

How Do You Know?

Part Seven

(For Life, Extended)

Please consider the matter of lifestyle sacrifice, as you read the following Scripture:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

(Philippians 3:7-15)

Maybe, it would be helpful if you fixed *the mark* in your mind, in this exercise, too; however, as pertains to marital unions of male and female, the mark is more on the natural level. We say that, because; we think that, after rounding the bases of pursuit of one another . . .

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

(Genesis 2:22-23)

. . . You will need to give significant time to consideration of, home running, as on two levels: final goal, and, continued family fellowship.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

(Genesis 2:24)

With, or without, pregnancy, this is the reason for marriage. This is an especially important consideration; because; it is valid, even when there is no possibility of bearing children. Physical contact is a primary need of humans. Please, do not, ever, neglect this aspect of the relationship.

Yes, we know that; sometimes, a couple will be heavily interested in expanding the family, as a pressing desire, in one, or both, positions. In other words; we know that; in many marriages, having children will be a desired thing. Most times, that will be done without great pressure. At other times, the couple will be as this one (with some adjustment, to fit their unique situation).

*Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite: And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah:
and Peninnah had children,
but Hannah had no children.
(1 Samuel 1:1-2)*

As adjusting your thought, to refit it to a modern setting; displace one of the participants, thusly: think of Peninnah as representing the group of vocal friends that already have children. Then; after that displacement, concentrate on the wrapper that covers Elkanah and Hannah. These two were under pressure to prove the strength of the relationship, as applied by the customs of their time. Yes, this, too, will have affect home running in the union.

By the record of the home life of Elkanah and Hannah, it seems apparent that Elkanah and Hannah were sexually active. It seems that the commandment of Genesis 2:24 was indeed active in their spirit; so, the physical contact could have been sufficient. For the man, it seems that physical contact was definitely enough, as seen in the diligence about her continued peace with God.

*And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.
(1 Samuel 1:3-5)*

It is also obvious that; for the woman, physical contact was not enough.

And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because

the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk.

Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

(1 Samuel 1:6-10)

Therefore, the couple was not okay--as they say--period! As replacing physical contact and childbearing, we can substitute a vast number of lopsided expectations in the place of quiet discord about parenting. Across all of these, it will require the LORD'S continued presence, to bridge the gap. It is wise to always remember that; only the LORD can maintain the joined life in which you, the couple in God's coat of union, abide.

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

(Psalm 50:14-15)

As we call on the LORD, we need to be ready to respond as the LORD tells us to. This is true, even though the response has to be pulled from attitudes that we have fixed in our self as being our chosen way of relating to the other occupant of the coat. Let us look at the core of the attitudes--of the female and of the male--that are fixed in the components of the marriage between a man and a woman.

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#### [The Man as Husband]

The man needs to be ready to commit himself to telling his self that it must yearn for the following gift from the woman: for her to bring him, her doubts, fears, hopes, and wishes, as sharing before the LORD. Yes, you read that right. The husband has to be ready to stand in the place of the LORD, in the life of the wife. Yes, this is a difficult thing for carnal man to do; wherefore, the man must lean on the insight of these words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of*

*a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.  
When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying,  
Who then can be saved?  
But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible;  
but with God all things are possible.  
(Matthew 19:24-26)*

Careful consideration of the route that takes us to capability is of utmost importance, with all due diligence. There are no schools that can train a man in, how to be a good husband. Even if we allow that, there are some people that are trained to provide remediation of partnership conflicts; still, we will not allow that, there is any human that can tell a particular man how to interface with his life's partner, which is--both, singularly, and, as joined--the woman that is his wife. The parameters that go into a life are too numerous for anyone to ever be able to catalog them for every situation of others' lives. Moreover, the possible ways in which even two of these factors can relate is far beyond any counting system that can ever be imagined. This requires the Intellect that told us this . . .

*Remember this, and show yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

. . .

(Isaiah 46:8-10)

As an offset to absolute knowledge of possible interactions, the thing that the man must bring to the equation is this: for him to believe that the LORD is always in the relationship. There may be some people who think that this means that, we must always stand perfectly in concord with the LORD. Such a thought is neither accurate, nor is it possible. We will have times when we will move outside of agreement, even with God. This is the nature of being human, and this is something that, the LORD, not only knows, but, too, God designed into us. The scattered thinking is a thing that is as old as this event.

*And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly.*

*And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.  
And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

(Genesis 11:1-4)

As occurred, then; so, too, we will experience the LORD'S challenge, now. In no wise will we be abandoned or discarded. As occurred here; we will be challenged to work our way back to the understanding of, God's way as the bridge of connection for our forward progression.

*And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

*So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

(Genesis 11:5-9)

Men, you must be ready to walk through the noise of diversity. Particularly, you must be ready to walk through the discomfort of diverse desires that come from your wife. In a tangential way, I liken this to a certain discord that the apostle Paul felt about a certain pressure that was in his life; however, in the matter of joining, it is not Satan that is providing the stress, but, rather, it is from the LORD. So, with that adjustment to the following Scripture; consider this to be the way that the LORD responds, sometimes, to the husband's request for respite from the challenge that could be posed by a truth of her life that the wife shares with him.

*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

Listening to the wife is not an option. Listening to the wife is not a temporary allowance. Listening to the wife is a necessity for a strong marriage. Additionally; for you to be able to handle the pressure that is a part of listening to the wife, this is mandatory. We need not be wary of doing so. We need only to rely on the truth of Scripture; for, in

Scripture, you, O husband, have the answer as to how to do that.

*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

(Philippians 4:10-13)

Also, in Scripture, O husband; you have the method that you can use, to achieve the end of; being able to receive the desires of the heart of the wife. Actually; the method is fairly simple, when the husband removes any hint of prior personal accomplishment. This is a time when, the man must behave as if he is a modern executive of a thriving corporation. This is a time when, the husband must delegate the actual work to another, much Higher Source. Never be ashamed to do so.

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

(John 14:12-15)

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[The Woman as Wife]

Nestling in the coat, by the husband's side, the wife has expectations for the feel of the coat. In thinking about this, I am reminded of a certain friend that I had. This friend was one that could tell the quality of a garment by the feel of the fabric. This is the sort of thing that the woman does, as pertains to the coat that is covering the relationship. She does not care that, there are voices that tell her; how much relationship capital the man spent to acquire this relationship. Instead, the wife is concerned about the feel of the relationship, as it pulls them together. Consider this: do you think this woman was concerned about how much this garment cost?

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

(Mark 5:25-29)

The woman was not concerned about the cost of the Lord's garment. The woman was intent on receiving the healing power of that garment, as it was flowing from the man that was in it. The woman with the illness expressed the yearning of all wives that come to their husband for healing of a situation that they cannot control. In that case, the wife goes through this state, as pertains to her husband: she looks to him to cherish her; physically, first, mentally, second, and spiritually, over all. The woman with the illness would not have appreciated either, mental, or, spiritual, support until after she had been cherished in a physical fashion. This is the same principle that is expressed here.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

(James 2:14-17)

Please, never forget that: when you wrap with another, in the coat of union, in the marriage of man and woman; then, you have become a new creature. In that coat, there is a single being. Therein; whatever hurts one part of the being, hurts all parts.

I have not been able to isolate my stomach's aches from my mind's awareness of them. And, when my mind is aware of the stomach ache, it tells other parts not to move in a fashion that would aggravate the stomach. Therefore, other parts of my body have to contort themselves into practices that are not normally done. All this happens because there is only one control center for the entire body. Such is the way that the woman wants the man to react to things that create discord in her heart. Such is the way that a man of love will willingly respond. Scripture tells us why.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

(Ephesians 5:25-31)

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The LORD has given you, O man, the ability to share remediation with the wife. The power is in you, and it is referred to as virtue. It is my hope for you, O man; that, you release you virtue unto the LORD'S elected woman. It is my prayer that; you will be able to say what Jesus said, when he detected the sincere yearning of that woman, as being; a need that superseded *the press* of any other worldly affairs, considerations and challenges. For the sake of the completing blessing of the LORD, please concentrate on the union as being more worthy of you best, than anything that might be *thronging thee*.

*And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?*

*And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?*

*And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.*

*But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.*

*And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

(Mark 5:30-34)

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How do you know? Hopefully, you have determined that this is not a single question, for a single time.

How do you know? This is a question that has many repetitions, as life proceeds along the way to the consummation of the marriage of a man and woman. Even so, this is a question that has the same answer at every stage of the development of the relationship, and with each repetition of the question.

How do you know? The answer is this: move out of your self, and abide only in the glory of the LORD.

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Let your self serve the LORD with the same level of blessed abandon of your will and preferences--together, as singularly--as is the devotion of those other servants of the LORD God. It is through the fruit of this service that, you will know.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of

