

Praying for Strong and Loving Marriages

(Footnotes refer to Scriptures on page 3 for meditation and further prayers)

Completeness without Marriage: Gracious God, we pray for Your disciples in our body who are single, whether or not they desire to be married. Court us to find our complete fulfillment in You. By Your Spirit, grant us intense fortitude without compromise to wait for a compatible mate and one who will be a true disciple of an equal yoke; do not let satan tempt us to be infatuated with any other. Help us to be patient as Your plans unfold. For those who walk in celibacy, may every cell of our beings be filled with Your magnificent presence of love, joy, peace, and power. (1)

Intimacy with God & to Your Glory: Glorious Lord, how can any marriage succeed without each spouse, first and foremost and above all, seeking to know You, love You, and serve You with all of the heart, soul, mind, and strength. You Who have begun a good work in Your people, bring it to perfection. Impress on each one to feed on Your word and be doers of Your word. Burden us to pray fervently for each other. May our rivers of living waters spring forth to nourish one another in love. Thank you for healthy marriages that mirror the mystery of Christ's union with His Church. Cause each union to grow stronger and stronger in covenant faithfulness, and be a beautiful reflection of Your faithfulness to Your covenant with us; may its greatest purpose be to give You glory. May these Christians experience more powerful ministries together than if they had never met. Guide our steps of where to live and establish us, as married couples, as beacons of light shining brightly for You in our neighborhoods and communities. (2)

Protection: Lord of Refuge, You desire our marriages to be covenants that last for life, so we put our trust in Your guardian protection over these unions. Lead us away from sin and distractions that erode marriages. Protect each marriage from any person, thing, or circumstance that could cause a separation of what You have joined together. Encourage couples to proclaim, "Our lives together in Christ will succeed!" Jesus, as God gave humanity marriage in the perfect Garden of Eden, and You worked Your first miracle at a wedding celebration, thank you for working miracles today that preserve and even recreate when necessary precious marriages of our body. Grant couples reasons to ever celebrate their oneness. (3)

Unity: Prince of Peace, one of Your holy prayers the night before You died was for our Father to preserve unity. Teach us discernment and how to address hindrances to our marital relationships. Empower us through Your Spirit to overcome individual weaknesses and sins. Help us to work through differences and conflicts with compassion, gentleness, and careful communication. Enable us to rejoice in and encourage each other's strengths and gifts. Even after Uriah was killed, although David became Bathsheba's husband, the Apostle Matthew's geneology of Christ still acknowledges that Bathsheba had been Uriah's wife. Your Word says You hate divorce; seriously impress upon Your married ones the solemn vow spoken before You, and never let an attitude of separation or divorce inappropriately creep in and take root. Help us to keep our armors on and stand firm in faithfulness to our union. Empower our church family to strengthen our church marriages. Establish relationships and counselors outside our marriages that will support our unions without gossip or malice. (4)

Love and Submission: Word of Life, let each husband and wife treat the spouse with the utmost respect and submission, one to another. Help us to honestly and openly share thoughts and feelings, but only ever in love. Give us the love from Your heart that is always patient, faithful, compassionate and kind. Guard the words of our mouths and our actions to build up and not tear down. Grant us a fullness of hope, trust and perseverance. Lead husbands and wives away from immorality, unrighteous or unresolved anger, envy, pride, rudeness, competitiveness, selfishness,

deceit, and thoughtlessness. May each spouse cry for you to “Search me, O God;” may each continue to walk humbly forward in Your revealing light and be transformed by the Holy Spirit, so we will have an ever more mature love to give. May a sweet sensitivity flow from You to one another that heals emotional wounds and hurts. May the love abounding from You never fail as it overflows from one to another. Teach us the critical need to mercifully forgive as an act of our will. If one stumbles, lead quickly to repentance, in order for the relationship to experience a victorious reconciliation and restoration. (5)

Physical Intimacy and Purity: Almighty God, kindle a pure passion between wives and husbands to last a lifetime. Give each a desire for and complete fulfillment with their spouse. You Who have written the Song of Songs, call Yourself “Husband” to the Church, and name us Your “Bride,” guide husbands and wives of the earth to supernaturally understand how to communicate profound, committed love for each other that is fully satisfying mentally, emotionally, and physically. Convict any spouse who would withhold affection without good reason. Keep these unions pure and holy in every way. Lead each away – with holy, steadfast fortitude – from temptations that are improper emotional connections or lustful immoralities of the flesh; open the eyes of each spouse to clearly see such roads quickly lead to the enemy’s camp of unhealthiness, hurt, and destruction. Empower married eyes to stay fixed on Your beauty first, and then lovingly toward the spouse. Lead us away from the temptation of even a momentary glance of unfaithfulness at another, whether in life or media. (6)

Finances: Holy Provider, You know what Your people need even before we ask. Thank you for providing for families from Your holy hands of abundance. Encourage married couples to be cheerful and benevolent tithers and givers without restraint. Do not allow the enemy to tempt us to discord over financial matters but lead us to collaboration and unity. Teach us contentment and give us endurance and faith when needed, for Your Word shows every period of lean is only for a season. Lead us away from greed and selfishness. Help us to be prudent and wise with funds. In all we put our hearts and hands and minds to, grant us success. Give us fulfilling employment and wise ways to invest, so every need is supplied and every seed of generosity for Your kingdom is sown in our local body, in our community, and around the world. (7)

Parenting: Divine Helper, for those of us called to be parents, bless and empower us with the patient and wise ability to love, nurture, and disciple the children You entrust to us. May we diligently prepare the next generation for knowing You, loving You, and being devoted to You. May our care for children not compromise our love for You or our spouses. May we inspire our children’s respect and honor as their parents, so the promise of a long and fulfilled life will be theirs. May a healthy and enduring marriage serve as a pure model for the posterity to follow. (8)

Severe Difficulties: Holy Counselor, we submit to Your Lordship any marriage in severe difficulty. Lord, thank you for the wisdom to know there are exceptional situations that call for extreme measures in love, such as separation or even divorce due to unrepented abuse, abandonment, adultery or other sexual immorality, substance abuse, financial abuse, alcoholism, criminal activity or other egregious situations. Thank you for being the God of all comfort Who comforts us through every affliction. Do not allow a hurting spouse to suffer in silence. Encourage such a brother or sister to seek the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit, as well as the intercessory prayer and counsel of godly Christians, pastors, and counselors to assist them in taking the proper action. Guard us and any children involved from guilt, despair, and emotional scars. Give us the strength to draw from Your well of love, peace, and hope. (9)

Meditate upon and present these Scriptures before the Lord. Pray these descriptions of a healthy marriage abiding in Christ – are present, are coming to pass, and will be sustained.

1. Completeness without Marriage

Psalms 27:4. Psalm 63. Rom 12:10. 1Cor 7:31-32. 2Cor 6:14.

2. Intimacy with God & to Your Glory

Deut 6:5. Deut 7:9. Ps 16:5. Ps 19:7-14. Ps 25:4. Ps 119. Prov 16:3. Ecc 4:9-12. Matt 4:4. Matt 5:16. Matt 6:6. Lk 10:27-28. Lk 18:1-8. Jn 1:7. Jn 4:14. Jn 17:17-26. Act 2:46-47. 1Cor 10:31. Eph 1:18. Eph 5:21-33. Eph 6:18. Philp 1:6. Philp 3:7-11. Col 4:5. 2Thes 5:24. Heb 8:10. Jms 1:22-25. 1Pet 1:4. 1Pet 3:15.

3. Protection

Gen 2:24. Neh 8:10. Ps 1:1-3. Ps 32:7. Ps 86:2. Is 43:18-19. Jer 17:7-8. Matt 6:13. Mk 10:9-12. Jn 2:1,11. Jn 17:11-15. Rom 12:9, 21. 1Cor 10:13. 2Cor 5:17. Philp 4:4-8. 2Thes 3:3.

4. Unity

Prov 11:14. Prov 15:1,4,22. Zech 7:9. Mal 2:14-16. Matt 1:6. Lk 6:47-48. Jn 17:13-26. Rom 5:3-5. Rom 12:4-10. 1Cor 7:10-11. 1Cor 11:11. 1Cor 12. 1Cor 13. Eph 4. Eph. 6. Col 1:2-6. Col 3:12. 1Thes 5:11. Heb 2:18. Heb 3:13. Heb 4:14-16. Heb 12:14-15. Jms 1:2-4. 1Pet 5:8-10.

5. Love & Submission

Ps 139:24. Ps 141:3. Ps 147:3. Matt 5:23-24. Act 3:19. Rom 12:2. Rom 15:13. Rom 15:5-6. 1Cor 13. 2Cor 1:3-4. Gal 6:2. Eph 4:17-32. Eph 5. Philp 2:3-4. Col 3. 2Tim 2:25-26. 2Tim 3:10.

6. Physical Intimacy & Purity

Prov 5:15-19. S of S 6:3. Hos 2:16,19,20. Mk 2:20. Rom 8:1-16. 1Cor 6:9-20. 1Cor 7:3-5. 1Cor 10:13. Gal 5:16. 2Tim 3:6. Heb 2:18. Heb 4:14-16. Heb 13:4. Jms 4:7. 1Pet 1:15-16. Rev 21:2,9.

7. Finances

Josh 1:8. Ruth 2:12. Job 42:10. Ps 90:17. Prov 3:9-10. Prov 16:13. Mal 3:10-12. Matt 6:1-34. Lk 12:15. Lk 19:11-26. Rom 15:5-7. 1Cor 9:7-14. 2Cor 9:6-15. Philp 4:11-13. Philp 4:19. Col 3:23. 1Tim 6:6-12. 2Tim 3:2.

8. Parenting

Deut 4:9-10. Deut 6:4-7. 1Chron 16:15. Job 8:8. Ps 22:30. Ps 79:13. Ps 89:14. Ps 103:13. Ps 112:1-2. Prov 1:8-9. Prov 7:1-3. Prov 19:20. Prov 20:7. Joel 1:2-3. Matt 19:13-15. Act 2:39. 1Cor 7:14. Eph 6:4. Philp 4:9. Col 3:21. 2Tim 3:14-17. Tit 2. 3Jn 1:4.

9. Severe Difficulties

Ps 29:11. Ps 34. Ps 121. Ps 124. Ps 147:3. Prov 4:7. Prov 11:14. Prov 15:22. Is 26:3. Matt 6:8. Matt 19:9. Rom 8:35-39. 1Cor 7:15. 2Cor 1:4. Eph 4:31. Eph 5:18. Philp 4:6-7. Col 3:8. 1Tim 6:9-10. Jms 1:5. Jms 3:17.