

Couples In Bloom – Prepared Not Scared

March 2011

Fear not, Christians; God has sovereignly approved you as royalty ⇨ Luke 12:32.

It's not just another day anymore. The Bible describes this point in history as the last days. This means problems increase as God's last calls go out for souls to become His bride. For those who accept Him, He gives grace for daily living which is always greater than all the evil that is having its last big push ⇨ Romans 5:20; 2 Corinthians 9:8. Expect to have trials and victories, difficulties and accomplishments, pressures and promotions.

“For the lightness of our present affliction works out for us a far more excellent eternal weight of glory, we not considering the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are not lasting, but the things which are not seen are everlasting” ⇨ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. Earthly suffering pales **next to** eternal rewards.

We have suffered a lot for obeying God in this Couples In Bloom ministry, but the victories being accomplished far exceed our pain... **by comparison**. We would quit if we forgot this comparison; **nothing else could be worth it**. We would choose a quiet, self-focused life without any warfare... or victory. We would have no crowns to honor God with on Judgment Day, hypocritically receiving from God but not giving back to Him.

We need to understand something after we are physically born from our mother and before we are spiritually born again by God: our **need** for this rebirth. Comprehending **this alone is enough to cause us to erupt into eternal worship and praise**. Knowing the value of our salvation also empowers us for the warfare required in the fight of faith.

Why does there have to be a fight, anyway? Such cost? Remember the comparison! In addition to appreciation of eternal blessings for temporary afflictions, our choice to obey God is an authenticating act of love to Him; it proves we love Him more than everything. **This is Biblical love: the recipient is worth more than the cost**. It not only applies to God, but also to each other. This love is the greatest commandments ⇨ Mark 12:30-31.

Evil intensifies problems but marriage is a primary target, being the model of how we love God as the bride of Christ. **Husbands and wives: Do you feel like quitting?** “If you have run with footmen, and they wore you out, then how can you compete with horses? And if you feel secure in the land of peace, then how will you do in the swelling of the Jordan?” ⇨ Jeremiah 12:5. **Battles do not win themselves; we need the power of God!**

The power of God does require a humble heart to be activated in ⇨ Isaiah 57:15.

Warfare preparation, power to dismantle fear, faith bigger than enemies bigger than us, encouragement in the face of discouragement, and love that loves when defiled all require **more** than any human can muster. Loving our spouse will become increasingly difficult unless **our humility makes room for the power of God's love to empower our love**. Likewise, loving our spouse will be an increasing blessing as God's love increases in us.

Getting God into our heart evicts fear and replaces it with power, love and a sound mind ⇨ 2 Timothy 1:7. **This is a much better way to live**, and is needed for living in God's blessing where He is the Lord of our life instead of us being victims of life itself.

Be **Prepared, Not Scared**, by living inside of God's love. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone