



ADVANCING WITH GOD IN MARRIAGE

- Luke 1:5-9

Managing every stage of marriage with
God in control

In this message, we'll consider:

- Pictures: Diverse stances on marriage
- Progress: Different stages of marriage
- Partnership: Divine support in marriage



God is in Charge:
TRUST HIM



PICTURES OF MARRIAGE (1)

❑ Fairyland and fantasy (Isaiah 29:8):

- Imagination that is far from reality
- Dreams, idealism, milk and honey
- No reckoning with responsibilities and commitments.
- A land of pleasure without pain.

❑ Faulted and flawed (Isaiah 55:8,9):

- Negative, misinformed, biased.
- Stresses more failure and doom than God's intended purpose.
- Manipulation, oppression, no relationship.



PICTURES OF MARRIAGE (2)

- ❑ Freelance and frivolous (Mat. 19:3-10):
 - Experimentation without commitment.
 - 'Hit-and-run': go with it so long the pleasure lasts.
 - Freedom without constraint: self-centred, no responsibility, no consideration.
- ❑ Factual and firm (I Cor. 7:32-34):
 - Practical and realistic.
 - Balanced: pleasure and duty are inseparable.
 - Sees pains as investment for a rewarding and mission-focused relationship.
 - Takes time to prepare (Pro. 24:27).



PROGRESS IN MARRIAGE (1)

At every stage of your marriage, you can advance with God. No matter the challenges, God has a way out for you. As a child of God, you should never abide alone or be in darkness!

- ❑ Greeting and gazing (Psalm 32:8,9):
 - Looking ahead for the right partner.
 - Prayer and ‘watching’.
 - Reading and studying.
 - Exchanging greetings, emails and daydreaming.
- ❑ Grazing and groping (Isaiah 50:10):
 - This is just the beginning.
 - No idea what is coming! Still ‘googling!’
 - Finding out the person, the relationship and how to figure things out:
 - Discovery: ‘So, this is marriage!’
 - Questions: ‘Why/Whom did I get married to (him/her)?’ ‘Is this how he/she is?’
 - Surprises: ‘What’s all this?’ ‘Help!’
 - But everything is still personal; no fire yet!

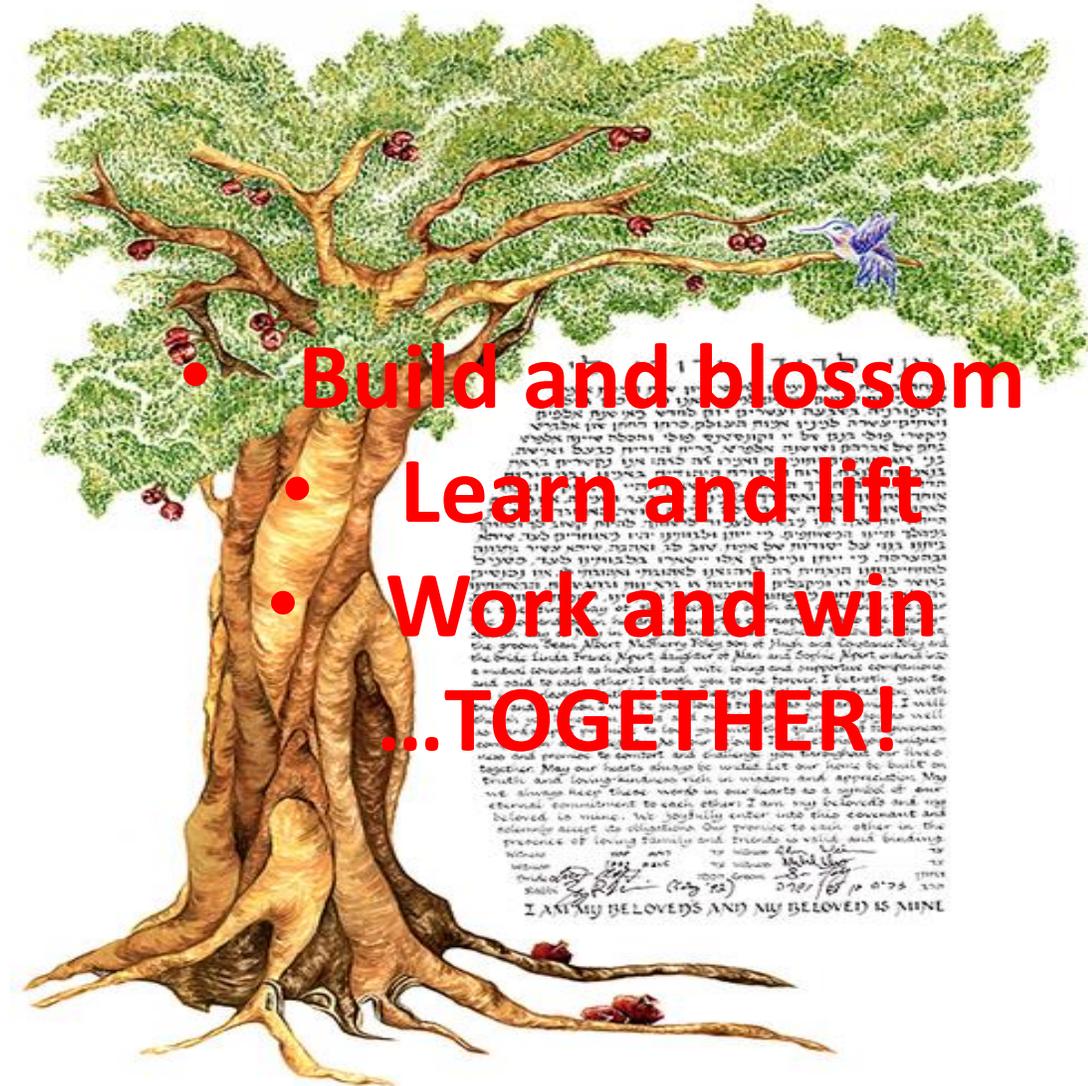
PROGRESS IN MARRIAGE (2)

- ❑ Grilling and groaning (Jer. 29:10-15):
 - Now personality differences begin to clash.
 - Childbirth and family raising increase the pressure. Financial pressures may set in.
 - Serious hurts, need, intense pain and prayer.
 - Time of tears; sometimes fire brigade needed.
 - Time of serious revelation:
 - Adaptation leads to respect and rest;
 - Adherence leads to torture and tear.
 - It lingers as long as vital lessons are not learnt!
 - It is this stage that decides if and how the relationship will continue.



PROGRESS IN MARRIAGE (3)

- Grooming and growing (Proverbs 24:3-6):
 - General understanding: duties, responsibilities, expectations, etc.
 - Spouse-specific understanding: peculiarities, what works and what doesn't.
 - Investment: mutual goals, realising each other's strengths and challenges, helping and building each other (and kids). Love is very practical!
 - There is openness to change and personal development.
 - Significant personal and family progress.
 - Now you are really at cruising altitude!





PARTNERSHIP IN MARRIAGE – Isaiah 43:1,2; Hebrews 13:5,6

- ❑ At every stage in your marriage, you can make God your Partner:
 - Greeting and gazing: He is your Counsellor
 - Grazing and groping: He is your Coach
 - Grilling and groaning: He is your Comforter
 - Grooming and growing: He is your Consultant
- ❑ Your attitude to God is crucial:
 - Have faith in God: Be positive; don't let situations take your eyes from God's promises.
 - Refrain from ungodly counsel: Especially at trying times, you could be vulnerable!
 - Seek godly counsel timely: Even the wisest man needs counsel; don't delay!
 - Persevere: Continual prayer, work and patience will win every battle.



TEXT

● Mark 9:23

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, **all things [are] possible** to him that believeth. (KJV)



TIME TO PRAY!