



The Renaissance of Marriage

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What's Happening to Us!

Wife:

I don't feel like being close to him Father, our lives have been so hectic, so chaotic lately. There is so much to do. So many responsibilities. We are passing each other like ships in the night not even noticing whether the other is afloat or not.

That's it, Father, he is not even noticing how overwhelmed I feel and how much I need his caring arms wrapped around me to sooth me and uplift me and tell me everything is going to work out and be all right. I need him to balance me and to bring out my femininity, those qualities of gentleness, tenderness and caring.

I am so tempted right now to ask You to change him and give him the loving response I seek. I want you to wake him up Lord to respond to my needs. Why does it always seem that I have to be the catalyst to change the situation. Why does it always have to be me to break the wall of apathy, the taking each other for granted.

*But what I really have to seek from you Father, is
Your grace to help me become aware of and want
to crack the wall of stagnation and ordinariness in
our lives with a passionate breakthrough. Help me
to see Your will, to be a change in me. Give me the
grace of your passionate love which flows through
the heart of Jesus.*

*Let me see where I have to respond. Where I have to initiate, where I have to draw out his manliness by my womanly love. Allow me to only see his goodness and strengths. Above all, let me see and bathe in his love for me. Father, grant me Your creative passionate love. I ask this through Jesus
Amen.*

Husband:

I always see a need for her to pray for passion for me. It seems she needs the passion and I have an abundance for her, but, Father I know that I don't always have the passion. It is only when we are ready to go to bed or when we are alone or when I feel especially close to her.

I need to become passionate for her during those times when I don't feel especially warm toward her. Father, help me to decide to be passionate. Help me to reach out to her when I am not particularly close to her or when I am into my "poor me's" or I am hurting.

I need to recognise how beautiful she is, inside and out – that she is Your gift to me. I need to know Father, how to respond to her - to let her know how desirable she is all the time – not just the special moments or when we happen to feel close to one another. My passion for her, Father, must be a passion all the time.

Make me aware of how to overcome my failings toward her. When we are out of sorts, help me not to busy myself with other things. It is at these moments, Lord, that I must be caring and loving toward her. I want my life with her to be one of steady growth in our passion for each other and not the ups and downs, moments, when we are passionate, followed by the moments, when we are strangers.

*I need some guts to be the man You want me to be.
I pray for the courage to respond. Let Jesus carry
this prayer to You.*

Amen

From 'A Prayer Book for Couples' by Fr Charles Gallagher SJ '



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