



*Forever and Ever  
...And Then Some*



*Coach Jim*

## ***Welcome to Session Five of your True Love That Lasts Journey***

### **Goal of This Journey**

- To offer you an experience not-readily-available
- To help you on your journey
  - ☐ And share this journey with those you care about.
- To grow the enjoyment and love of your spouse
  - ☐ *a little bit more each day*

***"Examine yourselves to make sure you are in the faith.***

***Test yourselves. Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is really in you?***

***If not, you have failed the test."***

2 Corinthians 13:5

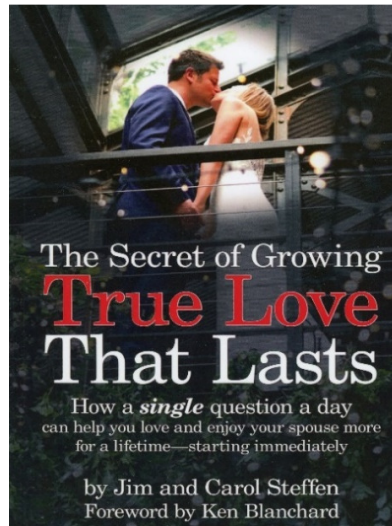
**Holy Spirit, help us live this True Love That Lasts Journey,  
acknowledging that Jesus Christ is really in us,  
and guide us to treat our spouse the same way.**

Inspired by *Pope Francis*

Based on *Pope Benedict XVI Insights*

Promoted by *Bishop Caggiano*

Guided by *The Secret of Growing True Love That Lasts*



**Chapters 15, 16 and 17**

<b>Challenge 1 – Review of Progress</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Challenge 2 – The Vested Interest of Our Source in Your Marital Success</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Challenge 3 – God’s Desire (longing) to be FREELY Loved in Return</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Challenge 4 – God’s Ace in the Hole Leading to God’s Request</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Challenge 5 – Will You Accept This Divine Partner</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Challenge 6 – What will your method of reminding yourself to ask the question of the day be: A Hope – A Fact – A Sad Fact</b>	<b>16</b>

**Challenge 1 – Review of Progress****Building the *Asking the Question of the Day* Habit**

(Learning from sport – keeping score builds interest)

**Progress Review**

Key Activity	Yes	No
1. Put scorecard/calendar where I begin my day		
2. Crossed off day after asking and answering <i>question of the day</i>		
3. Did not break the chain		

**Monday/Thursday** *How can I appreciate and value the one I love more today?**One way I answered (or might answer) this question was....*

...

**Tuesday/Friday** *How can I surprise and please the one I love more today?**One way I answered (or might answer) this question was....*

...

**Wednesday/Saturday** *How can I be closer to and with the one I love more today?**One way I answered (or might answer) this question was....*

...

**Next Week – Starting Immediately***Next week I will do the following to improve...*

...

- Taking into consideration St. Paul's reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering these questions in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit, now guide our answers as we stop the presentation and write.

**During the Webinar**

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

## Challenge 2 The Vested Interest of Our Source In Your Marital Success

### Ch. 15 Will You Let Me Love You – Now?

#### Special Point to Ponder => Co-author's Note

Sometime after the book was written, I became aware that there are three challenges embedded in this chapter, i.e., Challenges 2, 3, and 4. On the following pages I have indicated them in blue for you.

Upon further pondering, I see – with the help of the book and Holy Spirit – if you can say “YES” to each, you give yourself a significant competitive edge to live a much happier, healthier, and even holier life.

**The Professor begins the chapter by asking two questions.**

- 1. Did you earn your existence?**
- 2. What was the intent of your source?**

**Points to Ponder (Hint) is his answer to the first question**

- Fact:** There was a time when each of us was not!
- Fact:** Totally because of the gratuitous goodness of God and the love of our parents, today here we are!
- Conclusion:** We did not in any way earn your existence!

The Professor then answers the second question, “What was the intent of your source?”

The following is so important to understand and appreciate the WOW of the first Take-Home Value, let's listen to the book. (p.125)

“He first focused on our parents and their intent in having us. Again, asking the right question at the right time: was it your parents’ intent to love each other, have you, and then say: ‘Hello, goodbye, good luck?’

“Or was it to have you, bless you in as many ways as possible while they raise you, and enjoy a relationship with you for the rest of their lives? With a few exceptions, the obvious answer is the latter.

“The Professor then pointed to a happening from his life that emphatically demonstrated the fact that parents want to have a lasting relationship with their children. In the last couple years, four of his friends have left his area and moved hundreds of miles away to facilitate continuing to grow and enjoy their relationships with their children and grandchildren.

“Professor Reed then turned his attention to God.

“Did God want to create you and say, ‘Goodbye, good luck’ or was it to create you and build a relationship with you here in this life as He guides you to an even greater life for all eternity?

“The Professor pointed out that the answer to the question about our parents’ intent is obvious to most. Unfortunately, the answer to the part about God’s intent is not so obvious to some.

“Then the professor pointed out the first of three WOW Take–Home Values. Because most of the alumni were married, he especially tailored it to us.”

**WOW Take-Home Value 1**

God – our Source – has a *vested interest* in your success, especially your *marital success*.

**Challenge 2 Questions**

**If married:**

Can you live today believing that God has a *vested interest* in your marital success?

**If not married:**

Can you live today believing that God has a *vested interest* in your vocational/career success?

Can you believe God has a call for you, and a vested interest in your success in that call?

Considering the above, reread the first part of the chapter in the book, (pages 125-128) then give yourself a Significant Competitive Edge by completing the following to your satisfaction:

*Taking the first part of Chapter 15 and Points to Ponder into consideration, the insights **I want to remember** are....*

To enjoy the benefits of my insight(s), the **actions I will take** are...

- Taking into consideration St. Paul's reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering these two questions in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit now guides our answers as we stop the presentation and write.

**During the Webinar**

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

### Challenge 3 God's Desire to be FREELY Loved In Return (p. 129-132)

#### Points to Ponder

This challenge relates to a *reality* that is so important, I want to play the audio for you and then point out some life-changing insights that make life so much more meaningful.

#### Bill is speaking

"The Professor continued to answer his question, 'What was the intent of our source?' by first reviewing the nature of God and then True Love.

"To help understand the nature of God, he first quoted St. John's first letter, 'God is love!'

"Then he quoted the beginning of the Old Testament, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

"He pointed out that these quotes and many others in the bible clearly demonstrate that it is God's very nature to love. As our source, He created us because He loves us and—as is natural to all love—wants to be loved in return."

At this, John demonstrated that he was understanding by remarking, "That is something that I don't think you mentioned before—it is part of the very nature of love to want to be loved in return."

"Brilliant, John!" Bill replied. "You're exactly correct. When the professor said this, it was an Aha for me. I think we skipped or did not emphasize the desire to be loved in return in our dissertation on the working definition of True Love.

"Here the Professor was pointing out that even – or especially – God wants to be loved in return.

#### God's Dilemma

Here is the very challenging part, walking in God's shoes or understanding God's dilemma. (reread page 130-131). Here is a very short summary.

God is love; St. John says in 1 John 4:8

Love has three parts, *Beginning, Love of Benevolence and – apex – Love of Union*

The *Apex – love of Union* – can't work unless love is returned.

If this is true love:

➤ **God wants to be loved in return.**

➤ **It must be freely given.**

If God created billions of people, he is taking the chance that some might not love him.

Some – maybe many – might say 'NO' to God's offer of love.

The Professor's sense of humor emphasizes God is infinite.

➤ In this case he is **an infinite gambler**.

#### WOW Take-Home Value 2

**God values our *freely given love* so much; He risks our saying "NO" to His love.**

### Co-author's Note

As stated at the beginning of the Points to Ponder, sometime after we completed the book, we discovered three challenges embedded in Chapter 15. I'm convinced if you could say "Yes" to each of the three challenges you would be a much happier, healthier, and even holier person.

### The Great Aha

The thing I as co-author am most impressed with – and therefore want to share with you – is *that we are not only loved, but even longed for by God.*

This conviction has been built with the help of St. Teresa, the Little Flower, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope Benedict XVI and Jesus himself. Quotes of each follow.

**St. Teresa – The Little Flower** – said just before her final vows:

*"I find it hard to believe how much God longs for me!"*

### Mother Teresa of Calcutta

She had a vision in 1946 as she rode the train to a retreat. The vision was so special she did not say anything until 1993 when Pope John Paul II said something similar. All that time we did know that in every one of her 641 establishments she had on the wall "I Thirst." When she finally shared part of her vision, here is part of what she said:

*"Jesus wants me to tell you again...  
how much love He has for each of you – beyond all you can imagine...  
Not only that He loves you, but even more  
- He longs for you.*

### Pope Benedict XVI

He wrote a life-changing letter on love for lent in 2007<sup>1</sup>. Here is a part that is especially to the point "God LONGS for you." (In Greek Agape relates to the Love of Benevolence. Eros relates to the Love of Union – the desire to be closer...)

*"On the Cross, God's eros (longing – desiring to be with...) for us is made manifest.  
Is there more "mad eros" than that which led the Son of God  
to make himself one with us even to the point of suffering  
as his own the consequences of our offenses?"*

### Jesus Says:

*"As the Father Loves Me, so I love you." John 15:9*

<sup>1</sup> If you go to Google and put in: "Pope Benedict's Lent Letter 2007", it will come up.

Of course, the Trinity is always one. But in our human limited way of thinking, I can't believe that the Father does not have the Love of Union for Jesus, i.e., wants to be closer to and more with or *longs* for Jesus. If the Father *longs* for Jesus, and Jesus *loves* us just as the Father loves him, it seems Jesus *longs* for you and me ALSO.

Co-author's note: just putting all these thoughts in one place has helped me. Thanks for the opportunity. I hope you find it also helpful in answering life-changing challenge 3 above with a resounding "YES!"

Since we wrote the book Challenge 3 has been refined and becomes even more meaningful.

**Old Challenge 3: Can you live like God's desire to be FREELY loved in return.**

**Refined Challenge 3:**

**Can you live today believing that God not only loves you, but *LONGS* for your love in the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.**

**Considering the above, reread the second part of the chapter in the book, (pages 129-132) then give yourself a Significant Competitive Edge by completing the following to your satisfaction:**

*Taking the second part of Chapter 15 and Points to Ponder into consideration, the insights I want to remember are....*

To enjoy the benefits of my insight(s), the **actions I will take** are...

- Taking into consideration St. Paul's reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering these two questions in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit now guides our answers as we stop the presentation and write.

**During the Webinar**

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

## Challenge 4. God's Ace in the Hole Leading to God's Request

### Points to Ponder

#### God's Love of Benevolence for us.

Focus on:

*"The Professor explained God has an ace in the hole. He figures if He overwhelms us with His love and blessings, it will be hard for anyone to say 'NO!' to returning his infinite love."*

God gives us many blessing, but the professor is especially inspired by these four:

1. The Big Bang
2. DNA
3. Energy
4. Oxygen – The Most Impressive

**Focus especially on** Maria's quote (p. 135) of G.K. Chesterton's insight:

*"'The beginning of happiness is gratitude.' In this case, gratitude for each of our NOWs and the oxygen we enjoy makes the NOWs continue."*

**Question** Which of the above gifts (1-4) are you most grateful for?  
Which encourages you most to say "Yes" to Challenge 4 below.

**God's Love of Union.** Focus on:

*"The Love of Union – wanting to be closer to and united with the one you love."  
The same is true for God.*

#### WOW Take-Home Value 3

It is as if God is saying: "I value you just as you are, I honor your freedom.  
Will you let me love you – NOW?"

### Let's Make This More Personal

After Bill presented the three WOW Take- Home Values, there was a thoughtful silence.

Carrie then quietly broke the hush with...(p.138)

"Bill is right. These were life-changing Take-Home Values.

"I especially remember the Professor's words as if God was talking, 'Just as you are this moment.' For me, the Professor was saying for God, with all my warts and shortcomings—that God knows perfectly—he wants me to let Him love me NOW.

"Ever since the Professor's presentation some 45+ years ago, several times a day I pause, take a deep breath, and think:

- God has given me another moment, a wonderful NOW.
- Then I can hear the Professor asking for God:

**"I value you just as you are.  
I honor your freedom,  
Will you let me love you—NOW?"**

There was another pause. Quietly Carrie continued,

“The Professor pointed out it is as if God is saying,  
‘I want you exactly as you are this moment.’

This encourages me, no matter how I feel I messed up, that God still wants to love me.

“I try to respond to His question with a Strong Yes! and then get totally involved in how I am trying to serve Him that moment.

**Challenge 4: Frequently during the day can you respond with a “resounding YES” to God’s request:**

**“I value you just as you are,  
I honor your freedom,  
Will you let me love you – NOW?”**

**Considering the above, reread the third part of the chapter in the book, (pages 133-138) then give yourself a Significant Competitive Edge by completing the following to your satisfaction:**

*Taking pages 133-138 and the above Points To Ponder into consideration, the insights **I want to remember** are....*

To enjoy the benefits of my insight(s), the **actions I will take** are...

***Could you commit to yourself to follow Carrie’s lead and accept challenge 4?***

- Taking into consideration St. Paul’s reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering these questions in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit now guides our answers as we stop the presentation and write.

**During the Webinar**

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

## Challenge 5 Will You Accept This Divine Partner

### Ch. 16 We Came With A Vague Problem – We Left With A Divine Partner

#### Point to Ponder 1 Avoid Being a Statistic

***Those enjoying the bliss of marriage today***  
***About 50% will suffer the sadness of being divorced or separated in some tomorrow***

#### The Professor's Experience

Carrie and Bill are meeting with the Professor after his talk. The professor is telling his experience.

“He began by saying that in the years after we graduated, every time he heard of an alumni couple who met, married at the university, and subsequently got divorced, he asked himself, ‘I wonder if they had used the True Love That Lasts questions, would they have avoided divorce? Would they now be enjoying a successful marriage and a much more fulfilling life?’

“About five years ago it seemed to him that the number of divorces was increasing. He needed to do something about it. But what?

“He thought of sharing the True Love That Lasts questions with his theology classes. But he hesitated because the class would ask him what effect or influence the questions had on him and his marriage. He didn’t want to say he didn’t use them. So, he decided if he wanted to share them with future classes, he needed to have a personal experience of the questions, how they worked, and the expected benefits.

#### Your Experience

- Following the Participant’s Guide in Session Three you have now had the personal experience of using the Question-of-the day and the Habit Builder for fourteen days.

- Our Goal for this True Love That Lasts Journey is:

#### Goal of This Journey

- To offer you an experience not-readily-available
- To help you on your journey
  - ☐ And share this journey with those you care about.
- To grow the enjoyment and love of your spouse
  - ☐ ***a little bit more each day***

**Question 1a:** Who of your friends and relatives do you care about enough to want to share with them the benefits you have receive or anticipate receiving by asking just the one simple True Love That Lasts Question-of-the-day?

**Question 1b:** Who of your friends and relatives are you concerned about because they seem to be on their journey down the slippery slope of separation or divorce?

**Might a gift of the book, Habit Builder, and the Participant's Guide:**

- Guide group 1a to thank you for helping them enjoy an even happier marriage.
- Guide group 1b to thank you for helping them avoid the slippery slope of separation or divorce.
- CAUTION Even if you suspect a couple is in group 1b, it might be smart to treat them as if in group 1a.

**Point to Ponder (Hint) Make a list**

-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

Link to purchase the kit (book and Habit Builder): <https://bit.ly/truelovekit>

Link for the free Participant's Guide beginning with the Introduction: [www.TrueLoveThatLasts.us](http://www.TrueLoveThatLasts.us)

- Click on Participant's Guide

Would you be interested in offering a Webinar for friends and/or fellow parishioners? <sup>2</sup>

## Point to Ponder 2 The Professor's Four "Aha's" for the Important of Marriage

1. **Jesus's First Miracle:** The happiness of the married couple at Cana
2. **The Key to Continue the Human Race:** The sexual expression of the Love of Union
3. **God Dwells in Those Who Keep His Word:** i.e., Personal help for those who do
4. **God is Rejoicing in You:** As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride

**Question 2a. Which of the Professor's four "Aha's" for the importance of marriage most resonated with you?**

**The Co-author's Second Look** (p.143)

As I always do as I create this refinement – I listen to the book, review an earlier version, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, then write the update. Three things Carrie said (beginning on page 143) jumped out at me.

I want to play what Carrie shared because it is:

- So insightful
- So easy to do
- And can be so important in refining your relationship with God

<sup>2</sup> For how to become a Certified Coach to lead the True Love Movement in your area, contact [RJSteffen@aol.com](mailto:RJSteffen@aol.com)

***The Third “Aha!”  
God Dwells In Those  
Who Keep His Word***

Now Carrie jumped in. “Bill and I agreed that I get to tell you of the Third Aha because it meant so much to me.

(p.143)

“Bill and I agreed that I get to tell you of the third Aha because it means so much to me.

“To understand the full importance to me, we need to go back to how the Professor said God solved the problem of free will and returning His love. He wants us to love Him in return for his love, but to be True Love, it has to be freely given. So, being the infinite gambler, God gave us free will. We could say ‘No!’ to God’s love. But his ace in the hole was to love us so much and give us so many benefits that it would be **irrational to say ‘No!’ to God’s love.**

“The Professor said, ‘Because God wants us to freely love Him, he asks: **‘Exactly as you are this moment, will you let me love you—NOW?’**

“The Professor in our private meeting pointed out that it was like God was saying, ‘Exactly as you are this moment, I want to love you.’ But He is not going to let us continue in the imperfect state we were in that moment. **He is committed to our continued improvement.**

“His Third Aha was his favorite Gospel quote, John 14:23 when Jesus said, *If a man loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

(p.144)

“The Professor pointed out our desire to love each other a little more each day and improve our **relationship was keeping His—God’s—word.**

“The Professor asked us, besides the love of God, what is the next most important part of keeping God’s word? Certainly, the love of neighbor. **“And what ‘neighbor’ is more important to start with than your own spouse?**

“He turned to me. I remember his exact words to this day. He said, ‘Carrie, you and Bill have every right to be convinced the God dwelling within you wants to guide and help you answer and live the True Love That Lasts question each day. As my presentation emphasized, **He has a vested interest in your success, especially your marital success.”**

The three things that jumped out at me:

1. God asks: **Exactly as you are this moment, will you let me love you—NOW?’**
2. **And what ‘neighbor’ is more important to start with than your own spouse?**
3. **He has a vested interest in your success, especially your marital success.”**

### Point to Ponder 3 Challenge, Solution, Benefits

#### The Challenge

On the first page of the chapter (p. 139) Bill says:

“However, we still had a serious challenge. It was obvious in our first ten years of marriage we asked the True Love That Lasts questions alone.

“We had not even the slightest idea that God might be interested in helping us, let alone His having a **vested interest** in our success, especially our *marital success*.

“Now, we have a *potential partner* because of God’s vested interest—as the Professor explained.

“The problem I was feeling was how do we make a *potential partnership* with God related to our marital success as an *actual Partnership*?

#### The Solution

The professor, who was known for having brilliantly simple answers to very challenging questions, just suggested adding “Loving Partner God” to the beginning of each question-of-the day.

Bill, after a long pause to consider the brilliance of such a simple answer, said:

#### The Benefits

“As I see it today—for some 45-plus years now—his very simple suggestion of adding Loving Partner God to each question joins *three powers*:

1. It retains the power of asking the right question at the right time.
2. It has the QEP power Maria wants: quick to learn, easy to use, proven to work.
3. It adds the power of the vested interest of our Divine Partner.

“Looking back, I was most impressed with the fact that Carrie and I went  
***to our tenth anniversary reunion with a vague problem.***  
***We returned with a Divine Partner.***

## Challenge 5 Question.

Does adding “*Loving Partner God*” to the question of the day work for you?

Will you use this insight that God has a vested interest in your marital success to let or ask God to join you in making your marriage even more successful?

Considering the above, reread the chapter in the book, (pages 139-150) then give yourself a Significant Competitive Edge by completing the following to your satisfaction:

*The insights I want to remember are....*

To enjoy the benefits of my insight(s), the **actions I will take** are...

- Taking into consideration St. Paul’s reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering these two questions in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit now guides our answers as we stop the presentation and write.

## During the Webinar

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

## Challenge 6

What will your method of reminding yourself to ask *the question of the day* be:  
A Hope --- A Fact --- A Sad Fact

### Ch.17 The Wedding and the 10:13 Surprise

#### Special Point to Ponder => Co-author's Concern and Solution

#### A Very Personal Point to Ponder

**A Hope** As your co-author, I hope by now you are convinced:

- It is to you enlightened self-interest to build and maintain the daily habit.
- It is very good for your spouse.
- It is very good for your relationship, your happiness, and your avoiding divorce.
- You do others a huge favor if you can get them to begin asking the daily question.

**A Fact**

- There will be a tendency to forget occasionally.
- If there is not a "reminder," occasionally can become permanent.

**A Sad Fact – When *Occasionally* becomes *Permanent***

- Both you and your spouse lose the daily benefit of growing your love a little each day.
- Even though you might think an unhappy marriage, even divorce is impossible for you, it has sadly happened to others who thought the same thing.

**John and Maria use 10:13 AM & PM as reminders on their mobile phones**

**Considering the above, reread Chapter 17, (page 151) then give yourself a Significant Competitive Edge by completing the following to your satisfaction:**

*My reminder(s) so I don't forget to ask the question of the day is or will be...*

- Taking into consideration St. Paul's reminding us Jesus is always in you and your spouse,
- You now not only give yourself a SCE by answering this question in writing, but all you share your answers with.
- Holy Spirit now guides our answers as we stop the presentation and write.
- **During the Webinar**

The insights shared by the leader or fellow participants I want to remember are...

## Final Reminder

### Progress Review

Key Activity	Yes	No
1. Put scorecard/calendar where I begin my day		
2. Crossed off day after asking and answering <i>question of the day</i>		
3. Did not break the chain		

## Parting Wish Continuing Good Wishes

### Final CIS-B

#### Challenge

- Possibly five weeks is not enough to establish a habit for life

#### Intensify

- Losing may or all the benefits gained
- WORSE – will not grow in the enjoyment and love of spouse a little each day

#### Solution

- Subscribe to the ***weekly videos of True Love That Lasts Journey***
- Created at request of Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport CT
- To be a weekly guide to grow in the enjoyment and love of spouse a little each day
- Come out each Sunday – Just five to eight minutes

#### Benefits

- Receive the latest insights and techniques
- Insights and techniques participants in the True Love That Lasts Journey like yourselves guided us to discover
- **Build the Habit for another 37 weeks**

Register Now free at: <https://bit.ly/truelovevideos>

**Be sure to complete the follow-up feedback if requested.**

### **How to Print and Share These Insights**

1. Scroll so you can see the tool bar on top.
2. When you have reviewed the presentation and completed your Participants Guide to your satisfaction,
  - **On the top right of this original document, click on the arrow.**Save this PDF in your True Love That Lasts Movement Text folder.
3. **The day before your team meeting send the PDF of this Section to your Coach.**
  - Your Coach needs your Participants Guide to lead the team meeting.
4. Return to the original. **Print the text with your answers.**
  - Having the printed copy will make it much easier to share in the Partner and Team Meeting.
  - It is an excellent practice to save these in a loose leaf for future reference.

Remember to answer the Coach's questions in preparation for your Follow-up interview.

## **Parting Wish**

*I hope the rest of your life is the best of your life  
because you make it that way by building the habit  
of asking just the one True Love That Lasts question a day.*

*And may the Source of All Good bless you and your partner,  
your partner couple beyond your wildest dreams.*

**I look forward being with you weekly on the video Series.**