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I would be less than honest, if I didn't say that during some of my more carnal moments, that it didn't sometimes bother me... just a little. After all, I want to have first place in my wife's life and when I sense that there is someone else in that position, there has been a few times I have not handled it well. It sometimes brings me to my knees in prayer.

If I can be honest, I have to think twice about being second place in my wife's life. I could easily find myself struggling with jealousy over the time she spends with our kids and grandkids, her ministry commitments, and yes, even her time with the Lord. Although I've been a pastor for a long time, my selfishness still gives me the powerful ability to carnally rationalize why I should always be the most important and urgent priority in my wife's life.

But, if there is one thing I have learned about being a godly husband, it is this: I must always encourage her to love Jesus more than me. The most important and the most urgent need in our lives is to love Christ above all. Everyone and everything else must be second to loving our Lord; and husbands, that includes her love for us.

Actually guys, if you want her to love you more, be content with letting her love you less, less than she loves Jesus. Jesus plainly declares,

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37

Without explicitly stating it, our Lord's list obviously includes husbands and wives. Your wife needs to love Jesus more than she loves you. And you should want her to. Here are a few reminders why.

#### His Covenant is Better

When we were married I made a pretty hefty covenant with my wife. I promised to love her for better or for worse till death should part us. Yet, I must confess, Jesus's covenant with my wife is much better than mine. His covenant is eternal. It secures my wife a future which will only be "for better" and never "for worse". Furthermore, death will not separate her from Jesus. You may wash your wife with the word, but Jesus is the Word by which she knows God. He secured for her a new covenant relationship with God whereby you are not the basis of her relationship with God, Jesus is. There are no promises that I could ever make to

Sherry that could ever surpass the promises He has made to her. On top of that, being imperfect as I am, I could break my promise to her. Jesus will never fail to honor one single promise He has made. I am glad to be a part of her life, but if she had to choose, she would be far better off with Him.

#### He Knows What She Needs

I love to give Sherry special gifts. I guess the most expensive gift is her wedding ring. All these years later, she still wears it every day. I'm sure your wife appreciates the ring you gave her, and the countless other tokens of love you've blessed her with over the years. However, no matter how sacrificial or costly the gifts are that you give to your wife, Jesus's gifts are simply better. I cannot out give Jesus. His gifts bless her a lot more than mine. I might buy her a new dress, but He clothes her with righteousness for all eternity. I might give her a warm house; He gives her a mansion in glory. I can take her to the doctor when she is ill, but He can heal all her diseases.

Jesus, the Son of God, became man in order to give your wife the gift of abundant and eternal life. He paid for the forgiveness of all of her sins. He rose from the dead to secure eternal life for her. He graces her with His perfect righteousness in order to reconcile her to His holy Father. I might take her out to a nice restaurant, but He offers her the true Bread of Life that can satisfy her hunger for ever. I can stop and buy her favorite milk shake, but He can give her Living Water that will quench her thirst forever. I will try to make sure she is always provided for, but He will share with her His inheritance of all things. My gifts are good. I do the best I can to meet any need *(or any desire)* she may have, but His gifts are simply better, and they are the ones she really needs.

#### He Is Always There For Her

I love praying for my wife, and I rejoice in knowing that because of Christ, the Father hears and answers my prayers for her. But Jesus's prayers are better. He prayed for her long before I did, even before her parents did. Even now He is her constant intercessor. The omnipotent eternal Creator of everything seen and unseen, became man and died on the cross in order to become her high priest. As the God-man, Jesus knows more about what my wife needs than I do. He understands her weaknesses and is actually able to sympathize with them more than I can.

Furthermore, He will never stop being there for her. I may be away from her, I may be at work or out of town, and it is likely I will go to heaven before her. But He will never leave her nor forsake her. I honestly believe I would be willing to die for her, but He already has, and in doing so He offered a better sacrifice for her than I ever could. Then He rose from the dead to eternally intercede for her. Today, tomorrow and through countless years of eternity, Jesus will always be there for her. Jesus is simply a better priest than I am. So much so, that her heart will only be fully satisfied when it is delighting in Him.

#### He Loves More and Leads Better

Husbands, when God joined you and your wife into one new person, he made you the leader. A good husband will therefore lead his wife, not in a domineering way but





in a sacrificial way, considering her needs as more important than his own.

Jesus is the perfect example of a sacrificial leader. He is the leader who laid down his life for His sheep. He is the Good Shepherd who knows where all of the greener pastures and still waters lie. He is the definition of what it means to love. He loved her first, long before I did, and He loves her more. On top of that, the only way I can love her at all is through the overflow of the love that He gave to me in the first place. Jesus is simply a better leader. His sacrifices prove it. His wisdom is infinite, and His power unlimited. By means of His leadership, He saved her from Satan, death, and hell. So, let her worship Him as her true and greater Bridegroom.

#### Conclusion:

Think for a moment what you would deny your wife if you jealously hoarded her affections. Now, think about all she'll gain

from Jesus if she loves Him more than you. Next, think about what you will gain if she loves Him more than you. I know my wife is one of the strongest, wisest, and bravest women I know, but I still like to think that she needs me. Yet, the truth is, she needs Him more; and I am okay with that, and in those carnal moments when I am not okay with that, I quickly try to get okay with that--for my benefit and for hers.

Listen guys, here's the blessing: Freeing your wife to love Jesus more is a win-win situation for both of you. Jesus can transform her into a better wife, a better mother for your children, than you ever could. So, encourage your wife to love Jesus, to be active in His ministry, to be faithful to His church, and don't be jealous of Him. Freely give your wife the gift of rejoicing in her love for Jesus.

Ladies, married or unmarried, if you have not been putting Jesus first, I entreat you to deal with that right now. Confess the sin of making something or someone else an idol.

Let us pray. Dear Lord, please bless my wife to always love You more than anything or anyone else, including me. But also Lord, let me, as her privileged husband, be used, even in my imperfection, as an example, to display Your love for her. Oh Lord, I want to help her learn to always love me less than You. In Jesus Name. . . Amen.





Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty five years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.



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#### The Right Frequency

Sounds are everywhere. Like most, your morning probably starts with an alarm clock buzzing in your ear. Not long afterward you hear a baby crying, a dog barking, an engine starting, a water faucet running, or a door slamming. Then it's off to work with telephones ringing, people talking, printers printing, and papers shuffling. Sometimes no matter how hard you try, you just can't escape sounds.



Though many sounds can be annoying and just a part of everyday life, there are sounds that can strengthen our relationship with Christ. If we're not alert, we might miss them.

When we hear a bird chirping, we can be reminded of how our Lord watches over and provides for them and has promised to do even more so for us. The sound of the wind or the ocean can be a reminder of His power and ability to control the storms in our lives. The pitterpatter of the rain can remind us of His promise to pour out blessings on those who love Him and keep His commandments. Simple reminders are all around us. We just have to be in-tune to the right frequencies.

One frequency you can trust is that of *GoMix Christian Radio*. We strive to provide reminders of God's grace, mercy, love, and provision with every spoken word and musical note. So, as you listen to the sounds with your ears, keep an open heart and be alert, and you might be surprised at what you hear.

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#### Love and Freedom

Did you know that February 1st of every year is National Freedom Day? The special day was officially established in 1948 by President Harry Truman after being created by Major Richard Robert Wright Sr. (1855-1947), a former slave. Major Wright believed there should be a day each year when freedom for all Americans should be celebrated. Then of course, on the 14th day of every February we celebrate Valentine's Day. A day to spend treasuring the relationships between us and those we love.

If we think about it, both of these days can relate to each other and to us as Christians. As Christians, we have many freedoms to celebrate. When we look at the world around us, it often seems as though our freedoms are being stripped away a little bit at the time. It can be discouraging. But looking a little closer, Christians have freedoms that cannot or will not ever be taken away by anyone. We have freedom in Christ! We have freedom to worship God in our hearts, freedom from the bondage of sin, and freedom to approach the throne of God with all of the boldness we can possibly muster up. This freedom we have is such a wonderful thing, but it is only available through a relationship.

A relationship with our heavenly Father through Christ Jesus is the most important relationship we could ever have. He loves us so much, and it is definitely a love worth celebrating!

There was a song composed and made popular in 1948 by Frederick M. Lehman that sums up the Lord's love for us. It is said Lehman did not write this particular stanza as it is thought to originate from an old Jewish poem. The author is unknown; nevertheless, the words speak volumes.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,

Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,

To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry,

Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

Happy Valentine's Day!



What is love? People have made millions trying to answer that question. Have you been in a bookstore and seen titles that are about love? You've seen them! Aisle upon aisle of books about love and how to improve relationships with your spouse, children, friends, and even your pets. Lots of advice out there, some good and some bad.

I hate to disappoint the authors, but my family would blow all of their theories out of the water. We have a great but unique family.

My husband is different from any man I know. What makes him tick? I am still trying to figure him out, and enjoying every minute. We have been together so long now we know what each other is thinking and sometimes finish each other's sentences. I am getting closer to figuring him out each day. Maybe I will understand him completely before the Lord takes us home. But what would be the fun in that? I guess a little mystery is always a good thing.

Over the years our children have each been completely different. It is amazing how children can be raised in the same household and have the same rules and guidelines, but turn out so unique. All of our children have different interests and hobbies. Some work together but have different but similar ideals. Then when you add the grandchildren to the mix, it really gets interesting. Each of the twelve has very different

likes and dislikes as well as a hodgepodge of personalities. But one thing is for sure, there is a lot of love in this family.

I have the pleasure of being at school with ten of my grandchildren, and when we walk by each other in the halls, there is a fond smile and quite often an "I love you" that passes our lips and a hug to go with it. When our children lived at home, we would pass each other and say "I love you." That never grows old. And guess what, our children are grown and have children of their own and we never tire of hearing them say, "I love you." No matter where I am at or how old I become, I love the hugs and I love those words. There are no sweeter words on earth.



The words "I love you" would not mean anything if their actions did not meet their words. I have the privilege of seeing the love in action. Oh, it is nice to get a present once in a while, especially the ones that are for no reason at all. But it is the things that we do that show our love.

When we do things that are inconvenient in order to help others, that shows our love. I call it outgiving or out-serving the other. Of course, it has to be with no ulterior motive, except to show love. Little things can mean so much. If anyone knows my husband, they know his favorite drink is Diet Dr. Pepper. I try to make sure he never runs out of Diet Dr. Pepper. He makes sure my car always has gas in it. He

doesn't want me to have to stop and get gas after dark or any other time for that matter. It is just one way he tries to take care of me. Can he buy his own Dr. Pepper? Can I pump my own gas? Of course! Are these life-changing things? No, but they show us that each is special to the other. The trick is that even though we are busy, our mates need to be convinced they are the most important people in the world to us, next to our Savior. There is not enough time in the day to do all we need to do, so little things become especially important.

Another way to see the "I love you" is don't argue. People tell me a marriage is not healthy if you don't argue. I don't believe that. I am not saying don't disagree, because

that is not possible, but don't argue. When people argue, too many things have become important to them. If everything is important, then you will have to argue to defend your position.

My husband often says to couples in counseling that for them to work out their problems at least one of them needs to die. It would be better for both to die, but the death of one would be a good start. The other one would hopefully come around. This of course means to die to self, your wants and desires. If we are getting a new car, who cares what color it is? If we are going out to eat, who cares what restaurant it is? Dead people don't care about those things. There are things we are going to care about, but if we limit them to things that affect eternity, we will have less arguments and more bliss. Love will be shown.

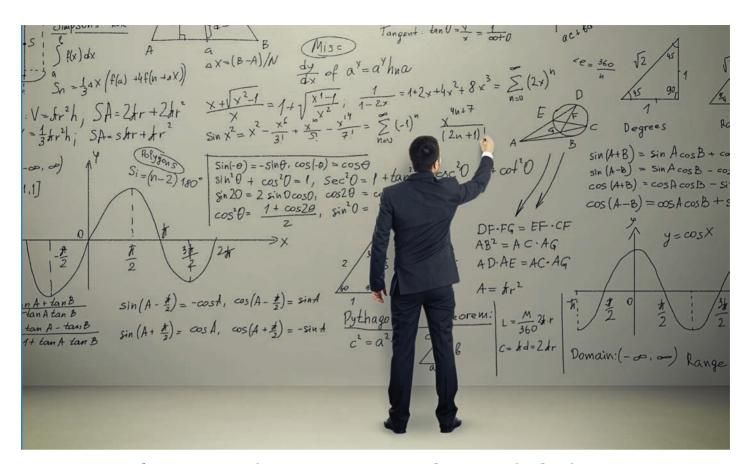
Is my family perfect? No, but to me, it is the best one in the world! We have our difficulties, but there is love. They are the greatest!

Ask yourself, is love manifested in my home? Would other people say that is what stands out about my family? I hope if any one thing distinguishes my family in eternity, it will be that there was love.





Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



## The Mathematics of Faithfulness

Dr. Glenn Mills

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

**Matthew 25:21** 

Here we see that Jesus was giving a life lesson to His listeners. While the story is physical in nature, it also carries spiritual implication and meaning. In the story the "lord" mentioned was the master of his house and those found faithful were his servants. In the spiritual, the "Lord" is Jesus, Master of our lives, and the servants are God's children.

The same principle applies to both the physical and spiritual meaning of the story. When we are faithful to those who employ us, we can, in many ways, expect to be rewarded. Every paycheck we receive is the reward of the work we did. Sadly, some expect to be paid even when they don't do the work expected of them. Some even expect to be paid when they have not worked at all. That is called entitlement. I personally feel there is not a feeling quite like the one you get when you are rewarded for a job WELL done.

But I want to focus more on the spiritual aspect of this story. When it comes to our faithfulness with the things in which God has entrusted to us, can He respond with the words, "well done"?

In other words, is God pleased with what we are doing with the gifts and talents He has called us to do? What would the verdict be? Let's look closer at what I am referring too.

I have been walking with Jesus since I accepted Him as my Saviour at age thirteen. I wish I could say I have always been faithful, but that just is not the case. Though there were times I was not faithful, He always has been faithful to me, and there is no doubt He will remain faithful. Praise His precious name!

When I first met Jesus, He expected little of me because I knew little about Him or His Word. But, as I grew in Him, so did my knowledge of what He wanted me to do. My life greatly transformed when I came to know God's Holy Spirit and the gifts and talents He was developing in me.

I remember the preacher in my home church preaching a sermon on "To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required." Its message rang in my heart as I began to understand I was responsible for the gifts God had given to me and to use them to His glory. It was the least I could do after all He had done and was doing in my life.

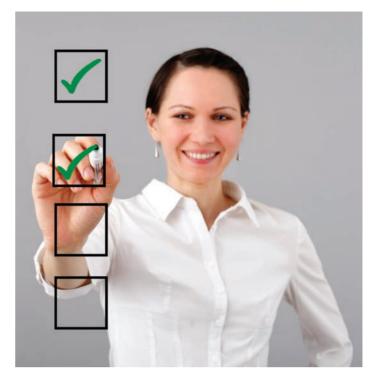
Thank God He has allowed me the privilege of doing many great things over the years for His glory and the benefit of His children, the Church. EVERY prayer I've prayed, every person I witnessed to, every Scripture I read, every service I attended, and every tithe and offering I gave, He has greatly blessed and rewarded me. The Bible says God will be a debtor to no man. I will not fully know until I get to Heaven how many lives God has used me to touch for Him in some way.

But sadly, I have found myself sometimes searching God for the next big thing He wants to do in and with my life. Maybe you have experienced this as well. I find myself praying, "God just show me what You want me to do next." Sound familiar?

One day while praying this type of prayer, God told me to investigate how the military operates by rank of service, so I did. What I found helped me understand my responsibility in view of the spiritual realm. When someone is given orders in the military, they are to follow those orders to the letter. If you are not given any more orders, then you are to continue doing the last orders you were given. Every rank has specific duties and responsibilities to perform so that the military runs like a well-oiled machine.

It is the same for the Body of Christ. When God does not give us further instruction, we are to keep doing what we have already been gifted and called to do. Different offices and callings may vary in responsibility, but there are certain things we are all called to do, and keep doing. Things like prayer, Bible study, witnessing, tithing, giving, serving, encouraging, and helping others, just to name a few.

When we are faithful with what God has already assigned to us, He will move us forward to others responsibilities WHEN He is ready. Remember, He is a God of perfect timing.



So, whatever you are gifted to do my friend, do it with ALL your heart. Do the best you can with your current position and be found faithful. When we are found faithful with few things, then God can entrust us with more things.

Let's be honest here. There is plenty to do if we would just do all we know to do currently. Don't miss the beauty of one precious rose while searching for a bouquet of flowers. Sometimes while we think what we are doing is small in the sight of men, in reality it is large in the sight of God. We will only hear, "Well done," as a result of things "done well."

So, what is the Mathematics of Faithfulness? When we are faithful and obedient with what God has given us, He adds and multiplies more to us. The more we do out of love for Him, the greater our blessing, favor, and reward. However, the Bible also teaches that if we do nothing with the gifts and talents we have been given, they will be subtracted from us and divided to others. I don't know about you, but I prefer increase.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Glenn Mills Ministries. www.glennmillsministries.com

## And Finally...



#### Marriage Advice from Long-Lasting Marriages...

We never discuss sensitive subjects when hungry or tired. And eat marshmallows to improve communication. What's the one thing you can't possibly do with a mouthful of marshmallows? Talk. Communication is more about listening than talking. S.A.

The things that make a marriage strong are respect for each other and holding similar core values. Also, being able to pursue interests that you can do together and other things you do individually.

D.S.

Someone once told me that you should treat your spouse at least as well as you treat your best friend. Don't keep secrets and actively look for things to enjoy together. At the same time, give each other space, and support their interests or activities. Do things with your partner that you may not want to do compromise. Be thoughtful and considerate. It doesn't sound romantic, but cooking a favorite meal for or bringing coffee to the other gives a good feeling, and those small things matter.

J.S.

The more personal work you do, the less you blame your partner for things. We have to constantly be developing ourselves through personal growth, then bringing that work to the relationship to enrich it.

L.J.

Remember what you love about your spouse: The traits that drew you to your husband or wife are still there, they just look different. Be careful of comparison. Remember who the real enemy is: Spiritual warfare is real! Satan does not want your marriage to succeed. Work together to solve the problem, not against one another.

I.L.

If you can't learn to give more than you take, you'll never make it.

K.M.

#### "National Pet Day"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..." National Pet Day is in April! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your best pet. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2022. You can send an email to: share@gomixradio.org Attn: PathPointe Magazine Or write to: Pathway Ministries PO Box 1895 Goldsboro, NC 27533

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February is known as the month to focus on love. Over the next couple of weeks millions will be buying flowers, chocolates and Valentine cards. Why? Because February 14 is the day observed in many countries to celebrate romance, love and affection.

This is also a wonderful month to let your friends and family know about God's love. One of the ways you can do that is to invite them to tune in to GoMix Christian Radio. Thousands of people around the globe do not know about God's love. Inviting someone to tune in to GoMix might be an easy way to share the message.

