

# STAYING CREATIVE IN THE MIDST OF ROUTINE

ser4014 Keep the Fire Burning, Pt 2  
February 14, 2021 E & L

I. **(HOOK) MARRIAGE IS THE PICTURE OF SALVATION & SALVATION IS THE PICTURE OF GOD'S LOVE.**

A. **Many times, when I officiate a wedding, I'll ask the maid of honor and the best man for a story about the bride and/or groom.**

The purpose is to interject a piece of humor when I share comments about the couple. Most wedding ceremonies contain what is called "The Charge to the Couple." What "the charge," says is that the bride and groom have come to the altar in transparency. (E.g.: The groom does not have three wives and 17 children living in Utah that the bride knows nothing about. LOL!)

It's amazing the stories I hear from family and friends, which neither knows about the another. That's probably a good thing! So I have to be selective in what I share. ☺

I remember the wedding distinctly – I had received a story from the groom's side, but not from the bride's. When the parents of the bride arrived, I asked them about the story I never got. They said they didn't have one because their daughter was perfect. LOL!

When I got to the portion in the ceremony where I have a little fun, I prayed, “Lord, what do I say?” Immediately, the Holy Spirit revealed to me that “marriage is a picture of salvation,” and that is what I was to share. I had never seen it before. It was an instantaneous revelation—not to God obviously, but to me.

Here it is:

For a marriage to take place

**A:** The bride and groom must admit they are incomplete without one another.

**B:** They believe that the person they are marrying is the perfect complement, the right one, for them.

**C:** They commit to one another until death does them part.

**D:** And, the wedding day is the day they make that public declaration (Do it today!).

**Isn't that the picture of salvation?**

**A.** We admit we are lost in our trespasses and sins and incomplete without a relationship with God.

**B.** We believe Jesus is the only person who can give us a relationship with the Father.

**C.** We commit to trusting the righteousness of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and pledge to be His disciple.

**D.** There is a day we do it.

**B. So, before we go any further, let me ask you, “Has there been a time when you said, ‘I do’ to the LORD?”** Have you received Christ for the forgiveness of sins? Have you committed your life to Him? Have you received Him as your personal Lord and Savior? If not, why not today?

**C. It’s as simple as a heartfelt prayer:**

“Father in Heaven, I confess to You that I am a sinner and in need of forgiveness. Forgive me! Jesus, come into my heart; I give you my life. Be my Lord and Savior. Amen!”

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## II. (**BOOK**) KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

**A. H. Jackson Brown, Jr, author of the best-selling book, “Life’s Little Instruction Book,” gives us a number of short instructions on how to have a**



## good marriage. (**show photo**)

It's Valentine's Day, so let's look at a few of Jackson Brown's instructions:

1. "Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get."
2. "Remember that creating a successful marriage is like farming: you have to start over again every morning."

***ILLUSTRATION:*** If I say to Sheryl, "Good morning, honey. You look beautiful." Most likely, that's a good start. But if I say, "Good morning! Honey, you look beautiful?" (accent on "ful" in question form.) I'd say, most likely, that's not a good start. As a couple, or in a friendship, how you begin and end your day contributes heavily to a healthy relationship.

3. "Remember, a good marriage is like a campfire. Both grow cold if left unattended."

### **B. Since marriage is a picture of our relationship with God—Jesus being the groom and us being the bride, how do we keep our fellowship with God vibrant?**

\**Relationship* is by new birth; *fellowship* is by choice.

How do we keep fellowship from becoming stagnant?  
Let's keep it simple. Two suggestions.

1. Fellowship requires discipline.
2. Fellowship requires creativity.

For some, discipline is easier than creativity because their personality is given to a disciplined life style; for others, creativity is easier than discipline because their personality is given to lifestyle of creativity. Let's talk about discipline.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Some people who get up at 5 am, five days a week, and hit the gym. They then go home, get a shower, and head to work. And they love it! Crazy right? Most likely, they're in bed by 10pm, too. Not me! I'm up at 7am with a cup of tea and a fresh Nutella muffin that Sheryl made the day before. LOL! ([show muffin](#))



**NOW** my schedule is from 7 am until 12 midnight nearly every day. I typically put in 14-hour workdays six days a week ... and I love it. Much like the gym and exercise enthusiasts love going to the gym, I love going to work. I love what I do.

However, I know that I need to eat healthily and exercise. So, nearly every day, not because I want to but because I need to, I exercise. In the summer I walk. In the winter, I do 100-120 pushups or crunches every night. What's even worse, I procrastinate. So, it's 10 pm, and I'm forcing myself to do pushups and crunches. I hate it, but I do it because I

need to. I guess you could say that's discipline. I'm given to discipline because I must, not because I want to.

### **C. Let's see what the Bible says about discipline.**

The word discipline appears 60 times in our English Bible. The first is found in Genesis, the last in Revelation.

Most scriptures address discipline as in being corrected or chastised, others as in bringing something into submission. For our purpose today, let's look at the latter.

#### ***1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (TLB)***

<sup>24</sup> Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize [literally = wreath] that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup> So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing [literally = beating the air]. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

### **D. Paul, in a sense, is telling a parable.**

He is giving an earthly story to make a spiritual or moral lesson. We can't expect to live a victorious Christian life without discipline and training. Our spiritual life is like a campfire; left unattended, it will go out. So, it requires discipline and creativity.

### **E. (LOOK) The discipline is self-explanatory.**

We know the routine. Jesus said to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." How do we do that?

2019 CHALLENGE UPDATE	GCCC	NAT. AVG.
<b>BIBLE</b>	<b>66.6%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>TITHE</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>3-5%</b>
<b>SERVE</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<small>20% PROTESTANTS 16% CATHOLICS 64% JEHOVAH WITNESSES 67% MORMANS</small>

**1. (We) Read our Bible daily.** (Hopefully, you're staying with the 2019 Challenge and reading a chapter a day. ([show photo](#)) Currently, I'm

in the book of Joel.)

**2. (We) Pray daily, and often throughout the day, seeking His guidance.**

**3. (We) Attend Church faithfully—it's our canopy.**

**4. (We) Give the tithe and our offerings.** It is our duty and God's guarantee to provide.

**5. (We) Serve God and others in some way or another.**

**6. (We) Are intentional about winning souls.**

**7. (We) Worship Him.** The bible says, "Jacob leaned on his staff and worshipped."

**F. (TOOK)** What happens when we have incorporated these disciplines into our lives but have lost the passion to do them?

Now is the time to get creative. How do you do that?

**1. Get alone with God until the passion returns.** And,

**2. Get a coach.** (Don't be prideful. Get help where needed.)

There are people in GCCC who once were on the sidelines but now attend faithfully, serve, tithe, bring people to the Lord, and have a spiritual life because someone came alongside them.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** How many of you watched this year's Superbowl? I believe most people were shocked by the outcome. I certainly was. What was the difference? Talent? Maybe...but I doubt it. A creative game-plan? Yes! Yes! Yes! Offensive. Defensive. Special teams. Coaches and players were working together.

### **III. WIN ONE IN 2021**

**A. This is why we have soul-winning campaigns like *Win One in 2021*.**

We want to put passion and creativity in the Lord's command to be "fishers of men." Before we distribute our cards, let me read you a letter. (**Read Robin Carlson's letter.**)

**B. What do you say? Let's *Win One in 2021*.**

**1. Distribute campaign cards.**

**2. Pray over cards.**

ser4014, *Staying Creative in the Midst of Routine*, (Keep the Fire Burning, Pt1) 1514 words (approximately 12 minutes + 2 minutes for Carlson's letter, + 4 minutes for distribution of W1in2021 cards and prayer = 18/20 minutes)