

## *First Love*

Lately, I've been praying for many marriages, whether strong or seeing them struggle. Seeing Satan attack their relationship and praying for those couples to find the Lord and find love so they can connect again!

This has brought back memories of my own marriage, and the grace I've received from, and given to my husband.

We've had fights! Big ones, where words fly through the air like arrows straight from the devil's arsenal. Even the second they come out brings pain and fear that were lost and under attack in a foreign land.

These fights are hard to recover from. But each recovery brings us closer to each other and to God. Humbled again that we are powerless without him, and angry that Satan made his way through a crack in our bond.

**Ephesians 4:2-3, Ephesians 4:32**

## *This Momentary Marriage*

My husband and I a while back read an amazing book called "This Momentary Marriage" by John Piper. The words on these pages are unforgettable! I pray this book will continue to reach couples all around the world with its simple peace and grace filled message.

It explains the marriage picture, the plan for it and its design to point to our savior Jesus. If you've ever been told marriage was sacred before but couldn't understand why, this book will give you exactly that explanation.

**Ephesians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:25**

## *We Are Under Attack*

When we lessen our grip on our marriage by taking our focus off of our connecting with each other, to focus on something else, our passions can lead us astray.

The Lord is always pursuing us, always waiting for us to return and rekindle our love for him. It can be the same way in marriage. However, this is where Satan can attack! Feeding our minds with selfishness, pain, blame, excuses and distractions.

Staying connected with God and each other no matter what comes will keep your marriage strong against the enemies attempts to create tension in your relationship.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (God, husband, wife)

## *Our Protection*

In the book of Hosea chapter 2, Hosea's wife peruses other men, she takes her promise to her husband and throws it away! So far to the point of being sold as a prostitute! Although many men would not dare to take such betrayal back, Hosea does, just as God does for us. This picture of amazing grace shows the commitment he has to us when we enter a relationship with him. Even though we all may stray from that first love to other things in life, things that lead us away from God instead of closer. **Ephesians 4:7**

In chapter 3 of Hosea, He purchases Gomer, his bride! He covers her nakedness, and takes her home to be with him. Hosea doesn't punish, blame, or judge, just shows her love, grace, and forgiveness but commands her to leave her former sins and to remain in his home. He surrounds her with grace and protection. Jesus death on the cross does the same for each of us! He purchases us with His life, offers us the safety of His protection, but asks that we remain in Him. **John 15:4, Psalms 91:14-16**

I challenge you to take the first step to rekindle your love for your spouse! Give the grace and forgiveness you receive debt free. Pray for strength to fight the enemy attacks, and focus your energy on showing him he won't win by making God's Word the center of your focus. **Ephesians 6:12**

**First John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.