



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

My personal journey

The Lord took me by the hand and walked me to a wonderful place of peace, joy, and romance in my marriage. These are some of the steps he took me through.

Forgiveness – The first thing the Lord taught me was to forgive. I learned to forgive every single time I was offended, disappointed, hurt, belittled, criticized, misunderstood, etc. Instead of feeling sorrow for myself and retaliating I would say, “Lord I forgive her and I thank you for my wife. She is your gift to me.” This was very difficult to do at first but the more I did it the easier it became. I became a master at forgiveness. Each and every time I forgave the hurt in my heart would take wings and fly away.

Do not take anything spoken in anger, or to criticize, or to belittle, personal. - I realized all of us say hurtful things out of anger, hurt, frustration, or disappointment. We all have a flesh to deal with. We are not perfect people. If you take hurtful words personal it is going to wound you and crush you. Let it go in one ear and out the other. When my wife is frustrated with me I allow her to vent her frustration towards me. I keep quiet and don’t retaliate. That is an honor for me. When I am frustrated I go to God and dump on him for His word says to cast all your care on Him. When you do not take it personal it does not stick and cannot take root in your heart.

Don’t be lazy – The first six years of my marriage I was a very lazy husband. If frustrated my wife to no end. God spoke to me about being lazy and He set me free. Now if I see something that needs to be done, I do it. When my wife calls me I stop what I am doing and I go and see what she wants and I do it for her. Don’t let your body dictate what you do. For many times it does not feel like doing something. Your body is your servant. It will do whatever you tell it to do. And don’t worry about what is fair. Being happy is far better than being fair.

Accept your spouse – All of us are imperfect. If you try to change your spouse they are going to feel rejected and frustrated. To this day if I see my wife doing something that I don’t approve of I say to the Lord, “If it does not bother you then it does not bother me”. I trust the Lord to deal with her, for he is her heavenly Father. I will not attempt to change my wife. I simply love her and accept her as she is. However I always look for ways to change myself so that I can show my wife I love you, respect her and cherish her.

Take responsibility – It comes natural to us to blame our spouse for our failures. Blaming them is weak and not true. The truth is we all have a free will to make our own choices. If you have failed at something take full responsibility for your own choices. Learn from your mistakes and move on. Accept your spouse, take responsibility for your own actions and let God help you become successful. Nothing good will come from blaming someone else for your failures.

Communicate – Never assume anything. If you don't like something talk about it. If something bothers you talk about it. Simple communication can solve most of your problems. Also learn how your spouse communicates. Sometimes your spouse or you are so frustrated that a rage of emotion explodes in your talk. When this happens, don't retaliate. Just wait until the emotions calm down. Then you can get to the root of the problem. Many of our problems come from a miscommunication between the two spouses.

Boundaries – There has to be boundaries in every relationship. There are some places that are off limits. You would be wise to recognize the boundaries and stay clear of them. Religion could be a boundary, ex-spouses could be a boundary, politics could be a boundary, touching a certain part of your spouse's body could be a boundary, etc. You know when you have crossed a boundary by the reaction that follows. Respect the boundaries and your marriage will be better off.

Put God and His word first – God's word was written to help you and to ensure you have a happy and successful life. Learn his ways and obey them and you will be blessed beyond your wildest dreams.