

# The Royal Tapestry

Her hair was like a royal tapestry, the King was held captive in its tresses. Song of Songs 7:5

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An individual woman, like a single cord of three strands consisting of yesterday's goodly heritage, today's prayer, and tomorrow's ministry (*a cord of three* Ec. 4:12) joins with other women to become part of a beautifully woven picture of God's living prayer - a TAPESTRY.

TAPESTRY COVENANT: I agree, with God's help, to daily follow Mary's example in submission to God's will by praying, *let it be done unto me according to Thy Word*. Luke 1:38. I agree to pray to God, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit for my family, the church, nations, and myself.



## CONTENTS

Love Comes from God  
Hastings S. Masterson

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Love Comes from God  
*1 John 4:7*  
Hastings S. Masterson

Our love began with friendship and trust. God had more planned for us than we had imagined.

Our love has grown slowly and steadfastly. It is a romance that I would never trade for any other kind. It was exactly what I would choose and yet it was nothing like what I was expecting.

He was, and is, exceedingly romantic. He is giving and obedient to God. He is forgiving. He can make me laugh through tears and anger. He loves me.

So why didn't I know when I first met him that we would spend the rest of our lives together? In a way I did know. I recognized immediately that he is exactly what I wanted in a husband. I just wasn't in the mind frame of marriage yet. We ended up dating for three and half years before we married. I needed to finish college and neither of us was ready to settle down yet. I believe he had to prove to himself and to me that he was 'The One'.

So our friendship grew first. I can't stress enough how important this is in our relationship now. Our friendship is what keeps us laughing and having fun with each other.

I also believe our relationship began the way it did so I could tell other women that it is a wonderful thing to fall in love with your husband more and more with every year. But even

more than that, not every relationship will be fireworks. Friendship in the beginning can turn out to be a symphony, a grand and profoundly peaceful and joyous masterpiece that far surpasses a fiery and tempestuous whirlwind.

It is a tricky thing when one has to choose one's mate for life. It is even more difficult for anyone on the outside to give advice about the future. This is where prayer is most important. If I had not had my parents' prayers for my future husband, I might not have met or married David. I could not have chosen a better man. God has truly blessed me with one of His best servants.

I believe if you give yourself, your future, your marriage, and your husband to God, He will bless and sanctify them. He will transform your life into what He has planned all along. There are no accidents with God. Your permission is the only thing that stands in your way of God's best plan for you. It is scary to walk out into what you perceive as being thin air. If you'll recall the film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, all it took was a little sand to reveal the stone bridge before him. We have to have faith that our path is just as solid as that stone bridge even if it appears to be made of thin air. And if we ask Him, sometimes He will give us a little sand to reveal our path and ease our fears.

I wouldn't trade my burning embers of love for a loud and showy fireworks display for anything in the world. There is an assurance of life in the coals, a certainty of fire that provides for all our needs. The thrill of the colors and the intense feelings of excitement while watching fireworks do happen. It just shouldn't be counted on to sustain love. And it shouldn't be expected to appear when you want it.

Prayer is what has kept our marriage alive and growing stronger each day. I was given a blessing in the first year of our marriage. A couple talked of a prayer they said that changed their marriage forever. I have prayed a similar prayer from then on.

Bless our marriage, O Lord, that it may become stronger and stronger; may we love each other more and more with every passing day; and never forget that You, Lord, are in the midst of us, in the center of our lives. Teach us how to love You and teach us how to love each other. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

God has given us a love that teaches faith, patience, and sacrifice. By praying every morning for God to stand between us, we are filtered through His presence. Our doubts become faith in Him and each other, our frustration becomes patience, and our selfishness is transformed into sacrifice. Love cannot sustain without these virtues, without God. He is Love. And He should be in your love; otherwise you will fail and fall out of love.

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