

## Marriage – A Garden Enclosed!

*“My darling bride, my private paradise, fastened to my heart.  
A secret spring that no one else can have are you -  
my bubbling fountain hidden from public view.” (Song of Solomon 4:12 TPT)*



Father’s plan from the beginning of creation was for one man to take one woman to be his bride, wife, and mother to his children. There is no place in the scriptures where there is any option or alternative to His plan. Marriage was meant to be like a garden where the man and woman in blood covenant marriage with each other would live all their married years together building a beautiful life and family together. They would become part of Father’s great commission to subdue and replenish the earth. **Gen. 1:28**



Solomon in his great Song creates a poetic description of what this would look like by referring to his bride as a “garden enclosed.” **SoS 42:12** She would be the fertile soil where good seeds could be planted that would produce an abundant harvest of fruitful children, raised by loving parents, who would then continue to fill the earth. They would also plant seeds of love with each other that would produce the fruits of the spirit of love: joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



Having grown vegetable gardens almost every year since Sue and I were married, there are many parallels from nature that reinforce this idea of our marriages being a “garden enclosed.” One of my first gardens was an urban community plot and none of used fencing. Despite my most valiant efforts, I hardly harvested anything from my garden. Almost everything was destroyed by mice, rabbits, groundhogs, and deer! Now I have a fence and am very vigilant about keeping the devourers out of my garden! We must do the same thing with our marriage by maintaining sexual purity, keeping out all unholy or ungodly materials or distractions, and putting a guard over our mouth, eyes, and thoughts. We also need to stop any division, strife, negative emotions, or unhealthy words or habits. Basically, we need to shut down everything that tries to come and steal, kill, or destroy in our marriage. You may need to use outside help or counselling to deal with some difficult issues or habits.



Another wall of protection you can do is exercise your spiritual authority Jesus gave us that authority when He defeated satan and told us to use His name. As soon as anything begins to steal our joy, peace, and love, Sue and I come together in prayer, plead the blood of Jesus, and command the enemy to get out of our house, life, and family. You can learn more about this in my previous Marriage Encouragement Dec. 12, 2025.



Every good gardener knows that you must put work into preparing the soil and then maintaining it until the harvest is ready. Without constant attention and care, the soil can become depleted of nutrients or organic matter, and the harvest will be greatly reduced. Some of the most effective “additives” to our marriage are love, joy, peace, and fellowship. Love is a major ingredient to a vibrant marriage. We have several marriage encouragements on love at our website that you can apply to your marriage to put a new spark into your marriage and make the love come alive again.



Joy is the energy our brain runs on. Joy helps us work through the difficult times and gives us hope for a better future. We need to keep the “joy gap” small, the time that passes since you last experienced joy together with each other! Sue and I make it a point of having fun every day making each other smile or laugh. Joy releases hormones that make us feel good and bond with others. When Sue and I are dealing with big emotions during our “strong discussions,” we will stop and share a joy story or remember something we can be thankful about. It clears the air and brings the intensity down to a lower peaceful level. You can find a lot more at our website: <https://www.abbasarmsintl.org/> There are also several marriage encouragements on joy as well at our website, You can also find a lot of good resources on building a healthy relationship in your marriage and family at Thrivetoday <https://thrivetoday.org/>

A love-bonded marriage provides an environment where Father’s goodness, kindness, and gentleness can abound both within the family and to all those we come in contact with in the neighborhood, community, church, and marketplace where we live. The fruit from our “enclosed garden” will produce an abundant harvest for the kingdom of God here on the earth!

**So make it a priority every day to nurture, protect, cherish,  
and keep the weeds out of your garden!**

### **Dialogue Questions**

1. What are three things that I could do that would make you feel more secure and loved in our relationship? Talk about ways that you could both work together to make it happen for each other. Decide to do one thing differently this week to improve the atmosphere in your home.
2. Seek the Father to show you any areas in your relationship where you may have allowed the enemy to come in and steal your joy, create strife, bring division, stir up problems from the past, or reduce the peace in your home. Share your lists with each other and take some time discussing how you might stop the enemy in those areas.
3. What can I do that would reduce the joy gap for you? What can we do together to help reduce the joy gap in our relationship? Make a quality decision to implement at least one of these ideas in the next week.

### ***Fun Night Ideas***

1. Leave teasing notes around the house to create anticipation. Then surprise your spouse and do one of them!
2. Turn the lights down for dinner and light some candles. Play romantic music.
3. Leave some notes around the house with reasons why you are so glad you married each other.