

Changing The Seasons In Your Marriage

Song of Songs 2:8-17

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Marriage goes through the different seasons of life. Songs 2:8-17 is a husband leading his wife out of the trying, stressful and cold season of winter into the pleasure, joy and intimacy of spring. The man pursuing his wife and marriage out of winter is a picture of masculinity and His knowledge of the Lord. The problem with men is not that they are weak or unable; the problem is them not knowing who they are. In Christ and by the power of the Spirit, God has given to men the influence, capability and strength to lead.

Four Ways To Change The Seasons In Your Marriage

#1 Leaping and Bounding

vv. 8-9 – The husband pursued his wife with passion, excitement and enthusiasm. Nothing would stop his pursuit; no obstacles or hindrances, no misunderstandings or sin. The inert desire in men to pursue their wife or girlfriend stems from them being made in the image of God. Just as Jesus pursued His bride (the church) at all costs (despite the cross, death and sin) to deliver her out of winter into spring, so did the husband. There is nothing more masculine and godly than for a man to lead his wife from winter into spring. A constant playfulness can be seen throughout the song: the wife refers to her husband as a 'young stag' while he playfully 'stalks' and woos her out gently and tenderly.

#2 Wooing and Leading

vv. 10-13 – The husband offers an invitation to his wife from the cold and harsh winter season into the intimate and tender season of spring. It is the husband's responsibility to lead their wives and marriage out of the dark and damp season of winter into the vigour and freshness of spring. The responsibility of the husband is to infuse into the ordinary of marriage and in the mundane of life, springtime vigour. Wives should respond and accept the creativity

and playfulness their husbands introduce and initiate.

#3 Catching the Foxes

vv. 14-15 – The husband recognised that his wife was not in a place of flourishing. He woos and leads her out of those places and catches the little foxes that spoil the vineyards. The vineyard throughout the song represents the woman's (the wife's) desires and soul. The little foxes are things that would eat up the joy and oneness of a marriage. Every husband needs to work hard to catch the little foxes in his marriage and get rid of them. He needs to go beyond 'administrative talk' and listen to the heart of his wife; working to relieve her fears and anxieties.

#4 Pursuing despite the Odds

vv. 16-17 – This is the language of marriage in covenant love; there is mutual possession and oneness. The story of Hosea obeying God in pursuit after a prostitute wife despite her unfaithfulness is a picture of true masculinity. God Himself did that in Jesus Christ. Despite the church's unfaithfulness and sin, He leaped and bound in loving pursuit of the unfaithful and sinful church. In all conflicts and problems in a marriage, it is the husband that pursues the wife. The wife in the song, now free of the little foxes, responds to the husband intimately. They renew their covenant and celebrate their oneness by making love. By the saving act of Jesus that brought restoration and deliverance, all men, made and empowered by the image of God (1 Cor. 11:7) are the husband in the song.