

3 FOLD CORD

Building Lasting Marriages on a Firm Foundation

Weekly Devotional

WEEK TWELVE -

New Car Smell

I don't know about you, but I really like the smell of a brand-new car but when it's gone, you just can't get it back again no matter how hard you try. Today we want to talk to you about the freshness of brand-new love, versus the beauty of love that has matured over time.

When I test drive a new vehicle, there is excitement at the newness of the experience yes, but once we have made the purchase, as happy as we are there are other experiences about the newness that are not as enjoyable. We don't know how to turn on the wiper blades, and of course it's just started to rain. We are uncomfortable behind the wheel for a time, and nervous about dinging a door. But when you have driven it awhile, a comfort comes, you know how to handle it, and how it will respond in various situations, which doesn't make it *old*, it makes it good! Love, like anything else, is meant to grow and even *change* over time, but keep in mind that change can be good! Yes, a car can break down over time, but it's all in how first of all they are built, and then how well you take care of them over the long haul.

If you have ever gone to a vintage car show and strolled along the rows of classics, you will find that you ooh and awe as you pass along each isle. You will see cars that you never knew existed, and features that cannot be attained anymore...and real metal bumpers that can actually deflect a damaging crash, and styles that make you take a second look. You just don't

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see *these* kind, driving down the road every day, and they don't get lost in the sea of the ordinary when you look for it in the mall parking lot.

The point is this, we are not supposed to keep trying to recreate the past to deepen love, but continually build upon it, grow, and mature becoming something more wonderful with each passing day. If we keep trying to recreate a feeling from a time gone by, we will miss the beauty of what we have in the right here and right now, longing instead for what we cannot attain.

So don't lose heart thinking that you've lost that loving feeling. Love is meant to mature over time, and even gets *better* with age. Enjoy the ride, give attention to where you are right now, and you will have a classic love all your own, and admired by all.

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

Philippians 3:13 (NLT)