



## Secrets to a Successful Marriage

### Introduction

My wife, Silvia, and I were married on May 28, 1977. She was the girl next door. We started dating February 18, 1974. She was 14 and I was 15. She was my first and only love. Today after 39 years of marriage she is still, now more than ever, the love of my life. Our marriage had a very rocky start. After only a few short years we both were filled with resentment and bitterness toward each other. Six years into our marriage I began to seek the Lord and he took me by the hand and walked our marriage from a place of hell to a place of heaven. He taught me wonderful laws that govern marriage. I obeyed the Lord's instruction and he saved my marriage. It took several years to heal our emotions and to learn these laws. Let me say there is no quick fix to a wounded heart. But let me also say God is faithful if you will put him first and follow his path it will, without fail, take you to a wonderful place in your marriage.

This course is for those who are looking for some instruction and help in their marriage. There is no easy way or quick fix. It will take a determination to follow God's path and a commitment to your marriage to make it work. I was determined and willing to anything the Lord told me to do. I was desperate for my marriage to work. God was very faithful to help me and he will be very faithful to help you too.

### A word of encouragement

Let me say this before I share some of these laws with you. God has made a way out for those who feel trapped in their marriage. If your spouse has committed adultery you have a biblical right to get a divorce. However, if you are both willing to forgive each other and commit to God's laws the wounds can certainly be healed and you can have a great marriage. It will take some time but it certainly can survive if both parties are willing to try. The Bible also makes a way out of marriage if a spouse abandons the other spouse. I also think if someone is in a relationship where one spouse abuses the other God would allow the abused spouse to get a divorce. It is God's desire that you live in peace. If that peace is impossible to obtain it would be better to leave than to stay. If you have been married several times and feel condemned let me encourage you. God is a God of second, third, fourth, etc. changes. He forgives your past. Let your past go, forgive all who have hurt you, forgive yourself, and start a fresh. God's mercies are new every morning. There is NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus.

## **Congratulations**

You are married! I am so excited for you. You can share your life with the one that you love. You can raise a family, fulfill your dreams, and live happily ever after. I wish it were that easy, unfortunately it is not. There are many spiritual principles that must be learned, or that wonderful dream becomes a nightmare. It doesn't take long to realize that your spouse is not as perfect as you thought they were. They have habits and attitudes that were hidden or ignored while dating. But now they are very much a reality. The good news is God's Word reveals the secrets of living a happy and fulfilled life in the midst of a world that is full of hate and selfishness.