



ELEVATE YOUR MARRIAGE:

God's Blueprint for a Healthy Marriage!

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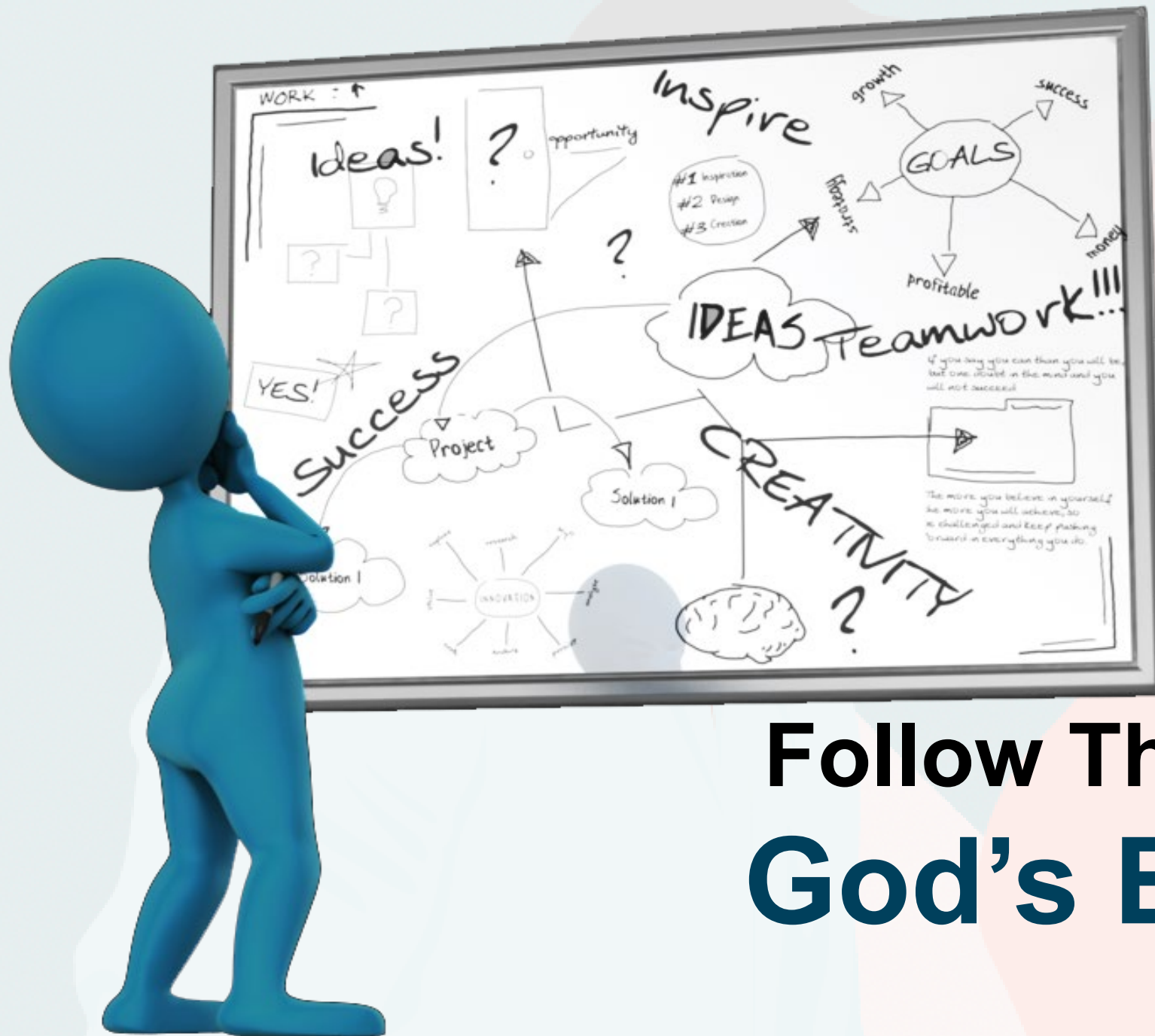
Building On The Rock

Jesus Christ, the Chief Corner Stone

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” **(Matthew 7:26-27)**

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

(Psalm 127:1)



**Follow The Blueprint
God's Blueprint!**

Genesis 2: 24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father & mother and cleave, (cling) to his wife.

And the two Shall Become one flesh

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Let a Man ...

- ✓ Marriage is for Mature People
- ✓ Adam was a Man, not a Boy.
- ✓ He was responsible - His job was to tend the garden.

Leave ...

- ✓ Spouse first priority (After God)
 - ✓ Reprioritize his/her life
 - ✓ Spouse comes before parents, work, friends, children, church, etc. ..
 - ✓ New Permanent Relationship
 - ✓ Requires a new mindset (leave some old habits.)
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Cleave (KJV) or Be Joined (NKJV)

Action word...

- Energy, Pursue, Chase, Cling, Stick to, Connect

So tight, no one or nothing can come between



We are Relational, We Are Wired for Connection!

God said, “not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18)
Relationship, Fellowship, Companionship

Shall become ...

It's a process!
We get to live out all the Christian Virtues

One Flesh ... Intimacy

- ✓ Intimate Connection
- ✓ Emotionally, Physically/Sexually United
- ✓ Unity in purpose – One in the Lord
- ✓ United Spiritually

Unashamed ...

- ✓ No holding back
- ✓ Open
- ✓ Trusting
- ✓ No pretense
- ✓ No mask

Naked ...

- ✓ Vulnerable
- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Intimate
- ✓ Sharing
- ✓ Disclosing
- ✓ Nothing Hidden

This is God's Blueprint ...

For a Healthy, Unified Covenant Marriage

(Genesis 2:24-25, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7-8, Ephesians 5:31)

Ephesians 5:21- 24

Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:25 – 33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church for we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

What Does This Covenant Of Marriage Look Like Lived Out?

- Mutual Submission
- Headship/Order – Husband has Delegated Authority
- Love as Christ loves
- Giving of Self
- Sharing of the Word
- Shared Values
- Nourish
- Cherish
- Respect
- Live as One

One Flesh



In Order to Effectively Live-out (Fulfill) the Covenant of Marriage ...

- We must have a true Desire to Love (Agape)
 - Deeply Care about our spouse and family
 - Willingly & freely Give of ourselves
 - Recognize that we each have Needs and are willing to Serve each other
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Our Top Intimacy Needs:

Acceptance, Affection, Appreciation, Approval, Attention, Comfort, Encouragement, Respect, Security, and Support.



Your *Wife's* Greatest Desires is to be Loved...

Create your Dream Wife

- Security
 - Non-sexual affection, intimacy, and care
 - Intimate Communication/Connection
 - Leadership
-

Your *Husband's* Greatest Desires is to be Respected...

Create your Dream Husband

- Respect
- Sexual Intimacy
- Friendship
- Domestic Support

We are Secure in marriage when ...

- We are loved, cherished, and nourished by our spouse
 - Safe - Free from worry, danger, and pain
 - Confident, and sure of our spouse's love, & commitment
-

God's blueprint is perfect ... Thus, Marriage is Perfect!

BUT ...

WE HAVE AN ENEMY!

Genesis 3:1- 6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; “but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

We Have a Sin Problem!



Three sins :

(1) Lust of the eyes (2) Lust of the flesh (3) The pride of life

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— are not of the Father but is of the world.

(1 John 2:16)

Missing The Mark ... Missing The Standard of the Lord

Romans 7:18-20

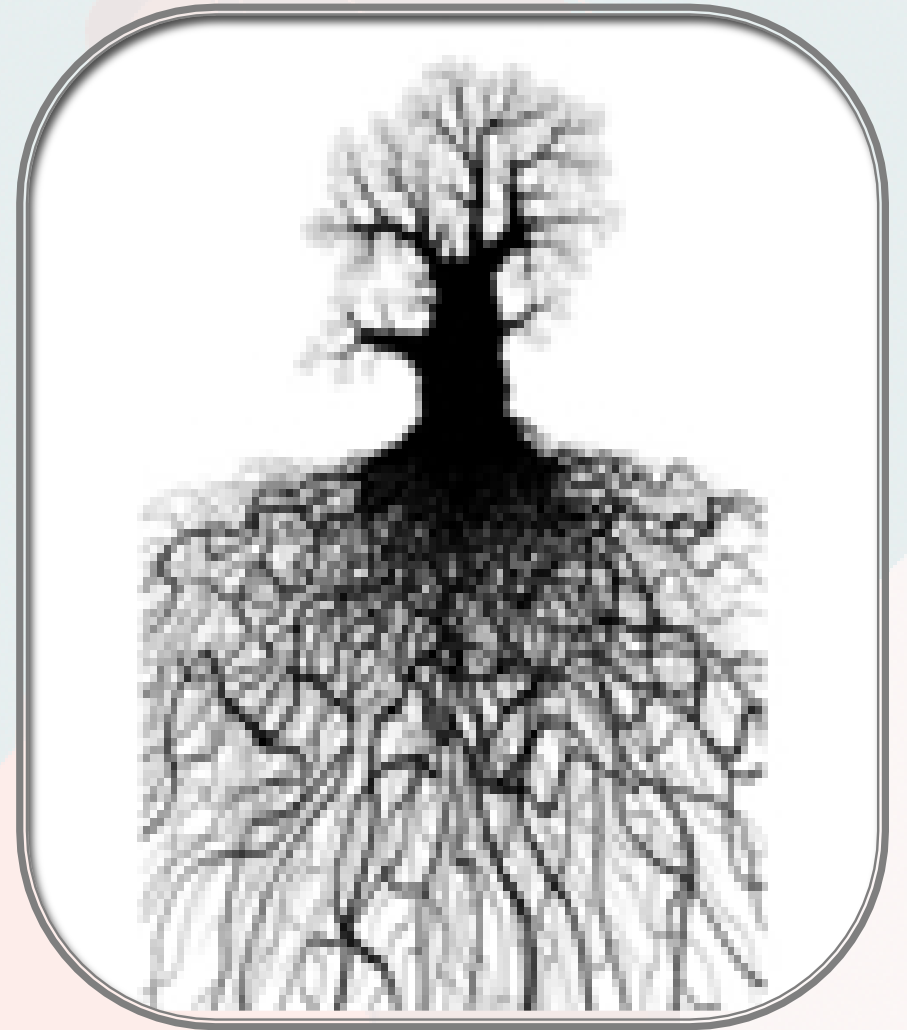
The Apostle Paul wrote: *For to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

What's at the Root? **Selfishness!**

James 1:14-15

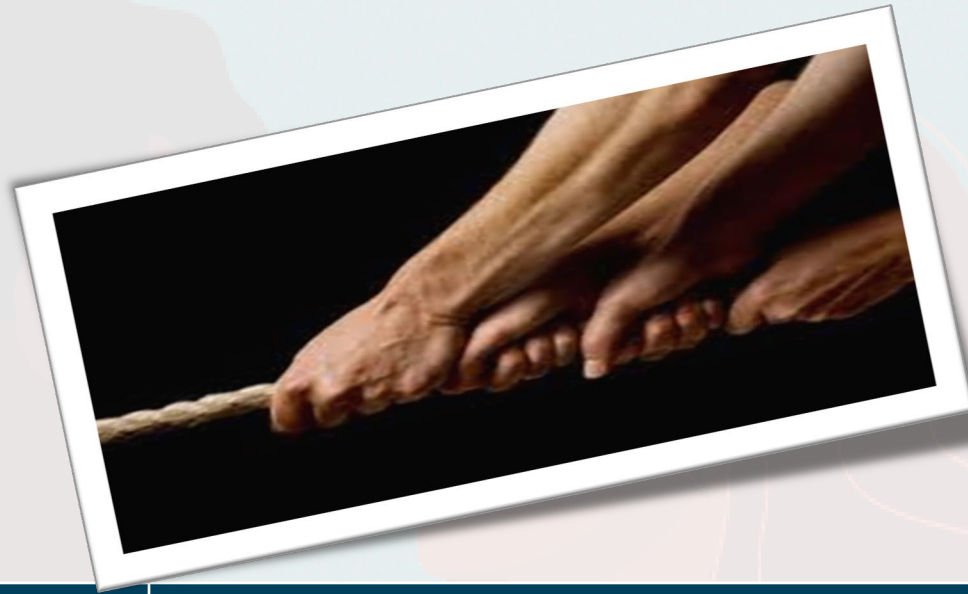
Galatians 5:17

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.



The War ...

Galatians 5:17-26



Characteristics of Selfishness		Characteristics of Love	
Impatient	Suspicious	Patient	Polite
Unkind	Self-Seeking	Kind	Trusting
Proud	Inconsiderate	Sincere	Gracious
Stingy	Demanding	Generous	Unselfish
Humble			

Which One Are You Feeding?

Are you walking in the ***Flesh*** or in the ***Spirit***?

We Reap What We Sow!

Every disagreement is an
opportunity
for oneness or division

Regarding our selfishness and sin, our spouses do not change us as much as they *REVEAL* us.

Once we are exposed, we have to decide if we will be changed for the good – what the Bible calls being sanctified.

We truly do not know how selfish and sinful we are until we live with our spouse in marriage. Thus, the need for sanctification (transformation)

Making Me HOLY (Rom 12:1-2)
“They Shall Become One Flesh” (Genesis 2:24)

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

John 10:18

“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

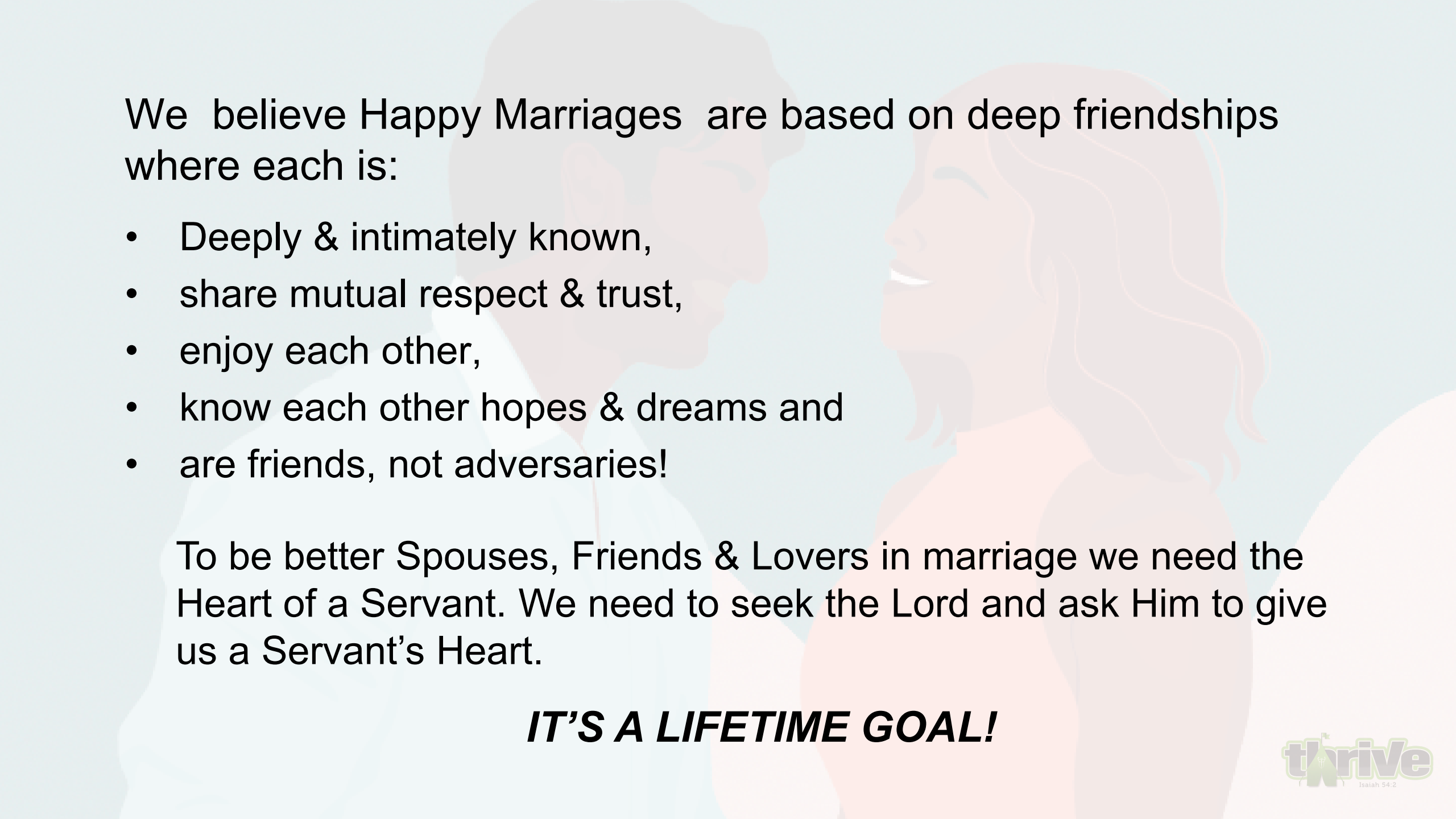
The Bible encourages us to examine ourselves:

Psalm 26:1-2

Judge me, O Lord ... Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.



We believe Happy Marriages are based on deep friendships where each is:

- Deeply & intimately known,
- share mutual respect & trust,
- enjoy each other,
- know each other hopes & dreams and
- are friends, not adversaries!

To be better Spouses, Friends & Lovers in marriage we need the Heart of a Servant. We need to seek the Lord and ask Him to give us a Servant's Heart.

IT'S A LIFETIME GOAL!

So, what is the most powerful, yet under-used and often ignored tool for creating and sustaining marital fulfillment?

Prayer!!!

In His Presence we are:

- ✓ Changed
- ✓ Challenged
- ✓ Charged

**Intimacy with God will translate to
intimacy with our spouses**