# Beinhealth® DEVSLETER JUL•AUG•SEPT 2017 A Journey Out of the Desert

Ur marriage was likened to a desert place prior to attending the Be in Health<sup>®</sup> Married Couples Retreat. Our love for each other was drying up; we were slowly dying on the vine. We were worn and weary from wandering in the desert and our marriage had become a mirage.

Over the 40 years of our existence as husband and wife we adapted to "survive" the harsh conditions. Our marriage was dehydrated even though we were getting healing rain which I call the "washing of the water of the word." We were not applying all that we were learning to our situations.

Our marriage has endured many major snares over the years. Our dream home was flooded with 6' of water, a miscarriage, unemployment, porn & drug addictions, loss of several small businesses, near bankruptcy, PTSD, death of a twin son, infidelity, cancer and the list goes on.

To survive this harsh environment, we became like some cactus; we grew spines and thorns for protection. Little by little, offense by offense, we hardened our hearts. These spines and thorns represent the scars, from the wounding, that needed deeper penetration to help us begin to



Larry and Mona

"thrive" instead of "survive". Plants and animals, in the desert, have a wide variety of special features that allow them to survive with desert conditions. Be in Health<sup>®</sup> Married Couples Retreat taught us how to stop surviving and thrive. Like some desert plants that grow long roots to tap into the water deep underground we were taught how to identify the roots that had grown deep in our marriage that were sucking the life out of it.

Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them. Proverbs 22:5 The teachings and transparency of Pastor Henry and Donna Wright helped us to see areas in our marriage that had become froward and taught us how to "keep" (protect) the soul of our marriage. One important thing that has helped our marriage thrive is that we learned to see each other as brother and sister in Christ, before we see each other as husband and wife. We are our brother's keeper and the spiritual condition of each other is more important than our emotions and feelings.

We purposely stayed at the campground knowing there would not be any media distractions. This allowed us time for each other and challenged us to go deeper with each other than ever before. This was very uncomfortable for us because passivity and control were two prickly thorns that kept us working to be peacekeepers instead of peacemakers. Peacemakers work on confronting issues honestly and blatantly; calling one another to wholeness instead of re-wounding each other.

Throughout the week as we allowed the spines and thorns to be broken off we slowly and gently reached out to each other to help heal the wounds. We learned the importance of the husband covering and nurturing his wife as an affectionate frontrunner. And learned how a wife is to follow her husband's lead as he follows Christ. Helping each other become all God has planned for us is our goal.

We are learning to respect and appreciate our diversity and are encouraging each other in our strengths. Instead of seeing the strengths, in each other, as a threat we are accepting them as God's unique gifting of each other. Most importantly we can communicate with each other without fear and accusation. This is helping both of us to be more transparent and vulnerable again. By changing accusation into discernment, we are learning to fertilize



*Enjoying Time Together* the wilderness areas of our marriage and those areas are beginning to bloom with unconditional love for each other.

Every victory we have is improvement for the next obstacle; we never want to have status-quo again in our lives. We agreed to let everything that can be shaken; be shaken. And by George we feel like there has been an earthquake in this desert!! But what joy we are sharing now! Our marriage is on the road to being all that God has intended. Learning to protect each other from the desert conditions that existed before our attendance of the BIH Marriage seminar is helping us to feel safe with each other again. Our desert marriage is beginning to bloom and oh what beauty we are seeing and experiencing. We are standing on Isaiah 35:1-10. The only regrets we have is that we did not attend the Be in Health<sup>®</sup> Married Couples Retreat sooner.

Matthew West's song "Mended" is truly a picture of our marriage. What we thought was too far gone God has mended and restored, and is truly making miracles out of us. Thank you, Pastors Henry and Donna Wright and staff of BIH, for giving to the Lord, we are another marriage that has been healed.

-The DeFries



## IF YOU'VE BEEN TO ONE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE YOU'VE BEEN TO THEM ALL, RIGHT? GUESS AGAIN...

The Married Couples Retreat at Be in Health® in Thomaston, GA truly is a marriage conference like no other. Dr. Henry and Pastor Donna Wright spend one-week pouring into the couples that attend. Through their understanding of biblical marriage, honesty, and their own life experiences, couples begin to see their marriage and identity from a whole new perspective, God's perspective. Dr. Wright and Pastor Donna throw away the legalism, the unrealistic expectations, and challenge couples to go deeper with each other than ever before.

### Husbands: You will learn to

- Understand your identity
- Ovecome Passivity
- Cover and nurture your wife
- Become a strong leader

## Wives: You will learn to

- Understand your identity
- Overcome controlling tendencies
- Follow your husband as he follows Christ
- Be a helpmeet the way God intended

## Husbands and wives will learn together how to:

Be unified in their diversity Enjoy intimacy with one another Communicate and help each other without accusation

Price per couple is \$599.00. This includes a romantic dinner on Thursday evening at the world-famous Callaway Gardens. Each couple must have completed For My Life or For My Life Online® to attend.

To Register visit: www.beinhealth.com/married-couples-retreat Seating is limited to the first 75 couples. Hurry to register today!



hen dealing with our identity, we must first understand who Jesus is. If we don't realize who Jesus is, we don't know who we are because we're made in his likeness.

We can spend much of our time defeated because we spend all of our time looking at who we aren't instead of looking at who we are. From the beginning, the enemy has programmed us to think his way, and now we have to rise up and begin the process of change- spirit, soul, and body.

#### For God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. – Genesis 3:5

"You shall be as gods." The devil tempts us by making us focus on what we're not, and then distorting what we can be. God, on the other hand, has a totally different perspective on us.

# And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... Genesis 1:26

We don't need to be like gods. We are already in the image of the one true God. So the enemy's tempting us to be like something that's a distortion of reality. It's the counterfeit. We already are in God's likeness; we just don't realize it half of the time because we've bought into the enemy's lies.

The enemy tried these same tactics with Jesus when he tempted Him. He tried convincing Him that He needed something more when He already had it, He already was it.

Why then should we be shocked that God would use us in a powerful way? We are His

likeness. We are mountain movers and miracle workers. That's who He created us to be. If God is love, we should therefore be love. If God manifests the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), so should we. Do you realize that God can do through you what He did through Jesus Christ and more? There's one of Him. There are all of us. (John 14:12)

This is all about our identity. We are the children of the Most High God, and you'd better know it. Everything that He has is ours. If you're looking at who you're not, you're never going to rise up into the fullness of who you are.

Jesus is the head of the body. So if He's the head of the body, then the body (which is us) is part of Him. Are you part of Jesus? Then you're not so bad after all. You may have some spots and blemishes. So when you say-I can't do this because I'm no good, you're saying that part of Jesus' body is no good.

You can no longer sit in the shadows and say

that you're in Christ, but you're not part of the body. You can no longer say you're going to heaven and are not part of it here. If you're waiting to go to heaven to find the body of Christ, you're going to be at the judgment seat of Christ wondering why you weren't part of the body here.

Dr. Henry W. Wright



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