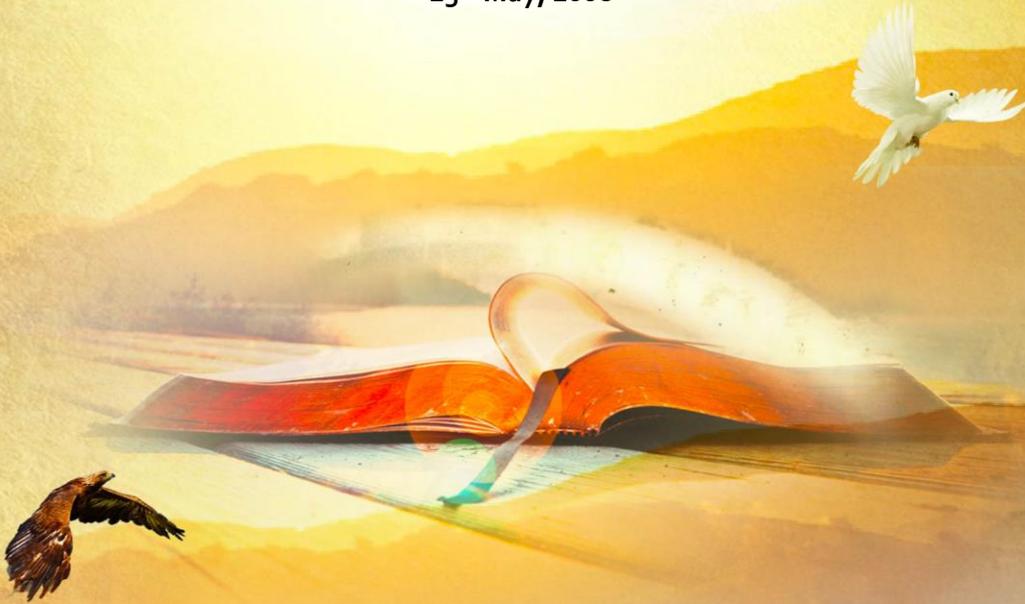


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Third Exodus Assembly

# The Binding Power Of Betrothal

25<sup>th</sup> May, 2008



Vin A. Dayal



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Third Exodus Assembly

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## **THE BINDING POWER OF BETROTHAL**

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TRINIDAD

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Bro. Vin A. Dayal

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**Excerpt:**

This is where people, when they look at the marriage covenant, they do not know where the marriage takes place, and that's the problem. The marriage takes place right in the betrothal when that vow takes place. When you make that promise, that's where it takes place. The marriage is consummated publicly before witnesses, and now the girl will leave her father's home and go to the home of her husband and they go like that. But until that time, while they are there, they have a binding promise and they have the appointed time when it will be consummated, but the thing has already gone passed the point of no return. Because the first thing you have is, you have three stages to the marriage, you know that – the courtship, the agreement, and the marriage. The courtship, the agreement, because two cannot walk together except they be agreed, and the agreement is based on those vows. That's where the agreement takes place. **(Page31 & 32)**

**The Binding Power Of Betrothal**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2008



## FOREWORD

*This is a sermon preached by Pastor Vin A. Dayal and is published through the freewill offerings of the members of the Third Exodus Assembly.*

*It is intended to edify the reader and make clear the Bride-Promises of God, which were revealed through the ministry of God's Prophet-Messenger, Bro William Marrion Branham, for the Elect in this Day. It is not meant to promote any special doctrine or person, save, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Divine Word.*

*The original video and audio recording can be accessed through our website [www.thirdexodus.org](http://www.thirdexodus.org)*

*We pray the blessing of God upon each reader and may illumination by the Spirit of God be each one's special portion.*





# **THE BINDING POWER OF BETROTHAL**

*Betrothal Of Bro. Immanuel Timothy Dayal & Sis.  
Romona Stewart*

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2008  
TRINIDAD

**BRO. VIN A. DAYAL**

[Song #270 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Oh, He's been faithful...

*He's been faithful when cold winds  
were blowing*

Oh, and He's been true...

*And He's been true when storms have  
assailed;*

Oh, but His holy love...

*But His holy love that amazes me*

Is that He loves me...

*Is that He loves me, even when I fail.*

Oh, why don't you lift your hands and sing unto Him,  
"And He'll never let go..."

*...let go of my hands*

Oh, till I stand...

*...in Heaven's fair land*

*Till I'm safe forever more,*

*On that happy golden shore,*

*No, He'll never let go of my hand.*

Isn't that a blessed assurance, that we could have that confidence in Him? Because we know He's faithful, that He will never let go of our hand. What a great thing it is to know that we have One so reliable this morning, One so dependable, One Who can be trusted; One who we know, His promises are 'yea and amen'. He gives us the unfailing Words of His promise, His unconditional Love towards us. Blessed be His wonderful Name.

As we go to pray, let's just bow our hearts in His Presence. If you have a special request today—We have a couple of written requests: *Bro. Kevin Mitchell of Grenada is requesting prayer for his wife Sis. Claudia who is pregnant and is suffering complications. Bro. Ronnie Joseph also is suffering with an enlargement of heart, a bad kidney; high blood pressure.*

These are very serious needs that would bring great concern in the hearts of these needy ones, and that's why we can come with boldness and with confidence because we know the One we are coming to is not a man like us; is not One Who is going to try and hope what He's going to do might work or it may not work. We are coming in the Presence of the Almighty God; the omnipotent, omniscient God, Who is more than able to do the exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or even think. He's a God of paradoxes this morning. He said with God there is nothing impossible.

One time a very old woman passed the age of child bearing, who was so convinced that she couldn't bear a child; she even laughed in His face when He was speaking about her bearing a child. He asked her, "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" It's only one who does not know Him would think that something is too hard for Him. But when we think of His great creative power, when we look at the universe and know that He just spoke it into existence, we know He is all-sufficient today. If you have a special need just hold it in your heart as we approach Him. Find out if He's faithful or not. He says, "Try Me and prove Me."

Beloved Jesus, we consider it such a blessed privilege, dear God, to be able to stand in Your great Divine Presence. Not only to stand in Your Presence, but to have this great privilege that You've given unto us for the better part of our lives to walk with You, to walk in the Light of Your revealed Word; to see Your great mighty acts; to know that You're a God Who raised the dead, healed the sick, delivered the captives,

provided when things were thought impossible; showed dear God, that no matter what circumstances may confront us, You are more than a match for any situation.

Dear God, You have proven Your Word again and again down through these years to us. Standing in Your Presence today we can testify of Your all-sufficiency, we can testify of Your omnipotence, we can testify of Your faithfulness, we can testify dear God, that You're a God Who keeps Your Word irregardless of what circumstances are, and many times dear God, irregardless of what we even think our ownselves. We are grateful dear God, to have this privilege to know You.

We pray for these needy ones today: our Bro. Ronnie, Lord, with enlargement of heart and a bad kidney, vital organs, dear God in his body, his life support system; high blood pressure. How it would take a touch from You, but then again that's all it would take dear God – a little touch from You. The same kind of touch that cleansed the leper, Father. The same kind of touch that touched the bier that day when You called the widow of Nain's son to life; same kind of touch when You touched Jairus' daughter. You said, "Damsel, arise." You're still that same God.

You stand in our midst today Father, still that same great Jehovah God that goes with Your Church from station to station, bringing us into the place that You have prepared for us. Some through the waters, some through the blood, some through the fires, but You said it wouldn't burn us; some through the floods but You said it wouldn't drown us, oh God. It doesn't matter what our circumstances are, God we can look in the face of it and testify of Your promises and watch You come on the scene, Father.

Our beloved Bro. Kevin and Sis. Claudia Lord, how we thank You for them, dear God. How we thank You for what You've done in their lives. Our sister today

with these complications, but Lord Jesus as we look to You, we take her case out of the hands of the earthly physicians and we lift it up to You into Your Presence, the very great Physician Himself, the sympathizing Jesus; the One Who is able to give her a clean bill of health; the One Who said we could ask You for a bread and we will not get a stone; the One Who said we could ask anything in Your Name.

Oh God, we pray Father that You will touch her today and You will heal her of this condition and You will cause her to have her child normally and well, and a safe delivery when that time would come. May the Holy Spirit drop that faith into their hearts, that even as this prayer is being offered and their faith Lord is in attendance uniting their hearts. You said if two shall agree as upon touching anything it shall be done. What we bind on earth is bound in Heaven, and what we loose on earth is loosed in Heaven. In the Name of Jesus Christ, may she be loosed from this condition, as she'll pass out from sickness and come into health for the glory of God.

And to these that stand here Father in Your Presence with respect to You, with faith in their hearts, willing to believe You and trust You; willing to confess with their mouths what they believe in their hearts, oh God, You said they will never be ashamed because the power of that true confession will go to work and cause that body to come in obedience to that confession, and watch the great High Priest, Who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, make good the blessings, Father. Grant it we pray, for the glory of God we ask these things, in the Almighty and all-sufficient Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank You dear God, to be standing in Your Presence again with Your people, praying oh God for strength today, for the direction of Your Holy Spirit, that Lord Jesus You would order our steps in what we should say and what we should do; how we should

proceed, oh God. We look to You the Author and the Finisher of our faith.

May You bless all that are gathered in Your house today: beloved friends, family, strangers and visitors. May You just undertake for us. May Your Presence be felt in a special way. May You do the exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ask or think. Show Yourself in our midst Lord, and get honor and glory in this late Hour, knowing oh God, how important it is that we capitalize on every opportunity, because the days that we have to gather together like this, Lord we know it's running out. But while it is called today, may our hearts be opened to hear the Voice of the Holy Spirit, that Lord when You would speak to us, may there be a heart of obedience where the Word can fall into deep, rich faith, that when we hear It and recognize It is the Truth, we'll go to acting upon it; and knowing this would be pleasing unto You Father, we'll see the results follow it. Grant it we pray.

Bless all Your children gathered throughout the region, that Lord are streaming this service today, that are in attendance Lord God with their faith, in expectations, joined in hearts and purpose with us. May the Holy Spirit move out through the airwaves and may You bless them also. And may dear God, wherever they are gathered, Lord, there will be a great blessing being poured out in their midst. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we give You praise and thanks and honor and glory, as we ask these things in Jesus' precious Name, amen.

Why don't you turn around and greet each other one more time; greet the strangers and visitors. We have our beloved friend Calvin Wilson. God bless you. Our beloved and dear friend, we are glad that you could be here. Doesn't get to be here too often but when we ask him to come, he never fails to join with us. We so respect and appreciate that by the grace of God.

Amen. God bless you. You may have your seat. Today will not be a day of reports, because we have a little betrothal today and I'm going to try to be short and just maybe speak a little around the betrothal. We'll have the report another day and we'll also be able to see some of the services; which, all the services were videotaped in Peru and Colombia. And we're very happy to be back in the house of the God here and to be gathered with the church.

It's been a great time for us, a very strenuous time, but great victories doesn't come without great price. And so, we certainly appreciate your support in prayer, those of you who prayed and supported us while we were there by God's grace. The people also in Peru were praying since last year when they decided to plan these meetings; fasting and praying until May, which is quite notable of them. And then these ten pastors and their churches gathered together for about three different meetings from time to time, to make sure that they would have the atmosphere right. And these people certainly did make a great sacrifice and have great faith and great anticipations, and God certainly didn't disappoint them. Also they had brothers from Chile and Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, all over Peru and Honduras, we from Trinidad, were all gathered there. And it certainly was something very, very unique; how God moved and did what He had to do.

It was very paradoxical, I should say also that when we arrived, even the hotel where we were staying, right in front of the hotel there were these big posters with all the flags of countries around the world. I didn't fully know what it was but something attracted my attention to it, and then next day we were driving going through the city, the capital, Lima, the capital of Peru, and there were all down the boulevards and the main freeways, they had these big life-sized posters of the different countries welcoming the Heads of States that were going to come and from all over the world: Asia, Europe, all

Latin America, United States and different countries around the world and the Caribbean.

And I asked Bro. Elias, “What are these things saying? What is all this?”

He said, “This is announcing that Heads of States from around the world are coming in here next week to have a Summit on the global food crisis in Lima, Peru.”

And that was put up all through the city maybe about a month before and they were doing work upgrading the facilities in the city, all the streets, the main buildings where all these Heads of States would pass. And they had all these great things there and that was the very inspiration that the Holy Spirit gave me to speak on, and all the services were on that one theme; and it was very unique when it began to go forth that the Ministers realized that God had gathered them. And the people had been praying since the end of last year, and fasting and praying and the churches were coming together in anticipation for the meetings and then when this happened, you know it was something so awakening to them to recognize that here God was forerunning the very thing before the political heads came in.

So it was something so great and tremendous and it certainly was very, very illuminating that God would plan that. And then they told me that in Lima, Peru rain doesn't fall. It's a city of eight million people and rain doesn't fall there. It's a dusty place and why would all the Heads of States from around the world go to a place that doesn't have any rain, doesn't produce anything, doesn't grow any food there, to have a summit on the global food crisis.

But it's strange how God does things, because even from November last year when the Holy Spirit by His sovereign grace came down and opened those things from the Bible to show to us the hour we have come to, this global economic recession, and I told you they are not calling it 'recession'. They do not want to use the word 'depression'. They are trying to say the economy

is just stumbling a little bit. It's going to revive and so on. And we see those things happening. But we know what it is because we have been forewarned in the Book of Daniel, in the Book of Revelation, in the Message of the Hour and these were Hidden Things that the Holy Spirit has brought out.

And how God gave such great grace there in Lima, Peru and then the Message just went from all through Latin America and then we went over to Colombia, and it was five different cities. I went also there in Colombia preaching, before I came back and it was very, very strenuous. I'm still trying to come through it. We had great battles but God gave us great faith, gave us great victory and truly it's the Hour when you have to live what you preach. That God is truly training us to live by the Word; to learn what it is to live by the Word; to have faith in the Promiser, Who gave the promise. Amen. Irregardless of circumstances, irregardless of symptoms, truly God knows how to test, because these things test you to the final point. But how sweet the victory becomes when you know you have stood the test and you know that only through Christ you can do these things because He strengtheneth you. Amen. What a great thing it is!

Today we have the betrothal of Bro. Immanuel Timothy Dayal and Sis. Romona Sherma Stewart. I would like them to stand by God's grace. [Congregation applauds. -Ed.] Amen. Praise His wonderful Name. You may have your seat.

And to all the saints and churches that are streaming this morning, you have the privilege to share. I think this is the first betrothal since we started to stream, so we can talk directly to all the young people in Guyana and Tobago, and Grenada, and St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia wherever they are, and they can gather. Most of them gather in their churches because they have the Internet connection in their churches and it's great for them to hear and to witness this today

because it's a very special day for these two young people by God's grace.

I would like to invite you to stand as I read out of Deuteronomy chapter 22. I want to read verses 23 and 24. To all the young people, the unmarried, I want you to take special note and attention by way of keeping you in remembrance and by way of establishing the Doctrine of what we believe in this church, what has been given back to us by God through His Prophet and which we purpose in our heart to uphold and walk in. Deuteronomy 22 verse 23:

*23 If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;*

*24 Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die...*

God first gives the condition of this damsel. She's a virgin and she's a betrothed virgin unto an husband; not to a man, to an husband. She's betrothed to an husband.

*...and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;*

*24 Then ye shall bring them both...*

The man who lay with her, and the virgin who is betrothed to an husband.

*...and ye shall stone them with stones that they die...*

This is the judgment; then God gives the reason for such a judgment.

*...the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city...*

In other words, if she's betrothed to an husband, she's a wife and God expects her to cry. God expects her to scream to the top of her lungs and make the most commotion that she can make; and because she refused to cry out, she dies.

*...and the man, because he hath humbled  
his neighbour's wife...*

She's a virgin, she's betrothed, but that's his neighbor's wife.

*...so thou shalt put away evil from among  
you.*

Matthew chapter 1. The Bible says let everything be established to be the truth in the mouth of two or three witnesses. Coming over in the New Testament here, this is the written Word. God gave it through Moses His prophet, who laid down the Doctrine in Israel, who laid down the Laws; the statutes and the ordinances that people can live by the Word. And then in the New Testament the very first chapter that opens the New Testament, verse 18 Matthew 1.

*<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on  
this wise: When as his mother Mary was  
espoused to Joseph, before they came  
together...*

You know the word *espoused* and *betrothed* is the same as our English word which means *engaged*.

*...before they came together, she was  
found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

*<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband...*

Now watch it again over here, "*Joseph her husband.*"

*...being a just man, and not willing to  
make her a publick example, was minded to  
put her away privily.*

*<sup>20</sup> But while he thought on these things,  
behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto  
him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of  
David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy  
wife...*

Joseph, her husband; Mary, thy wife.

*...for that which is conceived in her is of  
the Holy Ghost.*

*21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

*22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,*

*23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

*24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:*

*25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*

May the Lord bless the reading of His Word! You may have your seat. Just to take a few thoughts and I would like to call it, **“THE BINDING POWER OF BETROTHAL.”** **“THE BINDING POWER OF BETROTHAL.”**

Just from reading this we can see that betrothal is considered by God because Moses received the Word from God. All Scripture is given by inspiration. And Moses went up into that mountain when that Pillar of Fire came down and then he came back out with the Word of God and gave it to the people as a written Word that it could have been taught down through the Age.

We find out also that the same God Who gave that Word to Moses over here in Deuteronomy 22, in Matthew 1, the Angel of the Lord, this same Angel Who had appeared to Moses in a Flame of Fire, Acts 7 tells us, which was God Himself in the form of the Angel the covenant, that same God is Who gave that Word speaking about betrothal: “A virgin betrothed unto an husband.” And how if she’s humbled, the man is killed who violated a woman in engagement, in betrothal, in espousal, which the word *betrothal* or *espousal*,

*engagement means a promise to marry at an appointed time; a promise to marry at an appointed time.*

And in the very thoughts of God, because the Word is a thought expressed, and God's thoughts being communicated to His Prophet who became the mouthpiece, who became the voice of God, speaking the thoughts of God, because God put His thoughts into him, he said, "The man had humbled his neighbor's wife." We find that the same God is referring to an espoused man and an espoused woman as husband and wife.

And then in these last days when that same Angel came back in the third exodus to His Prophet on a message, *We Have Seen His Star And Have Come To Worship Him* [1963-1216, para. 65-66 -Ed.]: *Now, Joseph was a good man; he was the son of David, and he was espoused to Mary.*

The Prophet said: *I'd like to pass this on before we go further. Espousing in the east was the same as marriage...*

Now, I am just responsible to say what the Bible says and what God has re-established in these last days. I know sometimes people find themselves in circumstances: they marry, they don't have the faith to go on, they want to leave their wife, they're weak in the flesh, they fall into adultery and they find a way to justify their situation. They want a next wife. Then they would even take the Word of God sometimes if they don't have the Holy Spirit, (because that desire to begin with is a wrong desire;) it's a desire from an evil spirit and that evil spirit to have its own way would even try to say the Word of God is wrong, so they could have their own way.

Then sometimes you find men preach the Gospel for money. Men preach the Gospel to have a church. Men preach the Gospel to be popular. Men who have not met God and who wants to be popular with the people, they preach the Gospel for different reasons and purposes,

and it is easy to handle the Word of God deceitfully. But any servant of God who has any little understanding, knows that one day we'll all have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give account for what we preached. And if we are found to be preaching a lie, that very lie will condemn us because we have become a deceiver to God's people.

And so: *Espousing in the east was the same as marriage: is betrothal. As soon they ... were espoused, they were married. When that sacred vow between them was taken, [and he quotes the Scripture] read Deuteronomy 22:23, [which is what I just read for you] and you'll find out that when this woman and man agreed to be married (yet they did not take the vows for months later), if they even broke that vow, they were guilty of adultery. That's right. When they was espoused, they were just the same as marriage. The law had not given them rights to live together as husband and wife yet, but before God, when they promised one another, their words were sealed in God's Kingdom. And to break that was just committing adultery. ... now, Joseph was espoused to Mary. And Prophet says here: If minister brothers, if you'd study that right good, it'd clear you up on this marriage and divorce case...*

Which is one of the problems today, that even though it's been given to us, yet many people do not understand it, and so people go opinion shopping and they would like to find someone, and many times they do (you will always have that) who can allow and say, "Well, I talked to the Prophet's family," or "I talked to a brother whom he spoke to," and all these things. Well, I talked to God and I have the Prophet's Words, and I think that is enough.

So: *If minister brothers, if you'd study that right good, it'd clear you up on this marriage and divorce case...*

See, they don't study that, but the Prophet said if you study that one thing right there, marriage and divorce would open to you. Because what marries you? It's

your vow. That's the thing right there. Not the white dress, not the ceremony, not the best man, not the cake, not the priest; none of these things marry you. You are married before God when you make that vow to each other. That's what marries you. God has His own recipe for these things. God has His own formula for these things, and where God sees it from, to understand it, you have to get in the same place to see it from where God is seeing it from.

[And] ...*that's so ... hard and different amongst the people today. Now, notice Joseph, her husband, being a just man... Now, we find out that this could not be broken.*

My! And all these things I'm going to read here is after the Seals. You know some people like 'after the Seals', so I'm going to read a few 'after the Seals' here.

*Questions And Answers [1964-0823e - COD, 1036-Q-313, para. 193-197 -Ed.] Brother Branham, what is the meaning of an annulment? Are people free to marry or is this just another word for divorce? I would like to get some information on this.*

*He said: Sure they're married. As long as they take that vow, they're married. Just like a boy, if a boy promises a girl to marry her under good faith, he's obligated to that girl. He's just as good as married her. The only thing the law does, is give you ... a bill of rights to live together to keep from being common-law husband and wife. But when a man tells a woman, "I will marry you, Honey; I will take you for my wife. Will you take..." he's married.*

*Your vow is sacred; [Bro. Vin repeats: your vow is sacred] that's what marries you anyhow. There's not no preacher can marry you... [I can't marry anybody. There's no preacher who could marry anybody.] ...no magistrate, or nothing else...*

You have a drunken magistrate sitting down there, living in adultery and he's going to marry people? You have a man they put in the Warden's Office or

something, he's drunk cheating on his wife; doesn't support his children. The government doesn't examine that to give him that job. They just put him there and he performs that marriage, and he doesn't even care. He doesn't even look into the peoples' past. As far as he's concerned, he doesn't even know the Word of God about these things. He doesn't even know that the first one who instituted marriage was God.

So he says: *...no magistrate, or nothing else; it's your own vow to God and to this man. When you promise, you are married.*

Now that's why we have nine out of ten marriages today, ending in the divorce courts. It is the very fact that anything you try to establish contrary to the way the Word of God sets it up, it cannot last. You cannot build and make something work, otherwise you defy God, and you prove your way is successful and God's way has failed. And then God will have to say, "Wait a minute! I gave this but look these people are making it work contrary to how I gave it. I have to rethink My formula to this."

No, no, no. If you go outside—there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end is death. You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. I Am *the Way*, I Am *the Truth*, I Am *the Life*, and so God's way is the only way. Because marriage really is a Mystery of Christ and the Church. Marriage is not just for two people to go and live together. Marriage is a Mystery about Christ and the Church. When God designed marriage...

God is the first One Who made a woman. There was no woman before. God brought the woman into existence. God is the first One Who gave the woman to the man in marriage. Is that right? God is the first One Who conceived the thought of marriage. That's why the Bible ends up with the marriage of the Lamb. Because, God never gave marriage to angels, He never gave marriage to animals. Animals could have sex and bring

forth young and it's not sin; it's not fornication. And angels don't have bodies like us with sex glands, so they can't marry or be given in marriage. But God gave marriage to His son. Is that right? And God brought the first woman into existence to be the wife of His son. Is that right? The Bible opens with that. The Bible opens with marriage; the Bible ends with marriage.

So we realize that the Word of God has come back to us that God will have a standard and God will have a people who will come out of the rut [boring routine –Ed.] and chaos, because in the days like the days of Noah, they're giving in marriage and they're taking unto them wives. Today you have three or four women, who a man is living with immorally. Until today, you have Ministers who are confessed homosexuals and they're even marrying same sex and if you go to speak against it, (it became legislation now) you will be charged for hate crimes, because the society and the law, passed these things.

And that's a way in defiance against God to ridicule and belittle the institutions of God, and to exalt—And now the United Nations and all of them are putting forth these programs because they find the world is becoming too populated and they are giving this kind of sex education where they talk about now words like 'sexual preferences' and 'different ways to channel your sexual energy'. So you could have partners of the same kind. You could go into beastility. You can go into different ways to stimulate yourself, and this is being called sex education. And I read for you right here, that even in California where they passed those laws, that from the time your child gets on that school compound, you have no rights over your own child. They are under the educational system of the society.

And you have these kinds of people in high places. The Bible calls it principalities, powers, spiritual wickedness in high places; the rulers of the darkness of this world – people who pass this as legislation; people

who are the architects designing a new kind of world where sin is glorified; where the people become popular. Like how they have all these drug addicts and all these sex maniacs like Madonna and all these different people and them, they go in Africa and they're adopting children and they publicize it in the media. Oh, and they see this little child and they want to raise this child and they want to do this for this poor child in African countries and these things. And we see these things, and they project that.

And people get up and find, "Oh my, I didn't know she was so motherly. I didn't know—I was wrong about her."

So that comes like 'Saucy Wow'. [Local entertainer -Ed] She says, "No, no, when I'm on stage that is my career."

But she has little children home watching that. She said, "I'm a mom at home."

And the media glorifies these things in the eyes of people. But each one of us has a choice – to live by the lie or live by the Truth. Because this life is fragile. It's going to end, and when it ends, we have to give account for the opportunity God gave to us. We have to give account for the deeds done in the body.

So look. If they broke that vow! The law has given them a bill of rights to live together as husband and wife before God. See? They couldn't break that vow. That vow was sacred. And here they asked him about annulment, if it was a different word for divorce and he's showing:

*As long as ... a boy promises a girl to marry her under good faith, he's obligated to that girl... He's just as good as married her. The only thing the law does, is give you a ... bill of rights to live together to keep you from being common-law husband and wife. But when a man tells a woman, "I will marry you, Honey; I will take you for my wife. ... he's married.*

*Your vow is sacred; that's what marries you anyhow. There's not no preacher can marry you, no magistrate, or*

*nothing else; it's your own vow to God and to this man. When you promise, you are married.*

[Look.] You say, "Brother Branham, is that...? ... You said you'd only answer that by the Bible." Did you want the Bible on it? Raise your hands if you want it.

And then he goes now to what I read, Matthew 1. "Joseph her husband, being a just man, (her espoused husband, already called her husband)... Joseph, her husband, being a just man, was 'mindedly' to put her away privately on this wise; but before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ... And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee, Mary, thy wife.'" Already married, he'd already promised her.

And little lady, if you promised to marry that boy, you're obligated to do it. If you marry another after that obligation, you will--from now on anyhow--you'll be living in adultery. And notice, the same thing to a boy promising to marry a woman...

This doesn't say, "Oh, I'm afraid to get married." No, this says marriage is something you must approach prayerfully. This is saying you must have God's leadership when you are going into it. This will make you first desire, "Lord, I want Your leadership in my life because if I'm going to be married, I want my marriage and I want my life to honor You." Amen?

Don't be afraid of the Word. In other words, if God put a law for marriage, God ordains the people who have to get married, with the potential to fulfill His Word. God doesn't defeat Himself. If you have to go in the Rapture, God has to put something in you to give you Rapturing faith to go in the Rapture. If you have to get the Holy Ghost and get a New Birth, God has to put something in you to be able to be born again. Because it's not him that willeth or him that runneth; it's not by might or by power, it's by God's Spirit!

God, when He thought of His Word, He thought of people to manifest His Word, because the Word must become flesh. So He ordained people to live the Word. Sometimes the devil scares you and you say, "Who could live the Word? Who could live that? I can't live that." You could more than live that. You just need the Holy Ghost! Amen! If you sit down there without the Holy Ghost, no doubt you will wonder if you could live that. And when you know the Holy Ghost is a promise: "Repent and be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and He shall fill you with the Holy Ghost." Not any man, God will fill you! You're not baptized in any man's name, you're baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ because you accepted what Jesus Christ did for you. Amen. God put it inside of you, to walk in it. My!

*Don't you make your vow to anybody 'less you mean to stick with it. Remember, there's the Bible for it. [Bro. Vin repeats: Remember, there's the Bible for it.]*

Just now he said, "If you go back and study that, you'll understand marriage and divorce. Do you want Bible for annulment, and marriage and divorce?" He said, "Go over here – Matthew 1;" same thing.

That's why I always tell people, when we're going through these phases in church, come and see me. Because when you do your own thing, I can't apply this to you, and when you get in trouble, I can't bring you back out. But if you let the Word guide you step by step, it's the same way. The same way you go in that water, you have to trust somebody to baptize you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. You can't say, "Well, I can't trust anybody so I'm going to baptize myself in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." You can't do it. Do you understand?

And I always tell you, do not make that vow until I tell you when to make that vow. And when you make that vow, that's the point of no return. I always tell you the vow is the point of no return. That's why I say, do not make that vow. Because what happens? You run and

you make that vow, you get charged up, you get enthused and you make the vow. And then the girl has an accident and she's in a wheelchair, paralyzed, can't have any children; amputated both legs. What, do you want to back out of it now? What, were you marrying a pair of legs?

You see. What does the Word say? Obedience is better than sacrifice. If you love Him, you'll obey His commandments. You see God has a provided way, and God brings you His provided way, and that's your security. That's not a pressure on you. No, that's your security. That is to ensure, (amen,) that you will come in and receive the blessings ordained for you to come in. Could anybody choose how to come into Canaan's land? No! God led them. Nobody knew how to come in; God led them in. Is that right? Could anybody come if God didn't draw them? No. No man could come except the Father first draws them.

These things, you have to line up with God's Word. But you see this is the part where people get tested, especially when they're young, because all your emotions are running high. And sometimes when you're going through these things, you don't have self-control, and you do things out of your zeal or to impress somebody. But the thing is God is drawing two people together. God puts love in your heart for each other. You are going to know, because love has patience. How many know love beareth all things? How many know love endureth all things? How many know love is not easily provoked? How many know love does not behave itself unseemingly?

That's right. See? But if it's carnal, sensual, erotic love, then you'll have problems, because that has no reason with the Word of God. That is against the Word of God. But if you have the love of God in your heart as a Christian, and then God is now giving you the second best thing after salvation, which is a mate, a husband

or a wife, and God is giving that to you, then you let God lead you step by step. Amen.

When you're going to get your driving test, you're doing your regulations, you find you are driving really good, but then they give you an appointment for the day of your test. Isn't that right?

You say, "I could take my test right now."

They say, "You don't have any appointment."

You can't give yourself any license.

They say, "We have you here to come on this day for your examination."

So all your zeal and enthusiasm, you still have to put it on hold, and then go for the day of your test and then you get your license and then you can drive. Well, it's the same way with these things. God has His time and His place for you and if you walk in it, I'm sure it's going to be a blessing; it's going to be something to honor the Lord. Amen?

So he says: *Read the Old Testament laws on that. The Old Testament law, if you promised to marry a woman, and you married another one, you was committing adultery; and it throwed you out of the camp. Yes sir! You have to keep your vows when you promise a woman that. She's a sacred little vessel, and that's to bring child life into the world again. So when you promise her, you must marry her.*

This is where people, when they look at the marriage covenant, they do not know where the marriage takes place, and that's the problem. The marriage takes place right in the betrothal when that vow takes place. When you make that promise, that's where it takes place. The marriage is consummated publicly before witnesses, and now the girl will leave her father's home and go to the home of her husband and they go like that. But until that time, while they are there, they have a binding promise and they have the appointed time when it will be consummated, but the thing has already gone passed the point of no return. Because the first thing

you have is, you have three stages to the marriage, you know that – the courtship, the agreement, and the marriage. The courtship, the agreement, because two cannot walk together except they be agreed, and the agreement is based on those vows. That's where the agreement takes place.

Just let me read a little more for you because I'm speaking this out throughout the Caribbean here that are streaming this, this morning. And even though I printed the little book for you, the little booklet I have right here reading for you that I gave you some years ago in 2004, *The Sacredness Of The Marriage Vow* [2004-0112 Ed.], and I told you to read this. If you're a young person in this Assembly thinking about marriage, read this. Let this filter your thinking because when you come to me, I'm talking to you from here. This is what God gave to you to help raise you right; to make sure you come into the promised blessing and happiness.

*The Choosing Of A Bride* [1965-0429e, para. 8-1-Ed.] *Now, it's a serious thing when we go to choose a wife. For the vows here is until death do we part.*

You know that, because that's what Romans 7 says. [Bro. Vin reads Romans 7:1-3 -Ed.]

<sup>1</sup> *Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?*

<sup>2</sup> *For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> *So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

It's bound until death. It's binding until death. See, it's not just a casual thing you make today and break tomorrow. No! Only death could loose you from that law; that vow. So:

*That's how we should keep it. And you take that vow before God that only death will separate you. ... A man in his right mind, that's planning a future, that he should choose that wife very careful; be careful what you're doing. And a woman choosing a husband, or accepting the choice of a husband, should be real careful what she's doing and especially in these days.*

A woman should think—A man should think and pray before he chooses a wife.

*And if we would study what we were doing when we were going to get married, when we choose our wife or husband, if we'd study it over... A man should pray earnestly, for he could ruin his entire life. Remember the vow is "Until death do we part." And he could ruin his life by making the wrong choice.*

He's not saying, "No, no, no, no, no, he could just put her away and remarry and his life goes smoothly again." No. "He'll ruin his life. He'll ruin his entire life because there's no way to come out of it except death."

*But if he knows what he's making the wrong choice and is marrying a woman that isn't fit to be wife, and he does it anyhow, then it's his fault.*

If he knows and he does it anyhow, he better be prepared to stick with it. If he's going to make that decision, he better be prepared to stick with it. If he's advised, "Don't do that" and he says, "No, well I feel I want to do it still," he better be prepared to stick with it.

My! This is good I think. This keeps you in a place where you would seek God's leadership. If it didn't have these things, Satan would be easy to come in and make you think you could go frivolous and it will work out. In a day like this, he could get into your emotions, stimulate your feelings, work you up, make you day

dream; see two or three soap operas and cry; see some fairy tale story and maybe think that this is going to work out the same way because you cried and you were emotionally moved when you saw the movie, because the movie moved you. [Congregation laughs -Ed.] Make sure with these things only this Word moves you. No movie moves you. That is made in Hollywood, and Hollywood is going forty miles deep under the ocean when California goes down. Amen?

This is not hard, friends. Right now today government heads have to make serious decisions for the world. They look at a world with chaos. The military sits down and realize they have to depopulate certain places; take out certain amounts of people. With the food crisis they kind of figure, "Look, it's best these people die of starvation. It will lighten the burden." They have hard decisions to make. Life is about hard decisions.

How much more we as believers, how much more we as Ministers, if we understand that the only thing to get the Church back to Eden has to be every Word. My sympathy will not put anybody in the Rapture. My sympathy might deceive people away from the Rapture. When I stand here with the Word of God, I don't want to be sympathetic, friends. Because God has already sympathized with a generation by telling them, "Don't ever do that again," and give us the Truth and release the Holy Spirit in this Age to come into hearts that want to walk in that Truth to receive these blessings.

And I believe anybody who is a Christian wants a happy marriage, and it takes God to come in. And let me tell you, you will never get God to come in a lie. You will never get God to come in, though a million people could gather and say, "Lord, come in" and it's not God's Word; not God. You might get the Pope in there. You might get Archbishop Gene Robinson inside of there. You wouldn't get God inside of there, friends. No sir!

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceed out of the mouth of God. That's why the Holy Ghost is so important. God wants to come in to you to make you love His Word, to make you love Him, because when you love Him first then you can love one another. If you try to love one another and you don't love God you will be selfish. You will want to use each other conveniently to your own way, but when you love God first you will treat each other with respect, with Godly respect. How many could say amen to that? [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.]

I believe I am speaking truth. It's just sometimes you know, some of these kinds of services, I don't choose which one goes sweet and which one goes a certain way. You know, sometimes you choose one that goes sweet and everybody feels nice, but I have no control over this. I just want to say some things here because there are many people in this same place making this step and I want them to know that as long as I have breath in my body. The day comes when God takes me off the scene, you'll have my voice on tape saying just what he said. Who says what after that will be in that, but I will say what has been said here while I'm alive in this body.

*...he could ruin his life by making the wrong choice. But if he knows what he's making the wrong choice and is marrying a woman that isn't fit to be his wife, and he does it anyhow, then it's his fault. If the woman takes a husband and knows that he's not fit to be a husband to you, then that's your own fault after you know what's right and wrong. So you shouldn't do it until you thoroughly pray through.*

And anybody who sit with me they know that I go through these things with a fine-tooth comb when it comes to marriage in this church. I go down this step, by step, by step with every individual. I don't run and marry people. I don't match people. I don't do these things. I sit down with you and I let you know that this

is the way. There is only one way provided by God for everything. We're nearly finished.

*Things That Are To Be*, one more. [1965-1205, para. 125 -Ed.] *And I think a real genuine sister, there's nothing any nicer. If God could give a man anything better than salvation, [He'd] give him a wife. See? And so then, if He could give anything better, He would've done it. And then, to see some of them turn and don't even act like a wife, unloyal to their marriage vows and their husbands the same. You remember, you're bound as long as you live to one another. What God joins on earth is joined in heaven also.*

And you know the Word also says, "Whatsoever God has joined together, let not man put asunder." [Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9 -Ed.] Whether that man is a magistrate, whether that is a woman in a divorce court, whatever, it says, "*Let not man put asunder.*" And sometimes people sit down and adjudicate over the lives of people, and they are thinking in a small box and not in the Word of God and that's why it adds to more chaos. And to keep you out of that we try to show you, God must keep His Word in order to be God. And if we have God's Word on something and we come according to God's Word then we are expecting God to keep that. Amen? We're expecting God to keep that. So what a beautiful thing, it's such a great time that we have come to.

And on a message, *Spiritual Amnesia* [1964-0411, para. E-60 -Ed.] he says: *When a man marries a wife he doesn't trust in her beauty. No. He trusts in the loyalty of her vow, her word.*

*Absolute.* [1963-0304, para. E-9 -Ed.] *And then it's got to be somewhere that they can base their ... vows upon, knowing that there's something that will hold. And that's the reason we bring them to the church, and to the Word of God, to get this absolute tied.*

We are bringing them to the Word of God to get this Absolute tied, because heaven and earth will pass away but the Word will not pass away. God and His Word is

the same. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and God keeps His Word, friends. It's impossible for God to lie. We know God will keep that Word.

You know Timothy is my firstborn son, and this morning I got up and I was thinking about the life we have lived together. I remember when my wife came and told me she was pregnant that day on February 1979. We got married on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1977, and we were already making plans to go to Tucson, Arizona. Myself and the brothers when we went out in 1979. We left November. He was born in October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1979, and when he was born he was about one month there in the crib where we used to live in Simpson Brown Terrace. We got in that plane and we went to Fort Wayne, Indiana to the convention and from there we went to North Carolina and from North Carolina we went to Tucson, Arizona.

It was my first trip to the United States. I had been to Venezuela in July, 1979 and now we had gone to Barataria and we were having church there. And myself, Bro. Sammy, Bro. Bishop, Bro. Joe, Bro. Zeff, Bro. Carlyle Peters, we went out there on that trip and that was to change my life. Anybody who knows the history and the understanding. I went out there in Sabino Canyon and when I came back something happened.

All this you see today, all the things that I've preached and have gone around the world, it's because in 1979 up there in Sabino Canyon something happened and the songwriters began to write. *Showers of revelation began to fall in 1980. Our eyes were made to see our own prophecy, the Original Life, the Original Seed, you know, all these things; Seven Voices thundered out in Barataria.* From there it just shook up the whole country and everything else.

I remember when I came back home from the trip excited because I left him about a month and I came

back and I was in such anticipations. You know how when you are a young father and you have your first little son. The boy was so nice. We grew up together. We've come a long way. He is not just like my son, he's like my friend. He's like my brother. He's my close companion and he has traveled with me in the service of God. All he knows is the service of God.

Many people think, you know, that he's a little photographer. Well, you can only see what your eyes could behold. But the things that—the person I open my heart to is him, not even my wife; things I can't even open in my heart to her because she doesn't live in that place, and I don't bring the things home in every church to my wife. God didn't give her to me for that. God gave her there to keep my house clean, bear my children, help raise them, and be a companion to me and a help to me.

But when he's with me on the field and we have battles to fight, we have things to go through as a young boy there. Sometimes eight hours or twelve hours we're in an airport sometimes, layovers. We get in a place 3 o'clock in the morning. We go out into places in Kenya, in Nairobi. We get down into places in Brazil. We get down into places in Chile. We get up into the Scandinavian country. We go over into Zimbabwe. He sees me sick. He sees me weary. He sees me tired. He sees me preaching there. He's there to help me. He's at my side. And many times people see the ministry, "The Minister is powerful. The Minister can preach. The Minister can do these things," but he's right there.

And when things are happening and I want to talk to somebody, because I know he doesn't talk these things, we talk these things together. So I could talk these things with him. Because these kind of things is your heart and you don't go and tell your heart to somebody who goes and runs and tells this one that, who would tell this one that just because they want to talk and misunderstand what you are really going through. And

if you're saying things sometimes, you're saying things because you have to leave a record sometimes. And because people don't know how life is, and in this kind of work, I live my life knowing if I'm not here, I have left my understanding about that, about this, about this.

I've seen David and them did that in the Bible. David called Solomon his son and he said, "Solomon, you see this here, you see that here, you see this here, you see this here" and so they went on. And you're like that. And so he's like a confidant also to me and he understands me. He understands my motives and my objectives. He grew up around me. He sees when a situation comes—like we were there, he was right there in Peru. We sat down there. I had Bro. Elias with me. I asked him to go with me because I could foresee what was coming.

I know the messages God gave me. I know the things I'm going to preach. I know these things but the people don't know these things. And what is going to happen, I needed the right interpreter. But the Ministers there planned the meeting and they brought an interpreter from the United States and they had him there and they paid for him, they paid his way, his hotel, everything. They had him there specifically to interpret.

So as we were coming up to the meetings, I told them, I said, "This chap cannot interpret for me." I said, "He has never interpreted this kind of preaching." I said, "This is not interpreting word for word, and interpreting statements," I said, "because my way of preaching is a strange way and he is going to cause problems. I don't think he is ready for that." I said, "This brother, I asked him to come and I think he should interpret."

Well these brothers were adamant. They said, "No. We, the Ministers came together. We had fasting and praying. We had prayer meetings. We had this, we went through this, and this is what we're going to do and this is our plan and we agreed on this and the brother is here and we cannot change these things."

We went on for about two hours and he's right there and he's watching me, he's just listening; Bro. Elias was listening to me. And finally I had to make it really strong and I said, "Look, how about I not preaching." I said, "Have somebody else to preach. You want to have your meeting, have somebody else to preach because I'm not really interested to preach. I didn't come here and want to preach. You all invited me." I said, "I'm not looking for a place to preach." I said, "And furthermore, many people have interpreted for me for the first time, but if this brother is here, there is no reason why he should not interpret because he's been interpreting for me for the last twenty-four years, from Mexico all the way to Chile; in every Latin American country. I think he should interpret. He knows my style. He knows what I preach. He believes the same things, plus, he's a Pastor and this kind of preaching, an interpreter who is not a Pastor is a different kind of interpretation than one who is a Pastor handling the Word."

So the fellow was still adamant, the brother, and his wife was in the kitchen too listening. Until finally I said, "With all due respect to you, you can make a decision about where I'm going to stay, you could make a decision what I'm going to eat, you can make a decision what time you'll take me up and bring me to the service, but when it comes to the preaching, you can't make that decision for me. That's my call." I said, "That's my call. God sent me here with a message so that's my call. You can't make that call for me." I said, "None of you can make that call for me." I said, "Give me permission, with respect, give me permission, let me talk to the next interpreter."

So they already talked to him and I know the brother came to interpret and was expecting to interpret. I sat down and I started to talk to him and I explained to him my stand and my circumstance, and even my willingness to sit down and let somebody else preach. When he saw that he decided to move back.

That day they had so much trouble. The Pastor who was in charge over the meetings, when the meeting was about to begin... He was there all day in this coliseum, (it was in a coliseum they had it,) trying to get the sound system and all kind of problems. The people wouldn't let them go into the coliseum; all kinds of problems. He couldn't even get to go to change his clothes because people were already coming in.

And I told him, my son, I said, "Tim, we're going out to the meeting now." I said, "This brother is going to find out something this evening." I didn't know they were having all this trouble. I said, "But if I go down there and they try anything different, you mark my words, (I speak to you right here in private,) I'll stand up on that pulpit and say, 'I'm sorry to disappoint you all. I will not be having these services,' and I will come off the platform."

Well, good sense prevailed. They backed down and from the first service when it went forth, the interpreter said, "I don't believe I had the capacity to interpret that." And then the Minister now came and said after, "Well, I think you all should do all the services." And God gave such a tremendous witness and blessing in the meetings.

But you see when you go through these things and you walk in these places, and you go into peoples' countries and you stand there, you could find yourself in so many difficult circumstances. But this boy grew up with me and he knows what I stand for and he prays with me and we pray together. And with him I feel I can go anywhere in the world; in the deepest jungle.

I remember that time when Bro. Brian Edwards was drowning in St. Vincent. And he was swimming—he had already swam out to a certain place and was tired, and Brian began to go down and started to call for help, "Timmy I can't make it, I can't make it." And he [Timmy] turned around in the water and swam all the way back and held him and lifted him up like that and swimming

and swimming to bring him back out. And you know the size of Brian Edwards. I remember I was there with the brothers in St. Vincent, (we were now going there in those days) and Bro. Stephen Dasent came and whispered in my ears. He said, "Brian, I think he's looking like he might not make it." They brought him out of the water, but the way he looked, they even brought the thing they put the dead people in. Some Rasta men passed and said, "You all can't see this man is dead already?"

Timmy by that time had collapsed, he had no more strength after he had brought him back to shore. And when Stephen Dasent spoke that in my ear, I was talking to the brothers, nobody heard, only I knew what he told me and I just whispered back to him and I said, "Everyone I came here with I'm leaving with." I said, "Everyone is going back with me. Everything is going to be all right. You go ahead and attend to it."

I sat there talking with the brothers. You know the story. They took him under test and so on and before you know it, he was up and out and he was coming to be betrothed. He came back and had his betrothal to Sis. Shelly-Ann. Today they are married a couple of years now. When I saw that I said, "Boy, you would do something like that?" I realized this boy has something inside of him that he would give his life. He would give his life and put his life in danger for someone else, because from small he grew up with this love in his heart for people.

Today, it might be, I don't know if we're going to part ties. You know how marriage changes people's lives. [Bro. Vin laughs -Ed.] But, I believe what can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. There is nothing that could separate us from this love, because his beloved espoused wife is equally a great believer in what we believe in and stand for and has been one who has served in the forefront all these years.

When I think that he was the—This morning I was praying to the Lord and I said, “Lord, this was the man child that openeth the womb. This was the beginning of my strength. This was the beginning of the seed which you have given me on this earth.” And, I remember I was right there when he was being born. The mid-wife took him and handed him to me, Sis. Sharon James; born right at home. I used to come in sometimes one, two in the morning, you know how it used to be in those days. I’ll wake him up to play with him and my wife would say, “You wake him up you’ll have to put him back to sleep.” But he had this way he used to just laugh so heartily. And when I named him Timothy, it was from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:17. It says:

*17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.*

And then also where it says:

[Bro. Vin reads from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:14-17 -Ed.]

*14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*

*15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

*16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for...*

Let the musicians come.

*...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

As a little child growing up—I remember I was getting ready to go to preach in Canada and these children they

grew up with many ‘aunties’ in the church, up till this day, they still call them aunty. I hear them big men saying Aunty Merle, Aunty Urma, and Aunty Margaret, and they grew this way because they were cared for by many. In those days we always had visitors coming in from overseas and we’ll keep them home and then I would travel. I remember when we went to Canada, Sis. Margaret, I took her and the two boys, Timmy and David, and she had them out there caring for them. And they would be out in the field, little children growing up. Today he’s a man. He’s not a child. He’s taking a wife, and he’s coming to the place to walk in the way that God would lead him. Also in Philippians [Philippians 2:22 -Ed.], Paul is preaching about Timothy. He says:

*<sup>22</sup> But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*

He has served with me in the Gospel until everybody, they know him. His sacrifice is legendary. We’d be out on a trip out there, sometimes three or four days pass; sleeping one hour, two hours. To those who know him, on the bed he has a pile of CDs, he has about two players, two computers, this, and he’s burning DVDs all night for the Ministers and them. When he goes to Brazil every one of those Ministers, “I want my copy before I go.” From the time we land in Panama, Bro. Felix and Bro. Gasper comes, “We want this, we want that, we want that, we want the pictures, we want this.” Constantly, laboring sacrificially.

When we started the church in Dominica, he went out there and spent a month, him, Bro. Nigel and Bro. Marvin. I rented a house and threw the three of them out there. They went out and gave out books, witnessed to people, was in every campaign that we went to. I remember the first time they went that far, him and Joel; I took the two of them with me down to Chile and in growing up they saw and they experienced; wide experience. They saw the ministry in different lands,

different cultures, big huge meetings; five thousand in Zimbabwe; out in places like Eldoret in Kenya, where we're sucking a piece of bamboo cane, no food; walking through places like a garbage dump. The place where we had to sleep out in the little Presbyterian dormitory, where we stayed, journeying.

It's with great joy today to see that God gave him such a lovely wife; very dedicated, precious, faithful young lady right here. She came in when we were having the Youth Convention some years ago. I remember they came to my house one day, she and her sister. Both of them, their destiny was to find their husbands right here. And they came and I tried every how [way -Ed.] to turn them back.

I said, "It's too far for you all to come. Go back. You all are in a church there already. Your father is over there. He's a deacon over there."

And no matter how I tried to...

They said, "No, we have our license. We are planning to buy a car. We are willing to drive."

And I couldn't stop them. I couldn't turn them around. Then finally before I knew it, Bro. Stewart was crying. He was the one the Spirit was affecting and they came and he came with them that day, and after that day, him, Sis. Shirley, then Ricardo came and his wife; then Rondon came. I remember that morning, right there running down here, weeping, broken under the power of the Word. Bro. Stewart came and took up the office of a deacon over here. Our Sis. Romona, she has helped in the office when we have special meetings, youth conventions, when we go on these trips, constantly laboring. They didn't come and sit down. They didn't come and play around the church. They came and they served. They came and they became part of what is happening.

It's with great joy, and great blessing today. I pray that God would bless them richly. After, you know, you do things for people and when for your own came, I was

so tired. I had to go on the trip, I said, “I will try to see you all.” I had one more meeting. “I will try to see you all when I come back.” I came back from the trip so worn and tired and strained and drained, and yet I had to see them the next day. I called them. They came down and I sat there and talked to them.

I said, “Well, like I tell everybody, this vow must be made with confession and this is the place you’ll be looking back to, because this is where the marriage really is before God. It would be nice if you all go somewhere and maybe have your proposal.”

And he said, “How about the parents go with us.”

And through everything, they always want their parents, brother or sister, and everything was done with respect, Godly respect.

And I said, “Well, the way I’m feeling, I can’t make it. Maybe the two moms could go.”

I heard that they had the two moms, a big brother and a big sister, Joel and Liz, went with them and they went out and they had a little private time, made their proposal and everything. And then they’ve come to make it today in the presence of the entire Assembly, publicly, that they know these have taken this stand in the Presence of God, before their families, before the ministry, before the officers in the church, before all the families represented here, that they are doing this to the honor and glory of God in the way that they’ve been raised in the Word to do it, and the way that they have shown their obedience and their willingness to walk in that way.

I would like them to come forward at this time. Maybe give them a little hand of encouragement. [Congregation applauds -Ed.] I don’t know if it’s going according to the way they planned it in their mind, because you know, young people they go through these things in their mind.

They have a little song I believe they’ve practiced for them to sing at this special moment of theirs, before we

pray and ask God's blessing. I trust you all are feeling very happy today and special. You have the whole evening. God gave nice weather. It cleared up today. Your friends and your families are here, which is something honoring to God. You look very nice, very special.

And they already have their day planned. I guess I can announce it right here. The wedding will be on the last day of the convention on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be having an early service that day about 8:30a.m to 12p.m will be the Sunday service, and then from about 1p.m we'll have the wedding. So this convention 2008 will close with the bride and the groom; will close with a marriage. [Congregation claps -Ed.]

This is not your time yet, so just sing. He's coming up right after. [Bro. Vin indicates Bro. David Dayal -Ed.]

[Bro. David Dayal gives a speech, then sings with the brothers - Ed.]

You know when we were coming into Chaguanas this morning, we left ahead so he was behind, and I said, "Oh my goodness! Dave, call Timmy and make sure he doesn't leave his ring home."

So David said, "My phone, I can't make calls on it."

So I took out my phone and I dialed and I couldn't get the call through.

So I said, "Well they're always talking so I know she is not going to have him come here today without the ring."

So I already see him going to go in the pocket, so I know it's here by God's grace. Because I remember when I was going to get married, well we didn't have it in the church as we have it now and we were going to the Red House and I forgot my ring. And so I said, "I hope lightning doesn't strike twice." But nevertheless we are very happy for them today. I saw it [the ring] before but...

[Bro. Timothy speaks to Sis. Romona then places the ring on her finger. -Ed.] As you join your right hands.

Beloved Jesus, how we love You Father. How great Thou art. How kind You are to us. We bow our hearts with thanksgiving. We lift our voice in praise and adoration unto You, and from grateful hearts Lord, we say thank You. Raising children in this world dear God, fighting the battles of the Lord, spending our lives in Your service, casting upon You the things that concerns us, believing oh God, that You will take care of it. And sometimes oh God, when things abound and we feel so inadequate and insufficient, we can rely upon You knowing that You are faithful and that You will help us where we are unable, oh God.

It brings joy in my heart today as a father, Lord, to see my son standing here with a beautiful wife that You have given unto him, virtuous young woman, raised up in a fine Christian home, raised up under a dedicated father and mother, who have stood for this Message; whose life is governed by the very principles that You've taught to us through Your Prophet; a family that walks with us here and that has taken up responsibility to serve Your people.

These two young people, young man and young woman, making this great momentous decision. A decision that required waiting on You Lord, seeking You prayerfully, waiting for confirmation from You and seeing, dear God, that You gave Your witness. Now Lord, we are asking for Your blessing. We thank You for their lives. We thank You dear God, for their service. We thank You for the stand that they've taken for Your Word. We thank You, dear God, for the depth of their identification with You. We thank You, dear God, for the way that they've walked, being examples, oh God, and leaving a Godly influence.

We thank You today dear God, as they stand here, a day that is special unto them and moments that they have gone through in their minds over and over, but now it's a reality unto them, as their families and their loved ones and their friends are all gathered around

them today with a prayer in their hearts for them, Lord. We pray that You would make it very special. I pray dear God, that Your Holy Spirit would give the measure, Father, that is so greatly needed, as You have given to us measure upon measure upon measure as we looked to You, believed in You, and trusted in You. And though the burdens grow greater and though the labors increase, You giveth and You giveth as we had need of You Father. You kept us going on step by step.

And so we pray that You will do the same for them, remembering, oh God, when we had our early beginnings, we had nothing. What little we had Father, it seemed so insufficient, but this was the way that You planned it, oh God. That as You would have led us and guided us, You would have shown to us that You in our lives makes the difference; that You know how to provide and supply our every need. Whether it was material, whether it was physical, whether it was spiritual, Lord, You gave to us; and not just for ourselves but You gave to us that we could have given to so many others.

And so I pray dear God, even as they stand here today on this day of their betrothal, on this day dear God, where they have solemnly vowed in their hearts to marry at the appointed time and knowing dear God, that time is designated to be August the 17<sup>th</sup>, we pray dear God, You knowing the things that they are still in need of, that You will show Your greatness and Your all-sufficiency unto them. And You Who were able to provide a ram and put it there for Abraham when he couldn't see where one was coming from, and he called the place Jehovah-Jireh, that Lord, You will do for them Father, that their heart will not have to worry, or they will not have to be filled with tension or they will not come under nervous strain. But in the peace that Your Holy Spirit can give in the blessed assurance that comes Lord, by Your promises being reinforced within our hearts and being made sure unto us, that You the very

Promiser will keep it; that they will be led by Your Holy Spirit, to see You provide and supply what they have need of Father.

I pray dear God, that You will make a real man of God from this young man who was once a child, and who from a child learnt the Scriptures that was able to make him wise unto salvation, but now the man of God, to be made perfect and thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Even in this Father, You would bring him to this full maturity; that Your Holy Spirit Lord, will take the principles that has been deeply rooted in his life, being raised up to fear You and to walk in Your precepts and to put You first in his life.

Dear God, that You would give him strength Father, even as the God of Abraham became the God of Isaac and the God of Isaac became the God of Jacob and You came from father to son and to grandson, so dear God, may You continue Father, knowing that this is the beginning of my strength. This is the man child that opened the womb, Lord. This is the beginning of the seed that You gave to me on the earth. You've called me and covenanted Yourself with me and You have raised me up and deposited Your Word in me and You've sent me forth around the world to bear Your Name; a chosen vessel.

Oh God, may now I pray, that You will move in the life of my son Father, as he would come out from under my headship Lord, to go forth to begin to make his plans to establish his very own home; taking a wife, oh God, and bearing the responsibility to lead her, the images that has been established in his heart and mind in growing up and seeing, oh God, his father and mother; how we live and how we walk, dear God; how I treated his mother, how we love each other dear God; how we walk together and serve. May these things be a Godly influence upon his life. And may the Holy Spirit bring it back, even Lord God, with Divine revelation, with such power into his life that he will know dear God, the

footprints that have been left, has been marked very clearly for him to walk in.

Bless his espoused wife, Father. How she too Father, has seen such clear steps from the life of her God-fearing father and mother. Not eating the bread of idleness, not running to and fro, not being involved in all kind of things oh God, but learning oh God, to carry herself with dignity and respect, with honor, dear God.

Bless them together. Bind their hearts to beat as one. May this Love of God, so rich and pure, so measureless and strong, this Love oh God, that binds for all eternity with cords that cannot be broken. Even as Paul says, "What shall separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus?"

May this great Agapo Love be shed abroad in such a way, that even the phileo love that they have for each other, Lord God, could be swallowed up by this Agapo Love. It would be governed and influenced by this blessed Holy Spirit Lord, that would endue them, that Father their lives, in coming together today in betrothal and to evolve even further into marriage, Lord will continue to make them such great witnesses, such great ambassadors for You. That Lord, they will continue to serve diligently, and continue to live such God-fearing lives, even to make a greater contribution to Your Kingdom. May You grant it, Father.

How we love them and thank You for them today, and commit them into Your great mighty hands, praying Your Divine leadership and blessing, and that You will undertake in all things for them. Let them keep themselves clean; continue to possess their vessels in sanctification and honor; treat each other with Godly respect, remembering oh God, they are a prince and a princess whose lives are meant to be a Godly example in this Hour. May they be written epistles read of all men we pray. As we ask Your richest blessing upon them today, and that You would continue to provide and supply their every need.

For when we would come back for this second climax, Lord on the day of their wedding that would consummate this marriage, may it be great and glorious in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We give You praise and thanks, believing that this thing proceedeth forth from You, and that she is the bride appointed for him, in the Name of Jesus Christ, amen.

[Congregation applauds as the couple goes back to their seats – Ed.]

Amen. Praise His wonderful Name. Let's just sing, *"It's a lovely, lovely Name, the Name of Jesus. It's a lovely, lovely, lovely Name."*

[Song #172 - Songs That Live –Ed.]

*...of Jesus;*

*It's a lovely, lovely Name,*

*The Name I love;*

*It's a lovely, lovely Name,*

*The Name of Jesus;*

Oh, it's a lovely Name.

*It's a lovely, lovely, lovely, lovely Name.*

Oh, altogether sing it now, *"It's a lovely Name."*

*It's a lovely, lovely Name,*

*The Name of Jesus;*

Hallelujah.

*It's a lovely, lovely Name,*

*The Name I love;*

Hallelujah!

*It's a lovely, lovely Name,*

*The Name of Jesus;*

*It's a lovely, lovely, lovely, lovely Name.*

Amen. Let's just bow our hearts.

Gracious Father, we've come to the end of this service, taking into consideration dear God, the Word of God that has been delivered unto us in these last days, teaching us oh God, how to choose our wives, how to marry them, how to go forth and establish our homes, how to raise our families, dear God; knowing dear God,

that this is a Godly heritage that You have appointed to the sons of God.

And as we live in these great closing days of time, when we see this world again falling apart; a world that is judged and found guilty; a world that is dying, rotting, dear God. We see so much sickness, and so much diseases. We see so many wars and famines and pestilences. We see so much evil, oh God, such great darkness, until all nature Lord is groaning and travailing like a woman fixing to give birth; the world in birth pains again oh God, getting ready to give birth to a new civilization.

But what a blessed hope we have Father, as You showed Your Prophet when they were gathered over on the Other Side and coming up for their rewards, climbing the ivory staircase with their spouses, receiving the blessings and receiving the great reward and going to enjoy the joys of the Lord, that was prepared since the foundation of the world for them that love You and for them that serve You; for them that walk in Your Truth in obedience, dear God. Father, we thank You for these things.

We are so grateful dear God, to know that we have this blessed privilege, that today, while it is called today, when this great glorious Light of Your Gospel is shining, this marvelous Light could shine into our hearts and that we could have this blessed hope, a hope that we cherish not in vain but embracing it, dear God, and living in anticipations, knowing that this hope is becoming a reality already, as we see the Mystery of Your Coming unfolding; as we see a Church being dressed in the clothes of the Word, the beautiful gown of the promised Word, a Bride making Herself ready; as we see Her receiving the wedding band of unmerited, predestinated grace; as we see Her being veiled with the Holy Veil of the Holy Spirit; as we see Her having the Marriage Certificate, the revelation of Your Name, dear God, being written in Her forehead. He said, "I'll write

the Name of My God and the Name of the City of My God, Heavenly Jerusalem, the Lamb's Wife upon you, and My New Name.”

Oh God, how we should not let an opportunity like this pass by. Oh God, if we are living in some cold church profession, some ritual or some dead organization, while we have the privilege to see the Truth, to recognize the Truth Lord, to see the Divine provisions that You have made, dear God, we could receive this, knowing oh God, it's a hope for a brighter future.

I pray today dear God, knowing there are families and friends, and many oh God, who would not have been here had it not been for maybe an occasion like this. But while we are in the house of God, knowing Father when we leave this place, we do not know what can befall us. We are living in such times of great uncertainty, but one thing we know is certain Father, it's Your Word. I pray dear God, that You will grant grace where there is the smallest of desire to know Father, what is true, what is right, to have a witness and a confirmation from You that Lord, You will give it Father, to dissolve all doubts and to bring peace. That those who desire to know and to walk and to have a foundation in this Hour, can receive one with such certainty; one oh God, that there will be no disappointments Father; one that You Yourself will stand and honor. May You grant it, dear God.

And as we leave this place, dismiss us from this place, but may this great never-failing Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and may Your rich blessings, accompany each and every one and may the joy of the Lord fill every heart.

And for all the things that have been planned, Lord to spend the day as a family, where we can sit and relax under the shade of the trees and share a meal together and spend the evening oh God, in Your Presence, (knowing all are invited and all are welcome, oh God,)

may Your Holy Spirit continue Lord, to mingle with us this evening and make the very afternoon a blessed one, as we share each other's company and Your Presence amongst us. We commit everything into Your mighty hands, giving praise and honor and glory unto You. And praying that You will continue to bless Timothy and Romona, in the wonderful and precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray and we ask these blessings, amen.

God bless you. As the song leader comes. We are dismissed.







## **Third Exodus Assembly**

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