

CouplesInBloom.com – Deliberate Delight

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“And let the delight of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish the works of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish it!” ⇨ Psalm 90:17. Verses **12-17** have very helpful advice for marriage; find them in your Bible now. The context of this Scripture is our relationship with God, which is the best pattern for marital relationship.

Verse **17** ⇨ **Use the delight** (*literally* agreeableness / suitability / splendor / grace) of our spouse (not their negative traits) to establish the direction of our actions. This means *not* letting the bad things our spouse does to us prompt us to return bad things to them. It *does* specifically mean to keep the good things our spouse does on top of us so that **those are the things** that prepare our own actions. **It is focusing on what we delight about in our spouse to the extent that it becomes our action determiner.**

When our spouse acts neutral or negative, **delight** does *not* come naturally; it has to become **deliberate** on our part if it is going to happen. Christianity means following Jesus, which includes doing things based on the future outcome despite the present cost. Hebrews 12:1-2 ⇨ says Jesus endured the crucifixion (and its immeasurable pain) by choosing what would please God / the joy of redeeming Himself a Bride. God made **deliberate delight** the way to maximize blessings for both spouses in the biggest picture.

These ⇨ **Psalm 90** verses show our part, which God honors with supernatural power:

- 12.** Literally: **weigh out our time** that is associated with activity. This means living life **seriously** because it goes by fast (⇨ verse **10**). This becomes more obvious with age.
- 13.** Realize that **even the covenant role of a spouse needs mercy**; the mistakes we make do deserve consequences which, if legally appropriate, would kill us (for more on this topic, read *A Satanic Scheme* on the www.CouplesInBloom.com HELP page)
- 14.** Realize **what mercy does to a spouse**: it has the power to brighten them up / make them glad *every day*. This verse tells us to give them mercy as early as possible.
- 15.** Be mindful of the intensity and duration of our spouse's previous problems, whether self-inflicted or from others. Give them **gladness that is bigger than their badness**.
- 16.** **Let our true friends know our spouse is good to us**, that they may learn what is right and teach that goodness to their children (easier to learn when we are young).
- 17.** **Ready?! Here we go!** ...with the conclusion of the matter: **Let the beauty of our spouse inspire us** by cherishing it so closely that it permeates all that we do. **Now:**

The **Let** in verse **17** is harder than the **Let** in verse **16** because it contains words **and actions**. The way we own this is in its original format: in intimacy with God, which is (the only) higher priority than our spouse. “*Why is 17 harder,*” you ask? Selfish human nature wanting to be lord is the answer, automatically opposed to the life-giving ways of the only true God, who alone owns all goodness. Have you tried **letting** but failed, again?

Deliberate delight that lasts in all these verses can only come from its Creator, who **deliberately delights** in us! Do not beat yourself up for failing (*all* secular humanism *fails!*). God gives us **power** and **love** ⇨ 2 Timothy 1:17 as we seek Him ⇨ Jeremiah 29:13, so that **our deliberate delight of the Lord** can establish the work of our hands. ♥