

New Beginnings

When strife and disunity creep into our marriages and wreck havoc, we just need to hit the reset button and start all over again.

This is a precious opportunity to practice our Lord's holy Word and forgive- just as we have been forgiven.

Practice giving love!

It is a humbling act to show mercy and let your spouse have a fresh start after they have failed.

Zechariah 4:10

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin.

It may be the first time they have said, "Good morning" to you in weeks. Do not receive it with offense- thinking, "Oh! You're finally going to acknowledge me?"

Practice receiving love!

Do not despise small beginnings. Be grateful for small acts of kindness and love. Do not expect everything to be perfect right away. Return any effort of improvement with gratitude, openness and acceptance.

Do not make them earn your love. The Lord first loved us. We are created in His image, and we can act and react just like Him!

PURE Marriage

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The Wests

Married September 29, 1984

Debbie, Well, this September will be 25 years of marriage. It seems like only yesterday that I asked you to switch places with me for our first kiss. I wanted to make sure the first one was a good one. It wasn't long after that that I knew I wanted to marry you. I was so thankful when you finally said yes. With a challenging first year we knew that each one could only get better; so I began the process of growing up, and each one has gotten better. All kidding aside, God knew that you are exactly who I needed. You have been a great wife and mother to our children. I always know that I can talk to you about anything or anyone. The last 25 years have been truly great, and I know the next 25 will be even better. Love, --Larry

Larry, When I first met you at church over 25 years ago, I was mesmerized believing that you were "too good to be true." The butterflies in my stomach prevented me from eating for a whole week!!! In that first year of dating, my jaws would hurt from laughing so much as we enjoyed getting to know each other. I soon learned of the depth behind the humor. Throughout the years, you have been my rock. Your steadiness, confidence and wisdom have kept our family safe. I have never once doubted your commitment to God or our family. You have led me to dream with you and see many of those dreams fulfilled. You give so much of yourself for me. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that our God would bless me with you. As I look ahead to the years to come, I am still laughing and you are still "too good to be true." I love you very much. --Debbie

New Beginnings Prayer:

Father, I choose to forgive _____ (spouse) just as you have forgiven me. I release _____'s past mistakes and failures. Fill my heart with your love and mercy for _____. Thank you for fresh mercy over our marriage and thank you for this new beginning. In Jesus' name, Amen.