

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MARRIAGE

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Marriage is an exciting relationship filled with many up and down experiences. It is a blend of fun, laughter, joy, anger, sadness and mixed reactions just as in any other kind of relationship. All who go into marriage do so expecting the best out of it. The unmarried look forward to it with great expectation, ironically, some of those in it are seeking for a way out of it through the divorce window, and in some cases, death. Whatever the experience of many marriages may be, marriage is still a good and exciting relationship worthy to be entered into with faith and a pure heart of love.

The truth is that each couple at the end of the day, are the determinant factors in their marriage experience. It is how you make your bed that you lay on it. It is the decisions you make and the values you choose to live by, the thoughts you think as events unfold in your marriage, and whose advice you work with that determine the experience of your marriage.

This is why I advise you to take charge of your marriage from day one. You are the decision maker, and every other person including your precious parents and close friends and confidants you have known all your adult life are advisers. Even God cannot force you to obey His teachings and principles for successful marriage that you have been painstakingly taught.

Deut 30:15-20

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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STEPS TO TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR MARRIAGE

1. Decide today to succeed in your marriage though you may have seen many fail.

Every success starts with a firm decision to succeed no matter the odds that will come ones way. Many have succeeded, and many have also failed. Decide to be among the successful. You may have seen many failed marriages, decide your own won't be like that. You may have heard many sad and terrifying stories about the experiences of many in marriage, decide your won't be like that. Decide your marriage will be an improvement of that of your parents and family members. Decide that you will pay the price for success to be attained. Decide that your marriage will be an example for others

on what Christian marriage should be. Make up your mind to swallow and bear any pain to make your marriage peaceful and successful. Make that decision now.

Mark 9:23

23 "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

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Phil 4:13

13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

NIV

2. Decide to build your marriage on God's principle for successful marriage and parenting.

God is the author of marriage and has the principles for successful marriage and parenting. You cannot know more about marriage than the author of marriage himself. To build your marriage outside of God's principles in His word is invitation to avoidable troubles that will break down your marriage. Live within the boundaries of God's word. Stay in your God-given positions of leadership and submission for peace to reign in your home. Live by the promises of God in every area of life.

Matt 7:24-27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand . 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

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3. Leave your families and cleave to each other.

Cleaving to family and friends rather than spouse is the reason why many marriages have been destroyed. The biblical injunction to leave family and cleave to your spouse must be obeyed with the whole heart if success is to be attained. "Manhood" and "womanhood" mean that one is mature to make his or her own decisions. Leaving family and cleaving to spouse means independence from family and that you don't allow family to determine or dictate what happens in your home. They don't push you around. They don't make decisions for you.

Gen 2:24

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

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4. Do not allow others make your decisions for you.

To succeed, you must have a mind of your own - you make your own decisions. Your friends shouldn't be doing your thinking for you or making decisions for you. Your mum, dad, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts or family members should not think for you or make decisions for you. Every person in your lives are advisers, and you are the decision maker. You listen to everyone talk and you choose what to do with what you have been advised. And whatever decision you take, you will be responsible for it and not the one who suggested it.

5. Be prepared to take responsibility for all your decisions and actions, responses and reactions to situations and circumstances.

For your marriage to succeed, you will have to own up to your choices, decisions, actions, reactions and words. If you are man enough to say or do something, you must be man enough to accept responsibility. Many crises in homes are as a result of refusal to admit fault, apologize and correct the error done. If you want peace in your home, you have no choice but to own up if failure occurs, evil experienced, or trouble comes up as a result of the words you have spoken and steps taken.

6. Change where and when necessary. Drop all evil habits and character that causes your partner pain and depresses your marriage.

Refusal to change an evil habit and character that hurts your spouse is sickening and wicked. It is in fact a display of lack of true love. If you love your spouse and desire a peaceful and successful marriage, you need to shed old leaves. You need to drop evil habits and character that hurt your spouse and put a strain on your marriage.

7. Determine to become better by the day and improve your communication and relationship skills to enhance, strengthen and stabilize your marriage.

Success is progressive. It is not a onetime act. To succeed requires progressive acts to improve your person and become better. Dropping wrong manners, habits and character and taking on good ones will enhance your marriage. Making daily improvements will guarantee stability and success of your marriage. So go to work on yourself now.

8. Be careful whom you share your marital challenges with, and whose and what advice you follow.

Everyone counseling you is directing your life and moving you towards their perceived good end and desire for you. They are directing your life, putting words in your mouth, stirring your emotions, provoking you and causing you to take actions that sometimes you may regret. So you must be careful who you share your thoughts, feelings and marital experience with. Most importantly, you must be careful whose advice you follow.

9. Live by faith and believe the best will happen to you in your marriage.

2 Cor 5:7

7 We live by faith, not by sight.

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Life is a faith journey. But faith has to be placed on the right person and promises. God is the only true person worthy of trust. His words never fail to come to pass. Live your marital life in faith, trusting that God will bless your marriage and help you make it successful. As you build on the word of God, have faith that He will help you overcome every challenge that will come up in your marriage. You will always overcome in partnership with Him.

10. Trust God through prayer, fellowship with him and the practice of His word in all things and at all times.

Prayer changes things and make things work well. Your marriage needs daily trust in God through heartfelt daily prayers. God hears and answers prayers when men pray to Him. When a problem shows up, go to God in prayers and He will intervene and it will be well with you. Pray and never get tired of praying. Do not just pray because you need His help, but draw near in true and intimate relationship with God. Both of you need to maintain an intimate relationship with God. This will guarantee answers to your prayers and daily support from God which you need very much to succeed in your marriage.

Conclusion

Marriage is what you make of it. Your experience in marriage is the result of the collection of choices you make on a daily basis as event unfolds. You need to take charge and make sure you put measures in place that will make you succeed. What you do with all you have been taught so far on marriage especially this message will determine the shape and direction of your marriage.

Remember to guard your mind daily against negative thoughts towards your spouse and marriage. Never forget that your thoughts determine how you feel, speak and respond or react to people and situations. Be careful how you think for your life is shaped by your thoughts. Your marital life is shaped by your thoughts towards God's word, your spouse, yourself, in-laws, possessions, and happenings around you. Think positively. Think based on the word of God.

Prov 4 :23

23 Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

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