Keys To A Successful Marriage

**Prayer:** Set aside times each day to pray with each other as a couple. Allow each individual to pray the things that are on their heart as the Holy Spirit leads them. Also discuss things that you need to pray specifically for your household. (1 Thessalonian 5:17, James 5:16, 1 Peter 3:7, Luke 18:1, Romans 8:26-27)

**Declare & Decree Over Your Marriage:** Marriage always provides two people which means when those two come together in his name then his presence is always there. God has given you power to declare and decree things over your marriage (life). (Matt. 18:19-20):

**Be Mindful of The Company You Keep:** Always be mindful of the company you keep around you and those who come to your dwelling place. You want people around who genuinely love you, support God’s covenant of marriage, and who desire to accomplish things both personally and through marriage. (Prov 13:20. Prov. 27:17, 1 Cor. 15:33,)

**Watch The Words You Say:** One of the most important things is to always be mindful of what you say to each other but also about your marriage. The truth is the world both visible and invisible is governed by words. If you want to have a thriving marriage let your speech resemble that. Even when there’s a problem seek the solution before you speak about the problem. This way you when you do speak then it will be a solution only that will edify and present a goal to work towards. Always let your words be edifying to your spouse by encouraging, supporting, and pushing them to achieve their absolute best. (Mark 11:25, Prov. 18:21, Ephesians 4:29, Prov. 12:18, Prov. 16:24, Colossians: 3:8, Psalms 19:14, Prov. 15:4)

**Be Mindful Of Outside Influences:** It is always dangerous when you allow others to have more of an influence than your spouse. This includes family, friends, and whoever becomes the dominate voice to you concerning your marriage other than your spouse. Make sure boundaries are established and that even those who are important in your life understand the boundaries you have set. (Matt 19:5, Mark 10:8, Prov. 16:28, Prov. 20:19, Prov. 29:11)

**Godly Counsel:** Make sure you stay connected through your pastor and those God may connect you with to always receive Godly counsel. Always set aside time to seek God specifically about your marriage because he will always forewarn you and guide you into the place he has ordered for our life. (Psalms 37:23, Deut 29:29, Romans 8:14, Prov. 11:14, Psalms 1:1-6, Prov. 19:20, Prov. 20:5)

**Be Faithful To Your Marriage & God:** Your faithfulness to your marriage will reap benefits for both individuals because it releases security in knowing both are committed to the success of it. Faithfulness deals with more than just infidelity but you must be faithful in protecting, developing, sustaining, and advancing it more. Both must be diligent and faithful in seeking God’s direction, guidance, and purpose of the marriage. (Prov. 20:6, Luke 16:10, 1 Cor. 7:10-11, Heb. 10:23, Heb. 11:6, James 1:12-20, Eph. 5:33, Gal. 6:9)

**Marriage Brings Favor:** Marriage is a covenant when understood and entered properly releases so many blessings in your life. Apostle Jeffery Thrash says “A man’s wife determines the quality of his life.” You must realize there are things that are set in motion in the visible spirit realm that becomes physically visible because of the ordained covenant of marriage. (Prov. 18:22, Prov. 19:14, Eph. 5:28, Heb 13:4, Prov. 14:1)

**Balance of Goals:** Marriage not only brings together two that become one but it also merges goals/dreams. It is important to encourage each other to dream and pursue those things God has spoken to your heart about achieving and you will find the other has the complimentary gifting to assist. As a couple you must also work on common goals for you marriage that you desire to fulfill as a couple. Never allow one spouse to push more than the other but use the same energy and more to push your spouse. (Eph. 4:16, Habakkuk 2:2, Phil 2:2-3, Acts 2:44, Acts 4:32)

**In The Heat Of The Moment:** There will be times that you disagree in your marriage and some situations could get heated. However still be cautious of what you say to each other because words are something you can never get it back. One of the most frustrating things for anyone is to try and express how something makes them feel without being truly listened to. Be sure to listen to what your spouse is saying to you in these moments. If it gets to heated take a moment and cool down try to talk about it later. Sometimes writing what you feel may be a way to express it because it requires you to think so that you give a response instead of a reaction. (Eph. 4:26, James 1:19, Prov. 14:17, Prov. 15:1, Colossians 4:6)

**Travel and Relax:** Marriage brings to people together and along with that it also brings work schedules, kid’s schedules, ministry schedules, business schedules, and much more. Don’t allow the business of life to get you stuck in a common routine without setting aside times to relax. (Mark 6:31, Ex. 34:21, Gen. 2:3)

**Maintain the Friendship:** One of the key foundations of your marriage is the friendship that you established with your spouse. You want your spouse to be your best friend because when times comes that you need to confide it and/or just enjoy life with then what a blessing to have a friend in your spouse. Don’t’ allow other friendships to overtake this friendship because it is the one that should be built to last. (Eccl. 4:9-12, Prov. 17:17, John 15:12-15, Prov. 18:24, Prov. 27:9, Prov. 12:26)

**Finances On Track:** Always a point of concern for any marriage is the handling of finances. One of the most important things is to lose the mindset of your money and my money because it is now our money. What you decide as a couple will ultimately determine the flow of your finances. Discover and acknowledge who is strongest in this area through their discipline of handling and organizing finances. Set aside a day each week as a couple to discuss upcoming financial obligations, budgets, savings, and etc. Begin early with creating a budget, emergency fund, college fund (if you have kids begin at their birth), life insurance, and retirement fund. In addition to this discuss what you truly desire to do and make your money work for you. Build healthy spending habits and always hold each other accountable. Each week as a couple come together and make sure things are paid. What you do today can determine the future generations of your family so leave them with an inheritance to continue building what you have begun. Most importantly make sure that you sow into God’s kingdom financially so that you can reap a harvest of abundance. Be sure that you understand God’s financial plan for the believer because it is the will of God that you prosper just as your **soul prospers**. (Prov. 13:22, Luke 6:38, Deut. 8:18, 3 John 1:2, Malachi 3:10, Luke 16:10, Prov. 13:22, Prov. 3:9-10, Luke 16:10)

**Leave and Cleave:** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be as one flesh. Let's not misunderstand the word leave. When a man asks a woman to marry him he begins to leave his parents in his mind. Both individuals leave the security of finances, comfort and the security net. However leaving shouldn’t be misinterpreted as not going back to check on parents from time to time. Leave respectfully; leave the relationship healthy, and remain honoring your mother and your father. Your love for them will never die and their love for you will grow stronger. But now God has given you a soul mate to cleave too in which you will discuss any and every circumstance with. The husband and the wife are now setting their home according to their needs. Be careful not to discuss any problems, issues or concerns with your parents. You have to understand they have been taking care of you all your life and they do not want to see you hurting or unhappy. They will do what they think is best for you and not for you and your wife. Cleave to who God has given you. He whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor of the Lord. What you need is in each other. Cleave to your wife's heart, her knowledge and her wisdom and wives you must cleave to your husband while trusting his guidance and leadership. Protect your wife, cover your wife and guard your marriage and wives you are also responsible to protect your home, marriage, and husband. Leaving helps you to grow and cleaving shows your growth. (Gen 2:24), (Ex 20:12), (Prov 18:22)

Peace and Blessings,

Demarkis Taylor