

A Gift from God

By Pastor Fougere Gordon

Introduction: The greatest gift we have received from our Heavenly Father is salvation. The fact that we can be assured that our names have been written in the book of life and that once we depart from this earth, we will forever be with the Lord bring joy, peace, and contentment in our heart. This means that we are not in fear as we approach the time of life where we must transition from this body into eternity. There are many other gifts that God has bestowed to believers and today, we will be discussing how wonderful and precious when the Lord has brought into our lives that special someone to make our life complete. So many times after getting married, we tend to forget that our spouses are a gift from God to fill a special void in our lives. It's easy to take our spouses or special someone for granted. Before marriage, we tend to be on our best behavior by loving, caring, supporting, and giving of ourselves so selflessly. Once that marriage certificate is signed, some individuals may emerge to be a different character. If we are sincerely grateful to God for our spouses, this will be reflected in our attitude, relationship with our spouses, and how couples treat each other behind closed doors. This brief message today will serve as a reminder that our spouses are a precious gift from God and when we have an appreciation of that fact, the chances of the marriage dissolving will be decreased. WE must recognize that it was God who brought that special individual into our lives to remove that sense of loneliness. The title of this message today is simply called, "A Gift from God" and this topic was specially chosen in celebration of the marriage ceremony that will be taking place immediately following the worship service.

Sermon text: Proverbs 18:22, *“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.”*

Message: That scripture verse is telling us that marriage was designed by God to be a blessing and those who do get married can expect to receive God’s grace so that the marriage will last. When we talk about grace, we are referring to the unmerited favor of God so that those things that we do or say that could potentially harm or send the marriage off the rail, can be prevented because of God’s favor. The Lord has promised to intervene, despite our mistakes, from causing irreparable harm to the marriage. For this to happen though, the couple must be sensitive to the voice of the Lord and be willing to cooperate with God as He counsels both individuals for the duration of the marriage. It will take both individuals being willing to allow God to work in their hearts if the marriage is to have any chance of surviving. In the book of Genesis, we learned that God created the heavens and the earth. On the six day of creation, God created man out of the dust of the earth. The Lord did not believe in laziness and therefore, immediately gave Adam the responsibility of taking care of his creation and naming the animals. While performing that duty, Adam recognized that the animals had a mate; in another word, a companion. Even though Adam was communing with God daily while in the Garden of Eden, he felt something missing; he felt an emptiness. The Lord was very much mindful of this because it was God’s will that Adam be happy and fulfilled. It is for that reason the Lord said, “It was not good for man to be alone”. That is the reason the Lord decided to create a helpmate for Adam; that significant other that he would be able to love, care for, provide for and share with. It was on that basis that the Lord created Eve as a blessing and a gift to Adam. It is important to note that Adam was in a relationship with God before the Lord brought Eve into His life. God had recognized Adam’s

need for a human companion and therefore, identified and selected Eve to be at his side as he carried out the true purpose for which he was created. Please understand there are people who are perfectly satisfied being single and they do lead productive lives. Those individuals should not be pressured into marriage if they are not ready or do not want to get married. When people are pressured into engaging in a marital relationship when they are not ready, it could lead to disaster since they may decide to listen to the voice of man on whom to marry, rather than the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Lord was the one who matched Adam and Eve together, and when Adam saw her, he was in awe at this wonderful gift God had given to Him. The joy and excitement of seeing Eve was expressed when he said, “This is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh.” In essence, he was telling God, she was awesome. Adam did not regard her as inferior to him since that would have been an insult to God and a non-starter in the relationship. On the contrary, Adam was overjoyed seeing the love of his life as a precious gift from God for which he was thankful to receive. He saw her as the right answer for what was missing in his life. What Adam was lacking, he would be able to find in Eve, and what Eve was lacking, she could find in Adam. Together, they fulfilled each other’s needs. God had designed it that way so that they would be co-dependent on the other. The Lord’s desire and intent was for this couple to treasure the other and unite as one. They were not to be enemy combatants, compete with each other or to look on the other as a thorn in their sides. It might have taken time for Adam to understand this precious gift God had given to him and by the same token, for Eve to adjust to having this individual in her life. It was never God’s will for this couple to ridicule, mock, degrade, or abuse the other since any of those actions could destroy the relationship. Instead, Adam and Eve were called to esteem the other, built up the other, uplift the other, encourage the

other, help the other, and most importantly to love the other. Instead of looking on each other as being inferior, stupid, incompetent, or worthless, they were supposed to treat the other as a pearl of great price. Human beings are not perfect and everyone have flaws, limitations, and make major blunders. That is where grace, forbearance, and forgiveness come into play. To the degree that a couple can overlook the other's many faults, God will also be willing to forgive us of our trespasses, our faults, our failures, and our missing the mark. Husbands are never 100% right, and the spouse 100% wrong. Neither are the wives 100% right and the husband 100% wrong; regardless of what is portrayed on television. Each individual has his or her weaknesses, but when they can join forces together and become one, that is the time they are a strong cord that cannot be easily broken by life's problems.

There is an old saying, "A family that prays together, stays together. There is a lot of truth to that. That is why being united with a fellow believer is one of the keys to staying married for life. Those who have had a genuine conversion experience of turning their life over to Christ, will not mind sharing that pivotal moment in their life with their significant other.

Conclusion: In closing, what God would like for you to get out of this sermon is that your spouse is a special gift from God. An acknowledgment of that fact will help you to render equal respect to the other, appreciate each other, and be a blessing to the other. You are actually honoring God by treasuring and valuing his gift to you. Couples are intended to complement the other. This means, where you are weak or lacking, your spouse was intended to compensate for that lack. Also, where you are strong, God wants you to strengthen your soul mate. Is it that simple to stay married? Regrettably not. Those who stay married are the ones who have made

up their mind to work out their differences, allow God to lead them, and have a rock-solid commitment to stay married even before getting married. With that mindset and determination, God will do the rest to serve as a glue to keep the marriage intact in spite of the assault of the enemy to destroy the marriage. For those that are married, you have the promise of God to receive his favor so that the marriage will go the distance.

Altar Call: