THE RIGHT SOURCE FOR HEALING A MARRIAGE

Your Path To
Marital Healing

A major part of your life involves relationships. One of the most difficult but most rewarding relationships is marriage. Jesus deals with those things that are causing struggles. He can teach you and empower you to win in your marriage relationship.

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Introduction

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Jesus and His Biblical principles use His powerful systems that draw your attention to very exciting and enjoyable characteristics. They actually drive out negative problems in your marriage. Your relationship will become fun to be a part of, while dealing with struggles in a healing way. Rather than having to argue with, discuss, disagree with, and accuse each other, Jesus teaches positive ways of getting rid of negative issues in your marriage.

Jesus will use the Bible to show you how to solve your problems without having to force the solutions on your spouse. You will become willing to trade and force out bad activities with good ones. You will find yourselves majoring on enjoying one another and doing great things for each other from your heart.

The reason couples enjoy their marriage relationship with Jesus is because He helps the "individuals" in the relationship become unified. Rather than each person representing themselves, they start working on what is best for the whole. Jesus helps you and your spouse see that you are a team. He uses the power of His love to help you want to do what is best for the relationship. Once spouses truly become a team, they give up selfishness, self-interests, and self-centeredness. They care for each other so much that they want to make each other happy.

If this is the area where you are suffering the most, then start looking into the principles that are provided. If you can get your spouse to join you in this study, it will greatly increase the healing and speed up the process. However, if you are the only one to get involved, these Biblical principles will train you and empower you to be able to bring healing into the relationship.

Truth And Prayer Pages

Truth Pages: Jesus uses these pages to help you know how life really works. He said: **"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32 NIV)."** This is actually a two-step process. First, you must find out what the truth is. Then you must do what it takes to get that truth into your life, so you can be set free. In Matthew 7:7 Jesus said: **"*Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you (NIV)."**

Prayer Pages: Jesus uses these pages to lead you into asking Him to put the truths on the Truth Pages into your life. If you just read truths and don't ask for Jesus to put them into your life, then all you get is a lot of information—wonderful information—but just information. So, first there will be Truth Pages and then Prayer Pages for each day. The best way is to just read one, two-part, chapter a day and then spend the day talking to Jesus about what He taught and put into you. For example, it will be Chapter One – Truth and then Chapter One – Prayer.

Chapter One – Truth
Marriage

God Is All About Relationships

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Relationships that develop into love relationships are the ones that reach God's goal. He wants you to reach this goal with your spouse. So, He provided you with *His love* to use to reach that goal.

You may feel like you have already reached that goal. But, the issue is, what does God's love look like in real life? How does God's love affect how you feel, what you think, what you say, and what you do, in relationship with your spouse? When there is conflict, one or both spouses are not responding to God's love. Mark 12:30-31 gives you your first assignment of love.

What Brings Marital Solutions?

What does **love the Lord your God** have to do with loving your spouse? **James 4:8 (NIV) Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** What happens when you come near to God? He comes near to you. What happens when God comes near to you? Romans 8:28 starts to take place.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in *all things* God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. What happens when things start working for good in your marriage, in your life, and in your spouses' life? When there is a change in your heart, through God's love, you will get knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power to start solving the relational issues in your marriage.

I've Tried Everything

When you have tried everything and nothing works, you are using human effort. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.** This is a person who is a Christian; but, they are trying to live the Christian life through human effort. When you think, feel, say, and do things, in your relationship with your spouse that are not good, you aren't getting the benefits of being a Christian.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do: Your spouse may be making a lot of mistakes and treating you with a lot of bad behavior. And, if it is verbal or physical abuse, then you may need to solve your marital problems from a distance. Jesus will show you some Scriptures about that later. But, whether in person or from a distance, Jesus wants to deal with you first. You can change you a lot easier than you can change your spouse.

You May Not Like This

Here is how to help your spouse get better: **Mat 7:3-5 (NIV) Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

What is the first step in helping your spouse treat you better? **First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.** Few people believe they have a plank in their eye. They are totally convinced that others have planks in their eyes. But, most spouses believe their partner has the plank and they have the speck. However, Jesus is telling you that you have a plank that needs to be removed.

A Reverse Role

If you have a spouse who is going through these studies and prayers together with you, then the ideal situation can be established. You are to go to Jesus and allow Him to show you all the thing that are wrong with you, as it relates to the way you are treating your spouse. And, your spouse is to do the same thing. This can be the hardest thing you have ever done. If your spouse isn't doing this with you, you are still to find out what you are doing wrong.

Eph 6:7 (NIV) Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. At this point you may not want to make any improvements in your relationship with your spouse. But, Jesus is telling you that you are doing this for Him and not your spouse. He wants you to allow Him to help you become the very best person you can be. And, as you improve, typically your spouse improves.

God's Love

You Already Have It

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God *has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. One thing a lot of Christians don't know is, even though they have all kinds of provisions of God, they aren't taking advantage of them. It is like having a million dollars in the bank. It is yours; you can do what you want with it; but, you can't do anything with it, if you don't draw some of it out.

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. Even though a million dollars is in your account, you still have to "do what it takes" to get it out. Jesus wants to help *you* be the very best spouse you can be. The love of God is already in your heart; but, you have to yield to it. Typically, none of those things God has given you, because you are His child, will be forced on you.

How Do You Yield To God's Love?

A lot of Christians weren't taught how to get those things, that God has given them, out of the "bank," so they can take advantage of the fact that they are already theirs. You need to let Jesus take you through a quick study and prayer time dealing with taking advantage of what is yours. You have a God-given free will; so, things stay in your spiritual "bank account" until you decide to "draw" them out.

Jesus needs to take you back to the procedure for how you got saved. Those who led you to Jesus were supposed to have taught you that you are to use the procedures on everything that you used for getting saved. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.** This is how you start yielding to God's love.

How Did You Get Saved?
The main procedure for activating everything that is yours is presented in Romans 10:8. Then in the next two verses the way this **word of faith** procedure is used for salvation is presented: **Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your *mouth*, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your *heart* that God raised Him from the dead, you *will* be saved. For it is with your *heart* that you believe and are justified, and it is with your *mouth* that you confess and are saved.**

You used the **word of faith** procedure, presented in Romans 10:8. But, you customized it according to Romans 10:9-10, and you were saved. Because you used this **word of faith** procedure, you instantly became a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. This **word of faith** procedure is extremely powerful. And, it is vital that you use it on everything you want to start taking advantage of for your life.

Chapter One – Prayer
Marriage

God Is All About Relationships

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Jesus, You help me develop all my relationships into love relationships; since that is God's goal, help that always be my goal as well. Help me especially reach this goal with my spouse. Empower me to take advantage of the fact that You provided me with *God's love,* so I can reach that goal.

Jesus, if I feel like I have already reached that goal, help me find out what God's love looks like in real life. Show me how God's love affects my feelings, what I think, what I say, and what I do, in my relationship with my spouse. When there is conflict in my marriage relationship, help me realize that one or both of us are not responding to God's love. Help me see that Mark 12:30-31 lays out where my first assignment of love must be.

What Brings Marital Solutions?

Jesus, what does **love the Lord your God** have to do with loving my spouse? **James 4:8 (NIV) Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** What happens when I come near to God? Help me believe that He comes near to me. What happens when God comes near to me? Show me that Romans 8:28 starts to take place.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that <u>in *all things* God works for the good of those who love Him</u>, who have been called according to His purpose. Jesus, what happens, when things start working for good in my marriage, in my life, and in my spouses' life? Help me understand that, when there is a change in my heart, through God's love, I will get knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power to start solving the relational issuse in my marriage.

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Jesus, when I have tried everything and nothing works, I am using human effort. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do.** Jesus, teach me that this is a person who is a Christian; but, they are trying to live the Christian life through human effort. When I think, feel, say, and do things, in my relationship with my spouse that are not good, help me realize that I am not getting the benefits of being a Christian.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do: Jesus, my spouse may be making a lot of mistakes and treating me with a lot of bad behavior. And, if it is verbal or physical abuse, then I may need to solve my marital problems from a distance. If that is happening to me, teach me some Scriptures about that as soon as possible. But, whether in person or from a distance, help me see that You want to deal with me first. I will find that I can change me easier than I can change my spouse.

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Jesus, help me see that this is how to help my spouse get better: **Mat 7:3-5 (NIV) Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

Jesus, help me accept that this is the first step in helping my spouse treat me better. Help me **first take the plank out of** my **own eye, and <u>then</u> <u>I</u> <u>will see clearly to remove the speck from</u>** <u>my spouse's</u> **<u>eye</u>.** It is hard for me to believe I have a plank in my eye. It seems to me that my spouse has the plank in their eyes. Help me believe that I have the plank and they have the speck. Help me accept that, You are telling me that I have a plank that needs to be removed.

A Reverse Role

Jesus, if I have a spouse, who is going through these studies and prayers together with me, then You have helped me have the ideal situation. I am to go to You and allow You to show me all the thing that are wrong with me, as it relates to the way I am treating my spouse. And, my spouse is to do the same thing. This can be the hardest thing I have ever done. But, if my spouse isn't doing this with me, help me understand that I am still to find out what I am doing wrong.

Eph 6:7 (NIV) Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. Jesus, at this point I may not want to make any improvements in my relationship with my spouse. But, You are telling me that I am doing this for You and not my spouse. You want me to allow You to help me become the very best person I can be. And, help me see that, as I improve, typically my spouse will improve.

God's Love

I Already Have It

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God *has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Jesus, help me realize that, even though I have all kinds of provisions of God, I am not taking advantage of them. It is like I have a million dollars in the bank. It is mine; I can do what I want with it; but, I can't do anything with it, if I don't draw some of it out.

John 15:7 (NIV) If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. Jesus, help me keep in mind that, even if a million dollars is in my account, I still have to "do what it takes" to get it out. You want to help *me* be the very best spouse I can be. Even though the love of God is already in my heart, I still have to yield to it. Show me that, typically, none of those things God has given me, will be forced on me.

How Do I Yield To God's Love?

Jesus, I wasn't taught how to get those things, that God has given me, out of the "bank," so I can take advantage of the fact that they are already mine. Take me through a study and prayer time dealing with taking advantage of what is mine. Help me be aware that I have a God-given free will. Things stay in my spiritual "bank account" until I decide to "draw" them out.

Jesus, take me back to the procedure for how I got saved. Help me understand that those who led me to You were supposed to have taught me this important procedure. I am to use the salvation procedures on everything that I used for getting saved. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.** Teach me that this is how I start yielding to God's love.

How Did I Get Saved?

Jesus, show me that the main procedure for activating everything that is mine is presented in Romans 10:8. Help me see that in the next two verses You have provided the way for this **word of faith** procedure to be used for salvation.

Romans 10:9-10 That if I confess with my *mouth*, "You are Lord," and believe in my *heart* that God raised You from the dead, I *will* be saved. For it is with my *heart* that I believe and am justified, and it is with my *mouth* that I confess and am saved.

Jesus, You helped me use the **word of faith** procedure, presented in Romans 10:8. But, You helped me customize it according to Romans 10:9-10, and I was saved. Because I used this **word of faith** procedure, I instantly became a child of God, a member of Your family, and a citizen of Your eternal Kingdom. Help me understand that this **word of faith** procedure is extremely powerful. And, it is vital that I use it on everything I want to start taking advantage of for my life.

Chapter Two – Truth
Enhancing Your Marriage

Getting The Plank Out Of Your Eye

Mat 7:3-5 (NIV) Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Jesus is helping you do your part to make sure the marriage relationship is getting the best from you. If your spouse is doing this with you, then they are doing the same. However, Jesus want you to let Him help you concentrate on you. You are getting ready to see what God's love is able to do in and through you, so you can provide the marriage relationship with God's love. However, even though you have God's love, you must know how to yield to it.

Things That Block God's Love

You applied Romans 10:8-10 and this is what happened to you: **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** Is this what you are experiencing? Are you living a totally sinless life, where all your old life is gone and you are now living a new, righteous life? No one else is either; and, that included Paul.

In Romans 7:19 Paul describes the life of the new and untrained Christian: **For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing (NIV).** It happened to him and it happens to every new Christian. And sadly, it is still happening to the untrained Christian. Many are still there, because no one taught them how to go to Jesus and get their new life activated. Typically, nothing is forced on the Christian by God.

It All Belongs To You

God's Love Belongs To You

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come: You can live like this, in your marriage, if you know how to apply the **word of faith** procedure. Jesus uses it to help you learn how to use your mouth and heart to start activating those things that you inherited the moment you were born again. For the rest of your life, you will be using the **word of faith** procedure to get rid of bad things and activate righteous things.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, there is a list of descriptions for what God's love looks like in your life: **1 Cor 13:4-8a (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.** Does that sound like the love you have for your spouse?

Your First Assignment

If you are like every other Christian, there will be a lot of areas in this list that you haven't activated yet. Let Jesus help you with the first one, as He teaches you how to apply the **word of faith** procedure to it: **Love is patient.** If you are not as **patient** with your spouse, all day long, like you should be. Then this is an area where you are still suffering with the Romans 7:15 issue.

Rom 7:15 (NIV) <u>I do not understand what I do</u>. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. If this is your attitude about the type of **patience** you are providing your spouse, all during your day, then you are ready to let Jesus start helping you get the **plank** out of your eye. It is *easier* for your spouse to treat you patiently, if you are treating them that way. That doesn't mean they will; but it gives them a better environment, so they could, if they are willing.

Applying The Procedure

You Must Believe It

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; <u>it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*</u>," that is, <u>the word of faith</u> we are proclaiming. What if you had a million dollars in the bank but didn't know it or didn't know how to get it out? In that case, you could live in poverty for as long as you stayed in that condition. That is what is happening to a lot of Christians.

Romans 5:5 says you have God's love **poured** into your heart. If something is already yours, then you can use the **word of faith** procedure on it. But, if you don't believe you have it or don't know you have it, you won't be willing to say with your *mouth:* "I have the patience provided me through God's love." This would be based on the fact that you believe, in your *heart* that you have the patience provided you through God's love.

Your Faith Comes From Jesus

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Every time you need to believe something in your heart, it all starts with Jesus and the Bible. If you don't believe it in your heart, then it will be impossible for you to truly confess it with your mouth.

Once again, it all started at the moment you "did what it took" to become a Christian. Romans 10:17 explains how you were able to **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.** You were only able to do that, because you actually believed that was true. Jesus empowered you to believe that was true by speaking faith into you, so you could.

Jesus Makes It All Possible

The Good News Message

Rom 10:17 (NIV) Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word (rhema) of Christ. In the Greek language that your Bible was translated into English from, there are two types of "word." There is the written word (logos) and there is the spoken word (rhema). So, Romans 10:17 actually says: Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the spoken word (rhema) of Christ.

When Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus is the Author of your faith, that means He authored it, by *speaking* your first faith into you. That empowered you to **believe in your heart that God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead.** By Him speaking faith into you, He also empowered you to **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord."** Just like you are to use the **word of faith** procedure for the rest of your life, you are to continue to look to Jesus to speak faith into you for those things you need.

It Has To Be Real

If Jesus didn't speak faith into you, through the gospel message, you would **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"** and it would not be real to you. You wouldn't be able to **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.** Christianity is supernatural; if Jesus weren't the living Christ, none of this would work. The whole Bible only works based on its total dependency that God is alive, real, and actively involved in all of Christianity.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith: You won't be able to believe anything in the Bible, without Jesus' supernatural faith. Romans 7:15-24 is describing a person trying to use human faith, effort, and reasoning. Since Christianity is all supernatural, it takes Jesus working in, with, for, to, and through you. As it says in John 15:5b: **Apart from Me you can do nothing.**

Chapter Two – Prayer
Enhancing My Marriage

Getting The Plank Out Of My Eye

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Jesus, help me do my part to make sure the marriage relationship is getting the best from me. If my spouse is doing this with me, then help me see that we are getting the full benefit. However, help me concentrate on me. Help me see what God's love is able to do in and through me, so I can provide the marriage relationship with God's love. However, even though I have God's love, teach me how to yield to it.

Things That Block God's Love

Jesus, help me realize that, since I have applied Romans 10:8-10, this is what has happened to me: **2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** Is this what I am experiencing? Am I living a totally sinless life, where all my old life is gone and I am now living a new, righteous life? No! But, help me see that no one else is either; and, that included Paul.

Jesus, in Romans 7:19 You had Paul describe the life of the new and untrained Christian: **For what I do is not the good I *want* to do; no, the evil *I do not want* to do--this I keep on doing (NIV).** Help me understand that it happened to him and it happens to every new Christian. And sadly, it is still happening to me, as an untrained Christian. Help me understand that I am still there, because no one has taught me how to go to You and get my new life activated. Teach me that, typically, nothing is forced on the Christian, by God.

It All Belongs To Me

God's Love Belongs To Me

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come: Jesus, help me believe I can live like this, in my marriage, if I know how to apply the **word of faith** procedure. You use it to help me learn how to use my mouth and heart to start activating those things that I inherited the moment I was born again. Help me realize that, for the rest of my life, I will be using the **word of faith** procedure to get rid of bad things and activate righteous things.

Jesus, teach me the 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a list of descriptions for what God's love is to look like in my life: **1 Cor 13:4-8a (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.** Help me see whether or not that sounds like the love I have for my spouse.

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Jesus, show me that, if I am like every other Christian, there will be a lot of areas in this list that I haven't activated yet. Help me with the first one, as You teach me how to apply the **word of faith** procedure to it: **Love is patient.** If I am not as **patient** with my spouse, all day long, like I should be, then help me with this area, where I am still suffering with the Romans 7:15 issue.

Rom 7:15 (NIV) <u>I do not understand what I do</u>. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. Jesus, if this is my attitude, about the type of **patience** I am providing my spouse, then I am ready. But, if it isn't, help me get the Romans 7:15 attitude in my heart first.

Jesus, once I have the Romans 7:15 attitude, help me have **patience** with my spouse all during my day. I am ready to let You start helping me get the **plank** out of my eye. Show me that it is *easier* for my spouse to treat me **patiently**, if I am treating them that way. That doesn't mean they will; but it gives them a better environment, so they can, if they are willing.

I'm Applying The Procedure

I Must Believe It

Romans 10:8 modified: But what does it say? "The word is near me; <u>it is in my *mouth* and in my *heart*</u>," that is, <u>the word of faith</u> I am proclaiming. Jesus, if I had a million dollars in the bank but didn't know it or didn't know how to get it out, I could live in poverty for as long as I stayed in that condition. Help me see that this is what is happening to a lot of Christians.

Jesus, Romans 5:5 says I have God's love **poured** into my heart. Teach me that, if something is already mine, then I can use the **word of faith** procedure on it. But, if I don't believe I have it or don't know I have it, I won't be willing to say with my *mouth:* "I have the **patience** provided me through God's love." Help me base this on the fact that I believe, in my *heart* that I have the **patience** provided me through God's love.

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Jesus, once again, help me realize that it all started at the moment I "did what it took" to become a Christian. Let Romans 10:17 explain how I was able to **confess with my mouth, "**You **are Lord," and believe in** my **heart that God raised** You **from the dead.** Help me see that I was only able to do that, because I actually believed that was true. You empowered me to believe that was true, by speaking faith into me, so I could.

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Jesus, when Hebrews 12:2 says You are the Author of my faith, that means You authored it, by *speaking* my first faith into me. That empowered me to **believe in my heart that God raised *You* from the dead.** Help me see that by You speaking faith into me, You also empowered me to **confess with** my **mouth, "**You **are Lord."** Now help me see that I am to use the **word of faith** procedure for the rest of my life. Help me continue to look to You to speak faith into me for those things I need.

It Has To Be Real

Jesus, help me understand that, if You didn't speak faith into me, through the gospel message, I would **confess with** my **mouth, "**You **are Lord,"** and it would not be real to me. I wouldn't be able to **believe in** my **heart that God raised** You **from the dead.**

Jesus, make it clear to me that Christianity is supernatural. If You weren't the *living* Christ, none of this would work. Help me realize that the whole Bible only works, based on its total dependency that God is alive, real, and actively involved in all of Christianity.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) <u>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus</u>, the Author and Perfecter of our faith: Jesus, help me see that I won't be able to believe anything in the Bible, without Your supernatural faith. Teach me that Romans 7:15-24 is describing a person trying to use human faith, effort, and reasoning. Since Christianity is all supernatural, it takes You working in, with, for, to, and through me. As it says in John 15:5b: **Apart from Me you can do nothing,** help me base my life on that fact.

Chapter Three – Truth
The Three Keys To All Of Christianity

STEP ONE: ASK

Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you. The next thing the Bible says about God's love is: **Love is kind.** Since God's love is already in you and you are just trying to learn how to yield to it, you need Jesus to help you become **kind**. If you can see some areas where you haven't been all that kind to your spouse, you would *ask* for Jesus' help.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, <u>the Author and Perfecter of our faith</u>, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Since you are going to be believing something with your heart and confessing what you believe with your mouth, then obviously Jesus will have to have spoken faith into you for it. This is where you get involved with The Three Keys To All Of Christianity which are *ask, seek,* and *knock*. You want Jesus to speak faith into you, so you can confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God's love is producing supernatural **kindness** in you. So you ask Him to speak faith into you for it.

The Ask Key Resistance Factor

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, <u>how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who *ask* Him</u>! Let's say you have the worst spouse in the world and they wouldn't respond to you being nice to them, no matter what. Would it hurt you to *ask* Jesus to empower you to become a kind person?

One of the great fears of some Christians, who are starting to yield to God's love is, they are afraid someone would use their kindness and take advantage of them. You can relax; Jesus isn't going to teach you how to yield to God's love and turn you into a gullible, timid, people-pleasing, abused person. If that happened to you, no one would want what you have. Jesus is giving you a type of Christianity that can cause people to ask you how you became such a happy person.

STEP TWO: Believe

Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see. You keep asking Jesus to speak faith into you until you experience Hebrews 11:1. The thing to learn about the *ask key* is that you keep *asking* until you become **sure** and **certain** that **kindness** is in your heart. It isn't that kindness just got there; it has been there from the moment of salvation, it is just that you now believe it's there.

STEP THREE: Confess

There are two types of confession: Confessing to Jesus that you have sinned and confessing what it is. Then there is this kind of confession, where you confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart. It is a confession of the truth, where you admit it is God's truth and you have that truth operating in your life. But, you can't confess something that you don't believe.

Once Jesus speaks faith into you for believing that kindness is in your heart, you can start confessing that kindness is in your heart. Any time you do something unkind to your spouse, you stop and confess that kindness is in your heart, tell your spouse you are sorry for the unkind treatment, and then yield to kindness.

STEP FOUR: Commit

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary <u>in doing good</u>, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Ask Jesus to help you be committed to your faith that kindness *is* in your heart. If you are a normal human, you *will* think, feel, say, and do unkind things to your spouse. But, by not getting **weary in doing good,** you stop, ask Jesus to help you to apologize, apologize, ask Jesus to empower you to yield to kindness, and yield to kindness.

STEP FIVE: Live It

Christianity is lived moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. As you are going through your day, you will mess up and not yield to kindness. You are having to practice the elements of God's love during your time with your spouse. They will say or do something that will push you away from being kind to them. You will have to stop and ask Jesus for His power to be kind anyway. But, you may not do that at first. It may not even come into your mind during that issue.

Even if you have a major breakdown in your relationship with your spouse and it lasts for hours, when you finally realize you aren't yielding to kindness, you need to stop and ask Jesus to empower you to yield to God's power-kindness. You then ask Jesus to help you go to your spouse and apologize for the *way* you handled the issue. The issue may still need to be dealt with; but, it must be dealt with through kindness.

STEP SIX: Be Thankful

It is very important for you to let Jesus know how much you appreciate the breakthroughs, miracles, and blessings He is giving you. First of all, be looking for these things all during your day. Second, as Jesus to help you see them. Third, give Jesus credit for them rather than explaining them away as coincidents, accidents, random events, luck, karma, or something you deserve. Fourth, tell Him how much you love Him and appreciate each thing that comes your way. Praise and thank Him for all of them.

You Are A New Creation

This Applies To You

Mark 12:31 (NIV) The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Loving your spouse **as yourself** involves a type of self-love that involves humility. Jesus' love that He gives you, so you can love yourself and not enter into pride deals with who made you who you are. When you were a person that you developed, if you loved yourself, you would become selfish, self-centered, and narcissistic.

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! You didn't do this; God did! This new you is to be loved, appreciated, and shared, because of the great job God did in making you this way. You will be loving your spouse just like you love your new self that God created. However, the new you isn't forced on you. You can revert back to any parts of the old you, when you want to; you have a God-given free will.

Chapter Three – Prayer
The Three Keys To All Of Christianity

STEP ONE: Ask

Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you. Jesus, teach me the next thing the Bible says about God's love. Empower me to live out the fact that **love is kind.** Since God's love is already in me and I am just trying to learn how to yield to it, help me become **kind**. If I can see some areas where I haven't been all that **kind** to my spouse, I *ask* for Your help.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, <u>the Author and Perfecter of our faith</u>, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus, since I am going to be believing something with my heart and confessing what I believe with my mouth, then obviously You will have to have spoken faith into me for it. So, teach me that this is where I get involved with The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. Help me be aware that they are *ask, seek,* and *knock*. Speak faith into me, so I can confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that God's love is producing supernatural **kindness** in me. So, I ask You to speak faith into me for it.

The Ask Key Resistance Factor

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, <u>how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who *ask* Him</u>! Jesus, even if I have the worst spouse in the world and they won't respond to me being nice, I still *ask* You to empower me to become a **kind** person.

Jesus, one of my great fears, as I start to yield to God's love is, I am afraid my spouse might use my **kindness** and take advantage of me. Help me relax and see that You aren't going to teach me how to yield to God's love and turn me into a gullible, timid, people-pleasing, abused person. Show me that, if that happened to me, no one would want what I have. You gave me a Christian life that can cause people to ask me how I became such a happy person.

STEP TWO: Believe

Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see. Jesus, help me keep asking You to speak faith into me until I experience Hebrews 11:1. Teach me that the main thing about *ask key* is that I keep *asking* until I become **sure** and **certain** that **kindness** is in my heart. Help me always understand that it isn't that **kindness** just got there; it has been there from the moment of salvation. Help me see it is just that I now believe it's there.

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Jesus, teach me that there are two types of confession: One is confessing to You that I have sinned and confessing what it is. Then there is this kind of confession, where I confess with my mouth what I believe in my heart. Show me that it is a confession of the truth, where I admit it is God's truth and I have that truth operating in my life. But, help me always realize that I can't confess something that I don't believe.

Jesus, show me that, once You speak faith into me, for believing that **kindness** is in my heart, I can start confessing that **kindness** is in my heart. Any time I do something unkind to my spouse, help me stop and confess that **kindness** is in my heart, tell my spouse I am sorry for the unkind treatment, and then yield to **kindness**.

STEP FOUR: Commit

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary <u>in doing good</u>, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Jesus, I ask You to help me be committed to my faith that **kindness** *is* in my heart. As a normal human, I *will* think, feel, say, and do unkind things to my spouse.

But, Jesus, every time I am unkind, help me, through not getting **weary in doing good,** always stop, ask You to empower me to apologize, help me apologize, help me ask You to empower me to yield to **kindness**, and then help me yield to **kind** behavior.

STEP FIVE: Live It

Jesus, teach me that Christianity is lived moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. As I am going through my day, I will mess up and not yield to **kindness**. Help me practice the elements of God's love during my time with my spouse. They will say or do something that will push me away from being **kind** to them. Help me stop and ask You for Your power to be **kind** anyway. But, help me realize that I may not do that at first. It may not even come into my mind at that *moment* during that *issue*.

Jesus, even if I have a major breakdown in my relationship with my spouse and it lasts for hours, when I finally realize I am not yielding to **kindness**, help me stop and ask You to empower me to yield to God's **power-kindness**. Then empower me to ask You to help me go to my spouse and apologize for the *way* I handled the *issue at that moment*. The issue may still need to be dealt with; but, help it must be dealt with through **kindness**.

STEP SIX: Be Thankful

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2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Jesus, help me realize that I didn't do this; God did! This new me is to be loved, appreciated, and shared, because of the great job God did in making me this way. Help me love my spouse, just like I love my new self that God created. However, help me always keep in mind that the new me isn't forced on me. I can revert back to any parts of the old me, when I want to; I have a God-given free will.

Chapter Four – Truth
Yielding To The New You

It Isn't Forced On You

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! As you start yielding to God's love, you are also yielding more and more to the new you. Since the new you isn't forced on you, even though you have it, you can use the Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** procedure to start basing your life on it.

The reason God's love was poured into your heart by the Holy Spirit at the time of your new birth (Rom 5:5), was so you could learn how to yield to it. Then, as you learned to yield to God's love, you were simultaneously yielding to the new you. You are going to be loving your spouse **as yourself.** If you are still yielding to your old self, then you and your spouse don't want you loving you or them **as yourself.**

Understanding The Old And The New

Rom 7:22 (NIV) For <u>in my inner being</u> I delight in God's law. This is the new you. You are a spirit being living in a body. Your inner being wants and actually delights in treating your spouse according to God's law of love. However, your body has a **sinful nature** in it. That sinful nature drives your body toward all kinds of wrong, bad, and even evil things. Your body is what is left of the old you.

Rom 7:23 (NIV) But I see another law at work <u>in the members of my body</u>, waging war against <u>the law of my mind</u> and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. When you feel the opposite feelings of the characteristics of God's love, that is the **sinful nature** in your body. **Rom 7:18 (NIV) I know that nothing good lives in me, <u>that is, in my *sinful nature*</u>. For <u>I have the desire to do what is good</u>, but I cannot carry it out.**

You Need Jesus' Help

Trading The Old For The New

Rom 7:24 (NIV) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Most Christians assume that their body is just a mechanism that doesn't have any influence on their walk with Jesus. They think it just does what they want it to do. So, when they are tempted to sin against their spouse, by doing unkind things to them, they assume that it is them. They don't know there is a spirit-being them and a body them.

Your body has survival drives, reproductive drives, pleasure drives, and all kinds of animalistic characteristics. Prior to Adam and Eve sinning by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the body was neutral and submitted to their spirit. You inherited a body with a **sinful nature** in it, because you are a descendant of Adam and Eve. Now, you must use supernatural, spiritual, Biblical principles to be able to force your body to yield to God's love.

Why Are You Struggling With Living God's Love?
Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) For if you live according to the *sinful nature*, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Since it is your body that is trying to yield to wrong, bad, and evil things, you, a spirit being, can join the Holy Spirit and feel good about fighting it. Your body is driving you to mistreat your spouse (Rom 7:20). You, a spirit being, delight in God's law of love (Rom 7:22).

Rom 7:20 (NIV) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. If it is you, the spirit being, doing it, you are fighting you; that hurts your esteem and confidence. But, if it is the body-you that you are fighting, you are fighting it; that protects your esteem and confidence.

You, the spirit being, isn't doing **what** you **do not want to do**. You, the body, with the **sinful nature** in it, is doing it. It is vital you understand this difference between the spirit you and the body-you.

You must not totally disown your body, however, because some Christians continue in sin and just blame it on their body. You are responsible for your body's behavior. You must let Jesus help you with it. **If *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.** You are now ready to join Jesus and stand on one side, while the deeds of your body are on the other side, and attack the wrong, bad, and evil deeds being said and done by it.

How Do You Work With The Holy Spirit?

Jesus Is Teaching You About Marriage Through The Spirit
John 16:13-15 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

As you can see, the Holy Spirit listens to Jesus and takes it and **guides you into all truth. All that belongs to the Father is** Jesus'. So, the Holy Spirit is your connection to Jesus; and Jesus is your connection to your heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit is in you, communicating with you Spirit-to-spirit. And, everything you hear in your spirit, is from Jesus and your heavenly Father. Jesus is using the Holy Spirit's connection to teach you everything you need to know about marriage from the Bible.

The Holy Spirit Is Helping You Not Mistreat Your Partner
John 16:8 (NIV) When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will *convict* the world of *guilt* in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. He makes you feel guilt, when you think, feel, say, or do wrong, bad, or evil things to or about your spouse. When He does, it is up to you to use God's power-attitude of **mourning** and repent to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you, empower you to never do it again, and help you go make it right with your spouse.

The Holy Spirit Is Helping You Love Your Partner
Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because <u>God has poured out His love into our hearts *by the Holy Spirit*</u>, Whom He has given us. The Holy Spirit empowers you to be able to yield to God's love. Even when you find it really hard to love your spouse, because of something they either did or didn't do, He empowers you to love *them* and not like the *deed* they did or failed to do.

Chapter Four – Prayer
I'm Yielding To The New Me

It Isn't Forced On Me

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Jesus, as I start yielding to God's love, help me realize that I am also yielding more and more to the new me. Since the new me isn't forced on me, even though I have it, help me use the Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** procedure to start basing my life on it.

Jesus, teach me that the reason God's love was poured into my heart, by the Holy Spirit, at the time of my new birth (Rom 5:5), was so I could learn how to yield to it. Then, as I learned to yield to God's love, I am simultaneously yielding to the new me. As that happens, help me be loving my spouse **as myself.** But, help me see that, if I am still yielding to my old self, then I and my spouse don't want me loving me or them **as myself.**

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Jesus, since it is my body that is trying to yield to wrong, bad, and evil things, help me see that I, a spirit being, can join the Holy Spirit and feel good about fighting it. Help me realize that my body is driving me to mistreat my spouse (Rom 7:20). I, a spirit being, delight in God's law of love (Rom 7:22).

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Jesus, teach me that I must not totally disown my body, because some Christians continue in sin and just blame it on their body. Make it clear to me that I will always be responsible for my body's behavior. Always help me with it. **If *by* the Spirit *you* put to death <u>the misdeeds of the body</u>, you will live.**

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Jesus, I can see that the Holy Spirit listens to You and takes it and **guides me into all truth. All that belongs to the Father is** Yours. So, help me understand that the Holy Spirit is my connection to You; and, You are my connection to my heavenly Father.

Jesus, help me always keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is in me, communicating with me Spirit-to-spirit. And, everything I hear in my spirit, is from You and my heavenly Father. You are using the Holy Spirit's connection to teach me everything I need to know about marriage from the Bible. Thank You for making all of this possible, by speaking faith in me, so I could "do what it takes" to be saved.

The Holy Spirit Is Helping Me Not Mistreat My Partner

John 16:8 (NIV) When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will *convict* the world of *guilt* in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. Jesus, thank You for providing me with the Holy Spirit, so I can feel guilt, when I think, feel, say, or do wrong, bad, or evil things to or about my spouse.

Jesus, when the Holy Spirit helps me feel guilt, help me see that it is up to me to use God's power-attitude of **mourning.** Help me ask for this power-attitude of **mourning,** so I can repent to You, asking You to forgive me, asking You to empower me to never do it again, and asking You to help me go make it right with my spouse.

The Holy Spirit Is Helping Me Love My Partner

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because <u>God has poured out His love into our hearts *by the Holy Spirit*</u>, Whom He has given us. Jesus, since the Holy Spirit empowers me to be able to yield to God's love. Even when I find it really hard to love my spouse, because of something they either did or didn't do, let Him empower me to love *them* and not like the *deed* they did do or failed to do.

Chapter Five – Truth
The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God - Part One

God's Power-Attitudes For A Relationship With You

Jesus is now taking you through how to deal with areas of failure. It is so much better to not have failures in your relationship with your spouse in the first place. The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, are the doors into being able to yield to God. They are eight power-attitudes from God that empower you to be open to all of God's relational provisions. They are not the provisions; they are the doors into the provisions.

The first four beatitudes are dealing with your attitudes in your relationship with God. The second four are dealing with your relationship with people. Here, Jesus will take you through the first four, which open the doors for you to be empowered by God to grow in your relationship with Him. Then you will be ready to be empowered to maintain good relationships with your spouse.

How To Be Poor In Spirit

Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. If you want to be blessed and want to spend eternity in the kingdom of heaven, you must be **poor in spirit.** That means you have God's power-attitude of being teachable, when He is trying to teach you something.

One of the major things that keep you from being willing to acknowledge that you did something wrong, is caused by self-esteem and self-confidence. This kind of esteem and confidence makes you think you are, your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. If you are thinking, feeling, saying, or doing something bad, you think you are a bad person. So, if your spouse accuses you of anything, you go into an *all-out* defense of yourself and your deed.

What Jesus is teaching you, through Romans 7:15-25, is God-esteem and God-confidence. You are not your deeds! If you, your body, does something wrong, bad, or evil, you can now join Jesus and ***by* the Spirit *you can* put to death the misdeeds of the body.** You no longer go into defense, when your spouse accuses you of something. You are able to ask Jesus to help you consider it. They may or may not be right; but, you don't go into a self-defense mode. You are **poor in spirit** with God.

Jesus is going to be showing you things in your thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds, where you are being unkind to your spouse. You are now back to the procedures of applying The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** system that you and Jesus have been working on, as you went through the Truth Pages and The Prayer Pages.

How To Mourn

Mat 5:4 (NIV) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. If you want to be blessed and you want to be comforted by God, then you need to have God's power-attitude of **mourning.** If your spouse points out some flaw in your behavior, you simply go to God to see if they are right. If He says they are, then you repent. This is a very important procedure.

1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. It doesn't matter who points out a mistake, misdeed, sin, or weakness in our life. It is vital that you take anything, anyone points out to you and take it to God. If you are involved in self-esteem and confidence, you will try to prove them wrong, justify it, explain it, ignore it, or forgive yourself for it. That could be putting you in a place of breaking 1 John 1:8.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If God says you did do something wrong or you do have that problem, join Jesus on His side against that misdeed of your body and attack it. Repent by telling Jesus you are sorry, ask *Him* to forgive you, thank Him for forgiving you, accept that forgiveness as final (do not try to forgive yourself, accept Jesus' forgiveness), then ask Jesus to empower you to go back to your spouse and make it right.

How To Be Meek
Mat 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. If you want to be blessed by God and want to rule and reign over the earth for a thousand years with Jesus, then you need to yield to God's power-attitude of being **meek** with Him. To be meek with God is to consider Him as your final authority. He becomes the final say on everything.

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Even if it doesn't make any sense to you, you know that God is right. And you know He loves you more than you love yourself. Rather than you being your best friend, you accept God as doing what is best for you.

Prov 3:5-6 (AKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Once you are doing this, your chances of being a great spouse will move you into the supernatural realm. Having God guide your relationship with your spouse, connects you to the greatest mind and heart in all of existence.

How To Hunger and Thirst For Righteousness
Mat 5:6 (NIV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. If you want to be blessed and you want to be filled with the power to only do good things to yourself, others, your spouse, and God's plan, then you will ask Jesus to give you this power-attitude of God. Righteousness is God's special power for relationships. He uses it to help you think, feel, say, and do things that are win-win relationships.

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But *seek first* His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. As you start doing this, it opens the door for you to get all your personal needs meet. God wants to meet all your needs; but, He wants you to use them through the power of His righteousness. When that happens, you use everything you have to create win-win situations with your spouse.

John 16:8 (NIV) When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. The Holy Spirit has been helping you with righteousness for most of your life. When you were thinking about doing something wrong, bad, or evil, He would cause you to feel guilty about it. Before you were a Christian, you typically went ahead and did most of them. But, He helped you know what was right and wrong, so you could know when you were hurting yourself, others, and God's plan.

Chapter Five – Prayer
The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God - Part One

God's Power-Attitudes For A Relationship With Me

Jesus, take me through, how to deal with areas of failure. It is so much better to not have failures in my relationship with my spouse in the first place. Teach me that the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, are the doors into being able to yield to God. Teach me these eight power-attitudes from God, so I can have the power to be open to all of God's relational provisions. Show me what it means that they are not the provisions; they are the doors into the provisions.

Jesus, help me understand that the first four beatitudes are dealing with my attitudes in my relationship with God. And, teach me that the second four are dealing with my relationship with people, like my spouse. Take me through the first four, and let them open the doors for me to be empowered by God to grow in my relationship with You. Then get me ready to be empowered to maintain good relationships with my spouse.

How To Be Poor In Spirit

Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. Jesus, I want to be blessed and want to spend eternity in the kingdom of heaven, so help me be **poor in spirit.** Give me God's power-attitude of being teachable, when You are trying to teach me something.

Jesus, make it clear to me that one of the major things that keep me from being willing to acknowledge that I did something wrong, is caused by self-esteem and self-confidence. Show me that this kind of esteem and confidence makes me think that I am, my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. If I am thinking, feeling, saying, or doing something bad, that makes me think I am a bad person. So, if my spouse accuses me of anything, I go into an *all-out* defense of myself and my deed. Set me free from self-esteem and self-confidence.

Jesus, teach me, through Romans 7:15-25, God-esteem and God-confidence. I am not my deeds! If I, my body, does something wrong, bad, or evil, I join You and, ***by* the Spirit,** *I can* **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** Help me no longer go into self-defense, when my spouse accuses me of something. Let me ask You to help me *consider* it. They may or may not be right; but, help me not go into a self-defense mode. I am **poor in spirit** with God.

Jesus, You are going to be showing me things in my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds, where I am being unkind to my spouse. Take me back to the procedures of applying The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** system that You and I have been working on, as we went through the Truth Pages and The Prayer Pages.

How To Mourn

Mat 5:4 (NIV) Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Jesus, I want to be blessed and I want to be comforted by God, so give me God's power-attitude of **mourning.** If my spouse points out some flaw, in my behavior, help me simply go to You, to see if they are right. If You say they are, then help me repent. Help me always apply this very important procedure.

1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Jesus, help me accept the fact that it doesn't matter who points out a mistake, misdeed, sin, or weakness in my life. Help me take anything, anyone points out to me and take it to You. Set me free from being involved in self-esteem and confidence, so I won't try to prove them wrong, justify it, explain it, ignore it, or forgive myself for it. That could put me in a place of breaking 1 John 1:8.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Jesus, if you say I did do something wrong or I do have that problem, help me join You, on Your side, against that misdeed of my body and attack it. Help me repent, by telling You I am sorry, help me ask *You* to forgive me, thank You for forgiving me, accept that forgiveness as final.

Jesus, help me not try to forgive myself. Instead, help me accept Your forgiveness. Then help me ask You to empower me to go back to my spouse and make it right.

How To Be Meek

Mat 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Jesus, I want to be blessed by God and want to rule and reign over the earth for a thousand years with You. So, help me yield to God's power-attitude of being **meek** with You. Teach me that to be meek with God, is to consider Him as my final authority. Help me accept Him and the Bible as the final say on everything.

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Jesus, even if it doesn't make sense to me, help me know God is right. Help me know He loves me more than I love myself. Rather than me being my best friend, help me accept that God is doing the best for me.

Prov 3:5-6 (AKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Jesus, help me see that, once I am doing this, my chances of being a great spouse, will move me into the supernatural realm. Make it real to me that having God guide my relationship with my spouse, connects me to the greatest mind and heart in all of existence.

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Mat 6:33 (NIV) But *seek first* His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. Jesus, as I start doing this, let it open the door for me to get all my personal needs meet. Help me believe that God wants to meet all my needs. But, He wants me to use them through the power of His righteousness. When that happens, help me use everything I have to create win-win situations with my spouse.

John 16:8 (NIV) When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will *convict* the world of *guilt* in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. Jesus, let me understand that the Holy Spirit has been helping me with righteousness for most of my life. When I was thinking about doing something wrong, bad, or evil, He would cause me to feel guilty about it. Before I was a Christian, I typically went ahead and did most of them. But, He helped me know what was right and wrong, so I could know when I was hurting myself, others, and God's plan.

Chapter Six – Truth
Moving Forward In God's Love

More Love Characteristics

Love does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. This process grows into a fairly large project. Love has a lot of wonderful aspects to it that will help you be the best spouse possible. This will give your spouse the very best person to have a relationship with.

For as long as it takes, you bring each one of these characteristics of God's love into the process of asking, believing, and confessing. With each one, you ask Jesus to give you the faith you need to believe you have it. You keep asking until you are **sure** and **certain** that you have it. Then you will be able to confess with your mouth that you have that characteristic. Confessing with your mouth is to bring your mind and heart into alignment with Jesus and the Bible.

Confessing The Truth

Romans 5:5 says you have God's love in your heart: **And hope does not disappoint us, because *God has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us (NIV).** It isn't a matter of you getting God's love; it is a matter of you yielding to God's love. So, as you interact with your spouse, it is important to treat them with the characteristics of God's love.

But, to just confess that you have God's love doesn't bring you into 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. It is an issue of your growing in the individual parts of God's love. However, with such a long list, it could be challenging for you to memorize and be able to refer to each one, as you are interacting with your spouse. So, it would be good for you to have a "working" copy to refer to. This is a lifetime of practicing this lifestyle.

Living God's Love

Practice, Practice, Practice

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. As you are spending time with your spouse, the Holy Spirit will cause you to fill a "check" in your emotions. You will feel an indication that you have done something wrong to your spouse. It typically is a feeling of guilt. You would then go to your list of characteristics of God's love. There you would look it over, while asking Jesus to help you see where you need help.

God's love is in you; you just didn't yield to a certain aspect of it. When that happens, you *ask* Jesus to help you yield to that certain part of God's love. You would then thank Him for hearing and answering your prayer, ask Him to help you go make it right with your spouse, and help you confess to them that you know you have God's love in your heart. Let them know, if they don't know already, what you are doing to be empowered to yield to every aspect of God's love.

Stick With Biblical Procedures

Gal 3:3 (NIV) Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? In your past, you used various techniques to try to get yourself to do the right thing. You may have made up your mind that you were going to do the right thing, got mad at yourself, used human guilt, tried to ignore it, forgiven yourself, justified yourself, explained it away, and any of a number of other human techniques.

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. This is the attitude of the *true* Christian. If you ever get to the place where you don't *want* to do good and *hate* doing bad, that is the moment you need to run to Jesus and ask Him to put this Romans 7:15 attitude back in your heart. However, there is an important thing you must realize, when you start struggling with doing good and quitting doing bad.

I do not understand what I do: From Romans 7:15 to 7:24, you are reading about a Christian, who is using human effort, human reasoning, and world training to try to live the Christian life. The new Christian does it, because they haven't had a chance to learn how to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. And, even though they used the **Word Of Faith** process to be saved, typically no one told them they were to use it in all their activities with Jesus.

Love Not Law

Letting God's Love Flow

Eph 5:24 (NIV) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Many have taken this Scripture out of the Bible. Every word in the Bible is subject to every other word in the Bible. This isn't a stand-alone Scripture; it must be used within complete Biblical context. If taken out of context, you would have wife-servitude.

Luke 14:26 (NIV) If anyone comes to Me and does not *hate* his father and mother, <u>his wife</u> and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--<u>he cannot be My disciple</u>. This is an example where the translators didn't make the "hate" word conform to the rest of the words in the Bible. You can't have the word "hate" here and then have the word "love" in Ephesians 5:25: **Husbands, *love* your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.**

God-given Free Will

<u>As the church submits to Christ</u>, so also wives *should* submit to their husbands in everything: How do we submit to Jesus? Does He force us to submit to Him? Or, do we always have the right to refuse, if we want to? Jesus' requirements of us are always right. Husband's needs, wants, requirements, and demands aren't. A wife's submission **in everything** must be weighed through the truths of the Bible.

Love Not Ritual

Love Growth

Rom 12:18 (NIV) If it is possible, <u>as far as it depends on you</u>, live at peace with everyone.

Not all of them, but a lot of women struggle with submission. And, not all of them, but a lot of men struggle with love. So, Jesus is dealing with the weaknesses of the husband and wife in the marriage. The thing for the wife to be praying for is to be empowered to learn how, when, and what to submit to. in their relationship with their husband. The thing for the husband to be praying for, is to be empowered to learn how, when, and what to love about their wife.

Eph 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Just like wives are not to submit to their husbands in areas where it would be abusive or unbiblical, so the husband is not to love their wife, where it would be abusive or unbiblical. The husband and wife's objective is to bring righteousness and holiness into the relationship.

Just like Jesus' objective for the Church is **to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless, in this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself (Eph 5:26-28 NIV).**

Chapter Six – Prayer
I'm Moving Forward In God's Love

More Love Characteristics

Love does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. Jesus, this process is growing into a fairly large project. Your love has a lot of wonderful aspects to it that I know will help me be the best possible spouse. Let this give my spouse the very best person to have a relationship with.

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I'm Living God's Love

I'm Practicing, Practicing, Practicing

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Jesus, as I am spending time with my spouse, help me realize that the Holy Spirit will cause me to fill a "check" in my emotions. I will get an indication that I have done something wrong to them. Help me expect it to typically be a feeling of guilt. Help me then go to my list of characteristics of God's love. And, there help me look it over, while asking You to let me see where I need help.

Jesus, since God's love is in me, and if I fail to yield to a certain aspect of it, empower me yield to *that* part of God's love. Then help me thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. Also, help me ask You to empower me go make it right with my spouse. And, help me confess to them that I know I have God's love in my heart. Help me let them know, if they don't know already, what I am doing to be empowered to yield to every aspect of God's love.

I'm Sticking With Biblical Procedures

Gal 3:3 (NIV) Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Jesus, as You know, in my past, I used various techniques to try to get myself to do the right thing. I tried making up my mind that I was going to do the right thing; I got mad at myself; I used human guilt; I tried to ignore it; I forgave myself; I justified myself; I tried explaining it away; and I tried a number of other human techniques.

Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. Jesus, teach me that this is the attitude of the *true* Christian. If I ever get to the place where I don't *want* to do good and *hate* doing bad, help me run to You and ask You to put this Romans 7:15 attitude back in my heart. However, help me see that there is an important thing I must realize, when I start struggling with doing good and quitting doing bad.

I do not understand what I do: Jesus, from Romans 7:15 to 7:24, help me understand that I am reading about a Christian, who is using human effort, human reasoning, and world training to try to live the Christian life. Help me realize that every new Christian starts out like this, because they haven't had a chance to learn how to apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. And, even though they used the **word of faith** process to be saved, typically no one told them they were to use it in all their activities with You.

Love Not Law

I'm Letting God's Love Flow

Eph 5:24 (NIV) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Jesus, it is Scriptures like this, that, if a wife doesn't know how to apply *ask, seek* and *knock,* they won't be able to obey it. However, help me see that many have taken this Scripture out of the Bible.

Jesus, teach me that every word in the Bible is subject to every other word in the Bible. Make it clear to me that this is not a stand-alone Scripture that can be used without complete Biblical context. If taken out of Biblical context, this Scripture could cause wife-servitude. Help me see how it must be applied, so as to create a win-win relationship in my marriage.

Luke 14:26 (NIV) If anyone comes to Me and does not *hate* his father and mother, <u>his wife</u> and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--<u>he cannot be My disciple</u>. Jesus, help me see that this is an example where the translators didn't make the "hate" word conform to the rest of the words in the Bible.

Jesus, help me understand that we can't have the word "hate" here and then have the word "love" in Ephesians 5:25: **Husbands, *love* your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.** Help me read the Bible, while allowing You to give me the right words in every sentence in my Bible translation. Let Your Holy Spirit guide me into all truths.

I Have A God-given Free Will

<u>As the church submits to Christ</u>, so also wives *should* submit to their husbands in everything: Jesus, how do we submit to You? Do You force us to submit to You? Or, do we always have the right to refuse, if we want to? Your requirements of us are always right. However, a husband's needs, wants, requirements, and demands aren't always right. Help me see that a wife's submission **in everything** must be weighed through the truths of the Bible; but, not based on her opinions.

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Love Growth

Rom 12:18 (NIV) If it is possible, <u>as far as it depends on you</u>, live at peace with everyone.

Jesus, help me understand that not all of them, but a lot of women struggle with submission. And, not all of them, but a lot of men struggle with love. So, help me see that You are dealing with the weaknesses of the husband and wife in the marriage. The thing You want the wife to be praying for, is to be empowered to learn how, when, and what to submit to in their relationship with their husband. And the thing You want the husband to be praying for, is to be empowered to learn how, when, and what to love about their wife.

Eph 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Jesus, show me that just like wives are not to submit to their husbands in areas where it would be abusive or unbiblical, so the husband is not to love their wife, where it would be abusive or unbiblical. Help me see that the husband and wife's objective is to bring righteousness and holiness into the relationship through love and submission.

Jesus, just like Your objective for the Church is **to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to** Yourself **as a radiant Church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless, in this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself (Eph 5:26-28 NIV).** Help me do my part in Your objective for my marriage.

Chapter Seven – Truth
The Husband And Wife Instruction

Spouses Submitting And Loving

Eph 5:22 (NIV) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. This is not a Scripture to the husband for him to quote to the wife. This is a wife-Scripture for her to work out with Jesus.

Eph 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. This is not a Scripture to the wife for her to quote to the husband. This is a husband-Scripture for him to work out with Jesus.

Every marriage is different; when two people enter into a relationship, there are two different personalities, spiritual conditions, and attitudes and character. The husband has no control over the wife's Scripture and the wife has no control over the husband's Scripture. These Scriptures aren't telling the other spouse to make sure their spouse submits or loves. It is telling the wife to **submit to your** husband **as to the Lord.** And, it is telling the husband to **love** their wife**, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.**

You Will Only Answer For Yourself
Only will the wife face Jesus on the judgment day concerning her issue. And, only will the husband face Jesus on the judgment day concerning his issue. They will individually stand alone; and they will answer to Jesus, as to how well they fulfilled *their* Scripture. It is each individual spouse's job to seek Jesus, as to what He wants them to do.

Rom 8:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <u>because through Christ Jesus *the law of the Spirit of life* set me free from *the law of sin and death*</u>. If a spouse starts trying to enforce their spouse's Scripture, they are sinning. That is the law of the Old Testament and not **the law of the Spirit of life.** In **the Spirit of life** law, each spouse answers to Jesus not to their spouse, as it relates to their Scripture.

The complexity of a marriage, keeps there from being a step-by-step set of instructions for how to fulfill these husband and wife Scriptures. The main issue is the words, **as to the Lord,** for the wife, as you develop your relationship with Jesus, it will give you great guidance for how to treat your husband. The main issue is the words, **as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,** for the husband, as you develop your relationship with Jesus, it will give you great guidance for how to treat your wife.

What Are Spouses Capable Of?
2 Tim 3:2-5 (NIV) People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power. <u>Have nothing to do with them</u>.

Since you are already married to your spouse, **have nothing to do with them,** doesn't help much. But, you need to see what you and your spouse are capable of, if you don't get Jesus' help in this submit and love relationship.

Rom 8:3-4 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the *sinful nature*, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, <u>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the *sinful nature* but according to the *Spirit*</u>. It is easy to see why a husband and wife need Jesus.

Which Law Is Your Marriage Based On?

A Law Without Power
For what the law was powerless to do: If you start trying to get your spouse to do what you think they should do, you are pushing them into human effort, human reasoning, and world training. **He (Jesus) condemned sin in sinful man, <u>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us</u>, who do not live according to the *sinful nature* but according to the *Spirit* (Rom 8:3b-4 NIV).** So, how do you live according to the Spirit in your individual life and in your marriage?

A Law Based On Power
Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; <u>but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body</u>, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. This is *what* you do and by Whose power you do it; but, this isn't giving you *how* to do it. This is where The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** procedure come it.

The important thing is, the Holy Spirit is giving you the power to live the Christian life, in your marriage. *He* is empowering *you* to **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** When you fail in one of the aspects of God's love with your spouse, you commit a misdeed of your body. It isn't a sin, in the sense that it separates you from God, as long as you don't break 1 John 1:8-9.

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. To confess your sin (misdeed of your body), uses God's power-attitude of **mourning,** which is illustrated in **Romans 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do.**

The Law Of The Spirit Of Life

This law tells you what you have done wrong through the Holy Spirit making it known to your conscience. This is like the law of the Old Testament (the law of sin and death), which pointed out what was right and wrong, but, didn't have any power to help you live it. The Bible gives you lists, illustrations, definitions, instructions, and labels for what is a sin and what is righteousness. The Holy Spirit takes all those things in the Bible, whether you are aware of them or not, and causes you to feel godly-guilt, when you sin.

Jesus is trying to teach you how to defeat all wrong, bad, and evil thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. When you are tempted to mistreat your spouse, Jesus is working with you, showing you how to not yield to that temptation. This gives you the advantage of not having to pay the consequences of having done wrong and then having to go through the process of making it right. But, if you do yield to temptation, Jesus will take you through the process of how to get it all straightened out.

Instructions For Maintaining Life In The Spirit

STEP ONE: Yield To Conviction
John 16:8 (NIV) When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will <u>*convict* the world of *guilt*</u> in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. The Holy Spirit will give you an indication called conviction. It is a good type of guilt that helps you know you messed up in your relationship with your spouse. **2 Cor 7:10 (NIV) <u>Godly sorrow brings *repentance* that leads to salvation and leaves no regret</u>, but worldly sorrow brings death.**

STEP TWO: Mourn
Romans 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. God's power-attitude, which you have already prayed and asked for, is empowering you to *hate* it, when you mistreat your spouse. If you don't feel that hatred, then you will need to *quickly* go to Jesus and ask Him to reinstall it in your heart. You should feel a guilt, regret, sorrow, hatred and godly-guilt for what you have thought, felt, said, or done concerning your spouse.

STEP THREE: Repent
1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Tell Jesus that you are sorry for mistreating your spouse. Ask Him to forgive you for what you did. Then ask Him to empower you to never do it again. Thank Him for His forgiveness and power to resist things that hurt your spouse. Then ask Him to help you go make it right with your spouse.

STEP FOUR: Believe
Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Ask Jesus to give you His faith, so you can apply the **word of faith** procedure. Keep asking Jesus for His faith, so you can believe. Keep asking until you experience Hebrews 11:1. Which *is* your power to *believe.*

STEP FIVE: Confess
Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see. Once you are **sure** and **certain** that the aspect of God's love, that you failed to yield to, is back in a functioning condition, then confess with your mouth that Jesus has empowered you to yield to that love characteristic. Let your ears hear this statement from your mouth, so they can participate in the confession of faith.

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; <u>it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*</u>," that is, the <u>word of faith</u> we are proclaiming. This is where you admit that the Bible is true and Jesus is faithful. Your mouth is the steering mechanism for your life. When you confess the truth with your mouth, it steers you into actually living those things you are saying.

STEP SIX: Be Thankful
Thank Jesus for everything He does for you. Be looking for every breakthrough, blessing, miracle, and answer to prayer. Identify each one of them as being from Jesus. Then tell Him how much you appreciate each one of them. Be thankful for all of them.

NOTE: "Maintaining Life In The Spirit" is a pamphlet with the six steps presented in it. If you would like to have a copy of the six steps, it would be a good resource source. It is in the Resource Material area, on the Start Page of wctlc.com website.

Chapter Seven – Prayer
The Husband And Wife Instruction

Spouses Submitting And Loving

Eph 5:22 (NIV) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Jesus, help me see that You aren't presenting this as a Scripture to the husband for him to quote to his wife. Help me understand that this is a wife-Scripture for her to work out with You.

Eph 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Jesus, help me see that You aren't presenting this as a Scripture to the wife for her to quote to her husband. Help me see that this is a husband-Scripture for him to work out with You. Help me to stay out of my spouse's Scripture; and, help me to just work my Scripture out with You.

Jesus, since every marriage is different; help me realize that, when two people enter into a relationship, there are two different personalities, spiritual conditions, and attitudes and character. The husband has no control over the wife's Scripture and the wife has no control over the husband's Scripture. Help me keep in mind that these Scriptures aren't telling the other spouse to make sure their spouse submits or loves.

Jesus, help me see that the Bible is telling the wife to **submit to your** husband **as to the Lord.** And, the Bible is telling the husband to **love** their wife**, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.**

I Will Only Answer For Myself

Jesus, help me understand that the wife will face You alone, on the judgment day, concerning her submission issue. And, the husband will face You alone, on the judgment day, concerning his love issue. They will individually stand alone; and they will answer to You, as to how well they fulfilled *their* Scripture. Make it clear to me that it is each individual spouse's job to seek You, as to what *You* want them to do.

Rom 8:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ You, <u>because through Christ Jesus *the law of the Spirit of life* set me free from *the law of sin and death*</u>. Jesus, teach me that, if a spouse starts trying to enforce their spouse's Scripture, they are sinning.

Jesus, show me that a spouse, trying to enforce these Scriptures, would be the law of the Old Testament and not **the law of the Spirit of life.** Help me see that in **the Spirit of life** law, each spouse answers to You not to their spouse, as it relates to their Scriptures.

Jesus, help me understand that the complexity of a marriage, keeps there from being a step-by-step set of instructions for how to fulfill these husband and wife Scriptures.

Jesus, help me see that the main issue is the words, **as to the Lord,** for the wife, as they develop their relationship with You. That will give them great guidance for how to treat their husband. And, the main issue is the words, **as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,** for the husband, as they develop their relationship with You. It will give them great guidance for how to treat their wife.

What Are Spouses Capable Of?

2 Tim 3:2-5 (NIV) People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Jesus, since I am already married to my spouse, **"have nothing to do with them",** doesn't help much. But, help me see what I and my spouse are capable of, if we don't get Your help in this submit and love relationship.

Rom 8:3-4 (NIV) For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the *sinful nature*, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the *sinful nature* but according to the *Spirit*. Jesus, it is easy to see why a husband and wife need You.

Which Law Is My Marriage Based On?

A Law Without Power

For what the law was powerless to do: Jesus, if I start trying to get my spouse to do what I think they should do, I am pushing them into human effort, human reasoning, and world training. **He (Jesus) condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the *sinful nature* but according to the *Spirit* (Rom 8:3b-4 NIV).** So, how do I live according to the Spirit in my individual life and in my marriage?

A Law Based On Power

Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Jesus, show me that this is *what* I do and by Whose power I do it. But, help me see that this isn't giving me *how* to do it. Help me always understand that this is where The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and The **Word Of Faith** procedure come it.

Jesus, teach me that the important thing is, the Holy Spirit is giving me the power to live the Christian life, in my marriage. *He* is empowering *me* to **put to death the misdeeds of the body.** Help me see that, when I fail in one of the aspects of God's love with my spouse, I commit a misdeed of my body. It isn't a sin, in the sense that it separates me from God, as long as I don't break 1 John 1:8-9.

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Jesus, show me that confessing my sin (misdeed of my body) uses God's power-attitude of **mourning,** which is illustrated in Romans 7:15: **"I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do" (NIV).**

The Law Of The Spirit Of Life

Jesus, help me understand that this law tells me what I have done wrong. This is done through the Holy Spirit making it known to my conscience. Teach me that this is like the law of the Old Testament (the law of sin and death), which pointed out what was right and wrong. But, help me see that it didn't have any power to help me live it.

Jesus, make it clear to me that the Bible gives me lists, illustrations, definitions, instructions, and labels for what is a sin and what is righteousness. The Holy Spirit takes all those things in the Bible, whether I am aware of them or not, and causes me to feel godly-guilt, when I sin.

Jesus, You are trying to teach me how to defeat all wrong, bad, and evil thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds. When I am tempted to mistreat my spouse, You are working with me, showing me how to not yield to that temptation. Show me that this gives me the advantage of not having to pay the consequences for having done wrong and then having to go through the process of making it right. But, help me see that, if I do yield to temptation, You will take me through the process of how to get it all straightened out.

Steps To Maintaining Life In The Spirit

STEP ONE: Yield To Conviction

John 16:8 (NIV) When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will *convict* the world of *guilt* in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. Jesus, help me see that, when I do wrong to my spouse, the Holy Spirit will give me an indication called conviction. It is a good type of guilt that helps me know I messed up in my relationship with them. **2 Cor 7:10 (NIV) Godly sorrow brings *repentance* that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.**

STEP TWO: Mourn

Romans 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I *want* to do I do not do, but what I *hate* I do. Jesus, help me see that God's power-attitude, which I have already prayed and asked for, is empowering me to *hate* it, when I mistreat my spouse. If I don't feel that *hatred*, then help me *quickly* go to You and ask You to reinstall it in my heart. Help me feel a guilt, regret, sorrow, hatred and godly-guilt for what I have thought, felt, said, or done, concerning my spouse.

STEP THREE: Repent

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Jesus, help me tell You I am sorry for mistreating my spouse. Help me ask You to forgive me for it. Then let me ask You to help me to never do it again. Then help me thank You for Your forgiveness and power to resist things that hurt my spouse. Then help me ask You to help me go make it right with them.

STEP FOUR: Believe

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus, show me how to ask You to give me Your faith, so I can apply the **Word Of Faith** procedure. Help me keep asking You for Your faith, until I experience Hebrews 11:1. Which *is* my power to *believe.*

STEP FIVE: Confess

Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see. Jesus, once I am **sure** and **certain** that the aspect of God's love, that I failed to yield to, is back in a functioning condition, help me confess with my mouth that You has empowered me to yield to that love characteristic. Help me let my ears hear this statement from my mouth, so they can participate in the confession of faith.
Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; <u>it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*</u>," that is, the <u>word of faith</u> we are proclaiming. Jesus, show me that this is where I admit that the Bible is true and that You are faithful. Teach me that my mouth is the steering mechanism for my life. Help me understand that, when I confess the truth with my mouth, it steers me into actually living those things I am saying.

STEP SIX: Be Thankful

Jesus, thank You for all You do for me. Help me be looking for every breakthrough, blessing, miracle, and answer to prayer. Help me identify them all, as being from You. Then help me tell You how much I appreciate each one of them. Help me be thankful for them.

Chapter Eight – Truth
The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God-Part Two

God's Power-Attitudes For Relationship With People

Jesus just taught you how to deal with areas of failure. But, it's much better to not have failures with your spouse in the first place. The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12, are the doors into being able to yield to God. They are eight power-attitudes from God that empower you to be open to all of God's relational provisions. They are not the provisions; they are the doors into the provisions.

The first four beatitudes were dealing with your attitudes in your relationship with God. The second four are dealing with your relationship with people. You have already gone through the first four, which opened the doors for you to be empowered by God to grow in your relationship with Him. Now you are ready to be empowered to maintain good relationships with your spouse.

How To Be Merciful

Mat 5:7 (NIV) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. The only way you can be **merciful** is to do something good to someone who does not deserve it. **Rom 12:21 (NIV) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** When your spouse does or says something that is wrong or bad, if you do something good to them in response, you are being merciful. If you want to be blessed and want to receive mercy from God, you must be merciful.

One of the first steps to being merciful is to forgive your spouse for what they said or did. **Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.** This is a somewhat scary Scripture. But, this whole issue of mercy is very serious. The way you got saved and were forgiven for all your sins was through God's mercy. And, all mercy and forgiveness continue to come our way by providing it to others.

So, as usual, you start off asking Jesus to empower you with God's power-attitude of **mercy.** This is using the *ask key* in The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. Then, you start *asking* Him to give you His faith, so you can believe you have been empowered with **mercy.** Once you are **sure** and **certain** that you have **mercy,** start thanking Him for it. And, use your mouth to confess what you believe in your heart. Say you believe you have God's power-attitude of mercy.

How To Be Pure In Heart

Mat 5:8 (NIV) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. If you want to be blessed and you want to see God, you will ask Jesus to give you God's power-attitude of you being pure in heart. In all of Christianity, you start out with a perfect record with God and very little actual living a pure life. If Jesus hadn't provided you with a perfect record with God, when He forgave you, you would have done "something" that was wrong, bad, or evil and lost your salvation.

As with everything in Jesus' provisions for Christianity, you have a pure heart but aren't yielding to it yet. Since faith only deals with things Jesus already provided you, you need to take advantage of your perfect record with God. Everything is credited to your record, so you can have direct access to a holy God. If you weren't "legally" pure, you couldn't get any help from Him.

This is like the illustration of you having a million dollars in the bank. It is legally yours; but, it isn't in your possession, so you can spend it. You must "do what it takes" to gain access to what is legally yours. Jesus has provided all the things you need for this life and for getting ready for eternity. Now you must apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and the **word of faith** principle to start living on the basis of the fact that you are pure in heart.

How To Be A Peacemaker
Mat 5:9 (NIV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. If you want to be blessed and want to be called a son of God, then you need to be a peacemaker. You can't give what you do not have. So, as usual, Jesus provided you with His peace. **John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

Do not *let* your hearts be troubled and do not *be* afraid: Any time you see words like let, be, remain in Me, don't do, believe, and many other action words, it is not talking about human effort, human reasoning, or world training. To "do what it takes" to obey the Scriptures in the Bible, you must use *ask, seek,* and *knock* because they are The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. They are the way are your was to **not let your heart be troubled and...not be afraid.**

When you have *asked* Jesus to empower you to yield to His peace, so you can be a peacemaker in your marriage:

1. You then wait for Him to give you His faith.

2. You become **sure** and **certain** that you are now empowered to yield to His peace.

3. You are ready to confess with your mouth that you are a peacemaker.

4. You start living on the basis of the fact that you are a peacemaker in your home.

How To Be Willing To Be Persecuted
Mat 5:10-12 (NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

If you want to be blessed by God, you want **the kingdom of heaven** to be yours, and want your **reward** to be great in heaven, then you need to *ask* Jesus to help you be willing to be **persecuted because of righteousness.** You need to *ask* Him to empower you to be willing to allow people to **insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of** Him. If you are expressing and living the Christian life with your spouse and this happens, you get these rewards and blessings.

Chapter Eight – Prayer
The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God-Part Two

God's Power-Attitudes For Relationships With People

Jesus, You just took me through how to deal with areas of failure. But, help me not have failures in my relationship with my spouse in the first place. Help me open the Beatitude doors in Matthew 5:3-12, so I will be able to yield to God. Give me these eight power-attitudes from God; empower me to be open to all of God's relational provisions. Since they are not the provisions, help me open them into God's provisions.

Jesus, since the first four beatitudes deal with my relationship with God, and since You helped me open them, help me keep growing in my relationship with Him. And, since the second four deal with my relationship with people, help me open them, so I have a better relationship with my spouse. Empower me to maintain good relationships with my spouse.

How To Be Merciful

Mat 5:7 (NIV) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Jesus, teach me that the only way I can be **merciful,** is to do something good to someone who does not deserve it. **Rom 12:21 (NIV) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** When my spouse does or says something that is wrong or bad, help me do something good to them in response, so I can be merciful to them. I want to be blessed; and, I want to receive mercy from God, so, help me be merciful.

Jesus, show me that one of the first steps to being merciful is to forgive my spouse for what they said or did. **Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.** Jesus, this is a somewhat scary Scripture. Help me take this whole issue of mercy very seriously.

Jesus, help me always remember that the way I got saved and was forgiven for all my sins was through God's **mercy**. And, all **mercy** and forgiveness continue to come my way by providing it to others. Help me provide **mercy** to my spouse, by doing good things to them, <u>when they don't deserve it</u>.

Jesus, as usual, I now start off *asking* You to empower me with God's power-attitude of **mercy.** Help me always realize that this is me using the *ask key* in The Three Keys To All Of Christianity. Give me Your faith, so I can believe I have been empowered with **mercy.**

Jesus, help me keep *asking* You for Your faith, until I am **sure** and **certain** that I have **mercy.** Then help me always start thanking You for it. And, help me always start using my mouth to confess what I believe in my heart. Just as soon as I am **sure** and **certain** help me state that I believe I have God's power-attitude of **mercy**.

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Mat 5:8 (NIV) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Jesus, I want to be blessed and I want to see God, so I am *asking* You to give me God's power-attitude, so I can be pure in heart. Help me understand that in all of Christianity, I start out with a perfect record with God and very little actual living a pure life. Help me see that, if You hadn't provided me with a perfect record with God, right after You forgave me, I would have done "something" wrong, bad, or evil and lost my salvation.

Jesus, teach me that, as with everything in Your provisions for Christianity, I have a pure heart but just aren't yielding to it yet. Because faith only deals with those things that You have already provided me, then help me "do what it takes" to take advantage of my perfect record with God. Help me believe that everything has been credited to my record, so I can have direct access to a holy and righteous God. Help me keep in mind the, if I wasn't "legally" pure, I wouldn't be able to get any help from God.

Jesus, help me understand this faith principle through the illustration of me having a million dollars in the bank. It is legally mine; but, it isn't in my possession, so I can spend it. Teach me how to "do what it takes" to gain access to what is legally mine. You have provided all the things I need for this life and for getting ready for eternity. Now, help me apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity and the **Word Of Faith** principle, so I can start living on the basis of the fact that I am pure in heart.

How To Be A Peacemaker

Mat 5:9 (NIV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Jesus, I want to be blessed; and, I want to be called a son of God. So, train and empower me to be a peacemaker. Help me always keep in mind that I can't give what I do not have. So, as usual, You have provided me with Your peace.

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Do not *let* your hearts be troubled and do not *be* afraid: Jesus, teach me that anytime I see words like let, be, remain in Me, don't do, believe, and many other action words, it is not talking about human effort, human reasoning, or world training. Help me see that to "do what it takes" to obey the Scriptures in the Bible, I must use *ask, seek,* and *knock* because they are The Three Keys To All Of Christianity.

Jesus, help me always believe that the three keys are my only way to **not let my heart be troubled and...not be afraid.** So, I *ask* You to empower me with Your peace to **not let my heart be troubled and...not be afraid.** Help me give up *trying* to do those things the Bible tells me to do and *trying* to not do those things the Bible tells me to not do.

Applying The Three Keys And The Word Of Faith

Jesus, now that I have *asked* You to empower me to yield to Your peace, so I can be a peacemaker in my marriage:

1. I now ask You to give me Your faith.

2. I now wait to become **sure** and **certain** that I am empowered to yield to Your peace.

3. I am ready to confess with my mouth that I am a peacemaker.

4. I am ready to start living on the basis of the fact that I am a peacemaker in my home.

How To Be Willing To Be Persecuted

Mat 5:10-12 (NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus, I want to be blessed by God; I want **the kingdom of heaven** to be mine; and I want my **reward** to be great in heaven, so I *ask* You to help me be willing to be **persecuted because of righteousness.** Empower me to be willing to allow people to **insult me, persecute me and falsely say all kinds of evil against me because of** You. If I am expressing and living the Christian life with my spouse and this happens, help me realize that I get these rewards and blessings.

Chapter Nine – Truth
The Seven Biblical Principles

When Things Stop Working

There are seven things that, if not present in your asking, seeking, and knocking, will frequently keep you from getting the results you need in your marriage. They are desire, study, pray, believe, love, take faith-action, and be thankful. Since you were made in God's image, according to Genesis 1:26-27, you have a God-given free will.

You don't have to desire, study, pray, believe, love, take faith-action, and be thankful. But, in order for God to honor the free will He gave you, He typically won't respond to your requests without all of these in place.

If you go down this list asking Jesus whether each one is the one keeping you from getting your prayers answered, He will help you isolate the problem that is interfering with you getting help in an area of your marriage.

The Holy Spirit's Seven Biblical Principles With Jesus

1. You have to learn that Jesus honors your God-given free will pretty much all the time; He will usually only do what you *desire* Him to do.

2. The next thing you need to understand is, He typically only uses Bible principles you are familiar with; if you haven't *studied* and learned a Bible principle, He usually won't use it.

3. Another thing you need to know is, He characteristically won't help you with anything you don't *pray* and ask Him to help you with; you need to pray and invite Him into each situation in your marriage.

4. After that, you have to learn how to wait for Him to give you the faith you need, so you can *believe* and be sure He has given you His power to win over that issue in your marriage.

5. Then you have to do everything based on God's *love*. If you try to get Jesus to help you with something that is selfish and only beneficial to you, He won't do it.

6. Next, you have to actually do it, if you know it, understand it, and know how to apply it but don't do it, you will fail at that issue in your marriage; you must take *faith-action*.

7. Finally, as Jesus answers your prayers and gives you these things, you must be *thankful* or it can stop the answers to your next prayers.

Seven Diagnostic Tools

Here are the Biblical proofs that these are mandatory. Once you start living on the basis of these seven Biblical principles, you will start experiencing a greater degree of His power-relationship. This power-relationship with Jesus will set you free from marital problems and issues that are trying to defeat you.

Desire

Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature *desires*; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit *desires*. The Holy Spirit's *desires* are Jesus' *desires* and the Father's *desires*. When you get His desires, you have God's desires influencing who you are and what you want.

Rom 8:27 (NIV) And He Who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Study

John 16:13-15 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into *all* truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

Study is useless without knowing what the Bible means; and, you only know its meaning through the Holy Spirit. Without Him you don't know what it is talking about, or, you will get a wrong concept. "He will guide you into all truth" means He opens your heart and mind to truth and Jesus is that truth (John 14:6).

Through the Bible, He is guiding you into the Jesus-life for your marriage. You can't live the Bible; Jesus and you have to do it together. The more you yield to the meaning of the Bible, that the Holy Spirit gives you, the more you are yielding to Jesus and His way of life; that really helps your marriage relationship.

Pray

Rom 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He Who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Your prayers, to Jesus about your marriage, will be answered because the Holy Spirit will be helping you find out what you need to be praying for. He empowers you to start praying for all the right things. He uses the Bible information to help you know the truth; then He gives you the meaning, so you can understand the truth; then He explains how to yield to it, so you can have the wisdom of the truth; then He gives you the power, so you can pray for and live the truth.

Believe

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 16:14 (NIV) He (the Spirit) will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. Jesus will be giving you faith, by speaking it into you through the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is in direct contact with your spirit.

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. That is Spirit-to-spirit communication, which goes far beyond words.

Love

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts *by* the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. The Holy Spirit puts God's love into your heart; and, He helps you learn how to yield to it on a daily basis, in your marriage.

John 15:9-10 (NIV) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in *My* love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. Jesus' love came into you through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is empowering you to remain in Jesus, His Word, and His love.

Take Faith-Action

Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

The Holy Spirit's leading gives you power to do what you could not do before. His leading gives you Jesus' life, that has the power to do the right things and stop doing the wrong things. It is by the Spirit's leading that you take faith-action. Jesus used the Scriptures in this study to teach you how to apply The Seven Biblical Principles from the Bible. Without the Holy Spirit, you don't get the power and guidance into these principles.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Your faith-action will be so powerful, it will make you an incredible example to your spouse. They will experience your attitudes and character and will want what you have. Then the Holy Spirit will empower you with the words that can bring help and healing to them.

Be Thankful

Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they *knew* God, they neither *glorified* Him as God nor gave *thanks* to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. This shows you how important it is to not only be glad Jesus gave you things you needed; you must express your appreciation to Him for each thing He gives you. It is vital that you realize that He is all about relationship. But, He doesn't want a business relationship; He wants a love relationship. Being thankful helps you develop that love relationship.

Phil 4:6 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. This is a great verse; but, how do you feel *thankful* when you are anxious? Thanksgiving is where the Holy Spirit really changes the emotions in your heart.

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. As these power-emotions, from the Holy Spirit, are yielded to, all anxiety is washed out. This empowers great *thanksgiving* that is totally heart-felt.

Rom 8:26 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. The Holy Spirit heals your heart by helping you pray prayers that you didn't even know you needed to pray. Since your heart's contents aren't accessible by you, only He can move in and bring out the pain and anxiety that are keeping you from feeling *thankful*.

Chapter Nine – Prayer
The Seven Biblical Principles

When Things Stop Working

Jesus, teach me that there are seven things, that if not present in my asking, seeking, and knocking, they will frequently keep me from getting the results I need in my marriage. Help me get acquainted with the fact that they are: desire, study, pray, believe, love, take faith-action, and be thankful.

Jesus, since I was made in God's image, according to Genesis 1:26-27, I have a God-given free will. I don't have to desire, study, pray, believe, love, take faith-action, and be thankful. But, help me understand that, in order for God to honor the free will He gave me, He typically won't respond to my requests without all of these in place.

Jesus, when I don't get an answer to one of my prayers, help me go down this list, asking You if one them is keeping me from getting my prayers answered. Help me isolate the problem that is interfering with me getting the answer to my prayer in an area of my marriage.

The Holy Spirit's Seven Biblical Principles With Jesus

1. Jesus, help me always keep in mind that You honor my God-given free will pretty much all the time; You will usually only do what I *desire* You to do.

2. Help me also understand that You typically only use Bible principles I am familiar with; if I haven't *studied* and learned a Bible principle, You usually won't use it.

3. Another thing I need You to help me know is, You characteristically won't help me with anything I don't *pray* and ask You to help me with; help me always pray and invite You into each situation in my marriage.

4. After that, help me wait for You to give me the faith I need, so I can *believe* and be **sure** You have given me Your power to win over that issue in my marriage.

5. Help me do everything with God's *love*. Teach me that You won't help me with something that is selfish and only benefits me. Show me that, if I do, You won't do it.

6. Next, help me actually do it. If I know it, understand it, and know how to apply it but don't do it, I will fail at that issue in my marriage; I must take *faith-action*.

7. Finally, as You answer my prayers and give me these things, help me always be *thankful,* so it won't stop the answers to my next prayers.

Jesus, once I start living on the basis of these seven Biblical principles, help me start experiencing a greater degree of Your power-relationship. Let this power-relationship, with You, set me free from marital problems and issues that are trying to defeat me.

Desire
Rom 8:5 (NIV) Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature *desires*; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit *desires*. Jesus, show me that the Holy Spirit's *desires* are Your *desires* and the Father's *desires*. Give me Your desires, so I will have God's desires influencing who I am and what I want.

Rom 8:27 (NIV) And He (God) Who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Study
John 16:13-15 (NIV) But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide me into *all* truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.

Jesus, since study is useless without knowing what the Bible means, help me know its meaning through the Holy Spirit. Without Him, I won't know what it is talking about, or, I will get a wrong concept. Let Him "**guide** me **into all truth," so He can open my heart and mind to truth. And, help me always be aware that You are that truth (John 14:6).**

Jesus, through the Bible and the Holy Spirit, You are guiding me into the Jesus-life, for my marriage. I can't live the Bible; help me do it together with You. Help me yield to more and more of the meaning of the Bible, so the Holy Spirit can give me You. Through this procedure, help me see that I am yielding to You and Your way of life; that really helps my marriage relationship.

Pray
Rom 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to *pray* for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He Who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Jesus, let my prayers, to You about my marriage, be answered, because the Holy Spirit will be helping me find out what I need to be praying for. Let Him empower me to start praying for all the right things. Help me yield to Him, as He uses the Bible information to help me know the truth. Then help me yield, as He gives me the meaning, so I can understand the truth. Then help me be receptive, as He explains how to yield to it, so I can have the wisdom of the truth. Then help me yield, as He gives me the power, so I can pray for and live the truth.

Believe
Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 16:14 (NIV) He (the Spirit) will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. Jesus, give me faith, by speaking it into me through the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is in direct contact with my spirit.

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Jesus, increase this Spirit-to-spirit communication, which goes far beyond words. Help me be open for You to reveal things, by causing them to pop up in my mind, as complete concepts. Then help me recognize them, as being from You.

Love
Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts *by* the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Since the Holy Spirit has put God's love into my heart, help me yield to it on a daily basis, in my marriage.

John 15:9-10 (NIV) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in *My* love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. Jesus, Your love came into me through the Holy Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit empower me to remain in You, Your Word, and Your love.

Take Faith-Action
Rom 8:13 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if *by* the Spirit *you* put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Jesus, help me yield to the Holy Spirit's leading, so He can give me power to do what I could not do before. I believe Your leading gives me Your life, that has the power to help me do the right things and stop doing the wrong things. I believe that it is by the Spirit's leading that I am able to take faith-action. Keep using the Scriptures in this study to teach me how to apply The Seven Biblical Principles from the Bible. But, help me realize that, without the Holy Spirit, I don't get the power and guidance into these principles.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Jesus, let Your faith-action be so powerful, it will make me an incredible example to my spouse. Let them experience my attitudes and character and want what I have. Then let the Holy Spirit empower me with the words that will bring help and healing to them.

Be Thankful
Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they *knew* God, they neither *glorified* Him as God nor gave *thanks* to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Jesus, this shows me how important it is to not only be glad You gave me things I needed, but, help me express my appreciation to You for each thing You give me.

Jesus, You are all about relationship. But, You don't want a business relationship; You want a love relationship. Help me be thankful, so it will help me develop that love relationship.

Phil 4:6 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. Jesus, this is a great verse! But, how do I feel *thankful* when I am anxious? Help me have thanksgiving, so the Holy Spirit can really change the emotions in my heart.

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Jesus, help me yield to these power-emotions, from the Holy Spirit. Then let them cause all anxiety to be washed out. Let this empower great *thanksgiving* that is totally heart-felt.

Rom 8:26 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Jesus, let the Holy Spirit heal my heart, by helping me pray prayers that I didn't even know I needed to pray. Since my heart's contents aren't accessible by me, let Him move in and bring out the pain and anxiety that are keeping me from feeling *thankful*.

Chapter Ten – Truth
The Three Toolsets

Being Equipped To Win In Life

Jesus will be providing you with three toolsets that you will need to use, so you can keep winning over marriage issues. You are now moving into an even greater relationship with Jesus. His training will help you become *extremely* skillful by learning how to use these spiritual tools. By establishing a relationship with Him, He will teach you how to apply these three toolsets to your problem with marriage and to every other issue in your life.

Your next step is called spiritual growth; Jesus is using this growth to increase your relationship with Him; He will use it to train you and help you be aggressive and faith-driven. He will empower you to become a mature, trained, experienced, and skilled child of God.

The three toolsets that Jesus is providing you and training you how to use, will be like you going down to the store and buying your very first set of tools for a new career. You wouldn't know much about how to use them; but, you would need to buy them, so you could take them to school, where they would train you in their use.

A Project To Practice On

If you bought woodworking tools, then you would need to get some *materials* to practice on and you would need a *project*. Jesus has made three spiritual toolsets available for practicing on your difficulty with marriage. The *material* you are working on is your life; and, the *project* you are working on is your struggles with marriage.

Your new spiritual tools are basically kept in three "toolboxes." They are labelled, **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity, The Seven Biblical Principles,** and **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God.**

Since this problem with marriage is something you have a real desire to keep winning over, Jesus is using it as your major "project." Using your spiritual tools to keep winning over this issue helps you get skillful with these tools. Jesus will also be going through various other needs you have and letting you practice using these three toolsets on them as well.

Since your problem with marriage is the biggest and most challenging issue in your life, it will be the hardest for you to completely win over. So, there will be times when Jesus will have you *practice* on some smaller issues, just so you can get an immediate result.

Getting Some Successes

Easier, smaller problems in your life will take less effort to win over. You will need to see your three toolsets help you get more results from time to time. Complicated, and difficult problems like marriage will take a lot of skill, experience, talent, and power. You will need to allow Jesus to teach you, train you, help you practice, and help you grow spiritually, for you to get a more final success over this problem. Success in dealing with marriage, will be like crafting a big, beautiful cabinet, as one of your main projects.

A beginner craftsman will make a lot of mistakes. And, if you are working on wood, it isn't always easy to fix the mistake. In some cases, you might have to get a new piece of wood and start over. However, with your issues with marriage, you can't just find a new problem and start over. So, Jesus will help you practice on some other issues, so you can get better at using spiritual tools that are supernatural, powerful, and very different from what you are used to.

Spiritual Growth

If you were a person in sports, working on something that was going to take a lot of physical strength and agility, there would be special routines that you would have to do every day to get your body ready for it. You would be required to do exercises that may not seem like they had anything to do with your goal. But, as a professional in sports, you would have to trust your coach. You would have to be willing to allow them to take you into physical training, special diets, and practices that got you ready for the real thing.

Jesus knows what He is doing; there can be many studies and prayer times that don't even mention your issues with marriage. But, they are vital to your future successes in dealing with your difficulties with it and with all of the rest of your life's assignments. Spiritual growth has to do with your power, your training, your skills, your talents, your experiences, and your abilities. Jesus is teaching you how to be a very successful child of God. And, He is using your problem with marriage to teach you how to succeed.

The Training And Provisions Of Jesus

Spiritual Power Tools

The world says that absolute power corrupts absolutely. This isn't true of Jesus: **Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "*All* authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus has immediately shared His power and authority with you; and, He is telling you to go share it with everyone else. Spiritual growth helps you have the necessary attitudes and character, so Jesus' power and power tools won't tempt you to be corrupted. Instead, you will get the same generosity, love, and compassion for others that Jesus has for you.

Spiritual growth helps you get the mighty power and principles of Jesus; and then you yield to them, so as to help hurting people. You will be exposed to power tools that could be used for wrong, bad, and evil purposes. But, Jesus watches over you and makes sure they are used for win/win methods, systems, programs, and relationships that bless everyone who is willing.

Character And Attitudes

Most training programs don't deal with a person's attitudes and character. Hospitals, businesses, schools, and suppliers typically provide evil people with the same things honest people get. As long as they get their money, they don't usually try to make sure the person is going to use their provisions for good. However, Jesus cares more about honesty and integrity than anything else.

Jesus wants to know what you are going to do with all your wins, victories, and successes. If He healed you, blessed you, and gave you His power and you purposefully used it for wrong, bad, or evil, that would make Him part of what you did and who you are. Jesus isn't going to drive the get-away car while you rob the bank. He makes sure your attitudes and character will yield to His miracles, blessings, healings, and power for only right, good, and righteous purposes.

Jesus' Top Priority

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first <u>His kingdom and His righteousness</u>, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. So, if Jesus spends a lot of time working on your spiritual growth, rather than just trying to help you keep winning over your struggles with marriage, you will know why. He wants you to learn how to win over these things by them flowing through you *as* a righteous, good person. However, this will happen to you by Jesus living in and through you.

Jesus wants to empower you to win and then go out and live a good, right, and righteous life with others. He wants you to share your victories for becoming a person who only involves themselves in win/win things. But, you will only *be* this type of person through a relationship with Jesus and His mighty power.

If you will allow Jesus to change your attitudes and character through the three toolsets, you will start winning in a greater way over your difficulties with marriage. You and Jesus will use this new freedom and success for wonderful, loving, and caring things. Many people will benefit from the new you.

What's Next?

Moving Forward With Jesus

You have been involved in studying with Jesus and Him helping you understand and grow through your studies and prayer times. You have spent time praying and asking Jesus to put the truths in your life that you discovered during these studies. These two procedures of studying and praying are getting you used to and ready for a special life with Him. This is introducing you into *procedures* that work in Christianity. Studying and praying for things are you using a couple of the tools in your three toolsets.

It is important to keep in mind that study and prayer are only two of many tools that are vital and powerful for helping you keep winning over your battle with marriage. All the exposure to the truths in these studies and all the prayers, you have prayed, will need additional support. For example, you will need to *believe* that these studies and prayers are working.

Faith to believe is very important to God; and, so are other things that the three toolsets will provide you. So, ask Jesus to help you be ready for becoming skillful in all He is about to provide for you.

Chapter Ten – Prayer
My Three Toolsets

I Am Being Equipped To Win In Life

Jesus, as I keep dealing with issues involving marriage; and, since this is what is bothering me the most, provide me with and teach me how to become knowledgeable in using the three toolsets, that I will need in order to win over this and many other issues. Move me into a closer and closer relationship with You, so You can take me into training that will help me become *extremely* skillful with these tools.

Jesus, through my relationship with You, help me apply these three toolsets to my issues with marriage and to every other difficulty in my life. Teach and empower me to take this next step into spiritual growth. Use spiritual growth to increase my relationship with You. Use it to train me and help me with all my struggles. Empower me to become a mature, trained, experienced, talented, and skilled adult child of God.

Jesus, help me see that these three toolsets, that You are providing and training me how to use, will be my set of tools for a new spiritual career. Help me get to know all about what they are, what they do, and how to use them. But first, help me make them mine, so I can keep bringing them to Your school, where You will train me and empower me to use them to win at life.

My Project To Practice On

Jesus, help me understand what *materials* I will be using to practice on. And, help me establish a *project* that You and I will be working on. Show me how to own these three spiritual toolsets, so we can keep working on my issues with marriage, as my main project. Help me see that the *materials,* I will continue working on, will be my life; and, the *project* I will mainly be working on, will be my struggles with marriage.

Jesus, teach me that Your spiritual tools are basically kept in three "toolboxes." Teach me that **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** "toolbox" holds three tools, **The Seven Biblical Principles** "toolbox" holds seven tools, and **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God** "toolbox", holds eight tools. Help me get better acquainted with them and learn how to apply them to every area of my life.

Jesus, since this issue with marriage is something I have a real desire to win over, use it as my major "project." Help me use these spiritual tools to continue to overcome my struggle with it. Let all the practice I am doing, help me get skillful with these spiritual tools. In addition, take me through various other needs I have and let me practice using these three toolsets on them as well.

Jesus, since my difficulty with marriage is the biggest and most challenging issue in my life, help me see that it will be the hardest for me to completely win over. So, give me some smaller issues to practice on. Help me cooperate with you, on these lesser issues. But, keep showing me how to win over these smaller issues, by learning important lessons.

I'm Getting Some Successes

Jesus, help me see that easier, smaller problems in my life will take less effort to win over. Help me be willing to let you teach me how use these three toolsets to get immediate results from time to time. Since struggles with marriage are complicated, and difficult, show me that it will take a lot of skill, experience, talent, and power.

Jesus, help me allow You to teach me, train me, let me practice, and help me grow spiritually, so I will get a greater success over this problem. Show me that the process of winning over my biggest issue, will be like crafting a big, beautiful cabinet, as one of my main projects.

Jesus, as a beginner craftsman, I will make a lot of mistakes. And, if I were working on wood, it wouldn't always be easy to fix the mistake. In some cases, I might have to get a new piece of wood and start over. However, help me see that with my issues with marriage, I can't just find a new problem and start over. So, help me practice on some other issues, that I can get better at. Help me understand that these spiritual tools, are supernatural, powerful, and very different from what I am used to.

Spiritual Growth

Why Am I Having To Learn Skills?

Jesus, like in sports, help me built up my spiritual strength and agility. Like in any skill, help me learn special routines that I must do every day to get me, a spirit being, ready for the assignment. Help me do spiritual exercises that may not seem like they have anything to do with my goal. But, like a professional in sports, help me trust You, my coach.

Jesus, help me be willing to allow You to take me into spiritual training, special spiritual diets, and spiritual practices that get me ready for the real thing. Help me be patient, cooperative, filled with faith in You, and completely committed to all You require of me. Help me understand that You are using my problem with marriage to teach me how to succeed in life.

Healing Through Training

Jesus, help me always believe You know what You are doing. Since there will be studies that don't mention my issues with marriage, help me realize they are vital to my future successes. They are dealing with my main problem and with all of the rest of my life's assignments.

Jesus, help me see that spiritual growth has to do with my power, my training, my skills, my talents, my experiences, my maturity, and my abilities. Help me understand that You are not going to just heal me. You are going to teach me how to win over it. Teach me how to be a very successful child of God, so I can start winning over everything for now and for eternity.

My Training And Provisions From Jesus

Spiritual Power Tools

Jesus, the world says that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Teach me that this isn't true of You: **Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus, You are sharing Your power and authority with me, so I can go share it with everyone else. Let spiritual growth help me have the necessary attitudes and character, so Your power won't tempt me to be corrupted. Instead, give me the same generosity, love, and compassion for others that You have for me. Set me free from spiritual cancer that wants everything from You for selfish, self-centered, and unloving motives.

Jesus, give me Your spiritual growth, that helps me win through Your mighty power and principles. Then let me be used by them to help hurting people. Expose me to these power tools, that could be used for wrong, bad, and evil purposes. But, make sure they are used for win/win methods, systems, programs, and relationships, by transforming my attitudes and character. Accomplish this in me, so I can be a blessing to everyone who is willing.

Character And Attitudes

Jesus, since most training programs don't deal with the attitudes and character of a person, help me keep in mind that hospitals, clinics, businesses, schools, and suppliers will typically provide an evil person with the same things that they do to an honest person. However, since You care more about honesty and integrity than anything else, help me be healed from my issues with marriage, while You are transforming my attitudes and character.

Jesus, empower me to do right, good, and righteous things with all my wins, victories, and successes. Heal me, bless me, and work through me with Your power, so You and I can purposefully use them for win/win results in the lives of the needy. Help me be a person that You do great things in and through, so You can be loved, appreciated, and accepted by those who experience all these things.

Jesus, You are going to make sure my attitudes and character are such that I will yield to Your miracles, blessings, healings, and power for only right, good, and righteous purposes. Help me cooperate with this goal.

Jesus' Top Priority

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first <u>His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness</u>, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. Jesus, when You spend a lot of time working on my spiritual growth rather than just trying to help me win over my issues with marriage, help me always keep in mind why. Help me see that Your goal is to help me learn how to win over these things, by them flowing through me, as a *transformed* righteous, good, and loving person.

Jesus, help me win and then go out and live a right, good, and righteous life with others. Help me use these victories for only involving myself in win/win things. Help me *be* this type of person through a relationship with You and Your mighty power.

Jesus, change my attitudes and character through the three toolsets, so I can keep winning more and more over my issues with marriage. Help me use this new freedom and success for wonderful, loving, and caring things. Let many people benefit from the new-me.

What's Next?

I Am Moving Forward With Jesus

Jesus, thank You for allowing me to be involved in studying with You. Thank You for helping me understand and grow through my studies. Thank You for teaching me how to spend time praying and asking You to put those truths in my life, that I discovered during my studies. Help me continue using these two procedures for studying and praying with You. Help me get used to and be ready for a special life with You.

Jesus, thank You for using these two procedures, of study and prayer, to introduce me into an even greater way of seeing how Christianity works. But, let me see that they are only two of many tools that are vital and powerful for helping me win over my issues with marriage.

Jesus, make it clear to me that all the exposure to the truths in these studies and all the prayers I have prayed, will need additional support. Help me understand that I will need to *believe* that these studies and prayers are working. Show me that faith to believe is very important to God; and, so are many other things that the three toolsets will provide me. So, I ask You to help me be ready for becoming skillful in all You are about to provide for me.