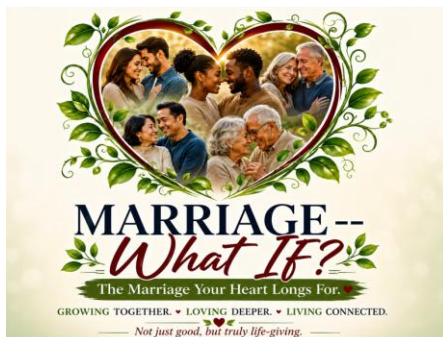




BU

What if your marriage could become more than simply surviving the demands of life? What if it could become emotionally safe, spiritually alive, and truly life-giving? In this Men's RoundTable series, we will explore God's design for intimacy, healing, delight, and connection through *The Deep-Rooted Marriage* by Dan Allender and Steve Call alongside *Fire and Song* by Carl W. Lehnbauer. This is an invitation for men to move beyond merely "getting along" toward cultivating a marriage that becomes truly life-giving.

Marriage – What If? – The Marriage Your Heart Longs For GENERATE GOODNESS – The Fire That Makes Us!

Created for Connection. Called to Love. Invited to Grow.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.Menstable.Com

July 30, 2026

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:8-2:17; Song of Solomon 3:1-3:5; Galatians 6:1-5; Romans 8:18-28

Music: I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU - GMcountry x SUNO - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWeK6Mu-jo0>

Videos: NONE

Resources: **Book:** *The Deep-Rooted Marriage* by Dan Allender & Steve Call **Book:** *Fire and Song* by Carl W. Lehenbauer

GOD–MARRIAGE–GROWTH: Conflict Is Healed by Taking the Initiative— Song of Solomon 2:8-2:17 & 3:1-3:5.

1. **The Husband Takes the Initiative** → The groom comes toward his bride with joy and invitation. He doesn't withdraw after distance. He pursues her. He calls her. "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away." (2:10). His words are full of affection, not accusation. Rather than demanding that she come to him, he lovingly invites her back into relationship. His initiative communicates: "I still want you." "I still delight in you." "Our relationship is worth pursuing." Healthy husbands understand that leadership in marriage often begins with taking the first step toward reconciliation. Song of Solomon 2:8-17.
2. **The Wife Takes the Initiative** → Later, the roles reverse. The bride experiences separation and immediately begins searching for her beloved. She refuses to remain distant. She gets up, seeks him, asks others if they have seen him, and rejoices when she finds him. She doesn't allow pride or fear to keep her from pursuing restoration. Her pursuit demonstrates that love is active, intentional, and courageous. Song of Solomon 3:1-5.
3. **MUTUAL PURSUIT** → The Song of Solomon presents a beautiful rhythm of mutual pursuit. Sometimes the husband leads. Sometimes the wife leads. Neither keeps score. Neither waits for the other to deserve reconciliation. Both value the relationship more than winning the argument. That reflects the heart of covenant love.

Suffering Each Other's Humanity! – Chapter 12 in D-R Marriage.

1. **SAFE PLACE FOR WEAKNESS** → Every spouse is wonderfully made ... and deeply broken. Marriage eventually exposes: weakness, fear, failure, sin, limitations, disappointment. The temptation is to become irritated. God invites us to become compassionate. Galatians 6 says, "Bear one another's burdens." Notice—God doesn't say, "Fix one another." He says, "Bear." Healthy marriages don't demand perfection. They become safe places for weakness. Galatians 6:1-5.
2. **DRIVES US TOGETHER** → Romans 8 tells us creation groans ... our bodies groan ... our spirits groan. But we do not groan without hope. Marriage teaches us that not every prayer is answered immediately. Some suffering remains. Some questions linger. Yet couples who pray together discover that suffering can deepen dependence upon Christ. The fire either drives us apart—or drives us to God together. Romans 8:18-28.

Suffering Each Other's Dreams! – Chapter 12 in D-R Marriage.

1. **DEATH OF EXPECTATIONS** → Perhaps one of the most overlooked parts of marriage. Sometimes the deepest grief isn't tragedy. It's the death of expectations. Dreams change. Careers shift. Health changes. Children choose different paths. Retirement looks different. The invitation is to grieve together—instead of blaming one another. Ecclesiastes reminds us there is "a time to weep ... and a time to laugh." Healthy marriages make room for both.

Suffering Death! – Chapter 12 in D-R Marriage.

1. **FACING DEATH** → Every marriage experiences death. Not only physical death. The death of: expectations, youth, control, dreams, parents, friendships, health, security. Yet resurrection always follows surrender. The Gospel teaches us death never has the final word. Christ transforms endings into beginnings.
2. **DEAL WITH GOOD & BAD** → Meet the Good and the Bad with the Spirit. Don't merely survive suffering. Meet suffering with the Holy Spirit. Celebrate victories together. Cry together. Pray together. Hope together. Laugh together. Grieve together. The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness. These are precisely the qualities suffering attempts to steal.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Which is harder for you: taking the first step after conflict or receiving your spouse when they do? What keeps you from taking the initiative—pride, fear, hurt, or the desire to be "right"?
2. What "fire" has most strengthened your marriage?
3. How has suffering deepened your dependence upon Christ?



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Men's Roundtable



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Scripture – The Message

Song of Solomon 2:8-17 - 8 Look! Listen! There's my lover! Do you see him coming? Vaulting the mountains, leaping the hills.**9** My lover is like a gazelle, graceful; like a young stag, virile. Look at him there, on tiptoe at the gate, all ears, all eyes - ready!**10** My lover has arrived and he's speaking to me! Get up, my dear friend, fair and beautiful lover - come to me!**11** Look around you: Winter is over; the winter rains are over, gone!**12** Spring flowers are in blossom all over. The whole world's a choir - and singing! Spring warblers are filling the forest with sweet arpeggios.**13** Lilacs are exuberantly purple and perfumed, and cherry trees fragrant with blossoms. Oh, get up, dear friend, my fair and beautiful lover - come to me!**14** Come, my shy and modest dove - leave your seclusion, come out in the open. Let me see your face, let me hear your voice. For your voice is soothing and your face is ravishing.**15** Then you must protect me from the foxes, foxes on the prowl, Foxes who would like nothing better than to get into our flowering garden.**16** My lover is mine, and I am his. Nightly he strolls in our garden, Delighting in the flowers**17** until dawn breathes its light and night slips away. Turn to me, dear lover. Come like a gazelle. Leap like a wild stag on delectable mountains!

Song of Solomon 3:1-5 - 1 Restless in bed and sleepless through the night, I longed for my lover. I wanted him desperately. His absence was painful.**2** So I got up, went out and roved the city, hunting through streets and down alleys. I wanted my lover in the worst way! I looked high and low, and didn't find him.**3** And then the night watchmen found me as they patrolled the darkened city. "Have you seen my dear lost love?" I asked.**4** No sooner had I left them than I found him, found my dear lost love. I threw my arms around him and held him tight, wouldn't let him go until I had him home again, safe at home beside the fire.**5** Oh, let me warn you, sisters in Jerusalem, by the gazelles, yes, by all the wild deer: Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe - and you're ready.

Galatians 6:1-5 - 1 Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.**2** Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law.**3** If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.**4** Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others.**5** Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

Romans 8:18-28 - 18 That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times.**19** The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next.**20** Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in**21** until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.**22** All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs.**23** These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance.**24** That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us.**25** But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.**26** Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans.**27** He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God.**28** That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

"I Believe In You" by Highland Spirits

NO LYRICS – Summary

A few of the lines that capture the heart of the song are:

- "I still believe in you."
- "...through the storm..." (used in the context of remaining faithful despite hardship)
- "...I'll never let you go."
- "...my heart still holds on."

Taken together, those lines express the song's central themes of:

- **Faithfulness** in the face of disappointment.
- **Hope** when circumstances suggest giving up.
- **Perseverance** in love rather than quitting.
- **Choosing belief** in another person even after pain.

The Song portrays love as a **decision to remain faithful when feelings are tested**. That idea resonates with covenant love, which is fitting well with the Series: Marriage: What IF? – The Marriage Your Heart Longs For.

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach
563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: phil@bpintl.org

Webpage: www.bpintl.org