



Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
& BENEDICTA POLLOCK

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Love & Marriage

Our pamphlet this month contains a teaching about the surprises couples experience in their first months and years of marriage. While I was on the theme of marriage I also wrote an article about the falling in love stage. Here are a few excerpts from that article:

...Another place in the Bible which addresses romantic love is found in the little book of *Song of Solomon*. This has to be one of the most unusual books in the Bible, and is essentially a poetic interchange between a young woman enflamed with love and her fiancé, King Solomon. She speaks of being "lovesick," and he gushes that she has ravished his heart with one look of her eyes. He declares that her lips drip as the honeycomb, and honey and milk are under her tongue. I could go on, but I think you get the idea. For a long time, the church, uncomfortable with the white-hot nature of the language, emphasized that this was an allegory of the love that exists between Christ and the Christians, and refused to say anything about its romantic aspects. But surely, if nothing else, this book demonstrates that God does not require His children to approach marriage without emotion and with a pious pretense of total detachment.

The highly-charged emotional state of falling in love was never meant to last a lifetime. It serves as first gear to get the relationship up and running, and headed for the marriage altar. But cars would be nearly worthless if they only had a first gear. Driving would be maddeningly

slow. First gear is perfect to get you from a dead stop up to about fifteen miles an hour, but once you get moving you will need a second, third, and fourth gear. However, falling in love is not a sure sign that God intends you to marry the object of your affection. People fall in love all the time with others whom they have no business marrying – someone who is already married, someone who is not a Christian, someone who possesses such different values and goals that any sane person should quickly see that marriage in such a case would be a recipe for disaster.

For the Christian the will of God is paramount. This is where prayer comes in. In those early stages of love, before promises are made and commitments sealed, it is time to ask the Heavenly Father His opinion. Some situations are so obvious we do not need to ask. **For a Christian young lady to pray and seek God's will about marrying a man who has no interest in the things of Christ is nothing more than hypocrisy.** God has already declared in His word that we are not to be unequally yoked. But in other cases there are no obvious red flags, and so we pray.



...After the "I do's" (or "I will's") have been said, then comes the hard part. Not at first, of course, There is in most marriages a honeymoon period where everything seems wonderful, and many naively suppose that this will last all their days. It never does. We find that it is harder, in fact much, much harder for two people to live together, to share the same table and bed, to make decisions about social events, finances, living quarters, and everything else than we ever thought would be the case. Disagreements arise and arguments result. Feelings are hurt, and emotions other than passionate, blinding love now become part of the equation.

Here is where Christian men and women are so radically different from their secular counterparts. The difference isn't that non-Christians argue and disagree, while Christians never do. It is not that there are hurt feelings in non-Christian marriages, but in Christian marriages there is nothing but love, bliss, and joy. It would be wonderful if such were the case, but anyone who thinks that is living in a fantasy world. **As in everything else, the difference is Jesus Christ.**

...Because we are human we don't always get everything right. Christian marriages aren't perfect, but through the power of the Holy Spirit they can be very, very good! You know you are on the right track when you find yourself thanking God for your spouse again and again.

Next Month—Nigeria!

DENNIS AND BENEDICTA ARE SCHEDULED TO MINISTER IN ABA, NIGERIA NEXT MONTH!



We appreciate your prayers for this mission. As with every African mission, we are challenged by the forces of darkness at every turn, and without prayers and the resulting grace of Jesus that comes through those prayers, we would be helpless. But through the prayers of God's people and the grace of our God we are more than conquerors!

We also need your financial gifts to make these meetings possible. The **regular monthly gifts help cover the day-to-day needs of the ministry, but are not sufficient to enable us to do these African missions.** We must have your extra gifts and support to go to the people of Africa with the life-

giving gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dennis and Benedicta will be ministering in conferences for believers in the mornings and preaching outdoors in evangelistic meetings in the evenings. We have seen so much good fruit coming through these missions! Please consider a generous donation to help us go to Nigeria.



OUR GROWING PRISON MINISTRY



We didn't intentionally set out to minister to prisoners—but God has surely opened a door for us in America's prisons!

It started with one man who read one of our pamphlets and asked us to send him pamphlets regularly, so that he could use them in ministering to prisoners.

As the pamphlets began to circulate around the prisons, we began getting more and more requests from prisoners, who wanted the pamphlets sent directly to them each month.

Other prison ministers began to read these pamphlets and started requesting monthly pamphlets for them to use as well.

Today the requests for our pamphlets in the prisons are outpacing our ability to send them, but we are trying to send out as many as our finances will allow. Nearly every time we get our mail we find new letters from prisoners, requesting to be on our mailing list. Prisoners have far more time on their hands than those on the outside and are much more likely to read Christian literature than nearly any other group of people.

Your generous gifts to SOGM are not only enabling us to take the gospel to Africa, and feed Christians who love the Word of God—they are also enabling us to shine the brilliant light of Jesus in the dark prisons of America.

Please consider regularly supporting Spirit of Grace Ministries.