

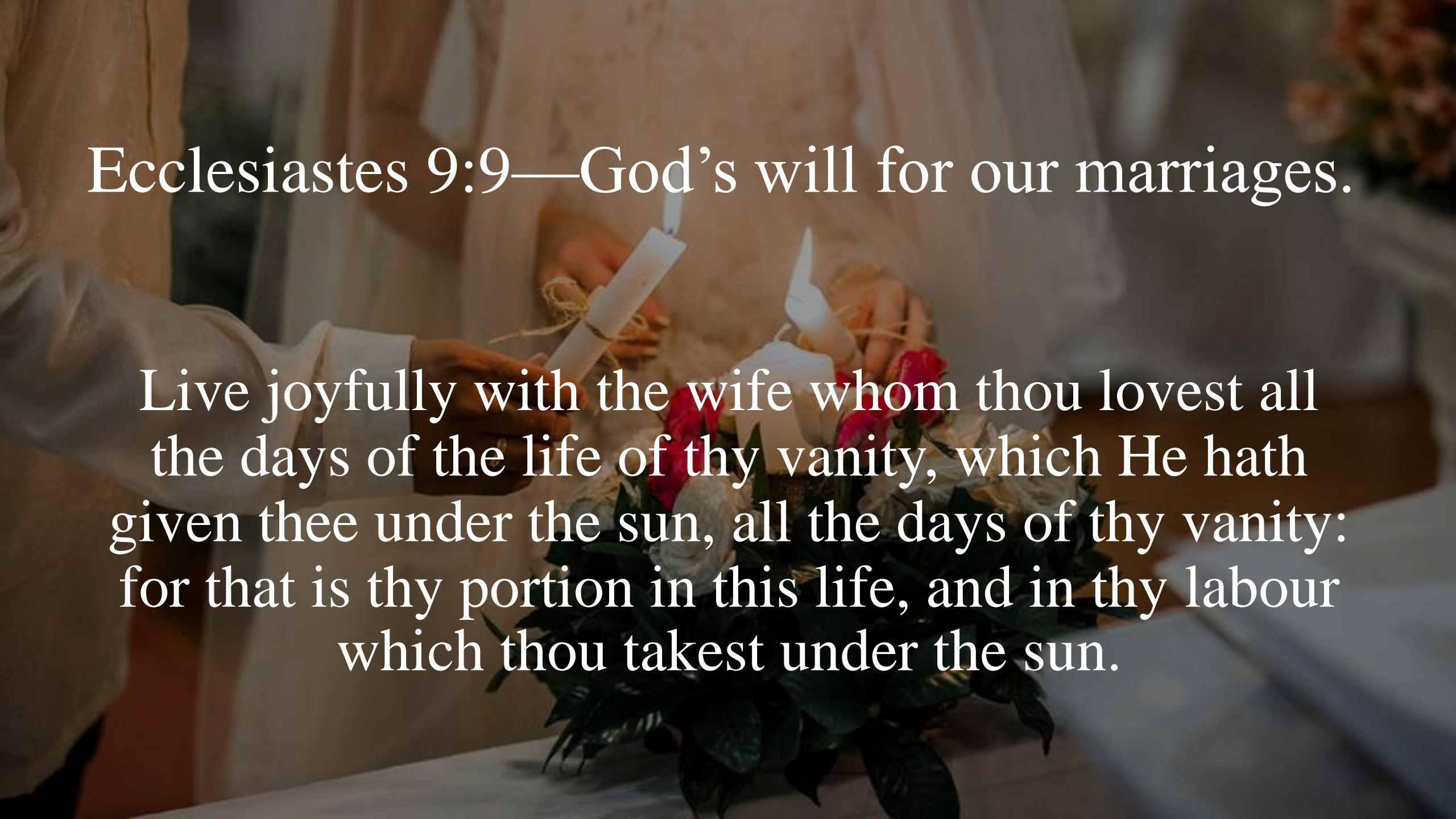
A person in white robes is lighting a candle over a bouquet of flowers. The scene is dimly lit, with the candle providing the primary light source. The bouquet consists of white and pink roses. The person's hands are visible, one holding the candle and the other lighting it. The background is blurred, showing other people in white robes.

Rekindle

Ecclesiastes 9:9; Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:12-13; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Intro to Ecclesiastes:

- Solomon was famous for his unmatched, God given wisdom.
- Jesus testified to Solomon's wisdom.
- He learned by observing the success & failures of others.
- And he learned lessons the hard way by reflecting on his own foolish choices & their painful consequences.
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 reminds us that none of us have an unlimited supply of life. We all have an expiration date. Since that is the case, God wants us to make the most of our days!

A soft-focus photograph of a wedding ceremony. A priest in white vestments is visible on the left, holding a lit candle. A bride is on the right, holding a bouquet of white and red roses. The background is blurred, showing other people in white.

Ecclesiastes 9:9—God’s will for our marriages.

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Observations of Ecclesiastes 9:9:

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

- God wants us to live joyfully with our wife—and to love her.
- God wants wives to live joyfully with their husbands.

Observations of Ecclesiastes 9:9:

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

- God gave us a spouse as a portion—a gift of grace.
- Grace is something that we do not deserve.
- In the trials & triumphs of life we should live joyfully with our wife—whom God has given us.

Observations of Ecclesiastes 9:9:

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

- Life is brief. That is what it means when it says “all the days of thy vanity.” It means that in the scheme of things life is short.
- Since life is short—live joyfully with the wife whom you love—because she is a gift from God in the midst of a lifetime of toil.

Problem: Sometimes there is trouble in Paradise. Sometimes, couples lose that loving feeling & they don't know how to rekindle it. So how do we rekindle our love for one another?

Solution: The same God who gave you your spouse as a gift of grace also graciously gave us the Bible. And if we reorder our life by the Bible—we can rekindle our relationship with our mate.



I. Rekindle your relationship with your mate by focusing on the good things about them. **Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brothers, whatever **is** true, whatever **is** honorable, whatever **is** just, whatever **is** pure, whatever **is** lovely, whatever **is** commendable, if there **is** any excellence, if there **is** anything worthy of praise, **think** about these things.

A. When we focus on the things about our mate that irritate & infuriate, we can forget why we fell in love with them.

B. When we focus on the good & lovely things about our mate, we will be able to speak & act more lovingly. We will also be choosing to fall in love again!

II. Rekindle your relationship with your mate by speaking good things to & about them instead of bad things. **Ephesians 4:29**

Let no corrupting talk **come** out of your mouths, but only such as **is** good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may **give** **grace** to those who **hear**.

- A. When we speak loving words that build up our spouse rather than tear them down it rekindles our relationship.
- B. Love is a choice. A decision. Falling in love again is a choice, not a feeling. You can choose to rekindle your relationship.

III. Rekindle your relationship with your mate by deciding to have a good attitude towards them. **Colossians 3:12-13.**

¹² **Put on** then, as **God's chosen** ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ **bearing** with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving** each other; **as** the **Lord has forgiven** you, so you also must **forgive**

- A. When we are not compassionate, kind, humble or meek towards our mate—they will learn to be defensive.
- B. When our mate is defensive, communication is difficult.

III. Rekindle your relationship with your mate by recruiting re-enforcements. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

- A. Recruit re-enforcements by spending time with friends so that your emotional tank can be refilled.
- B. Recruit a friend to pray for & with you (Recruit God's help).
- C. Recruit a counselor to help.