

**Your
BEST INVESTMENT
For 2009**

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Men of Grace
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**Your Best Investment for 2009
Part 2**

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"You take all the time you need, Larry—this certainly is a big decision."

Luke 7:6-8 Centurion's Faith

"Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worth to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go, and he goes; and that one, 'Come' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this', and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was *amazed* at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

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"I think it's your cup, Slim. The cows don't see you as an authority figure."

Authority Issues

- Concept of "Authority"
 - Do you have 'authority issues'?
 - Those who have authority are under authority
 - Hierarch of God's Authority
 - God the Father
 - God the Son (given all authority in Heaven and Earth)
 - Husbands (Eph. 5:23)
 - Wives (Eph. 5:22)
 - Children (Eph. 6:1-2)
- Why?
 - Protection

- Concept of Obedience
 - Two choices: No Switzerland (Matt 12:30)
 - "He who is not with Me is against Me"
 - A. Submission to God
 - B. Opposition to God

- God has given Husband's authority
- How are we to treat our wives?

Ephesians 5: 25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

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"Look, I can't promise I'll change, but I can promise I'll pretend to change."

I Corinthians 13: 8-13

Love is patient.

Love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily
angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the
truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,
always perseveres.

Love never fails.

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"Couldn't you at least try and read my mind?"

Model of a Suffering Servant

- "Love means you never have to say you're sorry"- Hardly
- Be a student of your wife, anticipate her needs
- Never "out" your wife in public
- Listen! Don't just wait to talk or solve her problems
- Repair Statements- "you could be right"
- Turning toward her
- **Pray** with your wife
- Set loving boundaries – don't leave the back door open!



Questions

- In what ways can I better protect my wife?
- In what ways do I fail to listen to my wife?
- In what ways do I fail to lead my wife?
