



Overview

Beloved, marriage is one of the most sacred covenants ever entrusted to humankind. It is in the soil of this divine union that love is nourished, faith is tested, and the Spirit of God is made manifest through daily grace. As we gather for the 2025 HOM Retreat, the Planning Committee has prayerfully and purposefully curated a robust collection of resources to enrich our journey—not just during this retreat, but in the quiet hours and courageous moments that follow.

Within these pages, you will find wisdom lovingly categorized across nine essential themes:

- (I)** Biblical Foundations of Marriage,
- (II)** African American Faith and Marriage,
- (III)** Communication and Conflict Resolution,
- (IV)** Intimacy, Love, and Sexual Wholeness,
- (V)** Money and Stewardship,
- (VI)** Parenting and Family Building,
- (VII)** Forgiveness, Healing, and Restoration,
- (VIII)** Spiritual Growth as a Couple, and
- (IX)** Cultural Legacy and Love Stories.

These writings, drawn from both sacred scripture and sound scholarship, are meant to uplift the weary heart, inspire the committed soul, and remind us that marriage—when guided by the hand of God—is a holy endeavor worth cultivating day by day.

Let this living document be a wellspring, not only for receiving, but for sharing. If you come across a book, an article, or a testimony that has blessed your union, feel free to add it here. May this repository grow, as your love grows—deep, wide, and strong.

Now, go forth—read with purpose, reflect with prayer, and live with power. For your marriage is not only a gift from God—it is a testimony to the world of His enduring love.

I. Biblical Foundations of Marriage

1. *Sacred Marriage* – Gary Thomas (Book)
 2. *Love and Respect* – Dr. Emerson Eggerichs (Book)
 3. *The Meaning of Marriage* – Tim Keller with Kathy Keller (Book)
 4. *Marriage God's Way* – Scott LaPierre (Book)
 5. **Biblical Blueprint for Marriage** – Tony Evans (Web Article)
<https://go.tonyevans.org/tony-evans-christian-marriage/>
 6. **A Biblical Theology of Marriage** – The Gospel Coalition (Web Article)
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/a-short-biblical-theology-of-marriage-a-conversation-with-ray-ortlund/>
 7. *Covenant Marriage* – Fred Lowery (Book)
 8. “Marriage as a Spiritual Discipline” – Christianity Today (Web Article)
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/september/14.46.html>
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II. African American Faith and Marriage

9. *Black Love Matters: Real Talk on Romance, Being Seen, and Happy Ever Afters* – Edited by Jessica P. Pryde (Book)
10. “Why Black Marriages Matter” – Ebony Magazine (Article)
<https://www.ebony.com/why-black-marriages-matter/>

11. **Black and Married with Kids** – Ongoing web resource
<https://www.blackandmarriedwithkids.com/>
 12. *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt* – Jentezen Franklin (Book)
 13. “Faith and Black Love: Holding On When Life Gets Hard” – HuffPost Black Voices (Web Article)
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/faith-and-black-love-holdin_b_8091254
 14. *The Black Christian Couple's Devotional* – Michelle Stimpson (Book)
 15. *Together for Good: Lessons from African American Christian Marriages* – Urban Ministries Inc. (Booklet)
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III. Communication and Conflict Resolution

16. *The 5 Love Languages* – Gary Chapman (Book)
17. *Crucial Conversations* – Patterson, Grenny, McMillan & Switzler (Book)
18. **10 Communication Habits of Healthy Christian Couples** – Focus on the Family (Web Article)
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/marriage-success/communication-a-perfect-10-marriage-meditation/>
19. **How to Communicate Better in Your Marriage** – MarriageToday via Patheos (Web Article)
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/marriagetoday/2018/10/communication-within-marriage/>
20. *Marriage: Built to Last* (Workbook & DVD) – Chip Ingram
21. *Fighting for Your Marriage* – Markman, Stanley & Blumberg (Book)

IV. Intimacy, Love, and Sexual Wholeness

22. *Sheet Music* – Dr. Kevin Leman (Book)
23. *The Act of Marriage* – Tim & Beverly LaHaye (Book)
24. *Sexual Healing for Married Couples* – Dr. Douglas Weiss (Book)
25. **God, Sex, and Marriage** – Desiring God (Web Article)
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/sexual-relations-in-marriage>
26. **Why Christian Sex Should Be the Best** – Relevant Magazine (Web Article)
<https://relevantmagazine.com/life5/relationships/for-christians-sex-is-about-more-than-sex/>
27. *Married Sex: A Christian Couple's Guide* – Gary Thomas & Debra Fileta (Book)

V. Money and Stewardship

28. *Money and Marriage God's Way* – Howard Dayton (Book)
29. *The Total Money Makeover* – Dave Ramsey (Book)
30. **Financial Intimacy: How to Build Trust with Your Spouse Around Money** – Black Enterprise (Web Article)
<https://www.blackenterprise.com/love-money-achieving-financial-intimacy/>
31. *Smart Money Smart Kids* – Dave Ramsey & Rachel Cruze (Book)
32. **Managing Money as a Married Couple** – Crown Financial Ministries (Web Article)

<https://www.crown.org/radio/combining-finances-in-marriage/>

VI. Parenting and Family Building

- 33. *Parenting with Kingdom Purpose* – Tony Evans (Book)
 - 34. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families* – Stephen R. Covey (Book)
 - 35. “Faith, Family, and the Black Home” – The Root (Article)
<https://www.theroot.com/faith-family-and-the-black-home-1790895454>
 - 36. “Raising Faith-Filled Kids in a Modern World” – FamilyLife Today (Web Article)
<https://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/parenting/raising-kids/raising-faith-filled-kids-modern-world/>
 - 37. *Intentional Parenting* – Doug & Cathy Fields (Book & Study Guide)
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VII. Forgiveness, Healing, and Restoration

- 38. *The Power of a Praying Wife* – Stormie Omartian (Book)
- 39. *The Power of a Praying Husband* – Stormie Omartian (Book)
- 40. *Boundaries in Marriage* – Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend (Book)
- 41. “How Forgiveness Saved My Marriage” – Essence Magazine (Article)
<https://www.essence.com/love/relationships/forgiveness-saved-my-marriage/>
- 42. *Healing the Hurt in Your Marriage* – Gary & Carrie Oliver (Book)

VIII. Spiritual Growth as a Couple

43. *Devotions for a Sacred Marriage* – Gary Thomas (Book)

44. *Kingdom Marriage* – Tony Evans (Book)

45. **Pray Together, Stay Together: How Shared Prayer Changes Marriages** – FamilyLife (Web Article)

<https://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/marriage/pray-together-stay-together-when-couples-pray/>

46. *A Couple After God's Own Heart Devotional* – Jim & Elizabeth George (Book)

47. *Our Daily Bread: For Married Couples* – Devotional Series (Booklet)

IX. Cultural Legacy and Love Stories

48. *The Warmth of Other Suns* – Isabel Wilkerson (Book)

49. “Black Love” Series – OWN Network (Web Companion Content)

<https://www.oprah.com/app/black-love.html>

50. **Marriage in the Black Church: Then and Now** – Pew Research (Web Report)

<https://www.pewforum.org/2015/02/25/marriage-in-the-black-church-then-and-now/>