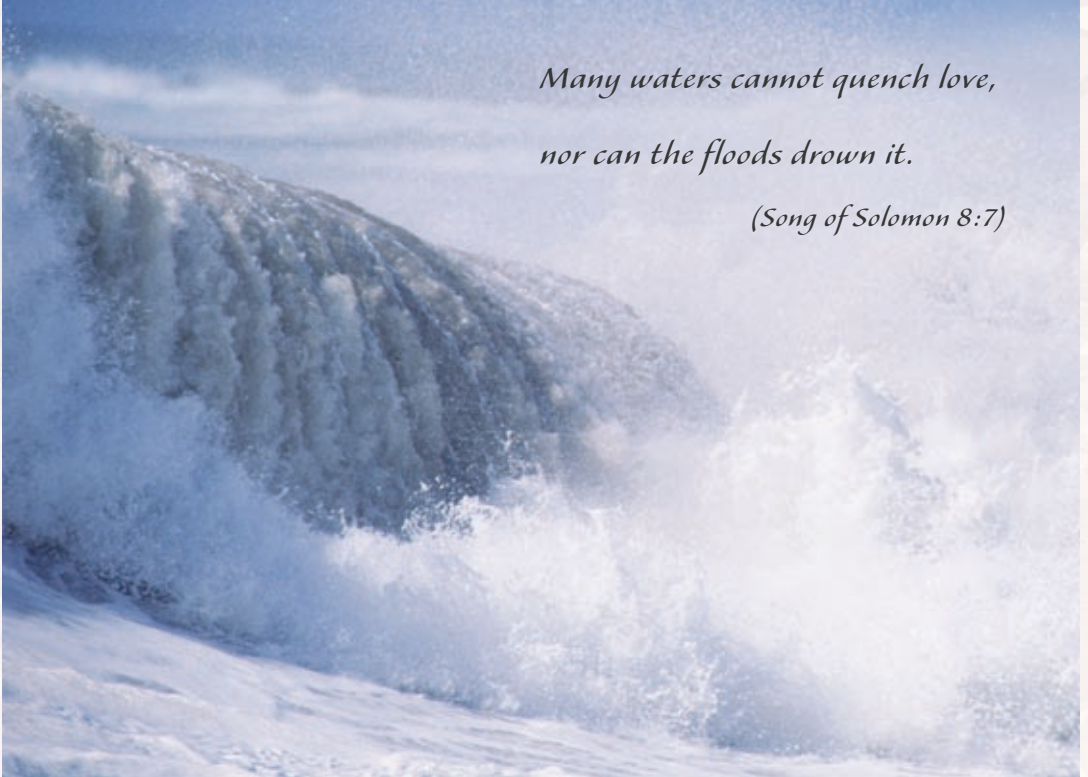


CHAPTER I

# OF LIFE AND LOVE

*Many waters cannot quench love,  
nor can the floods drown it.*

*(Song of Solomon 8:7)*





## *Life's diamond moments*

There isn't a single word or phrase in any language that can describe the intensity of understanding and emotion that results from exchanging a private, silent, and revealing glance with your loved one, a glance that in one single moment communicates everything. You can most likely recall a time when the both of you were separated across a crowded room, and yet, prompted by a thought or feeling, that quiet, knowing glance was all it took to share completely in your thoughts and feelings.

Love is incomparable. The warmth, connection, and security that it generates inspire and challenge and make life all that it can be. A loving look caught in passing, an instant communion of thought between two people amidst a noise-filled room, an almost furtive touch exchanged—these all speak deeply of love, concern, and desire. These are some of life's diamond moments.

# My plan for you

I've been with you from the very beginning of your life. Every step along the way has led you both to where you are now, linked together and walking down a joint path. I knew that you would be the right match for each other, and so I put a series of events into motion to bring you together and connect your hearts.

I coaxed you along gently, helping you to stay the course that I was leading you on. You didn't always see the way as being good, but now you can know that it was all for a purpose. It brings Me great joy and satisfaction to see My creations enjoying the life that I have given them, under My blessing and care.

## A thread masterpiece

I have interwoven your lives in such a way that the very different threads of your hearts and spirits may combine and be woven into a masterpiece tapestry—a declaration of My wisdom, My insight, and most of all, My love.





## Like a kite

Your hearts were designed to soar on the winds of joy and to rise on the thermals of affection. Albeit flying high can be dangerous. You need a steady hand to guide you up, and you need a tether to keep you from getting blown away.

Your heart is like a beautiful, multicolored, and intricately designed kite. It is a wonder to behold as it flies and dances and weaves in the wind. But the secret to its success is the almost-invisible string that is attached to it and held firmly in the hand of the one who flies it. A kite won't launch without its string and a guiding hand pulling it along and helping it to start the upward climb. In the case of those who put their trust in Me, I am the one who holds the strings to their hearts.

Even in the hands of a skilled flyer, sometimes the kite takes a nosedive when it hits a downdraft. If you are in a freefall, know that I am doing as much as you allow Me to in order to avert the crash and get you climbing again. Even if you crash, I will race over to the crash site to retrieve and save My beloved kite. I will carefully pick you up, repair the broken pieces, and make modifications so that you will fly better next time.



## *Created to please*

The world was created for your enjoyment. Because I love you, I gave you everything I could to make you happy—senses to experience your surroundings, a multitude of flowers and plants to marvel at, animals to be your companions and pets, different landscapes and climates to enjoy, and a special attraction between a man and a woman. I designed this magnetism to create an avenue for friendship, support, understanding, affection, and physical closeness.

Love that is expressed physically makes a spiritual connection as well. It draws you closer together and often gives you a better understanding of each other. It's an avenue for fun and fulfillment, but it also strengthens the attachment and friendship that are essential to a successful relationship. I made this experience to be an important manifestation of your love and a reinforcement of your bond with each other.

The blessing of intimately loving each other is a great gift I give you. In My eyes, it is pure and designed for your enjoyment.

# The adventure of your life

The road I have for you two to walk together is a road of love. It's a journey I want you to embark on with anticipation and joy, but also with the understanding that it can only be safely traveled with Me at your side. On your journey you will experience and feel new, wonderful, and amazing things, but the road will not always be smooth. There will be difficulties along the way,

but these are designed by Me to help you mature and grow in depth and giving and love.

Life with another person is an adventure. It can be compared to going on a trek together through uncharted territory, over many different kinds of terrain. Those times you must clear the brush as you push onward through the thick jungle will teach you



perseverance, and your ingenuity and resourcefulness will be put to work as you discover shortcuts to get to your destination.

The forest holds special enchantment and magical moments—even though the sunshine may not always be visible, you'll gain keener senses and enhanced perception as you walk within its magnificence. In the arctic environment you'll need the fire of your love to burn brightly to give you warmth and light. The tropical climate will be a time to shed any cover-ups that might hinder your freedom, to bare your hearts to each other in honest communication. The desert leg will be a time of testing that will draw you to reach for and depend on

My supernatural power to sustain you. The mountaineering will be an exhilarating time of challenge, overcoming, and conquering.

Sharing life intimately with someone is not for the fainthearted; it's for those who are determined to walk as one through the good times and bad times, and come out the better for it. Ask Me to accompany you, by taking Me into your heart and life, and I will then be your constant companion, your guide, your compass, your light. With Me by your side you can be assured of the best guidance, protection, and care that can be afforded for your journey. I'm your insurance policy. Take Me with you, and your adventure will be complete!



## Shelter in the time of storm

As you and your partner grow in your relationship, you are going to experience times when life is trying. There may be stretches where you don't feel as close as you used to, when it's difficult to communicate, when your "love meter" for each other isn't registering high.

Life on earth is certainly not going to be perfect all the time. Just as there are seasonal cycles in nature, so there are cycles in life and relationships, times when things go well and times when you encounter difficulty. It's helpful to realize that there is a purpose for the cycles. It's through experiencing life—and that means the bad times as well as the good times—that the spirit is strengthened and deepened. The stormy and turbulent times can cause your relationship with your partner to deepen and become more meaningful. Then when the sun comes out again, your relationship can grow into new and more fulfilling joys.

Being willing to go through those stormy times together, and accepting that they are building your character and adding depth to your relationship, shows patience and faith in Me. Instead of allowing them to distance you from each other, face them together and you will come through to the sunshine once again.