



The Vow of Pursuit

Part 2 in the Series

February 11, 2018

By nature, we pursue what we don't have. At the heart of every healthy marriage is a deep sense of being connected, loved, appreciated, and respected — intimacy. It was the belief that you had an intimate relationship that led you to the commitment of marriage. Unfortunately, intimacy has the potential to be compromised. What most all couples fail to comprehend and embrace is that marriage is hard work. Love and intimacy must be nurtured.

I promise to always pursue my two. See Genesis 2:24. When God told man to be united or cleave to his wife, He was commanding him to zealously pursue her and energetically cling to her for the rest of his life.

Biblical Example: Jacob and Rachel — Genesis 29:14-30. That's the heart of what I believe God wants us to do in marriage: God wants us to continue to work for our number two after we already have them.

Marriage only works when you work at it. A person usually works very hard at a relationship until one is secure in the love of the other person. When the relationship seems secure, people gradually reduce the effort and begin to take it for granted. For the rest of your life, you must work every day at your marriage for it to be rewarding and healthy. **When you stop working at it, it will stop working for you.**

Three simple, Scripturally-based rules that will help us to always pursue our two.

When you think of something good, say it. See Hebrews 3:13.

- **Pursue her with words of affection.** Men, She wants to know: Do you love me today?
- **Pursue him with words of affirmation.** Ladies, He wants to know: Do you believe in me today?

When you think of something special, do it. See James 4:17; Romans 12:10-11.

When you want something different, be it. If only she would—If my he would...Don't gripe about what your spouse is not. Continue to grow into the spouse you are supposed to be. There is one person who can make a difference in your marriage, and that one person is you. If you don't like what you're getting, look at what you're giving.

To get what you've never had, you must do what you've never done.

To get what you once had, you must do what you once did. See Revelation 2:4-5.

Life Application Questions

1. What's something crazy you've done for love?
2. Read Genesis 2:24. What do you think it means to become united to a spouse?
3. Adding to a marriage starts with asking the right questions. What do you think some of those questions should be?
4. Why do you suppose that we work hard at the relationship while dating/engaged, but relax once married?
5. Kelly said, "Marriage only works when you work at it." What are some examples of what it means to work at your marriage?
6. What makes you feel pursued? How does this impact the way you pursue others?
7. Read James 4:17. What is some good you ought to do to pursue a godly marriage? Is anything holding you back?
8. "If you want something different, be it." How could you put this into action right away?