

# Before and After 3

## March 3, 2013 | mediaatvictory.com

Unfortunately, this is what so many of our marriages today look like: strangers living in the same house, driving the same cars, going to the same church, sleeping in the same bed, but living completely separate and disconnected lives.

- **We are living ALONE—TOGETHER.**

Marriages don't fail in a day, week or month, but after daily decisions to deteriorate the spirit of our marriages over an extended period of time.

What you do WHEN, not IF, these times come will decide the outcome of your marriage.

**Marriage is a commitment to GIVE, not RECEIVE.**

### **VOWS TO GIVE:**

I take you to be my partner for life.

I promise, above all else to live in truth with you and to communicate fully and fearlessly.

I give you my hand, my heart and my life.

I vow to place your welfare above mine.

I pledge my love, devotion, faith, and honor as I join my life to yours.

### **VOWS TO RECEIVE:**

I take you to be my partner for life or until we fall out of love.

I promise, above all else to live in truth with you, if you live in truth with me, and to communicate partially and with the intent to win arguments and get my way.

I give you my hand, my heart, and my life, if it is convenient and I feel like it.

I vow to place your welfare way below mine.

I pledge my selfishness, disrespect, and dishonor as I join my life to yours.

I promise to TAKE.

**What are we saying when we say, "I love you"?**

**Love always does what is in the best interest of the other person!**

**1 Corinthians 13:5b,7-8 - <sup>5b</sup> Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it and it pays no attention to a suffered wrong.**

<sup>7</sup> Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is **ever ready to believe the best of every person**, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything without weakening. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.

The God kind of love produces a stable, happy, and peaceful home.

It is said the marriage is a three ring circus: The Engagement Ring, The Wedding Ring, and Suffer-ring.

## Q & A

**Q: What keys do you think unlock our potential to have thriving marriages?**

**A: Humility**

- You can't fix a problem you won't admit exists.
- When we are well able to define our partner's issues, but can't see our own, trouble is on the way.

**James 4:6,10** – <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

**Q: What do you do when the crisis or tension in your marriage originates in your personal life and has leaked into your marriage?**

**A: We got help**

- Most marital conflict is a result of either one or both partners being personally unhealthy.
- The powerful pull of our desire to receive is often rooted in our broken places.

**Q: What would you say to encourage couples who are having problems in their marriages or want to improve their marriages?**

**Dr. Mark Rutland – President of Oral Roberts University**  
**10 things I would do differently if I could be 21 again**

Inner healing is greater than outward success. It is probably impossible to arrive at 21, let alone 62, without wounds in the inner person—deep wounds that need God's healing grace. The more I see of inner healing and the more I face up to my own inner wounds, the more I wish I had let Messiah touch my deepest hurts earlier in life. That childhood hurt, that hidden outrage, that long-suppressed horrific memory can lurk like a monster in the basement waiting for years, even decades, to rise and wreak havoc.

Hiding the monster, denying that it's down there, is a dangerous game. The temptation is to create an alternative reality where success and accomplishment and appearances seem so very real and the monster but a mirage. If I were 21 again I would bore down into the inner world of me and find Christ's healing touch in the darkness under the floorboards.