



PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE

IN GOD'S EYES

VERSION 1.5

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www.hearttransformation.org

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Please note: the goal of this study is to **produce Prosperous Marriages** and to end divorce, and co-habitation, and children being negatively impacted.

It is important that we not just collect information about how to create a Prosperous Marriage but to **see real TRANSFORMATION** and see our **marriages become Great in God's Eyes!** This study has less to do with techniques for improving a marriage and more to do with the **heart issues** that each spouse has, which the enemy uses to destroy and kill!

There are 3 sections within this study, at the end of each section is a **worksheet** for you **record what God is revealing to you and your spouse!** The worksheet will help you process the information and the challenges, allowing you to position yourselves for **TRANSFORMATION & HEALING of your hearts.**

As you finish each section, there is a **TRANSFORMATION & REFLECTION SECTION.** This is the start of the **listening and committing process.** **RECORDING IT ON THE WORKSHEET** helps you hang on to your decisions and becomes a **RECORD FOR PRAYER** for you as a couple! Please – seize this opportunity in order to get the most out of this study. God wants you to have a Prosperous Marriage and these worksheets will help you on that journey with Him!

You should have some **IMMEDIATE SUCCESS** and other things will **TAKE YEARS!** But as long as you continue the process and are seeking transformation, **seeking to be ONE in HIM,** you will continue having success! **ENJOY, GOD IS FOR YOU AND WITH YOU!!**

**** There are 3 separate locations of TRANSFORMATION from MEDIOCRITY (Pgs 14,23,30).**

These are there to take you deeper into Transformation, so that you experience more of His Presence. DO NOT BYPASS this. THEY ARE VITAL for your marriage to be put on the path of becoming GREAT in GOD'S EYES = a PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE!!

PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	GLORIOUS MARRIAGE	3
	a. Step 1 – CREATED in GOD’S IMAGE	5
	b. Step 2 – CREATED for HIS GLORY	7
	c. Step 3 – FORGIVENESS	8
	d. Step 4 – BE HOLY & A CONQUEROR	9
	e. Step 5 – HE MAKES ME GREAT	11
	f. Step 6 – SALVATION OPENS THE DOOR	13
II.	THE WAR & GOD’S VICTORIOUS PLAN	16
	a. ONENESS in MARRIAGE	19
	b. VICTORY OVER THE COSMIC WAR	21
	c. CHOICE IS YOURS	22
III.	GOD’S DESIGN for a GREAT MARRIAGE for a LIFETIME.....	25
	a. OTHER KEYS TO SUCCEEDING IN YOUR MARRIAGE	27
	b. RIVERS of LIVING WATER	29
	c. MARRIAGE COMMITMENT SUMMARY	30
IV.	PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE CONCLUSION	32



PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE

Great Marriage in God's Eyes - GMIGE

I. GLORIOUS MARRIAGE

Marriage is most **precious** in God's eyes. He was there when you made your commitment to one another. He is the One Who made the two of you ONE in the flesh. Many don't experience the joy of marriage because they are unsure of how it works and are resistant to doing it His way. In reality, this union is to "adventure together", work together, be refined by one another, and experience a special anointing from the Lord, as you receive that anointing from the Holy Spirit as individuals. To be "great" in marriage, you must be full of God and love Him more than anything. As a result of that love and the fullness of the Holy Spirit in you, He will give you new capacities to love and to do.

To have a GMIGE, you must be **one with Him** and then on a new level, one with one another. You won't see things the same at first, you must allow the uniqueness of the other to complement and complete you. It is not about "who is right" but "what is right" in God's eyes. He deserves you to flourish in every way. **Choose to be one with Him, choose to do it His way and choose to operate being full of Him every day.** As a result, you will be able to move mountains together, when you make Him the center point and choose to please Him!

Embrace God's plan and embrace Him to lead you and help you to overcome the world. God made you and your marriage to be great.

VISION: God's plan for marriage is an "adventure together" and to be **one with Him & with one another.**

- | | |
|--|---|
| • We create together | - Get to play together |
| • We reproduce together/parent together | - Laugh together |
| • Dream together | - Grow tender toward one another |
| • Love one another | - Comfort one another |
| • Give to one another | - Celebrate together |
| • Trust one another | - Grow together |
| • Support one another | - Build together |
| • Be best friends together | - Help one another |
| • Have intimate talks with one another | - Defeat the enemy together |
| • Make memories together | - Financial Unity |
| • Satisfaction in life together | - Encourage one another |
| • Are spiritually full of God together | - Great physical intimacy |

This is a great marriage in God's Eyes—it is **Glorious and **Fulfilling**!**

But...This is not what most of us are experiencing. Even in the Church, we have divorce, co-habitation, and other sinful acts. Marriage is not a humdrum, boring event. God created marriage because none of us are healthy or contented as a loner (Gen. 2:18). Singles can have fulfilling relationships with others also. If you follow God's plan and design, we are promised so much! If you are single, He is enough to satisfy your soul.

Which do we want? An adventurous journey with the power of God OR creating something survivable, manageable, with a need to occasionally escape. There is nothing gained by escaping! Later, one just has the same reoccurring problems, challenges, and disappointments. We can be **free in Christ** (Rom 6:22) **and in the power of the Holy Spirit** experiencing a wonderful **Spirit led marriage journey**.

So often, couples come from backgrounds that do not exhibit the “joy” of marriage. Joy has not been an observable standard. Having a Marriage that is Great in God’s Eyes is one that will be **full of “celebration” in the Lord**. No more 50-70% divorce rate. A minimized marriage is full of selfishness, bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, arguing to have things my way: my traditions, my history, my expectations, my dreams! This is evidence that we have received poor role modeling, inadequate teaching, and therefore have low expectations. This is going to be gone. Having a GMIGE is not difficult but requires following His Plan, which means that we will have the **Holy Spirit helping us**, causing all this fruitfulness to take place.

*“For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of **power**.” (1 Cor. 4:20)*

It is not possible to have a great marriage without the help & power of God Himself. Without Him, the enemy will steal our best intentions. Our enemy is seeking to steal, kill and destroy God’s Plan for Marriage, your marriage (John 10:10)! This will mean that you will trust Him and therefore be willing to let go of wrong traditions, false expectations, false standards; you will **love and serve one another**.

I used to think that having a great marriage began with a passionate, caring, and attractive mate – so WRONG. There is no biblical requirement for having a great marriage based on appearance or attraction. If we follow God’s plan, we can overcome our selfish thoughts, and God will bless our union. We must remember that the subject of “love” is preparation for all eternity in being “with Him”! Please do not cut yourself short in experiencing the blessing of having a great marriage and fulfilling God’s purpose for you and your mate! Of course, having someone that I have passion for is nice and enjoyable but not necessary. This passion for one another will grow as we follow His plan. Sacrificial love, passion, and friendship are developed in marriage, no matter the circumstances!

An indicator of a great marriage is when our mate is **full of joy and happiness**, as well as us. This is glorious and God rejoices; it is His design. As a result of following His plan, He is waiting to bless us and help us realize His goal of our having a GMIGE!

GOD IS WAITING AND WANTS TO BLESS US!

This is a journey and will be **transformational** for us personally, and our marriages. Everyone is going to look more like Jesus in life and character. We are going to exhibit joy, power of God and freedom in Christ through the power of the Spirit. We will become a Church that illuminates the glory of God because of these great marriages. All this cannot be done using the world’s standards. It takes the leading of the Holy Spirit. This makes us unique in the world. The people of the world will want what we have and be attracted to it. Praise God!

We are looking to encounter one another and God Himself. Therefore, we must stop and reflect. This reflection process, whether **communication with God** &/or with your spouse, so that we understand and let God **reveal your heart for transformation!**

This Transformation Process looks like:

1. **PRAYING** together for **GOD’S WILL** and that we would have a **PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE**
2. **COMMITMENT** to submit to God and to one another
3. **COMMUNICATION** of thoughts, concerns, pains, & thankfulness
4. **DECLARATION** that through our Lord, **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**
5. **PROCESS:** develop an awareness of why these thoughts exist in my heart without blaming anyone, while opening my own heart to transformation
6. **FORGIVENESS** of all who affect our lives, including one another
7. **TRANSFORMATION** – here we open our hearts for God to work in each of us to do His Will for His Glory! We get to enjoy a closer walk with Him and with my spouse through being formed into the Image of Jesus

Transformation & Reflection: EXPLAINED

Throughout this study, God will be speaking to you. Listen, receive & respond the way He wants. He wants each of you to become like Jesus, therefore being transformed into His Image (2 Cor. 3:18). Regularly, you will have Transformation & Reflection opportunities. **STOP, LISTEN & COMMUNICATE!** Hear what God is saying to you. Ask Him to bless and heal you as necessary, and then **receive** from Him and **DO WHAT HE ASKED YOU TO DO**. Please remember: your aim is to have an **intimate walk with the Lord, a prosperous marriage**, and to be **transformed into the Image of Jesus!** This may take one or more sessions together in each chapter! Each Transformation & Reflection opportunity will lead you to be what God intended for you!

Transformation & Reflection:

What do you want your marriage to look like? _____

The joy of marriage can be displayed in many ways. What are you hoping for? _____

As a Prosperous Marriage, how would your marriage look different than what you have today?

Let us begin by looking at the **foundation God laid**.

STEP 1 – CREATED IN GOD’S IMAGE

Gen. 1:26,27 *Let Us make man in Our Image... according to Our likeness...*

What a beautiful destiny we have, that we are made in the Image of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!! We cannot become gods, but we can **carry and exhibit His character**. But, not on our own, it will take the Holy Spirit and us working together to be **conformed to His Image**.

Mark 10:6-9...*God made them **male and female**...the two shall become **one flesh**...Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.*

God’s intention was male & female. To please Him and be in His will, we must follow this. Even though created differently, He declared that the two shall become “one flesh”. Obviously, we cannot do this physically, but we can spiritually, emotionally, mentally, heart-wise and in our desires. Scripture says: “what God has joined together”; when we are joined together by God,

He's there! He is confirming our joining together. He then makes it clear: "**let no man separate**"! This is a principle that man has disobeyed and thus created chaos in the world and in the Church. We are choosing poorly and allowing ourselves to be "separated" from the one with whom God has joined us! How dare we disobey and offend our God by allowing this separation when we have not even fully applied God's marriage principles. If you want to be in God's will and receive all of God's blessings, we must decide to be **MARRIED FOR A LIFETIME** at all cost! All the marriage purposes previously noted at the beginning of our discussion can't be completed if we have multiple relationships and have not kept our marriage commitment. God meant for us to accumulate all these experiences with our spouse: to accumulate memories, to share how God has worked in us, to celebrate all the things God has done throughout our lifetime. This creates muscle memory of how to work with God. Personally, I would not want to create any kind of separation with God or my mate. I want **all His blessings and favor!**

Story: Karen and I have been married for more than 50 years now. Like everyone else, we are vastly different from one another. We both had traditions & old teachings from our past that were different. When we went to college, we were voted "**the least likely couple to succeed in marriage**". We were just too different! We argued about EVERYTHING in our early relationship. But this was not bad, it forced us to look at **what God wanted, what He said** about everything and **how it applied to us**. We would submit to God and to one another. We had many tears, loud expressiveness, but we never stopped fighting for **what was right!** We have had many battles, but God has won every time! We look forward to the next 50 years!! God gets the glory for our prosperous marriage. We get the joy!

At this point, there could be people who are frustrated with looking at the beauty of God's plan. Some of you have experienced bad relationships and marriages, even bad relationships and co-habitation. God has a plan for having been out of sync with Him in a past marriage. God has a plan for you to succeed in having a **prosperous marriage** now. All things, through the power of God, can be forgiven. If it is possible, the key part of forgiveness comes from you. You can **build from where you are right now** to have a prosperous marriage, but you must settle things correctly so there is no resentment, so that no bitterness grows. Therefore, persevere in God's plan, it will produce a spectacular future, if you follow His plan now.

Transformation & Reflection:

What can we learn from God's Principle that we are created in His Image?

- Stop being isolated from God, having a closed heart
- Stop having a closed heart from your spouse
- Allow yourself to be "in the image" of your Creator.
- Allow yourself to open up to "**becoming one with your mate**". In order to become "one flesh", one must **love the other sacrificially**. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

What is God saying to you about being made in **His likeness**?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Do you accept that you are made in the Image of God? _____

What do you think about the trap of how a couple argues from their own personal experiences, traditions, personal beliefs & takes the posture that their way is right: “I’m right, you’re wrong.”

What can you do to remind one another that the real question is “**What is right in God’s eyes?**”

What is God calling your personally to confess & repent of? Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

What needs to be transformed in your life? Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Stop & Pray right now for what God wants and how each of you can be transformed!

What is the first thing that needs improvement in your marriage? _____

Are you ready to confess & pray with someone? Choose someone that will pray with you and for you; **pray that the Holy Spirit will help you!**

STEP 2 – CREATED FOR HIS GLORY

*Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My Name, whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, **yes, I have made him.***

What a different thought: we are **created for His glory, not our glory!**

When we are **apart from Christ**, we are constantly looking at life from a “**my glory point of view**”! Glory means (in the Greek) honor, distinction unto something. When in the flesh, we all seek to bring honor, glory, recognition, even celebration, to ourselves. Our fleshly nature, our heart yearning to please self – this is the **battle we each face daily**. When we are seeking to satisfy self first; we cannot bring glory to our Lord nor offer glory to our spouse. We become very manipulative to get our own way.

1 Cor. 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Our Lord is making it very clear that we are to **bring glory to Him in everything we do** – in our work, family, with my neighbors, in our Church, and most importantly, as we are discussing here: **OUR MARRIAGE WAS CREATED FOR HIS GLORY**. Therefore, we each are to seek how we can honor one another and honor & bring glory to Him, together! God deserves us bringing glory to Him because He has made all things possible in our lives. The focus is no longer on “me” and my needs, my wants, or my way. Bringing glory to Him causes us to take the focus off of ourself and brings that focus to our Lord and our spouse. This is a spectacular concept. This will help you in your disagreements – it becomes a test for what I am doing now, to whom is it bringing glory, to whom is it for. When we succeed at this principle, our Lord is pleased. When **He is pleased, reward, blessing, & favor come with it!** We are all tired of our ugly arguments and wrong words because there is no joy, no hope that comes from it. As a result of being an

expert at bringing glory to God, you will **discover the very Presence of God**. If that isn't enough reason, then you have little hope of **having a joyful & prosperous marriage**.

Transformation & Reflection:

What is it in your marriage that does not bring glory to God? _____

Stop & Pray right now for what God wants and how each of you can be transformed!

STEP 3 – FORGIVENESS

Matt 6:14,15 Jesus said...For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What a wonderful principle this is: to forgive will realign relationship. That is why when we are forgiven by our Lord, we become realigned with Him as we confess and repent. **Forgive is to set someone free from what they have done that is wrong**. We no longer judge them, complain about them, become bitter; we set them free and also set ourselves free. It's not something easily done because **forgiveness takes place in the heart** (Matt. 18:35). It's not just some mental thought, it's emotional. We all have either injured or been injured by someone unjustly. We may hold a grudge against someone. Our Lord is **setting us free as we set others free**. In my own experience, I confess I have been so deeply injured in my heart, that I couldn't stop thinking about it and would sometimes even express bitterness and resentment toward someone. What good did it do? It didn't make me happy; I was playing into the enemy's hands. The enemy is always working to distract and to create hate and even harm my body as a result of that hate; to give me some sort of wasteful satisfaction. This isn't Jesus' way. He came to set us free, to live and dwell with Him. He wants to **see His glory exhibited in our lives**. He wants to see His glory in our marriages. He wants to see His glory displayed through you in your family, and your community. In my experience, I had become so hurt I am not able to be free. I cried out to the Lord for His help and power to forgive. At points within the forgiveness process, I have had to **turn to scripture** many times a day and **ask for His help to forgive**. This will be key in order for you to have a prosperous relationship. For your sake and God's glory, forgiveness is necessary; you are to **seek to forgive with the Lord's help** until you are free and no longer remembering the pain you experienced. This **allows you to live a life to the glory of God**. Hanging on to those things needing forgiveness separates you from being able to have the joy of the Lord and the joy of marriage.

Forgiveness does not position us to have to forget or to blindly trust in the future. Therefore, you must seek to be forgiven as you confess and you must forgive that which has wounded you & others. You may need to seek that same forgiveness, and even restoration with others that have been offended or been a victim. These actions that were either done to you or that you have done to others can be restored, but restoration comes from faithful living. So, be free in Christ and in your life and receive forgiveness from the Lord and **live this life of glory, honor and praise!**

If you want a Prosperous Marriage, you cannot bypass these steps. **Anticipate pleasing God**. Anticipate being free. Anticipate blessings & favor coming from Him! You will become a joyful person, which will foster a Prosperous Marriage! Forgiveness is hard and you will need the Lord's help. So, let's get on with it!

Transformation & Reflection:

To forgive is a necessary godly characteristic. The list of what I need to be forgiven of or who I need to forgive could be lengthy. It will take time, but allow the Lord to lead you. Discuss with your spouse and with the Lord's help, what each of you need to be forgiven of...a short list! Begin with just one thing!

What is God calling you to reveal to one another? Spouse 1 _____ Spouse 2: _____
Now confess & repent, asking for help to forgive and ask for forgiveness. _____

Do not stop repenting **until you are free & forgiveness has been accomplished**. Ask God to help you to forgive. **Please remember to exhibit self-control and don't respond defensively.

**STOP & PRAY AS YOU FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER. STOP & PRAY AS YOU FORGIVE OTHERS.
ASK FOR FORGIVENESS & REPENT WITH OTHERS.**

Please remember: you will need to **continually come back to this**, until each of you are free to freely love one another. This act of forgiveness will be the beginning of gaining a Prosperous Marriage!

Are you having success in the forgiveness process? _____
Seek counsel if necessary. All things can be forgiven with the help of the Lord!

STEP 4 – BE HOLY & A CONQUEROR

1 Peter 1:15,16 *...but as He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

Our Lord has called us to “**be holy**”, to **be separate** from the world and totally **embody Him**. Being holy is a glorious lifestyle. Being holy once is good, but it's being holy every day that is best.

Story: I remember being moved to the subject of “being holy”, several times. Each time I would evaluate myself and define the changes that needed to be made and then set out through discipline, obedience, and determination to fulfill the aim of being holy. When I did this without the fullness of God & in my own strength, **I would fail!** These self-strength failures can be a lifetime pattern. This is true for most of the Church: we try to become holy on our own. When I partially devoted myself to Him, He couldn't make me holy because I chose to treasure “things” of this world as much or more than Him. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit indwells us; but if we have other loves that are as important to us as being holy, we are really saying we are not committed and therefore the Holy Spirit will not express Himself in us in a greater way. Becoming holy cannot be realized until I **empty the junk in my heart and make more room for His Presence**.

Gal. 2:20 *I have been **crucified with Christ**; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I **live by faith** in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

This is part of the process of becoming holy: allowing the Lord to **crucify every wrong element in my heart that I treasure**. He is promising to crucify them from us, and He will **give us something better** if we allow our worldly loves to be crucified. If one holds these loves back, then we hold back that area from the Holy Spirit in our life. He desires to fill that space with His

Presence, **living by faith in the Son of God**. By releasing other loves, we receive **more of Him**, thus **more joy, hope, love, and peace!**

1 John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God **overcomes the world**. And this is the **victory** that has overcome the world—**our faith**.*

Jesus overcame the world, satan, rulers, principalities of the dark; when He arose and ascended into heaven. Those who have the Holy Spirit in them have the **power to overcome the world**. What the world is offering is to “satisfy self” with worldly loves that will never satisfy our deepest needs. They cannot, only God can give that satisfaction. We have been given the **victory** over all these things, because of having the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us! It is God in us Who overcomes as we cooperate with Him! We are **Overcomers**! We must follow His plan so that we have **His power & authority** in our life.

Rom. 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than **conquerors** through Him Who loved us.*

Because of the Lord’s victory through His resurrection and ascension, there is not a thing in our lives that cannot be conquered: shame, bitterness, unforgiveness, patterned sin, addiction, or wrong teaching; all conquered through the fullness and power of Him in us; **we have been set free**. As we receive His gift; **more of His Presence, blessing and power will come to us!** It is not possible to have a great marriage in God’s Eyes without each of us in the marriage being purified, sanctified, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is a foolish thing when we refuse to be transformed by God Himself! Marriage has trouble succeeding when we have a wrong relationship with the Lord. When we enter important discussions with one another, we tend to operate and hold on to the things of our flesh, which could be wrong teachings, wrong modeling, wrong traditions in us as well as in our mate. We each argue from our own agenda and objectives. These objectives, are part of the flesh, need to go away. They should be replaced with **what God wants!** We each are capable of being “more than conquerors” in the eyes of God! Then we will have **unity with our mate in what God wants**. This is not something to be taken lightly. For two people to be in unity, one with one another; we cannot come with different agendas & sin contaminations in our heart that are not of God! We can have different thoughts that are from God and either of us at times could have a misunderstanding of Him, but because of banishing the things of the world, success comes quite easily. Open yourself to being **transformed continuously** until you are in the **Image of Jesus**.

Story: Early in our marriage, Karen and I had many arguments. We confess that because we loved God on our terms, but we were arguing from our own fleshly desires. Unfortunately, we were arguing too often on the premise of WHO’S RIGHT vs. **WHAT’S RIGHT**. God transforms this when we each have **fully surrendered to Him**. This will be strategic in having a GMIGE!

Let us consider: if one mate chooses not to seek to be holy and accept all of God’s Plan...GOD BLESS YOU, this is a difficult circumstance. We pray that you and your close Christian community will win your mate over! But if they choose not to be given fully to God; that does not keep you from being holy and experiencing all that God has for you. You will bring great wisdom & blessing to the marriage. Regardless of their limits, it does not restrict you from receiving the beautiful things God has for you. He will want to prosper your life in every way. **Be patient, stand firm and let God do His work.** The Lord will be enough for you; you do not have to go somewhere else. **He is enough for you!**

Transformation & Reflection:

To what degree do you desire to be more than a conqueror, in God's eyes? _____

What is God revealing to you about your relationship with Him? _____

What is God encouraging you to have transformed in you? _____

What is the last thing that was crucified in your life? _____

What does He want to see transformed in your life now? _____

Are you willing to be transformed, even today? _____

Share with someone what the Lord is saying to you. Ask them to **pray** for you **now**.

STEP 5 – HE MAKES ME GREAT

*Ps. 18:30-36 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.³¹ For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? ³² It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.³³ He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. ³⁴ He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.³⁵ You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has **made me great**.³⁶ You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.*

God has made _____ (your name) _____ to be great. We have each been made special by Him and have the capacity, with the Holy Spirit's help, to **be ALL HE DESIRES US TO BE.**

Is Jesus great in your eyes? He performed so many miracles. He is all knowing, He alone saved us from hell according to His Father's will. He is holy! As it says in vs. 30, "as for God **His way is perfect**. The Word of the Lord is proven." He desires for us to be just like Him. This is a Psalm of David and communicates the relationship God had with him. David started as a shepherd boy. How could he slay Goliath? How could he become king of Israel from where he started as a shepherd? It is God Who did it! He is our rock, He arms us with strength, makes our way perfect, gives us the feet of a deer, teaches our hands to make war. He is our shield; His right hand upholds us. The most important point is vs. 35: **His gentleness has made me great!** In the NIV translation, it says that He "*stooped down*" to make me great. David became great because of God and so it is with us! God wants to make each of us great! We are His workmanship Eph. 2:10; He created us for good works. Each one of us was "crafted" by Him. We are each unique and special. He created each of us for His glory (Is. 43:7). He desires that we are **great at whatever we do** and one of those things is to have a Great Marriage; for us each to be great husbands and wives; and to be great parents. He desires that we **have a joyful, glorious marriage**. This is why we are studying marriage. God does not want divorce, He hates it. His desire is not a poor or average marriage, He **wants us to have a great marriage** and that is to be our expectation! He wants us to be **transformed to the Image of Jesus** that His **glory might increase in us** (2 Cor. 3:18). We are not to be shy in the pursuit of having a great marriage, nor are we to be content when we are living in a world of Cultural Christianity and our marriage is as good as anyone else's. God wants to see **His best in us**. He wants us great in His eyes and knows that it is not possible without His Presence, power, and help, just like David. David and the Lord had an **ongoing intimate relationship**; God gently reached down and made David great. There is no reason for Him to gently make us great if we are unwilling to invest in having a great marriage in His eyes. We must seek to have a GMIGE with all of our heart! It does not matter what you say, you will know when He is pleased, and the fruit of following His plan will be exhibited. He will greatly help

you. You must seek and you will receive. So now **declare, before God**, that you want to have a **Great Marriage in His Eyes / a PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE.**

Transformation & Reflection:

How do you see God working to make you great now? _____

What could you do to cause the Lord to gently move you forward in greatness in His eyes? _____

Now is the time to begin building unity in a new way. We are to be of one heart and one mind as a couple. This can not be achieved unless we have done the thinking of Vision, Goals and Strategic Actions. Now is the time to carve this out.

What is your **Vision** as a couple? _____

What is it that God wants to do in & through your lives? _____

STOP & PRAY for GOD'S LEADING & HELP!

WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION, THERE IS NO CHANGE!!

STEP 6 – SALVATION OPENS THE DOOR - (Confirm your salvation.)

Are you a Son/Daughter of God?

It isn't possible to be a son or daughter of God, nor be great in His eyes, nor have a great marriage without the **full Presence of God within us!!** Look at what our Lord has done:

"God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Romans 5:8

It is **Jesus' love** for us that frees us. Yes, thank You God!

*"...for Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to **bring you to God.**" 1 Peter 3:18*

This means that Jesus was the righteous person that paid for all the unrighteous. He wants to bring each of us to God so that we can have a life of **fellowship** with Him!

*"...yet to all that **received Him**, to those who **believe in His name**, He gave the right **to become children of God.**" John 1:12*

"Received" here means to **"get hold of"**. It is taking Jesus into our hearts, asking Him to dwell there, turning our lives over to Him. This allows us to live an extraordinary **Kingdom life** here on earth, full of joy and hope. The word "Kingdom" here means a heavenly realm. If we allow our heart to dwell in this Kingdom realm, some of the blessings & victory that heaven has, can be experienced now.

Are you ready to make that choice now and receive Jesus, believing everything He said and did for your sake?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful & just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9



To **receive Jesus**, pray a similar **prayer** to this:

"Dear Lord, I know I have done wrong. I am willing to turn from my sins. I believe Jesus Christ died for me. Please Jesus, come into my life & forgive me of my sins. I receive You into my life as my Savior & Lord, as best I understand how, right now."

You are promised **eternal life and fellowship with God** because Jesus has become your bridge to **full relationship**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God..."

We can have **confidence** because of taking hold and inviting Jesus into our hearts; we now have eternal life. There is no more concern about what will happen when we die. Since Jesus is dwelling in our hearts, He is making Himself available to us individually to experience the **Kingdom of God life here** on earth. This is an incredible privilege to be experiencing heavenly things, now! They are merely a foretaste of what we will continually experience in heaven.

Rom. 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

As a result of receiving Jesus and walking in Him daily, the indwelling Holy Spirit will testify with our spirit and give us **confidence** and **peace** about our eternal position. If you have received Jesus, then

you will **daily walk** as Jesus walked and **follow Him** for the rest of your life! You are now free to be baptized into the Community of Believers.

In full relationship with God, we are positioned to succeed in marriage—we have His guidance and power. As you saw in the Foundational Messages: to excel in marriage, to be Great in God's Eyes in marriage, requires we **follow Him with ALL OF OUR HEART** and to **be transformed** to the Image of Jesus. The old self is to be killed off and transformed into someone who has the **full capacity, with the Holy Spirit's help, to fulfill our love and roles.**

Transformation & Reflection:

Are you a son/daughter of God? _____

When did you invite Him to be the Lord of your life? _____ When & how did this occur? _____

As His son/daughter, you now have the **capacity** to become Great in God's Eyes. You need to share with someone **what God has transformed in you.**

What have you realized up to this point about having a Great Marriage in God's Eyes? _____

What is God telling your heart to do? _____

SUMMARY: These 6 Steps are to highlight the significance that to have a GMIGE, I must have an **intimate and powerful relationship with Him!** Each of you in the marriage must have a great relationship with your Lord. Otherwise, you are contaminated by your thoughts, your traditions, your sin patterns, and therefore it confuses the relationship. When each of the two of you have this great relationship with God, you are **cleansed and purified**, no longer having prejudices based on past history! You want to **create a new pattern** and a **new marriage culture** based on what is right before God. You will leave behind old traditions & wounds that have no value for a GMIGE! So be **transformed and let loose of the past**, be **conformed & consistent with God's Holy Scripture!**

TRANSFORMATION from MEDIOCRITY #1 -- GLORIOUS MARRIAGES

Do you desire to be in Mediocrity & receive SOME OF HIS BLESSING & FAVOR or to be **Great in God's Eyes** and receive **ALL OF HIS BLESSINGS & FAVOR?**

What do you want your glorious marriage to look like in 6 months vs. today? _____

If your marriage becomes prosperous, what would change the most? _____

What is God saying to each of you about being in His Likeness?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

What is being done well in your marriage right now? _____

What in your marriage does not bring God glory now? _____

What do you love most about your spouse? _____

What do you like least about your spouse? _____

Resolution is needed here and you will know it by the peace that comes between you both. You are not to leave this subject, until you come to have **peace with one another.**

What conclusive thoughts are brought to mind? _____

For what do you each need to be forgiven?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Who do you need to forgive?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How has unforgiveness affected your lives?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

What hinders each of you from being “more than a conqueror”, Great in God’s Eyes, and breaking out of Mediocrity?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

What holds each of you back from what God wants to transform in you?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

In what priority order are you willing for God to transform your limits & wounds?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

With whom are you willing to share your transformation opportunities?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Have you actually prayed over these issues with the person you named?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

At present, how do you see God Making you Great in His Eyes?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How do you see God affecting your relationship with your spouse?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Have you experienced transformation yet? List the occurrences and the impact it has had on you/ on your spouse?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Are each of you part of the Kingdom of God?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

// THE WAR & GOD'S VICTORIOUS PLAN

Once you are spiritually healthy, you are now ready to take on the enemy!

Gen 6:5 *"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually..."*

This is a striking verse to us, as humans: that we are so caught up with ourselves, our needs, our wants; that we are inclined to make choices based on "me". As a result of Adam & Eve's fall and us being separated from God, we are **preoccupied with self**. This means we do have natural desires in the flesh and when we do not continue to be a follower of Jesus and filled with His Holy Spirit, these natural desires motivate us to make **wrong choices** as it relates to the righteousness of God. Apart from God we are left with this old nature that desires things that will not satisfy us nor lead us to be active in God's plan. **We must be born-again to have the strength and help to be like Jesus**. This is the only way that we can overcome the potential wickedness that lies within us.

Every inclination of man's heart doesn't mean we have to follow those inclinations; we still have **choice**. But when we become a son/daughter of God, we then are empowered by Him to live rightly & passionately.

Acts 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

When you are a follower of His, His Holy Spirit comes upon you. You have all the Holy Spirit now! Obviously, we are in great need of Him because every inclination of our heart without Him is sinful. **We must be born-again and with that: when walking "in the Spirit"** (Gal. 5:16), **we are "full of all the fullness of God"** (Eph 3:19; 4:13), **we have His power, His authority**.

John 14:12 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."*

Jesus wants us to be just like Him and do the things He did. He wants to give us all His love, joy, generosity, power, authority... This is impossible if I choose to be contaminated with the things of the world. We have all His capacity within us. But if we choose not to **love Him with all our heart**, that means we are filling our heart with other things in addition to Him. These things that we continue to love, replace the **full Presence of God within us**. Our hearts must be pure, full with Him. This is true for us as individuals: if we have 2 people who are married and have some contamination within each of them: it creates chaos, confusion, and we are then unable to become great.

Matt. 5:8 *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."*

To be effective in journeying to greatness, we each are accountable to have pure hearts, so that God can fill us to the **full with His Presence**. Those who are not followers of Jesus, are left with a mess, confusion, argument, pain, suffering, and disappointment. This is why we are conquerors when our **hearts of full of Him**. This must be renewed on a DAILY BASIS!

Please remember: if your spouse isn't participating in this commitment; it is their loss! You are free and can be fully satisfied having **the joy of the Lord to fulfill you in life**. As a result of your going on with Him, we would hope that the spouse would be moved to join in the process!

You are going to desire righteousness and the things of God. This doesn't mean you won't be tempted by the enemy: satan and his crew! But as you **stay full, righteous and holy**; the enemy does not want to be around.

Gen 3:16-19 *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

When Adam & Eve were driven out of the Garden as a result of eating from the tree of knowledge of good & evil, they were **separated from God**. They were essentially imprisoned with the **wrong inclinations within their hearts**. The penalty for disobeying God was that they were cursed. The woman will have the pain in childbirth greatly increased and her desire will be for her husband, and he will rule over her. The curse for the man is **hard work**, by the sweat of his brow, thorns & thistles...all his life! Can you see how desperate we are to be saved from this curse? Not that the curse will go away, but God will **give us the strength and power to overcome these curses**, so they are **minimized in our lives**. The curse will always be with us, but it is just another hurdle. The curse can get in the way of having a great marriage, and we defeat the curse by being Saturated with the Presence of God.

We are to work and manage our desires to only be **His Kingdom desires**, as a result of being **full of the Spirit of God!**

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

John 10:10 *The thief (enemy) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*

The devil wants and seeks to destroy you, to destroy your marriage. You do not want to cooperate with him and give him access to your life. Giving access to the devil is done by loving the world and allowing sin to dwell in you. Do not give the enemy access to you or your marriage! So, **draw near to God, cleanse your hands, purify your hearts, and He will draw near to you** (James 4:8).

Transformation & Reflection:

How do you see either the flesh or the power of God in your marriage? _____

How do you see the enemy attacking your marriage? _____

What will you spiritually do differently to minimize / eliminate the curse? _____

THE WAR with Principalities & Powers of Darkness – COSMIC WAR for your heart

Eph. 6:10-13

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.*

There is spiritual warfare going on for your heart and the heart of your marriage! The enemy does not want you to succeed in becoming great; he doesn't want you to have a close

relationship with the Lord. He wants you to have a sad marriage full of argument and spite. As long as we are in this state of chaos, the enemy can continue to attack us in our vulnerable areas: whether me as a person or us as a couple. Our struggle is against satan, against rulers, against authorities, against the power of darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. The enemy doesn't want you to be filled with **all the fullness of God**, because in that, you can have **success**. In the scripture it tells us to **stand firm** several times. There's no reason for intimidation, because as you walk with the Lord and are filled with Him; you are intimidating to the dark world and **have God's authority**.

1 John 4:4 *You are of God, little children, and have **overcome them**, because **He Who is in you is greater than he who is in the world**.*

As you can see in this scripture, the **victory has already been won for those who believe**. There is no reason to fear because God is greater and He is in you! All you have to do is **daily walk with Him!**

This war is a significant challenge to the individual and a marriage:

1. We have seen that in Gen. 6:5 "every intent of the thoughts of (man's) heart is only evil continually". (This is defeated if your heart has been set free by Christ's salvation, you will have victory over being self-centered and wicked.)
2. The curse that Adam & Eve experienced due to their fall in the Garden of Eden.
3. And the principalities & powers are seeking to destroy us...

Conclusion: THESE ARE FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES. Our likelihood of becoming one and succeeding is low if we do not have the **Presence and power of God, His glory, protecting & guiding us**.

We are at war & it is a very complex deal. God wants us to seek His help and ask for His blessings. Let's look at a couple illustrations that communicate dealing with these 3 challenges. We must remember that **we are conquerors, overcomers, when we are "in Him and He in us"!**

Rom 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

So, let's take a look at this war and how satan comes at us. We have an illustration to show the dilemma's that we face and the solutions that God has made available to us, so that we can conquer the enemy.

PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE = ONENESS with HIM & ONENESS with SPOUSE (Illustration Explanation)

Marriage is a precious institution in God's eyes. To think that oneness would happen between two people without much effort, is foolishness.

1. Dealing with one's own flesh and its wrong desires
2. Dealing with the curse and the enemy that uses the curse against you.
3. There is a Cosmic War being waged against each of us.

We each need to deal with this war in an **intentional and Spirit led way as men & women of God!**

We begin at the **center top of the chart**: Oneness with Him! There is no hope of having victory without oneness with Him – pure hearted & being transformed into the Image of Jesus. As we become one with Him, we will become washed & purified by the cross of Jesus. As long as we continue to walk with Him, it is very difficult for our enemy to attack us. It is in Christ's resurrection that the victory has already been won (1 John 4:4). When Jesus has washed each of us clean, we are set free to be one with one another. This doesn't mean the work has been completed, but His power now enables the work to be done, and we will have a **Prosperous Marriage**.

The **next stage is Spouse 1 and Spouse 2**. Each spouse was formed in a **different** way: different families, values, fears, doubts, injuries of the past, traditions, spiritual positions, visions, expectations, agendas, goals, past & present wounds. This is a mountainous task to bring these two different people together to agree in all these areas so they can be one. It isn't a matter of simple negotiations in the flesh, that doesn't work. Fortunately, Jesus opened the door to understanding **how "oneness" is gained**:

*John 17:21 that all may be one, as you, Father, are in Me, and I am in You; that **they also may be one in Us**.*

Each spouse, as they become one with the Lord, and walking with Him every day, is being **transformed into the Image of Jesus!** When a person is walking in the Presence of God, all the **fleshly differences fall off!** My differences now align with Jesus & I want what Jesus wants! This same thing happens with the spouse, as they move toward the cross and move toward Resurrection Power & Glory. Each is being **transformed into thinking and desiring what the Lord wants**, not what I want in the flesh! If you want to have the **Fruit of the Spirit being exhibited in your marriage**, then you must allow His resurrected power & glory to strain out the garbage of your prejudices in your past experiences. It is then that you are **empowered to be the victor**. The enemy cannot get to you when you are operating in His will and His plan! The enemy can't stand in the Presence of God; they are repelled! Therefore, **His resurrected power and authority are alive in you** (Matt. 28:18; Acts 1:8; 1 John 4:4)!

As you believe & **submit to God and to one another**, you become not two hearts of thinking & believing but one! The house of a prosperous marriage begins being built, as you are following His will, and becoming one – it is a beautiful thing! The benefits of enjoying life and your relationship with the Lord shouts! And so does the glory of God and that glory is demonstrated in your Prosperous Marriage House! You have **one agenda in life for the glory of God!** He is transforming you and forming you into the Image of Jesus! The resultant is a **Great Marriage in God's Eyes**; in which **His glory is on display!** We then enter into **ever-increasing glory**, because His Presence is with us all the time. We are now enabled to build a marriage with the same Purpose & Goals, ready to fulfill God's will, ready to sacrifice according to what is needed, to attain that which He has called us to do as a couple! We work together to this end. We find that we unite physically, emotionally & spiritually. We are able to establish **one agenda for the glory of God** between us. As we do this we are then formed, transformed, and forged by the Lord into greater oneness. It causes us to have **confidence & trust in one another** because we have the **same values, purpose & goals**. A great marriage is then formed & the glory of God is revealed in your relationship, it sparkles! This will take time, a lifetime, of growing in this. As you pursue this daily, it becomes easier & more special and precious. Many people are blessed by your relationship and you don't even know it! You bring hope & joy in the thought of marriage – **His glory shines!**

The MAKING of a **PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE** = Journey of ONENESS with HIM & ONENESS with SPOUSE

Curse of sin: Argument of Who's Right, Conflicts/SIN MUST BE DEFEATED!



SPOUSE 1
INDEPENDENT

I AM THE SUM OF:

- God made me
- Family & friends
- Values, attributes
- Fears, doubts
- Injuries/wounds
- Traditions
- Spiritual Position
- Visions, expectations
- My agenda's
- Baggage: past & present
- Wounds
- Needs & Wants



SPOUSE 2
INDEPENDENT

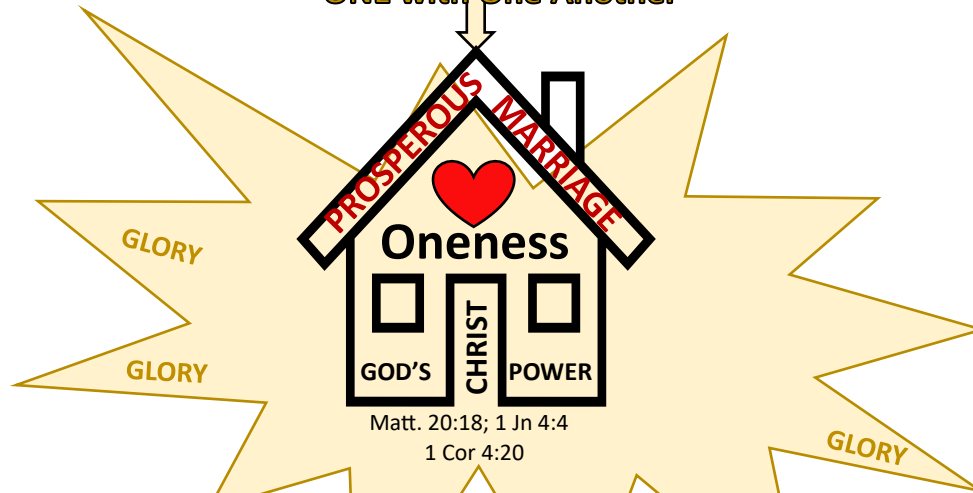
I AM THE SUM OF:

- God made me
- Family & friends
- Values, attributes
- Fears, doubts
- Injuries/wounds
- Traditions
- Spiritual Position
- Visions, expectations
- My agenda's
- Baggage: past & present
- Wounds
- Needs & Wants

COSMIC WAR Eph. 6:10-18
Enemy seeks to steal, kill & destroy

FORGIVEN - FORGIVE

ONE With HIM means motives are purified &
transforming by the Holy Spirit
= ONE with One Another



They are to become **ONE FLESH**: physically, emotionally, & spiritually. Gen. 2:24

One agenda for the **Glory of God** Is. 43:7

Formed, transformed, & forged by the Lord to be Disciples 2 Cor. 3:18; Prov. 27:17

Same Values, Purpose, Goals, John 17:21

GREAT MARRIAGE = IMAGE OF JESUS

The GLORY OF GOD is seen in you and in your marriage. YOUR MARRIAGE IS A GLORY TO GOD



hearttransformation.org

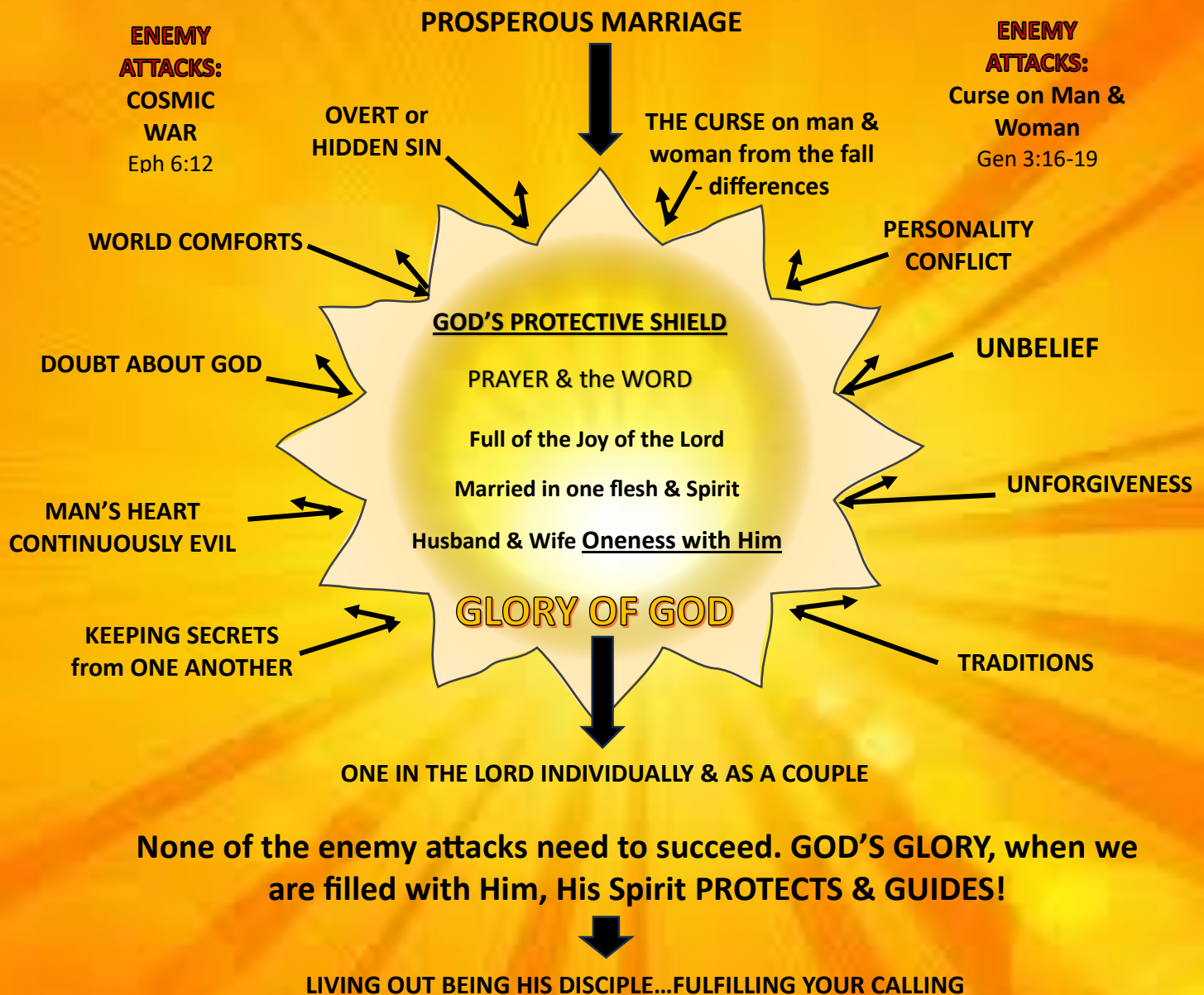
VICTORY OVER THE COSMIC WAR (Our enemy seeks to destroy.)

God desires to protect you and your marriage as you are transformed, from the forces of evil. He wants you to be one in Him and one with one another John 17:21.

John 10:10a *The enemy seeks to steal, kill and destroy*

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

The **enemy is defeated** (1 John 4:4) when we **hunger & thirst for His Presence and become Saturated with Him!** This means our hearts are purified from sin & patterned sin, wrong loves/desires. He is telling us that we are to **walk/live by the Spirit** (Gal 5:16) and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. This must be done **daily!** You then are moving into **God's protection and His glory will push away the attacks of the dark world.** This illustration shows us **God's protective shield** as a result of our oneness with Him and oneness with one another. As you continue this process, the enemy is being defeated.



PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE ILLUSTRATION EXPLANATION:

The Prosperous Marriage will be attacked by the enemy. He will attempt to distract & destroy! He will come at you in many different ways. Be assured, to be one with your spouse, you will have the opportunity to be tested and to prove yourself faithful.

The enemy has lots of alternatives to attack:

1. He loves to attack us individually or as a couple, where we give him room like a **foothold, stronghold**. We are not to give him room or opportunity.

Eph 4:27 ...nor give place to the devil

These places/footholds, even strongholds, are what the enemy goes to and uses to distract you. He knows our weaknesses, so this is what he uses to gain access to our life. It could be greed, power, jealousy, envy, anger, harsh words, wrong loves in the world...and more!

2. We have **bruising & injury** from our past; from other relationships. This bruising is still there because we haven't forgiven or forgiven fully.
3. We have **memories of bad experiences**, that the enemy will help us remember.
4. We have **secrets** that no one else knows. The enemy will come to your secrets and attack. He loves secrets. It keeps us from being united.

All of these things and more cannot defeat you or destroy you; if you choose to stay in God's protective shield. God will keep all these attacking elements away because we are **full in Him!** We have **accepted** not some of His will but **ALL of HIS WILL!** When we pray together as a couple, we are a mighty force against the enemy. This is the same regarding the Word and Worship! When we fellowship with our spouse, and study His Word, and are experiencing God transforming us; WE ARE IN GOD'S PROTECTIVE SHIELD! He is always with us. He is in front of you, He is behind you, He is beside you; all around you, **He is for you!** (Elevation song: *The Blessing*) **You are in His shield**. You are His children and He wants to protect His children!

Success in having a Prosperous Marriage is **assured if you follow His plan and stay within His will & are being transformed into the Image of Jesus**, continuing to be **active daily in prayer and in His Word, Worshipping Him!** There is no reason to be dismayed. You are assured success to the highest level in being one with one another. You will be carrying out His purposes and He will be full within you. He will be working through you and speaking through you! You will be more than conquerors. In this the **Glory of God is displayed** in your Prosperous Marriage!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS:

1. Are you a **non-believer**? There is no protective shield of God from the enemy's attack. Through unbelief, we allow the attack of the enemy...
2. Are you a **lukewarm believer** (Rev. 3:16)? If so, you leave cracks in God's shield because you love something of the world and/or the flesh. This leaves a crack and access point for evil rulers, authorities, mighty powers in this dark world, and evil spirits to attack you personally and your marriage. The enemy purposes to divide and destroy you, your partner, and your marriage (Eph. 6:12).

3. I am a **Disciple of the Lord, Kingdom Purposed:**

I DAILY love my Lord with ALL my heart. Matt. 22:37

I am FULL of the HOLY SPIRIT with His love & power 1 Cor. 4:20; Eph 5:18

He shields me and protects me with His armor by:

- Truth
- Holy Spirit armor
- Righteousness
- Peace of God (satisfied & rejoicing)
- Shield of faith
- Protective helmet of salvation
- Using the Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
- Using the power of God through Praying in the Spirit
- My heart loving Him causes me to grow in His will and power
- Producing much Kingdom Fruit
- Unbreakable love for other believers
- Miraculous things happen in me and in those around me, as an individual and as a couple
- One Mission: love, worship & serve the LORD ONLY

Of course, being in the 3rd position of **being a Disciple & Kingdom Purposed** makes the likelihood of **oneness taking place** much more **probable!** He wants this for you, He is for you!

Transformation & Reflection:

How have we given access to evil to penetrate our marriage, based on all the attacks the enemy makes? _____

What can we do to prevent the attacks of the enemy? _____

What can we do to stay within God's protective shield of glory? _____

Story: Sometimes we think we understand, but we are blind. We've been married now 52 years with fidelity! Early in our marriage, I thought I was so busy, that my wife was required to get "an appointment" with me to have quality time together. I made a checklist of good things to do for her. Suddenly I lost my checklist...it was going so well, we were both blessed! I stopped doing what I was doing. My wife asked: "why did you stop?" I told her I lost my checklist. Suddenly, there was revelation: I was doing something good but clearly it was a demonstration that what I did was not out of love. I thought I fully loved her. Love doesn't require a checklist!! God has transformed this and I act out of love now!

What is needed now to increase your oneness with one another? _____

Pray for God's help and surrender to being "one"!

TRANSFORMATION from MEDIOCRITY #2 – THE WAR

How alert are you to the enemy's invasion into your relationship? Into your home? Into destroying your marriage?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How do you see the enemy attacking your relationship?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

To cut the enemy off from your marriage, what could you do differently?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How do non-biblical traditions affect your marriage?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

What traditions inhibit being Great in God's Eyes?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

As a result of your being one with the Lord, and in Him, how will that affect how you each live?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Gal 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...*

What needs crucifying in each of you so the enemy has no foothold (Eph 4:27) in you, and your marriage?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How are each of you going to pursue being "one with Him"?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

Are you **in** or **out** in **conformance to God's plan to defeat the curse** in each of your lives?

For example: **husbands love you wives as Christ loved the church**

Husband: _____

For example: **wives be submissive to your husband & give respect...**

Wife: _____

How must each of your priorities change in order to have a common agenda?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

How do each of you support one another's growth in Christ to be His Disciple?

Spouse 1: _____

Spouse 2: _____

You may each have bruises, wounds, wrong teachings, secrets, bad memories that affect your relationship with one another. There is to be **trust building** between one another that all can be revealed between you and thus eliminate the footholds/strongholds of the enemy. Each of you make a list of the issues in your lives:

Spouse 1	Spouse 2
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

To **be set free** from these issues: **confession, forgiveness, & repentance** are needed! Then you **must allow Christ to crucify** these things so they no longer haunt you and your relationship – you are **free!**

PRAY: Ask God for His help to be **transformed** from these issues and to help start on a **God path** that allows each of you to **become holy & Disciples of Him!**

PRAY! PRAY! Have another **PRAY OVER YOU & BLESS YOU!**

III. GOD'S DESIGN FOR A PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE for a LIFETIME (GMIGE)

1 Cor. 13:4-8 Love *suffers long* and is *kind*; love does *not envy*; love does *not parade itself*, is *not puffed up*; 5 does *not behave rudely*, does *not seek its own*, is *not provoked*, thinks *no evil*; 6 does *not rejoice in iniquity*, but rejoices in the *truth*; 7 *bears all things*, *believes all things*, *hopes all things*, *endures all things*. 8 Love *never fails*.

How is it possible to have a GMIGE without love? In this scripture, it is speaking of the Greek word: **agape** love.

1. **Agape love** is a **sacrificial** kind of love, a love of **charity**, of **giving to another**. That is what this scripture is aimed at, because it is patient, kind, not envious, not boasting, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, no record of wrongs, not delighting in evil BUT rejoices with the truth! It **always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres**. We must embrace the idea that agape **love never fails** (1 Cor. 13:1-8). As a result of being a believer and having the Holy Spirit in us, we now have the **capacity to love like Jesus loved**. If we choose to go on with our sinful ways, wrong traditions, wrong teachings, even our bondages & wounds...we will not have the capacity for this love; we will not be able to exhibit the capacity that lies within us! This is the same love word that is used to command us to **love the Lord with all our heart**. If we are followers of Jesus, then we each must be growing and being **transformed to love as Jesus loved – unconditionally!** With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do this! Do not let anyone or anything cause you to doubt. As a result of being a believer, we are all commanded to love in this way. This is the GREATEST COMMANDMENT OF ALL: to love God and love our neighbor (Matt. 22:37-39). Our closest neighbor is our spouse. This is a **STATEMENT OF HOPE**. All it needs is for us to **embrace our Lord in every way and love will flow out of us**. This is true of the other types of love as well.

2. **Phileo** love is a **brotherly love** to other brothers & sisters, and neighbors - a friendship love.
3. **Storge** love is a **love for family**. We now have a capacity to love our family. We are called to love in the family as Jesus did. This does not mean love to the point that you give up the teachings of Jesus and bend to the traditions/definitions of those in your family. Have charity and give to your immediate family.
4. **Eros** love is a **sensual, passionate**, kind of love. The abuse of this kind of love moves one to lust, or a physical draw to the other person. Eros is good, when passion is kept in check, within the marital guidelines of physical intimacy for marriage (sexual attraction). This is a word that relates well to having passion towards someone, including having passion for God Himself. This passion is necessary in order to become holy, filled and complete in our Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God.

I have an agape love for my wife, I have an eros love/passion for my wife, as well as “phileo” and “storge” love. Is this the relationship you have with your spouse? _____

Story: Karen and I now married 50 years +, were voted “the least likely couple to succeed in marriage”. The rest of the story is that we each had to exercise an *agape love*. It moved us away from our own opinions and directed us to **seek the Presence of God** to give understanding. When He told us to become married, it was because we were willing to give up ALL LABELS (I was Lutheran and she was Catholic.) We said: “they both can’t be right!” So, the Lord told us to **seek Him, His Word and truth**. From that time on, we made all our decisions based on what the Bible had to say about it, godly advisors, and prayer. As we continued to seek Him until coming into agreement, God was faithful and would reveal what to do. We were able to paralyze earthly traditions, seek His truth and choose God’s plan and His church for us. Praise God!!

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

God is telling us that the marriage is to be undefiled. We are to have **fidelity** towards one another and for life! The Book of Titus tells us we are to have one spouse. The beautiful thing is to love to the point that you have fidelity for life! If you have had problems and made mistakes, God will forgive you. But **now**, it is time for **lifetime fidelity, an undefiled bed** (no other intimate relationship with the opposite sex). This is love!!

1 John 4:8,16 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.... And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

God is love. We are to carry the same love. He gives us this plan so that we can experience the real thing. You can’t find this in the world. This love is only found when you are seeking for oneness with the Lord. In this relationship with your Lord, you discover God’s love and He passes it on to you. We can’t learn this love through the world; it is the Spirit of God that dwells within us that will cause His love to dominate. **As you are walking with Him, walking in His Presence daily, your love will grow for your mate. Your love will grow for God Himself. You will find hope & satisfaction in life.**

OTHER KEYS TO SUCCEEDING IN YOUR MARRIAGE

John 13:34-35 *A **new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

- Best Friends: many great marriages begin with being friends first, then grow to be best friends. In your life: who do you spend more time with than your spouse? You laugh, get embarrassed, play, eat, weep, worship, pray, solve problems and more: together! If you become best friends & share life together, as an adventure to glorify God, you will have memories built that your soul will feed on for a lifetime. Best friends have their own secrets, confidentiality, precious events that they have survived, other events in which they have succeeded to the highest level. A **loyal bond is built of unconditional support, trust, & acceptance**; you are there for each other, no matter the circumstance, whether in times of challenge, loss or celebration! You encourage one another daily and even give permission to confront when necessary! Because of your **love & trust in one another**, vulnerability to the other is normal! You are **partners & co-travelers** in this world and you are blessed with this relationship, now & forever more!

Eph 5:21 *...submitting to one another in the fear of God*

- We are not to consider ourselves more important than our spouse. In fact, if we take Jesus' model in Phil 2, we are to treat others as more important or before ourselves. The Lord is telling us to be in submission, be **humble towards one another**, to **be patient and hear** what the other person is saying, to not lord it over someone else. This will be key to **having a tender relationship, an honest relationship, and a thriving relationship**.

Eph 5:1 *Therefore be **imitators of God** as dear children.*

- We can't be imitators of God if we do not know Him, in every way! It's not just what He says, but know how He feels, knowing what He wants, knowing how He wants us to follow His plan. It's **falling in love with Him**. This will build a new kind of conversation with your Lord. He will speak to you as you seek Him, and bring revelation in your life. Absorb all that He is teaching you from scripture and learn not just what He says but **what He means**! This will bring intimacy and from this intimacy you have with God, it will help you with the intimacy in conversation with your spouse, and the tenderness. You will find that as a result of this submission to one another; it will cause you to have 3 times or more **tender conversations** than ever before!

2 Cor 3:18b *...are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- If you are going to have a prosperous marriage, it will require that each of you are transformed by God into the Image of Jesus. **Without transformation, there is no life change**. Each spouse will enjoy the other much more as each takes on the **persona of Jesus**! God will even empower you to **bless others & heal other's hearts & bodies**! In order for transformation to take place, **we must each open our hearts and want everything that the Lord offers**! It is your goal to see that everything that isn't of Jesus is eliminated & destroyed, not by behavior modification but by transformation, with the help of the Holy Spirit!

1 John 5:14 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we **ask anything according to His will**, He hears us!*

- The word "ask" is also defined as "beg, call for, crave". I have made the error, many times, that when I asked, I asked casually and probably with wrong motives attached. This is not praying that

which is according to His will. I prayed to be freed of anger, casually, for two decades. God didn't answer my prayer. It was His will but I did not beg, crawl and declare that I would **do anything** He desires in order for Him to free me of this anger scourge! When I craved for Him to free me, it was suddenly healed. Craving may take a moments time, a week's time, a year, maybe more! This is what I heard Him say to me: "Keith, I think you are serious this time and I will grant you your prayer!" He loves answering our prayers.

1 Thess 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, in everything giving thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

- Praying is one of our greatest tools to have God work in and through our lives. This verse states that we are to **pray continually**, as we walk through each day. Of course, we know that asking, begging, craving is a part of all that. There is the saying that if a husband & wife pray together daily, they will prosper. Allow yourself to have **conversations with Him throughout your day**, because He is waiting to hear from you and to help you.

Prov. 31:10 *Who can find a **virtuous wife**? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.*

Eph 5:33 *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so **love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***

- Something that has been important to our marriage is treating one another like Jesus would. It's easy to naturally talk to Karen from my point of view as a man, logically & with boldness. But she is precious & tender. When I treat her like a woman, the message is better understood & received. I know it seems obvious, but I failed at this, many times. Likewise, Karen has much greater success when she speaks to me with respect and with more logic than feelings. You will find that **applying these biblical principles & approaches**, gives you another component that makes up a prosperous marriage!

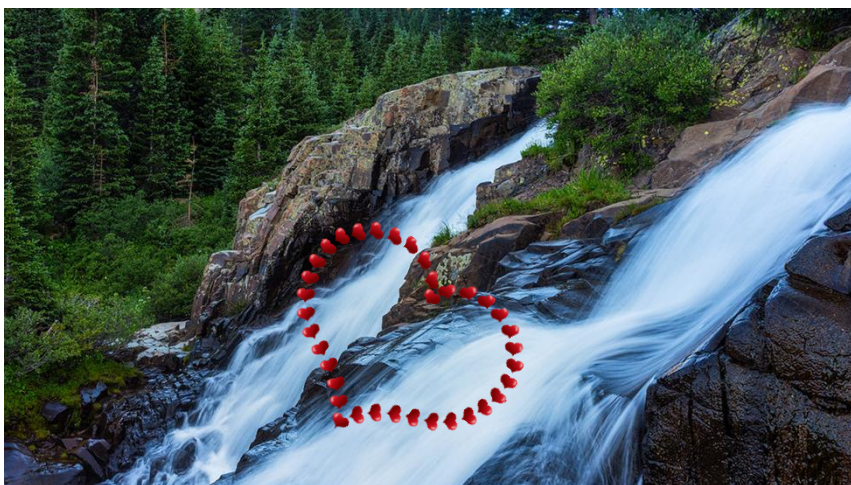
Story: My son had need of learning this principle with his mother & sisters. He was not thinking about "**how**" he spoke to them. So, Karen charged him with taking a precious, glass cut, antique water pitcher and told him to run backwards while on concrete. He knew that this pitcher was precious in many ways! As he ran backwards, you could see the fright and fear on his face. He ran far more slowly & carefully than he was capable. He came to learn that **treating women in a loving way, as being "precious"**, is the first way to get their attention!

Joshua 1:8 *this book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate in it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- In order to **walk/be led by the Spirit**, **scripture** is so vital. To know God means you must **know what He says**. It may not be easy, but it is always comforting. It always gives us **answers to life**. It always **transforms us to be in Jesus' Image!** As you go down this journey of being flooded with His Word, which brings His Presence into your life, **apply His principles to all things**. Each spouse in the marriage is accountable to doing this and you can even do it together at times. This is not optional. This is a unique way to bring the life of Jesus into your life. You will gain from His blessings, His knowledge, His wisdom, His leading, His correcting and much more.

THE FRUIT OF A PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE: “RIVERS OF LIVING WATER”

John 7:38,39 *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive...*



Jesus is speaking strongly: whoever believes in Me, streams (even rivers), of **living water** will flow from within and out of their heart. This stream illustrates that we have two people, just as the streams are initially split. They are apart and have their own characteristics. But then the streams unite through becoming “one” in heart. As they come together, the stream transforms into a river with different & additional characteristics. If you are “one” as in the stream, you can become **more powerful and accomplish more in life** than just being two independent people! The stream gets intermingled and oneness becomes displayed. This is a picture of a **Prosperous Marriage that overflows in abundance**.

This scripture is within the context of Jesus communicating about what will happen after He leaves. These **streams flow freely when we are walking and living by the Spirit**, living according to the Spirit. When you **seek** the Lord with **all your heart**, you become so **full of God** that the Holy Spirit allows this **living water to flow in you**. As it gets full, it flows out of you. This living water is God’s grace and grace for salvation: that we never thirst for this world again. The living water is the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, long-suffering (self-control). This **living water is the power to bless other people, gives satisfaction in life, & gives faith to move mountains**. It will give us the source, God Himself to honor and respect, then thankfulness & obedience will flow out of you. Wow—Isn’t it great to be in the middle of God’s plan? The God of the universe wants this in you and coming out of you. God wants you to be great in His eyes, to have a great marriage in His eyes. For you to experience a **glorious marriage**, for you to be glorious as a person; **God’s power in you will accomplish all this!**

Transformation & Reflection:

What specifically is God speaking to you? _____

How are you going to respond? _____

Will you **pray with someone** and make your confession, **ask the Holy Spirit to transform you**.

God is very clear about love and He wants you to enjoy your loving relationship with your spouse. Under all conditions, have you committed to your marriage for your lifetime? _____

Will you commit to having an undefiled bed for a lifetime? _____

Discuss these questions with your spouse and enjoy your commitment to one another.

As a result of a great marriage, can you picture Rivers of Living Water flowing from your heart? _____

Your spouse will be the first one to know and recognize the joy that lies within you.

TRANSFORMATION from MEDIOCRITY #3 – GOD’S DESIGN for a PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE

YOUR MARRIAGE - COMMITMENT SUMMARY

PURPOSE of your MARRIAGE: _____

VISION: _____

GOALS: _____

- marriage _____
- your life together _____
- your family _____
- your work _____
- financially _____
- in the Church _____
- others: _____

What is God calling you to pray about regarding barriers to having a PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE?

SPOUSE 1:

SPOUSE 2:

What Transformation Projects have you chosen that will overcome Barriers?

Spouse 1:

Spouse 2:

From this Prosperous Marriage Study, what are the key points that you must gain Mastery of?

How has God transformed you during this study? _____

What has impacted you most? _____

As a result of your hard work, and God's input into your life, your marriage will substantially improve. What is now needed is your **commitment to follow through on His plan!**

We, _____ and _____ commit to the Lord that we will abide by our plan and finish it, for the **GLORY OF GOD!**

Spouse 1

Date

Spouse 2

Date

You and your spouse should Pray before someone and confess the **COMMITMENT** you have made. It would be good if you felt led of the Lord, to have a **RECOMMITMENT CEREMONY** to a **LIFETIME MARRIAGE** that will be full of adventure led by the Spirit of God.

IV. PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE CONCLUSION

Congratulations, you are now on the **journey of having a prosperous marriage**. The Prosperous Marriage is dependent upon a **prosperous relationship with the Lord** – when each of you are **“one with Him”**! This puts us in the posture of being “one with one another”. As a result of your reflection, work and Transformation & Reflection Exercises, you are experiencing a healthier relationship now. **Transformation of our heart & life is a requirement** for one to experience a Glorious Marriage. This comes with the expectation that one wants to be transforming **into the “Image of Jesus”**, to be just like Him, John 14:12. God wants us to excel in our marriage and therefore receive all His Blessings. He wants to see the Rivers of Living Waters flowing from our marriage.

This is the beginning of your journey, meeting monthly with one another would be advisable, sharing the progress you are making. As you meet, you will continue to update your plan for success and recognize your successes and setbacks. We know it will be tough at times, but just **keep going! Don’t ever give up!** You are going to find **great satisfaction and celebration** from an on-going pursuit of having a Prosperous Marriage. **Be led by the Spirit!** This study is **God’s Plan** written in Scripture! God’s Plan for a PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE will succeed and therefore, so will you!

Ecc 4:12 ...though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.

A three-strand cord is not quickly broken.

(You, your spouse, and God’s Holy Spirit are unbreakable!)

**CONGRATULATIONS & MAY GOD BLESS YOU & SHOWER YOU WITH
HIS BLESSING & FAVOR!!**

We love you!!



HEART TRANSFORMATION INT'L

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www.hearttransformation.org

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