Written by Marcia Humphrey • Style on a Dime
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On special occasions my husband, Lonnie, and I usually don't exchange big gifts. What we really enjoy is giving and receiving greeting cards from one another. Whether the occasion is a birthday, an anniversary or Valentine's Day, we take pleasure in searching for just the right card that conveys our genuine sentiments. Our simple, yet impactful tradition began many years ago. I remember receiving a special card from him. Moved by the message, I turned to him and asked, "Do you really feel this way about me?" He assured me that he did and then he explained that it took him a long time to pick out the card, because he had to find one that said exactly what he was feeling (I love that man, y'all!).
It's amazing how much power simple words of truth possess; they inspire passion, provide comfort, encouragement, healing, restoration, security, and devotion. As Valentine's Day approaches consider how you can provide a meaningful gift to the love of your life that doesn't break the bank. Start with some simple words; an original hand-written poem, letter, or one of Hallmark's finest (just make sure it's from the heart). Next, consider a few simple deeds-thoughtful gestures that help to make your love and commitment even more rock solid. Finally, don't forget simple romance-tender expressions that keep your marriage exciting and zestful. Caution: What you are about to read may contain material that causes increased communication, intimacy, and satisfaction within your marriage!

Simple Words:
"I love you" – "I'm Sorry" – "You're Right, Honey" – "I see your point" – "I need you"
Communicating to your love in an honest way promotes humility and trust and both parties will benefit. Don't be afraid of being vulnerable or of being wrong.

Simple Deeds:
Place his favorite drink in his car before he leaves for work - Leave her a sweet note on the bathroom mirror - Plan a coupon-inspired date night - Relive a moment: Go to the place you first met (or one of special significance) and reminisce.

Simple Romance:
Cuddle on the sofa together- Start off with a back rub, warm oil and all, and see what happens from there… - Answer a series of open-ended questions like "I get most excited when you…"
If you are making your spouse earn intimate and romantic encounters with you, reconsider that strategy. In reality, you are a gift to your spouse and he is a gift to you; unwrap this gift and explore in new and adventurous way. Surely if you can go out of your way to do things that make your children and your girlfriends happy, then your spouse should enjoy that benefit as well. Physical intimacy is also medically proven to address a host of other issues; it reduces insomnia and anxiety, boosts immune system, burns calories, reduces pain, etc. In short, it's good for you and highly recommended…often!

Is it possible that simple, yet sincere words and deeds mixed with a little (or a lot of) romance could make Valentine's Day 2010 one to remember? Absolutely! Actively protect your marriage and value the gift of intimacy during this season and at all times. I am working on my V-Day plan right now and I hope that you have been inspired too. If not, I'll be praying that the love-bug bites you tonight! Enjoy!
Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.