

February 2019

Transform Magazine

Volume 2 Issue 2



Proving what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God!



Relationships

The image features two vibrant red roses, one positioned above the other, set against a dark, almost black background. The roses are surrounded by several green leaves. The background is overlaid with a grid of thin, glowing red lines that create a diamond-shaped pattern. Additionally, there are abstract, ethereal light patterns in shades of blue and purple that swirl around the roses, adding a sense of depth and movement. At the bottom of the image, the word "Relationships" is written in a flowing, cursive script in a bright red color, matching the roses.

Relationships

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Table of Content

The Ultimate Relationship Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II	5
The Ultimate Relationship By Elder Diane Harvell	7
Relationship 101 Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II	10
Relationships: Where Is the Love? <i>Who and what are you related to?</i> By Eunice A. Christian	12
CREATING MOMENTS By Evangelist Ella J. Alexander	21
Believe You Will See By Judith Allwood	22
Love & Relationship By Evang. Stacie Daniels	29
Relationships Apostle Carlton Johnson	31
Love & Relationship Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II	32

Publisher Transformation

Dr. C.A. Dangerfield II
inform@thetransformu.com

Feature Editors Department Editors/Writers

Ella Alexander - New York, NY
ella.vlfm@gmail.com

Eunice A. Christian - Brooklyn, NY
eunicec434@msn.com

Stacie Daniels - Columbus, OH
stalato@gmail.com

Judith Allwood - Jacksonville, FL
judith_allwood@hotmail.com

Diane Harvell - Philadelphia, PA
Dharvell215@gmail.com

Tony Martin - Detroit, MI
tonymartin@tds.net

Carlton Johnson - Dallas, TX
carlton7johnson@gmail.com

Advisory Board

Dr. Melvin L. Howard, Sr.
Warren, Ohio

Elder Calvin A. Scott
Hampton Roads, VA

Dr. Gerald L. Morgan
Warren, Ohio

Rose Marie Fisher-Dangerfield
Hampton Roads, VA

If you are interest in submitting an article to the magazine, please submit your article and contact information to a local editor in your area for consideration.

Thank you for your interest!

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.



The Best Relationship Today Is with the Comforter The Holy Spirit!

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

The Ultimate Relationship

Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II

The ultimate relationship is the one we have God. This relationship should be the center point and catalyst for all other relationships which we are allowed to establish in life.

I believe that a true relationship with God teaches us how to sincerely open up to others and create lasting bonds that help us to fortify one another's growth. When we can learn and understand true intimacy with God it heightens the person that we become. The bond comes at a level that is so incredible and even unmistakable for one to identify.

Intimacy with God is into me where He sees all aspect of who I am and what I'm in need of from Him that builds our character. Intimacy where I start to see and appreciate all aspect of who God is to me and trust His guidance, understand His chastisement when I disobey. Feeling His drawing whenever I start to veer off course. But most importantly that intimacy makes me want to please Him in everything I do and say. Because it's important to me to maintain that bond that has been established between us. All I want to do is continue building upon that foundation.

I eagerly await each moment to see, feel and touch each nuance of the relationship in which we are building. Simply because it is a true one to one that no one else will truly understand. Simply put it's our relationship. I understand these words "In Him, we live, and move and have my being..."

We read in the book of Psalms where David describes his relationship with God, we gain the knowledge of how it is but, we will not truly understand his relationship until we establish our own. Get into God understand, the three-person which operate inside of Him. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The nurturer, The Sacrificer, and the Guider all who are concerned about every aspect of who we are and who we will ultimately become. The one who will be there in every step of our life. Who we will come to recognize within every place in our life. To gain a level of understanding that will surpass me and everything that we do. We will understand, feel and embrace His true glory. Just a taste will continue to draw us closer and closer. Try Him for yourself and you will begin to understand, then go deeper.



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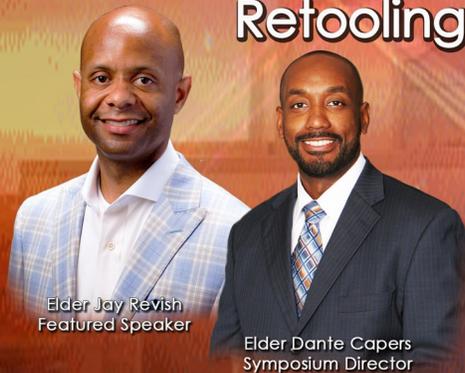
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The Ultimate Relationship **By Elder Diane Harvell**

1 Samuel 18:1

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

There are fifteen different types of relationships that we may experience in our lives at some time or another.

- Co-Dependency~You or your loved one can't function without the other*
- Independent~The two individuals are uncompromising to the other-both are independent in careers, goals, friendships, in every area except one*
- Dominating~Controlling; this relationship will dictate who you are, tell you when you can come and go, which friends to have if any, and one person makes all the rules*
- Rebound~This relationship is activated by pain which may have come from a previous relationship, so this is tolerated to mask that pain*
- Open~An emotional commitment but other than that there is no commitment at all; so each person has a sense of sleeping around without conviction*
- Working Hard ~You look good together on the outside, but both work hard at just that, looking good but have nothing else in common, leaving both exhausted*
- Toxic~This relationship will leave you physically, emotionally, and mentally drained and eventually, immobile. Unfortunately, sometimes, this relationship can exist even between a Pastor, church members, leaders, etc.,....*
- Temporary~Its just for now. What today's society would call, "my friend."*
- Basic Friends~Not a sexual relationship but are friends in every other way.*
- Sexual~Just that; only sex but nothing else accepted or expected in this relationship.*
- Possessive or Possession~If the individual is extremely wealthy, extremely attractive and seems to have **it** all together, you're only in it because they are a "showpiece."*
- Good on Paper~Everything about this person seems good~on paper, career, looks, family oriented, but there's no connection or "spark" to keep you together*
- Long Distance~Tried by many but eventually the flights are too expensive and too much time away from home and family will quickly ruin this type of relationship*
- The Emotional Relationship~a secret emotional connection with someone who is already in a committed relationship that would not be openly approved of.*
- And finally, "The One"~This relationship seems to have everything. Compatibil-*

Out of all of these relationships, there is none that is as precious to me as that of my personal relationship with Christ my Savior!

For me, second to that is the relationship between David and Jonathan. Mathew Henry puts it this way, "Where God unites hearts, carnal matters are too weak to separate them."

"The friendship between David and Jonathan was the effect of Divine grace." David extended godlike grace to Jonathan although there were carnal matters that had occurred between their families.

This is what the Lord has extended to us through His Son Jesus Christ, Divine Grace. Although there was sin between us, God extended His Grace by sending us His only begotten Son, Jesus.

*Therefore, true love comes from the Spirit of Christ. Man's carnal based relationships are only a physical condition of a spiritual necessity.....in other words, in the words of Jesus-
John 3:3- Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." v.5-"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

*A real relationship is not what man makes it, it is what Jesus died for!
I urge you to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.*

*Then and only then, will you experience the ultimate relationship with "**The One**", that will last forever!*

Be Blessed!



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Relationships 101

Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II

In life, it is good to establish a good relationship with good intentions having mutual benefits for all parties. Mutual benefits meaning that we are contributing to the growth and success of another without any hidden agenda, therefore adding to their, life and character and our own in a positive way.

In the world in which we live we need to establish a good relationship with our children to teach them and ensure that they are able to sustain themselves and contribute to society, not as a negative statistic. In doing this we have to parent and not befriend them in the literal sense, but, provide instruction and guidance all throughout their life. To guard against catastrophic disappointments and failures where there is no recovery.

We also have to learn to apologize "Say I'm sorry when you truly know and even when your not exactly sure of a shortcoming. A divided relationship is the worst thing to have especially where there are ill feelings and anger no one wins. However, if it is broken you can fix it by removing pride and taking the step to bring about a resolution. Peace is a much healthier way of life than always having turmoil and strife present.

If you don't know how to go about it. The first step is a prayer for guidance and listening to and following the instruction of God!

Be Blessed as you grow forward!



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Relationships: Where Is the Love? *Who and what are you related to?*

By Eunice A. Christian

Points of reference:

- *Defining 'relationship'*
- *God the Creator and heavenly hosts*
- *God to man; man to earth*
- *Relationships to family, friends, others*
- *Man's reconciliation back to God*
- *Stay encouraged*

Relationships Defined

For this article, the focus is upon relationships, but first, *what is the definition of 'relationship'?* According to Merriam-Webster.com (n.d.), *relationship* is defined as ¹*the state of being related or interrelated;* ²*the relation connecting or binding participants in a relationship: such as KINSHIP;* ³*a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings; a romantic or passionate attachment.* So now, the question posed is: *Who and what are you related to?*

God's Relationship to Us as Creator

As we are aware, relationships are an integral aspect of life. Each and every living creature has a relationship with another; whether it is a creature of the air, land, or sea. However, what sets apart one single living creature from all the rest is that out of the infinite variations of creatures here on earth, only one has been created in the image of The Most High. Only one creature has a living soul—it is us—*man and woman (hereafter collectively referred to as 'Man')*. That is a relationship like no other creature on earth or any of the hosts in the heavens above. So I pose the question: *Do you believe you have a relationship with God? Furthermore, how can you not have a relationship with God? What supports your answers?**

Genesis 1:1 (KJV): ¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:26 (KJV): ²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 2:4-5 (KJV): ⁴These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

Also:

Genesis 2:6-7 (KJV): ⁶but there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. ⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul.

Isn't that marvelous! After the mist that watered the earth, God formed man. So from dust we came, along with moisture from the depths of the earth. Water has its significance as presented in the Holy Bible; it is a form of purity; it is a symbol of life. Man was created part earth and water in its purest form. *Why is this relevant to the topic of relationship?* From whence we came, we humans have a duty to protect the earth. Our bodies depend upon the good earth. Our relationship to the earth should be as good stewards. What we have been bestowed should not be looked upon as a right (due to man's disobedience to God), but as a privilege.

1 Corinthians 10:26 (KJV): ²⁶For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

We should look upon the environment as a gift that should not be taken for granted. We should not have a depraved indifference as to how we treat the earth. Our relationship should be as good stewards to the earth, stemming from God's blessings to have dominion over it (Genesis 1:28). We came from the ground; therefore, it is a part of us. So, to not have a right relationship with the earth—to neglect our environment—is to also neglect humankind and go against the ordinance of God to take care of it (Genesis 2:5; (KJV)). Furthermore, we should not mistreat anything that God had made very good:

Genesis 1:31 (KJV): ³¹And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

So, before the foundation of the earth, God continues to be among us with His heavenly hosts. He established the earth and the heavens. The earth is God's property. He is Creator of it all. That is *His relationship to the heavens, earth, and man—Creator.*

The Broken Relationship of God and Mankind

Adam's and Eve's disobedience forever and significantly changed the course of mankind, and all relationships contained here on earth (Genesis 3):

Genesis 3:14-18: (KJV): ¹⁴And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. ¹⁶Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷ And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

Adam and Eve were ousted from the Garden of Eden—*the first children to be thrown out of their home! Have you ever had a relationship that caused you to lose your home?* The earth would no longer be under the subjection God intended for Adam when he was first formed.

Genesis 3:19 (KJV): ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Before Adam's fall, he was freely given all things for sustainability without sweat, strain, or struggle. Now, man's relationship with the earth would be met with challenge. Prior to the creation of Adam, it had not rained because there was not a man to till the ground (Genesis 2:5). After forming Adam, the mist covered the earth enabling it to sustain the herbs and plants. After the fall of Adam, the sweat of Adam's brow became prominent as part of his survival. He had to work hard, much harder for his sustenance, but God, by His grace and mercies, still desired to protect man from his sinful state He desired to reconcile man back to Him; even after Adam's fall. *How is this evident? This has been made clear and has been established by His Holy Word!*

Relationship of Redemption Delayed

Before Cain had slain his brother Abel, God told Cain how he could have established and maintained a right relationship with Him. Cain had a choice:

Genesis 4:3-7 (KJV): ³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. ⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: ⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. ⁶ And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

From the beginning of time, God spoke to man and had provided instructions as to how to be obedient to His holy will. God instructed Adam and Eve to not eat the fruit from one tree in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16); Adam and Eve ate a fruit of the tree anyway. God told Cain, that although He rejected his offering, he could still please Him with an acceptable sacrificial offering (Genesis 4:7). Instead, Cain conspired against his brother Abel, and killed him. Throughout history, man's disobedience has been constant. In spite of God's instruction to man—from the Books of Genesis to Revelation—man continues to fall short of His Glory. However, the relationship between God and man was broken, but not completely severed, because God had a plan. In our spiritual (positive) brokenness (being His chosen), because of the mercies and heart of God, man was still allowed to call upon the name of the Lord:

Genesis 4:25-26 (KJV): ²⁵And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. ²⁶ And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.

Yet, spiritual (negative) brokenness continued to drive man further and further away. No one who lived in the flesh during the period of the Old Testament could reconcile man back to God.

Has God always appreciated His creation? God saw and knew man's heart:

Genesis 6:5-8 (KJV): ⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. ⁷ And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them. ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Do you see how disobedience does not only directly affect the relationship between the offended and offender, but also those who are interconnected indirectly? When we hurt or violate those we love, it can hurt others who are there to support and who love us as well. Sin hurts those who may not have anything directly to do with our falling short. God destroyed not only man, He also destroyed beasts, creeping things, and the fowls of the air all because man did not remain in obeisance to the will of God and God became angry. Yet, because of the love of God for man, He repented.

In Genesis Chapter 6, although God despised man, Noah pleased God. God spared Noah and his family, and although this great flood occurred, God allowed the earth to replenish. God's plan for man's redemption was still in place:

Genesis 9:8-13 (KJV): ⁸ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹ And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed and after you; ¹⁰ And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth of the earth with you; from the ark, to every beast of the earth. ¹¹ And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹² And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth.

Man's Relationship to Fellowman (after the fall of Adam)

As shared previously, Adam blamed Eve for his disobedience, and Eve told God that the serpent tricked her (Genesis 3:12-13). *Isn't that the way it is today...men and women blaming each other and other things for situations falling apart? The Devil made me do it! Is there anything in your life that separates you from having a right-relationship with God? Can you think of anything that would cause you to fall short of His glory? What is your forbidden fruit? Have you resisted anything recently that you are glad about in order to remain in obedience to God's will?* As we are familiar, the fall of man had ongoing consequences.

Genesis 3:16-17 (KJV): ¹⁶ Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷ And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Wickedness did not end there with Adam and Eve. Cain slew his brother Abel:

Genesis 4:11 (KJV): ¹¹ And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand....

Although man's heart continue to vex God, still His relationship with man was not completely severed:

Genesis 8:21 (KJV): ²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

As we continue to study and learn the holy scriptures, we can learn more about God's will and way for our lives. Jesus will return for the just and unjust; Believers are not to be slothful in well-doing. There is a familiar phrase: *Not by flood, but by fire next time.*

2 Peter 3:5-8 (KJV): ⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved

unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Man's Reconciliation Back to God

Psalm 34:20 (KJV): ²⁰ He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken.

Powerful scripture! Psalm 34:20, when it was written, depicts in part how our Redeemer would suffer and die for us. To accept how much Jesus loves us as well as testify that we love Him is to not only acknowledge that He died on the cross, but that He did so that we may have right to everlasting life.

Revelation 22:14 (KJV): ¹⁴ Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

God so loved us that He allowed His Son to become God in the flesh to atone for our sins (John 3:16). Jesus, being born of a woman, placed in a lowly manger, grew in wisdom. He was crucified on a wooden cross as the Sacrificial Lamb of God for a world of sin. He was buried in a tomb; resurrected from the dead; claimed the keys of life and death; dwelt among man to reveal His holy power; to rise again to be with our Heavenly Father and hosts.

Revelation 1:18 (KJV): ¹⁸ I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

His Son, Jesus, who became God in the flesh, having dwelt here on earth, blessed us with His Holiness and guidance; departing so that the Holy Spirit would come as our Comforter:

John 16:7 (KJV): ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.

Again, all a part of God's plan to redeem man from a world of sin. There is no greater relationship than to have with our Creator, our Heavenly Father.

Revelation 22:13 (KJV): ¹³ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

A Right-Relationship with our Redeemer Who Lives: Jesus

The relationship that gives us strength from day to day is the relationship we have with our Lord and our God under the power and unction of the Spirit of Truth (John 15:26). Based upon the love of God and our Lord Jesus for us, we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit, that rests, rules, and abides in and around us—*at least I claim that for myself—and I hope you do, too.* If

you have not accepted Jesus the Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, I pray that you do soon. *How about now?*

No day, nor hour, is promised to us. Redemption has been made possible because of the love of God for His chosen. To date, God's Hand has been with mankind all of the way; even during the darkest times when His chosen could not see their way through.

Psalm 34:17-19 (KJV): ¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

If you feel alone, broken hearted, go to Jesus. Pray to Him and praise Him for an uplifted spirit and countenance. By the power of the Holy Spirit, your path towards being set free from the pains of emotional, spiritual, and cultural bondage can begin that the Father of Lies sent your way to take away your peace:

Acts 15:7-11 (KJV): ⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. ⁸And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us; ⁹And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

As you probably can relate to, whether personally or by someone you know, bondage can consume a person's heart to near the point of giving up, but with Jesus, there is no giving up. He is the Word—the Living Word—and with Him as a guide, you can become strengthened and set free. *That is God's blessed assurance to us—because He loves us.* In turn, you can learn to encourage others. When you receive the Living Word, you have the potential to be encouraged—and that you are more than a survivor, you are a conqueror. Find it in your heart to pray and praise your way through:

Matthew 10:22 ²²And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

John 3:17 ¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

Acts 2:21 ²¹And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:47 ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

* * *

Stay Encouraged

The month of February is known for a day of heightened sense of love, admiration, and affection—Valentine’s Day. Answer the following questions: *Do you observe Valentine’s Day? Do you place more emphasis in finding physical and emotional love from others than you seek from God our Creator of all things? Who and what do you have a relationship with? Where is the love that you value most above all else? Do you love God? Do you love yourself? How do you display your love for God and self? Are you neglecting the Love that is unfailing; the love of Christ Jesus that should be the foundation of everything in your life?* There is no greater love than the love God has for the world (John 3:16). He has done great things for me—for the world. *I pray you believe the same.*

So many individuals seek relationships that are empty or lack promise. *You cannot ever say that when you seek a right-relationship with our Lord.*

2 Peter 3:8 (KJV): ⁸The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Don’t settle for less than God’s love for your life. Read the holy scriptures that uplifts and brings gladness to heart. So when you are asked again, *‘Where is the love? Who and what are you related to?’ You can share that you are related to our Lord and our God who made the heavens, earth, and the fullness thereof; that you’re a King’s kid! **YOU KNOW HE LOVES YOU!***

Romans 8:31-39 (KJV): ³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³²He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. ³⁴Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* * *

There is no greater love to celebrate than the love of God.

So If you’ve haven’t done so already, give a hand to man, but give your heart to Jesus.

If you’re looking for a love to call upon, look to Jesus.

Be blessed and be a blessing. ❤️

Relationship. (n.d.) In *Merriam-Webster.com*. Retrieved from www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/relationship on Feb. 5, 2019.

*All biblical references are from the Kings James Version (KJV) - Public Domain.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP REVIVAL 2019

"The Process of Recovering"

FEBRUARY 15-17, 2019



February 15 at 7pm
Apostle Matinzicio Edmondson
Greater Works Dominion Church Ministries
Rocky Mount, NC



February 17 at 4pm
Apostle Ryan Edwards
Anointed Temple of Worship Center
Wilson, NC



February 16 at 6pm
Elder Sharon Edwards
The Way of Holiness Apostolic Ministries
Williamston, NC

February 17 at 11am
Rev. Jacquetta Horton Harrison
Union Hill Baptist Church
Nashville, NC

Overseer JD Williams
Lead Pastor & Host



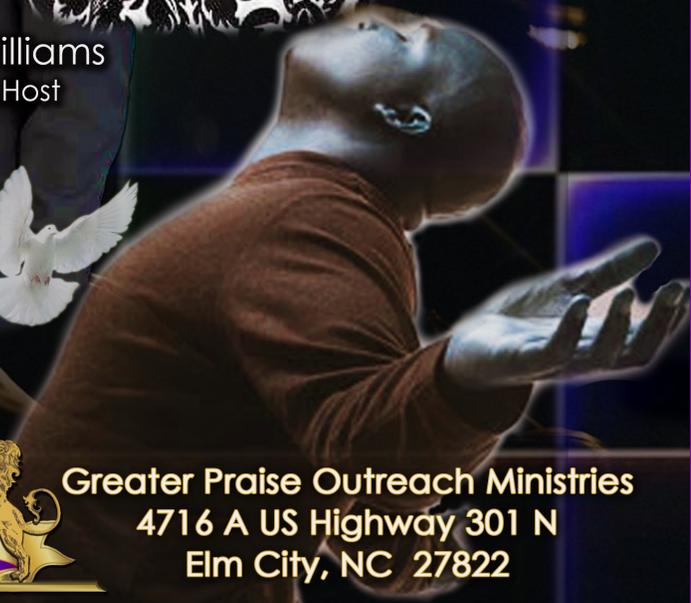
February 16 at 11am
Minister Elect Jon`Tay Hargrove "Prayer"
Greater Praise Outreach Ministries
Elm City, NC

Minister Elect Quina C. Jackson "Fasting"
Greater Praise Outreach Ministries
Elm City, NC

Minister Doris Williams
"The Presence of God"
Greater Praise Outreach Ministries
Elm City, NC



Greater Praise Outreach Ministries
4716 A US Highway 301 N
Elm City, NC 27822



CREATING MOMENTS

Evangelist Ella J. Alexander

John 14:15 (KJV)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments”

Some would say that it is so easy to say something than to do it. In the verse above Jesus tells Philip, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” Sometimes the very thing we may want is not necessarily what we need. Here Jesus is giving a commandment that would require faith and a demonstration of true love. Jesus response came because of the statement Philip made which was: “Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.” The disciples had many questions for Jesus and although they spent much time with him, there was this moment that would always be with them. The moment when Jesus said If ye love me, keep my commandments. Wow, what a very deep and penetrating set of words. To many of them they were probably saying within themselves that they did love Jesus and then question why would he make such a statement. Sometimes being with a person is not just enough. Watching what a person does is not enough. But this was a special moment that would lead to many more moments of love. Not just any kind of love but a pure and godly love that nothing could shake.

For us to keep the commandments of God we must think much of them. We must think greatly of God and love him with a love unknown to mankind. This would take more than mere words, this moment demanded an action; an action of the heart, mind and soul. It was something that could be taught, demonstrated, and passed on to others.

The disciples watched Jesus perform many miracles, signs and wonders for three years but to be placed in a position where you are left to create moments is something new. The greatest moment that Jesus created for the disciples was the day he gave up his life for them, but the greatest moment that would be created by the disciples would be to demonstrate their love by keeping the commandments of Christ.

When it comes to us, the body of Christ; we are supposed to demonstrate the love of Christ. It's not just to those who we think deserve love, but to everyone. We were commanded to love each other in the Body of Christ and that is how the world would know that we are of God. Once we demonstrate his love, we are to take that same love and love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to love those that the world won't love. It's not enough to say, “I love you” but we have to show it. When Jesus had came to the scribes and Pharisees he called them hypocrites because the people said much with their mouth but their heart was not in what they were saying (Matthew 15:1-8; Isaiah 29:13 KJV). They did just the opposite and God doesn't want us to be that way. If we say we love him, then it is our duty to keep His commandments by creating moments.

Believe You Will See

Judith Allwood

I once asked a Christian friend of mine, “How does one believe?” “Have faith!” she responded confidently. “And how does one have faith?” I was looking for my friend who is also a teacher to share any step-by-step process she may have used to exercise her faith, for I genuinely wanted to learn how to apply the Word so I could have more results to my prayers. I was very disappointed when she matter-of-factly answered, “By believing.”

Jesus told His disciples to, “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22) if they wanted to see and experience certain outcomes in their lives. I looked up the word have and found that one of its many definitions is to “hold something in the mind.”

One of the instances in which Jesus exhorted His followers to have faith was when they needed to feed the people attending one of His teaching sessions in Matthew 14:17. All the disciples could see with their eyes was a small boy’s lunch of five loaves and two fish.

That they were to have faith meant that they would have to look – not with their physical or natural eyes – but with their minds or non-physical eyes, that there would be food enough to feed four thousand people. In other words, look not on what was apparent but on what was possible.

That is hard work, especially for those of us who have been plagued by pessimism. Many people, like me, grew up with negative mental programming or conditioning and live accordingly – as pessimistic and faithless – without the ability to believe much. Hence my quest to find out how.

I have learnt that we can recondition our minds to think optimistically. In fact, there is a field of study called neuroplasticity, which suggests that the brain is not ‘hard -wired’ as we have been taught. It can be re-programmed or reconditioned.

With all respect, neuroscience is a little behind because the Scriptures have already told us that we can transform our lives by renewing our minds (Romans 12:2). The only big question is, “how?” That’s what I wanted my friend to help me with, because I so desperately wanted to transform my negative way of thinking and learn how to believe so that I could “see the glory of God” in my life as Jesus promised in John 11:40.

So picking up on my definition of ‘have’ I have been practicing to hold a mental image of what I am praying for – provided that I am clear about God’s will surrounding the request – believing I have received it – as Jesus said we should do in Mark 11:24

and moving into thanksgiving about it while I wait for it to be manifested. For faith is “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1).

That’s the process in a nutshell and with it I have really been transforming my world.

I was looking for a new job contract, and like many other job applicants I desired to not have to do an interview. I made my request known and saw myself on my new assignment. Only a day had passed when I received an email with an immediate need for contractors and because of the urgency of it there would be no time for an interview. Prayer answered. Amen.

A few years ago when the news hours were filled with rising unemployment numbers, I declared that I would not subscribe to the pessimistic thinking. I prayed for a job and received a well-paying contract which lasted for three years.

Every day I get an opportunity to be transformed by renewing my mind in small ways and big. To be honest, sometimes I see a challenge, not an opportunity and get into my woe-is-me mindset. But thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit which nudges me and reminds me that I have the power to choose how I want to think. “Be it unto you according to your faith”, the Spirit often says to me. Thank God I’m gaining the strength in my ‘legs’ to walk by faith and not by sight.

Republished Article 01/2017

Open enroll for the 2019-2020 school year is NOW OPENED. We are starting now with the EZPay program to benefit those who are serious about earning their degree in Biblical Studies and Theology.



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EZPay is a program that we have started to assist those who desire to pay down the cost of their education. So at the start of school you won't have lump sum for book, administration and graduation fees. Through this method you can also start paying down your monthly tuition cost. For those student who have used this method in the past, have benefited greatly from it. Having this opportunity has made their desire for obtaining a degree a reality!

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June 13 - 15, 2019

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1101 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia 23059

Registration fee as of Jan 1, 2019:

\$75

Hotel Room: \$129 per night

(Thursday and Friday night ONLY)

Please see registration for room details.

Fortifiers that are called to serve

CASHAPP: \$vlfministry
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Evang. Ella J. Alexander
Brooklyn, NY

Evang. Ella

646-418-2513

Min. Mark Dudley

404-671-2879

Email:

ella.vlfm@gmail.com

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6 AM FORTIFICATION CONFERENCE 2019

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ . Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Office: Apostle Prophet Bishop Pastor Elder . Minister Evang. Deac/Deaconess

Church Affiliation _____

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\$129 per night (Thurs & Fri only)	Single	Double Room	Double Room
		(Will share with someone I know)	(Willing to share with someone I don't know)
Please check appropriate box	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REGISTRATION FEE

	Amount	Deposit	Balance
Registration Fee			
Early Bird Registration Fee Starting Aug 6 – Dec. 31, 2018	\$ 25.00		Must be paid by Dec. 31, 2018
Registration Fee beginning Jan. 1, 2019	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00 (by 3/1/19)	Must be paid by May 1, 2019
Late Registration Fee After May 1 st 2019	\$ 100.00	\$ 55.00	Must be paid by May 15, 2019

The registration fee includes workshop material, coffee & tea breaks and lunch.

***MAY 15, 2019 IS THE CUT-OFF DATE.**

Signature

Date

(Specific diet requirements (vegetarian, allergies): _____
If you need any other specific facilities (wheelchair access ...), do not hesitate to inform the VLF Staff at ella.vlfm@gmail.com or 646-418-2513.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be in writing or by email. Registration fees are non-refundable upon cancellation. Room booking cancellations are fully refunded if cancelled five (5) days prior to event. Individual room reservations must be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to Day of Arrival. If cancelled after the 48 hours a one night room stay fee is required plus taxes and fees. If cancelled the day of the full payment will be requested and refunds will not be provided.

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*To reserve a room, please call (804) 261 – 2266 and reference **6AM Fortification Conference** or ask to speak with Nancy Coggins if you have any issues booking the room.*

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By filling out the registration form, the participant gives consent that VLF Ministry can process the data provided within the framework of the conference and allow photographs to be made during the conference. This includes, unless registered participants object, all handling needed for the applicant's participation at the event and for the drafting of a list of participants which will be distributed at the conference, and placing photographs in the pictures gallery accessible only by participants and VLF Ministry, on the ministry webpage or any social media represented by the ministry. If you do not wish to be photographed please indicate below and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

I, _____, do not wish to be photographed during the event.
(Please Print)

(Participant's Signature/ Date)

Please return registration forms by April 31, 2019 to the following below. After May 10,2019 no registration forms will be accepted.

. Note: You can send your form in as soon as you like so we could have count of who will be present.

**Email: Ella - ella.vlfm@gmail.com
Mark - Markworship2003@gmail.com**

**Mail to: VLF Ministry
c/o Evang. Ella J. Alexander
P.O. Box 330046
Brooklyn, NY 11233**

02.16
LESSON 12

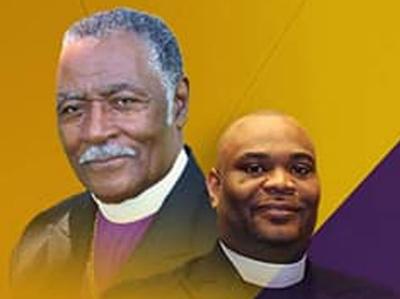
SUBJECT
PRAISING GOD'S MIGHTY WORKS
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PSALM 66:1-9; 16-20

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Love & Relationship

Evang. Stacie Daniels

Have you ever pondered what makes the world go around? There can be several arguments made for what is believed to be the answer to this question. In my humble opinion, the answer to that question is one word—**LOVE**. To take the ladder one step further, the essence of love is God. The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 ‘Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.’ We will revisit this later in this article.

The intangible entity known as love mystifies, gratifies and satisfies. Love is truly amazing because it has the power to bring tears of joy and tears of sadness. Per the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, love is defined as a strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties; attraction based on sexual desire; or affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests. If you notice, two key words in the definition are “based on.” This is one key element that distinguishes God’s definition of love from the rest because His love is not based on how you look, your background or pedigree, your skills, talent, status, or wealth. The love of God is **unconditional**.

Without question, love is more than a mere feeling. Feelings come and go, wax and wane. Feelings can also be contingent upon perception. Perception, as we know, can often be skewed or one sided. However, real love should not be variable or predicated based upon feelings and emotions. We are able to garner a clear biblical definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13. According to this passage of scripture, love is patient, love is kind. This indicates love should not turn on/off like hot or cold water because love suffers long. We see so many marriages failing today and it is common to hear husbands and wives reportedly “fall out of love.” I concur with the conclusion of another writer (author unknown) who penned the marriage vow of “till death do us part” today often means that individuals decide to part at the death of their love for their spouse rather than physical death. Nonetheless, it begs the question was it true love from the start?

Love is kind. How can one confess love for another when their approach is far from kind? Conduct and behavior does matter. The scripture is true when it admonishes us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12). The Bible goes on to teach love does not envy, does not boast and is not proud. If I love my brother/sister/neighbor, then I will not envy that person or any of their possessions. What is good for one person does not mean it is good for the next person. Why desire something tailor made for someone else? What God has for you is for you. He already knows if you desire a house, husband, wife, business, ministry, promotion or whatsoever it may be. There is no need to be anxious because He is not a novice to wise and precise judgment. It is up to you to trust Him, follow Him and allow Him to manifest His plan at the appointed time. The appointed time is the time of fulfillment. Love does not boast and is not proud.

Therefore, humility plays a major role in love. True love is not arrogant, self-serving nor does it exaggerate its own virtues. When someone has 1 Corinthians 13 type of love, they will not have a problem asking for forgiveness upon hurt or offense to another person. The sin of pride is swallowing up a multitude while at the same time destroying countless relationships.

It is worthwhile pointing out the other qualities of love. Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. Love never fails. For the sake of brevity, we will not expound on each of these tenets of love. However, they are worth acknowledging because these principles of love are vital to all relationships.

Many relationships (friendships, kinships, marriages) die due to lack of love. It is imperative to take another look at ourselves in the mirror daily and examine where we measure up to the 1 Corinthians 13 standard of love. Sometimes it is needful to ask the questions:

- 1) Do I lack patience?
- 2) How do I feel if I cannot have what I want?
- 3) Do I desire what someone else has?
- 4) How am I treating those around me?
- 5) Does the spotlight have to be on me?
- 6) Do I lack forgiveness? The list goes on and on.

It is also important to recognize that love should grow and not diminish. We have to nurture our relationships. If there is not a mutual reciprocation, the relationship will not thrive and more than likely it will demise. It is crucial to show appreciation and requite benevolence. As highlighted earlier in this article, the scripture in 1 John 4:8 plainly explains that **whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love**. Going to church, owning a Bible, and/or engaging in ministerial duties or tasks does not equate to knowing God. The only way you can know Him is to have relationship with Him.

Republished Article 02/2017

Dominion Church of Gods Grace, Inc
The Dominionite Nation, Inc.

**FEB 22-24
2019**

HOLY *Convocation*



BISHOP

Dale Gurajena

APOSTLE

Robert L. Capers

PROPHETESS

Jeanette S. Williams

**Prelate
APOSTLE**

Levar A. Williams

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Bishop Dale Gurajena

Fortress of Faith, Brooklyn N.Y.

SATURDAY Feb 23 - 6:30pm

Apostle Robert L. Capers

Cathedral of Hope For All People
Brooklyn NY

SATURDAY Feb 23rd - 10am-3pm

Empowerment Workshops

(\$35 Registration to Attend)

Sunday Feb 24 - 12PM

Prophetess Jeanette S. Williams

Dominion Church OGG Inc

(This Service will be
held at 632 Jerome St)

SUNDAY Feb 24 - 4:30pm

Apostle Levar A. Williams

Dominion Church of Gods Grace, Inc
Brooklyn N.Y.

LOCATION

Mt Zion Pentecostal Holiness Church
36 Rockaway Ave . Brooklyn NY 11233
Apostle Georgia Schofield Host Pastor

For more info. (917) 773-5634 / (347) 972-5243

Relationships

Apostle Carlton Johnson.

It has been my experience by the way of trial and error that relationships come in all shapes, sizes and colors. I can honestly say that I had more relationships that went wrong, than I have that are true and lasting. As I look back, I can base the forming or foundation on which these relationships are built.

To my not so much surprise and if you would be honest with yourself. Relationships are developed according to where you are, as a person in life. Most of us before we came to accept Christ as our savior. We spent years in the world system moving and reacting to the appetite of the flesh. Which in return dictated the relationships we made. Too often these relationships left us disappointed and let down. Why, because we weren't in a place to discern the spirit operating in the person. which is really who they are but rather listen to the tongue, that deceived us in believing, that's who they really are.

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Love & Relationship

Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II

February is called the love month; however, true love is more than just a physical act. Love is a deep emotion that is derived by a deep admiration of another. True love is embraced into an unbreakable soul tie that withstands all obstacles as well as challenges that seek to separate it. Building a relationship that has no boundaries to contain the two which are united.

Someone asked what does it take to benefit from a great love relationship? To that, I would say God as the foundation and open communication with one another for starters. I have come across in my life numerous couples that have been married for 30 and 40 + years. I tend to marvel at the closeness I witness. I study the body language and listen to the voice tones of the basic conversations and witness the caring eyes shared between the two parties.

The fact that these relationships have actually caught my attention along with that of others because of their success speaks volumes within itself. For we have learned so much not by spoken words of instruction but by their daily lives. This further goes to show for we may never know all the people we have reached just by our walk in life and how we carry ourselves in public places.

I always share one of the greatest love stories I had the privilege of witnessing growing up. That would be the relationship which my Grandparents' shared. The family always referred to them as the "kissingest couple" if there is ever such a phase. But it was good for me as a young man to see true love in the right context. How a man could be affectionate to his spouse and make her feel loved, cherished and treasured. Their bond was so unique and envied by others.

Grandmother never had chosen to drive a vehicle so Granddad would make sure that she was able to get wherever she desired to go. One time, in particular, I recall that she and her sister wanted to go on a cruise, which was leaving out of New York. So he drove her from Virginia to New York with me in tow. We made sure she departed safely and drove back to Virginia. It was funny to me because he would call out her name and say "where are you? I miss you, baby". Then when time had elapsed we made the return trip to this explosive kissing reunion. Even though I may joke about it some, it was a great lesson on life. Real men show true emotions.

I can truly say I never ever witnessed any arguments while living with them. One thing I truly admired the most was in the evening at bedtime they always said their prayers together. One could be comfortable in the family room watching television when the other was ready for bed, but would stop and go into the room and kneel down and pray together and then kiss each other goodnight. To me that was powerful!

They also understood each other's strengths within the relationship and allowed each to effectively operate within their gifted areas without fuss. I saw husband love your wife as Christ loved the church and the virtuous women in action (Ephesians 5:25, 33, Proverbs 12:12a, 31:10). It was through this relationship I could see God's promises in action and understand that his Word would not come back void. True love is possible and you get out of a relationship what you both jointly put in. They lived out until death do we part and beyond.

Take lessons from those who have a proven track record and most importantly keep God the center of the relationship because he makes it whole. Before you blow up and get mad in a relationship examine your own emotions and motive before displaying them. Consider the cost and take a moment to cool off before you allow words to travel across the threshold of your lips and destroy within a second what you have been blessed to build. Words are hard to recall when delivered in haste, confusion, and fear. They cut and destroy quicker than a shape knife.

Unity is an enemy to the devil but strength in God. Maintain your relationship in and with God's guidance. Always build up your partner and never tear them down-- communication is key. Start with what is right and build with what would make it better to make it beneficial for both. Praying for each other is one of the main keys and speaking life admiration into their life and joint faith will unlock many doors. Each person is relevant to the success of the relationship. Put God first then each other because with him at the helm everything will line up. Always put yourself in your partners place to gain a better understanding within yourself towards your partner and their needs. I pray for your continued victory and success within your relationship. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6

Republished Article from 2/2017

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