

## Couples In Bloom – Live Life Alive!

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How wonderful new life is. There is nothing like the goodness of God. Where do all these blessings come from? What is involved in obtaining them? The popular saying is, “God is good” which is true but (selfishly) only half the story. It is additionally true that God paid dearly to make these blessings happen, and that we, as the recipients, (more than gladly) owe Him eternally for His undeserved mercy and grace. This message looks at our *response* to the goodness of God. There is also a *responsibility* that is due Him, but He honors the free will He gave us and does not mention it very often in the Bible. It is, however, the entire topic of judgment day and requires our individual attention. The goal is to fully embrace intimacy with God, and not just benefits. God is about relationship.

**Do you like things done half way? Neither does God** ⇒ 2 Kings 13:15-19. Just like half-baked food, an unmotivated heart nauseates God ⇒ Revelation 3:16. What motivates you to do something well? We discuss this in our *Intimate Anatomy* workbook and it has to do with the heart. One of the lessons targeting Christians focuses on the **danger of becoming dull** ⇒ Revelation 3:14-22. The word picture associated with the definition of loving God with all of our *strength* in Deuteronomy 6:5 is a *firebrand* and literally means *vehement affection*. Does this describe our heart cry toward God? Toward our spouse? **There is an absolute need to ruthlessly crucify every apathetic attitude toward the things God says are important.** There should be a proper fear in our hearts toward God ⇒ Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26, 27; 15:16, 33; etc. etc.

**Consider the power God put into intimacy.** If this dynamic is able to generate billions of dollars when perverted into sin, what *more* do you think God has in store for those who use it in *holy zeal and knowledge*? Sin is incredibly foolish; it stimulates but does not satisfy. Living God’s way is so good it almost seems wrong for so much blessing to be made available to ones such as us who used our free will to turn against the One who made, saved, helps and blesses us. Having a positive and dynamic relationship with the only true God is a gift beyond words. Additionally having a spouse who also has that relationship with God is a blessing worthy of increasing honor and intensity as well.

**Consider some Scriptures addressing our attitude and resolve.** Jacob *wrestled* with the angel of God and *refused* to let him go until he blessed him ⇒ Genesis 32:26. It is impossible to please God without *faith* ⇒ Hebrews 11:6. We need more than a need to get results; we need faith in *action* ⇒ James 2:26. We must *lay hold* of the good news Jesus paid for ⇒ Matthew 11:12, Luke 16:16. Jesus will ask every one of us, ‘What did you *DO* for me?’ ⇒ Matthew 25. This is not an assignment exclusively for youth, though God *does* expect us to redeem that energetic season for Him ⇒ Ecclesiastes 12:1-7. These rather are basic tenets of Christianity that will experience increased testing as end times events unfold before our very eyes. What has been extreme will become the norm.

**Consider God’s incredible love for us and foreknowledge of what we need to be blessed in Him.** This same God lavishes blessing on His Bride who *responds* to His love.

Jesus Christ is risen and Lord of all! **Live life alive!**

♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone