

Bring Back That Lovin' Feelin'!

The title of this marriage encouragement is words from a song by the Righteous Brothers that was popular when Sue and I were dating in the 60's. (Tells you how old we are!) I always liked the rhythm and the way they sung this song, but I did not realize until recently how powerful the words are to this song. I've include the words at the end of this marriage encouragement, but I recommend, if you haven't heard it, to go to YouTube and listen for yourself!

Romance is a vital ingredient to a marriage that can turn into a "life-long love affair" between two people. There are many ingredients to a successful marriage, but romance is one that keeps the **color** and **excitement** in it. Romance helps prevent the relationship from becoming boring and routine. It puts the spark that you experienced while dating, when everything you did was romantic, back into the marriage. It helps keep the passion in a growing and vibrant relationship. Romance replaces complacency and indifference with genuine concern and awareness of your spouse as an important part of your life. The focus shifts from what can my spouse do for me to what can I do for my spouse to make them feel loved.

Unfortunately for many couples, they have given up on romance or do not think that it is important now that they are married (a common thought among men!). They assume romance was for the "falling in love" stage but not now. They may still enjoying seeing it in movies or TV shows, but don't see the significance of it in their own marriage. Romance doesn't just die or fade out of existence; we trade it for something else. For me (Rick), I can trade romance for projects and checking things off of my "To Do" list. I can get so focused on "doing" that I completely forget about Sue and meeting her love needs and making her feel loved. The extra hugs and kisses, loving looks, cards and notes, planning a romantic evening, focused heart-level conversations, and playful times disappear. A week, and sometimes more, can fly by without much attention to Sue and I don't realize anything is wrong until she finally says, "It's been a long time since we have talked or I have felt connected to you. I don't feel anything right now." Then it dawns on me that, wow, I haven't been paying attention to Sue very much. It's easy for me to think that just because I'm around, we are having time together! Well, I should know by now that her love language is "quality" time, not just being present! Then I have to run to Father and ask Him what I need to do to turn this around.

Being romantic doesn't necessarily mean two tickets on a cruise to Bermuda or an expensive dinner at a fancy restaurant, although those can be very romantic times. It's more about all of the little things that you do on a consistent basis that speak to your spouse that "I see you and you have a special place in my heart." The loving looks, notes, cards, hugs while she is fixing dinner, heart-to-heart conversations, and extra kisses for no reason will all build romance into your marriage. A good starting place for romantic ideas is to think back of all the things you did while you were dating before to got married! There are also a number of books available with ideas for romantic evenings or things to do that are romantic. One of the biggest things to remember is to make it fun!

I should mention here that it is the man who is the initiator for romance most of the time. The feminine is the receiver and women like to feel pursued by their husband. Women also like surprises and sometimes that can be as romantic as whatever you are planning to do. For Sue, just my making plans to do something for our Friday date nights, volunteering to do

something for her without her asking, or suggesting we go to a certain movie that I have found at the theater is romantic. But husbands also like to know they are appreciated and part of the team too, so some romantic things from the wife once in a while like a candlelight dinner after the kids go to bed can be a nice complement to what the husband is doing!

The song by the Righteous Brothers is about a man who is lamenting that the passion and love that they once experienced is “gone...gone...gone,” and he thinks that it’s because the woman has stopped expressing her love to him. However, what I have learned from what I have read and experienced in almost 45 years of marriage, when I am romantic and meeting Sue’s love needs, the passion and love come back quickly in her! She starts treating me differently and gives me hugs, kisses and looks that let me know she is thinking about me too! In a short period of time we are back on the love cycle giving and receiving love from each other and the Father.

So men, if you want to “bring back those lovin’ feelins’ start romancing your wife and enjoy the pleasures and delights of a life-long love affair in your marriage!!!

Lost That Loving Feeling

You never close your eyes anymore when I kiss your lips
And there’s no tenderness like before in your fingertips
You’re trying hard not to show it, (baby)
But baby, baby I know it

You’ve lost that lovin’ feelin’
Whoa, that lovin’ feelin’
You’ve lost that lovin’ feelin’
Now it’s gone, gone, gone...woah

Now there’s no welcome look in your eyes when I reach for you
And now you’re starting to criticize the things I do
It makes me just feel like crying (baby)
‘Cause baby, something beautiful’s dying

Baby, baby, I get down on my knees for you
If you would only love me like you used to do, yeah
We had a love, a love you don’t find everyday
So don’t, don’t let it slip it away

Baby (baby), baby (baby)
I beg you please...please
I need your love (I need your love)
I need your love (I need your love)
Well, bring it on back (so bring it on back)
Bring it on back (so bring it on back)

Bring back that lovin' feelin'
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'
Bring back that lovin' feelin'
'Cause it's gone...gone...gone
And I can't go on, woah

The Righteous Brothers