

THE TRUE WORSHIP MAGAZINE

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Rethink Marriage: The Kitchen and the Bedroom

by Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David

The view of a wife as being specifically for the kitchen and the bedroom is as old as marriage itself. Upon Eve's fall, she was downgraded to two main duties—child birth and being subject to the desires of her husband (see below).

Genesis 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Thus, she tended the house, and met her husband's sexual desires. Similarly, Rebecca, once found by Eliezer (her husband's servant), was brought to his tent, met with him, and he was comforted (Genesis 26:64-67). Thereafter, all that we knew of her had to do with the kitchen and the bedroom. No wonder that through the years, when a man gets to be of age, he is advised to go and find a woman to take care of him. While the traditionalists may not see any problem with this, it is a serious problem today! First, the roles of wives have changed over the years, and this is not a news bit. The difficult economic times, the education and the consequent emancipation of women, together with the boost of the second world war, where many women left their homes to the factories to aid in the war efforts, all worked together to showcase what women can accomplish, when given the opportunity.

Second, the failure to appreciate the whole person of a woman—her gifts and talents, not only makes her feel disregarded, but predisposes to the lack of fulfillment in the relationship—an ominous course for the marriage.

Although I am a man, perhaps, some may say a “real man”, I know how this feels in that something similar happened to me. While, job hunting, I noticed that recruiters kept sending vacancies for one or two of my skill sets (e.g. data management, biostatistics, etc.). I could not help but wonder why they did not take the time to review my full curriculum vita. While, I have these skills, in the proper context, I am a mature specialist in Medical Affairs (Physician Scientist/Administrator). It just seemed convenient to pick a subsidiary skill that subordinates, and then go just for that. “But, what about the whole profile?” The pertinent question then is “who is a woman?”

Arguably, a woman is the finest creature ever made by the Creator. When Adam woke up from his slumber, he beheld this wonder, and I believe that he was breathless, and all that he could do was to take possession immediately. So, he said, “this is the bone of my bones, and the flesh of my flesh!” In other words, this one is MINE! Just like the man, she was made in the likeness of God, and as such comparable to him in intelligence, creativity, innovation, and so on. Yes, there are significant male-female differences, but

these serve to foster complementary relationships, rather than inferiority or superiority. All one needs is to find one's match. Thus, she has her civilization, hopes and aspirations, and these define her expectations, and consequently, her fulfillment. No wonder many wives are frustrated and unfulfilled, and their husbands wonder if they will ever make them happy. The truth is that she will never be fulfilled until she has been heard, acknowledged and considered in the issues that affect her world. Are you happy when you feel shut out of the issues that are pertinent to you or that you think you can make substantive contributions? Women, just like us men, were made to express their gifts and talents and to feel pertinent. They should be able to say, "Yes, I did that!" "I made that happen!" I was part of that team!"

"Listen now, or you will listen later!" It happened to my dad. He got into a bad patch vocationally, and my mother was unleashed to salvage the situation. My dad had this dead-end-job without any promotion or salary increase for ten years. And during that period, my mother managed a shop, and a poultry farm, and fed me and my siblings. They used to call her "a woman in clothes only!" In southeastern Nigeria in the mid-70s, she drove a pickup truck, and would drive to sell her produce at the beach through all types of weather and threats from assailants. No wonder I respect women, I had a world class mother. Her name was Clevy! In other words, if one fails to see his wife today, a bad patch or the empty nest will do the trick. A wife is a whole person, and both deserves to and should be seen and treated as such. Love Strong!

COVID-19: Comfort During these Difficult Times

We want to reassure you that we have been and will continue to pray for all of us, both here in the United States, and all around the world. It is our believe that this pandemic will pass away, because, all problems have an end, and from this, we draw some comfort. Furthermore, after due consideration of the directives from the federal, state and county governments, with respect to when it would be safe for us to gather, the **Marriage Enhancement Conference has been rescheduled for September 11-13, 2020**. Stay safe and in Him!

COMING SOON

The Newfoundland Foundation presents **"A BEAUTIFUL LOVE STORY"**, the first in a series of Marriage Enhancement Conferences. Date: **September 11-13, 2020** at the **Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Humble, TX 15747 JFK Blvd., Houston TX 77032.**

Speakers: Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David and Dr. Faith Atai.

Learn More at www.newfoundlandfi.org



His Love is Unfailing

by Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David

One's relationship and partnership with God declare to God's enemies that they have a new assailant. Simply put, obedience is an expensive and potentially precarious adventure, yet necessary in a successful God-man relationship. This is why it is very necessary to not just know, but to have in-depth understanding of the authority of the believer, and all the resources left at our disposal, as we are sure to need them. The pivotal concept is that God's love is unfailing. Typically, His commands come with the promise of an unending partnership, as stated below.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

There is an African adage that states "God is a sender that goes with the sent." Once Joseph accepted the dream and expressed his vision to his family, he was set on a very painful course that took everything he knew from him, except the unfailing love of God, and the certainty of His promises. It reminds us of the call to discipleship, which costs everything, yet we end up with the One who has

everything that matters. This is why we must never lose sight of two important things, first, the purpose of God, which defines why we even care to take the Calvary road, and second, the certainty of God's love, which is that we will never be forsaken, and the victorious end is sure. Often, on this trip of obedience, success does not look like we expect. When Joseph was kidnapped and sold off as a slave, he looked like a failure. When he served faithfully in Potiphar's house, he was but just a glorified slave. When he refused to sleep with his master's wife, and was thrown into jail for seven years, he looked like a hopeless loser. If while in jail, he had told his story to someone today, they would say that luck was just not on his side, or that perhaps, he was cursed. But was he? I can state with certainty that there was no time in Joseph's life that he was a loser, he just looked like it. After his preliminary training by Jacob, he took the trip to broaden his coast. When it comes to ruling over men, nothing works better than being exposed to the pertinent cultures, in order to become culturally competent. In Potiphar's house, as he served, he acquired the skills of the Egyptian civilization, and got a little closer to the throne of Egypt, as he could speak their language, understand their nuances, and be acquainted with the ways of the upper echelon. However, he accomplished these without losing sight of who he was, and what God expected of him. Finally, he was thrown into the last port of call before his ascension to the throne of Egypt, Pharaoh's garbage dump (i.e. the Egyptian jail). There he learned what it takes to not just get to the top, but how to stay there impeccably. Now,

looking back, it becomes clear that if he had at any point been fast-forwarded, he would surely have failed. He needed every stop in order to be successful at the end. See James 1:2-4 (NKJV) below.

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Just as in the case of Joseph, in life there is one constant, and that is God's unfailing love, for those

who have forsaken all to follow Him. In Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) He states,

¹⁹ "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

God remembers, and no man can make Him a liar. Have you left all to follow Him? Do you look like a loser for being true to Him? Take heart, neither you nor your circumstances can make Him untrue. Victory is not from you; it is a gift from God Himself. It is the new song of God's unfailing love. You will surely GO OVER THE WALL!

THE YOUNG ADULT/SINGLES & CAMPUS-FOCUSED MINISTRY – PURE AND STRONG



Oneness: The Long and Short of Following God

By Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David

The NASA scientists tell us that the meteoroids (otherwise called "space rocks") break off from asteroids, comets or other planetary bodies. When they enter the earth's surface at high velocity, they become meteors and burn up, appearing as shooting stars. "Aren't they beautiful to watch?" Eventually, they land on the earth's surface as meteorites, and that is where the story ends. So, they broke off, bounced on other rocks, shone like stars, and then crashed on us, and then what? That is the life of a person without a viable relationship and partnership with Christ. One can live one's life

from the beginning to the end without any clear vision or purpose. This is often characterized by breaking away from God, bouncing into everything that twinkles, as one rubs one's shoulders with whoever intrigues, and then burns up while one appears to be shining. Eventually, one lands in no man's land, and we all wonder, what his or her life was all about.

As a young person, the most important fact that one must know and understand is that God is life. In Acts 17:28, the scripture states that in Him we

live, we move and have our being. Furthermore, the ultimate purpose of God is to bring all things under Him, because, they were from, by Him, and through Him, and as such must ultimately be for Him (see below).

1 Corinthians 15:22-24 (NKJV)

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Thus, it is not enough just to know about God, or to just be a believer, one must understand that He (the Creator) never planned that we should operate outside of Him. In the Garden of Eden, He was with Adam and Eve as the enabler and guide. After Calvary's cross, in Matthew 28:18-20, He promised to be with us believers all the way to the very end. Oneness with God is the secret to being a successful Christian. It is the long and short of following God. You trust and obey to be one with Him, and then when you are one with Him, you trust and obey even better. The primary vision, is to be one with God at all times, because, He has all things that pertain to life and godliness—all that you will ever need.

At the beginning of your faith walk with Christ (i.e. when you become born again), being but a child, you are inconsistent, and one may even say that you are a "visitor". However, as you grow older, one thing marks your relationship, which is now a partnership between a son and the Father, and that is that you are consistent, in other words, you "remain". The trip to being one with God in actuality, starts with being born again. Then, as one feeds on God's word, and communes with the Holy Spirit together with other believers, one undergoes progressive sanctification and grows toward maturity. It is much like the larva of the butterfly, a

voracious eater, that consumes volumes of foliage, knowing fully well, that it is running against time. In 1 Kings 19:7, the prophet Elijah was exhorted, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you". Since, God is the Word (John 1:1), then the more of the revealed word that one consumes, the more of God one has within. The Holy Spirit teaches, grants insights into God's heart, gives the gifts of the Spirit, and of ministry; convicts, rebukes, chastises, and scourges, and then comforts as we make tracks on the Calvary road. Then, the larva comes to the stage that it must become a butterfly. The objective is to fly, but the larva, full of itself, however has no wings. This is where many fall off the *gospel wagon*, because the pupa has no control over itself. Without, it is vulnerable to the elements, and the predators, in that the puparium is stuck to a tree branch, and there it will remain. Within, the enzymes are doing their work, and a serious transition is taking place. The larva vanishes, and something begins to form. It is the Creator at work, and all this "it" can do, is hang on for dear life (see Isaiah 53:1-5). This is where we learn to trust him completely, and give Him ALL OF OUR HEARTS. The tsunamis come, and then the earthquakes follow. Thereafter, a forest fire blazes through, and one cries out, "Lord, what is happening to me?" And usually, the only response is "put your trust in me." Gone are the days of strutting from one branch to another feeding endlessly. Now, all that one can do is wait, change, become resilient, have a better understanding of God, the world, the "elements", your humanity, and what God wants from you. By this time, you have prayed all types of prayers, and done these over and over again. Your prayer language has matured with many multi-syllable words, and the weapons of warfare have not just been put on, but can be used skillfully. You started out a child of God, but now a son is birthed; and just like the larva changes to a full butterfly, you have matured to be like the Father—one with Him. You can now take the flight of sonship, and be sure that unlike the meteorite, you will not crash-land on earth, but will alight onto His loving arms.

"It is not enough just to know about God, or to just be a believer, one must understand that He (the Creator) never planned that we should operate outside of Him."

THE CLINICAL CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM – IT'S PREVENTABLE!



What Does Preventable Really Mean?

By Dr. Mfon Cyrus-David

As we learned from the last edition (i.e. Volume 1, Edition 2), numerous cancers can be prevented, either at a primary, secondary or tertiary level. However, in this edition, our focus is on early detection (i.e. secondary prevention), where tests that are proven to be valuable are used to detect pre-cancerous lesions in persons that are at risk for such cancers.

The purpose of this edition is to empower us to make informed decisions about our health, and specifically, the use of screening tests for early detection, in order to prevent cancers. As you read along, you'll find out that it is far more complicated than it seems, and that the process needs all of your person to get on board. This is because, the value of a test is determined not just by how well it performs, but by your attributes, and preferences. For example, a man who has but five years to live may have no desire to have a PSA test for detecting prostate cancer precursors, because his life expectancy is a short one. In addition, even if the test turned out to be positive, the invasive follow-up procedures, would be of no benefits to him, but would even be harmful. Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man who is in good health, as per today's recommendations would stand to benefit. On the female side, for example, for cervical cancer screening (i.e. the pap test), it is recommended that this should commence at age 21 years. Automatically, that brings in significant variability,

in that a patient at 21 years, may present with early onset of sexual intercourse (e.g. preteen), multiple sexual partners, and HIV infection. No wonder, this regimen often fails to prevent the disease. Thus, the decision to screen, is a shared one between the health care team (i.e. especially your doctor), and yourself, and consequently determines what is preventable.

What is a valuable test? For a screening test to be seen as valuable, it has to meet two characteristics. First, when used to test persons at risk for the particular cancer, it should be valid—the ability to distinguish between those who have the pre-malignant lesion, and those who do not; it should also be reliable—it can generate similar results when used repetitively in the same patient population. Second, a valuable screening test should have adequate interventions that can truly save lives (i.e. reduce the risk of deaths), when administered. The common sense question is, “why bother testing for what cannot be treated?” Thus, it becomes necessary to know the performance of a screening test for someone like you.

What do we mean by the performance of a screening test? The performance (i.e. validity) of a test is usually presented in terms of its sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value. These are defined in simple terms as follows.

- **Sensitivity:** This is the *chance* that a test result will be positive in those who have the disease.
- **Specificity:** The *chance* that the test result will be negative in those who do not have the disease.
- **The Positive Predictive Value (PPV):** The *proportion* (i.e. rate [%]) of truly positive tests in those who test positive for the disease.
- **The Negative Predictive Value (NPV):** The *proportion* (i.e. rate [%]) of truly negative tests in those who test negative for the disease.

Thus, for example, a high false positive rate means that you will get hurt by that test, in that you are more likely to be told that you have something that you do not have, and may be passed through very painful and at time debilitating procedures.

It becomes clear that appropriate screening can save lives through early detection, and also reduce the severity of the disease, even for those diagnosed with cancer, since these tend to be at the earlier stages. However, inappropriate screening can also cause harms. These can be psychological, as the test results and subsequent communication may lead to severe anxiety or depression. Physical, the follow up procedures which are often invasive are not only painful, but may lead to treatments, that are debilitating. In addition, overdiagnosis is a common risk of inappropriate screening, where cancers that would have not affected the person throughout their life course are diagnosed and treated, often with significant physical complications, and at severe economic and psychological costs. Various cancers are preventable, and the recommendations are evidence-based, but it is also our decisions to make, and as such, we must go in there with our heads.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: This month's edition has articles from the four arms of our ministry, namely:

- The Marriage and Family Ministry - Love Strong.
- The Christian Life Ministry - Over the Wall.
- The Young Adults/Singles and Campus-Focused Ministry - Pure and Strong.
- The Comprehensive Clinical Cancer Prevention Program - It's Preventable!

These are designed to inform, motivate and revive our spirits, as we continue on our walk with the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE NEWFOUNDLAND FOUNDATION, INC.: Our mission is to live our lives and to carry out His commands in such a way that would demonstrate God's sovereignty through His interventions in the lives of individuals or nations; His unfailing love through the salvation of souls, and the meeting of various needs, and to prepare our world for His return by building the body of Christ unto maturity.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For further information, visit www.newfoundlandfi.org, or send an email to mscd@newfoundlandfi.org. Copyright © 2020 by the Newfoundland Foundation. All rights reserved. However, may be redistributed for non-commercial purposes.