



King Bible Church Marriage Ministry Newsletter

September 2019

GLORIFY GOD BY INVESTING IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Let's face it, life is busy, and many times our marriage takes a back seat to the busyness of life. In a world with so many demands, distractions and stress, we are often left with very little time, energy and desire to invest in our marriage. But, **investing in our marriage** is **critical** to having a vibrant marriage filled with love, trust, security, peace, joy and excitement!

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

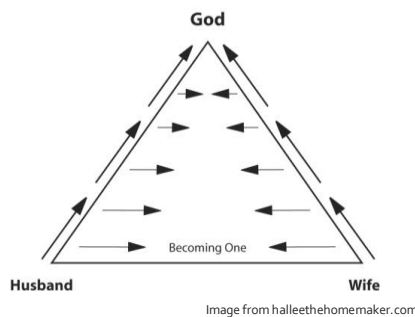
God designed the covenant of marriage to be a reflection of Christ's love for, and relationship to, His church (His bride) (Ephes 5:25-33 NLT). A love/relationship dynamic that is unselfish, sacrificial, cleansing, nurturing and steadfast.

THE REALITY OF MARRIAGE

Unfortunately, the reality of marriage is often far from God's design. Two independent people coming together as one often brings out the worst in us; selfishness, pride, impatience, unforgiving and unloving behaviours. Throw kids into the mix and you're sure to have even greater challenges.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Developing your relationship with God is a great way to start investing in your marriage. It is through Him, that we can love as He loved the church. It is God that gives us the strength to overcome, to forgive when our partner may not deserve it or to extend grace when necessary. As we seek God with a receptive heart, read the Bible and apply His Word, the Holy Spirit will fill our life with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22, 23 NLT). These fruits take time to develop, but they are essential tools to a successful marriage. The truth is, the **closer** we grow in **our relationship to God**, the **closer** we grow **to our spouse** (see following image).



INVESTING THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a choice, an act of obedience to God, rooted in faith and love (Matt 6:14-15, Mark 11:25, Ephes 4:32 NLT). Forgiveness does not mean we forget, but choosing to forgive (even when our spouse does not ask for forgiveness) frees us from the burden of resentment, bitterness and anger. "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others" (Col. 3:13 NLT). As we navigate through the ups and downs of marriage, forgiving our spouse is something we often need to do over and over again (Matt 18:21-22 NLT). Invest wisely in your marriage by searching your heart, asking yourself if you need to forgive your spouse and choosing to forgive them today.

INVESTING THROUGH LOVE & RESPECT

Ephesians 5:33 gives us great insight into the innate needs within every man and woman's heart. God calls us to **love** our wives and to **respect** our husbands. But, do we know how to show our partners love/respect in the way they can receive and appreciate? The way you would like someone to show **you** love/respect, is **not** always the same for someone else. Why not ask your spouse what works for them? Good intentions are great, but **effectiveness matters** when you want **results**.

HOW DOES OUR MARRIAGE MINISTRY TEAM INVEST IN THEIR MARRIAGE?



Michael & Amy Maglayo

Married for 17 years with 2 boys ages 12 and 13 years old. We invest in our marriage every evening by genuinely sharing our hearts about our day. We also enjoy lunch/dinner dates where we can nurture our relationship by giving each other undivided attention. Praying out-loud together is something we truly value and doing so has brought us great intimacy with God and each other. We continually strive to have a Christ centered marriage.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

*"...What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard, and
what no human mind has
conceived- the things God has
prepared for those who love
Him".*

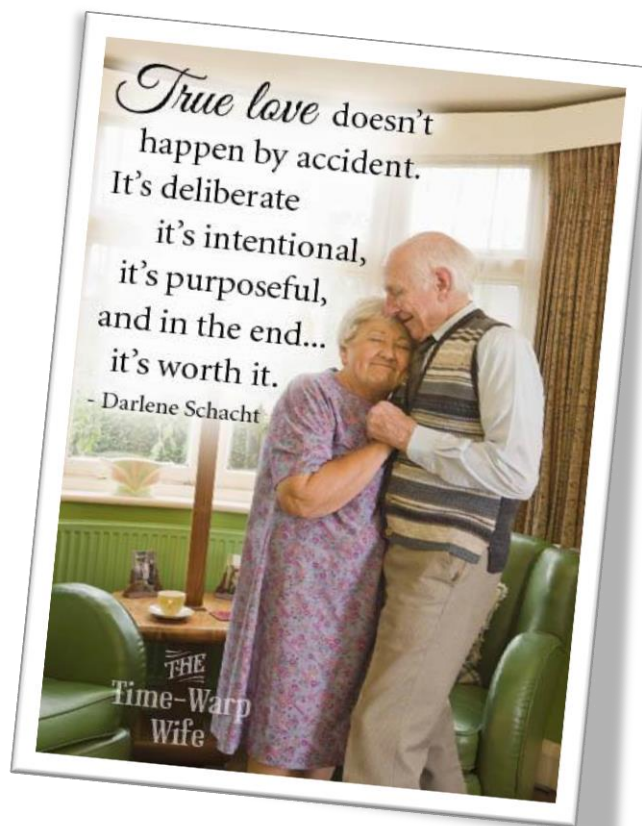
1 COR 2:9 (NIV)

PRACTICAL WAYS TO INVEST IN YOUR MARRIAGE

- Pray together
- Allow God to soften your heart
- Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
- Save some energy for intimacy
- Take time to get to know your partner (people grow & change)
- Give your partner undivided attention (it shows genuine interest & allows your spouse to feel important and loved)
- Verbally lift up your spouse with encouragement or compliments
- Date each other
- Be adventurous
- Have fun & laugh together
- Try something new together
- Share your dreams
- Allow yourself to be vulnerable with each other (there is great strength demonstrated when being vulnerable)
- Extend grace & forgive each other
- Look upon your spouse with fresh eyes
- Focus on all the great qualities your partner has & brings to your marriage
- Make healthy choices
- Exercise together
- Be willing to make an effort for your spouse through sacrificial love

*"...anyone who belongs to
Chris has become a new
person. The old life is
gone; a new life has
begun!"*

2 COR 5:17 (NLV)



LIVING PASSIONATELY

What does living passionately mean to you? When you reflect on your marriage, are you honouring God with your actions, thoughts and desires? God does not call us to be lukewarm (Rev. 3:15-16 NLT). He has blessed you with a partner. You have been entrusted with this person to love, honour and respect, to cherish, build up, encourage and to grow. Are we active participants in our marriage, or are we lukewarm bystanders? Your marriage is worth fighting for. No matter what you struggle with in your marriage, know that God has already claimed victory. You **can** have the marriage God intended.

BABY STEPS LEAD TO BIG CHANGE

The way we react and respond to our partner's behaviours impacts the result. Do you find yourself frustrated when arguments end the same way every time? How about changing your approach, or seeking God's direction? Humbling ourselves, submitting to God and surrendering our marriage to Him, is not easy. But, having a goal and striving for more helps to bring you closer to having the marriage God intended. God will bless your marriage abundantly as you seek Him faithfully and invest in your marriage one step at a time.