

## MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read Ephesians 4:17-24

Believe it or not, you are an ALIEN!

You may not be from another planet, but if you are saved through Christ you are a resident of Heaven. You are only a visitor here on earth.

As a Christian husband you may feel alienated from your wife. If you have lost all sensitivity to her, it is not too late to renew that sensitivity.

As Christians, we are to be renewed in the spirit and of our minds. This means we need to think differently from the way we have been thinking.

This year make it your prayer to renew your mind and your marriage every day. Keep our Lord, Jesus, and your wife the highest priorities each day of this new year.

Pray daily: Dear God our Father & Creator of the universe, please create in me a new heart and mind so that I can love you more and be more sensitive to the needs of the woman you gave me to love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# January 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIEDMEN

- Read Proverbs 8:22-36

You may be thinking that I just spent a whole month trying to renew my mind every day. It is harder than it sounds.

Well wisdom is a great place to go for help. Wisdom was the first thing God created. Therefore, true wisdom can only come from God.

If you are not used to praying, begin today to ask God to give you His wisdom. Wisdom gives you the right things to say. Wisdom gives you knowledge and discernment.

If you feel that you do not or cannot communicate well with your wife, if you end most conversations in an argument, then the understanding that comes through wisdom can help turn that around.

Wisdom says I will listen and give full attention to what my wife has to say. Wisdom helps you identify the emotions behind what is being said. Without wisdom, what your wife says becomes meaningless words that are easily forgotten. Wisdom from God will help you become more sensitive to your wife's emotions.

Pray daily: Dear God our Father, please grant me the first fruit of your creation, wisdom. Your wisdom is more precious than gold. Please make me rich in your wisdom and love so I can be more sensitive towards my wife. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# February 2012



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- Read Romans 12:9-18

As God imparts wisdom to you through the Holy Spirit you will begin to respond differently to those around you. The love you have for God and your wife will become more genuine.

You will want to out-do your wife in showing her love and honor, whether she honors you or not. If you are in a great spot in your marriage, praise and thank God right now!

If your marriage is like so many marriages today, you may be going through a rough or difficult time right now. If that is the case—  
"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." (Rom 12:12) If you have never prayed for God to bless your wife in specific ways, or for God to bless, save, and protect your marriage, start now.

Pray that God will soften your heart and your wife's heart towards each other until your harden hearts melt for one another like they once did when you fell in love.

When you seek God, you will find Him along with His wisdom.

Pray daily: Dear God, thank you for my wife! Please not only soften my heart towards her, give me a burning desire to love and serve my wife. God, I pray that You restore our marriage through the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# March 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read 1 Thes. 5:12-18

God's will is an awesome and wonderful thing. But what does God's will look like to you and me?

First, God has given each one of us talents, abilities, and gifts. Some discover theirs early in life, some along the way, and some late in life. It is God's will that you discover these talents, abilities, and gifts and use them for His purposes and His glory. These are also designed for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to build His kingdom here on earth.

If you have discovered what your talents, abilities, and gifts are, you need to take a moment and say thank you to God! If you haven't, pray that God will reveal them to you.

Even though God gives us all different talents, abilities, and gifts, His will in some areas are the same for each of us. We are all to respect those who labor, live peacefully, not to repay evil for evil but to always do good, always rejoice, never stop praying, and to give thanks no matter what life brings your way—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

So no matter if your wife works outside the home or if she is a homemaker or stay at home mom, you need to respect her for her labor. You also need to live peacefully with her. If you are in an argument and your wife says something hurtful do not repay her back by saying something hurtful. Instead, say something nice or encouraging, or good, or nothing at all. Never stop praying for your wife.

Pray daily: Dear God, the giver of all good gifts, thank you for my talents, abilities, and gifts. Help me always to use them for your honor and glory. Help me to see your will and to follow it in my life. Give me a grateful heart that I will be ever mindful of my blessings, especially the blessing of my wife. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# April 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read Psalm 32

There is extreme sadness and grief when we sin. There is also hurt and stress when we fight with our wife.

In Psalms 32 we see that there is joy in forgiveness.

If there is a sin in your life or un-forgiveness in your marriage (or any relationship for that matter) you may find yourself very unhappy. Your joy of life may be gone or quickly dissolving away. You may feel a heavy heart. Your strength may be dried up.

Or you may even notice these things happening to your wife. Whether it is you or your wife or both, happiness and joy can and will return through forgiveness.

If there is sin in your life—Repent. Ask God for forgiveness. Ask Him for the strength to turn away from sin. Ask God to remove your guilt and to restore your joy.

If there is un-forgiveness in your heart, choose to forgive. If your wife has hurt you through her words or actions, choose to forgive her in your heart. Remember that she loves you, and she needs your forgiveness just like you need God's forgiveness.

Now if you have hurt your wife through your actions or inaction or your words, even if you feel you were justified, go to her and seek forgiveness. Although she will remember the hurtful thing you said or did for years to come, she will appreciate your asking for forgiveness.

Depending on how deeply your wife was hurt, it may take her some time to decide to forgive you. If she needs time –pray that God will soften her heart to forgive you. With forgiveness comes joy and peace in your marriage.

Pray daily: Dear God our Father, thank you for your forgiveness through your Son, Jesus. Please give me a forgiving heart that I may forgive others as you have forgiven me. I pray that you will fill our home with your forgiving spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# May 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read Eph. 5:25-29

Think of how Christ loves the church.

1. Jesus' love for the church is eternal.
2. Jesus left His glory above to come to earth for her.
3. Jesus took the beatings for her.
4. Jesus took the mocking for her.
5. Jesus took up the cross and carried it to Calvary for her.
6. Jesus took the nails for her.
7. Jesus died for the church.
8. Jesus was raised from the dead to be reunited with the church.

Who makes up this church that Jesus loves so much?

1. Sinners like you and me.
2. Those who deny Him.
3. Those who worship other gods and idols.
4. Those how reject Him.
5. Those who ignore Him.
6. Those who would choose to set a murderer free over Him.
7. Those who do not even know Him yet.
8. Those with little faith.

Husbands are commanded to love their wives like Christ loves the church. It doesn't matter how hurtful, or disrespectful, or hard hearted your wife has been or could be to you. When you said "I do" you vowed to love her like Jesus loves the church. That means you will forgive all wrongs, love unconditionally, and serve your wife as long as you both shall live. This also means that just like Jesus, you would freely lay down your life for her.

Pray daily: Dear God our heavenly Father, give me the strength and wisdom that I need to love my wife like your Son, Jesus, loves the church. Please fill me with your love so that I can share that love with my wife.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# June 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read Psalm 136:1-9

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever! We must learn to always be thankful! We must learn it because it does not come naturally to us.

Even in the worst of times, there is always something to be thankful and grateful for. Even if things to be thankful for do not immediately come to your mind, start with thanking God for giving you life.

Then thank God for sending His Son, Jesus. Thank God for His Salvation through Jesus. Thank God for your wife, the person whom He has given you to share your life with.

When we give thanks to God our attitude and focus both begin to change. It slowly becomes less about our wants and desires and more about the blessings that God has graciously given to us.

Any negative attitudes like anger and selfishness fade away when we adopt a spirit of gratitude.

When a husband expresses sincere gratitude for his wife he acknowledges that she is a priceless treasure and the desire of his heart. If he were to lose this treasure he would be desperate without it.

Pray daily: Dear God our Father, please give me a grateful heart that I may see every blessing that you have given me. Please help me to treasure everyone, especially the blessing of my wife. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# July 2012

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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read: Proverbs 5

Satan makes you believe that the grass is greener on the other side.

Now the grass may look greener on the other side, but it still has the same weeds and the same needs.

In truth, the grass is at its greenest when it is tended to regularly and watered regularly. When it does not get this kind of regular attention weeds begin to grow. They begin to steal the water from the grass and the grass begins to lose its beauty.

Men, it is just like that in our marriages. We are all human. So there is no perfect couple or relationship. Like the grass, our relationships take time to nurture. If we ignore little problems instead of dealing with them right away, they tend to grow and multiply just like the weeds in the lawn.

If you desire your marriage and your wife to bloom, you must be willing to put in the time and effort it will take to make that a reality.

Pray daily: Dear God our heavenly Father, please give me the courage to deal with and remove the weeds in my relationship with my wife. Help our love bloom like the flowers of Spring. Please give me eyes only for my wife. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# August 2012



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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

- Read: Luke 6:46-49

Most men look for happiness and security in their relationship with their wives and in their careers.

When a man isn't grounded in Christ for his identity and his happiness, he will look to other sources for happiness and fulfillment.

When a man is respected and loved at home by his wife, he is more confident in all of his relationships. When he is not loved or respected at home or finds himself quarreling with his wife, his confidence suffers and his positive outlook on life begins to sour. Feelings of being or of becoming a failure creep in when things are not going well at home.

When a man is respected and excels at work, his self esteem becomes wrapped up in success at work. When a man loses his job, or receives a reprimand, or gets a demotion at work he loses all of his self worth.

When his relationship with his wife is great and his work is great, he is on top of the world. If either of these areas of his life are in turmoil, his entire life is out of whack.

However, when a man has his self worth grounded in Jesus and trusts Him with his wife, family, work, finances, and every other aspect of his life, his hope is built on the everlasting Rock and is unshakeable. So when the storms of life come, his self worth and his entire world doesn't come crashing down!

Pray daily: Dear God, I trust you as the provider of all things, especially as the provider of my hope, self esteem, and self worth. Help me to rely on You and Your peace and joy to carry me through life. Help me to stop relying on others or things like work to provide my security and joy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

# September 2012

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# MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

• Read: Luke 6:27-36

With all of the disappointments, arguments, fights, hurtful words, and hurtful actions that creep into a marriage, you may feel more like enemies than friends. Just like Fall fading into Winter, your heartwarming love for your wife may have cooled to a heart of stone. When this happens, there is nothing that she can say or do that will please you. You seem to find blame or fault in everything that she does or doesn't do. You begin to see everything as a personal attack against you.

If you currently find yourself in this season of your marriage, remember that Jesus told us to love even our enemies. You are called to "Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you". Marriages can contain all of these things at one time or another. We tend to mistreat the ones we are supposed to love the most. We will treat complete strangers better and with more respect and kindness than we do our own family members, especially our wives.

How many times do we speak harshly with the tone of our voice without thinking about? How many times does it stir up anger and resentment when we inadvertently speak harshly because we are tired, stressed, or annoyed? God tells us in Proverbs 15:1 that "A gentle word turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger".

Pray daily: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to think before responding, especially when I'm tired or stressed out. Please help me to be gentle in my answers even when I am annoyed. Please help me to love my wife in all of the seasons of our relationship, not just in the good times. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# October 2012



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## MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL FOR MARRIED MEN

• Read: Josh. 1:6-9

It takes courage to open up to another person. There is a certain vulnerability that comes with sharing your feelings and emotions with another person. As men we are taught to be strong and tough, not to share our emotions and not to ask for help because these are seen as signs of weakness. We must be strong and courageous to open up to our wives. When you share your feelings and emotions with your wife, you can achieve a deeper emotional connection with her.

Wherever you are in life, or in your marriage, or in your faith, the only way to become truly successful is to get yourself right with God.

If you read God's word and are faithful to obey what He says, God promises to give you success wherever you go. God also tells us to be strong and courageous and to not become discouraged for He will be with us wherever we go.

When we faithfully apply God's word to every aspect of our lives, we will find true success. When we apply what God says about marriage and how to treat our wives, our marriages will prosper because He promises to be right there with us.

Pray daily: Dear God my heavenly Father, please help me to read and study Your word consistently. Help me to apply what I learn from studying Your word, so that I may be successful in my marriage and in all aspects of my life because You promise to be with me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# November 2012



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- Read: Ephesians 4:26, 27

As this year comes to a close use this season to rid yourself of any remaining anger and bitterness that you may have towards your wife.

When you don't resolve the issues that cause the anger and bitterness in your relationship, it festers like an infected wound. You begin to replay the issues over and over again. Each time you replay them, they become bigger and more painful.

However, when you choose to work through your problems with your wife as well as working through the anger associated with them, you do not allow the devil a foothold. You do not allow bitterness to exist and grow.

As Jesus humbled Himself to come to earth as a baby, you need to decide to humble yourself. Choose to forgive your wife for any wrongs that she has done to you. Humble yourself to ask your wife to forgive any wrongs that you have done to her.

As we re-live the Christmas story once again, let this season provide a new beginning for your marriage.

Make your New Year's resolution be to recommit to Love, Honor, Forgive, and Cherish your wife every day.

Pray daily: Dear God, thank you for another year. Thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus! May His love be born in our marriage anew. I thank and praise you! In Jesus' Name. Amen.



# December 2012



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