

## **Maintaining Love!**

By Richard Crisco

### **Marriage Seminar Video:**

**Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is a husband.**

**We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.**

**Love is blind but marriage is an eye-opener.**

**A successful husband is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man!**

**Married men live longer than single men,  
but married men are a lot more willing to die!**

**Any married man should forget his mistakes because there is no use in two people remembering the same thing.**

**Why are husbands like lawn mowers?  
They're hard to get started, emit foul odors, and don't work half the time.**

**If it's true that girls are inclined to marry men like their fathers, then it is understandable why their mothers cry so much at their weddings.**

**A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished.**

**A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" And the father replied, "I don't know, son, I'm still paying for it."**

**I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.**

**The last fight was my fault. My wife asked, "What's on the TV?" I said, "Dust!"**

**After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The pastor was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"**

*Exo 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.*

*Lev 6:8 The LORD said to Moses: 9 "Give Aaron and his sons this command: 'These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar. 10 The*

*priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar. 11 Then he is to take off these clothes and put on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean. 12 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. 13 The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.*

**God will start a Supernatural Fire in you, but you are responsible to maintain it!**

**To Keep the Fire of God Burning in our Lives we must Cherish above everything else, our time with God in the Secret Place!**

*Mt 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

**If He knows what you need, then doesn't it make sense to ASK HIM what it is you need, and then agree with HIM.**

**When I speak my desires nothing happens, but when I first listen to what God desires and then speak in agreement with His will Mountains are moved!**

*1Jn 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

**The Power of Prayer is not in convincing God of my agenda, but in waiting upon Him to hear His agenda so that I can stand in agreement with what He desires!**

**The first thing Jesus taught about prayer was the need for a secret place, behind closed doors.**

**The Lord abides in the Secret Place. He waits there for you to join Him. The moment you enter that secret place, you are in His Presence.**

**The Key to stepping into His Secret Place is "Shutting the Door" to all other desires and distractions.**

**Shut the door to keep out distractions.**

**Shut the door to prevent intruders.**

**Shut the door to posture yourself to receive His Secrets.**

He desires our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. He will not give Himself to those who are half engaged!

The Most Important Person in the room should be the one speaking while everyone else should eagerly listen with honor and respect!

III. Weddings/Birthdays/Elections/Award Ceremonies  
- We often will request: “Speech, Speech”

Likewise, In Prayer, We should listen first, and then speak in agreement with His Plans!

*Ecc 5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. 2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. ... 7 ...Therefore stand in awe of God.*

*Pro 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*

I am afraid that when we talk too much, we may be guilty of polluting His Secret Place!

*Eze 7:22 My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.*

We obtain wisdom by listening with our eyes, ears, heart, our entire being; to those who are wiser.

All wisdom comes from God for He knows ALL THINGS – OMNISCIENT!

Listening requires humility. One must acknowledge their ignorance, honor others, and be willing to learn.

*Heb 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, ...*

Much of Hearing His Voice is based upon our own will to hear! We choose to hear Him by setting aside time to quietly wait and listen behind closed doors.

“IF” you will hear – It is conditional; based on two things –

1. Will we quiet ourselves long enough to listen?
2. Are we ready for the information? Only God knows the timing – and if we are ready.

Our effort to listen will be determined by the value we place on hearing His Voice!

Our eagerness to listen is directly linked to the value we place upon the one who is speaking!

Those who consistently wait behind closed doors know that many days one leaves disappointed from the silence of God. However, if one truly “lives by every word that proceeds from the Mouth of God” they will endure days, weeks and even months of silence in order to obtain “One Word” from His Lips!

If He chooses not to speak to me, my time spent in silence in His Presence is never futile or in vain. I cannot tell God when to speak; I can only make sure that I am listening when He Speaks.

I am afraid there have been too many times when I have missed God's voice because I was not listening at the time He was speaking!

We must always approach the secret place with humility, gratitude and repentance!

We all fall short of the Glory of God! Ro. 3:23

*Jn 6:5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.*

Tests are given to reveal to us those things we know and do not yet know, but should know.

Jesus is a fair teacher and does not give unfair or unreasonable test!

Jesus was testing Philip to see if he was living in the Glory zone or in the natural realm of his understanding!

Philip would have to be living by the Spirit to know the answer, but because his thoughts were still in the

natural, they were way below Jesus' thoughts. (Isa. 55:9)

I am afraid that I am so naturally mind that I miss the dimension which the Lord exemplified and desired for me to function in the Spirit! If that is true, and I am sure it is, then I must humbly acknowledge my iniquity for walking below His purposes, plans and will for my life!

Anything worth having is worth fighting for!

Prayerlessness may be the first sign of pride and self-dependence. When we feel good about ourselves and confident about our future, we quickly trim back our time in the secret place!

*Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*

Hearing His Voice consistently is very challenging, however, do not let the enemy discourage you or convince you that you are not able to hear God's Voice.

*Jn 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

But you will have to want to hear His Voice!

Often Jesus will whisper –  
just so that you will draw closer to Him!