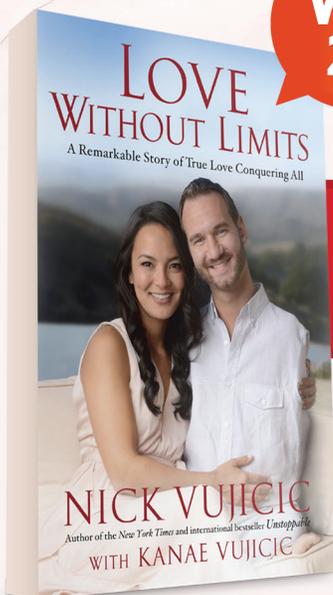


♥ LOVE ♥ WITHOUT LIMITS

A Remarkable Story of True Love Conquering All



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Welcome to Love Without Limits, a book that I hope will inspire and benefit you and many others looking for guidance on finding love and sustaining loving relationships.

This book's title springs from a couple of sources, one of which is Life Without Limbs, the non profit organization that supports my evangelical work around the world. The name relates to the fact that while I was born without arms or legs, my God-given purpose to inspire others has resulted not in being disabled but rather in my becoming highly enabled to live a full life without limbs.

My first book spun the life without limbs phrase and took it a step further. We called that book Life Without Limits, because in it I shared my experiences and thoughts on building a ridiculously good life no matter what challenges you face, whether they are physical, mental, or emotional.

That brings us to the origins of this book's title, Love Without Limits. I've often written and spoken about the insecurities that dogged me as a child and young man. Because of my lack of limbs, I feared no woman would ever love me or want to marry me. I had many doubts about my fitness as both a husband and father. Frankly, there were people close to me who had their own concerns in that regard. Some thought I would never marry or be able to support a family of my own.

For a long time, it seemed they might be right. I had the usual grade school crushes, but no long-term relationships in my teenage years. Only in my twenties did I begin to feel more confident. By the time I was twenty-seven years old, I'd had some relationships that started out strong but ended sadly. One of them, in particular, was quite serious. When this girl broke it off because she would not move forward without her parents' blessing, I was devastated. At that point, it seemed there were very real limits to the amount of love in this world, at least for me in my quest for a wife. Even though my family and closest friends were there for me, I'd become all but convinced that no woman would want to marry such an obviously imperfect man as me.

As you will learn in the pages that follow, I was flat wrong about that. So wrong, in fact, that I'm a little embarrassed to remember how despondent and self-critical I'd become after losing at love... ▣

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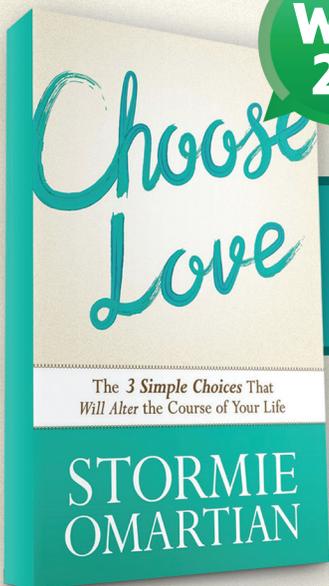
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BOOK EXTRACT

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The 3 Simple Choices That Will Alter the Course of Your Life

Our first choice is to not only understand God's love for us, but to actually open up and receive it. Yes, receiving God's love is a choice. We can read about it, talk about it, and think about it, but it's not the same as choosing to receive it. Choosing to receive God's love means getting close to Him, spending time in His presence, opening your heart to Him, seeking to know Him, understanding who He is, and desiring to become more like Him. Choosing to receive God's love changes your life.

Our second choice is to deliberately choose to express our love for God in response to His love for us. We must understand how to communicate our love for Him beyond just "feeling" it. We can't do nothing in response. And we really can't love others in a powerful way without first learning to show our love for God. That's because it's the actual process of showing our love for God that becomes the very means by which He fills us with more of His love. The truth is, God imparts His love to us when we demonstrate our love for Him. ▣

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The GRAVE ROBBER

MIRACULOUS

On a January morning in 2007, a world-class violinist played six of Johann Sebastian Bach's most stirring concertos for the solo violin on a three-hundred-year-old Stradivarius worth \$3.5 million. Two nights before, Joshua Bell had performed a sold-out concert here patrons gladly paid \$200 for nose bleed seats, but this time the performance was free. Bell ditched his tux with coat tails, donned a Washington Nationals baseball cap, and played incognito outside the L'Enfant Plaza Metro station. Street musicians are not a nun common sight or sound for Washingtonians. In fact, my son Parker has played his guitar outside Metro stations a time or two, trying to make a little extra spending cash. Amazingly, his tip jar fared about as well as that of virtuoso Joshua Bell. The experiment was originally conceived by Washington Post columnist Gene Weingarten and filmed by hidden camera. Of the 1,097 people who passed by, only seven stopped to listen. The forty-five-minute performance ended without applause or acknowledgment. Joshua Bell netted \$32.17 in tips, which included a \$20 spot from the one person who recognized the Grammy Award-winning musician.

On an average work day nearly a million passengers ride Washington's Metro system, and L'Enfant Plaza is one of the busiest stops. A stampede of tourists and government employees hustle and bustle through turnstiles, trying to get where they're going as quickly as possible. But those circumstances don't discredit or disqualify the question raised by this social experiment: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the greatest musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, on one of the most beautiful instruments ever made, how many similarly sublime moments do we miss out on during a normal day? Remember the old adage? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's true of everything, isn't it? But it's especially true of miracles. Miracles are happening all around us all the time, but you won't see them if you don't know how to look for them. ▣

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