

# Work:

Physical or mental activity to achieve a purpose or result



Paul wrote, “By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me” (1 Corinthians 15:10). The term “worked” means to labor, toil, be wearied. Paul was saved by God’s grace, but because of that grace, he worked harder than all of his peers. In this same way, marriage requires work—it requires labor and toil. Loving our spouse as Christ loves us means that we won’t give up, even when we are weary from the work. The physical and mental activity we put into our marriage will achieve a result—a better marriage!

A marriage can be compared to a garden. To create and maintain a beautiful, growing garden, one must continue to do the work necessary to care for it. It requires the proper tools, water, fertilizer, and weed killer to keep a garden in shape. The marriage relationship also requires proper maintenance to keep it growing and beautiful. The Bible, books, classes, conferences, audio recordings, and videos are the tools to help couple develop a strong marriage. Love, nurture, and acceptance are the fertilizer to keep the marriage alive. Communication is the weed killer to keep problems from taking over the relationship. A flourishing, growing marriage will not happen without effort from both husband and wife.

We all face problems and it might be helpful to think of the problems we face as barriers keeping us from the marriage God wants us to have. A couple can tear down the barriers affecting them, but again, it won’t happen without work. If husband and wife work together, they can tear down the barriers and build a strong, healthy marriage. Are you willing to do the work? Are you willing to do the activities necessary to improve your marriage? Acquire the tools you need, and use the fertilizer and weed killer to improve your marriage. Do your part to strengthen your marriage.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

**Articles to Check Out:**

*The Work of Marriage* - [www.connectedtogether.org/?p=81](http://www.connectedtogether.org/?p=81)

*10 Reasons To Work On Your Marriage* by Jamie Tarence - [www.familysavvy.com](http://www.familysavvy.com)

**Book to Check Out:** *Marriage: From Surviving to Thriving* by Charles Swindoll