

Marriage, don't let the enemy win

Several times I have felt moved to write about marriage. We have been married for 51 yrs. The first half of this marriage Roger was not interested in faith. He felt that since he went to confirmation when he was young, he was covered. Well, he felt that way until God actually got ahold of him and he found the real Jesus. Our story like many people our age, has several testimonies within it. Here is just part of it.

In 2003, I had decided I didn't want to be in a "godless" marriage, so I left. (First, you need to know that's not really grounds for divorce. I personally believe the only grounds are Addiction, Abuse or Abandonment. A pastor might not agree).

When I left, Roger got serious about His faith. He realized he wasn't where he needed to be. He told me that regardless of whether I came back or not, he needed to make changes. After 3 mo. I went back. The first year was rocky because I was waiting for the other shoe to drop and I was waiting to see that his changes were actually manipulation. It never happened. He stayed true to his faith, and his actions always upheld that. I am blessed. That isn't the way most marriages go these days.

All the time I was gone, I had turmoil in my soul. I really felt physically the fact that 2 become one and in leaving it felt like a tearing apart, deep in my soul. I kept hearing a voice say, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8. Then, if you divorce, the enemy wins. Don't let Satan win. I heard this consistently for 3 mo. We found a great counselor and pulled it all together.

We had a marriage ministry at our other church, mentoring young married people. The fact is that we all need to hear that voice at some point in our marriage. We cannot let the enemy win!! No, it's often not easy! Nope, some days you won't be "feelin' it". Some days you will be sure you have no love left for your spouse. One thing I will promise is, if you make God the center of your marriage and pray together about it, HE will heal your marriage.

If you do not, and Satan wins, the mess stays through generations. Every holiday the grown kids have to go to 4 Christmas dinners. When you divorce, children often feel the need to pick sides. MANY times, parents trash the other spouse to the kids. Often, even friends and other relatives feel the need to "pick a side". So, tend to your marriage like you would a garden. Pull the weeds before they overtake the good stuff and strangle it out. Stay close to Jesus and pray together. There is

actually nothing more intimate than prayer time with a spouse. Because when the hard times do come, death of a parent, financial stress, health issues, you need that person you can count on, that person who's first thought isn't "I don't want to be here," the first thought is "Let's talk to Jesus about this together". Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Your marriage is that strand. The 2 of you, and Jesus.

Lord, help us to follow your model for marriage and family. With you, we can be victorious. Amen.

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