

POWER COUPLINGS ON THE THRESHOLD

“Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.”

Deuteronomy 22:10

¹⁵ From there he marched against the people living in Debir (formerly called Kiriath Sepher). ¹⁶ And Caleb said, “I will give my daughter Aksah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher.” ¹⁷ Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb’s brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Aksah to him in marriage. ¹⁸ One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, “What can I do for you?” ¹⁹ She replied, “Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water.” So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

Joshua 15:15-19

¹² And Caleb said, “I will give my daughter Aksah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher.” ¹³ Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Aksah to him in marriage. ¹⁴ One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, “What can I do for you?” ¹⁵ She replied, “Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water.” So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

Judges 1:12-15

- I. It's a season of divine coupling and divine uncoupling on the threshold.
 - A. God is multiplying and dividing. He is adding and subtracting. He is marrying and divorcing.
 - B. God is yoking and unyoking.
 - C. God is opening doors no one can close. God is closing doors no one can open.
 - D. We have gone as far as we can by ourselves. (One handed)
 - E. We will move forward only with our God-given yokefellows.
- II. Othniel and Acsah - an age of kingdom power couplings
 - A. Othniel was a lion. It is a time for lions and lionesses
 - B. Othniel was a man of few words and great power.
 - C. Othniel and Acsah were two third-generation minority remnants. (Thermostats, not thermometers)
 - D. Othniel was yoked to Acsah only after dismantling Kiriath Sepher.
 - E. Othniel had the Spirit of God upon him as no other.
 - F. Othniel had no moral deficiencies.
 - G. Othniel was a template which none after him would match.
 - H. Othniel allowed God front and center.
- III. Five facts about power coupled yokefellows.
 - A. You are your best--self-confident, safe, and secure--in a power coupling.

- B. You focus on the things you love about your partner in a power coupling.
- C. You prioritize your partner, being present and giving each other undivided attention in a power coupling.
- D. You speak your partner's love language in a power coupling (Physical touch, acts of service, gifts, words of affirmation, quality time.)
- E. You have your partner's back and can discuss anything in a power coupling.

IV. Power couples are pioneering couples

- A. Pioneers are never comfortable on a beaten path.
- B. Pioneers establish what will be normal in the future.
- C. Pioneers must not be afraid of being utterly different.
- D. Pioneers must get used to being misjudged and mislabeled.
- E. Pioneers must be able to withstand and survive extreme pressure.
- F. Pioneers expect jealousy; they are not shocked by it.
- G. Pioneers are awkward risk takers.
- H. Pioneers stand "in the gap" between different time periods that will produce two distinctive generations.

V. Priscilla / Priscilla and Aquila / New Testament power couple

- A. In Romans 16:3-4 Paul names them both, "my co-workers in Christ Jesus", and acknowledges that, "they risked their lives for me."
- B. In Acts 18:18 we find them traveling and working with Paul as missionaries.

- C. In I Corinthians 16:19 they plant a church together in their own home.
 - D. In Acts 18:26 they mentor the great evangelist, Apollos, together. They were able to act as a team, because they saw themselves as a team.
 - E. Satan sows division, confusion, disappointment, and conflict to divide power couplings. Stay back to back, with your swords out at the enemy.
- VI. A proper Devil picture / In the book of Judges covering a 400-year period.
- A. God sent “trouble” to the third generation. (Because of their unequally yoked behavior.) Before you assault the enemy, find out where God’s hand may be behind the situation, and repent.
 - B. God then sent “leadership.”
 - C. God then sent His “Spirit.”
 - D. God then sent “rest.”