



Spiritual Growth as a Couple

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Psalm 127:1 - *Unless the LORD builds the house* (and your marriage), *the builders* (as husband and wife) *labor in vain*. Go with God's plan for your marriage!

1. **Seek God Genuinely as Individuals.** Spend time alone with God having a regular habit of Bible Reading and prayer. Make a commitment to show your love to each other by promising to keep your heart soft toward God through ongoing growth in your own faith.
2. **Seek God as a Couple.** Find some devotional guide on growing together as a couple – read and discuss it 2-3 times a week.
3. **Pray together daily** – praying with each other and for each other. Pray together holding hands ALWAYS: at home, at night, at meals, at restaurants, at church. Praying together EVERY DAY is a non-negotiable. A couple that prays together regularly has a less than 1% chance of ever divorcing.

Proverbs 3:5,6 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him* (as a person and as a couple), *and he will direct your path.*”

4. **Seek the Lord together on all life decisions.** Since God has led you together, He will lead you along! Pray about any major decision. Write out your pros and cons. But remember: in your decision making, a 'YES' and a 'NO' – always equals a NO. Be patient in finding God's will and unity on each choice you make together.
5. **Dedicate each new home to the Lord.** Walk through the home together and pray through each room. Consider having key people who you look up spiritually to join you in this prayer time.
6. **Don't Skip Church.** Regular outside perspective on God's plan for life and marriage is essential. Find a church you both appreciate and stick with it.

Matt 22:37-39 - *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”* (Don't be half-hearted). *This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor (spouse) as yourself.’*

7. **Find a Personal Mentor and a Hero Couple.** Find a mentor to guide you in your walk with God and as a spouse and also a hero couple to meet bi-annually with both of you to talk through any marital stresses.
8. **Dedicate your marriage to the Lord Regularly.** At least on every anniversary if not more often, have an intentional prayer time of commitment giving your lives and marriage to Him and for Him.
9. **Keep a Soft Heart toward God.** This is the foundation for making any marriage FAIL-PROOF. When you keep your heart soft to Him, He will allow you to become the person, the partner and parent that He wants you to be.