

MASTER KEYS TO MARRIAGE – SESSION #1

WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION

(PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16)

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

1. You are responsible to deal with and work on _____, not your spouse.
2. Complaining and _____ with one another means we are trying to change our spouse.
3. When we work out our own salvation we become _____ and harmless, walking as God's children. Blameless means to not find fault, blame, or criticize.
4. To work out our own salvation we must hold fast the _____ of life, because apart from God's Word we cannot become the very best husband or wife that we can be.
5. The reason Paul tells us to work out our own salvation is because we cannot _____ other people. We can only change ourselves.

One of the first and most vital keys to marriage is taking your eyes off of your spouse and just working on yourself. This is one of the most major problems that people deal with. They spend too much of their time examining their spouse and seeing what they don't like about them, and then they try to change that person. The problem is when you have your eyes on your spouse; you are not working on dealing with and developing yourself. This will lead to what we are told here not to do, complaining and disputing. This is what the devil wants couples to do because it begins to bring division. This is the world's way of dealing with things, always looking to put blame on someone else. Yet, if we will work out our own salvation and not our spouse's, we will begin to see incredible results. We begin to walk in the power of God's love, and that love never fails (1 Cor. 13:8).

(JAMES 5:16-18)

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

1. We are to acknowledge our own mistakes when we make them to our _____, not confess and point out theirs.
2. The most effective thing you can do for one another as husband and wife is to _____ for each other.
3. As you pray for each other this will bring _____ in one another's life and your marriage.

The key to seeing things in the life of your spouse change is prayer. Your focus should be to intercede for them, believing God to help them develop in their calling as one of His children. God has given them just as He has you the very ability they need to be the man or woman of God He created them to be. Your prayers of intercession will help them to develop in those abilities. What our spouse needs is our prayers for them, not our complaints or disputes, or fault finding.

(PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14)

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1. For us to not try and change one another we must also _____ what is behind and reach forward to what we desire ahead of us.
2. To reach your goal of a godly marriage you will have to _____ toward that goal.

We will have a difficult time keeping our focus on dealing with ourselves and not our spouse if we do not release what is behind. To release the past empowers you to attain your future in God. Don't hold on to anything of the past.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Commit to your spouse to work on yourself, not them.
2. Commit to pray for your spouse everyday.
3. Release everything in the past.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

(JOHN 15:4-5)

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

1. To abide in Jesus means to remain continually and relationally _____.
2. If we do not remain continually connected to Jesus, we will not be able to produce the fruit necessary to have the type of _____ that only God can provide.

Spiritual growth is imperative to have a strong and prosperous marriage. God is the author of marriage and therefore the only one that can help us to develop and maintain a healthy relationship with one another. To deny the need for spiritual growth would be the same as denying the need for receiving training in any area of life in which you are not the author. Apart from God's help and understanding, we won't be able to experience the power and the glory that can come from a godly marriage. God wants your marriage to be the very best it can be. But He cannot help us to accomplish this without our willingness to walk with Him, and to do things His way.

(JAMES 4:6-7, 10)

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

1. We are putting ourselves in _____ to God if we do not humble ourselves unto Him.
2. When we humble ourselves to God, He gives us more _____, which is His ability to do in our life and through our life what only He can do.

To humble ourselves means to willing submit to. The more we learn to humble ourselves the more of God's grace we will walk in, which will help us to have an awesome marriage. God will begin to lift us up into the type of relationship we all long for with our spouse. So, without humility we cannot grow up in God.

(PSALMS 18:28-30)

28 For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

1. God's Word is _____.
2. God's way is _____ This means complete, whole, lacking nothing.

The reason we need to submit fully to God's ways is because His way is perfect. When we do things God's way, we will lack nothing. Everything we need to be the best husband or wife we can **comes from doing what God says in marriage**. As we choose to accept His truth for our life, we are making God our shield because we are putting full trust in Him. If we don't submit to His ways, we are not entrusting our lives to Him.

(MATTHEW 16:24-25)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

1. If you have the **desire** to become like Jesus the first thing you must do is to _____ yourself, your old self-nature's way of doing things.
2. Once you deny yourself you then must take up your _____, which refers to doing God's will for your life.
3. If you try and hold on to what you desire in life and not what God desires for you, you will _____ true life.

The best thing we can do is to make the decision to deny our old nature's way of living and choose to follow the Lord and His ways. To take up your cross means you need to **take up the responsibility of what God has given you the ability to do**, and you will see results as you begin to see your life become more and more like Christ's.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Renew your commitment to walk with God.
2. In prayer ask the Lord to show you where you need help with your spiritual growth.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

What areas do you see in your life where the Lord desires for you to focus attention on and work at in developing yourself spiritually? Examples would be prayer, reading the Word of God, studying God's Word, involvement in the work of the Lord, being disciplined by spiritual leadership above you.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

MASTER KEYS TO MARRIAGE – SESSION #2

ROLES OF RESPONSIBILITY / HUSBANDS

(EPHESIANS 5:23, 25-29, 33)

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

There are two primary roles of responsibility that the husband has in fulfilling his part of the marriage covenant. They are:

1. Head of the wife as Christ is head of the church.
2. Loving his wife as Christ loves the church.

The phrase “head of the wife” emphasizes connection, unity, and responsibility, not domination.

HEAD OF THE WIFE: _____

One of the most important things to remember about being a husband to your wife is that God has gifted you with the ability to become that husband. Just as when one becomes born again, they begin to develop in the ability to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, so it is with a man at the time he becomes married, he begins to develop in the God-given ability to become a husband.

When this new relationship with your wife began, you started on the journey of becoming something that you had not yet become, a husband. Therefore, men need to understand that it will take change on their part to develop into this new role. This is a problem for some men, because after getting married they don't want to change, or they feel they don't need to. But you were not a husband before getting married; therefore, change is necessary to have a marriage filled with the goodness and love of God.

Also, those who have already begun this change, will need to continue in the things they have learned or as the book of Hebrews tells us we will drift away from doing what we once knew to do. In fact, we are to give the more earnest heed to what we have heard and applied in our lives already.

(HEBREWS 2:1)

2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Just as with anything in life, to make it the best it can be takes effort on our part. The good part is the more you learn how to do things the way God designed; it will become easier. Then one only needs to maintain what they have learned. For example, if you desire to have a beautiful lawn you must do things routinely if you desire to maintain a nice lawn. That is easier than allowing it to become filled with weeds, overgrown, and then having to try and start all over. The occasional maintenance will be easier than allowing your marriage to get out of control and then trying to fix a major problem.

THREE-FOLD ROLE OF HEADSHIP

1. **PROPHET** – One who speaks in line with the _____ of God.

(PSALMS 119:130)

130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

(PROVERBS 18:21)

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

God's Word when spoken will bring light. It will also bring understanding. When you remove the works of darkness, and bring godly understanding, you will see a change in your circumstances. We hold within our tongue the power to release the life of God, or the power to release the death of the world. To bring forth life we must speak God's Word. Simply put, we need to be saying what God says, not what circumstances may say. We don't deny the existence of a problem but deny it's right to remain. Because speaking God's Word brings light, it also will increase hope and drive out despair. To change our words, we must change what we listen too.

2. **PRIEST**– One who _____ to his spouse.

(HEBREWS 4:15)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(1 CORINTHIANS 7:3)

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her.

Sympathize – To have compassion for another.

To minister to your spouse simply means to show that you care. There are many ways to do so, but one of the most effect ways is to just hold your wife in times that she may be facing a battle. Additionally, to minister to your wife husbands need to show interest in the things that interest her. Jesus Himself said that He did not come to be served, but to serve. This is how one fulfills their priestly role.

(MARK 10:45)

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

3. **KING** – One who seeks _____ from the Lord.

(PROVERBS 19:21)

21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel--that will stand.

(ACTS 5:38-39)

38 And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing;

39 but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it--lest you even be found to fight against God.

God's counsel will always stand. We have many plans in our own hearts, but apart from having God's plan we will not succeed in life. If we will seek to know God's plans, we can rest assured that as long as we do what is necessary on our part to work toward His desire for us, then it cannot be overthrown. But if we don't have God's plan, ours will eventually come to nothing. Keep believing for God to reveal to you what He desires for your family, and don't stop pursuing relationship with Him.

THREE-FOLD ROLE OF LOVE

1. **UNCONDITIONAL** – Showing love toward another without any _____ being placed upon them.

(ROMANS 5:8)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. **SACRIFICIAL** – You are willing to give up _____ own desires for what God desires for your marriage.

(JOHN 15:13)

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

3. **CONTINUAL** – Showing love _____.

(JEREMIAH 31:3)

3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

One of the primary keys to walking in love is to surrender your heart fully to Jesus Christ. He has poured out His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we have the ability to walk in the same love that Jesus Himself did. We must realize that this is something we have to develop ourselves in. But to do so simply takes practice. The more we practice at loving our wives just as Jesus loves us, the better we will become at doing so. Don't allow the devil to frustrate you or make you think that walking in God's love can't be done, for the Lord would not ask us to love our wives as Christ loves the church if it were not possible. Never forget, love is a choice, and it is revealed by actions.

(HEBREWS 5:14)

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by REASON OF USE have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1. It is by reason of use or _____ that you will begin to discern the ways of God and stop doing things according to the flesh.

Husbands, just always remember that it is God who has instilled within you the ability to be a husband to your wife. Like any endeavor in life, it will not just happen on its own, but the more you develop in the gifting God has given to you, the more you will see your life change, and you will see your marriage become stronger as well. All we must do is to keep our focus on the Lord who is the author and finisher of our faith, keep working on developing yourself as one of His disciples, and keep pressing toward the goal of fulfillment in your role as a husband. You will then see God's divine nature manifest in your life and in your marriage as well.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Review and study the three parts of being the head of your home, and the three parts of loving your wife as Christ loves the church.
2. Prayerfully ask the Lord to show you which areas you need to work on.
3. Make a plan of action as to how you will change these areas.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT FOR HUSBANDS ROLE

With the Lord's help, prayerfully write down what area's you see you could use more development in based on where you are weakest now. Below each area write down what you see as a game plan on what you will do to begin in developing yourself in that area.

1. _____

Action to take: _____

2. _____

Action to take: _____

3. _____

Action to take: _____

4. _____

Action to take: _____

MASTER KEYS TO MARRIAGE – SESSION #3

ROLES OF RESPONSIBILITY / WIVES

(EPHESIANS 5:22, 24, 33)

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1. A wife is to submit to her husband just as the _____ is to submit to Christ.
2. No wife should submit to anything that would be in _____ to the Word of God.
3. A wife is to show _____ toward her husband. This means to have an honoring attitude, to show reverence to.

There are two primary roles of responsibility that the wife has in fulfilling her part of the marriage covenant. They are:

1. Submission to the husband in line with the Word.
2. Showing respect for her husband.

The primary role for the wife in marriage is to submit to her husband as to the Lord. Submission is an act of love that comes from the heart. This in no way means that the wife must do whatever a husband tells her to do. Just as Jesus would never ask anyone in the church to do something that would be in violation of God's Word, nor does a wife have to submit to anything that would compromise her walk with God. To do so would be putting her husband before the Lord. Yet at the same time she must fulfill her role of responsibilities in the home taking care of her husband. Any wife who submits to her husband as to the Lord is under God's protective covering. She is placing herself in the Lord's care by being obedient to the Word of God.

Just as a man must develop himself in the role of a husband, so must a woman develop herself in the role of a wife. As with every area of our life, God has given women this ability. She must submit herself to the Lord fully and allow Him to develop her ability in this role. Through doing so God can bring about great resolve in the marriage relationship where there would otherwise be division.

(1 PETER 3:1-6)

- 1** Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.
3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--
4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,
6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

The phrase without a word conveys the idea of something happening **without verbal argument, explanation, or preaching** — implying influence through conduct rather than spoken persuasion. It's not about what you say, but what you do.

4. Wives are to focus on their _____ with their husbands more than what they say.

(PROVERBS 25:24)

It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

(PROVERBS 19:13)

A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.

CONTENTIOUS: Strife, quarrels, contending, judging, disputing.

5. What God considers incorruptible beauty in a woman is a _____ and quiet spirit. This is very precious in the sight of the Lord.

GENTLE: A disposition that does not assert itself harshly.

QUIET: An inward steadiness that is not agitated or combative.

6. In being submissive biblically to your husband, you are _____ in God.
7. Don't allow _____ to keep you from submitting to your husband.

As you will see both men and women have the ability to see changes come about in their spouse simply by living a godly life. Not trying to prove you are better than the other, but truly walking in the example of Christ, allowing Him to develop you and grow

you up spiritually. It does not please God for us to preach to one another but instead encourage each other in the truth of God's Word.

1 Peter 3:1-2 (AMP)

1 IN LIKE manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives,

2 When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him—to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].

Reverence is defined by the following:

1. To show _____ .
2. To _____ to.
3. To show _____ .
4. To _____ .
5. To _____ .
6. To give _____ to.
7. To be _____ to.
8. To _____ your husband.

The same as a husband needs to work at being what God has called him to be, so does a wife have to work on her skills in marriage. This gifting for women is already within them but must be developed as well. As you develop in this gifting, you will see your trust in God grow, as well as seeing your marriage mature. So, trust God to do what He has promised you and know that as you submit to His ways, you will see the results He has promised.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Review the eight things which make up reverence for your husband.
2. Prayerfully ask the Lord to show you which areas you need to work on.
3. Make an action plan as to how you are going to improve on those areas.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT FOR WIFE'S ROLE

With the Lord's help write down what area's you see you could use more development in based on where you are weakest now. Below each area write down what you see as a game plan on what you will do to begin in developing yourself in that area.

1. _____

Action to take: _____

2. _____

Action to take: _____

3. _____

Action to take: _____

4. _____

Action to take: _____

MASTER KEYS TO MARRIAGE – SESSION #4

SOME VITAL KEYS FOR MARRIAGE

(EPHESIANS 5:31)

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

1. What you do with your life will have some type of impact upon your spouse because you are _____ flesh together.

(MATT 7:12)

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

If you do anything that is harmful in anyway to your spouse, you are inflicting hurt upon yourself. It is crucial to learn how to respect one another with your words and actions. If we don't do so the pain we will suffer, we have brought on ourselves. So never forget that you are one flesh together. We are to treat others the way we would want to be treated. This is walking in the agape love of God.

(1 JOHN 4:7)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

As revealed in the above verse of 1 John 4:7, to love others with the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts we must be born of God, and we must know God. This is the primary key to walking in the God-kind of love, knowing Him intimately, which 1 Corinthians 13:8 tells us that His love never fails. There is no substitute for walking with God when it comes to walking in love, for He is that love. It's this unconditional, sacrificial, and continual love that changes how we perceive others, and how we perceive ourselves.

(PROVERBS 13:3)

3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

2. Learn to keep private matters _____ .

Married couples should not share private issues with others unless they are truly qualified and capable of helping you to address that issue. This should be a simple rule of thumb to go by. Ask yourself this question. "What I am about to share with this person, are they called and gifted by God to help bring resolve to this issue or not?" If that person

is not someone God has gifted and called to help bring resolve to an issue that you just cannot work out between the two of you, then you should not be speaking to them about such matters. You are only going to cause destruction, not resolve.

(COLOSSIANS 3:12-13)

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

3. Be an instant _____ .

Unforgiveness is detrimental to any relationship. Forgiveness is closure for any situation. When we forgive, we walk in the light of God's love. Jesus forgave us of all our sins, and so must we forgive others, no matter what they have done to us. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. When we forgive, we are walking by faith and not by sight. Not forgiving someone is the same as drinking poison and thinking it will affect the other person, but it will not.

(1 John 4:10-11)

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God proved His love for us by Jesus not only taking our sin, but the punishment our sin deserved. We deserved the punishment He went through, not Him. This was the greatest demonstration of God's love. Because God is not punishing us, when we choose unforgiveness, we think we are punishing people for the wrong they have done. But if they are a believer, not even God is punishing them. The sooner we choose to forgive, the sooner we choose to allow God's love to rule in our marriage.

(EPHESIANS 5:20)

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

(1 THESSALONIANS 5:18)

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

4. Give thanks _____ for your spouse, for this is God's will for you.

To walk in God's perfect will for your marriage you must learn to give thanks always for your spouse. One of the deceptions of the enemy is to get couples to begin to believe that they chose the wrong person by causing us to look at one another in the natural.

Remember there is no such truth to the perfect husband or perfect wife because there are no perfect people. We all have issues and habits that we are dealing with or may be overcoming. But if you want God's will to be done in your marriage, you must learn to give thanks always.

(Romans 4:17b)

17—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

Even in the case of a spouse not doing what God's Word says they should do you can thank God for them by faith declaring who God created them to be. For example, I thank you Father that my husband is a godly man, who is gifted by God to be the head of our home spiritually, and who loves as God Himself loves. I thank you Father that my wife is submitted unto me as unto the Lord, and that she shows the same respect to me that one is to show unto the Lord. In doing this as an act of thanksgiving, you like God call those things that may not be so as though they were. This is where we give God the opportunity to work in our marriage, and refuse to allow satan to control what we do.

(2 Corinthians 10:12)

12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

5. Don't _____ your marriage to others. This is unwise.

A major mistake in marriage is when you begin to look at your friends or other family members, and begin to compare your spouse and your marriage to them. This can be very detrimental to a marriage. You do not know everything about their situation to begin with, and they are not you. So, to try and compare will only lead to the devil trying to convince you that you made a mistake with your spouse, or will get you focused on them wondering why can't my mate be like so and so. This is unwise.

(REVELATION 2:4-5)

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

6. Maintain the _____ works when you started your relationship with each other.

One of the most important truths to keeping a marriage strong is doing the things that attracted you to each other in the beginning. Go back to treating each other they way you

did when you first met when you wanted your spouse to enjoy being with you. When we allow things in life to consume our time and we no longer make time for our spouse, this will result in a weak relationship. It can be as simple as taking time weekly to have dinner together, or meet for lunch, even when you are raising children and may have to bring them along, you are taking the time to be together and that is what a huge part of what relationship is all about.

(JAMES 1:19-20)

19 Remember this, my dear brothers and sisters: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and should not get angry easily.

20 An angry person doesn't do what God approves of.

7. Learn to be a good communicator by taking the time to _____
to what your spouse is saying.

Good communication in marriage is a key to having a successful marriage. Good communicators are good listeners. The more you learn to stop allowing your flesh to control the conversation, and you truly listen with your heart what your spouse is saying, the better you will communicate with each other. This leads to a much more positive environment where you are allowing God to reveal things you might not otherwise see. If we will listen with our hearts, asking God to help us to understand what is being said, the less we allow our flesh to rule our responses, and the more of God's peace we allow in our conversations.

When needing to talk about things in your family, you need to have a focus on what God's Word may say about what you are dealing with. If you are angry with your spouse, choosing to take the time to go to God first and deal with getting rid of the anger will help to bring resolve and not more conflict. Sometimes when things cannot be worked out it is far better to agree to take the time to pray about whatever you are dealing with, and then come back together to talk about that given situation. When you cannot seem to resolve certain issues, it is then you should seek godly counsel from your leadership. They can often help resolve issues helping you to see more clearly what scripture may have to say. So, learn to be a good LISTENER. It will make a huge difference in your marriage.

RECOGNIZING KEYS FOR MY MARRIAGE

Of the seven keys talked about, are there some that you see that you need to acknowledge that you have or have not been doing? Write down which ones you see are needing the most attention as a reminder of what you can do to make your marriage even better.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____
