
INTRODUCTION

God's love song

*Deep within your heart,
if you listen,
you hear God's voice.¹*

*He sings to you his eternal love song:
the song through which he created the universe,
the stars and the moon, the flowers,
the birds and all creatures.*

*It is the song through which God
formed you in your mother's womb*

1. Pope Benedict XVI, *Greeting to the Youth of London after Mass in Westminster Cathedral*, September 18, 2010 (www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/Replay-the-Visit/Speeches/Speeches-18-September/Pope-Benedict-s-Message-to-Young-People).

“Deep within your heart, he is calling you to spend time with him in prayer....We need to make space for silence, because it is in silence that we find God, and in silence that we discover our true self. And in discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us for the building up of his Church and the redemption of our world.”

*and called you out of it
to love him and to serve him.*

*God's song is the music that attracted you to your spouse;
the rhythm that moves you to dance together;
the melody that leads you to grow in love with each other;
and the voice that calls you to serve God
as a married couple.*

God created man and woman and fashioned them in his own image. He invited them to join him in singing his eternal love song. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to sing their own song. Their disobedience broke their relationship with God and disrupted the harmony that existed between man and woman.²

In his immense love for us, the Father sent his Son to restore our relationship with himself. Jesus came and gave himself so totally to us that he died on the cross. Through his death and Resurrection, he redeemed us. He became our advocate and our guide.

On your wedding day you chose marriage as your vocation and as your path to holiness. You joined hands with your spouse, and together you embraced Christ as your partner on your journey to God.

As a couple you are a duo trying to sing God's song and to dance to its rhythm. Saint Augustine exhorts us, "Sing with your voices, your hearts, your lips and your lives; sing to the Lord a new song."³ In sing-

2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #400.

"The harmony in which they had found themselves, thanks to original justice, is now destroyed: the control of the soul's spiritual faculties over the body is shattered; the union of man and woman becomes subject to tension, their relations henceforth marked by lust and domination."

3. Saint Augustine, *Sermon* 34.1–3, 5–6; CCl 41, 424–426. Found April 9, 2011 at www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit_20010508_agostino-vescovo_en.html.

ing God's love song, there are times when you and your spouse make wonderful harmony together, and there are also times when you are out of tune, forget the lyrics, or don't feel like singing.

All of us have a lot to learn about singing God's love song. God is love. He alone can teach us and help us with his grace.⁴ All we need to do is ask, as Jesus told us: "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

Let Mary and Joseph be your models of a married couple's faithful obedience to God. Ask for their intercession to help you grow in faith. The greater your faith, the clearer you hear God's voice, and the happier you will be in your marriage.

I hope that through your reading this book you will become better attuned to the sound of God's voice and will follow it.



***"Speak, Lord, for
your servant is listening."***



1 SAMUEL 3:9

In the chapters of this book, we will explore the Beatitudes as the loving attitudes for our Christian life. These attitudes turn us toward God. They open our hearts to hear his voice. Pope Benedict XVI told the Catholic youth gathered in London on September 18, 2010, "I ask

4. Pope Benedict XVI, *Greeting to the Youth of London after Mass in Westminster Cathedral*, September 18, 2010 (www.zenit.org/article-30401?l=english).

"Every day we have to choose to love, and this requires help, the help that comes from Christ, from prayer and from the wisdom found in his word, and from the grace which he bestows on us in the sacraments of his Church."

you to look into your heart each day to find the source of all true love. Jesus is always there, quietly waiting for us to be still with him and to hear his voice.” This book is written in the spirit of the pope’s invitation. Read these pages and listen to God’s voice. With Jesus’ help, learn to sing God’s love song and to dance to its rhythm. You will find joy in your life and in your marriage.

■ Where do I start?

You may be reading this book to find inspiration and guidance for growth in your marriage. If that is the case, you have a wonderful goal. I believe that you will find what you are looking for in the pages that follow. My premise is that to grow in love and to find happiness in the company of our spouse, we need to grow in holiness. Holiness attunes our hearts to God’s song and prepares us to love. However, growth in holiness and love will not happen by simply reading a book. They require a change of attitude. This book will guide you to align your own attitudes with Jesus’ good counsel.

In each chapter, you will find a section titled “Where Do I Start?” Listed there are practical steps you can take each day to grow in holiness and to strengthen your bond with your spouse. Do what is suggested, regardless of whether your spouse does the same. Do it out of love. You may be surprised to find that your spouse will respond in kind because “love grows through love.”⁵

After each chapter, you will also find two sets of questions. One is provided as a guide for your private conversation with your spouse. The other is better suited for sharing among couples in a group. This book is an excellent resource for couples who meet in small groups to

5. Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (Vatican City: December 25, 2005), Paragraph 18.

support one another, pray together, and help each other grow in their marriages.

Reading this book can become your own private retreat at home. To benefit the most from it, read a chapter a week. In between readings, reflect on the content of the chapter, practice the acts of love suggested, and pray for your spouse. Remember, growth is gradual and comes about through change, and change begins with you. Change begins with me. Let the words of the hymn "Let there be Peace on Earth," which proclaims that peace begins with each of us, be a reminder to you that your journey to a greater love for God and for your spouse begins with you today.