



When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

When the weather starts to change and fall is in the air, the song 'Count Your Blessings' often begins to swirl in my head. Thanksgiving season brings feelings of gratitude. As we slog through the end of 2020 though, this gratitude seems to be more of a conscious choice I'm having to make. I CHOOSE to count my blessings in the midst of discouragement, and yes, I have found some.

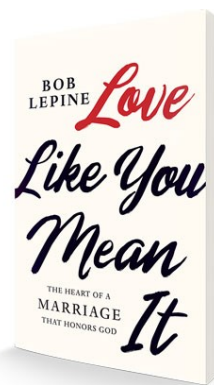
One of our COVID blessings has been extra time in our home to get projects done before trying to sell in the spring. We have put in a good bit of 'sweat equity' that we are praying will pay off, since housing prices in the Orlando area are a good bit higher than in Little Rock.

Another blessing has been extra time with our young adult children. We are rapidly approaching our empty nest stage, with Charissa paving the way by settling in MO. So having both other girls home so much over the last few months has been sweet. It has also led Brenna to start classes for an online degree program that she is enjoying and will allow her to move with us to Florida.

Though Eric working full time from our living room has had its struggles, it has also brought in the unexpected blessing of allowing us to communicate more about ministry. I have attended more meetings and probably been more in-touch with FamilyLife happenings than any other time. This is great preparation for my increased involvement once I am done homeschooling and we are near Cru headquarters.

So hum along and join me as we CHOOSE gratitude and count our blessings this Thanksgiving!

Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.



Love Like You Mean It: The Heart of a Marriage that Honors God

Love Like You Mean It gives husbands and wives a biblical understanding of what real love looks like in marriage by unpacking the ten attributes of genuine love listed in 1 Corinthians 13. **Bob Lepine**, marriage and family expert and host of the nationally syndicated radio program FamilyLife Today, helps husbands and wives discover that it's not primarily emotions that define marital love, but actions and decisions that fuel emotions and cause marital love to grow.

Every person who is married, would like to be married one day, or wants to understand more about the biblical vision of marriage will find what they're looking for as they dive deep into **Love Like You Mean It**. Order your copy at [here](https://shop.familylife.com), at shop.familylife.com.



Here are a few unexpected COVID impacts & blessings that we have found to count at FamilyLife.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

FamilyLife & the Post-COVID World:

- Video views on social media **500%**
- Activity on all social media channels **92%**
- "When does God allow divorce" article traffic **133%**

In Him,

Multitudes Seek Hope & Love

"I am in **DIRE FINANCIAL NEED** because of this pandemic. Kindly pray for me please. I know God never fails and He will provide all my needs. I am hoping for strength and peace at this time."
— Taylor

"This season of **COVID** has left my **HOME CHURCH IN DISARRAY** and it saddens me greatly."
— Joy

"[Google] searches for 'prayer' are skyrocketing during the coronavirus pandemic."
— WASHINGTON EXAMINER, 3/30/2020

"Multitudes Seeking Help and Hope" quotes come from emails to FamilyLife, Summer 2020

- FamilyLife Podcast network traffic **35%**
- Members in Vertical Marriage virtual small group (FACEBOOK) **6.7k** *Only 500 expected!*
- LOCAL VOLUNTEERS **750** Trained to start small groups & share their marriage story

Tear & Prayer

Pray for the **Riedy Family**
Serving in Arkansas with **FAMILYLIFE**
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

Amanda, Brenna, Charissa, Deb, Eric

22 Eagle Nest Court, Little Rock, AR 72210 Deb-(734) 658-3516 Eric-(734) 377-3379
abcdefamily@comcast.net http://abcdefamily.net Cru account # 0592655

Pray for leadership decisions for both Cru & FamilyLife as we navigate many different regulations in different states where we are ministering

Pray for couples who had planned on attending the 2021 Love Like You Mean It marriage cruise as we are having to shift to 2022-pray we can be creative in ways to support & grow these couples this year as they wait for the rescheduled event

Praise for Eric completing another 50 mile bike ride—he had a goal of doing another before he turned 55 but the one he planned to sign up for was canceled due to COVID-he did it on his own!!

Praise for more 'virtual ministry' from FamilyLife to keep reaching out without live events possible