



Worship and The Marriage Prayer

By Patrick Morley and David Delk

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Excerpted and adapted from *The Marriage Prayer* (Moody Publishers, Fall 2008)

The Battle for Your Heart

A fierce battle rages for the hearts and minds of people. This battle is not new—from the beginning in the garden of Eden, God required that Adam and Eve worship Him. They chose not to.

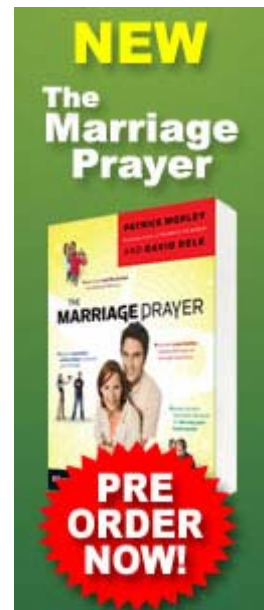
It's the same today. God reaches out for us, but we ignore Him and worship idols of our own design. And our marriages suffer the consequences.

History is the story of this battle. When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, He called them to worship Him alone (Exodus 20:1-4). They chose not to. Then He sent judges to call the people back to Himself. Instead, they "did as [they] saw fit" (Judges 17:6; 21:25). Then He gave them kings to lead them into proper worship. Instead, they did evil in the sight of the Lord and set up altars to false gods on the high places (1 Kings 14:22-24). Then He gave them prophets to call the people to repentance. But they did not listen (Jeremiah 5:4-5).

Then Jesus came and won our hearts back for God. When we were dead spiritually, He made us alive again. And He made us alive so that we could love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (see Mark 12:30).

With a new heart and the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have power to acknowledge God's presence and hand in every part of our lives. We can worship in all of life because of what Christ has done for us.

Worship requires that we have reverence for God. Our culture tries to trivialize God and cut Him down to a manageable size. But in the Bible, when people see and know the mighty God they fall on their face in awe (for example, see 1 Kings 18:38-39). One sign that you are worshiping well is that your view of God has gotten bigger. Worship puts God back where He belongs as the Lord of the universe.



The Big Idea

Marriage works well when we worship well.

Why is worship important in marriage?

Let's see: God made it the first commandment (Exodus 20:3), then Jesus reiterated it as the most important thing. That probably means worship matters in marriage.

Worship is the foundation that keeps the rest of your life on track. When we take our focus away from Christ and start looking to something else, we begin to be

deceived about every area of our life.

Without her glasses, David's wife, Ruthie, would be legally blind. She wears contact lenses during the day, but when she removes those contacts at night she can't see anything. Everything is a blur. She walks through the house like a zombie—hands out in front of her trying to avoid bumping into anything and falling.

True worship is like eyeglasses for the soul. **It allows us to see the world for what it really is.** When our hearts are aligned with God, we can make sound judgments about values, priorities, desires, needs, etc. When we take our eyes off Christ and look at something else, everything becomes hazy and blurry. What used to be so clear is now not so cut and dried. This is how we get off track—our hearts and minds begin to focus on something other than God. Once we stop seeing the world correctly, we begin to justify all our other actions.



Every sin flows out of a lack of worship of God. You can't pursue an inappropriate relationship outside your marriage while you are worshiping God. You can't ignore your family by working too much or pursuing a hobby while worshiping God. You can't emotionally disconnect from your spouse while truly worshiping God.

Not only that, but **worship also puts all the rest of life in perspective.** When we lose our focus on God, our problems and circumstances look really big.

PROBLEM

But when we worship, we are reminded how big God is, and our problems are put back in perspective.

Is everyone on your team pulling in the same direction?



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REGISTER NOW!

PROBLEM



Worship changes the calculus of our perspective quite a bit. God is not sitting in heaven wringing His hands about how all this will work out!

Don't take worship lightly. Everyone who gets serious about living all of life before God will have a revolution in their heart and mind.

We can win the daily battle for our marriage by winning the daily battle over who or what we will worship! That's why we pray in The Marriage Prayer, "*Help me bring him (or her) into Your presence today.*"

Daily devotions,
helpful articles
and more!

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The Marriage Prayer—For Him

Father,

I said, "Til death do us part"—I want to mean it.

Help me love You more than her,
and her more than anyone or anything else.

Help me bring her into Your presence today.

Make us one, like You are three-in-one.

I want to hear her, cherish her, and serve her—

So she would love You more and
we can bring You glory. Amen

The Marriage Prayer—For Her

Father,

I said, "Til death do us part"—I want to mean it.

Help me love You more than him,
and him more than anyone or anything else.

Help me bring him into Your presence today.

Make us one, like You are three-in-one.

I want to hear him, support him, and serve him—

So he would love You more and
we can bring You glory. Amen

Challenge - pray this prayer for 30 days and see how it impacts your marriage relationship! Download The Marriage Prayer card or get more information about the book, including a sample chapter, by [clicking here](#).



Patrick Morley and David Delk

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