



Living Well

Inspire



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Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.org
Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com
Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com
Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - www.marriagenetworkok.net
Making Marriage Memorable blog - www.marriagenetworkok.blogspot.com

Inspiring ...

Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Inspirational stories, books, and movies abound. The most inspirational stories often come from **people who overcome extreme adversity.**

As the media covers the Aurora shooting, we see stories of men throwing themselves over friends, while losing their own lives.

We have leadership books to inspire you to be a leader. John Quincy Adams said, **"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."**

Some people spend a lot of time reading motivational

books and going to motivational talks. **"Motivation gets you through the day, but inspiration last a lifetime,"** says Nick Vujicic. **Nick was born with no legs or arms.** In less than 30 years, he has experienced and accomplished more than most of us who have all of our limbs. But Nick does not take credit for any of it.

"It's not about me. It's about the power of the Holy Spirit in me that gives me the ability to live a supernatural life of victory. That's the power I live in. I'm more than a man without arms or legs. I'm a child of God."

Inspiration from God produces a burning passion in our hearts. His inspiration is different from any other inspiration we can have.

Motivational speakers of our day can inspire us for a time. **But those speakers don't have the ability to be with us and give us strength and wisdom and a sense of their presence.** When we leave the room, we leave their presence.

But the presence of God goes with us everywhere. He gives us His strength. In fact, Jesus even said that we would do greater things than He did, because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. **The Holy Spirit reveals the will and wisdom of our Lord in our lives, no one else can do that.**

Each of us who follow Christ can be truly inspired by Him (see below). His essence can be the passion of our lives if we allow Him to be at work in us and through us.

Breath in

The origin of the word **"inspire"** comes from the Latin that means to breathe into. The word **"spirit"** comes from the same root word, meaning "breath."

In both the OT and the NT, the word translated Spirit, is sometimes translated breath or wind. In this verse, **"the breath"** is a word that is translated spirit in other places.

Genesis 2:7 *Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB) says, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.* In the NIV, that same passage is translated: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for*

teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

The essence of who God is was breathed into man. And the essence of who God is was breathed into the Scriptures.

The word "inspire" takes on the idea that **the essence of a person or idea goes in me, permeates me, and gives my life passion.**

On the reverse side:

In Marriage

My Picture

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Inspiration in Marriage

True love always makes a man better, no matter what woman inspires it.

Alexandre Dumas

The inspiration that brought you into marriage may be the way your wife looks or the way your husband romanced you or the way you could talk together all night.

But what is the inspiration or passion keeps your marriage alive and growing?

The happiness (or unhappiness) of **the family in which you grew up inspires you to have a great family.** Then you are faced with the reality that

this marriage has different people and they live in a different time. Life isn't the same as when you grew up.

The concept of **"living happily ever after"** seen in TV or the movies inspires you with an image that you strive to emulate. When the image isn't achieved in 90 minutes or in the course of one TV season, you become disillusioned.

How do we stay inspired or passionate about marriage? What is the example or image for that?

God never intended for Christian marriages to be inspired by worldly images. The image which can permeate the essence of our

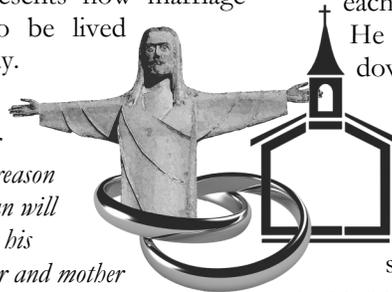
marriage is **the image of Christ and the church.**

God clearly states that is the image, which most represents how marriage is to be lived today.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:31-32)

God has breathed His Spirit into every person who receives Christ as His Lord and His Savior. Because of the Spirit

living in us, **we can love as He loves the Church.** We can serve each other as the Church serves. We can lay down our lives for each other, just as He laid His life down for us.



What an inspirational vision! We can experience something **very supernatural.** We can show our culture, the unbelieving world around us, what it looks like to be in **that love relationship with Jesus Christ - a humbling but exciting image!** **What an honor to be part of the picture - truly a heavenly marriage.**

My picture

Who's watching?

What's the picture?

We have been teaching young married couples for over 16 years now. We have taught numerous marriage lessons through those years. However, couples have told us

that they learn as much from our example as from our teaching.

Besides those around us in ministry, our own children are watching. Your marriage can inspire your children to have a solid, God-

honoring marriage. But it can also make your faith real to them, **inspiring their faith life.**

Perhaps, most importantly, as others see **a marriage of love and forgiveness, it attracts people to Christ.** **What is the picture of your marriage?**

