

Marriage After 50 (Transitioning into The Empty Nest)

Before we get started it is important to note that there are no set rules for relationships. Every person and every couple is different and no two people go through the exact same thing.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NLT)

¹For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

² A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

³ A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

⁸ A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

Time is one of the most valuable currencies we can possess.

Time can be spent, and time can be invested.

The 3 most valuable currencies that we have been given are:

1. Time
2. Knowledge

Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ Intelligent people are always ready to learn.

Their ears are open for knowledge.

3. Money

Deuteronomy 8:18

18 "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

- It's extremely rare to have all 3 of these at the same time.
- If you're missing one of them, invest time in the other 2 to get what you're missing.

3 W's for a marriage in transition

1. **Wrinkles**

- a. We don't look like we used too.
- b. We've been through some stuff.
Raising kids, job changes, moving, etc.
- c. Laugh lines – we are happier now, more settled in the relationship, and secure in who we are.

2. **War**

- a. Causes
 - i. Lack of communication
 - ii. Boredom
 - iii. Mishandling of finances
 - iv. Lack of relationship

3. **Wisdom**

- a. Love languages

1. Words of Affirmation 2. Quality Time 3. Giving Gifts 4. Physical Touch 5. Acts of Service

We have discovered that our love languages have shifted over the years.

- b. What have we learned in this new season?
- c. A word to the dreamers – Abraham & Sarah

(Wisdom continued)

1. **Marriage is a covenant:**

- a. With a contract, if one agreeing party does something in violation of the contract then it is considered broken. The whole contract becomes null and void. Basically, the signers of a contract agree to hold up their ends if the other signatories hold up theirs too.
- b. With a covenant, both parties agree to hold up their ends *regardless* of whether the other party keeps their part of the agreement. A violation of a covenant by one party doesn't matter as far as the other party's responsibility to continue to do what they agreed to do.
 - i. Not a contract but a covenant: Marriage is rightly seen as a covenant between a man and a woman which God has joined together. As a covenant marriage is "until death do us part."
 - ii. But as a contract marriage becomes, "until you do something that I don't like."

2. **When you enter into marriage, there is name change.**

- a. God's destiny will always include a name change.
- b. A name change has the power to change your nature and make room for your destiny.
- c. Abram and Sarai-
 - i. God entered into a covenant with Abram, changed his name to Abraham and increased his capacity.

Genesis 17:1-5

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,"² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations."⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

- ii. God changed Sarai's name as well.

Gen 17:15-17

15 And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

- iii. When a husband and wife become one in marriage, the covenant with God involves both of them.
- d. Abraham and Sarah were empty nesters, but that was not a reason for them to give up on their promise.
- e. God needed them to experience some stuff, to learn some stuff, because he needed them to raise a nation, not just a child. Their age was not an indication that they were at the end but that they were just beginning to walk into the promises and the blessing of God.