Is this really worth the effort? Many people throw in the towel and find another spouse! Why should we work to have a dream marriage with our currently “flawed” spouse? Why strive to again fall in love with this spouse who has a history of problems when we can simply get divorced and find a better one? I was determined that our children would grow up with two happy and successful parents in an intact home. This would illustrate to them that they could be loving mates for their future spouses. If children do not witness their parents showing affection to one another by hugging, kissing and other acts of appreciation they will grow up without an example of an affectionate marriage.

Randy and Charlotte explained that there had not been much affection shown in either of their families. They were now perpetuating this cycle of not expressing affection to one another or to their children. They were

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actually sleeping in separate bedrooms! Their children are learning from them that this is marriage: sleeping in separate bedrooms with little display of affection in public or in private! Sam and Stacy were sitting on their couch holding hands. **Their** 8-year-old daughter came down the stairs and stared at them. After a long moment she happily turned and went on her merry way. The message that was received by **this** impressionable 8-year-old from mom and dad was, “All is well on the home front. Your world is safe and secure. We are not going anywhere.” In this day of instant marriage and divorce our children **must know that their home is safe**. It is a place where they can sleep well and play freely, a place where they know mom and dad love and care for each other deeply. This is security!

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It was during our **first** pastorate that we were having difficulties in our marriage. I still remember clearly the encounter that we had in the parking lot after church one evening. “Joel, I really need your help. I am getting overwhelmed with the ministry, counseling people, witnessing, the children, (1½ years old and six months respectively) and the house. I need you to help me with more things around the house.” Joel’s reply was to tell me that I could choose which way it was going to be. Either **he** could run the **house** and **I** run the church or **he** would run the church and **I** would run the household. There was no cooperation, no help; there was no give and take.

Our second year of marriage was especially difficult. One incident I remember clearly was when Joel announced that he was going to be gone for the evening

to watch two movies at the local theatre. I asked him to watch one and come home to spend some time with me. I promised to make a cake and we planned to play a card game, something I enjoyed at the time.

At the end of the first movie, Joel blew into the house. In his rush he did not see the cake that I had made. Joel yelled on his way **back** out the door, “You lied to me!

**ALL IS WELL ON  
THE HOME FRONT.  
YOUR WORLD IS  
SAFE AND SECURE.  
WE ARE NOT GOING  
ANYWHERE.**

You told me that you would be waiting for me when I got back and would have a cake ready. You are just trying to control me. You tricked me to get me not to go to the second movie.” There was no time for me to

point out to him that the cake was made. Later I explained to Joel that the cake had indeed been ready and how disappointed I was. Joel lightly apologized. Of course! It was easy **after** the deed was done! He had gotten his way at my expense and could “slough” it all off with a simple apology.

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Whatever your issues are, whatever your pain is, whatever your past is, take it from us – a successful marriage with your current spouse is definitely worth the effort! Yes! It works! Lives **can** be **changed!** Regardless of the past you **can** have a **dream marriage.**

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## **GOLDEN KEY**



**A DREAM MARRIAGE  
IS ALWAYS WORTH THE EFFORT**

## Chapter Eleven

# Leading As A Team

*So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the **master of the house** said to his servant.*

*Luke 14:21*

*By Joel*

Kathy and I have discovered through study of the Word that God desires the husband and wife to lead the home **together** as a **team**. This eliminates the opportunity for the husband to use spiritually abusive phrases such as, “You have to submit to me” and “I am the head of this house.”

If God requires that the husband and wife lead the house **together** as a **team**, giving them both the **same job description**, then **teamwork** is required. Communication is required. **A meeting of the hearts and minds** is required.

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*



If there **is** a decision that **absolutely must be made immediately** and there is no agreement, it falls on someone to make that final decision. However, this virtually **should never happen**. I cannot **imagine** a decision that could not be postponed until the husband and wife are able to reach an **agreement or compromise** that leaves both parties satisfied. How did Kathy and I

**I CANNOT  
IMAGINE A  
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COMPROMISE  
THAT LEAVES  
BOTH PARTIES  
SATISFIED.**

look at this after Life Skills? I asked her, “Kathy, I buy into all of this, but if there is a decision that must be made and we simply cannot agree and it is d-day, do you mind if I still get to make that final decision?” She said, “Sure.” In 14 years, this has never happened. 14 years later, I realize that was my immaturity and insecurity speaking. The man getting the “final decision” privilege is cultural. It is not a New

Testament concept. We work as a team. We don’t even consider this question anymore.

How does this work in the myriad of decisions that must be made on a daily basis? Kathy and I find many times that one of us feels strongly about something and the other one does not really care about the particular issue. In this case there is no debate. We go with the one who feels strongly about the situation.

When I was a control-freak the direction **always** had to originate with me. If Kathy felt strongly about something, it was **all the more** reason for me to pull rank and inform her that **I** was the head of the house and we were going to do it **my** way.

This is the summary of an argument between Kathy and me in 1986: “Can we go out to dinner Friday night?” “No.” “Why not? We normally go out to eat dinner about once a week and it has been a few weeks.” “I am the one who picks the nights we go out.” “Well that is not fair. I feel like we have not had any quality time and that we need to go out this Friday.”

“Would you please drop the subject? I am the head of this house and I will decide when we go out to eat. When it is time, I will tell you. Until then, just leave me alone.”

This upset Kathy for a few days until she successfully “swallowed it”, reminding herself that she had to “submit in all things except for sin.” “Submit in all things except for sin,” was the message taught by the then very popular, and now recently divorced “Father of Marriage Ministry” who was an influence in our life at the time. We had been to his seminar in person, purchased and studied the complete 16 tape series with study guide and attempted to assimilate the information. We definitely embraced the submission emphasis of the teachings!

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Let's look closer at this idea of leading the home. The first word we will look at is the word "proistemi" (4291 in Strong's), which means "to stand before in rank, to preside or to be over." It is used in Romans 12 when discussing the motivational gifts.

*He that ruleth, with diligence;*

*Romans 12:8*

The word for ruling here is **not referring only to**

**THE WORD  
TRANSLATED AS  
"MANAGE" THE  
HOUSE MEANS TO  
BE THE HEAD OF A  
FAMILY!**

**men** even though it says, "he that ruleth". All of the other motivational gifts of the Spirit listed in Romans would then also have to be reserved exclusively for men such as the gifts of mercy, giving, teaching or

exhortation.

***End of current excerpt – beginning of next***

These verses show very clearly that men are to lead the house. Before you get too haughty though, let's take a look at some Bible references that clearly specify that **women** are **also** authorized to **lead the house**.

*Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry,  
bear children, **manage the house**, give no  
opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*

*1 Timothy 5:14*

The word translated here as “manage” the house, means to be the **head of a family!** The Greek word is “**oikodespoteo**” (*3616 in Strong’s*) which means, “to be the head of” or in other words “to rule” a family.

*Now it is getting hot in here.*

The King James Version interprets this as to “guide the house”. That was a safe translation.

I can imagine that if the translators had translated the word **literally** that women are to be the **head of a family** or **rule the family** there would have been problems. They might have heard the much feared words from the king, “Off with his head!”

The word we just looked at, “**oikodespoteo,**” is taken from the word “**oikodespotes,**” which means exactly the same thing: to be the head of a family. King James translates this in other verses as “goodman of the house”, “householder” and “master of the house.”

*For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that  
is an **householder**, which went out early in the  
morning to **hire laborers into his vineyard.***

*Matthew 20:1*


The word used in Matthew 20:1 to describe a wife’s leadership in the home is “householder”. This person was **in charge!** He hired the laborers. This is a parable describing leadership in the same way that a wife is authorized to be the head of the house.

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*So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the **master of the house** being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.*

Luke 14:21

Here the word is translated “master of the house”. This is what the wife is supposed to be! The master of the house! How can this be? **How can God tell both the husband and wife to be the head of the house together?**



**WE ARE AFTER  
TEAMWORK AND  
MUTUAL RESPECT  
WHEN IT COMES  
TO LEADING THE  
FAMILY UNIT.**

**HE IS GOD! God** planned it this way! God’s plan for leadership in your home is one of team leadership and mutual submission. Another word to describe mutual submission would be mutual “adaptation”.

What are we after? We are after teamwork and mutual respect when it comes to leading the family unit. That is what the Bible teaches; husbands and wives working together, leading their home as a team. The two become ONE!

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For the full version:  
[www.joelandkathy.com](http://www.joelandkathy.com)

Excerpts from *The Man of Her Dreams/  
The Woman of His!*

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**DECIDE TO LEAD YOUR  
HOME AS A TEAM**

## Chapter Twelve

# Your Wife Ain't Your Momma!

(And You Are NOT Her Old Man!)

*By Joel*

In the last chapter, we discovered that God has authorized wives as well as their husbands to lead the home as a team in unity and harmony. Titus 2:5 talks about wives being “keepers at home.” This is the Greek word “oikourgos”, meaning “to be a guard, domestically inclined and a good housekeeper.” Husbands like this one! However, as we are learning, we always act as a team.

We have four children. I pitch in around our house by doing laundry and anything else Kathy asks me to do. One thing that I do is wipe down the commodes when I notice they need it. I am especially good at reminding the kids to do their chores! This actually helps, as sometimes Kathy gets so wrapped up in her business that the kids get away with “forgetting” until I remind them!

Helping around the house is an easy way for you to lighten the load. Your wife is not your “momma”. Pick up your dirty socks and underwear! Hopefully your momma taught you to clean your room and you continued the

habit after you were married! If you were a slob as a single man or if your momma **did** pick up after you, that changes now!

Your wife ain't your momma **or** your personal housekeeper! She is your lover and your best friend! Help around the house! Hire a housecleaner! Do something. Do anything! As long as you are lightening the load off of your wife's back, you are doing a good thing.

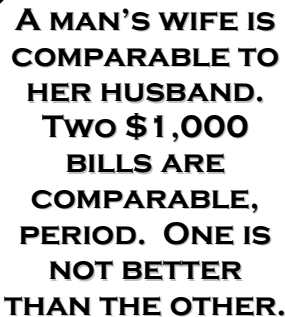
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## Comparable

*And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

*Genesis 2:18*

When you married, you did not marry up or down.



**A MAN'S WIFE IS  
COMPARABLE TO  
HER HUSBAND.  
TWO \$1,000  
BILLS ARE  
COMPARABLE,  
PERIOD. ONE IS  
NOT BETTER  
THAN THE OTHER.**

This may come as a surprise, as in many marriages one of the partners invariably feels like they married "below his or her level". This is simply not so. A man's wife is comparable to her husband. Two \$1,000 bills are comparable, **period**. One is not better than the other!

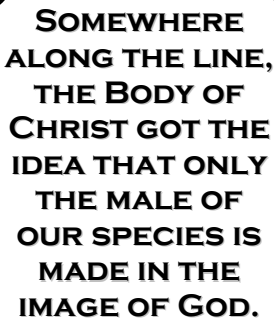
In the beginning of our marriage I felt as though I were superior to Kathy. When I began to grow into the



man God called me to be by becoming the husband my wife needed me to be, things started to look different. I realized how incredible Kathy was. I began to realize how strong she had been to survive the bad years. I realized what a wonderful wife and lover she was. She was my equal in every way! This was a revolution in my marriage. I did not marry down; therefore I could not **look down** on Kathy.

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I now know that it was because I was afraid of losing her. By making her feel inadequate I thought that I could keep her under my thumb. By tarnishing her self-



**SOMEWHERE  
ALONG THE LINE,  
THE BODY OF  
CHRIST GOT THE  
IDEA THAT ONLY  
THE MALE OF  
OUR SPECIES IS  
MADE IN THE  
IMAGE OF GOD.**

image I could make her “feel” like she was fortunate to be married to me. If she lost me she would not be able to attract a quality guy. I rescued her from a low life!

The real kicker to this scenario is that Kathy had fit perfectly the “list” of positive qualities that I had been looking for in a wife. She was fun loving, pretty, smart, outgoing, wanted to minister with me, enjoyed singing and would be able to write books with me. God had given me everything that I had asked for in a wife and I was constantly belittling her and putting her down.

When Kathy makes a mistake now, I remind myself of a time I have made the same mistake. If I have not made that same mistake, I try to remind myself of something else I am working on in which Kathy is already strong.

Kathy is extremely busy with our four children, ministry, blessing me and being friends with everyone that she meets. If you need to be encouraged or counseled, just hint to Kathy that you have a need. She will pour her heart out in attempting to encourage you. I love this about Kathy. The backside of both Kathy and me being busy in all of the activities is that we will sometimes forget details.

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The fact is that no one marries above or below his or her level. You may have **different weaknesses and different strengths** than your spouse, but you are neither superior nor inferior to them. Learn to roll with, appreciate and laugh at these differences.

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Point taken. God made **man**. *Male* and *female* he created **them**. **Both are created equally**. Man is a general term for men **and** women. **Male and female together equals “man”**.

**Every man has his own unique justification for his controlling nature.**

**Italian men** say that they will be a “schlep” if they respect their wives and give them too much freedom.

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**Egyptian** and **Moslem** men blame their controlling nature on their culture.

**Men from many Latin cultures** say that real men are independent. A little control and a half dozen affairs are just part of a normal relationship!

**Christian men** justify **their** controlling and manipulative nature by the usage of scripture.

Every man's controlling nature proceeds from the same fallen nature. Control and manipulation are the result of the fall. "Your wife will have a desire for you and you will rule, like a dictatorial tyrant, over her."

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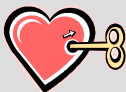
A sure sign that a man is being healed of his abusive tendencies is when he accepts the fact that his wife is not "below him". **She is his perfectly capable, comparable and God-ordained equal.** Your wife is not your "momma" and you are not her "old man". You are lovers, friends, teammates and equals.

God desires that you honor **Him** by **loving each other deeply.** You are not above your wife and she is not above you. You mutually adapt to one another and you grow into the man that God has called you to be by becoming the husband that she needs you to be.

For the full version:  
[www.joelandkathy.com](http://www.joelandkathy.com)

Excerpts from *The Man of Her Dreams/  
The Woman of His!*

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**YOU DID NOT  
MARRY UP OR DOWN**

## Chapter Thirteen

# Shining Your Crown

*An excellent wife is the crown of her  
husband.*

*Proverbs 12:4*

*By Joel and Kathy*

A crown to a king is his most prized and valuable possession. A king's crown is his glory. A king's crown represents him. A king's pride and joy is when his crown sparkles and shines. If his crown gets even a smudge, it is immediately cleaned to a sparkling shine again.

If my wife is my crown then I want her to shine! How can I shine her? I shine my crown by praising her. I shine my crown by building her up. I shine my crown by complimenting her.

As I build up Kathy she becomes very secure. When she is secure, the inner beauty that God has graced her with is poured out upon me! I reap the benefit! As I validate Kathy by reinforcing the high value that I place upon her she makes it her mission to be the best person that she can be! Kathy's confidence manifests itself in both inward and outward beauty! We have it easy, guys!

God created our wives to desire us. When we treat them well they naturally blossom like a rose.

We want to shine our crowns. When we shine our wives, they in turn will search out ways to increase their shine value to us, both inwardly and outwardly.

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Another expense that I never resent spending money on is make-up! Kathy **studies** make-up and fashion styles. As my crown



**I WANT HER TO  
LOOK AND FEEL  
GREAT!  
SHE IS  
MY CROWN!**

I appreciate that she knows how to shine! One woman said to my wife, “I feel like God told me to tell you to throw away all of your fashion magazines. You are beautiful enough!” The

visitor may have been complimenting my wife but I can guarantee that God was not telling Kathy to throw away all of her style and beauty magazines! (On the other hand, this second-time church visitor may have been trying to present her personal opinion as the voice of God! We never **did** see her again!)

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Guys, if you expect your wife to dress sharply and look good, you have to be sure that she has money and that she has your blessing to spend that money on herself. This is especially important if you have children.

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We have seen numerous instances where the husband and children were always dressed in nice new clothes while mom, placing herself on the bottom of the totem pole, is wearing clothes that are eight to ten years old. If your wife can't bring herself to spend money on herself, go on a shopping date together!

**I MAKE A SPECIAL  
POINT TO LOOK  
AT KATHY AND  
WHISPER SWEET,  
FUN COMMENTS  
THAT  
COMPLIMENT HER  
ON HOW GOOD  
SHE LOOKS.**

Remember, if funds are tight many upscale consignment shops offer upscale clothes for pennies on the dollar. These clothes are often beautiful and look like new. I cannot count the times that Kathy has modeled an incredible new shirt or outfit for me that she has bought at a nice resale shop. I will be thinking that it cost \$100 on sale! When I ask what it cost she

gives me the victorious announcement: "Two dollars!"  
The woman has a gift!

I appreciate it when Kathy looks really good and I appreciate it when she sometimes has a bit of a "sexy" edge to her outfit for the day. I much prefer looking at my own wife with interest rather than noticing other women! It would not be healthy for me to notice how nice another lady looks and then to look at Kathy, desiring that she dressed more appealing.

Revealing outfits are to the point of ridiculous in our world today. A Christian wife is not competing with

the scantily clad, airbrushed, augmented billboard models that confront her husband every day. Having said that, most Christian husbands enjoy their wives looking “sexy,” in a modest way, occasionally!

Men in general notice attractive women. Period. End of story. Right or wrong. Good or bad. They just do.

**YOU INCREASE  
YOUR WIFE’S  
VALUE WHEN YOU  
BRAG ON HER AS  
A KING WOULD  
BRAG ABOUT THE  
CROWN THAT  
THRILLS HIM SO.**

Charlie Shedd settled that issue many years ago in his classic work, “Letters to Phillip”. Kathy does not mind that I notice. What she does mind though is that “second look!” Everyone knows what I mean by “second look!” You are **not** shining your crown when you make an

effort for a second look. That second look devalues your wife instead of building her up.

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This is all about shining your wife! She is your crown! Be glad when she glows and looks beautiful.

Your wife’s “glow” is representing to the world that her husband treats her with the same honor that he would treat a multi-million dollar crown! Build your wife up. She represents you! Encourage her to learn about fashion and style. Be happy when she is going out into the community looking good and representing you in style! Shine your crown always. She is the best part of you.



*By Kathy*

The Bible says that an excellent wife is the crown of her husband. I want to be an excellent wife and I want to be a crown that is just as valuable to my man as a crown is to a king! A crown represents the king's value! A crown makes a king look good! That is one of my goals as an excellent wife! To make my husband look good! I want him to be proud of me to the point that he brags and shows me off!

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Esther spent six months soaking in Oil of Myrrh and another six months with other perfumes and beauty preparations. We cannot spend a year soaking in perfumes and oil of myrrh but we **can regularly improve our appearance**. Just the fact that you are working on it regularly qualifies you as “The Woman of His”. Your man will be thrilled that you are getting better looking every day! You have not given up!

Every marriage book emphasizes a woman's inner beauty. Suffice to say that it is not good for a woman to be ugly, mean, unkind and unmerciful on the inside. It has been proven time and again that these negative attributes in a wife's personality will “go away” when a man becomes the husband that his wife needs him to be. A wife who is a believer and wants to please God **will be beautiful on the inside** as her husband becomes the man that God has called him to be! **It is hard to be beautiful on the inside if your husband is tarnishing your self-image daily!**

A shining crown will be beautiful on the inside and will utilize everything that she has been given by God to be beautiful for her husband on the outside. Who gets the credit when the crown is shining? Your husband! You will shine in direct relation to how you are being treated behind closed doors.

### ***Enhance Your Husband!***

A crown enhances the king who wears it. My goal is to enhance my husband. I want to do simple things like making him a cup of coffee or bringing him a glass of juice. I do things that lift his load when I am able. Asking him if there is anything that I can do to help him is another way to enhance his day.

I always make it a point to look my best. I put makeup on everyday and dress in ways that are pleasing to him. If you have certain clothes that your husband does not like, my question is “Why would you wear it?” If my husband does not like an outfit, out it goes! Sometimes I will work with it to make it look nice but if it still does not “turn him on”, out it goes!

I also make it a point to look good when we go to bed. Years ago I read that Lynette Hagin’s husband, Ken Jr. had not seen her without make-up! She went to bed in make-up, got up to remove it after he fell asleep and rose before Ken in the morning to reapply. I do not do that but I always look good for Joel! You don’t have to go overboard, but if your husband says that he does not care how you look when you go to bed, don’t believe him! I don’t go to bed in hair rollers or flannel PJ’s! You will

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never find me displaying an attitude of “I don’t care how I look”. There are times that the day gets going before the make-up goes on but at the first opportunity I will be at the mirror “beautifying!” Speaking of bedtime, Joel and I go to bed at the same time 90% of the time. How can you

stay close to your husband if you do not have this important time of fellowship?

**PART OF THE  
REASON HE  
MARRIED YOU  
WAS TO GET TO  
SEE YOU IN  
VARIOUS STATES  
OF DRESS OR  
UNDRESS!**

If Joel is in the bedroom and I have to change clothes, do you think that I change in the bathroom? No way! This is just another chance to have

fun in daily life! He will normally look up from what he is doing and say something to the effect of “Now that is just plain not fair! You are doing that on purpose! You are just too gorgeous. You would think that I could focus on (reading, working, studying) but no... You come and change clothes right in my line of view!” I just love it!

*End of current excerpt – beginning of next*

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**WHEN THE CROWN IS SHINING  
EVERYONE BENEFITS!**

## Chapter Fourteen

# Submit? Adapt?

*Submitting to one another in the fear of  
God.*

*Ephesians 5:21*

*By Joel*

Submit. Adapt. Submit. Adapt. Submit? Adapt? What is this all about? Frankly, Kathy and I like to use the word “adapt” in place of the word “submit”. Why? One reason is that “adapt” is a friendly word which more accurately reflects the biblical intention of the word.

The word “submit” for many people has a negative connotation.

In the early 60’s, teaching about marriage became popular in the Body of Christ. The emphasis was placed solely upon the woman to “submit” to her husband; the man of the house; the head of the home; the king of the castle. Women were expected to be everything and do everything that her husband could ever hope or want regardless of how he acted and treated her.

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The wife was never to complain or argue and was instructed to constantly tell him how wonderful he was. If the dutiful, submissive wife were ever to try to “usurp his authority” by asking him why he was home late for dinner or what he spent all the money on then she was “in rebellion.”

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**IF ONLY THE WIFE  
WERE TO DO  
EVERYTHING  
PERFECT, THEN  
HER HUSBAND  
WOULD BECOME  
A RESPONSIBLE,  
LOVING HUSBAND  
AND THEY WOULD  
HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
MARRIAGE.**

Many women will remember the book *Total Woman* by Marabel Morgan. This young lady of about 30 years of age stormed the country with her best selling book and appeared on many national TV programs with her **revolutionary message** of submission. Her theory? If only the wife were to do **everything perfect**, then her husband would

become a responsible, loving husband and they would have a wonderful marriage.

I don't think so. There **were** testimonies of husbands who indeed were pleasantly surprised at the change in their wives. She recommended lots of fun sex, cute outfits, adoring words and beautifully prepared meals with no negative words, thoughts or feelings ever to be projected toward the husband. I still like the fun sex, cute

outfits, adoring words and Kathy's cooking! Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water!

We teach that women are **designed by God** to **desire** their husbands. **If a husband will lay his life down** for his wife and meet **her** needs, she will **want** to do these things for him. She won't be **forcing** herself in order to keep peace and appease him. Yes, there may be an uncomfortable season of healing needed before a wife can "go there" – to that place of "wanting" to respond warmly and positively to a husband, but regardless of the necessary time, that is the end result. Our second book, *Livin' It and Lovin' It!* covers this process in detail.

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The biblical usage of the word "**submit**" is most often translated from the Greek word "**hupotasso**". We find "Hupotasso" in Ephesians 5:21. "**Submitting yourselves one to another**". The word means "to subordinate, to obey, to be subject to and to submit oneself to." In the very next verse we find these words:

***Wives, submit to your own husbands, as  
to the Lord.***

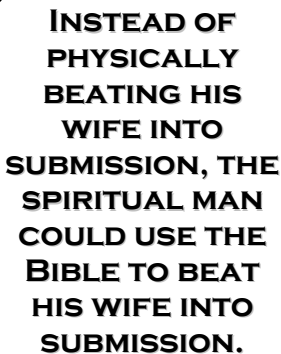
*Ephesians 5:22*

The net effect of this double usage of the word "submit" in back to back verses is that men totally ignore the fact that verse 21 requires **mutual submission**. The word "submit" therefore has only been applied to the wife submitting to her husband. Haven't you heard? "A husband is **never** told to submit to his wife. Heresy!"

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The word “submit,” as found in the preceding verses, has for years been mistakenly taught as being the exclusive responsibility of the wife in a Christian marriage.

A foundation of teaching was built – and has been sustained since the early 60’s - that a woman was solely responsible for the success or failure of her marriage. This



**INSTEAD OF  
PHYSICALLY  
BEATING HIS  
WIFE INTO  
SUBMISSION, THE  
SPIRITUAL MAN  
COULD USE THE  
BIBLE TO BEAT  
HIS WIFE INTO  
SUBMISSION.**

theory is that if a woman will only submit enough to her husband, her submission will tame the beast and he will not be abusive toward her. For years this was the complete emphasis of all marriage teaching in the church. A woman was to relegate herself to being a doormat to be walked upon with a smile on her face, a song in

her voice and dinner on the stove while at all times being ready for rollicking good times in the bedroom!

The sad result was that this misguided emphasis simply gave men a **new way to abuse their wives**. Now they had the **Bible** behind them. A husband could yell and scream at his wife and say it was because she was not submissive. He could be immature, not clean up after himself, stay out all night, and spend the family’s money. If his wife were to object he could tell her she was in rebellion. If he wanted to pull out the big guns he would claim that she had a “Jezebel” spirit.

Of course, most pastors agreed with the husbands. Most pastors were men. Their wives **were** rebellious. In some churches it could be reported that **every single woman** was a carrier of the “Jezebel spirit”. This new form of abuse has been coined “spiritual abuse.” It goes on today behind the closed doors of Christian homes (and churches) more than anyone would ever want to admit.

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If your wife is solely responsible for the success of your marriage, what is there left for you to do? When I realized that I was waiting for Kathy to be the perfect wife, I was shocked. Here I was; the “Man of God with the Power for the Hour” and the only answer I had for our problems was to blame Kathy, claiming that she was just not submissive enough. I abused her spiritually on a regular basis, using Bible verses to “hit” her with, or at the very least, to hold her in “check”. When I learned to listen to her heart, mutually adapt (submit) to her, and meet her needs, our marriage was miraculously restored to the outrageously happy relationship we enjoy today.

**GOLDEN KEY**



**THE MAN OF HER DREAMS  
LISTENS TO HER HEART  
AND FULFILLS HER DESIRES**



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## Chapter Fifteen

# Adapting To One Another

*Submitting to one another in the fear of  
God.*

*Ephesians 5:21*

*Wives, **submit to your own husbands, as to  
the Lord.***

*Ephesians 5:22*

*By Joel*

The word “submit” which is translated from the Greek word “hupotasso” is found in Ephesians 5:21. It is used in reference to submitting **one to another**. The very next verse then goes on to repeat the English word “submit,” instructing wives **specifically** to submit to their husbands.

I always found this to be very odd. Why would God tell believers to submit one to another and then immediately tell wives separately and specifically to submit to their husbands? The way my Bible reads is like this: **“Submitting yourselves to one another. Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord.”** This just does not make any sense. In general, if the Bible does

not make sense, there is something lost in the translation. That surely is the case here.

*Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the  
Lord.*

*Ephesians 5:22*

“**Submit**” in this verse is **not** the word “**hupotasso**” being repeated, as it seems. Here comes the definition of this word for submit. The Greek word is a little different from the word “hupotasso”. Are you ready for this? Be sure to **read slowly** and emphasize each and every word! The definition, according to Thayer’s Greek Dictionary is:

“Inserted word: This word was added by the translators for better readability in the English. There is no actual word in the Greek text!”

*(Thayer’s #9999)*

You have got to be kidding me! No, I am not kidding. And it gets even better. If you take the word “submit” out of the verse, it reads like this: **“Wives, unto your own husbands as unto the Lord”**. The word translated “unto your own” is the word “idios” which means, “pertaining to self, one’s own, private or separate.”

*(Strong’s #2398)*

The verse would be literally translated much better if you read it like this:

**Let the wife be private and separate to her  
husband as she is to the Lord.**

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Now this makes sense. Anyone can understand this. “Submit one to another and you wives, be private and separate unto your own husband as unto the Lord. Be faithful to your husband. Be set apart solely for him. Don’t let another man get into your ‘space’. Your space is reserved exclusively for your husband.” One thing that



has always impressed me about Kathy is how private and separate that she is to me. I often thought that Kathy would be tempted to have an affair after I did. This is not how Kathy thinks or acts. She has had opportunities at vulnerable times yet has maintained herself private and separate. It is awe-inspiring to see and I am grateful for this

quality in her.

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## Mutual Submission

There are later legitimate uses of the word “hupotasso” as relating to wives but it is always in tandem with a mutual submission, respect, adaptation and love. For example:

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Colossians 3:18-19*

Here the word “submit” is used in tandem with husbands being instructed to love their wives. We look at husbands loving their wives in Chapter 17.

Then “hupotasso” is used as it relates to a team ministry such as in a church service.

*For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the **spirits of the prophets are subject** to the prophets.*

*1 Corinthians 14:31-32*

**SUBMIT IS A LOVING WORD THAT WOULD BE INTERPRETED BETTER AS “TO ADAPT” OR TO SIMPLY FLOW TOGETHER AS A TEAM, PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER.**

This is simply telling us that a prophet does not **have** to speak when he has a word. He instead can choose to flow in harmony and wait his turn to speak.

Next, the Bible uses the word “hupotasso” in regards to submitting to leadership as in this example:

*...They have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—that you also **submit to such**, and to everyone who works and labors with us.*

*1 Corinthians 16:15-16*

This again is a request to work together as a team, flowing in love, joy, peace and unity. Remember our opening verse at the beginning of this chapter?

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***Submitting to one another.***

*Ephesians 5:21*

In 1 Peter the word “hupotasso” is used again, reminding everyone to be submissive to one another.

***Yes, all of you be submissive to one another and be clothed with humility.***

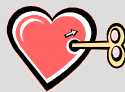
*1 Peter 5:5b*

Same word: “hupotasso”. That about says it all. Everyone should walk in a spirit of harmony, a spirit of adapting. We should all get along without anyone demanding his or her own way. We should look out for the interest of others and not just for “number one.” That is what the word “hupotasso” is communicating.

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The verses telling wives to submit to their husbands are **not** to be used against wives in order to force them to put up with abusive behavior from their husband. Submit is a loving word that would be interpreted better as “to adapt” or to simply “flow together as a team, preferring one another”.

**GOLDEN KEY**



**BEGIN TODAY TO ADAPT  
TO ONE ANOTHER**

## Chapter Sixteen

# Desiring Your Husband Is A Good Thing

*Your **desire** shall be for your husband.*

*Genesis 3:16*

*By Kathy*

We want women to have a **desire** for their husbands. Our aim is to help a man become the **husband** his wife **needs** him to be so that he can become the **man** that **God** has **called him** to become. If he will **do** this, his wife will fall back in love with him! What godly wife does not **hungrily desire a man who is everything that God has called him to be?**

**Every woman wants a man who treats her like a queen.** Every woman wants a man who places her in the rightful position of number one in his life (with only God being more supreme). We teach men that they **cannot claim** to love God if they do not **intensely love** their wife. We boldly teach women that if her husband truly loves God then he will truly love her as a result.

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A man **demonstrates** his love for God by how well he loves his wife and children. Every woman wants a man who listens to her, is gentle and kind to her and supports her financially, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Every woman wants a man who only has eyes for her.

If you are this woman then you will feel free to **desire** your husband. God **wants** you to desire your husband, communicate with him, serve him, bless him and spend time with him. This is God's desired response from you toward your godly and loving husband.

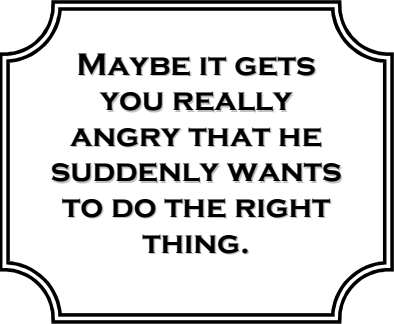
Think back to when you were first married. You **desired** your husband didn't you? Of course you did! You desired your husband and you were proud of that fact. You **bragged** to your friends about this wonderful guy you met. You laid awake at night thinking how **wonderful** it would be to marry this "knight in shining armor." **All of your childhood dreams were coming true!** You thought about him constantly. You **dreamed** about that perfect, secure, safe, romantic "happily ever after" life with this **perfectly wonderful, delightful** man.

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Hurt over and over again, you felt cheated by life. The dream you had as a young girl became a distant memory. Now when you see a kind and loving gentleman you fantasize over what "could have been" had you met him instead of the heel you know as your husband!

You are now living in a **cold war** with this man that you don't feel much for. Oh yes, you do have some good times. You go out with friends and/or to church. You laugh, you play, you eat together and you take the kids to ballgames. You are living life but there is **no passion!** There is **no love play!** There is **no excitement** about meeting each other in bed tonight. You are two people who live together, accomplish life together, raise children together and go to church but you are **not** two passionate lovers.

You would **not** describe yourself as being madly, wildly or radiantly in love. Those are the **last words** that



**MAYBE IT GETS  
YOU REALLY  
ANGRY THAT HE  
SUDDENLY WANTS  
TO DO THE RIGHT  
THING.**

you would use to describe your marriage. "Who? Tom and me? Wildly and radiantly in love with each other? I don't think so! We **put up** with each other, **sometimes!** We **survive** each other. We **might** make it until death do us part and

we might **not**. **Who knows?** I really don't believe in divorce but we really are incompatible. At least we are staying together until the kids are grown. That is staying together longer than most couples."

Now your husband is reading this book. **Suddenly** he is telling you that he cares about your feelings. **Suddenly** he is helping you with the children and with the dishes. **Suddenly** he is working and paying the bills. Suddenly he is asking **you** to tell **him** what **he** needs to do differently in order **to become the husband that you**



**need him to be!** Suddenly he is **doing those things** that you **begged him to do** years ago in futility until you finally **gave up trying!**

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A sign of the beginnings of maturity would be if your husband understands that his simple apology does not immediately erase your pain. He has inflicted emotional damage upon you, in some cases for years. A key to his growth into the man that God has called him to be is to accept responsibility for the pain that he has caused you by his abuse, mistreatment or unfaithfulness.



**A MATURE  
HUSBAND WOULD  
ACCEPT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR HER  
FEELINGS. HE  
WOULD  
WELCOME HER  
SHARING AND  
COMFORT HER.**

Your husband is growing. He is changing. He is treating you with kindness and showing you sensitivity. He has been doing this now for a total of 48 hours since he has been reading this book! He is now a legend in his own mind! (This is really how guys think!) He has made the decision to be your “knight in shining armor”. He is determined to be your dream husband. He is acting and speaking differently.

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Perhaps the next time that he is insensitive to you, you calmly inform him that he has hurt your feelings.

Instead of defending himself, your **new husband** says to you, “I’m sorry. I did not mean to hurt your feelings. Thanks for telling me. I will be more careful next time to consider your feelings.”

Again, you **crumple** in **utter and complete shock!**



**Now** you are in a pickle! Do you **trust** him? What do you do? How do you handle **this?** The first and most important thing is that you begin to **respond** to him. **Act** like you have feelings for him. Go out of your way to perform special actions of love toward him. Begin to do things that you know will make him feel happy and comfortable.

If he will continue to change you will slowly find yourself believing that it is **safe** for you to **desire** him again. It is safe to **take those dreams off of the shelf** and begin to fantasize about being married to the man of your dreams because “the heel” is starting to morph into **that man!** Surprise, surprise, surprise!

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Pretty soon you can unreservedly begin to desire him. This is a good thing. God’s plan from the very beginning has been for a wife to desire her husband.

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With the fall came a curse: “your husband will **rule** over you.” The word “rule” brings to mind the idea of “ruling like a tyrant”. It is the Hebrew word, “mashal” meaning “to rule, to have dominion, to have power over.” More often than not, when it appears in the Word, it refers to harsh and ungodly rulers. That certainly is the usage of the word in this reference. It was not God’s **original intention** that your husband would tyrannize you. It was a result of the curse of the law.

***End of current excerpt – beginning of next***

We are teaching your husband to love you as a **redeemed man**. A redeemed man does not rule over his wife. A redeemed man **serves** his wife and **loves her** as Christ loves the church and **gave himself for her** by laying down his life. **A redeemed man is attentive to your needs. A redeemed man dedicates himself to loving his wife and children.**

The curse is reversed! **Your desire is for your husband and he is treating you like the apple of his eye! The better he treats you the more you are safe to unreservedly desire him.** What is your desired end? You want to feel safe enough to love him **without reservation and never look back.**

Gone are the days of constant bickering, insults, disrespect, humiliation, shame, manipulation and control. It is a new day — a day of love, fun, freedom, romance and joy! This new man **is** the man of your dreams.

For the full version:  
[www.joelandkathy.com](http://www.joelandkathy.com)

Excerpts from *The Man of Her Dreams/  
The Woman of His!*

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**DESIRING YOUR HUSBAND WILL  
ULTIMATELY BRING YOU JOY!**

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## Chapter Seventeen

# Husband, Love Your Wife: Your Lover, Confidant and Friend

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ  
also loved the church and gave Himself for her.  
Ephesians 5:25*

*So husbands ought to love their own wives as  
their own bodies.  
Ephesians 5:28a*

*He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one  
ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes  
it, just as the Lord does the church.  
Ephesians 5:28b-29*

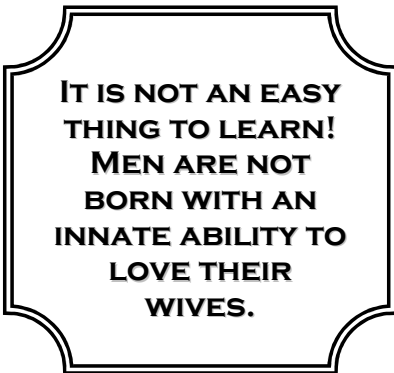
*Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so  
love his own wife as himself.  
Ephesians 5:33a*

*Husbands, Love your wives.  
Colossians 3:19*

## *By Joel*

Five times husbands are instructed to love their wives. The Greek word for love here is “agapao” which is the “God kind of love.” The GOD KIND OF LOVE expresses itself in **giving** as illustrated in the scriptures: “For God so LOVED the world that He **gave...**” and “Just as Christ also LOVED the church and **gave** himself for her.” **You have a high calling, man of God.** That high calling is to love your wife as Christ loves the church and as God loved by **giving** his only son.

This emphasis was revolutionary in the Jewish world 2000 years ago. Women were considered property



in their culture. Women were expected to bear and raise children. Husbands were responsible to them in nothing. Husbands could come and go as they pleased with no accountability for where they were or what they had done. **For Paul to demand**

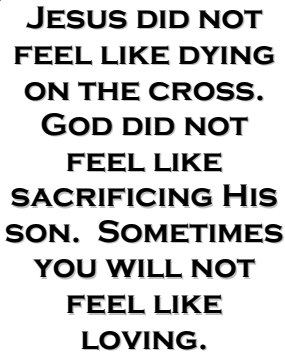
**this level of self-sacrifice from men for their women in that day was nothing short of life altering, conscious shattering and total paradigm shifting!!**

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Paul repeatedly told the husbands to lay their lives down for their wives. This was in complete contradiction to the current religious environment. It should be

something that we look at seriously. Every husband **can learn** how to love his wife in this way. It is not an **easy thing** to learn! Men are not born with an innate ability to love their wives. It will be a learned ability – an ability that a husband must learn – if he ever hopes to have a relaxed and happy marriage. 1 John 4:19 says, “*We love (Him) because he **first** loved us.*” Your job is to love **first**. Your wife’s job is to love in **response**.

The first prerequisite understanding of love is that **love is a decision**. It is not based on how you feel. A decision is a decision. It is not a feeling. Kathy and I made it through some very rough years simply because we **decided to love**. We **decided** to stay committed.



**JESUS DID NOT  
FEEL LIKE DYING  
ON THE CROSS.  
GOD DID NOT  
FEEL LIKE  
SACRIFICING HIS  
SON. SOMETIMES  
YOU WILL NOT  
FEEL LIKE  
LOVING.**

Kathy, of course, got the short end of the stick, as it was my refusal to listen to her heart that caused our problems. Kathy was operating in “agapao” love. In a marriage relationship, this is above and beyond the call of duty for a wife.

When I treated her poorly she **decided** to love me. Many marriage books teach the wife to function in “agapao” love until her husband responds positively to her. Kathy read and applied the message.

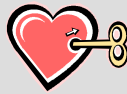
This is upside down but sometimes it is the only way a marriage can survive. A man can be so rebellious to meeting his wife’s needs that **without** her operating in

“agapao” love the marriage would not have a chance to last long enough for the husband to **learn** how to love. This formula **will lengthen** a marriage but will not help a husband to grow into the man that God has called him to be. A man will never **love his wife** in **response** to her “agapao” loving him. He is not **created** to **respond** to his wife. He is created to initiate – to love first – to serve first.

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In faith, Kathy loved me with “agapao” love. Her sacrificial love kept us together long enough for the “Colorado Miracle” to happen. (Kathy was the “husband” and I was the “wife”) In classic God-style, Kathy came to the end of her grace at a time coinciding with our receiving the new information. You are now receiving the truth that will set you free. The days of your wife holding your marriage together (being the husband!) are coming to an end. This is your fork in the road. It is our prayer that God will use this book to give to your marriage the same miracle that we received at Colorado! There is no turning back now. Your life can never be the same.

## GOLDEN KEY



**DECIDE TO LOVE  
UNTIL THE MIRACLE HAPPENS.  
THEN IT WILL BE EASY.**



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## Chapter Eighteen

# Fond of Man And Affectionate

*Teach them to love their husbands.*

*Titus 2:4*

*By Kathy*

In the first chapter of the Bible, God revealed that it is His plan and design for women to desire their husbands. This has been God's way from the beginning.

*Your **desire** shall be for your husband.*

*Genesis 3:16*

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There is only one **specific** verse telling wives to love their husbands.

*Teach them to love their husbands.*


*Titus 2:4*

This word for “love” in Greek is “philandros” and it means “fond of man and affectionate.” It is a responsive love. We encourage women to respond to their husbands by being fond and affectionate.

Once, Joel and I were in a convenience store making a purchase. Joel forgot his wallet in the car and asked me if I would go out to the car and get it for him. I said, “Yes, sir!” and turned to go out the door.

With complete and utter astonishment a young man exclaimed to Joel, “How did you do that?” Joel said, “How did I do what?” He said, “That! How did you get her to say ‘Yes, sir’ and go get your wallet just like that?”

Joel replied, “I treat her like a queen! If you treat your wife like a queen she’ll be **happy** to do things for you!”



**IF YOU TREAT  
YOUR WIFE LIKE A  
QUEEN SHE'LL BE  
HAPPY TO DO  
THINGS FOR YOU!**

Isn't that how you are? When your husband is treating you wonderfully, it is easy to be a blessing to him, isn't it?

If your husband only realized how much more enjoyable life will be when he finally begins to listen to your heart and treat you like a queen he would certainly become that husband that you need him to be a lot quicker!

If an excellent wife had to choose between living with a less intelligent, less successful man who treated her well or a successful, more intelligent man who treated her poorly, she would choose the former every time.

Brains and success don't hold a candle to gentleness and kindness to an excellent wife. She would

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live in a shack with a man who treats her right! Fortunately, you do not have to make that choice! Your husband can be intelligent, successful and yes, he can learn to treat you right!

When your man lays his life down for you and meets your needs then you are enabled to respond by being fond of and affectionate toward him in return.

This is extremely easy to do if you have not been too humiliated, broken and confused by your husband's actions of the past. If you **have** been humiliated and broken it will take time for you to heal and trust again. You might have retreated into a protective shell and may be wary of opening your heart.

**You may be afraid to take the risk.  
Why be hurt again?**

If your relationship has been damaged to **this** extent, your husband will have to display that he is sincere over an extended period. **In time** you will trust that it is safe for you to come out of hiding. **In time** you will respond positively to him.

You **are able** to be the wife of his dreams and you **will be** in response to him becoming the husband that you need him to be. Are you ready to be his dream wife **today?** No. **Today** you want **nothing** to **do** with him.

What is his answer? The answer is for your husband to love, love, and love you with that "agapao" love without expecting anything in return.

When we meet a wife who has **no desire** for her husband there are always years of history that killed that response. It is doubtful that **any** woman married a man without having the desire for a great relationship with him!

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At some point hereafter the relationship goes into “overdrive”.

The feelings flow. You fall in love again.

You would rather be with your sweetheart than anyone else even though you do enjoy other wholesome friendships.

You naturally meet each other’s needs. You are a team and you communicate constantly as a natural course of events.

You build each other up when one of you is down, you anticipate each other’s needs and you lighten each other’s load.

You are on the same page in life, love and play.

You respect each other as individuals and celebrate your differences.

You play together, love together and laugh together.

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You are best friends, lovers, confidants and team members.

You are each coach **and** team member!

You are one flesh. You have one heart!

You can say that you are more in love today than you have ever been.

Joel and I have this relationship today. If Joel and Kathy can do it, you can too!

No matter what you have been through, there is hope!

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

The rest of your life is the best of your life.

Take a risk.

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**TAKE A RISK TODAY!  
RESPOND POSITIVELY AND WARMLY  
TO YOUR HUSBAND'S EFFORTS**

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## Chapter Nineteen

# If It Doesn't Work At Home, Don't Export It. (For Ministers)

*For an Elder must be a man whose life cannot be  
spoken against. **He must be faithful to his  
wife.***

*1 Timothy 3:2 (NLT)*

*By Joel*

Many couples reading this book **are now** or **will** be called into ministry. The enemy loves to cause marital failure and he takes **special delight** in making a **public display** of his deceptive abilities by putting additional pressure on the marriages of those who are called to ministry.

If a man cannot meet the needs of his own wife, then he **cannot** meet the needs of families in the household of God. A man's first priority in ministry must be to be faithful to his wife physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Ministers are tempted to get their needs met through church work. The enemy of their marriage wants them to spend their best energies on church and on church members. In many ministry environments, ministers' wives are left on the outside looking in.

I remember being told by the “soon departing” elders of our second pastorate that Kathy was not allowed to participate in the elders' meetings. That policy was changed immediately!

Excluded ministry wives sit quietly in the pew watching their husbands getting “oohs” and “ahs” from admiring ministry supporters or congregation members. It is easy for this minister to be unfaithful to his wife by drawing his self-image and self-worth from those in his congregation.

This is a form of emotional adultery.

These longsuffering ministers' wives die inside knowing full well that their husbands are not meeting their needs and not living the life in private that they are attempting to display in public.

When the wife complains, the husband tells her that ministry is his most important call and that she is being rebellious to God to suggest that he slow down in his ministry. This is spiritual abuse.

Many times these relationships continue in misery for years behind closed doors. When one of these wives gets the nerve up to leave, they are ostracized from the




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church body. The official word from the leadership is that the wife is in rebellion.

The reality is that the husband is in spiritual and emotional adultery, having neglected his marital responsibilities under the guise of ministry commitment. Ministry is his mistress.

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When our marriage was in crisis, I desperately wanted to stay in the pulpit! My thoughts were along the following lines:



**WHEN OUR  
MARRIAGE WAS IN  
CRISIS,  
I DESPERATELY  
WANTED TO STAY  
IN THE PULPIT.**

“It is not **all** my fault. Divisive church members caused our congregation to go through a messy church split. Kathy was causing me problems. Besides, I came back! I repented! Everyone should just accept me and validate my immediately continuing in public ministry.”

If someone could have looked into our lives at the time they would have seen the truth that Kathy and I were fighting a lot.

I was insisting that we still be friends with the other couple. They agreed. This development put a knife through Kathy’s heart. I was still infatuated, in false love

or in lust with the other woman. Pick whatever term you want to use to describe it.

The relationship was broken but there was still a strong soul tie. I had a difficult time letting God circumcise my heart.

Thank God that my character flaws forced me to face the fact that I had to step out of the pulpit for a season to restore my family. Why other ministers sometimes do not realize this, I will never know. It is total and complete deception.

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The challenge for your marriage is this: **Live the Word. Stay faithful** to your wife by **putting her first in everything**. If you find that you are not having a successful marriage then you **should not be exporting what you are living**. You know what is going on behind the closed doors of your home. Are you manipulating and devaluing your wife? Is your home a battleground? If so, recognize the problem and fix it. Get some serious counseling. Don't wait until your wife leaves you.

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These are spectacular examples. What I am more concerned about is what is going on behind closed doors in **your** home. Do **you** love **your** wife as **Christ** loved the **church** by **laying your life down** for her and meeting her needs as she expresses them?

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On the other hand, could you be spiritually and emotionally abusing her while committing spiritual and emotional adultery with your ministry supporters?

- Do you tell people that your wife is in rebellion?
- Do you say that she might have a Jezebel spirit?
- Do you harp on your wife that she has to “submit to you” and remember that you are the “head of the house?”

If your answer is “**yes**” to **any** of these questions, you are in need of some serious marriage counsel. Deal with it! Don’t hide!

I have openly shared how I mistreated Kathy in all of the above and in many other ways. God has given us supernatural amnesia to not remember all of the individual instances. If it were not for that amnesia we could fill a 1,000-page book describing our experiences.

Our hearts’ desire is that *The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!* would help many ministry marriages that are abusive and/or are recovering from adultery. We have asked the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the illustrations that He wanted us to share. If you found yourself in even one illustration and have been helped, we are grateful. Our transparency is being used by God to reach, to touch and to heal.

We would have written this book in the 90’s but we had to walk it out. We had to successfully live these

principles for a long time before we could share them in writing.

We can now say without a moment's hesitation:

“The principles that have now given us **our** dream marriage can save **any** marriage. If a husband and wife **utilize** these principles, **any marriage** can be turned around. The **worst marriage** can become a **dream marriage**. The **most abusive** husband **can** become ‘**The Man of Her Dreams**’. The wife who has been **hurt the most** can become ‘**The Woman of His**’. If we can do it, so can you.”

You can do this. You, man of God, can grow up. You can lay your life down for your wife. You can listen to the Personal Marriage Manual that God has given you in your wife. You can be kind, sensitive, gentle, loving and supportive.

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## **GOLDEN KEY**



**YOUR MARRIAGE IS  
ALWAYS FIRST PRIORITY**

## Chapter Twenty

# Turn The Heat Up!

*(For Adults Only)*

*Let each man **have his own wife** and let each  
woman **have her own husband.***

*1 Corinthians 7:2b*

**By Joel and Kathy**

We do not ascribe to the religiously correct concept that sex is “not all that important” in a marriage. We think that it is **very** important and it is clear that the **Bible** gives lovemaking a place of **high importance** in a married couple’s life!

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I heard Zig Ziglar say this, “Have you heard it taught that a man becomes what he thinks about all day long? I have to disagree. If that premise were true, then every teenage boy would be a *woman!*” A husband is not depraved because he thinks about making love... all the time. This is why God created “multi-tasking”.

It is important to remember that bedroom delight starts in the morning and builds throughout the day. If a husband is changing into the man that God has called him

to be, then wonderful things are happening. He is becoming more sensitive, gentle and kind. He is not resisting when his wife mentions that he hurt her feelings or did something in an uncaring way.

If a husband treats his wife special all day long, calling her from work to say “Hi”, opening car doors, offering attention and hugs, then the bedroom temperature will rise pleasantly all day long! Someone once said that a woman is like a crock-pot and a man is like a microwave. It does not turn me on to think of Kathy as a crock-pot (how sexy is a crock-pot?), but I

have learned to honor the crock-pot theory. All day long is an adventure for Kathy and me!



When it comes time to retire for the evening, don't lose the pleasant mood that has been building! Go to bed at the same time! If you are a night owl then get back up when your partner goes to

sleep. A good aim would be to go to bed at the same time at least five nights a week. That is minimum. It is not possible to stay close as a married couple if you go to bed at different times every night.

A woman is not designed to carry a sexual load without an emotional reward and a man is not designed to carry an emotional load without a sexual reward. This is

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part of God's design and plan. Husband, if you meet your wife's emotional needs, she will be more than happy to meet your sexual needs. Sometimes it is a challenge for you to be sensitive and meet your wife's emotional needs and sometimes it is difficult for your wife to be excited about meeting your sexual needs. The more that you meet her emotional needs in the kitchen, living room and dining room, though, the more excited and eager to please she will be in the bedroom; as a response to you becoming more Christlike.

*May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. May her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*

*Proverbs 5:18-19*

If a couple makes love whenever **one** of the partners is interested then your marriage will include **lots** of lovemaking! This is a valid goal for every marriage! Guys are normally more interested in **quantity** and gals are more interested in the **quality**. If you make love **often**, most husbands will be happy with the love life. If you enjoy quality **time** together, most wives will be happy.

What do we recommend? Lots of sex! Lots of variety! Have lovemaking "dates" at times other than right before bedtime. Afternoon and mid-morning delights are great as you have more energy than you do at midnight! **There is no such thing as too much lovemaking or too much time** spent at any one time!

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Words of caution to a husband who is recovering from being a control-freak:

- It is a turn off for most women to participate in any form of lovemaking if her husband is not clean! Take a shower!
- If your wife is hesitant, do not force it. Talk the issues through. Pray together. Let the principles of gentleness and loving kindness guide you.
- If you have children, you cannot have your wife until you have helped with the many demands that come with a busy family: helping children with homework, cleaning dishes, folding laundry, etc.
- In other words, you must **first do** whatever you can do **in general** to enable your wife to have an enjoyable and relaxing evening. **Don't relax in the bedroom waiting.** Don't sit around watching TV or going for joy ride to pass the time while your wife helps the kids with the homework, does the dishes and chases after the baby!
- If this subject is causing problems between you, purchase and read *Sheet Music* together! Drop the subject until you have done this.

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*Let the husband **render to his wife the affection due her, and also likewise the wife to her husband.***



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*The **wife does not have authority over her own body but the husband does.** And likewise **the husband does not have authority over his own body but the wife does.** Do not deprive one another.*

*1 Corinthians 7:2b – 5a*

You could emphasize this passage in ten different ways arriving at ten different and interesting conclusions every time! If Kathy and I were to paraphrase this passage, it would read like this:

“When a husband wants to make love, his wife should say, ‘Let’s go for it!’ When a wife wants to make love, the husband should say, ‘Let’s go for it!’” A husband should show his wife lots of affection and attention whenever she is interested and his wife should be ready to give him attention and affection when he is interested.”

“The wife does not get to tell her husband ‘No!’ She does not have authority over her body. If he wants it, he gets it! The husband does not get to say ‘No’ when his wife is interested, either! If she wants his body, she gets it! **She** is in charge of **his** body and **he** is in charge of **hers!** A man or woman should not ever hold back or be resistant, rather they are to be eager and excited participants!” This is pretty straightforward talk from the Word of God concerning a married couple’s private life!

***Marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled...***

*Hebrews 13:4a*

If we were to paraphrase this verse we would say: “Everyone agrees that being married is honorable. The best part is that when you are married your sex life gets to be full of variety, excitement, fun and adventure!” How fun can the private life be for a married Christian couple in the light of these verses? Lots of fun! Rick Godwin pointed out on national television years ago that there are no verses in the Bible telling you that certain sexual positions or acts are wrong. As long as the sex involves only you and your spouse, anything goes! Were we ever glad to hear that from a nationally known and highly esteemed minister of the Gospel!

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We suggest that a man listen to his wife’s heart in order to become the man that God has called him to be. In light of this we have to speak directly to the ladies about “Adventures in Lovemaking!” We have discovered that in a number of Christian marriages the wife is not comfortable participating in giving and receiving pleasure in varied sexual expressions. Only the most basic form of lovemaking is acceptable. This aversion may stem from sexual experiences that she had before she was a believer. Another possibility is that she may have been sexually abused as a child.

Statistics say that approximately 50% of women were sexually abused at some point in childhood. This is the world we live in. A woman who was sexually abused as a child can be plagued with flashbacks during lovemaking. Sadly, lovemaking becomes a ‘trigger’ for horrible memories for some victims. It would be totally

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normal for this wife to go from “extremely interested” to “no interest” in a flash. She cannot help this. She is still being victimized by the abuse.

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A quality husband can live with a few years of lack in some areas of his sex life with his wife if she is truly being healed of serious emotional harm that was done to her as a child. On the other hand, it is an **invalid** application of our teaching for a wife to use it to defend not participating in adventurous lovemaking simply because it is a new experience.

A man also had dreams of what married life was going to be like before he was married; lots of variety in lovemaking topped his list.

There are some very interesting verses in the Song of Solomon. They describe lovemaking as an exciting adventure of exploration and discovery.

*I sat down in his shade with great delight and his  
fruit was sweet to my taste.*

*Song of Solomon 2:3b*

*While the King is at his table, my spikenard sends  
forth its fragrance.*

*Song of Solomon 1:12*

*Blow upon my garden that its spices may flow out.  
Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its  
pleasant fruits.*

*Song of Solomon 4:16*

If one spouse wants to be more adventurous in the bedroom but this desire is unfulfilled the marriage is unwittingly set up for problems. The rejected spouse will be living with a sense of disappointment. He or she will not be able to enjoy the fulfillment of the honorable, legitimate and scriptural marital desire for a love life that is full of variety and spice!

Occasionally, we meet a **husband** who refuses to initiate lovemaking. His wife expressed a need for sex early in the marriage and he refused. He has regularly denied her ever since. The man who denies his wife sex is no different than the man who refuses to express love and

**LOVEMAKING  
SHOULD BE THE  
EASIEST PART OF  
MARRIED LIFE!**

affirmation to his wife in other ways. He is simply refusing to meet her need. Why? Because he knows she *needs* it to feel emotionally validated and satisfied! This is not a deep psychological issue. It is selfishness. Nothing more. Nothing less. His wife wants to make love. She wants the closeness and affirmation it represents. Maybe she just has a strong sex drive. He is refusing to meet her need. Plain and simple. It is not a problem with performance. This man normally self-gratifies with pornography. The issue is that he refuses to meet his individual wife's needs. Grow up. Meet your wife's need. Issue solved.

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Stress contributes to the loss of interest in sex for many women. **If your wife is stressed**, make it **your** priority to lift her load and diminish her stress, thus increasing the potential for great sex! Contributing factors to stress include a new job, a new house, marital discord, a new church, financial pressures, the loss of friends, family or loved ones, fractured relationships and other like issues.

Don't get angry with your wife if her level of interest in sex is low. Eliminate her stress!

Additional words of caution to a husband who is recovering from being a control-freak:

- Sex is designed by God to be fun and a true pleasure for both spouses in giving and receiving.
- You do own your wife's body, but a normal guy realizes that this does not mean that she has to jump when he barks. Recovering control-freaks are in the process of learning what boundaries are. Let your wife tell you if she is feeling pressured.

Their marriage was in crisis. Tom wanted to make love. Bonnie wanted him to work on the house. Making a few repairs - which had been put off for a year - would be a message that he cared for Bonnie and their ten-year-old child. Bonnie would feel secure – and then be happy to make love. A wise and loving man would have worked on that house! Tom was not wise... **or** loving. He refused to “give in.” The last we heard, Tom was homeless and

jobless, living out of the trunk of his car. Bonnie hired a handy-man. She and her ten-year-old are doing just fine.

- Be happy with “quickness” when your wife is not in the mood. If your wife ever complains that you are being too rough or causing her discomfort, buy and read the three books we recommended earlier.

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Our goal has been to take the brakes off of sex in your married life. We have presented some adventurous attitudes and freedom-inducing thought. If your marriage is enhanced as a result then we have succeeded. We have balanced our suggestions with some warnings designed to create a protective buffer for wives of recovering control freaks. If a husband **will heed the warnings** and if his wife **will take the brakes off** then this can be a huge step toward experiencing that dream marriage.

**You sir, can be the *man* of her dreams  
and you, ma’am, can be the *woman* of his!**

Turn the heat up!

You can **start** now.

Ahem. We’re *waiting*...

This Abridged Version Should Not Be Relied Upon To Produce The  
Miracle in Your Marriage You Can Expect From The Full Version

## **GOLDEN KEY**



**JUST SAY YES...  
TO TURNING UP THE HEAT!**

## THANKS FOR READING!

If you have enjoyed this excerpted version of *The Man of Her Dreams/The Woman of His!* please help us to make a difference by spreading the word and purchasing the full version.

If your marriage is in trouble, and your spouse has not read this excerpt, do not take chances. You will have one shot to get their interest. Do not trust this partial manuscript to deliver to your marriage the miracle that it needs. These excerpts represent only one third of the full book. If you liked what you have read so far and are excited about sharing it with a possibly resistant spouse, please exercise patience.

This abridged version leaves questions unanswered that the full version covers in more detail. In addition, there are many more real life illustrations that communicate the messages you have just read. If your spouse reads this excerpted copy and is not changed by its message, you probably will not be successful in getting them to read the whole book. Order the book and wait until it arrives to present to your spouse so that your one shot has the best possibility of a positive outcome.

Our main purpose in sharing this excerpted version of the book is so that you can see for yourself that this is not just another marriage book. This is the last marriage book that you will buy to save your marriage. After your marriage is saved, you will still want to read other very helpful books by other masters of marriage ministry available in your local bookstore.

They are all helpful, but most are not designed to save a marriage. Most are designed to enhance your relationship.

This book goes to the very root of the strife in marriage and demands a complete change in a person's paradigm of marriage.

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