

28 DAY MARITAL PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

Declare A Thing

A RADICAL LOVE AFFAIR

PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

COVENANTPARTNERS

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Declare a Thing! A Radical Love Affair

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Dedication Page

We dedicate this Marriage Devotional to every woman or man who has stood in the gap for their marriage. This Marriage Devotional is for those that refuse to allow the enemy to swallow up their vows and destroy their covenant. We dedicate this Marriage Devotional to every wife and husband that refuses to fall into a deep slumber or become drunk with distractions but remains consistent in declaring God's word over their marriage through prayer. We dedicate this Marriage Devotional to those who have prayed and have used prayer as part of reconciling their homes by the power of God. We are so grateful for the generations you have and will impact by your willingness to reflect God's compassion to pursue your marriage as God pursues us with his radical love.

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Preface

As we prayed regarding this devotional, we believe the Lord wanted us to share scripture followed by daily prayer. We were often tempted to share personal experiences, revelations, and intimate God-experiences; however, we believe God wanted those who would venture on this 28-day prayer journey to partake in daily scripture and prayer as they may experience their own experiences, revelations, and God-experiences. *Declare a Thing!* is your journey with God.

Declare a Thing! isn't a prayer devotional that will overly interject our revelations or personal experiences. It has been our heart's prayer that this devotional strengthens couples. Our heart's desire is for couples to have the leading of God through this journey, to have listening ears, pliable hearts, and teachable spirits, for the blossoming and maturation of each union.

Introduction

We have a strong belief that God laid on our hearts to write a marital prayer devotional. Why 28 days? The value to adapt to anything new or recommit to something is to, at least, begin. Many self-help gurus, life coaches, and preachers would use a quote based on a premise or statement made by Dr. Maxwell Maltz in his book *Psycho-Cybernetics* that it takes 21 days to create a habit. This ideology grew in its popularity yet proved its shortcomings because of the ideology's limited view from what Dr. Maltz observation in environments and surroundings that were limited to regarding self-image after plastic surgery or similar procedures.

What we can say with certainty, the Bible says he that has begun a work he would perfect it (Philippians 1:6). We have an assurance that prayer and declaring God's word over your marriage is a work he will perfect. The bible also states that in Hebrews 11:6 "He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out]." Perhaps 21 days nor 28 days won't create a habit yet we pray that couples will begin to make a conscientious and godly intentional effort to become consistent in prayer regarding their marriage. Prayerfully couples will grow in their prayer life. It is indeed, life-giving. Being a God-centered spouse, we can mitigate and overcome the strategies of the enemy, by using the strategic tools such as prayer, declarations, and pursuing our mates with an empowering love that cannot come by our power and might but by the Holy Spirit.

Why *Declare a Thing! A Radical Love Affair?* God has given us the fabulous choice of prayer as a tool for weaponry. Prayer is weaponry to speak and declare his word. We, as believers, have the incredibly powerful gift of prayer. We can be miles away from a loved one or a situation or either amid it, and we can begin to declare and agree with God's word regarding that situation. Perhaps one of the most underused weapons, builder of people and things, and the ability to shift atmospheres and environments is the use of prayer. The power of prayer is also not just to have a strategy amid a trial. The power of prayer can go before us, reveal plans for and against us, and provide strength, refuge, and revelation.

We understand whatsoever we bind on earth is bound in heaven and whatsoever we loose on earth is loosed in heaven. It is our God-given responsibility to our marriage to *Declare a Thing!* Job 22: 28 states

Job 22:28 New King James Version (NKJV)

28 You will also declare a thing,

And it will be established for you;

So light will shine on your ways.

Scripture tells us that what we declare will be established. What does this tell us? God tells us that we need to declare things over our marriage, circumstances, homes, families, communities, jobs, vision, and plans. Submit decisions to him that will align with God's will and he will establish a thing. Lack of prayer has always been the culprit of many poor choices while communing with God in prayer has allowed us to receive wisdom, leadership, insight, and empowerment.

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Even when met with challenges, by declaring God's word over those challenges, we understand we are establishing that we overcome any problem by the power of God's word. (Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.)

Just as God relentlessly pursues us, with his radical love we are empowered to pursue our covenant in love. Radical and relentless love pursues even when things are not ideal.

The radical and relentless love in our covenant will allow us to declare things over our covenant to allow our love, purpose, assignment, maturation, sanctification, protection, guidance, and much more to be established.

It takes commitment to suit up every day and pray for our marriage. This commitment should remain intentional, and its importance should not be forgotten.

In Priscilla Shirer's bible study teachings, *The Armor of God*, she lists the traditionally taught six pieces of armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Priscilla adds that there are seven, as Paul continues in his writings, the eighteenth verse states: "Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose *and* perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people)." We agree with Priscilla Shirer; we have the

responsibility to pray. Paul emphasizes that we should pray at all times, on every occasion, in every season. We have no right to sit idly by when we are well-equipped soldiers with tools at our disposal.

Synopsis

Over 20 years ago Malcolm L. Currie, Jr., and Katrina L. Long-Currie, dove into the mystery of marriage. Katrina understood that in life there are bittersweet experiences with mysteries and albeit those mysteries maybe full of adventures and great times, they are also full of risks that offer great joys and, yes, sometimes sorrows.

Katrina had experienced the heartbreak from a previous marriage. That marriage had a lot of challenges including physical and verbal abuse, and that was just the tip of the iceberg. She recollects that Malcolm made the decision and risks worth embracing.

Malcolm recalls being smitten by Katrina from their first encounter on an impromptu date. They had been trying to connect for weeks and would have hits and misses such as he or she had just left and missed one another by minutes, if not, by seconds. Malcolm eagerly pursued, the then Katrina Long, by building up the nerve to come to her apartment unannounced. It was risky for several reasons. 1. He admits he was coming out of his comfort zone. 2. He did not want to blow his first impression. 3. Perhaps the biggest fear in his mind, he did not want her to think he was both crazy and inconsiderate by just appearing on her doorstep unannounced. He recalls that he felt this young lady was worth pursuing and, at least, exploring that pursuit.

Fast forward almost a quarter of a century, twenty-two years later to be exact, Malcolm and Katrina Currie have weathered storms such as sickness, experiences of

forsakenness, financial crisis, betrayal, brokenness, forgiveness, exponential love, grace, failures, and triumphs. With all those things stamped on their marital resume, they have risen to the occasion to triumph and overcome every challenge and obstacles by their radical and relentless love. They attribute this to understanding the radical and unrelenting love of Jesus extended to them. It just makes sense for them not to withhold that from one another since Christ has lavished that type of love and grace upon them. They also attribute the power of prayer and God's gift for us to declare his word over the covenant he has given to us as a gift. Yes, even when the gift is met with challenges and disappoints.

On June 30, 2018, they stood in an intimately private ceremony professing their love to one another, once again, affirming that just as they dove into a mystery almost a quarter of a century ago that they would say I do, again.

The Gautier, Mississippi couple stood in the majestic grandeur of the Oakleigh Garden room in The Battle House Renaissance, as they could not help but think of the rich history they have had together, the battles they've triumphantly faced, and the commitment they have shared. They understood that like many challenges, the Battle House Renaissance had endured the monstrous Hurricane Katrina and while many counted their return to minuscule as if their hopes were gone.

Like The Battle House Renaissance Hotel and Spa, perseverance, and restoration to its awe marveling features, God has provided an awe demonstrative work

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with the Currie's marriage. They stood that June day with an inescapable knowledge and testament of God. God's creation of a new thing and prayers answered. They witnessed the mighty grandeur of the Holy Spirit that has kept them for almost a quarter of a century shift and prepare them anew. They stood firmly before God in the belief, the intentional thoughtfulness and commitment to see their covenant through for a lifetime while being fully aware of anything they have conquered has always been the mercy, free grace of God, and relentless faith that has brought them to stand saying, *I do*, once again.

As the love of each other's lives, they have yielded to their voluminous and momentous love that is uncontainable nor does their love affair have borders, limited landscapes, and recessive nature. Yes, even in dark times, brokenness, betrayal, forsakenness, hardships, and other painful experiences and challenges, their love has been tested yet has survived challenges and tests. Tested and fortified is this couple's testimony. The assurance that they were given to one another by God as gifts, the gift of more love and grace seems to abound more.

They firmly attested that, in all honesty, they would not have chosen some of the paths, torrential waters, storms, and issues that challenged them yet they are genuinely grateful for the growth, longevity, stamina, and triumphant spirit they have met those issues gracefully.

When they got married, stood before God, and vowed that they would have each other as covenant

partners and to hold, from that February 14th, 1996 day - forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto pledged their faith - themselves to one another. They could not have imagined that the seeming crisis after crisis they would face.

Albeit they could not have imagined the poorer part would quickly come, health crises that came through sickness that would seemingly come to ravage them early on, they provided grace to one another through love and respect.

Malcolm, a man who could not stomach when someone vomited or had gotten sick on their stomach, rolled up his sleeves and got in the trenches and the desolate places with Katrina. He made sure she had been cleaned he cleaned her when she could not care for herself as Systemic Lupus came and debilitated her. As the couple continued to share their story, it was Katrina that pointed out that Malcolm allowed her to lean on and be on his strong shoulders. Those shoulders that she stood on helped her in the bleakest of times. Like a hero relentlessly fighting off the blows that came to destroy her, as her body weakened, the hair that fell out from the chemotherapy and other Lupus, Sjogren's, and Myalgia medication treatments, the weight gain from steroidal therapies and other medical issues. Katrina recounted that in her darkest moments she could look to Malcolm to feel secured. Here was a precious gift afforded to the two of them and this gift is unbreakable. Katrina further shared how there were days her physical appearance

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deteriorated yet Malcolm made her feel beautiful, even when she did not see physical beauty. He was that haven – that covering that God graciously smiled upon her.

Malcolm and Katrina recalled how some people, even family members, who did not understand Systemic Lupus would lash out at Katrina. The statements and judgments made because of lack of knowledge, the refusal that the disease is a real disease, and other cruel and unfair remarks, and toxic behaviors due to varied reasons. Malcolm would care for his wife with little to no help and hold down a full-time job. Their children were younger at the time.

Faced with the sickness of their sons was also a challenge. While their eldest son, Gustavus De Vaughn would get healed of chronic asthma; they still met the elder son, Isaiah's journey, of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis that was increasingly growing worst. Malcolm would suffer his health issues with recurring back pains and intense back spasms that would be debilitating times. Through it all, the couple walked through the pain of those crises and remained a substantial force to be reckoned.

The couple states they have had great times in their home whereas they have seen their faith flourish and they have called things into existence by faith and have seen God's hand repeatedly. They have spoken in agreement with God's declaration over their lives and their family.

The enemy has thrown every divisiveness thing in nature and almost every sly trap imaginable at them yet those things not only tested the Currie's covenant and family yet has shown how relentless, radical, resilient, graceful, and forgiving love is also. Just as voluminous as their love is and has been, they attribute their relentlessness to how Christ relentlessly loves us. Albeit much has come to test them and devised to break them apart, with God's guidance and empowerment, they remain fortified by the very things that were meant to devour them.

Why, could we not give up on our marriage? Our marriage is not just about two people; it's about two people who made a covenant vow. It's about generations.

Genesis 50:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people[a] should be kept alive, as they are today

DAY ONE

No Excuses, an Opportunity to Love

Galatians 5:13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

13 For you, brethren, were [indeed] called to freedom; only [do not let your] freedom be an incentive to your flesh and an opportunity or excuse [for [a]selfishness], but through love you should serve one another.

In what seemingly is a self-absorbed world, or the mindset of conditional love exchange based upon what you do for me is what I will do for you, selfless serving is a call to freedom. It is by the Holy Spirit that we can pour out to serve one another. Selfless serving cannot be done within our might or power yet by God's spirit. True freedom in a marital covenant cannot exist with the flesh-based incentives yet the opportunity to have a clear perspective that the (loving) incentive is to serve one another without excuse.

Father, help us to serve one another, without the expectations or manipulation that we need to receive something in return. Let us tap into the strength of the Holy Spirit's wisdom, freedom, and abilities to carry out selfless service. We understand within our flesh; we cannot live this valuable principle of selflessness out.

Help us to look for ways and anticipate service to and towards one another in Jesus' Name Amen.

DAY TWO

Speech that Reaps Benefits

Ephesians 4:29 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

29 Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

Father God, help us to build one another's spirit rather than to bruise it. Let us remain mindful of our words and add benefit to the spiritual progression of our lives individually, as covenant partners, and collectively building our home. Allow us to be authentic in our pursuit of you God and gaining wisdom, understanding, and the truth in your word that we may lather our spirits and souls with your word, which is the truth, and release the overflowing truth to our spouse. Let our words build and esteem one another as we speak the truth, life, and wholesome talk and language. If we face challenges, disagreements, or issues, allow us to speak with respect, honor, and truth. Allow us to use godly boundaries as we confront issues and allow us to bring

peaceful resolution(s) according to your word. We thank you, Father, in Jesus' Name!

DAY THREE

Persistent Prayer

Luke 18 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

1 Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to [a]turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).

7 And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will He [f]defer them and [g]delay help on their behalf?

8 I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [[h]persistence in] faith on the earth?

Father God you have allowed us to see in scripture how Jesus took the time to share parables regarding the importance of prayer. He urged that men ought to always pray. No matter what state we are in; whether things are going exceptionally well, feeling as if we are on the mountaintop, or experiencing oppositions. Allow our hearts and minds to be open to you that we will submit ourselves to prayer and not to cowardly retreat,

faint, lose heart, give up, neglect covering our covenant and family, or lose our cry to our Lord. Allow us to remain confident as well as persistent. Help us to stay persistent in our faith and confidence that our God is just, as eager to protect and avenge us, and that there is no delay. We pray these things in Jesus' Name.

DAY FOUR

Building a Strong Foundation

*Matthew 7:24-27 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)*

24 So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a [a]sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock.

25 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great and complete was the fall of it.

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Father, allow our covenant to have a strong foundation. We realize that primarily that strong foundation has you in the center of our lives individually as well as within our marital covenant partnership. Help us to remain focused, prudent, sensible, practical, and wise in the stewardship of continuously building our covenant, our family, finances, careers, ministry, and sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When life's storms blow and beat against what we have sturdily and steadfastly built in and upon you, we will continuously weather the storms, winds, and currents of life. We will not be tossed by nor beat up yet secured in the promises of you and covered by your word. We bless you Father in Jesus' Name.

DAY FIVE

Captive to Truth

*Ecclesiastes 4:7-9 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)*

7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun [in one of its peculiar forms].

8 Here is one alone – no one with him; he neither has child nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labor, neither is his eye satisfied with riches, neither does he ask, For whom do I labor and deprive myself of good? This is also vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility); yes, it is a painful effort and an unhappy business.

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good [more satisfying] reward for their labor;

2 Corinthians 10:5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)

5 [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Father God, we come before you today laying our hearts, thoughts, dreams, aspirations, and plans before you. We bring vain imaginations, things we have purposed in our hearts such as covetous rivalry, covetousness of what another person has, our sense of entitlement to what we believe we deserve or should have an exemption. Allow us not to be entangled by the futility, emptiness, falsity, lofty ideas, lifestyle, habits, and ambitions that only bring a false sense of security and happiness. Help us to remain steadfast and in pursuit of your leadership regarding our bodies, lives, and minds. Help us to recognize what vain imaginations, arguments, theories, reasoning that refutes your word, and anything that sets itself as an idol that leads our marriage from true worship, submitted hearts, and seeking your face. Thank you, Lord, for giving us hearts that pursue you and embrace how you create us individually and how you have bound us together in covenant relationship. We pray and ask these things in Jesus' Name.

DAY SIX

The Beauty of Our Covenant

Galatians 6:4-6 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)

4 But let every person carefully scrutinize and examine and test his own conduct and his own work. He can then have the personal satisfaction and joy of doing something commendable [[c]in itself alone] without [resorting to] boastful comparison with his neighbor.

5 For every person will have to bear ([d]be equal to understanding and calmly receive) his own [[e]little] load [f][of oppressive faults].

6 Let him who receives instruction in the Word [of God] share all good things with his teacher [contributing to his support].

Proverbs 14:30 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

30 A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body, but envy, jealousy, and wrath are like rottenness of the bones.

Father God let us understand that when we compare ourselves to others and our marriage to other marriages we allow the enemy to kill, steal, and destroy the work, assignment, and beauty that we have in our marriage. If we are struggling in our marriage and compare ourselves to others and our marriage to other unions, we rob ourselves of the confidence that you can create a beautiful story regarding our marriage. We understand you are not void of power yet when we compare ourselves and our covenant to others we deny the omnipotent character of our, God. Help us to appreciate the story you are writing specifically for our marriage. Help us to appreciate the specific journey you have for us without a sense of entitlement or unrealistic expectations. We pray and ask these things, God, in Jesus' Name.

DAY SEVEN

Friendship Birthed to Handle Adversity

Proverbs 17:17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)

17 A friend loves at all times, and is born, as is a brother, for adversity.

Father God, we are aware that, first we are, your

children. We are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Help us to keep our friendship afresh. Help us to forge a strong bond within our covenant and allow that friendship to grow and not diminish. Allow our friendship to pour love out on pain even the more. In severe and adverse seasons, we trust that you will enable the strength of our friendship to move towards pain rather than run from it. We know the love expressed by worldly means lacks maturity, eagerly abandons when disappointments arise, frequently finding it easy to distance ourselves when a person is or has become more challenging to love rather than pursue them with grace and lavish the radical love Jesus poured on us like soothing ointment regarding our sin-sick souls. We understand we cannot be the friend or have the grace to handle adversity without our hearts and mind transformed by you, God, in Christ Jesus. We thank you that as friends we are committed to loving at all times.

Born in Christ, we can have the grace to triumph every adversity. We pray and proclaim your glorious praises in Jesus' Name Amen.

DAY EIGHT

Heavenly Bliss

Psalm 84:11 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

11 For the Lord God is a Sun and Shield; the Lord bestows [present] grace and favor and [future] glory (honor, splendor, and heavenly bliss)! No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Father God, as your children, we are to reflect your character. Empower us to bestow grace and favor on one

another. Strengthen us to have willing hearts, attitudes that eagerly align our hearts to give honor in words and in deeds that bring the splendor of heavenly bliss to our covenant as well as glorify you. Let us be mindful to not withhold any good thing from one another.

In times of conflict or challenges, we pray our hearts and minds will remain empowered to meet conflict and challenges with sober love and intentions by not withholding our hearts, our communication, our intimacy, our finances, or any other good thing. Help us to seek out good things to share daily that will brighten our minds, lighten and ease our hearts. Godly, good things, shield our marriage by keeping our perception of the glorious hope in Christ Jesus. We thank you, Father, for allowing us to reflect your character within our covenant. In Jesus' name, we ask these things in your Holy Name and give you the glory Father God.

DAY NINE

Prosper - Nothing Missing, Nothing Lacking

3 John 2 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers.

We pray to you today Father God, believing that you desire us to prosper in every area of our lives. Apart from you, we cannot truly prosper. We fervently pray

that you will provide the wisdom, direction, instruction, and understanding to practice godly application and stewardship regarding our bodies, our love walk, our spiritual maturity, our prayer life, and our finances. We are confident that you are our source and that you provide resources and tools for us in this earth realm. Father, help us to have a healthy and robust spiritual appetite for your word and presence. As we eat the bread of life, we know we will have the proper nourishment to exercise our love walk, flex our faith muscles with confidence in you Lord God, and our hearts full of hope because of your truth and promises. We are grateful to you Lord that we have the confident belief that you desire for us to be well and to succeed in every area of our lives. Thank you that we are healthy in our bodies, souls, spirits, and finances. Bless you, Father in Jesus' Name – Amen!

DAY TEN

Stir Up Love

*Hebrews 10:24-25 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)*

24 And let us consider and give [a] attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,

25 Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

Today we submit to you, Father God, our prayer. Help us to realize the mandated call regarding our lives. We understand that we may change, the years may vary, the situations may change yet the mandate you have on our lives to consider, watch over, study, stir up, stimulate, and incite love, operate in helpful deeds, and noble activities do not change. It is by your urging and powerful mandate; we are empowered to meditate and deliberately consider to stir-up love. As each passing day is different, allow us to have tenacious spirits to keep this call alive in our hearts and minds. Allow our hearts and minds to create goals, an atmosphere, and an environment where love and good deeds bountifully abide within us as we are yielded to your word to fulfill these things. We pray in Jesus' Name - Amen!

DAY ELEVEN

Cheerful Spirit

Proverbs 17:22 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

22 A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

As we go throughout our day, we ask Father God, that you anoint us to obtain cheerfulness of spirit as we know this will manifest healing to us individually as well as a collective unit. Flowing in spiritual joy, peace, and love contributes to our health and wellbeing

inwardly, and our cup overflows by influencing us outwardly and abroad to others. Thank you, Father, for elevating our spirits and allowing us to find rest in the glorious hope of you. We know hope and cheerfulness in you defeats the brokenness that reduces our spirits to the pits of sorrowfulness that dries up our bones. Thank you, Father, for invigorating us with the cheerfulness that binds up our broken hearts and loses us to useful purpose, glad countenance, and unhindered life-sustaining marrow to the bones. We bless you, God, in Jesus' name we pray - Amen!

DAY TWELVE

Not Overtaken

Isaiah 43:2 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you.

Spirit of the Living God, we come to you today understanding that waves of persecution, suffering, proudness, prejudice, misunderstandings, misconceptions, temptations, plots, and varied attempts by the enemy come. Along with those things, we understand lusts of the heart may come subtly, abruptly, or rather like rapid waves that try to flood us out and overtake us. We know that you are our God. We know you are the true and living and we do not cast our confidence away from you.

We know that you walk with us through every path. We know nothing will overtake us or overwhelm us as we abide in you and you abide in us.

Father, we understand that flames that appear to kindle more harshly against us or as if the furnace of life has been increased exponentially cannot and will not consume us. We pray that we will continue to have an

awakening and constant awareness that you will grace us in any fiery situation. We believe the advantage of going through the fire will be an opportunity to be refined in the fire, tried as gold and silver, and purified causing you to show yourself mightily and your glory revealed in our testimonies. We are so thankful that will allow us to pass through the waters and not allow us to be burned or scorched. We pray these things, magnify you in praise, and share our adorations towards you Father God in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY THIRTEEN

Love Inspired

*1 Corinthians 16:14 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)*

14 Let everything you do be done in love (true love to God and man as inspired by God's love for us).

We submit ourselves before you God to resolve within ourselves (mentally, emotionally, and spiritually) to maintain our innocence of unconditional love. We believe in the committed decision to do everything in love for it is the premise of how you deal with us and how you pursued us as well as how you continue to pursue us, God. We know that you sent your only son to redeem us of our sins while we were opposing you yet you loved us regardless. With strong resolution, conviction, and consistency we submit to love and out of that submission we can do all things in love.

We thank you for the anointing us to love and to do everything from a place and space of love. We pray and declare these things Father God in Jesus' Name –Amen!

DAY FOURTEEN

Steadfast Love

Proverbs 3:3-4 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

3 Let not mercy and kindness [shutting out all hatred and selfishness] and truth [shutting out all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood] forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart.

4 So shall you find favor, good understanding, and high esteem in the sight [or judgment] of God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4 English Standard Version (ESV)

3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;

bind them around your neck;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 So you will find favor and good success[a]

in the sight of God and man.

Father God let us not just acquaint ourselves with the things of you yet extend ourselves to have a relationship

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with you that grows deeper and deeper. Allow us to have the appetite to draw near to you. We desire our wills, affections, cravings, and thirsts to be subject to the will of you, God. Allow us to remain unsatisfied with mere head knowledge of you yet allow us to have teachable spirits, pliable hearts, and minds transformed by you. Allow the intimacy of your presence that we experience you in deeper ways, encourage us to encourage and esteem one another as well as remain steadfast and faithful to one another. We thank you, Lord, for the favor and success in the sight of you and man that you have graced us. We pray and declare these things in Jesus' name- Amen!

DAY FIFTEEN

Rest in Charity and Love

1 Peter 4:8 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

8 Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and [a]disregards the offenses of others].

Father, today we asked that the Holy Spirit empowers and equips us even the more to remain eager and faithful to promote our sincere intentions and affections rooted in charity for the welfare and perseverance of one another. We trust that love eagerly shown towards one another will grace our loved ones, bury a multitude of sin, allow peace and harmony to prevail, and demonstrate that offenses do not take root in our hearts and minds. We celebrate love as an excellent weapon to defeat guilt, shame, and condemnation. We walk in faith, hope, and above all love to provide, more excellently, refuge - a safe and secure space for one another. We bless you Father and ask and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY SIXTEEN

The Strength of Threefold Cord

Ecclesiastes 4:12 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

12 And though a man might prevail against him who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Father God, we are so grateful for today and each day that you have held us together. We are thankful that no matter the joys, triumphs, valleys, and challenges; you have graciously sustained us with your hand. Today, we stand in agreement with your word declaring that we honor you in our marriage. We ask that our covenant reflect you. You have demonstrated the love of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the glorious display of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are our perfect illustration of the threefold cord that draws our hearts near to you and allows us to be securely embraced in you as the triune God whom has carved us in the palm of your hand. It is in that security that we are secure. You continuously show us that we are not easily broken

nor are we plucked away because you have sealed us by the Holy Spirit. You continually show us that you pursue us. Allow us to consistently exercise our unified bonds by maintaining the strength of our union in the safety of you. God, we understand the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy yet as we abide in you we are made secure against the attacks of the enemy. Thank you, Father, that unity abounds in our covenant making it easier for us to prevail against the devices and temptation that come to rob, kill, and destroy us. Thank you, Father, that the divinely secured threaded braids don't break easily, nor are they unraveled, loosened, or divided. Thank you that we prevail. We ask in prayer and declare these things to be so according to your word in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY SEVENTEEN

Assured Hope

Romans 5:5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

5 Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.

Father God, when you drew us to you and compelled us to come, we were met with your finish work already provided for us before we were out of our mother's womb and accepted our new birth in Christ. In Christ, we received hope, and by the beckoning of you our hearts were used as seeds to obtain the divine approval of our Father accepting us, the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, and the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, fulfilling the hope which floods our souls. How could we be disappointed with such great hope? Hope that came in the image of a man yet held his deity, so perfect and pure. We have the true promises from our true and

living God. The character of our hope does not fill us with shame nor disappointments. Our posture is steadfast because we are graced and pardoned of our past and secure in our future. As we can stand with assurance by the power and character of God, our hearts can have a divine posture to overcome and share love abroad for our covenant and others because we have experienced such through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can generously pour out of our hearts that have been transformed and shaped by the potter. As earthen vessels, we pour out into the earth as we enabled from Jesus, our intercessor, and hope. We pray and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY EIGHTEEN

Harmonious Favor

1 Peter 3:6-7 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

6 It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham [following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by] calling him lord (master, leader, authority). And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you [not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you].

7 In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an [a]intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]

Our God we are here calling upon you as our Lord just as Sarah submitted her heart to the submission,

respect, and honor of the covenant relationship. Allow us not to be moved by fear or anxiety yet the wisdom of your counsel. Allow us to be sensitive to you, the move of you in the earth, the progress and direction of you in our covenant and our assignment. Help our spiritual ears to hear the sound of your voice and leadership and louder than the outside voices that fight for space in our hearts. Allow our hearts to draw towards the purpose of our covenant. As we submit to you as our Lord, our emotions will not become unnerved and full of anxieties as this is our Christian duty, not only as a husband and wife, also as children of the Most High!

We understand that scripture provides guidelines for the duties of Christian husbands to habitat in harmonious peace with their wives. We pray that we dwell with one another in harmony causing no division and hindrances in prayers. We pray that we bear one another in love, allowing our prayers individually and mutually, to go before the throne of God freely. We pray these things in Jesus' name!

DAY NINETEEN

Peace as Part of Our Being

Isaiah 32:17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

17 And the effect of righteousness will be peace [internal and external], and the result of righteousness will be quietness and confidence trust forever.

Isaiah 32:17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

17 Then an act of righteousness will bring about peace, calm, and safety forever.

God, we thank you that we are made righteous in you and not by our might and accord. We have the assurance through salvation that we are sanctified and justified. We glorify you that peace is within us because of the indwelling of you. Peace is part of your character, peace is part of your personality, peace is part of our inheritance in you, and peace is part of the promise you have given us. Peace is ours inwardly for the inner working of our souls. Peace connected to the promise that we will not be tormented in eternity for we have a place prepared for us. We declare and take hold of our peace that is already ours because we have an assurance that we are presently seated in heavenly places, and Jesus makes intercession for us. We thank you for righteousness that brings peace and allows us to operate in calm and safety of our covenant. Yes, Father, we thank you for the serenity of our minds, the harmony of our hearts, and the ability to cast those things off of us that come to disrupt our peace as our minds stay on you. We pray and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY TWENTY

Communication of Our Faith

Philemon 1:6 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

6 [And I pray] that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in [our identification with] Christ Jesus [and unto His glory].

We come before you Father with gratefulness that you have given us the beautiful opportunity to commune, fellowship, and live a life in you. We are

grateful you allow us to have access to you and bid us to take joy in your presence. There, in your presence, the communication of our faith and its fervency produces sweet fragrance before you, and the bountiful acknowledgment cloaks us inwardly and outwardly that this is a good thing as we are identified with and in Christ. Our covenant identity is with and in Christ. Our covenant flourishes as a good thing that is richly vested in Christ Jesus. We pray and declare all these things in Jesus! - Amen!

DAY TWENTY-ONE

Sealed

*Song of Solomon 8:6-7 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)*

6 and Set me like a seal upon your heart, like a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as hard and cruel as Sheol (the place of the dead). Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame [the very flame of the Lord]!

7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man would offer all the goods of his house for love, he would be utterly scorned and despised.

Father God, we are so grateful that your heart is towards us. You sealed us, and you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to lay his life down for the love of the church. Jesus conquered death demonstrating that love conquers all. The love for the church bore much yet could not be destroyed by the deep seeded jealousy and cruelty of the tomb. The love of Christ for the church climbed upon the cross to satisfy the ransom and the monstrous wickedness that held us captive. The cross which bears the weight of shame and scandal became more than a symbolic gesture of the unwavering love of Christ for the church. The embrace of shame and scandal for the church demonstrates the deep mysteries, dimensions, and depths of love. We are grateful that waters cannot quench nor floods drown the love of the church to Christ. As the church, our commitment to love, honor, respect and cherish the love of Christ and for us to have a loving relationship with him satisfies him. Our longing as bride and bridegroom is to satisfy one another with love, honor, respect, and to cherish our covenant. Our love for one another cannot and will not become quenched. We pray and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY TWENTY-TWO

Reverential Love

Ephesians 5:21 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Father God, we ask with yielded hearts for us to live out scripture. We pray that we are mindful, intentional, and consistent to have praises on our hearts and minds. We pray to speak things that are praiseworthy regarding our spouses. We pray for continued wisdom to seek out how to bring life to our covenant relationships. In areas that are broken or weakened, we ask God that you give us the insight and wisdom as to what to pray, what scriptures to stand on regarding those areas, and the strength and durability to speak life and longevity to our covenant. It is our heart's desire to reverence our Christ and to remain subject to one another. We are grateful for a more respectful and loving relationship with Christ and how this deepens our relationship with our covenant partner. We bless you, Lord. We decree, declare, and ask these things in Jesus' name – Amen!

DAY TWENTY-THREE

Freedom in Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

32 And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-

hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

God, we welcome you into our hearts and celebrate you for being our Father. You have been such a good father. You have shown us how to perfect our relationship. We desire to demonstrate mutual kind actions, words, and deeds. Allow us to look upon one another with attitudes that are generously courteous and full of loving affection towards one another. Help our hearts to remain pliable and unwilling to give in to anything that would cause our hearts to be hard-hearted, grieved, and full of complaints. Allow tender-heartedness to oppose things such as pride, lasciviousness, destructive behaviors and attitudes. Allow tender-heartedness to resist those things that would minimize those things our spouse do that is praiseworthy, of good report, lovely, and kind while maximizing imperfections, shortcomings, and flaws. Help us filter and censor our words and evaluate our deeds. If either of us falls, help us to use wisdom to restore and mature enough to partake in the redemptive power of God and his grace. Allow us to manifest forgiveness quickly to opposing offenses while eagerly uplifting one another. We pray, decree and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen!

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

Enduring Prevailing Love

1 *Corinthians 13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)*

4 *Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.*

God, we want to thank you for showing us how to love. You not only demonstrated love by sending Jesus to redeem us yet we experience continued grace from that redemptive act. The very premise to love is from a place and space of charity. We thank you for allowing us to know that love is a necessity for the saints and our covenant relationship. God help us to walk in the God-kind of love that is charitable in its cause without vanity or proudness. Father, help us to defer wrath as you do towards us. Allow our hearts to be aware of pretentious attributes that are not reflective of love. Help us to remain disinterested in unseemly, boastful, unruly acts yet reflect courteous, mannerly, and discipline in our love walk. Thank you, God, that we will not seek our way or interest, however, submit our hearts to your will

and way. Let us remain eager to rejoice in truth and quickly dismantle any urge to celebrate in any wrongdoings. We declare and submit these things to you Father God, in Jesus' Name.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

Love that Believes

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

Father God, we come before you today asking for pliable and teachable hearts to practice love. In exercising love, provide us with the anointing to live out the God-kind of love spoken in scripture. We are aware that if you called us to do something you have empowered us to live it and do it well. We ask and thank you for allowing us to have a love that bears under the weight of all things and overcome evil and hard places. We are grateful that Jesus is our rock and as the waves come to corrode rocks over time, the love that you have empowered us to have will not erode because we hide in the Rock of All ages - an everlasting Rock. Thank you Lord that you have provided us with hearts that seek to believe the best in one another, not distrustful, suspicious, or hopeless yet instead remain relentlessly intentional and eager to believe the best, hope for the best, and have a perspective of faith rather than hopelessness and despair. Thank you, Lord, not only for longevity yet the ability for our love to not become fadeless or weakened by circumstances, however, remain resilient, persistent, fortified, and

intentional. We declare and ask these things in Jesus'
Name – Amen!

DAY TWENTY-SIX

Unfailing Love

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)

8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy ([d]the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

We are here today with made up minds to love relentlessly and declare our love not only verbally yet with committed decisions and actions. Love never fails, and we are blessed to practice its resilient survival. Its resiliency produces an enduring and eternal hope that endlessly demonstrated in how you love us Father. Many gifts may come and go, pass away, and fade but the gift of love yet is imperishable and does not flee however endures, survives, and thrives. We thank you, Lord for an enduring, persevering, and thriving love affair in our covenant. We ask and declare these things in Jesus' name - Amen.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

Great Love- Love that Disciples

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
(AMPC)

13 And so faith, hope, love abide [faith – conviction and belief respecting man’s relation to God and divine things; hope – joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love – true affection for God and man, growing out of God’s love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Precious Father the scripture states that the greatest of faith, hope, and love is love. We know you are love. As we are in a relationship with you, we experience your agape love. We are transformed by your love more and more each day. With the transformative experience and our relationship with you, we receive unconditional love daily. We can love and express love in more excellent ways because we have received your love and can allow that love which has flowed towards us to flow towards others. Allow us to disciple our marriage and home by showing one another and our family love. We are marked by you and are true disciples if we love one another. (John 13:35, states: By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves]) Allow us not to fall prey to having ambitions to make selfish gains

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and marks in this earthly realm to have the aspirations, motives, and practice to distance ourselves from lasting marks of love. Influence our covenant with love and impact our promise through love. We ask and declare these things in Jesus' Name.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT EXPLAINED

Pray differently...it is okay!

We understand that every day is different just as there are different ways to pray. We are aware that there are days we have read the word and sought God's face differently. We can always pray for his word. His promises are ours. There may be times when tragedy strikes, we experience loss, we experience pains and disappoints, or all is well, it appears everything has aligned for all to go well on our behalf yet we are unsure what to pray. We have access to the Father and the Covenant he has with us. We also can use the Word of God to make declarations and affirmations. God says in Isaiah 43:26 to place him in remembrance of his word. Our Father is not forgetful. His word is true and shall not return to him void. Applying his word to our lives allows us to reap the benefits of reminding God of his word through prayer.

As covenant partners, one of our goals should be to serve one another. Actively praying over our marriage produces life, hope, and transformation through continued faith in the Father for our marriage. Gary Thomas discusses in his book, *Devotions for Sacred*

Marriage, that "marriage is more than a commitment, it is a movement toward someone." He provides promptings, revealing questions, and examples of husbands and wives pursuit for their spouses. Christ pursues the church. We should actively pursue our spouses, and we should actively pray for one another because it releases the intimacy of the bride-groom coming towards us and we wait like the bride ready for his coming.

Isaiah 43:26 AMPC

Put Me in remembrance [remind Me of your merits]; let us plead and argue together. Set forth your case, that you may be justified (proved right).

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

Covenant Love Declaration

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8-13 English Standard Version
(ESV)

(Your Name/Spouse Name) is patient and kind; (Our Covenant Relationship) does not envy or boast; (Your Name/Spouse Name) is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. (Our Covenant Relationship) does not insist on its own way; (Your Name/Spouse Name) is not irritable or resentful;^[5] ⁶(Our Covenant Relationship) does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷((Your Name/Spouse Name) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 (Our Covenant Relationship) never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the

perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I(Your Name/Spouse Name) was a child, (Your Name/Spouse Name)spoke like a child, (We) thought like a child, (we) reasoned like a child. When (we) became a man/woman, (we) gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now (we) know in part; then (we) shall know fully, even as (we) have been fully known.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Amen!

As you have been faithful and consistent in praying and declaring God's word over your marriage for the past twenty-eight days, it is our sincerest prayer that you continue to carry out this mandate for your marriage. We have provided scriptures that expresses the need, pursuit, and importance of prayer as it pertains to marriage and our daily lives. In a sermon series, *Be Encouraged: Prayer Saved My Life*, Pastor R.A. Vernon addresses the "criticality of prayer and how necessary it is in the life of anyone who seeks both the will, way, and word of God and for one to be consistent in his Christendom." Prayer is our lifeline If we allow ourselves to fall prey to the deception that we can "say a verse a day to keep the devil away," and not remain sober-minded to withstand the ploy and plots of the enemy. We open the door to lay prey to the enemy due to not obtaining a strategy from God to win against a

strategic enemy whose intentions remain the same; to kill, steal, and destroy, then we fail at understanding that prayer is our lifeline..

When we read the sixth chapter of John, Jesus himself reveals that He is the bread of life.

“Jesus replied, I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will never thirst any more (at any time).” John 6:35 AMPC

We could quickly discover that we would need to eat to be nourished and to remain hydrated we would need to drink to have not only sustainable life yet a healthy life. Of course, this is a rather superficial analogy of this scripture; we know that his body was broken and bruised for our transgressions and the healing of our soul as well as every area of our lives. We are also aware that his blood quenches the thirst of the atonement of our sins.

We have gone through great lengths to share the importance of prayer in our conclusion. As author and speaker, Cindy Beall, shares in her book *Rebuilding A Marriage: Better Than New*. She submits an area that many Christians face regarding vulnerability, is the questioning that if we make a confession or reveal struggles we have that our spouse will then use that to either use it as a weapon against us in the future or

cause shame publicly. Cindy wrote, "we want to believe our spouse will hold us up and keep our frail hearts safe. I recognize the fear, but if you set your hearts on Christ and seek Him, praying together can be a beautiful thing." Prayer is intimacy with God, and that intimacy should reflect in our marriage. As we have shared scriptures for each prayer within this devotional, the common thread that stitches this all together is God's pursuit of us, his radical love, and his ability to reconcile us. Surely none of us deserve grace yet God's unconditional love pours grace upon us. Likewise, we should carry out and practice that intimacy towards our spouse and in our marriage unit. Let's continue to practice love and consistently pray. Let's *Declare a Thing!*

Acknowledgments

Where do we even begin? We have been so honored to have a circle of friends that have been in prayer for us during the writing of this devotional. We would pray for the scripture and request the Holy Spirit to download the words for the prayers in this devotional. We understood from the beginning that we needed to write; what we believe, God spoke to our hearts for marriages in this season.

We have to acknowledge God in this entire process. We knew God called us to write a prayer devotional. When we received, what we believe that would be the title, we were even more excited. As it settled in our thoughts, we could not have felt more inadequate. Perhaps that is not the correct word, or maybe it is right on target. Katrina said she felt like a Moses experience was happening. Surely many people have a great following that can impact marriages and more equipped to reach their needs than we can, recalls Katrina. Surely, God, some people are more expressive in their writing skills and can better articulate a greater representation and revelation of you. Surely there are people whose lives are a better representation of you Father than us. Albeit we were both excited and we are willing to travel this incredible journey, God, it is us you are asking to do

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this (as if he did not know). God's inescapable pursuit of us, in such a loving way, assured us that yes he purposefully laid the devotional on our hearts. We could not have asked for a better journey: the conversations with God, the varied experiences we have had along this journey. From strangers and people who did not know about us writing this devotional, the words of knowledge, prayer spoken in our lives, as well as the intimacy we have experienced is unmatched.

Pastors Carlton and Marilyn McCarter finding the words to express our gratitude for having such strong and encouraging leaders seems so small compared to the magnitude in which God has called and used you both, we are grateful that God would allow us to have amazing shepherds. God continues to use you both mightily. We know that you generously speak life over us as well as others. We cannot just say you speak declarations of life-giving words to the local body of believers as well within the two churches you both have a call to shepherd; yet, the international mandate you all have truly reaches globally. We can honestly say, it is who you all are beyond the four walls of the church that impacts and influences people everywhere. It is an honor to have you as our covering.

We honor our parents: Malcolm L. Currie, Sr. and Doris Currie, Mildred M. Chestang Long and Willie F. Long. God hand-picked you all to be our parents, to nurture, love, and to see us grow to impact not only the world yet our family for good. We have seen you all work extremely hard. We are grateful that we were

afforded the gift to have you all as parents and we will love you all with an unconditional, everlasting love. It is our prayer that we reflect you all in beautiful ways and that we bring honor to your legacy.

Although Robert E. DuBose, Sr., and Aristed Chestang are no longer alive in this world, each day their leadership, fatherhood, mentorship has influenced Katrina Currie. They provided her with a fantastic ability to have an entrepreneurial spirit and mindset as well as the ability to flourish in the marketplace. These men taught Katrina to value herself long before she was able to articulate it. Along by their sides were beautiful, strong women, Mildred Marie Chestang whom has passed away and Mary DuBose, still with us. These women have shown what it means to be wise matriarchs. Mary still impacts and influences our family, young and old. Affectionately called Aunt Jean and "MoMo."

Zelma Currie Holmes, tears come to our eyes. As a more mature person, you seem to put so many people before you, effortlessly giving of yourself to your loved ones. We continuously say the world needs more people like you. Wise women build up their homes. You build up families with your wisdom, compassion, and unconditional love. You have been such a fantastic confidant, loyal friend, and a beautiful family member.

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God must think highly of us to allow you to be in our lives.

Our children and grandchildren are gifts that we have been so privileged to be a part of their lives. We have been so honored to have children that God allowed us to have the opportunity to foster their growth and share the love of Christ to and amidst. We cannot just speak about what the opportunity we have had to pour in them without sharing how much they have poured into us. We are so grateful for all the talks and times we have shared as a family. It would take multiple books to write about how much we appreciate our sons Gustavus De Vaughn Richmond, Isaiah Jamal Currie, and Joshua Jermaine Currie as well as, our daughter-in-love, Marie Michelle Browne Richmond. We are proud to be blessed with Amaya Marie Richmond and Jeremiah Jamal Richmond, our precious grandbabies.

When Katrina was a little girl, she recalls she and her sister, Yolanda P. Long, sharing a room with twin beds while residing with their Aunt Mary and Uncle Robert DuBose, Sr., who raised them. They would speak of their dreams to one another. Katrina remembers telling her sister a list of what she wanted to be when she grew up. A lengthy list of professions she rattled off to her sister: a doctor, a DJ, a social worker, an artist, a book writer, a poet, an activist, a doctor, a teacher, and maybe do hair. Her sister asked her, what do you genuinely want to be?

She replied that she wanted to be all of them and some more. Being her only and oldest sister, she was concerned and would try to get her to pick one or, at least, narrow it to two things. Katrina remembers their times together like it was yesterday, her sister spoke and said she wanted to be, a nurse. Katrina seemed stunned and replied, is that all. Her sister seemed frustrated with her, yes she affirmed. Her sister said with more firmness; I would like to be a nurse. Katrina says out of all their times together; it was the ability to share their dreams, cheer one another along, and to see those dreams fulfilled. The desire to see each other achieve and be more than they could have ever dreamed. Yolanda is also one of their prayer warriors.

Deborah Quave, who would ambush us with words of encouragement and prayer at any time. We are grateful that you have been so mindful regarding us. Even in your traveling and important transitions, you remained thoughtful of us.

Donna Richardson, we cannot thank you enough for your constant friendship, prayers, and kindness you have shown us for over 20 years. We know if we call, send a text, or if the Holy Spirit lays us on your heart, you will shut the world off and speak strategic declarations over our lives as well as prayer. When we asked for prayer warriors to pray for us regarding this

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devotional, God immediately placed you on our hearts. Thank you, Donna, for years of loyal friendship.

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CURRIE and CURRIE

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Katrina has a heart for building people. A leader and community influencer, she possesses strong compassion for marriages, rebuilding marriages, and helping people through trauma and marital crisis. Katrina is a contributing writer to magazines and blogs. She is the founder of Beautify the Meek, a non-profit that serves domestic abuse survivors, under-served and disenfranchised teens, and women. Katrina seeks to help people live out their full potential. Katrina received multiple bachelor degrees.

She earned her Religious Studies from Excelsior College in Albany, New York and a bachelor with cognates in Business and Technical Writing from the University of North Dakota. She obtained her Master of Education in Educational Technology &

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Online Training from Liberty University. Her favorites in life are a child of God, wife, mother, grandmother, the ability to tap into the gift of prayer. She loves that Mack still takes her breath away.

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CURRIE and CURRIE

Malcolm L. Currie, Jr

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Malcolm "Mack" Currie, Jr., is a man of faith that believes in the value of people. His compassion for people and to build human capital comes from his own personal struggles. As part of building people, he always looks for ways to uplift, encourage those who struggle with self-worth and negative self-talk and to bring nourishing and refreshing relationships. His goals are to help people discover their identity in Christ rather than their job position, title, what they do or have done, and what has been spoken over them negatively. Malcolm has served as a volunteer minister and chaplain for multiple years in the penal system. Never personally incarcerated in the penal system, he has a unique gift to share the gospel without burying prisoners in what had gotten them there. Instead, he uses the word to share the life-giving substance and liberty we have in Christ. We were all incarcerated and held captive to sin, and we all need Jesus as our Savior. Has a passion for building men, a heart for

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marital restoration and reconciliation, prayer, and sharing compassion for the fallen. Mack attended Rhema Bible School. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in Drafting and Design Technology. He is grateful to be married to his loving wife, Katrina, who he believes is an absolute gift from God, spending time with his family, and creating designs.



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We continue to pray for the healing of marriages and homes. Our heart's desire is to bring Courtship Reconciliation to production.

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If you enjoyed this devotional, found it useful, or blessed you in any way, then we'd really appreciate it if you would post a short review on www.katrinacurrie.com, Amazon, and all social media. We do try to read all the reviews personally so that we can continually pray, write, get an idea of what people are would like to share, as well as share our appreciation.

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