

Praying with your Spouse

A prayer guide - pride

INTRODUCTION

In November we hosted the Sacred Marriage Conference and many of us made this commitment at the end of the conference:

"From this day forward, we're committed to fighting for our marriage. We promise to seek God for the wisdom, strength, and tenacity needed to create and sustain a sacred marriage with one and another. Whatever it takes, we're all in. We will remember that marriage wasn't created to make us happy, it was created to make us holy."

With this commitment, hundreds of us pinpointed one barrier that is keeping us from having a Christ centered marriage; these barriers have been prayed over ever since.

During the Revival Series we want to provide ways you, as couples, can be praying over these barriers, too.

We are providing couples with prayer prompts for each of the top nine barriers that were identified. We have offered ideas for how the issue may be impacting your home or a friend's home; a Scripture that speaks about this topic, a suggested action item and a prayer. Please use this time to pray, as husband and wife, over your marriage and the marriages of all those around us. Let us start a revival in our homes...a revival in our marriages...a revival in our families.

Each topic includes:

- Topic introduction.
- A passage that speaks about this topic.
- A practice or idea that may benefit your marriage.
- A prayer regarding the topic.

Pride

Pride can sneak into marriages; it can be obvious or subtle and manifests itself in many ways. It can come out of your mouth in comments showing you are not really listening and with merely words that you know better than your spouse or it can display itself with tone and facial expressions and minute actions that are not as obvious or seen by your spouse. It comes straight from the heart- either way pride has the potential to eat away at our marriages and unity if ignored or covered up and not openly “worked on”. At first, we might just consider it a “character flaw” or a “bad habit” and make excuses to ourselves and our spouse. But, in order to cut it out- we have to see it as sin that eats away at our own heart and our marriage. In any relationship- but in particular our marriage- HUMILITY is always the answer. Not only for the sake of our marriage but for our own souls and if you have children- for theirs as well.

1 Peter 5:5 says, “ All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’”.

This week make a change that will demonstrate humility toward your spouse. “In humility, consider them better than yourself” like Jesus did for us. Look for a new way to build up your spouse. When communicating about some “difference” between you this week: Look your spouse in the eyes when talking, genuinely listening and considering what they are saying- deferring your own opinion. Stop the reflex reaction you may normally have- whether it is interrupting, judging, or facial expressions and surrender to humility. Comment on what they have said when they are finished, refrain from “making your point”.

Dear God, I am grateful for my wife (husband), thank You for the relationship we have with You and with each other. Help us live as one. Help me love my wife (husband) the way You love them, the way You love Your church. Show me areas where my pride gets in the way of our relationship and help me to become humble in heart and in my relationship with my husband (wife). In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.