

I Do!

Agreement for A Focused Relationship (Flip This House- Part 1)

In this series called, *Flip This House*, I desire to:

- **Convince** you that you can have a great marriage, family and future relationships. God is not done with you!
- **Challenge** you to do whatever it takes to make your family and marriage or preparation for future relationship to be better than ever before.

After taking the time to research for this series, there are two findings that I thought was very relevant: **First, it is as possible to have a healthy, happy family today as there ever was in time. The happy family and marriage is not a thing of the past. Second, to have a healthy and happy family, marriage or relationship does not just happen; it is the result of deliberate intentional practices that nurture the results you desire.**

I believe that where ever you are in life- engaged, newly wed, married, divorced, or widowed, these messages are for you. I also believe that you will be pleasantly pleased with the direction that God will take you and yours over the next five weeks.

"I Do!"- February 25th

"I See!"- March 4th

"I Can!"- March 11th

"I Will!"- March 18

"I Have!"- March 25

Test: Here is a test to see if you are in need of flipping your house:

You can tell you need to "Flip Your House" when...

- You don't expect anything to change in your home or marriage so when you hear a message like this all you feel is defeat, even before you even attempt to to change.
- You constantly look forward in resignation and backwards in regret.
- You're finding more and more reasons why your relationship won't work than why it can.
- You're convinced that things are never going to get any better than they are right now.
- You believe that the glass is half empty but only temporarily, because you're going to have even less after some evaporates.

However, I believe this series will help you...

- Take charge of life and ask the hard questions that can make your home and marriage better.
- It will help you move from wondering "if" something could happen to a matter of "when" things can happen for you, your marriage and family.
- You will get the confidence that anything is possible with God – and together we will figure out *how*.
- Know that you can't wait until tomorrow because tomorrow will only become better because of the decisions you make today!

- You believe the glass is half full, but only temporarily, because you've got your order in for more, and you're busy not only filling your glass but your getting a bigger glass.

What Makes The Family Strong?

In the mid 1970's the professor of family studies at Oklahoma State University, became interested in learning more about the qualities possessed by strong families. Professor Nick Stinnett, launched a research project by asking the question, "What's right with families?" As a result, he gathered information about these positive family models. Knowing that most of us learn much more effectively when we see how something should be done, rather than how it shouldn't, he set out to fill the void of information available on family strengths. Dr. Stinnett began to study strong families in Oklahoma and soon expanded his research project to the entire nation and beyond. He studied strong black families, strong white families, strong ethnic families, and strong single-parent families. Strong families in South America, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and South Africa were also considered. For families to qualify for his research, they had to demonstrate a high degree of marital happiness, a high degree of parent-child satisfaction, and appear to meet each other's needs to a high degree. Once the information was gathered and analyzed, six qualities surfaced in a remarkably high percentage of all these families.

- Strong families are committed to the family.
- Strong families spend time together.
- Strong families have good family communication.
- Strong families express appreciation to each other.
- Strong families have a spiritual commitment.
- Strong families are able to solve problems in a crisis.

[Nick Stinnett, "Six Qualities that Make Families Strong," chapter one in Family Building: *Six Qualities of a Strong Family*, ed. Dr. George Rekers (Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 1985), p. 38]

Here are **six priorities** that I would like you to commit to for the next five weeks:

1. To come and listen to each of these **five sermons**.
2. Be involved in at least one of our **Life Groups** throughout the week or **equipping classes**.
3. Involve your **children** in youth, AWANA's, equipping classes and children's church.
4. Commit to a **family night** with a family meeting to give direction and input.
5. **Date** your mate! Once a week you will spend time together...in a healthy way!
6. **Pray** with your family in the morning or evening.

Process of Marriage

We all have a mutual friend when it comes to God. He is called the Holy Spirit. He is the guy that hooks people up with Jesus. You know, he's the one who causes you to be attracted to Him in the first place. We are brought by the Holy Spirit into a love relationship with God. He is constantly encouraging us,

- "Go ahead, go talk to Him."
- "You might want to check with Him before you actually do that."
- "You're not as close as you used to be and you need to get back to your first love."

The Holy Spirit has never justified my separation from God. He has never given me ways to

get back at Him, nor has the Holy Spirit encouraged me to look around at all the other gods to go “soul” shopping with. The Holy Spirit has only told me the truth about my hearts position and appetite toward my God. **The Holy Spirit is my best friend.**

In the way that our relationship with God is constantly being encouraged by the Holy Spirit, I believe He is constantly wanting to become our best friend in our marriage and relationships. But I also believe that there are three others who are in competition for the agreeing factor necessary for a successful focused marriage, family and relationships here in this life.

The Day I Saw Carol: I remember the first time I really saw Carol my wife. It was a wonderful warm day my senior year of college. Spring was exploding in the air, the leaves were turning green, the air was clear and all you could think about was being outside soaking up the sun. A mutual friend of ours, (Dean Garrison), asked if I wanted to go out to the lake with him because he thought some girls had made something to eat. I was a little resistant at first, but when the food idea came up, I was headed for the car. I can still remember driving up seeing three or four girls sitting around talking and this ray of light beamed down on Carol. I think I heard angels. I could not stop thinking about her. The truth be known, I can not tell you if there was food but what I still have perfect recall of that day in my mind Carol, it is a vivid and beautiful thought to me.

Couple's At The Altar

More than \$50 billion a year is spent on American weddings. (Time, *Americans Love Marriage. But Why?*, pg. 56 Feb.13, 2007) I've enjoyed the many weddings that I've got to be a part of. I would venture to say that most is not all of these couple's have some of the same kind of experience with each other as I did on that Spring day. Something about these couples leave a special place in my heart. But there is something special about each wedding and couple I marry. They carry with them a different characteristic of love and commitment that I hadn't either defined or examined in their particular and peculiar way. I love the idea of love, of marriage and family. I think it's the greatest idea God ever came up with outside of receiving the gift of salvation. It's good to love and it's good to be loved.

One of the most defining moments in a wedding is when a couple faces each other and say their wedding vows. I believe these vows are so important and binding that life together without honoring them in any way becomes a huge destructive factor. There are normally these simple two words that can cause the marriage to succeed or fail when it comes to the wedding vows, “I do.” The problem with most marriages is that they can't recall what they said, “I do” to.

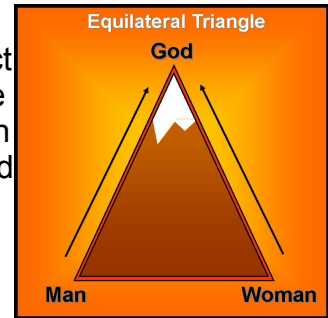
Humor: Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Dr. Mark Carpol spoke at a national conference for the American Association for Marital and Family Therapy. He contends that couples that honestly consider and answer this one question throughout their married lives would rarely, if ever, need marital therapy. The question he encouraged every husband to ask himself and every wife to ask herself is, **“What is it like being married to me?”**

Marriage: Covenant or Contract

When we say, “I do,” we enter into either a covenant or a contract with the one we plan to live with forever. Understanding the difference can actually raise your potential of a life long marriage.

In business two individuals will merge their relationship by incorporating or by establishing their “business” by writing up a contract that can be enforced and protected by the law. In marriage, God's true design was to establish a covenant with one another by establishing an **equilateral triangle**. God is at the top with the husband on one side and the wife on the other. As the couple draws closer to God, they are drawn closer to each other. (One of the reasons I want you to commit over the next five weeks.)



“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 18:19

In the marriages that I have performed, I ask the the couple to pledge their love and commitment to one another until death takes their life. When I am asking them to pledge this way, I am actually asking them to incorporate into their own lives and marriage the principles that will guarantee a successful marriage.

If your marriage is not “Spirit Born”, the words of your vows, the pastors words and all the scripture that you read will do nothing for you. The spirit is the only thing that can truly bring life out of your wedding vows and if you have not committed to the spirit, then your wedding and marriage will become a law for and you have committed to live under a contract with your spouse but you you have not allowed the spirit to have it's way with you. You cannot live the words of your wedding vows without the spirit no more than you can live this Christian walk without the Spirit of God. Your wedding vows are no more than the Old Testament Ten Commandments, and they will only kill you without God's Spirit.

A Time For Confession

So what do we need to do here? We need to do in our marriage just what we need to do in our own relationship with God. We have to bring our life before God and confess that we have been trying to do it in our flesh and even our best is nothing but filthy rags.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

When we take the time to do this, we are allowing our friend, the Holy Spirit to come in and do what we have tried to do for years. We are allowing a divine opportunity to take place in your marriage, family and relationships.

Dallas Tick Dog- I remember when I was a youth pastor in the Dallas, Texas area that we would go over some friends house and they had this wonderful, big furry, friendly dog. I remember after going there that the dog would come up as usual wanting all the attention that you could possibly give him. Naturally you wanted to pet him, the only problem was that he had huge bloodsucking ticks all over his head and body. It took me a couple of times to realize I didn't want to pet that dog any more. He was a great host, they feasted at the best location they could find.

Many couples who comes into marriage exchange their vows thinking that the person who stands before them is *the person who will meet all their needs*. At the altar, without knowing

it, they bring with them baggage that will suck the life out of the marriage and dwindle it down to a worthless contract that can be broken with the signature of a pen. In these marriages you have this horrible problem, two ticks and no dog! Without God you can kill each other.

Marriage Does Different Things:

- **Marriage Exposes-** Marriage exposes who we really are.
 - If we are selfish, it will become heartless.
 - If we are negative, it will become hopeless.
 - If we are passive, it will become helpless.
 - If we are harsh, it will become honorless.
 - If we are uncaring, it will become homeless.
- **Marriage Reveals-** Marriage reveals what we really love.
 - What we personally value will either grow, change or end. Marriage reveals the true love.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

- **Marriage Changes- Two Years Change-** Every two years demands that you change and mature. If we do not change with marriage, life will continue to change beyond it and will one day demand the response of a mature relationship.

The Covenant Relationship

A Covenant relationship is not based on feelings but on an endearing, not enduring, commitment to each other. Many couples try to make it with a one-third, or, at best, a two-thirds marriage commitment. Marriages that enjoy a “three-thirds” marriage have a whole relationship.

With the many things that can become a distraction in a couples relationship, **the lack of a Covenant relationships expressed by the power of agreement, nurtured by love has the greatest impact on the marriage and on the home. This Covenant Relationship is clearly illustrated in our relationship with God.**

Three Competitive Distractions To A Covenant Relationship

Before we can actually go on further, the other three distractions to the harmony that the Holy Spirit wants to bring into your home, family and relationships has to be identified and dealt with. This simple identification of the three competitive distractions will help you best live a covenant relationship through the power of agreement. Your hope to have a focused relationship in your marriage, family and relationships is not only your desire, but it is what the Holy Spirit wants as well.

1. **Unhealthy Thoughts**
2. **Unhealthy Outside Influences**
3. **Satan**

1. **Unhealthy Thoughts-**

- What we think has a great influence on who we are.
- It's estimated that we carry an inter dialog of 150- 300 words per minute all day long. (Some of you may be saying, “I don't hear anything in there.”)
- That ends up being about 50,000 thoughts every day!

- “*What A Great Idea*” by Charles Tompson did research to find that on the average, every single person thinks at least 450 negative thoughts every single day. If you just has 10% of those thoughts going against yourself, that would be 45 negative thoughts a day directed toward yourself. Now that is only 10%. A great experiment, (maybe you have already been practicing this), is to mention 45 different negative statements toward your wife, your husband or children everyday and see how good your relationship grows.

“Eat not the bread of him who has a hard, grudging, and envious eye, neither desire his dainty foods; ⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. As one who reckons, he says to you, eat and drink, yet his heart is not with you [but is grudging the cost].

Proverbs 23:6-7 (Amplified Bible)

What this scripture is saying is that there are people who have a habit or tendency to look at others with a hard, grudging and envious eye. He is warned not to eat with them because you would be judged every time about how much you eat and what you eat. Then he makes this well known statement, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

He is saying that the person who thinks this way in their heart they are actually that person. If negative thoughts have taken over in your mind, you will become that person and you will struggle behaving right because of these thoughts.

- Frances Frangapain says that our life is a house of thoughts.

The Holy Spirit is constantly trying to draw people to the truth of God. He is constantly trying to get individuals to entertain the ideas and thoughts of God but something happens. Look at I Corinthians 2:14: (The Non-Spiritual Man)

¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

I Corinthians 2:14

The Help of The Spirit

To have the assistance of the Spirit is like cheating in life. It is the assistance of passing the test with access to all the answers. This scripture is stating the hard fact that without the Spirit, you are on your own, but with the Spirit of God, there is an open access to an unlimited resource that covers all gamuts of life. But the person without the Spirit of God does not nor can accept what our friend, the Holy Spirit is trying to deliver into our lives. Here's two reactions of a person without the Spirit of God:

1. Without the Spirit being in residence in an individual it is impossible to accept what the Spirit of God would want to give in you in terms of insight and truth. If the Spirit is not present within you and He attempts to show you a truth, revelation or accurate response to a situation ***it immediately seems ridiculous, like a stupid thought.***
2. Without the Spirit being in residence within an individual ***he cannot understand them,*** there is no amount of teaching that you can give them that will cause them to understand it. That's why you give books or tapes out to friends that are revolutionary in your own heart but is almost resisted by them. This is why you need to pray before you hear the Word of God or read the Word of God

because it is Spiritually discerned. (This is what happens in the prison system by trying to reinforce life principles, many can never understand them, they only see the efforts by society a controlling containment issue.

¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: ¹⁶For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ."

I Corinthians 2:15-16

Spiritual Man

The Spiritual Man makes judgments about all things. Here's what this did not say, "The Spiritual man is judgmental." It means that the Spiritual man makes judgments about all things, he defines his boundaries, belief system and his stance on all issues.

Here, Paul tells us that the person who has accepted Christ into their life and allows the influence of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, he will discern and appraise all things; i.e. "makes judgments about all things..." It is somewhat misleading that some versions translate "*appraises*" with the word *judges*. Some Christians have actually used the word *judges* as a green light to become judgmental, which they associate with being spiritual. God does not want us to be *judgmental*, He wants us to be *discerning*.

The world would call this type of thinking radical, fanatical and judgmental, but it is actually quite the opposite. You cannot be Spiritual without clear lines of beliefs and life definition.

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-23

Our Friend, The Holy Spirit

When we accept Jesus Christ into our lives we are actually inviting this friend of ours, the Holy Spirit, into our life. He is the Spirit of God. To allow His full influence in your life, you have to allow Him to influence you from the inside of your heart to backside of your head.

If you allow the Holy Spirit to influence your thoughts, you must guard yourself from having a judgmental attitude and allow God to continue to renew it with His attitude. **A judgmental attitude defines the wrongs but justifies the separation. But a discerning attitude defines the weak and broken areas and rectifies them with restoration.** If you are functioning in this manner, you are operating with the mind of Christ. Paul teaches us in Philippians 2:5:

⁶Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus..."

Philippians 2:5

Christ's attitude was immediately rejected by Satan, by the religious leaders, by governments and society. He came to a fallen, hopeless and rebellious world and did all that was required of Him to provide an acceptable process for God to activate His love and redeem the world. Christ gave Himself to redeem us to God, that was His

attitude. His view of man was not judgmental, "Look at how pitiful everyone is!" But it was discerning, "Father, what would you have me do?" Even though you and I deserved God's full judgment,

*"...God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
John 3:17*

*"[Jesus]...did not come to judge the world, but to save the world"
John 12:47b*

And Christ's desire is that we respond with the very same attitude, He says,

*"...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
John 20:21*

Our Unhealthy Thoughts Make An Unhealthy Life

*"¹⁵ A miserable heart means a miserable life; a cheerful heart fills the day with song."
Proverbs 15:15 (The Message)*

Jesus Commanded Us To Love God In Our Mind

*"³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your **mind**.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:37-38*

In our coming to Jesus Christ, the greatest change takes place in two places no farther than 12 inches apart, our heart and our head. The Holy Spirit, through a process we call "Sanctification," takes the Word of God and eventually liberates our minds from the sinful nature that we were born with. This liberation causes us to desire what the Holy Spirit would desire. It causes us to redirect the process of our thinking to live and love the way the Father loves us. Oh, it is so contrary than the way of the world which is so comfortable with the sin nature. The desire of the Holy Spirit is as equally interested in liberating you from your sin nature as He desires to be freed to display the person of God Almighty!

*"The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace..."
Romans 8:6*

2. Unhealthy Outside Influences

Family and Inlaws

*"This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."
Genesis 2:24*

- Five times this command appears in the Bible: Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7-8; I Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31
- Leaving:
Counseling Strings: Conflicts or issues arise between married couples, they should never fist call mom or dad for advice before going to one another and

prayerfully try to work out their own problems. This is a habit that once it is started, the lines of communication become severed. If there is intervention and counseling going on you have to know that there are always two sides to every story. If you are asking for counsel without representing the other persons story it is possible that all you are doing is justifying your own anger and bitterness. This is sin and needs to be repented of.

Financial Strings: It's best that parents cut off the financial strings that can slowly convince a couple of their incapability of supporting themselves. Parental financial interference may seem like a loving gesture but it has long strings that are hard to break later on in life, especially when love is equated with each string. Parents who love too much can be manipulative when it comes to Christmas, vacations and special favors. A young couple has to be strong early in their marriage to discern and manage the "blessing" from a "demand."

Friends

"Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces."

Proverbs 13:20

Seldom is there any mischief without an accomplice. An unhealthy outside influence is determined by contributing more of your life's resources, Time, Abilities and Finances on things and with others that do not contribute to the security and unifying factor necessary for a healthy marriage and family. Basically we do this in two ways:

1. We contribute more of our life's resources to things that give us worth than on what contributes to the security and unifying factor necessary for a healthy marriage and family.
 2. We contribute more of our life's resources to things that we give worth than on what contributes to the security and unifying factor necessary for a healthy marriage and family.
- Willie Nelson and Julio Iglesias sang a popular song, "To All the Girls I've Loved Before:"
To all the girls I've loved before
Who traveled in and out my door
I'm glad they came along
I dedicate this song
To all the girls I've loved before

Several verses Down

The winds of change are always blowing
And every time I try to stay
The winds of change continue blowing
And they just carry me away

Old flames can remain a flicker in a persons thoughts and mind to reflect or fantasize about if a person does not realize how deadly, divisive and sinful it is. You cannot completely connect with someone when you are not disconnected with another.

3. **Satan** is a competitive distraction to a covenant relationship

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

John 10:10

In this scripture, Jesus defines Satan's primary mission statement. He has one mission, to rid this world of the only threat of authoritarian/power competition here on this earth, man. It doesn't matter how he takes you out, but if he can get you distracted it's as good as death to him simply because you are no longer a threat. Three ways he determines to detract you from operating in your God given authority:

1. **Steal**- Satan loves to rob you of several things:

A) **Potential**- Satan loves to rob you from becoming the person you were *intended* to be.

- He loves to steal your *potential* by convincing you that you are *not important* to God.
- He loves to steal your *potential* by convincing you that you have *gone too far* from God to amount to anything.
- He loves to steal your *potential* by getting you in a position that says your *best days are in the past*.
 - Your debt proves you don't have potential to be debt-free.
 - Your imprisonment proves you don't have potential of handling freedom.
 - Your divorce proves you don't have potential to have a relationship.
 - Your failure proves you don't have potential of success.
- Satan loves to steal your potential, your hope to move from where you are now to a better place. Jabez called on the God of Israel saying:

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request."

1 Chronicles 4:10

See, God wants to answer your world-changing prayers as well as hear the desires of your heart.

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

John 16:24

Joke: At teacher asked her class, "If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?" A little boy raised his hand and answered, "One dollar." The teacher shook her head. "You don't know your math." The boy replied, "You don't know my father."

I know my Father! God wants me to reach my potential. He wants to provide the resources that my life would be affective and fruitful.

B) **Passion**- Satan loves to rob you from becoming the person you were *created* to be.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:27

- **Enthusiasm-** Greek *enthousiasmos*, from *enthousiazein* to be inspired, irregular from *entheos* inspired, from *en-* + *theos* god (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
1 a : belief in special revelations of the Holy Spirit
2 a : strong excitement of feeling
- Satan loves to steal your *passion* by convincing you that your ***relationship with God*** is questionable anyways...so why try?
- Satan loves to steal your *passion* by convincing you that your ***effort*** to change things are not worth it.
- Satan loves to steal your *passion* by convincing you that your ***family*** is better off without you.
- Satan loves to steal your *passion* by convincing you that other ***alternatives*** have more potential than what God has for you:
 - Work has better opportunity so why not focus there
 - Dreams have to be reached and some things have to be sacrificed
 - Relationships have to be experienced and you don't want to be held back.
- Satan loves to steal your *passion* from the direction that God created you to be. This passion should be going toward efforts that are not short lived or wasted. Satan does not have to kill you, he just has to dissolve or redirect your passion.

C) Purpose- Satan loves to rob you from becoming the person you were ***sent*** to be.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

John 15:16

- Satan loves to steal your *purpose* by convincing you that God's ***plan*** for your life is full of restraints and that He doesn't want the best for you.
- Satan loves to steal your *purpose* by convincing you that God's ***design*** for your life is too hard, bad casting or unfair.
- Satan loves to steal your *purpose* by convincing you that God's ***mission*** for your life is not for now and you will get to it later!

D) Power- Satan loves to rob you from becoming the person you were ***empowered*** to be.

- Satan loves to steal your *power* by convincing you that ***you can do this on your own.***
- Satan loves to steal your *power* by convincing you that you ***don't really need any help it will change on it's own, turn around by itself***

or will work out one way or another. Jesus said:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

- Satan loves to steal your *power* by convincing you that you **don't need to remain in Him**. Being close to Him is good, being sincere is enough and wishing to be more relational is actually the same as remaining in Him.

Satan is your enemy. He wants to seal your potential, passion, purpose and power. He wants to take these things away from you. See, when Satan steals from you, he leaves you ravaged in the wake of his rampage. He leaves you violated and insecure. It rattles your confidence and spins your thoughts into a panic. But that is not the only thing that Satan wants to do, he also wants to kill you.

2. **Kill**- When Satan steals from you, he takes potential, passion, purpose and power away from you. But in killing you, he wants to take you away from your potential, passion, purpose and power. To kill you is to leave things at a dead stand still. A one sure way to a once and final death blow of your potential, passion, purpose and power is to take you out. Oh how he would like to kill you and not mess with all the other divisive plans he would have to impose if he could just take you out of the picture.

Three Ways Of Killing You:

1. **Become Overcome With Fear**: Another way of saying this is to become irrational in your panic or becoming paralyzed in your shock. He can try to immobilize you and take you out from your God given position.

"I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:2

2. **Become A Victim**: If Satan can convince you are a victim and everything is happening to you, then your potential, passion, purpose and power are all dependent on another persons actions.
3. **Become Embittered**: If Satan can sow in you thoughts of frustration, unforgiveness and revenge, then it will not be long that your embittered soul will refuse any resolve. He will give you all the thoughts necessary to remain disconnected, uncaring or distant.

"Your own wickedness will punish you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to forsake the Lord your God, having no fear of him. I, the Lord, the Lord Almighty, have spoken!"

Jeremiah 2:19

(New Living Translation © 1996 Tyndale Charitable Trust)

Satan comes to rob you of your potential, passion, purpose, and power but he also wants to kill you from activating any of these four things as well.

So, what could be as bad as those two things? One more thing. Satan would love to destroy.

- 3. Destroy-** Destroy what? If he can take my potential, passion, purpose and power away, or me away from them, what is left to do? To destroy me is to take away the opportunity of having affect or being affected. It is a position of no position. To steal is to take away from me the things that matter most to me. To kill is to take me away from the things that I am important to. But to destroy is to distort the things. To mis prioritize these thing is to mismanage the things that are of most important and pertinent to life. Satan destroys not by force but by neglect. Abandonment in its own dysfunctional design is a vicious withdrawn attack. Rejection is an excruciating fleeing of affection which are expressions of love and care. To destroy is not so much an action as the lack thereof.

The Full/Abundant Life

I would like to take a look at the last portion, (John 10:10), of this scripture and expound on it. This is why your friend and mine, the Holy Spirit is constantly trying to hook us up with Jesus. He wants to continue to establish our relationship with Christ for the purpose of the “abundant” life or “full” life, a life that has an overflowing principle involved in it that flows to every aspect of our life and relationships.

“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

If we are going to “Flip This House”, we have got to understand Jesus' love toward us. The word “full” or “abundant” means to have a surplus, a superabundance that overflows. The Greek word here “*perissos*” is translated “abundant” or “full”. It is a mathematical term meaning a surplus or additional. When Jesus fed the 5,000, 12 baskets of surplus were gathered together. It was an abundance to the point that these 12 baskets were not consider just bread, they were considered leftovers. The only leftovers on my plate are those that I am too full to eat. Jesus has come that plenty is left on my plate.

Another interesting thought about our English word “abundance” is that it comes from Latin word meaning “the rise in waves” or “to overflow.” If you can picture in your mind the tide coming in on the shores of the ocean, they “overflow” where it was a dry and desolate shore. It is the picture of a river that grows to the point of seeping over the banks and eventually running over.

Illustration: When I was about 13 or 14, we were camping with about 100 other kids in the Ft. Davis Mts. in South West Texas. A park ranger came to our camping sight and said that we might want to evacuate our camping spot because a flash flood was coming and would probably overflow over the banks. We laughed at him because for the past four years we had camped at this same place never once seeing water in the dry river bed. Also, trees and brush now covered the river bottom, it was almost unrecognizable as a river bed if it were not for the six to eight foot embankments on each side. We didn't heed the rangers request and within two hours the water was threatening the banks of that dry river bed. A certain points where paths had eventually cut down portions of the banks the water seeped and eventually ran over the banks risking our camp and our safety.

The Holy Spirit, my friend, wants to hook you up with Jesus. He has a way of taking your relationship over the top. This relationship can overflow in every aspect of your life. It's flood waters bring healing and His love cures us of our suffering.

He wants to save your marriage, family and relationships from the **Three Competitive Distractions of A Covenant Relationship:**

Relationship:

1. Unhealthy Thoughts
2. Unhealthy Outside Influences
3. Satan

His desire is filling your plate with more than you can eat and of taking your relationship over the top. This relationship can overflow in every aspect of your life. It's flood waters bring healing and His love cures us of our suffering.

God Overcomes

God saves you from Satan's ability to steal...

1. **God saves you from Satan stealing your potential.** God invests in you the person you were *intended* to be.
2. **God saves you from Satan stealing your passion.** God invests in you the person you were *created* to be.
3. **God saves you from Satan stealing your purpose.** God invest in you the person you were *sent* to be.
4. **God save you from Satan stealing your power.** God invested in you the person you were *empowered* to be.

God saves you from Satan's ability to kill...

- **Become Overcome With Fear**
- **Become A Victim**
- **Become Embittered**

God saves you from Satan's ability to steal, kill and destroy.

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John 10:10

“I Do” is covenant to: A Marriage To Fulfill My Vows: That you might be able to grab a hold of marriage, your family and healthy relationships. When you said “I Do” at the altar you may just be beginning to understand that promise and covenant. As you are on your journey on the equilateral triangle you are placing God on the apex and you are on the other side of spouse climbing to the top.

“I Do” is a covenant to: A Marriage To Obey God's Word: The Word of God is our instruction manual for our marriage. Before we can really submit to each other we have to submit to God's Word. Our commitment to God's Word gives us the opportunity to have additional wisdom from the smallest conflict to a major crisis.