



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT *THE LOVE DARE*

### The Bestselling Book from the Record-Breaking Movie

#### **When you say “The Love Dare,” exactly what are you talking about?**

*The Love Dare* is the name of a book that movie audiences learned about in *Fireproof*, which hit theaters on Sept. 26, 2008. In *Fireproof*, a fireman named Caleb Holt is headed for divorce. His father asks him to delay divorce proceedings to take “the love dare” a 40-day challenge that arrives in Caleb’s mailbox as a handwritten and leather-bound book. Each day’s challenge pulls Caleb deeper toward unconditional, sacrificial love for his wife. In the movie, Caleb hits wall after wall in trying to show love. Finally he breaks and asks God to give him the love he lacks. After that, slowly, his marriage begins to turn a corner.

#### **And couples leave the movie wanting to read the book?**

Exactly. Stephen and Alex Kendrick, who co-wrote *Fireproof*, knew they would also write a full book called *The Love Dare*. But that would come later. For the movie, they came up with “dares” for the first four days and several later days. At one time the only edition was the leather-like edition of the book, timed for late January with release of the DVD. But as you say, people leaving the early screenings *wanted that book*.

#### **So when was *The Love Dare* written?**

While the movie was showing across the US in “influencer” advance screenings, Stephen and Alex Kendrick were chained in a room—almost!—writing the book from courses and classes they’ve taught, sermons, their counseling sessions with church members (both are associate pastors at Sherwood Church) and other sources. Both attended bible college and Stephen is completing a seminary degree.

#### **And a lot of people wanted the keepsake Legacy edition?**

This is a book people keep, buy more to give away, and refer to again. It’s interactive, personal . . . it almost charts the course back to rekindled love and

relationships. Come New Year's and Valentine's Day, we're aware of a strong demand for a beautiful, lasting edition of *The Love Dare*. A lot of people want to give the book with the DVD. And a lot of people who love the paperback also want the Legacy edition.

### **Are all of *The Love Dare* challenges from the bible?**

Some more directly than others, but every challenge echoes a principle or truth also in the bible. Day 3, for example, "Love is not selfish," alludes to verses such as Romans 12:10: Be devoted to one another in brother love; give preference to one another in honor.

### **Is the entire book religious?**

It's definitely biblical. While the narrative to every challenge is practical, straightforward, the reader also encounters biblical concepts. Non-Christians read the book and find ample incentive to take the challenge and stay with it.

### **When did you know it would be a bestseller?**

As soon as the movie opened theatrically, every showing spiked book sales. As sales soared, the Amazon.com ranking rose. Then came the fast climb to number one on the New York Times paperback-advice list, and then Publishers Weekly and USA Today. *The Love Dare* wasn't created or written to sell books but the movie was made to send a message and the book definitely extends that message.

### **What is the message?**

That marriages require unselfish love, that most marriages can be saved, and that God is in the business of restoring individuals and couples.

### **A lot of people are buying this book. Who do you think they are?**

Couples who see the movie and the book for themselves. The church and [www.LoveDarethebook.com](http://www.LoveDarethebook.com) have received an astonishing number of emails from people saying they saw the movie and are working through the book. Lots and lots of those emails are personal accounts of marriages revived, love rekindled.

### **How is the book getting used?**

Individuals and couples are taking the dare—with or without the spouse's participation. Parents are buying in quantity for their kids. Churches are buying boxes to pass out in marriage and family groups, and Sunday school classes; they're holding special courses around the movie to work through the books. Psychotherapists and marriage counselors are using the movie and the book in individual and group sessions. (The movie spurs interest in the book but the book also stands alone.) Rafts of marriage-and-family organizations and para-church ministries are using *The Love Dare* to explain and begin to practice unconditional love—the kind of love God has for us.