**MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH: WHAT MEN WANT**

**FOR**

**LARRY GOLDSMITH**

Hello everyone! Wow... this looks like a good crowd... so far... and although I know it's early in the conference, it also looks like you all **KNOW** what men want!!! Especially me!! I wanted a great crowd and here you are!! I'm thrilled to have your presence..... to listen and engage in a thought provoking, interesting, productive conversation about the mystique and secret language of everyone's favorite subject.... But before I begin, I would like to acknowledge two people that were gracious enough to invite me here today to speak... and in keeping with an atmosphere of respect for both genders, one is a woman and one person is a man.... even playing field! To Geri Mason, our host, thank you so much for doing a great job of coordinating, introducing, and guiding all of us during this conference (**If this is not an accurate acknowledgement, please adjust**). And to you, Adam Thompson, thanks so much for sponsoring this event and for your vision and curiosity for my "powers of observation and communication." As with all relationships, friendships, and connections, the ones that are based on mutual respect, interesting dialogue, and encouragement are the ones that succeed....You have demonstrated the ability to bring people together by supporting this forum that has been created.

Today we're going to discuss everyone's favorite.... or at least **MY** favorite topic... a subject for the ages.... a debate that's as old as time, and one that interests me to no end... "**What Do Men Want?**" I've been asking this of myself a lot lately. Of course this topic remains eternally mysterious... the foundation of our lives is built around relationships and although I'm technically not an expert, and relationships can be hard when people don't understand what one another wants and desires... what makes them tick... and conversely what makes them get "**ticked off**..." (**Wait for the laugh**) .... What I **DO** know is that the **ONLY** way to discover what men want is to have a conversation... to communicate... to listen... to learn... to come together and to express our thoughts and share ideas... and on **THAT**... I'm your man!!! We've won half the battle of the sexes!!

So much has been written, spoken, debated, joked about, argued about, cried over... and we're **STILL** not done with the topic!! Some have said that, "Women don't want to hear what men think... they want to hear what **THEY** think... only in a deeper voice...". Well, it is my intention to speak with you and not talk at you, and we will all listen and learn... To paraphrase Jerry Seinfeld, "To men, 'romance' is like an emergency... we can be ready for anything in two minutes. Women, on the other hand, are like the fire... they're hot, they require immediate attention, and although they're exciting.... **DANGER**!!!" (**Wait for the laugh**). Over generations and decades, the topic has been analyzed, discussed, debated.... there were times when a good public relations firm assured us they knew the answer.... you may be too young to remember the best selling book, "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus?" Well that book came out twenty-five years ago... it sold over 50 MILLION copies... Guess what? We **STILL** haven't figured out that one fool proof way to completely understand what our partner wants!! Then there was the craze of "The Rules." Remember **THAT ONE???** Probably not, but let me tell you.... well... those suggestions didn't work too great either.. here we are, over twenty years later.... we've evolved some more... we've gone through other fads and trends trying to learn the rhythms and inner workings of the opposite sex... and we've surrendered to technology... to some extent. We've opened ourselves up to more easily attainable information and advice... and now we're going to see how you and I, as a motivated, intelligent, aware, and respectful group, can discover our own answers, because after all, at this point, we've all had a lot of practice in trying to figure this out.

What do men want in a relationship? Well, when examined that from my point of view, I would say that what I want is no different than what you want.... we just have different filters so we process and hear things differently. In relationships, we want love and respect. We want honest communication. We want someone who is self-sufficient, responsible, confident, respectful, and of course, easy on the eyes.... whatever that might mean to each one of us... there are so many factors, but let's start the conversation with a few of these points. Then we will lay the groundwork for an open discussion on how to keep the lines of relationship understanding and communication open and receptive.

To me the first and most important thing a man wants in a relationship is sincerity. We want honest communication. We may not want **A LOT** of talk, but the talk we want is quality conversation. It is within an open and honest communication that we learn respect and empathy. When you have any kind of interaction with your beau... or your boo.. or a hot prospect... or even a good friend... with **potential**...remember to practice empathy. That means...put yourself in his place.... what would you want to hear if you were on the other side of the conversation? How would you want to be spoken to? I want to be very careful to avoid any "hot button" phrases, but ladies... you know you want honesty, respect, and consideration. Open communication is like a newly paved highway with no traffic... it's smooth... it's easy... and it gets you where you want to go! (**Wait for the laugh**)... Now you **KNOW** it takes time to build a highway or any infrastructure... and it takes teamwork, patience, and commitment to achieve a mutual goal. And it takes time to learn how to **LISTEN** and to **RESPOND**... No two people think the same... feel the same... or hear the same. Pay attention.... learn the best way to hear what your man is trying to say... and if you don't understand something... don't **assume**.... you know what that makes (**You don't have to say it but I always learned that to assume " makes an ass out of you and me." If you think it's appropriate, say it and wait for the laugh**). Learn to get your point across so that it is understood and gotten... so that you can in turn be understood as well. Be encouraging and understanding. Give your guy space to think and to feel. Don't smother him.... and **don't** **be needy.** if your relationship is real, it will work... the **two of you will work together**. True relationships are not forced. Men want a partner that understands, listens at the right time, holds up a mirror for reflection when necessary, and encourages with positivity.

(**You can take a few minutes of questions and comments here if you would like... I think that since we just discussed communication, it would be a good idea**). Okay. So who would like to practice? We just spoke of communication with respect and empathy. Does anyone have anything they want to ask or say at this point? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Another characteristic that I, and other men want in a woman is someone who is self- sufficient, secure, and confident. Now you know this is just common sense... Being around a woman that doesn't need me keeps me **interested**. Men, as a group, usually want to feel like they are the protectors... like they're the boss... like they **rule**... but a woman that can take care of herself? **WOW**!! And if that woman that can watch out for herself.. and if she is secure, confident, knows her way around, and still wants me.... well then I **MUST** be **SPECIAL**! A confident woman has a choice. She knows what she likes. She's studied and paid attention in school and to the world around her. She's educated and aware... at whatever level of schooling she has had, she knows how to present herself in public ...and she knows how to conduct herself.... with self-respect, and self possession, in private... **THAT'S** someone to hold on to!! I know that we men want to be chosen... and we want to be with a woman that brings the whole package to the relationship. Men want a whole partner, and that partner is someone who is willing to learn and not manipulate. Someone who knows how to think and doesn't twist a situation. Contrary to what some people might think, I really don't believe that men like to play games.... most of the time.

Men may not like to play games but I know I speak for my male brothers when I say that usually we like to live in reality... but we want a woman to be willing to share adventures in life.... and we want her to care how she looks when we're together... and that doesn't mean being all done up like a peacock at all times... that means paying attention to the details... being clean and groomed and being proud of your appearance and who you are.... after all, the goal is to be smart, sensitive, informed, confident women... **of course** we would want you to be attractive! Nothing can top the attractiveness of a real inner glow. A wise man once said, "A man's face is his autobiography. A woman's face is her work of fiction." Ladies.... we want you to be good to look at but we want to see **YOU**. Just as the eyes are the windows the the soul, the face is the gateway.... your face and appearance should invite us to explore just who **YOU** are. And I know each one of you knows what I mean.

I also know I want a woman who is honest, loyal, and true. I want a woman that understands the importance of commitment... at any level in a relationship... and whether it's being on time for a date or maintaining a mutual respect.... even in an argument, commitment to a relationship is shown in a hundred different ways... and I have found that it is the willingness and ability to keep the smaller commitments that teaches us how to be there for the big ones. It all goes back to mutual respect and empathy... how do **YOU** want to be treated? Well, that's the way you learn to treat others. Also realize that when you have someone special in your life and you have a mutual "understanding...." whatever it may be, stay true. Teach your eyes to focus on your prize... because I know I want to focus on mine. Are there any questions or comments at this point before we continue?

There's an expression that teaches us, "The truest things are said in jest." And lots of famous people have said lots of funny things about relationships and what men want... and since the following were said by men, I think we should see if there's any truth in these lines, especially based on what we just discussed. Chris Rock once said, "There are only three things a woman needs in life: food, water, and compliments." (**Wait for the laugh**)..... yes ladies.... we all know how you **LOVE** to be complimented!! Part of what a man wants is to be able to offer compliments without having to be asked a hundred times... "Do you like my hair? What about my nails? How does this dress look? What do you think about my shoes?" Compliments should be given freely and voluntarily.... remember we discussed that men want a woman that is self-confident. You already know how that dress looks on you.... the question is... "Do you like it on yourself??" Consider learning to look inside yourselves for your compliments so that your man can express himself when he really means it. Bill Maher once said, "Women cannot complain about men anymore until they start getting better taste in them...". Ladies.... pay attention to this one! You are diamonds! You're treasures!! We, as men don't want you to settle! When you know your self-worth you'll find the right man to complain about!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And then a very funny lady named Erma Bombeck said, "Marriage (and relationships) have no guarantees. If that's what you're looking for, go live with a car battery." (**Wait for the laugh**). Pay attention to this one... I know to some of you, you live in the hope that some wonderful prince is going to come and whisk you away and he will love you unconditionally and compliment you every fifteen minutes, and love you even when you "cry ugly" (**Wait for the laugh**) and be there no matter what, no matter when..... but ladies!!! That's a lot of pressure to put on someone! So many of us grow up with **expectations**. We expect we will be taken care of by our families. We expect we will have a job. We expect to have whatever we desire. We live our lives expecting those expectations to come true, and instead of being rewarded, the prize is disappointment... as we grow up and mature and find our way in the world, we must learn to let go of those expectations. We need to realize that relationships take work... but they are worth it. Men have to let go of finding an impossible goddess/girlfriend and women need to let go of expecting they will only be saved by a certain type of rescuer that fits their very precise pictures and cares only for them. Life is not a Ryan Gosling (**or name a more appropriate movie star**) movie!!! Once we all accept that human beings.... both men and women... both you and I... are real, unique, complicated, and special.... each in our own right, then we can keep our eyes, ears, hearts and minds open to what we really want in a partner.

Today I have given you an idea, from a man's perspective, what men want. Even though this is nearing the end of our session, this is the **beginning** of a new conversation that involves knowing yourself and being observant... in all aspects of the word. As people of faith you know how to trust in God to give you the strength to live your life with love and respect, and it is that same gift of observation that will guide you to find, honor and respect the partner you choose. Remember to trust your faith, believe in your abilities, and approach people with an open mind. Do away with expectations and truly **be with** the person standing in front of you. Observe his body language, his words, his other silent communication, and you will know what he wants. And if you're confused, ask questions.... but think before you speak. Allow the person you are with to breathe and to think as well... true companionship develops not only through attraction, but with trust, admiration, and patience.... and that's how love is nurtured.

I want to thank all of you for the time we have spent together today and I appreciate your curiosity and interest.... I just have one more thing to ask to further communication... any more questions? Let's talk!!! Thank you all!!! (**encourage more exchange from the audience**).