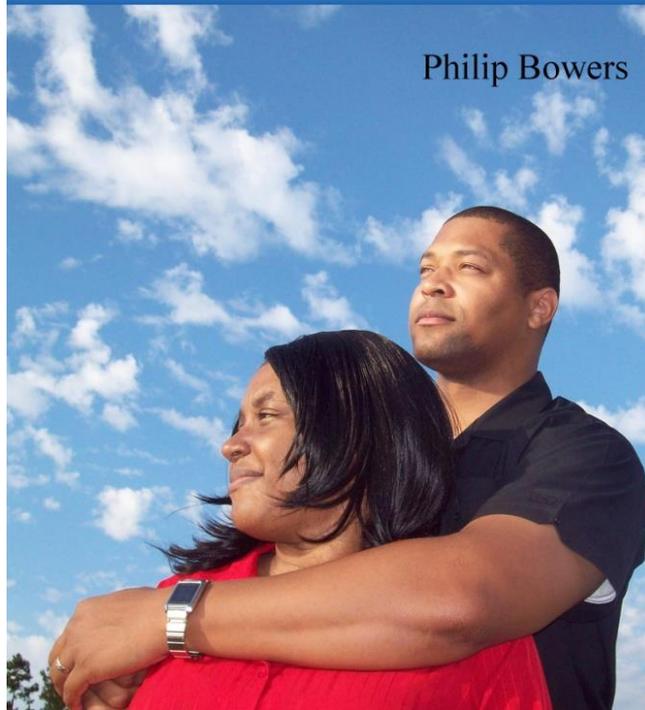


# A Good Thing

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth A wife findeth A Good Thing

Philip Bowers



# A Good Thing

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

There are many things that we attribute to as being “A good thing” in this world. True love, financial security, children, friends, and the list goes on. But how many husbands actually consider their wife to be their “Good thing?” Or at what point does a wife turn from being a “Good thing” to a “Bad thing?” There are just too many who either don’t understand the true value of a wife, or plain and simple, don’t care.

A marriage is only as good as you make it through the years, but there are some key factors that must be implemented if there is to be completeness. This is not your ordinary book about marriage; I thought I’d tell you that from the beginning. You will find that I hold marriage to be extremely important. I believe that it should be for the life of the husband and wife. Just like any normal marriage, between the “I do’s” there’s going to be a bunch of “I quits,” but if given the right inspirations, it will end in “Till death do us part.”

A marriage will either grow closer and stronger or distant and weaker through the years. Along the way, marriages suffer just because of a few things that are not properly implemented, and most women end up getting kicked to the curb before they can become that woman of greatness that they ought to be. What woman is that? Well read on and find out for yourself.

Prov. 18:22 “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” And that my friend, is the theme of this book.

Indeed most men would think that a biblical wife is more of a fictional fairytale from the imaginative world of make-believe. Or perhaps an android that has been meticulously engineered to talk, act and think with a preprogrammed format that suggest humanlike characteristics.

A good quality woman doesn’t just fall from the sky and say, “I’m the answer to your prayers, I have all of your likes, I’m completely obedient, shamefaced, low maintenance, I love to clean, I love to save money, and I expect absolutely nothing in return except for your love.” Most men would reply with, “Let’s get marriage now.” Unfortunately, a good wife is not made “All of the sudden.” There is no particular order you can place the ingredients in a laboratory

beaker, and “Poof,” out comes a perfect wife. But, we must remember that God did not make this up and He knows the influential imprint that a biblical woman not only has in her own household, but also others around her.

## Chapter 2

### I Do

Before even meeting one another, you were complete strangers, completely oblivious to one another's thoughts, life, habits, likes, dislikes, fears, Joys, failures and victories. But all of that changed with those famous words of commitment, "I do." Those words mean I'm yours forever, completely yours, her life is to please him, and his job is to keep a job and to take care of her.

Saying "I do" is a life changing event for both parties. I personally never understood why people live in the same household for years and then decide to get married. The longer you wait, the less important it gets. To some, marriage is just a piece of paper and a ring. But this is wrong and I declare this because it's a commitment to one another. You don't just milk the cow; you buy the whole farm and everything that comes with it.

A good wife is more made than found, ask me how I know. My wife and I have been married for over eighteen years now (a small speck of time for some). Not to brag but...ok lets brag, because in those eighteen years, neither one of us has ever been unfaithful to the other, walked out, or had a physical fight. Not bad huh? Not saying that we are the number one couple in the world, but we come in a close second. My wife is the love of my life, but my first love is God, and it's safe to say she feels the same way about God also.

It's only safe to say that I do not know you, and you do not know me, but, do you know your spouse? Do you still remember how and why you fell in love with them? Just how have things been lately? Do you have more thoughts of disdain than love?

As time goes on in a marriage, things change either "For better, or for worse." Surely you must remember those words? Wedding day was a very special day for those who were getting married, and rightly so, because it was meant to be with one husband and one wife, in one lifetime together. However, that hasn't been the norm, not even for the Christian. If we are to make it a "Lifetime" together, then it will be absolutely necessary to keep God and His word,

first and foremost in our marriage. God is the only one who will who will be able to keep things together that long.

Aside from God doing his part, (and we know that he will do his part) there are some things that we need to work on in our own marriages. Now God, will not, I repeat, will not, do everything, there are just some things that we must square away ourselves. And believe me the laidback approach never works in a marriage.

When he wants her to do everything he's supposed to do and she wants him to do everything she's supposed to do, it's not going to work. There is no question about it, many a man has found there good thing, but they have let them go. The world says that there's other fish in the sea, (which is pretty stupid) but what's wrong with the one that you have now?

Marriage is something that absolutely, positively requires growth in every department of our lives. We must grow in communication, love, understanding, willingness, and faithfulness. I find it absolutely amazing how that people can get married and a year later they get divorced. What happened? As the two sit before their divorce lawyers, the husband says it was her fault and naturally the wife says that it was his.

That's exactly what it was, a fault, as in mistake and or a dividing line between the husband and the wife. When living in California for some years you find out what a fault line is. Not to get all into earthquakes and all, but a fault line shows a place where there can be a possible earthquake. Because of these fault line fractures underground, the earth shifts causing major problems. I liken this to a marriage that is facing divorce.

I'm going to say that both parties are guilty when it comes to a divorce, maybe not 50/50 but each somehow played a part in it. It's amazing how that no one ever blames the devil, which seems to work just fine for His plans, however, it shouldn't be fine with you.

I'm no counselor or therapist, I have no degrees on the wall qualifying me to say anything to anyone, but what I've learned in my years of experience being a married minister is priceless. As you read this book you will find that I base my marriage principles off of the word of God, which you may agree or disagree with as a reader, but I can tell you that it has worked for me and it continues to do so.

Many people just seem to have (a) misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misinformation or whatever kind of "Mis," about marriage and the word of God. Marriage plus God equals successful marriage. Now this has got to be about the most simple, yet effective equation known

to man. Unfortunately, many marriages end up “Subtracting,” instead of “Adding,” but why? It’s not marriage or the word of God, its marriage with, by, and through the word of God.

If your marriage is not doing so great, and you find yourself faced with a continuing barrage of arguments, and fighting, or just quarrelsome behavior all the time, then you might want to try something else. Oh, and good luck on trying to find another method that works better than serving Him. Please understand that it’s totally and completely up to you as a reader to listen to one sentence of this book, or take heed to the whole thing. Either way, I’m going to continue to implement God in my marriage, and we’ll find out who comes out better off in the end.

If you continue to have problems with one another, you could always go back to the counselor and pay him/her a fee, (money you didn’t have to give) but then you’d leave the office arguing again. Or, you can just ask yourself “Where did I go wrong?”

Husband, I guarantee that your wife is still that good thing, if you would just let her be that good thing and make the changes that are necessary. Wife, I know you desire to be that good thing to your husband, but it will take changes, time, and God to keep and to put things together.

One reason why people renew their vows is to reinstate and reaffirm their love for one another; it’s just like saying, “I do” all over again. I’m not saying it’s a part of therapy or anything, but it might not be a bad idea.

My wife has asked me before if I would do it all over again, that is, walk down the aisle with her, and I can say absolutely yes. We have had our days, and sometimes they turned to weeks, months and yes, even years, but I’ll still say “I do” forever. Believe me; I’m not just trying to get points with my wife, albeit if I can, I will surely take them. But I’m all for a couple getting married, and staying that way.

## Chapter 3

### My friend

Prov.18:24 “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.” My wife is my friend; actually she’s my best friend. My wife has always been there for me, and I appreciate that greatly. I know that her care and dedication to me wasn’t always easy, but nonetheless she did it. Question, are you and your spouse friends? If the answer to the previous question is no, then why not?

It’s good to see that as a husband, you have all sorts of male friends/associates, and you spent all kinds of time with them, but what about your wife? Not to say that every moment of everyday has to be spent with them, but where’s affection? Just so we don’t get words confused, the word is “Affection” not “Affliction.”

There are two things that women know, and those are affection, and attachment. For her to have a child in her womb, now that’s a serious attachment. For her to go through the labor pain is an inexpressible love. Carrying that child around month after month, giving nutrients, food, protection and warmth from her own body to support to that unborn child. No wonder the baby comes out crying, their comfort zone is interrupted.

It’s not a secret that a woman can make emotional attachments very quickly. Even a wife with not children still has that “Motherly instinct” fully intact. As a husband, how can you not be a best friend to your wife, especially if she is the mother of your child? The odd thing about it, at times a wife can also double as a mother and friend to her husband. Now that’s versatility.

My wife is my Confidant, I can trust her with any amount of information about me, and that’s because she realizes that we are in this together. In a marriage, when one gets hurt then so does the other.

Yes, we are separate entities, but if I get sick and can’t go to work, my wife is also affected by the affliction. 1 Cor.12:14 “For the body is not one member, but many.” As friends, it’s ok to rely on each other. This is very acceptable once you understand that you work as a team, focused on the same goal line.



## Chapter 4

### I Love You

Nothing really happened to the love, it's still there, you just need to acknowledge it once again. Marriage is something that, well, it seems like more people get it wrong than right. There are things that you must fight for and your marriage is one of them.

"I love you." Are these just senseless words to you, or heartfelt? I personally don't have to say "I love you," every five minutes of the day to my wife because she already knows how much that I really do. I display it in my day to day actions by staying spiritual, working, not messing around on her, or flirting with other women and making her uncomfortable.

When I leave the house, if she's not with me, I tell her where I'm going and approximately how long that it will take me. And when I'm about to come home, I let her know. Why? Simple, because she's my wife and she has a right to know my whereabouts.

Husband, what are you hiding that you can't tell your good thing? I even go as far as tell her about any compliments that a woman may have given me (which is far and few, thank God). You do that? Yes, one hundred times yes! Why? Cause she's my wife and I love her, and not some other woman. I work hard for her and she works hard for me.

Some seem to think that "You can look but don't touch." If that were true then the bible is wrong, because once you look and lock on, you've already touched.

Mat. 5:28 "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Prov. 5:18-19 "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

"Congratulations!" if you're a female who loves to wear her tight, form fitting, leaving nothing left to the imagination, enticing clothes; you've been aiding the devil all this time unawares by taking other women's husbands minds where they shouldn't go. We already know that you don't wear those clothes because their comfortable, so why then?

Forget fashion sense, and stop drawing undue attention to yourself, because you're just asking for it. Joe cool isn't complimenting you on how nice that you look, but he's been staring at your rear view for the last five minutes. What are your fishing for?

No one is judging, but it's no different than the gym buff who walks around with his muscle shirt on so that the girls can see him. Every chance he gets, he takes off his shirt so that everyone can admire his flabs, I mean abs. There's nothing wrong with exercising in moderation, (though the bible teaches us to pay more attention to the spiritual) but does everyone need to see the parts that you've been exercising? Some people just love their physique way too much.

There's only one person who should see all the bumps and curves of your body, and that's your spouse. Your body belongs to them and them alone. When the intimate parts of your body are hidden from the rest of the world and only your spouse knows the secret; now that's saying "I love you."

James 1:14-15 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Look at the progression that takes place; the temptation always starts off with just a thought. Lust progresses to sin: You saw her at the store, you found out what hours she works, you got her number, you got her address, then you got her preg.... now you got to cover up. I think you got my drift.

The end is always "Death." Death to your love for one another, death to your marriage, death to your conscience, and depending what disease you pick up; physical death.

You might be saying, "Well, I look all the time, I never saw anything wrong with it." But now that you know, what will you do about it?

In over eighteen years of marriage to the same woman, I can honestly say that I never slept with or even kissed another woman. Can you say that about your marriage? If not then listen up because help is on the way, if you want it.

I cannot say, nor will I ever say that my marriage is perfect or that's its even superior to what you have. I do believe this though: that those who council marriages for a living, are doing so just for the money, and have no qualms if you get a divorce. In fact, the next time you go to your appointment, ask and see how many times they've been divorced or cheated on their own spouse. Please! They should be paying you for wasting your time.

Me as a Christian, I would be ashamed and embarrassed to divulge my personal life to a complete stranger. You think he/she doesn't talk about your case to other colleagues? Think

again. A counselor will not have love for you and your spouse; therefore it's always best to make the changes that are necessary by praying and adding more love to the equation.

It's good, and it's refreshing to say, "I love you," to someone and really mean it from the bottom of your heart. While some may enjoy their drama filled lives, others are enjoying their lifelong, loving commitment to one another. The bible talks more about love than anything else, and it behooves us to take heed to the scriptures and put this beautiful thing to practice in our own lives. Why should there only be a select few who really get to enjoy a true love with one another? Please include yourself in this category, you won't regret it.

## Chapter 5

### Mother and Father outlaw

A husband will never get the chance to become the man of the house and of his family until he leaves from home with his wife. The best thing that you will have ever done as a married couple, is to leave home.

This is why the bible says; Gen.2: 24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Cleave to his wife and not his mother.

Mom will always be mom to their son or daughter, but show some responsibility and move out! Children that stay home after marriage are just asking for a reason to be treated like a child who can't accomplish anything on their own. I mean a man has to get tired of saying, “Mom!” when she spills the beans of your sacred childhood memories. Besides, there's a lot that you give up when living with someone else: Choices, privacy, individuality, say so, growth, rights, and quite possibly, your sanity.

Mom plus dad equals in your business, but you can't blame them because it's not their fault, it's yours for staying and moving back into your old bedroom. It's always good to have supportive parents, but in the end, even they will be proud of you for getting your own place and starting your new life with your good thing. Now, no one said to just flat out shun them, but do this out of biblical and moral obligation.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Priority and Perspective**

Something is always going on every single day of our lives; therefore we must learn to prioritize what comes first and what goes last. It's a matter of significance versus insignificance. Some things just aren't as important as others, but we must make the decision and live with what we have done.

If you're one who always puts everything and everyone before your family, then yes, you are going to have problems. When you never have enough time to spend with your spouse, then someone else will, and they just may do it better than you. Spending time together, now there's a little something to consider. To be blunt, your family is first, they are your top priority; always keep them foremost in your life.

Now I like to help people, but too many times I've done it at the cost of hurting my own family's wellbeing, but never again, I've learned my lesson. The bible teaches that there will always be those who are poor, that's just the way that it is. There's always going to be some particulars that will always exist.

Mat.36:11 "For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always."

But just like Jesus was sharing that day, He wasn't always going to be there where he could be seen face to face. The lesson to learn is similar with our spouse. Your spouse may not always be there, so we should take the allotted time and use it correctly. At the end of this life, it's too late to say, "I wish I would have done something or another."

Who comes first in your marriage; God, husband, wife, or children? What order would you place the previous in? I'll give you a hint, we know that God is first, and that pertains to both married with or without children.

Gen. 3:16 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

Like it or not, these are not my words, that’s how God designated it. Every woman likes a take charge kind of guy, a husband who actually does more work than he does just talking about it. Did you notice the underlined word?

Desire: longing, craving, aspiration, and need. In other words, her focus should be towards him, and how that she can please him. This doesn’t mean that he is to be a tyrant over her, and has the right to treat her like he’s king of the cave men, beating her with a club? He takes care of her and does it in a way that begets respect, and mutual honor to God.

Prov. 21:19 “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.”

See, this scripture shows us why argumentative wives, with passive husbands always have problems. It’s just not natural for the wife to take charge of the marriage and direct her husband’s every move.

Ouch! Keep the temper down ladies, and learn how to talk to the Lord about your husband. It worked on me too many times when I was foolish and ambitious, with no goals. Let’s face it husbands, we haven’t always made the most sane of decisions. Thank the Lord she didn’t walk out years ago because of our stupidity, I mean lack of wisdom.

You’ll be amazed at the power of prayer coming from a godly wife. My wife’s prayer alone has saved my hide from tanning many a time. A husband should never underestimate his wife’s desire/love toward him, but he must put it all into a proper perspective if continual benefits are to be reaped.

## Chapter 7

### For worse or for better

Sometimes we have no control over the events that take place in our lives. Some seem to have a life of sorrow while others enjoy a long life of prosperity. Either way the fact of the matter is that we either made it happen or we didn't. Sometimes the unexpected happens in a marriage and neither husband nor wife has control over it. Financial struggles may happen, and then again, you may never face having to rob Peter to PayPal Paul.

There will be times when he or she gets sick and if you have children, then it's just about guaranteed they will. At this time in your life, medical insurance may not be available, so what do you do? You do the same thing as if you just struck oil in the back yard; just stay as thankful as possible for your family and grow from your learning experiences together.

Sometime newlyweds start off on the "Worse" side first because they were so ambitious in getting married, that they forgot things cost money. Not only this, it cost more now that there are two of you in the picture. I never understood the ultra huge marriage that cost five years to pay off; couldn't that money have gone to something a little bit better? If you happen to be that loaded with cash, then so be it, but going into debt to get married, come on!

I remember many years ago there was a sister and brother interested in each other. It just so happened that at that time, the pastor had been teaching about being a leader. Well, the brother didn't have a car, but one day his wife to be came back with one. And of course she went by herself, and the stealership ripped her off, but nonetheless she had herself a car. So we being young and silly made fun of the brother by saying that she was more of a leader than he was.

She actually purchased the car before they got married and it wasn't till later on we found out that she was financially broke and couldn't make ends meet so she was donating plasma and blood for a few extra bucks. The funny thing is, when they got married shortly after, guess who ended up making the car payments? You got it, him.

There was yet another instance when a brother said to me, “Man, I don’t see the big deal about marriage.” I was shocked hear such a thing from a newly married man. Thing is though, his wife has been treating this poor fellow so bad that he just wanted to stay away from her. I spoke with the both of them, but things seemingly went from bad to worse, for she was unjustifiably bent on giving him a hard time. What a shame because he was a good man, now left to ruin after marrying what he thought to be a good thing. Why even get married if all that you plan to do is doom your marriage from the start?

Most newlyweds aren’t prepared to even look to the future yet. They don’t quite understand the fact that they are actually married to someone just yet, therefore much trial and error will have to be performed before the “Better” part of the marriage comes.

After the honeymoon, real life sets in, and it does so quickly. Don’t worry though, as it progresses, marriage just gets “Better.” The things that we blundered earlier on in the marriage, we’ll joke about some ten years later when fellowshipping with one another.

## Chapter 8

### Give and take

“You give, and I take.” If you’re the selfish type, your marriage is doomed from the start. The only things that you should have in your home that are “His and Hers,” should be towels and closet space, other than that, it’s “Ours.” Ok, maybe “His” tools and “Her” pots and pans, and I say this because you don’t scrape momma’s non-stick pan with a fork; do it and see what happens.

See, when both he and her work, the money is “Hers, his,” um, “His, hers,” or is it “Theirs?” Maybe it just depends on who makes the most. Don’t be mad at this, but I think the oddest thing is when the wife works and the able bodied husband is a stay at home dud I mean dad. I’m sure there are those who have their reasons for this type of setup; I guess everything’s justifiable if we want it to be. “Well I’m taking care of the kids,” no, actually your wife is taking care of the “Kids,” and guess who happens to be one of them?

If you can do nothing but manage to take and never give, once again, your marriage is doomed. A marriage should consist of more giving than taking. As children we had to be taught how to share, and stop taking things that didn’t belong to us.

Wives seemingly have a way of soliciting their husband’s attention when he’s busy doing something. Now that “Something,” can be either important or unimportant, but the fact of the matter is, she’s a bother. I remember when I used to play video games, my wife would always want my attention for something very menial right at that moment when I figured out how to defeat the boss. In all actuality, she just wanted my attention, that’s all.

There are times when husbands can be snappy like an untrained dog, just lashing out saying things that are hurtful just because he can. You might want to start thinking about that guy who’s about to replace you as husband. The devil will make sure that there’s always some nicely dressed, perfumed, and well groomed man waiting to talk to your wife. He will also make

sure that man shows up just moments before your wife enters the store so they can bump into each other. And this of course will take place just after you had an argument.

It is for this exact reason that anytime I have an encounter with the opposite sex, I tell my wife about it. Any complements, advancements, or invitations I may get, I will be telling her about it. It doesn't matter if you may consider yourself an ugly duckling, there's always someone out there who's willing, ready, and eager to tear your family apart. Come on brother, did you really think that it was your good looks that keeps the girl at the coffee shop talking to you? If you give to a strange woman, she will take everything.

## Chapter 9

### Trust

Trust is important in a marriage, and it's the only way that it can be built. If you don't trust each other, then who do you trust? Wife, if you're husband went to a store and accidentally rubbed up against an item with glitter or a perfume odor, what would you suspect when you saw the glitter and smelled the perfume? I mean, what kind of reaction would you have? If you're the type always asking questions like "Where were you?" "Who was that?" and "Why didn't you answer your phone?" then, "Houston we have a problem." Either someone is paranoid (her) or someone is in trouble (him).

Hide and seek was a game that we played when we were younger, and still we have some sort of variation of it as adults. But hiding something from your spouse and waiting until they seek it out can have disastrous effects.

Trust is something that is built on over a period of time, with some aspects taking longer than others to institute. The cheater will have a lot of ground to make up if he/she is to be reestablished and reintegrated into their marriage. The poor financial decision making husband will often find it complicated to live down past failures from his wife. The spouse with "I forgot" syndrome will surely wish that they didn't "Forget" so much when it gets old. A "Good thing" needs to know that her husband has her back and her best interest is always at hand.

A marriage full of distrust will soon come to a stalemate, with each spouse wondering about the others true identity and dedication to them. If you continue to fail at doing your part, reluctance will set in and eventually it will get to the point where secrets no longer hold their value with one another.

Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

It always starts with trust when it comes to the Lord. No trust means you now have relied on your own understanding, acknowledged other sources instead of God, and as a result, you

have no direction. Just think for a second about all of the things that you may have forfeited in your marriage because of trust issues. So much more can be accomplished when there's trust.

Many years ago, trust was a deal maker or breaker when it came to bartering for goods. Two men would shake hands in agreement to what was just proposed. However, through the years we have compiled thousands of documents that require signatures galore just to purchase from one another. What happened? Well, words are no longer binding agreements to most because nowadays more people are telling a lie than tell the truth.

Don't let your marriage end up like this. If your spouse can't look through your computer or cell phone without your permission, then there's probably a trust issue. The only exception would probably be that you're a top secret agent from another ~~country~~ planet who doesn't want their true identity jeopardized. Not likely.

It's really bad when you can't even plan a surprise for your spouse because they will in turn get suspicious; thinking a cover up of some sort is taking place. Be very leery of being a trucebreaker. Trust takes a long time to build up, but just a moment in time to totally destroy.

## Chapter 10

### Communication

Married couples just don't communicate enough with each other these days. As a wife, why can't you just say that you like or dislike something? I went to a church where women just took all of the verbal abuse from their husband. She says nothing because she doesn't want to be rebellious, but that's just being plain stupid, and naïve. Because all the while she is so called being subjective to him, the anger, and bitterness is slowly building and taking its toll.

Husbands are funny, because they don't forget to pick up their favorite snack or energy drink from the 7-Eleven store on the way in from work, but can't manage to even call to see if their wife wants or needs anything from the grocery store. The story continues; then when he gets home, she needs some ingredient for the meal that night. You guessed it; he could have picked it up right on the way home. This may be funny, but true, or not so funny, but nonetheless, still true.

Some marriages seem to make it a perquisite if you can argue at least once a day and fight at least once a month. Is it a rule that you're not a real man until you tell your wife, "shut up stupid?" Some have said, "Perhaps she is stupid, if she married you."

Children use the "He/she started it" argument to defend their own innocence. Never mind the consequences of their insubordination, just as long as others get the blame also. The bible says to "Fight the good fight of faith," it doesn't just end at the word "Fight." One wouldn't think that we as grown, mature, spiritual adults would do such a thing to one another.

As soon as you say, "I thought you said," there's a good indication that your communication just failed.

A wife can always tell when her husband is paying the least amount of attention to her, because he goes to the store and calls back asking what she needed again. We're so intelligent that we don't need to take notes, or use our "Smart phones" to jot down what was needed on a memo. Smart phones, right, that's a whole another book.

I tell my wife that we call them smart phones but only use 15% of their productivity features to make us not look so dumb. Here we have a phone with gobs of memory awaiting our

every command, and yet were so dumb to neglect typing in a few words to remind us of an event. A calendar, clock, and alarm, and still people ask, what's the date, or what's the time? Anyway, it's no wonder communication is so poor.

Communication must be developed early on in a marriage. It's in those times of touching bases with one another that potential misunderstandings can be avoided. If a husband and wife can't communicate well with each other, then what chance do they have when their children are entered into the picture?

We've all had our days of saying crummy things to each other, but days should never turn to weeks or months. Bombardment works great to tear down an enemy's defense, but not at all practical when harsh words are exchanged to communicate with.

Poor communication becomes more of a setup than an accomplishment. If you walk away from a conversation not fully understanding what was just said, then one of two things will happen. #1 you'll go back to engage in a conversation with the same person, to reiterate what was just said. #2 Take your chances, and try to fill in the blanks, which usually ends in confusion and mistakes. Save yourself the embarrassment and learn how to properly communicate with one another, it will go a long way.

## **Chapter 11**

### **Time Alone**

Both the husband and the wife need some “Get away time.” It doesn’t have to be three states over on a monthly basis, but just some quiet time. Some time set aside for a hobby, reading, writing, walking, or something. If a husband wants to go out fishing with a friend, don’t penalize him. If a wife wants to go out to lunch with her friends, let her go.

In a marriage, you must both allow and respect the space of your spouse. If it’s hobbies that you enjoy, then it might not be a bad idea to interest each other in it. Even though they may never directly partake of your favorite past time event, they can still contribute by allowing that time to take place. For instance; she may like gardening, and he can support her by helping lay the soil or pull weeds. He may like to fish, she supports by cooking the fish, and even coach him to catch a certain type that she also enjoys. It’s real easy, definitely not rocket science.

Besides all of this, every married couple needs some get away time with just the two of them; this may especially be true for those who have kids. Sometimes this can consist of just taking a day or two and spending it at a bread and breakfast establishment, or something along those lines.

It can be real easy to go into burnout mode; therefore a breather is necessary from time to time to blow off some steam. If you build up steam, without a pressure release valve there’s going to be an explosion. Why wait until you whistle like a tea kettle before you realize it’s just too much for you to handle?

Some will say that they work better under pressure and others will point out that it takes pressure to make a beautiful diamond. This is true, however, diamonds also harden in the process, and they have a lot of rough edges that need to be cut. If one person gets stresses, they why get everyone else involved? Just take a break before you say or do something that you will end up regretting.

## Chapter 12

### Insecurities

Insecurity; many husbands experience this from their wives. Some wives didn't get the attention they needed, either when they were growing up, or now. Perhaps she has a scar from an accident from years past, and asks, "Why you always looking at me like that?" Like what? Or, "You didn't say that you love me today." Does that mean he doesn't? In some cases, yes, but generally speaking, probably not.

Why make little mole hills into extremely large and out of proportion, snowcapped mountains? I actually do the following as a joke to my wife, or maybe I really do have some insecurities about myself, meh, could be. Just after I finish cutting my hair I'll say, "I saw the way that you looked at my hair." Another one that I will use is, "Stop looking at my pimple," or something stupid like that. She always replies with, "I'm not worried about that," and it generated a laugh or two. I would say that we all have them, men and women alike, some just hide their insecurities a little better than others. Most of the time it's just silly and no harm is done.

Not one of us are perfect, that all ended when Adam and Eve blew it in the garden, so therefore we must learn to deal with our flaws. Husband, silly little quarrels are not worth losing your good thing over. Also, husbands never ought to compare their wife with other women, never!

My wife has made a few women jealous because their husbands asked her to cook certain things for them. You know how it is, certain people have their special way of preparing a particular dish. Ok, my wife cooks extremely well, and theirs, well...maybe not so good, but that's only because my wife has searched hundreds of cook books, learned how to use various

spices, and practiced cooking continually. But also, that particular brother never gave his wife a proper chance at cooking, before criticizing her for life.

Perhaps the right thing to do would have been to ask me instead of my wife directly, but either way, why the jealousy? My wife is the type who will go to your house to teach you how to cook for your husband, and she's done exactly that, many times. She's not insecure about it either, because she knows her boundaries, and always keeps the atmosphere conducive to Christianity.

Many wives would be offended and defensive if someone other than them handed a plate of her husband's favorite cookies to him, but not me, I'll gobble them right up and give some to my wife. Most women can tell if someone is actually trying to make a pass at their husband, but if it's innocent, let it stay that way. Just in case, anytime I want cookies, my wife said that she doesn't have a problem making them for me. All the bases are now covered, and we have taken the devil out of the picture.

## Chapter 13

### Home maker not home breaker

Making your house a home is not as easy as you might think that it is, and if it were, then more marriages would be closer together and not pushed and pulled apart. The art of making “A house into a home” then ultimately, “Our home,” is not accomplished by merely hanging mirrors, murals, portraits and tapestry on your walls. Nor is it the multi colored designer walls or theme accented rooms throughout. These things add to the physical appearance, which is needful and not to be downplayed, but they become secondary when looking at the greater picture; which is spirituality. Because of this fact, most homes are either made or broken because of the wife.

I am not implying that a failed marriage is due to the wife every time, but the spiritual environment is what makes your house a home, it’s what sets the tone for any and all conversation pieces. The bible speaks of a wives chaste conversation towards her husband, but we’ll talk about that in the next chapter.

And of course, every wife who is not spiritual will disagree with this because there always has to be another reason why something happened that way. Being a spiritual wife just downright adds in numbers that can’t be calculated. Show me a wife that’s always riding her husband unnecessarily, I will show you a home breaker. Show me a wife that always has emotions running on turbo times two, then I’ll show you a husband who is ready to walk out the door for good. Show me a wife that prays fervently for her family, and I will show you a household blessed of God

An unspiritual wife equals and unspiritual atmosphere, which is not conducive when the husband and or children come home to it. Most people can tell when something isn’t right, they

say, "I've got a bad feeling about this." That "feeling" is just a feeling when you're a sinner, but that same "Feeling" for a spiritual Christian means spiritual warfare is at hand. Question, when people come to your home do they feel at ease or is there a spirit/attitude of contentment and strife?

It's interesting to note that if you do an uninvited visit on someone, and their residence is always in disarray, then, it could be that's how they keep it on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Funny how some people manage to always blame their untidiness on their kids, or pets, but they themselves never taking personal responsibility. When you make an announced visit, people, for the most part will clean their kitchen and bathroom and pick up in the living room. However, an unexpected visit will always show how people truly live. If you have more spiders living in the corners of your house on the inside than the outside, then you might want to change the way that you clean; just a thought.

If you're a slob, then you just have to work at not being one. Yes, this can be a hard habit to break, but nonetheless, it must be shattered to pieces. It's either break that habit or break the home, being content with such a lifestyle shouldn't be tolerated by either husband or wife. Perhaps we weren't taught how to correctly do some things, but it's never too late to learn.

If you're eating frozen dinners four days a week and your married, something is seriously wrong. The sad thing is that your oven didn't go on strike; you just didn't strike it up. You're free to eat whatever that you want, but I for one refuse to eat microwave pot pies for dinner seven days a week. Nor will I entertain the thought of feasting on corn dogs with mac and cheese for lunch every day for the rest of my life. Not going to happen, maybe for you, but not me, no way.

Whatever happened to the wife who could prepare a good home cooked meal made from scratch? Most would probably say, "Yea, scratch that idea." I know, the idea of cooking from scratch went out with the bible time's right? Anyhow, I actually think that cookbooks are absolutely awesome because you can have a piece of raw chicken, season it up, put it in the oven, punch in the timer, and it's cooked, amazing! "Chef Boyardee" shouldn't be the top chef in your household. I'm not saying a wife has to be a perfect cook, but if most of the grocery bill consist of Tuna and Hamburger Helper, then someone please "Help-her."

Being a homemaker is just that, one who makes a home, and not just any woman can do that, period. It definitely takes a woman of great caliber to lay down her own life for her family.

Most however are too busy being career minded and will allow such a blessed opportunity to pass them by. Making money should be a “Job” while making a family should be a “Career.” What do you, as a wife devote more time to? Money isn’t everything, just ask the superstars.

What you may miss initially in finances, you will more than make up in spending valuable time with your family. “Priceless” moments many times will come at a “Price,” that price being sacrifice. Christ knows all about that word and so should we. With that said, please understand that God didn’t call us to be paupers either.

When people ask me, “Does your wife work,” I tell them, no, not on a job, and the first thing a man says is, “We couldn’t make it without a second income,” and the first thing a woman says is, “I have to work, I would be bored if I stayed at home.” My question is, have you tried not going to work? Most have done it their way, but how about God’s way?

Gee, I wonder how many wives find themselves being attracted to other male coworkers while at work? How long and how far will you let your little flirt go on? Some may say, “This happens the other way around also,” this is correct, however if momma takes care of daddy, then Jezebel gets thrown out the window. And if he’s really that foolish to mess up his good thing, then throw him out the window after ol’ Jezzy (not literally).

But the most interesting part is seeing that people still have money issues even with a two income family. Say it aint so! Sounds like a true case of financial mismanagement and neglect rather than financial hardship.

Nobody but nobody has time for games, we all need to survive and prosper. But sometime we put our “Wants” in front of our “Needs” and things get more complicated as we increase our search for the almighty dollar. Boy, people love them some status.

Phil. 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

It’s like every Christian forgot about their morals and goals. If we are going to heaven one day, then why put so much effort and energy into being successful and having everything down here? For the sinner this may be more understandable, because they have either no hope in the afterlife, or don’t care.

Christians seemingly have a habit of getting caught up in the “Here and now,” not the “Then and later.” Luke 16 (The story of Lazarus) It would do us good to read this. He was poor,

a beggar, but that was just in this life only. He did what he had to do, to be where he needed to be. What he lacked down here, God gave him many times over in glory. Take that Devil.

These days being a home maker/house wife/non-working spouse, is a derogatory thing, but why? Most people who knock it, never even fully understand how and why that it works. In saying that, a wife has to play the part in its entirety, or none of this is even feasible. She shouldn't look like she's wearing grave clothes or has been out begging all day, just to prove her laziness. Mud pack on the face and rollers in the hair is not the sight that I as a husband would relish after coming home from work.

Being a stay at home wife is not a free ticket to become a bum. A wife shouldn't look like she's homeless every day when her husband comes home from work. Hair not done, sitting around in old cloths, dishes everywhere, clothes not washed.

Perhaps some do this because a husband always comes home grumpy, or perhaps he's grumpy because everything is in disarray all the time when he gets home. You be the judge of yourself on that one. Hey! It's all about taking care of you and yours. Say what you want, change what you want, and be what you want.

## **Chapter 14**

### **Chaste Conversation**

Words are powerful, and they can heal or hurt. Words have the ability to either cut deep and cause injury or they can be a salve that heals wounds. Therefore, we must always choose our words carefully because what we say can and will change someone's life.

1 Pet.3:1-2 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."

Even if, for whatever reason you're unequally yoked; (he loves sin and she loves God) as a Christian wife you should still treat your husband with dignity. Even if he's the biggest jerk that has ever blown in from out of town; love him anyhow. Yes, this kind of love may be stringent, but not impossible.

Chaste: pure, faithful, uncorrupted (conversation). Prov. 15: 1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Gossip does not make for chaste conversation because it is sinful. A person being gossiped about is unaware that her so called Christian friend is talking badly about her. It paints a picture in others minds that is hard to forget. This type of thing happens a lot in church, but most don't realize just how much hurt that it really causes to others. A wife will be hard pressed to win her husband to God by secretly telling everyone all of his personal business.

The world calls it "Defamation of character" but God calls it "Gossip." When a conversation starts with, "Well my husband..." or, "Well my wife..." then you already know what's about to follow. "We don't see eye to eye," oh, that's just because he's taller. "She does this," or, "He does that," and everyone is always doing something, after all, you're reading this book!

The bad thing about gossip is that now everyone knows all the bad things about you. Gossip is rendered useless if there's no dirt involved, so do yourself a favor and stop stirring up excess dust by means of telling people your personal business.

Many times I've stated, "What's said in this house, stays in this house." In other words, this topic is on a need to know basis, and if others hear about it, then it becomes gossip. As ministers, there may be times when discussing a church members personal matters has to be done in order to best help them. However, if there isn't a valid reason for discussing personal and sensitive information in front of others, then it's best not to go there.

I was on the receiving end for years of such conversations, and didn't even know it. I just wondered for the longest why people were always acting so strange around me, but I couldn't put my finger on it. But when I found out that certain lewd fellows of the baser sort were lying and bringing false accusation against me, then I finally understood why. What a horrible place to be, I know I didn't like it one bit when it happened to me, so I don't do it to others.

## Chapter 15

### Teaching the Younger

There are two thoughts of teaching the younger here: #1 The elder woman teaching the younger women. #2 The teaching of young growing children. Both require God and both require a good woman. By now every woman should realize that there's something good in them just waiting to happen.

Titus 2:1-6 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

I have no absolute figures to back up the following statement, but it seems as though the world has a shortage of women who know how to love their family, that is, take care of the husband and their children. The younger generation never seems to get better as they age. For a woman to just love her own husband seems to be a thing of the past.

I remember when my wife and I were about to tie the knot, some reject of a guy tried talking to her, and it wasn't about God. She told him she was actually about to get married very soon, and not interested. The dog's reply was, "Ruff, that doesn't mean anything." It meant nothing to him because he had no dignity about himself, but it meant a whole lot to my wife. She was no, "Flash some cash and I'll be your harlot tonight" girl. Just what are mothers teaching their daughters these days?

Innocence should last all the way up to the time they get married and then some. The word "Virgin" should not be considered a curse word among teens, it should be held sacred, and not an embarrassment at any given time. A young lady should be embarrassed that she slept with every young man on the block before she was even eighteen years old. So now she wants to go

off to college, surely we know what happens then. And they say we Christians are too religious and crazy, excuse me!

These few verses in Titus really do say a lot about a Christian woman's character and ability to multitask. First off, we realize through these scriptures that she really does have a lot on her plate. But even these are just a few things that make her special to her husband and or children. So much for thinking she's just a "House wife" now, huh?

Without going into great detail, I wonder how many wives were actually taught these things as a young Christian growing up in church? I know that where I previously attended, it was nonexistent for the older women to teach the younger godly morals and to love their husbands and be a keeper at home.

I remember growing up and mothers had a favorite phrase to tell their daughter, and that was to never trust a man and always be independent because they're all good for nothing. Mind you, mom and dad were already divorced because dad was just plain sorry, and mom didn't help with all of her drama either. So now, daughter grows up with this stereotypical mindset of a man, that he's a failure and good for nothing, so therefore all of her relationships become failures from the start. Ever seen that before? Sure you have.

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

If you don't help in doing most of the work in shaping your child, then someone or something else will.

Let's face it, children and parents for the most part have poor communication. For those parents who swear (not profanity) up and down that their children tell them everything, wishful thinking, but you're in denial. Oh there may be many things which are shared, but definitely not everything. This is why every household needs a set of rules to abide by.

There's your rules/ways and then are God's rules/ways, both must be continually implemented, and coexist when raising a child. The following are a few of those rule sets.

God's rules/ways (the spiritual aspect or application): pray, read the bible, go to church, practice obedience

Parents rules/ways (the carnal or physical aspect or application): chores, education, friends, respect

Many parents are so keen on giving their children the things that they never had when they were growing up, but this may or may not be a good idea. Don't be so hasty as to not consider the repercussions of spoiling your children rotten. Don't forget to teach them the value of working for the things they want in life and being thankful for them. I know for a fact that I didn't receive that when I was growing up, but then again, my dad had his own set of agendas, as do many others.

"Wait till your dad gets home," really mom? Well what about you dealing with the situation at hand? Yes, there are some exceptions to this, in that a child may have a mental disability or a there may be children involved from a previous marriage. None of us are God, but we must do the best we can through teamwork teaching. But once again, train them when they are young and they will respect both parents, and the chances of failure are reduced tremendously.

I remember when my folks got divorced, my mother took all three of us boys and she did the best she could and knew how to do on a simple income. I never got in her face being argumentative, and lift my hand up to her as if to strike back, never in a million years. It's not that I feared being beat to death, well, maybe a little, but I just would never go there because I had too much respect.

I was a sinner, so yes I cursed, but never around my mom, or other adults for that matter. These days, young children foul mouth their mom at the drop of a dime, it makes me want to discipline them myself for their lack of respect.

Additionally, I would like to scold the parent for letting it happen, and not getting control of the situation correctly. But that's none of my business, that's why I just write, and let people read and judge for themselves what is right and wrong.

A wife and mother is such a good thing to the whole family, they just have a knack for keeping things in a proper balance. And when married with no children, she still adds a much needed balance to her husband.

## Chapter 16

### Foolish ways to lose your good thing

I went to a church many years back that taught that a husband needs to train his wife, (like she's some kind of dog) and that she should just shut her mouth and take correction even when it's wrong. Train her! How about loving her and growing in the grace and knowledge of God together? This is quite amazing especially when many times the wife is brighter than the husband in many things, and can actually help our tremendously. But perhaps this is the reason for the intimidation factor, hmm.

This church stated that a wife had nothing to add to the marriage except for sex and cooking (if they did that right). What kind of mess is that, exactly, a mess. Brother, don't treat your wife like that, God didn't put her in your life for you to treat her like that. If you want her to be a lady, then treating her as such only helps to amplify and point out who and what she really is.

Just because your wife is supposed to be in subjection to you, doesn't negate the fact that you treat her like trash. You see, the thing about trash is that you take it out, put it in a can and leave it for someone else to pick up.

Many women have problems with being in subject to their husband and rightly so because many husbands demand it when it's not theirs to demand. It's not a bad thing when you realize #1 that subjection is unto the Lord, and #2 It simply means that the husband is in charge, and that started way back with Adam and Eve, so blame them if you must. Which also means, he has to man-up, stop being a bum, (should he be such a thing) provide for the family, and give that woman all the more reason to love and respect him.

First and foremost, a wife answers to God for her soul, as does everyone else on this planet. The ultimate decision to serve God is up to the individual. I've seen wives obey their pastor more than their husband, wrong! A pastor's role is for guidance, not dictatorship; everyone must know their role and be in the right place if this is to work properly. If you want to

know what happens when a pastor is allowed to take complete control over a church member's marriage, then read my book "Pastor Pharaoh."

Throughout the years, I've seen husbands do things to their wife just to see if she would listen, wrong again. It seems like some husbands think it's a hobby to be able to humiliate their wife in public. Gee I wonder why she has not respect, and the marriage is falling apart; come on church folks! I never understood what people get out of arguing in front of everyone in a public place. Go right ahead; let the whole world know about what goes on in your house. Sir, stop treating your wife as you would a child in public, it does the both of you a disservice. The bottom line is that we've all done foolish, nay very foolish things in our marriage towards one another, but sooner and not later, it has to stop, before the marriage does. Kiss, hug and makeup, renew your vows, write a letter of apology, go out to dinner, do something.

## Chapter 17

### Fell out of love

How do you, “Fall out of love ... anyone? Did you get hit with a stray rock up the side of your head, causing amnesia? Was it a really, really, really hard day at work? Did she burn the dinner for the last time? No! That’s just it, you don’t fall out of love. You don’t fall out of love any more than so called, “Love at first sight.” Try lust at first sight. Sure she was attractive and became as a planet with an immense gravitational pull. But let’s face the facts, you didn’t even know her name yet.

Remember when the two of you first met, how mesmerized you were on your first date? He was hoping she didn’t order much and she was hoping that he could pay for what she ordered. Not that he had the big bucks from working at McDonalds. Not that there’s anything wrong with that, or Burger King, because the burgers flip all the same and the grease gets just as hot wherever you’re cooking fries. Yes, the good ole days, and now...it’s just “One of those days.” But why? Where did the marriage go wrong, to the point where there’s even talk about divorce?

What! Since when did divorce become an option? Irreconcilable differences; this is really an everlasting argument fire that needs to be put out. The only thing this proves is the fact that neither party has humbled themselves before God and one another. “I can’t stand being in the same room with her,” well you didn’t say that on your honeymoon. If you remember, when you first got married, you couldn’t stand being away from each other.

Mat 19:8 8 “He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.” You have to be pretty hard up to even think along these lines. Let God soften your heart, it’s just not worth it. Spare yourself the confusion, shame and bitterness that always comes with divorce. Be thou ravished always with her love.

Proverbs 5:18-20 “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou

ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?"

Divorce takes place in a marriage for various reason, none of which are valid ones I might add. If either or both parties were unfaithful, the question is why? Not because he was a super stud and she a goddess, but because she stopped being a good thing both in her own eyes and to her husband. And he failed in love her like Christ loves the church.

This is not something that takes place in just one night. People don't get married and just wake-up the next day saying, "Man I just want to get a divorce." Well, normal people anyway.

Being a minister, I've seen many young couples at church get introduced to one another, but there is no physical attraction for either of them. In fact, she has eyes for someone else, and he doesn't want anything to do with marriage. Mama is trying to fix them up, but not even super glue will bind them together.

He's thinking, "I hope she cooks good," and she's thinking, "I hope he has a good job." Folks, do yourself a favor, at least have one thing in common, if you've already been on five dates already, and cringe as you look upon one another, I think it's safe to say, you're incompatible.

Now this isn't falling out of love, it just wasn't meant to be in the first place. Some get married just to please their parents, and sometimes it actually works believe it or not. But once you have married, it should be for the rest of your natural life. So you may as well start learning to love again.

## Conclusion

I rather hope you enjoyed this book and that your marriage is blessed and stays that way before God. Husband, enjoy the wife that God gave you and wife, continue to be that “Good thing,” and teach the younger to do the same. Be on the lookout for book two. If you find this book to be an inspiration and blessing, then please show this by leaving me a positive rating. This helps others to decide on this book but also, it lets me know if I have an audience or not. Thanks you much, and God bless you for the purchase of this book.

And remember that everything that has to do with a marriage, takes time to perfect, but will you allow yourself that time?