

THE POWER OF PATIENCE IN MARRIAGE

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Marriage, like every other relationship is a blend of good and unpleasant experiences. It is a rhythm of highs and lows, good and bad, excitement and sadness, joy and anger, sweet and harsh words. This requires adjustments on the part of those involved to make sure that peace and love is allowed to flourish no matter what happens. Many react to these unpleasant experiences in a negative manner to the point that it affects their marriage so badly that bitterness and malice is entertained, separation and divorce is contemplated or carried out. It is very important that we remember that no matter how strongly we love our spouse, we will see things in each other's life that offends and upset us. Therefore, patience is a virtue that must be practiced towards each other for peace to be maintained and love to grow.

Patience is a very vital quality in relationship. There is a need to patiently wait for one another until change is effected in each other's lives. Change is not easy to effect in a life though the person wants to change and turn a new leaf. Change is a war. To change, one needs to fight it out with the powers behind the weakness before victory can be gained. While this is going on, your partner needs to be patient until victory comes. You the reader will agree with me that in your own life, it has not been very easy for you to change some things that were not right in your life. It is very important that we give room and time for the battle to be fought and victory to be won and change to be effected.

There are some that don't want to change the wrong habits and lifestyle that offends their partner. They don't seem to be moved about all the complaints against them or making effort at all. If that is the situation with you and your spouse, you still need to be patient with your partner as you turn to God for help to touch and change your partner. Fighting and quarrelling will never get the job done. Prayer, and much prayer in faith rooted in the promises of God will. Complaining to people won't get the job done, but complicate it.

Knowledge is needed

Fighting with your spouse or making the home a living hell will not bring about change. Nagging which leads to more trouble will not bring change. Deciding to leave your spouse is not the way out of the challenge either. Only God can bring about change. It takes the discovery of God's revealed principles in His word to gain victory.

John 8:31-32

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

NIV

It takes truth to overcome weaknesses in the life of a man. To overcome, you have to spend some quality time with God searching the scriptures, meditating on the word of God, listening to the teaching and preaching of God's word. Without a diligent search for the right knowledge that will produce freedom, freedom will not come.

Eccl 8:6

6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

NIV

Until a man locates the proper procedure for a matter, victory is not in sight. It takes the revelation of God to overcome weaknesses. Give yourself to reading and meditating on the word of God and you will be victorious as you discover the secret pathway out of the weakness that is rocking your marriage.

Prov 2:1-11

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

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To overcome, the seeker of freedom must cry out to God who alone can save. Among the things to pray for is wisdom to overcome. You need to pray for the way out, the step by step action that will bring one out of the evil habit and character that is threatening your marriage. The above scripture says one needs to call out and cry aloud to God for the relevant knowledge that will bring freedom. So, it is not enough to search the scriptures, you must pray for revelation that will bring wisdom and understanding of what to do, how to do it and when to do it to be free. God will always give wisdom when any man asks for it and searches for it as one searching for a hidden treasure. He is committed to answering the prayers of His children, especially when it is for wisdom.

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

NIV

Prayer is needed

Effective praying is essential for freedom and maintaining of the freedom gained. You that want to be delivered must cry to God for deliverance and for God to reveal the pathway to victory to you. You need also to pray for the boldness and courage to walk in the revealed path of God for victory.

Ps 50:15

15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

NIV

Jer 29:12-14

*12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD,
NIV*

Rom 10:13

*13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
KJV*

You must join hands with your spouse in prayer to help your spouse overcome. While you do this, you need to be patient and believe with your spouse that he or she will overcome because Jesus has overcome for him or her. You can't be praying and be nagging your spouse and behaving as if God cannot answer or bring about the change both of you desire. You must walk by faith and keep trusting the Lord, confessing the word of God concerning victory over evil lifestyles and character while you patiently wait for God to perform the miracle on your spouse.

Don't focus on the weaknesses of your spouse

Focus on your spouse's strength (good habits, and characters) and not on the weaknesses. If you focus on his or her weaknesses, you will always be enraged and bitter towards your spouse. To help yourself be patient with your spouse, you need to focus on your spouse's areas of strength. Focus on the things your spouse does right and excites you, and not on the things that upset you. You need things that will put your heart at peace and make you feel good about your spouse and want to continue loving and fellowshiping with him or her. This will enable you to patiently wait for your spouse to overcome his or her weaknesses and make things better.

Conclusion

Patience gives God a chance to perform his miracle in your spouse. Patience is rooted in faith in God's benevolence and willingness to deliver your spouse and make peace reign within your marriage. Patience with your spouse is giving peace a chance and allowing your love for your spouse to remain and continue to wax strong. Practice patience with your spouse as you look to God for the change you seek in your partner and it shall come before you know it.

Patient people make better marriage. Patient people are people of deep understanding. Patient people give peace a chance. Patient people are people of understanding who know and believe that change is not easy to be effected in any area of life. God is patient. Love is patient (1 Corinthians 13:4). You can't love without being patient with the person you love. God has shown us that He has true love for us by being so patient with us all our life. If you truly love your spouse, you need to be patient with him or her. Practice patience and do not allow the devil to sow evil seeds in your mind or make you focus on the wrong things in your spouse, for that will make you so angry that you will want to quit the relationship.

Patience is a virtue of love which you already have. It is not something you have to go out there to look for. It is in you in Christ Jesus, waiting for you to activate it and yield to it as you stop concentrating on the wrong and offensive things in the life of your spouse. If Jesus is in your life,

Patience is there. It is one of the fruit of the spirit that you are expected to manifest. Just yield and it will take over your life. Decide to manifest patience today, and believe you can, and the Holy Spirit will help you manifest patience. This will preserve your, marriage and make it exciting, peaceful and stronger.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1 Always remember, people see and read you before they get to meet you to know you.**
- 2 No man will like to enter into a relationship with a woman he is not attracted to.**
- 3 Bitterness is evil and destructive to the mind, body and relationship.**
- 4 Never forget, bitterness is the absence of love and a killer of love.**
- 5 Stop using sex to profit from your spouse. What you do not know when you do this is that you are telling your spouse, I don't want you, it is what you have that I want. You are telling your spouse that you have to pay me to sleep with me. It means you are not a spouse but like any other person out there on the street using what they have to get what they want. Think about this. If you truly love your spouse, you will give yourself freely without reservation.**
- 6 Using sex to subdue or compel your spouse to say sorry when you know you are the guilty one is dangerous and can backfire. You can widen the gap between the two of you by so doing and that can lead to the end of your marriage as your partner seeks love elsewhere.**
- 7 The truth is that when love is weak and sour, you cannot give yourself to your spouse. And when you start denying your partner your love and body, the marriage is going down the drain. So be careful about your marriage and how you relate with your partner. Keep love fresh in your marriage. Forgive when offended. Get rid of all bitterness and malice. Never allow them in your heart. Remove all restrictions as far as your sex life with your spouse is concerned. Sex in marriage is not a sin. An active sex life in marriage is not a sign of carnality or spiritual weakness. A lack of it can make you carnal and weak as lust begin to rage within you. An active, fun filled and exciting sex life will enrich and preserve your love and marriage. Give yourself to your spouse freely willingly and joyfully when he or she needs you. May God bless and preserve your marriage in Jesus name.**