

# POWER<sup>for</sup> LIVING

A quarterly publication of Empowered Living Ministries

April - June 2009

Dear friends,

**"Irresistibly in love"**...it's what every woman longs for, every man desires, and every couple dreams of. It conjures up feelings of security, companionship, intimacy, and oneness. You see it in the eyes of the leading man and the leading woman in old movies—the fantasy that two can be one—irresistibly one!

In reality, it's not fantasy. It's God's design. And when God's blueprint is understood and implemented, it does become reality. The article featured in this issue is an excerpt from the first chapter of **Jim's latest book, *Irresistible***. As you read it, enter into the hope that God is offering for your marriage and your life. (If you've already read your copy of the book, please pass this issue on to whomever God guides you to!)



**Chapter titles** include: Irresistibly in Love; Fountain of Irresistibility; Becoming Irresistible; Focused on Her; Focused on Him; Extravagant Love; The Love Killers; Stalled; Incompatible to Irresistible; Pass It On; and a bonus chapter, Guidelines for Young Lovers. Hardbound, 158 pages, \$17.

We're excited to announce—if you haven't already noticed—that our **audio seminars are now available for downloading from the internet in**

**MP3 format.** Check them out for yourself and let your international friends know.

**Camp meeting** season is just around the corner and we hope to see you there! Take a look at the camp meeting map on the back of this newsletter, choose your favorite location, and plan now to attend!

We are keenly aware that everyone has been affected to some degree by the changing economy and each of you are in our prayers. We **thank you** all who keep supporting us with your gifts and your prayers. They make a profound difference in the lives of thousands around the world.

Still in love,

*Jim & Sally*

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

**April 23 - 26**

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Leoni Meadows Camp  
Grizzly Flats, California  
Call (706) 398-7218

**May 8 - 10**

Village SDA Church  
Berrien Springs, Michigan  
Call (269)-471-7795

**June 11 - 14**

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Hood River Fairgrounds  
Odell, Oregon  
Call (541) 399-3020

**July 22 - 25**

Open House  
Polebridge, Montana  
Call (406) 387-4333

**September 3 - 6**

Empowered Living Camp Meeting  
Cohutta Springs Conference Center  
Cohutta, Georgia  
Call (706) 398-7218

**September 24 - 27**

Hickory SDA Church  
Hickory, North Carolina  
(828) 244-4010



*It's About Walking With God!*

# Irresistibly in Love

*“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

You could feel the electricity as they walked hand in hand through our back door. Their “tingles” were almost contagious. The chemistry was working!

Their wedding day was less than three months away and they had asked for marriage counseling. I privately wondered if they would have the presence of mind to engage in conversation beyond mere platitudes. I was pleasantly surprised.

J.D. began. “Mr. Hohnberger, will the ‘tingles’ go away? I mean, Alecia and I are so in love...does that have to stop? Everyone says it will. And that does seem to be true for most people.”

I was astonished at their perception of the state of marriages. Unfortunately, they were right on! Statistics reveal a 50% divorce rate for married couples—both in and out of the church. Of those who stay married, 70% say that they would not marry the same partner again. What J.D. and Alecia observed agrees with the statistics; and yet it ought not to be this way—not in the church of Christ!

“Yes, J.D. and Alecia, the ‘tingles’ you are experiencing will likely mellow in time, but that doesn’t have to be the end of love. It can be just the beginning of a deeper intentional love—a love that, if nurtured, will grow brighter and deeper than what you are now experiencing.”

We discussed at length the highs and lows of committed love and the work involved in building a deeply connected relationship.

Alecia looked troubled. “Well then, Mr. Hohnberger, does every marriage have to come to a near ending point before things get worked out?”

“Absolutely NOT! If both of you will apply *the irresistible program*, your wedding day can be but the beginning of irresistible love—not the end. You will undoubtedly go through some low spots in your relationship, but if you will

both always come back to applying these principles, you will weather the storms and develop a deep connected love that is even more satisfying than what you feel right now!”

I wish you could have seen how their questioning expressions became radiant. Of course, they wanted to know more about *the irresistible program*. I shared it with J.D. and Alecia and I’ll tell you a little about it shortly—but first I want to introduce you to two other couples.

## *Incompatible*

I’ve never seen a couple more incompatible than Stan and Susan. They fought daily—continuously—like two bulldogs!

One day I received a phone call from Stan. “Jim, I need your help,” he begged. “Susan has left me and taken the two children with her. Her attorney says that I have two options. Talk with you or divorce. Can you help?”

“Well, Stan—I can offer some help if the two of you will agree to apply *the irresistible program* for ninety days.”

“Anything, Jim. I’ll do anything.” He began to sob. “I just can’t bear the thought of losing my family! Tell me, what are these two things that will save my marriage?”

“I want to talk with the two of you together. Can you conference-call me with Susan?”

They both called—and what a call that was! I shared with them the basic *irresistible program* and after working through many tears and a lot of reluctance, they both agreed to try it—for ninety days.

They honestly tried. Oh, they had a lot of stumbles. Old ways conflicted with new principles. Frustrations mingled with victories. But they didn’t give up.

After the ninety days, I asked them to give their testimony at one of our camp meetings. When they were finished, I asked, “Stan, on a scale of one to ten with ten being the highest, what is your marriage like now?”

“Jim, it’s a 12! I can hardly believe it!” He beamed from ear to ear.

I turned to Susan. “Jim, it’s better than our honeymoon. I never believed it could work out so well, in so



short a time!”

In those ninety days, Stan and Susan discovered what every couple can discover. God’s solutions work! They are both simple to understand and far-reaching in application. They not only solve marital problems—they also restore irresistible love!

### *Estranged*

It worked for Bill and Barbara, too. I met them while Sally and I were giving a weekend seminar at their church.

Bill approached me between meetings and shared his heartache. “Jim, what can I do? Barbara has absolutely no interest in reconciliation. In fact, she has stopped attending church and is seeing another man. It seems like there is no hope!”

My heart went out to Bill. “It does appear that the odds are against you,” I began. “I can’t guarantee anything, but if you will implement *the irresistible program*, it is possible that you can win back your wife’s heart.”

“Jim, I’ve got nothing to lose and a whole lot to gain. I’ll do it!”

Bill diligently applied the program. Like Stan and Susan, he stumbled and had to get back up again. He rode the roller coaster of emotional ups and downs. But his efforts seemed to make no difference. Barbara remained enamored with the other man. Thirty days went by, sixty days and the ninety-day mark passed.

Another ninety days went by and Barbara’s relationship with the other man turned sour. She became a little more open to Bill. Gradually, her hope was rekindled. She began to find Bill’s new ways irresistible. The barriers started coming down and in time they both found themselves once again “in love”.

### *Irresistible Again*

These marriages became irresistible again because God’s principles work! *The irresistible program* implemented can take a marriage that is on the rocks and put it in the clouds. They will breathe fresh life into a stale marriage and bring new zest into a great marriage.

When we learn to listen to God and make Him our manager, prioritize each other over the world, and deal

with the love killers, marriage becomes a little taste of heaven on earth.

Think that’s too simplistic? Somehow everyone thinks they are a unique case. And yet God designed marriage to work within a certain framework. When we take marriage out of that framework, there are a thousand and one ways to describe how it doesn’t work, but the core problem still remains the same—we have departed from the blueprint. The solution, then, is to get back to the original blueprint.

When we do—it works!

### *It Works!*

Recently, I spoke at J.D. and Alecia’s church and had the opportunity to visit again with them just before their first anniversary. Had *the irresistible program* worked for them or had their good intentions slipped by the wayside?

As we met in the foyer, J.D. pulled out a framed print and held it towards me. I stepped closer to have a look. They had both written down the principles of the irresistible program and decorated them with hearts. I studied it for a moment and then turned to them. “So do you two follow these principles?”

“We do—consistently!” they both assured me.

I quizzed them carefully, looking for holes in their love relationship, but I could find none. I asked their parents, and they agreed that J.D. and Alecia have stayed irresistibly in love. Why? Because they are following God’s blueprint.

Will it work for you? It will work for you to the extent that you and your spouse work it. If you’re just starting out like J.D. and Alecia, it will keep you from sliding into marital mediocrity. If you’re incompatible like Stan and Susan, it will build a bridge between you. If you are estranged from your partner and he or she has no interest in changing, you might experience what Bill and Barbara did.

What are you waiting for? Go ahead! Dare to be irresistible again! *elm*



*This article is excerpted from the first chapter of Jim’s latest book, Irresistible.*



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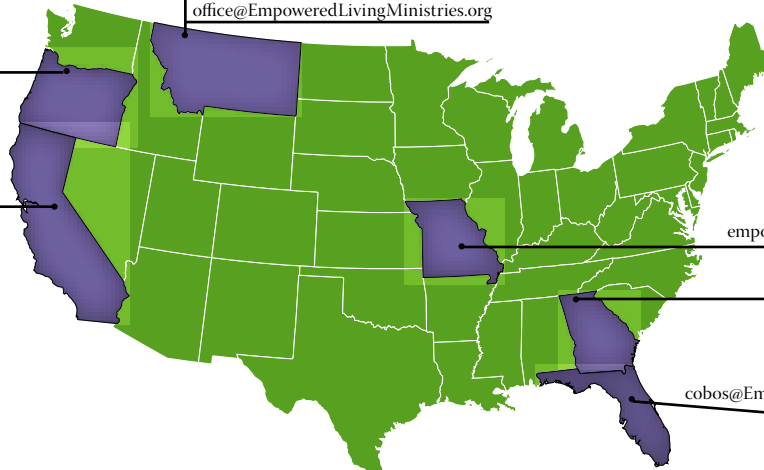
*It's About Walking With God!*

## 2009 Empowered Living Camp Meetings

June 11-14, 2009  
Hood River, OR  
(541) 399-3020  
[godsplan@gorge.net](mailto:godsplan@gorge.net)

April 23-26, 2009  
Grizzly Flats, CA  
(706) 398-7218  
[cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

Open House  
July 22-25, 2009  
Polebridge, MT  
(406) 387-4333  
[office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:office@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)



October 15-18, 2009  
Roach, MO  
(417) 661-6161  
[empoweredfamilies@sbcglobal.net](mailto:empoweredfamilies@sbcglobal.net)

September 3-6, 2009  
Cohutta Springs, GA  
(706) 398-7218  
[cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:cobos@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

December 3-6, 2009  
High Springs, FL  
(706) 375-1707  
[nancy@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org](mailto:nancy@EmpoweredLivingMinistries.org)

"Power for Living" is available free of charge and is sent out quarterly by mail.

If you or someone you know are not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, please feel free to contact us.

For information on any of the materials or events mentioned in the publication you can reach us at:

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