

# Love Stories—Intro

## What Shapes Love

Love isn't just about finding the right person—it's about becoming the right person.

### The Heart Sets the Direction

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."*

*Proverbs 4:23 NIV*

Everything flows from it—your decisions, relationships, and patterns. If the heart is off, everything built from it will be off.

### Everybody Wants Love That Lasts

*"Love is patient, love is kind... it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

*1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NIV*

That's the goal—steady, consistent, reliable love. But that kind of love doesn't just happen; it's built.

### Love Is Not Found—It Is Formed

You don't just find love; you are formed for it. If you're not built for it, you won't be able to sustain it.

### We Don't Fall Into Broken Love—We Drift Into It

Nobody plans dysfunction. It happens through what you ignore, tolerate, and refuse to confront.

### What You Tolerate Today Will Cost You Tomorrow

*"...No one else so completely sold himself..." 1 Kings 21:25 NLT*

*"So Ahab went home angry and sullen..." 1 Kings 21:4 NLT*

*"...He was with her... and he ate it." Genesis 3:6 NIV*

- Passive now → passive later
- Controlling now → manipulation later
- Silent now → disengaged later

### Your Words Are Building Something

*"The tongue has the power of life and death..."*

*Proverbs 18:21 NIV*

Your words are not neutral—they are forming direction.

### Love Is Not Just Connection—It's Construction

*Acts 18:1–3 NIV • Romans 16:3–5 NLT • Psalm 34:3 NLT*

If you only exist together, you will disconnect. If you build together, you stay connected.

## **Love Requires Trust in the Process**

*Genesis 12:1–2 NIV • Romans 4:18 NLT • Genesis 18:14 NIV*  
Love learns to trust, wait, and move forward—even when it’s unclear.

## **Clarity Over Confusion**

“God is not a God of confusion but of peace...”  
*1 Corinthians 14:33 NIV*  
Confusion is not your home.

## **Patterns Reveal Character**

*Genesis 24:15,18 NIV*  
Character is revealed in patterns, not just words.

## **Love Doesn’t Fix Everything**

“Hannah... weeping bitterly...”  
*1 Samuel 1:10 NIV*  
You can be loved and still hurting.

## **You Don’t Just Need Change—You Need God**

“Hannah prayed...” *1 Samuel 1:10 NIV*  
You don’t just need change—you need God in the middle of it.

## **Before God Builds a Relationship—He Builds a Person**

*Hosea 3:1 NIV • Romans 5:8 NIV*  
This is about your heart, your patterns, your foundation.

## **If the Foundation Is Right—The Love Can Last**

If the foundation is right, the love can last.

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## **TALK IT OVER**

What is shaping your heart right now?  
Where are you drifting instead of confronting?  
What are you tolerating that will cost you later?  
Are your words building life or damage?  
What is God trying to build in you first?