

Building a Spiritual Marriage

There are several guiding principles that help lay a strong foundation for a marriage and family. Spend a little time thinking about each one and how it is (or is not) reflected in your marriage.

DESIRE

From the Song of Solomon we learn that passion and desire are made by our Creator. Whether we are speaking of romance or life-long devotion it is clear that men and women alike desire secure love. **But to find security we must reciprocate vulnerability, and in the end we must find TRUST.** In His world, this is expressed through:

- a willingness to mutually choose to submit to God and choose the path of humility
- commitment to the pursuit of a godly, growing, satisfying physical relationship
- a willingness to learn about my husband/my wife's love language
- a willingness to learn about and live a life of forgiveness

Each of these require selfless love, and selfless love is a rare treasure.

CHERISH/RESPECT

From Ephesians 5 we learn that family is a partnership. It is an opportunity for nurturers and protectors to work together, forging an environment conducive to growth of the soul. Such understanding of partnership is deeply fulfilling and will be evidenced by:

- an increasing knowledge of what **respect** and being **cherished** mean for men and women
- a recognition and acknowledgement of my partner's core strengths
- an understanding of my own strengths that I bring into our home
- a mutual reliance upon my partner's role in our relationship and family

VALUE

A spiritual home includes a deep understanding of relationships: brotherhood/sisterhood - 1 Peter 3:7

- working together for the glory of God and extending this vision to our children
- appreciation and reliance upon one another's gifts (as well as the entire family)
- acceptance of our weaknesses, limitations, strengths, and potential

ONENESS

- Does our companionship reflect Peace, Love, and Hope?
- Am I submitted to a life of love and respect?
- Do we read His Word together?
- Do we pray together and reflect upon life?
- Do we spend time with other spiritually motivated couples and friends?

Which of these resonate most with where you feel you are in your spiritual marriage journey?
