

WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES



MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT

Malachi 2:14

Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Covenant—League, compact, to make an agreement, sacrifice.

Marriage is a spiritual law that was ordained by God between a man and a woman in the Garden of Eden. Marriage is holy in God's eyes and it's not to be tampered with or taken lightly. In the beginning marriage was to be one woman and one man for life. Because many of God's people didn't acknowledge God for their mate, it has caused many to end up in divorce court. God said for us to acknowledge Him in all of our ways and He would direct our path, that goes for every area of our life. When Abraham requested his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac, he told him to go to his country, his kindred. As the servant went searching for a wife for his master's son, he prayed and asked God to let him know whether or not the woman that came to the well was chosen by God for his master's son. He didn't choose Rebekah by his own understanding, but he ask for God's direction.

Genesis 24:14

And let it come to past, that the damsel to whom I shall say, let down thy pitcher, I pray thee that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou has appointed for thy servant Isaac.

The servant had prayed and asked for a sign from God to know that this was the mate for his master's son. The bible teaches us **Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor from God.** In order for the man to find a wife, he must perceive that the woman he pursues is his wife. Since God does not deal with our flesh, but our spirit, that means man must perceive in his spirit the will of God. When we marry the spouse that God has appointed for us, when trials and tribulations come into the marriage we will not be so hasty in wanting a divorce, but work together by prayer and supplication making our request known unto God so He can establish what needs to be established in the marriage and destroy the works of the enemy that comes to destroy the marriage. Men and women of God believe in going before God for their marriage because we know that He is the only one that can reconcile and restore a marriage. Marriage is something that both partners have to work on.

For ever man God has created, He has created a woman for that man and its left up to man to seek God to find his mate, not someone else's spouse, but according to the word of God "Let every man have his own wife".

In order for a marriage to work, let God direct the male to his wife, then its left up to us to ask God for direction in making our marriage a successful one by seeking God's guidance and directions. No one knows our spouse like God does since He's the one that created them; and if we ask God to give us wisdom in how to keep our marriage from being dull and how to satisfy our spouse, He will give us the wisdom we need. Many times marriages are miserable because neither spouse will take the time to seek God for their marriage. In every marriage God should be first, and if the couple make God first in their marriage, no matter what Satan tries to do, it will not work, because you have two touching and agreeing for God's divine will, purpose, and plan for their marriage. Satan can't fight the marriage as hard as he can when there is prayer of agreement between a husband and wife.

Every couple that is seeking to be married should receive marriage counseling prior to their marriage. It's more to marriage than saying "I do", because when you really begin to see your spouse after the honeymoon is over, there will come a time

you will say "I won't", and in order to keep another man or woman from joining your marriage, breaking the covenant we must know even when I won't comes about how to handle it in a way that our spouse will respect our answer and not hate our answer.

These are crucial times and many marriages are being destroyed by a seducing spirit of lust, distrust and insecurity. Many couples are married and the spouse is lonely because he or she is not being ministered to emotionally and mentally. What it took to get your spouse it's going to take the same to keep them. Marriage is a covenant between a husband, wife and God. When we marry, we promised to love and cherish our spouse until death do we part, many are in departure and has forsaken the marriage vow to their spouse as well as God. God was well aware that marriages would have conflicts, disagreements, test and trials, but He gave us something more powerful than anything that could come against our marriage and that is the Spirit of God that lives within every born-again believer.

Marriage is an exemplification of the marriage we have with God. We're in a covenant contract with God to walk in unity, to be in such unity until we're considered one with God. God's desire for husbands and wives is to have the same unity that they will no longer be two, but one in the flesh, as well as in the Spirit.

Marriage has an adversary and he's out to steal, kill and destroy every relationship he can, that is why it is so important for Christians to marry other Christians, to tell the truth even if you're not a born-again Christian, you need to marry someone that believes that there is a God. There are many obstacles that comes against a marriage, but if you're one in the flesh as well as one in the Spirit you can conquer every obstacles that comes against your marriage. Although Satan is one of the reasons some marriages are in trouble, all marriages

aren't in trouble because of Satan, some are in trouble and lacking happiness because the husband or wife has stopped working on the marriage. In some cases both have given up and gone separate ways. Many times spouses take each other for granted instead of appreciating the gift God have given them. Every gift God gives us, we should always be grateful and appreciate the gift.

Marriage can become boring, with no appeal, when both or one spouse is no longer trying to bring life and excitement to the marriage. No matter how one may pray and fast, if one of the spouses is not trying to be committed to the marriage, you can't make it a happy and exciting marriage by yourself, it takes two. Spiritual marriage counseling is great to bring couples back together, but as Christians we should be able to go to God and be directed in how to keep our marriage alive and well. In Biblical days there weren't marriage counselor and the people of God worked through their marriage and many stayed married until death departed them. No one knows our spouse like God does, and He can directed us along with marriage counseling if we so desire, but always place God first. Husbands and wives should always remember what it took to get your spouse it's going to take the same to keep them no matter how long you've been married, more so if you have been married a long time, with age we tend to need more attention than we did in our younger days.

In order to keep our marriage alive; there are steps we must take in order to keep it thriving, marriage shouldn't be at a stand still, it shouldn't be overbearing, dull and dead when you have two people with the Spirit of the Living God living within their being. God is a Creator and since He dwells within our being if we listen, He will instruct us in how to bring life out of death or keep death from coming in. Many spouses have unsaved spouses and it might be impossible to pray with your spouse, if that is the case, you pray, and listen for God's instructions about your marriage.

In order for a marriage to be as God ordained marriage to be, we must take steps to bring about a prosperous marriage. The first thing we must do is:

1) **Pray**—Prayer will keep both the wife's and husband's flesh down that they both will walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the desires of their flesh. According to the word of God there is no good thing in our flesh, so if there is no good thing in our flesh, our flesh will not only fight against the things of God, but it will have us fighting against each other. As the old saying go "A family that prays together, stays together". Prayer is very essential in keeping Satan from getting a stronghold in your marriage.

2) **Love** must be more than a sexual attraction, because once the sex is gone you must have something that is going to last through the good times as well as the bad times. In order for a marriage to sustain the different attacks that comes against a marriage, a marriage must have agape love. Just as we said "I do" at the alter, let the "I do" stay in your marriage. Love your spouse as you did when you first got married, better yet, as the years go by, our love for our spouse should be stronger, and more committed to having a happy and successful marriage.

3) **Trust** must be in a marriage. Without trust, the marriage will not survive. When a couple can't trust anyone else, they should be able to relay on their spouse to always tell the truth. Nothing hurts more than when a spouse finds out that their spouse has lied to them. As Christians, we shouldn't be doing anything that we have to sneak and do, if we're sneaking that means we shouldn't be doing it. Trust is what every spouse expects from their

mate. If you make your spouse lose trust in you, it will be hard to regain the trust, in some cases trust will never be established again. A marriage cannot be a successful marriage if trust is lost. It doesn't have to be an issue with sex outside of the marriage, it can be as simple as saying you paid a bill and your spouse found out you didn't or you made a promise you will do something and you didn't. Be a person of your word, keep trust alive.

4) **Commitment** is vital to a marriage. We can't be more committed to anything or anyone else over our spouse other than God, and He will never have anyone forsaking their spouse. He will give you wisdom in how to spend time with Him as well as your spouse.

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth (without reproach) not; and it shall be given him.

God will give us wisdom in every area that pertains to us if we ask for it. In order to keep a marriage alive, we need wisdom from God, and not from intellect. We're spirits living in a body, and only the Spirit of God knows what's in man, and it will take Him to give us the wisdom we need as husbands and wives to keep our marriage in unity and not just a union. You can be join to someone and not be in unity.

Commitment and faithfulness to your spouse is a key factor in making sure that you and your spouse grow old together, in love. Christians couples shouldn't have to worry whether or not their spouse is being faithful to them, but because many are attending church because they feel that it is their duty instead of their commitment to God, many marriages are broken, and destroyed, because one or both spouse thought they could find what they needed in someone else instead of going to the mate God has blessed them with. Not only does an unfaithful

spouse have to answered to their spouse because of their unfaithfulness, but they have to answer to God for breaking the covenant. When God made Eve, He brought her to Adam, there wasn't another man or woman in the garden because God had made Eve strictly for Adam, and Adam was strictly for Eve. Jody or the other woman wasn't in the garden.

Many marriages have been reconciled once the spouse found out their spouse was unfaithful, but that doesn't guarantee that your marriage maybe reconcile if you break the covenant. Broken covenant also causes a broken covenant relationship with God. If both spouses commit themselves to God faithfully, Satan doesn't have a chance to steal, kill and destroy the marriage.

5) **Support** increases trust, affection, commitment, love, in a marriage. Every spouse want their spouse to support their ideas, dreams and goals. If a spouse feel as though he or she is not being supported by their spouse, it causes a spirit of contention to enter in to the relationship, it causes the one that isn't being supported to feel rejected which also will cause other spirits such as low self esteem, hurt, and anger that will cause in a long run, division. A house divided cannot stand, the marriage cannot exist in unity and prosperity when you have Satan's spirit lurking in one or both partners. Whatever your spouse is doing, if its not detrimental to you or them, support them, let them know that you are behind them one hundred percent. One of the reason why someone else can come into the marriage is because the other man or woman will give support and attention in areas we fell to give. If we keep in mind to treat our spouse the way we want to be treated, we wouldn't have so many broken marriages and divorces. Never take your spouse for granted, always keep in mind that he or she is a gift from God.



6) **Friendship**
Our mate should be our best friend.

They should be someone a spouse can go to anytime or day with what ever maybe bothering them. Maybe they just want to laugh and talk, kick it with their best friend. A spouse should know when they can't go to anyone else, they can always go to their spouse for support, counseling or whatever the need might be. Friendship is trust, it makes one feel secure. Every spouse want their mate to be their best friend.

7) **Romance** is lacking in many marriages. Romance should be a love affair between husband and wife. Romance is not just having a physical contact with your spouse, but its making love to their mind, heart, and emotions. Making them feel like that they are the only and true love in your life. Let them know that you appreciate them, and your desire is to make them happy and to make them feel like he or she is king or queen. Let them know he or she is your primary interest. Avoid criticism, don't remind them of their error. Honor him or her, practice total commitment/unconditional love. Bring them a gift when it's not their birthday or an anniversary. Call them and speak sweet words into their ears, make them get excited about the end of the day and not dreading the end of the day. Read books and go to seminars that will teach you and your spouse about keeping the marriage alive and wholesome. Have a candle light dinner, play soothing music that will enhance romance and it doesn't have to be secular since we're CHRISTIANS! For couples that have children, husbands, take time with the children, wash the dishes, cook, assist your wife with the children, this will eliminate her from being too tired and worn out to minister to your needs.

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Both the male and female must feel attraction towards their spouse. Sometimes after years of marriage, spouses forget to make themselves presentable to their spouse. Your spouse wants to see you looking good and smelling good the same way you did when you met them.

8) **Communication** is very important to a successful marriage. Without communication the marriage will be over, dead and smelling and both spouses will want to get as far as they can from each other when there is a lack of communication. Talk to your spouse, men you must dialogue, your wife doesn't want to do all the talking and you're doing all the nodding. She wants to hear your voice, she wants to hear your opinion or suggestions. Without communication we wouldn't know what our spouse likes or dislikes. No matter how long you have been married, if you have good communication, you can always find out something new about your spouse. When there isn't communication, Satan hasn't an entrance into the marriage, because he's well aware of what non-communication brings.

9) **Time**—Whatever you do, always make time for your spouse. Let them know that you are there for them. Too many marriages are broken and destroyed because one or both spouses didn't take the time to minister to their spouse. Christian marriages are broken because the spouse could minister to every one except his or her spouse. The job or the church took more of their time rather than their spouse. God didn't tell us nor does He expect us to neglect our spouse for a job or church. Never place things or other people before your spouse. God joined you to your spouse, not the job or the church.

10) **Unity** is togetherness, it's like a rope that has been tied in a knot by someone that is experienced. Satan can't slip in and bring division, if there is unity. Two cannot walk together unless they agree. Walk in agreement with your spouse and not with Satan. Communication will bring unity, if clarity needs to be brought about in a matter. Satan wants every marriage to be in discord, disagreement, and confusion. That's why it's so very important for Christians to marry Christians and not an unbeliever, for the simple fact one is serving their Father (God) and the other is serving their father (Satan). Light and darkness doesn't agree and will never agree.

11) **Affection** is to be given not just in the bedroom. Many times we don't touch or hug our spouse until it's time to be intimate. It's hard on a spouse when there is no affection given until one wants their sexual needs met. Be playful with your spouse, hold hands, whisper I love you, let them see the love in your eyes for them when you caress them to give a gently kiss. Touching means a lot, it expresses our feelings towards someone that we love and care for. Just a simple touch can bring so much comfort to your spouse when they may be feeling down. A touch can bring a smile where there was once a frown. A touch brings a closeness to the relationship. No one wants to receive affection only in the bedroom, because if that is the only place it can be shown, that's not affection, that's lust, it's a sexual desire that needs to be met. There shouldn't be a day that goes by that your spouse don't feel your gentle touch. You expressing your concerns about their wants and needs. Every marriage will have test and trials. There will be disagreements, but you can settle your disagreement without tearing each other down.

Placing God as the head of your marriage is the most important thing you could ever do. Trusting, believing and having a relationship with Him causes your marriage to be blessed. He will fight for what belongs to Him, and as children of God, we belong to Him, when we marry we come to Him as a couple, not as one. He blesses our labor in our relationship with our spouse. Marriage is a covenant between a husband and wife, it's Satan and sin that brings about trouble in a marriage.

Christian marriages shouldn't be as secular marriages. Neither spouse should be under the influence of Satan. Sin in a marriage is what causes divorce. If both spouses are dedicated in serving God, Satan doesn't have a chance to bring his devices into the marriage. As Christians we shouldn't practice sin, as we present ourselves before God as living sacrifices, He will give us a mind and heart to be faithful to our spouse, to make them to be our king and queen of our castle. When spouses are dedicated to praying, they don't meditate on things that will cause them to sin. What we see, hear and meditate on, is what makes one enter into sin.

Too many times one spouse is giving more than the other spouse. Selfishness is a work of the flesh, it's not godly. Serve one another, don't let it always be one spouse that does the serving and the other one is always on the receiving end. Pamper each other, don't always be on the receiving end.

Many wives works outside their home to help support their husband in reaching their goals, but many times the wife has to come

home and complete all the chores by herself. She does all the cooking, cleaning, washing, making sure the bills are paid on time, helping the kids with their homework, taking time out with the kids to see to their needs, while hubby is waiting for his needs to be met. She is ministering to everyone's needs and hers has been excluded,

This shouldn't be in a Christian marriage. Whether the wife is working outside the home or in the home, she needs assistance and support from her husband. If she's a stay at home mom, she really needs your assistance, staying at home with children all day and keeping the house is a job in itself, she just isn't receiving pay. If a wife's needs isn't being met, she can't minister to her spouse effectively. Whether you know it or not, marriage is a ministry, before we can go outside our home to minister, we must be able to minister to the needs of our spouse and family.

If you really love your spouse, take the time out and ask questions, see how she feels, what is her desires and her needs this will eliminate the enemy from coming into your marriage.

Women, love your husbands, let him know that you cherish him. Let him know that you're his best friend. Encourage him and let him know that he can achieve anything he desires because he's just that good and because he is a man of God, he is a mighty man of valor. Don't nag him, talk to him; When you can't get the desired results, take it to God in prayer and ask for directions. Maybe you're going at it the wrong way.

Cook for your husband, stop eating out so much, or having microwave dinners. Clean your house, keep your home in order. Take time for yourself, so that you can feel good and look good to your spouse,

it will keep his eyes and desires from roaming outside the home.

People of God, it's God's desire for your marriage to be successful, but in order for Him to be Lord of your marriage, you must submit yourself and your marriage to God for him to be Lord of everything. If God don't rule, Satan will! When Satan rules he brings in contention, strife, fault-finding, selfishness, lying, adultery, pornography, hatred, everything that will steal, kill and destroy your marriage. It's sin within the spouse that causes relationships to be broken and torn and worn that eventually will bring about a divorce. When Satan is ruling someone will be hurt mentally, emotionally and sometimes physically.

Sin has caused many marriages to be destroyed. Each one of us knows where we're missing it with God. If we're missing it with God, we will surely miss it with our spouse. Don't let Satan rule your marriage. Come together in unity in prayer, work together to keep Satan and yourself from destroying your marriage. God can reconcile, but why take the chance, you might not be blessed to get your husband or wife back. Be devoted to God and your marriage. Show your spouse appreciation other than on holidays. It's three hundred and sixty five days in a year, how many days in a year have you encouraged and supported your spouse, enabling them to feel good about themselves? Don't hesitate to ask, and don't hold back the answer. A true friend can take the truth and will not retaliate. Marriage should be a friendship with truth aiming to sacrifice your desire for your spouse desire, when both parties is willing to sacrifice Satan doesn't have a chance, although he will try, he can't win when there is a team.



Valentine's Day shouldn't just be on February 14th. In a Christian marriages, every day should be Valentine's

day with your spouse. Valentine's Day is a special day, every spouse should be thought of and treated special every day. Spend time with each other, go on dates, take vacations, and do different activities together, you will see what a difference it will make in your relationship. Last, but not least, always respect and cherish the gift God has given you!

Matthew 19:6

Wherefore they are no more twain, (two), but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

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