

Thrive:

To grow or develop vigorously



God desires growth in us and in our marriage. We are called to walk in the spirit - to walk closely with the Lord through the joyful times in life and through the tough times. To *thrive* as a couple - to grow or develop *vigorously* - requires intentionality. Growth doesn't just happen, we must work at it like tending a garden; a beautiful garden that doesn't happen without work. For the garden to *thrive*, there must be constant care. In the same way, a strong, thriving marriage does not happen on its own. There must be intentionality, there must be effort.

To thrive, a garden requires constant nourishment and attention. Couples who thrive in their marriage give each other the nourishment of connection, responding emotionally to each other, and taking the time to meet each other's needs. There will always be challenges in life: financial pressures, raising children, helping parents, crime, accidents, natural disasters - we live in a broken world, but the question is; how are we going to respond to those challenges? And are we going to respond as a team; a couple working together?

Your marriage *can* thrive no matter what challenges, problems, or troubles you face. The Lord your God promises to be with you through it all, but *you* must focus on Him, trust in Him, and rely on Him to get you through the problems! Lay down your pride and selfishness and love your spouse as God loves you; unconditionally and without hesitation. Connect with your spouse, seek to meet his or her needs, forgive the slights, work through the problems. Don't just grow in your relationship - *thrive*!

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Personality page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples *thrive* in their marriage relationship. It will help you connect and work together to meet the challenges of life.

Articles for more information about thriving in marriage...

How to Thrive in Marriage by Laura M. Brotherson - www.strengtheningmarriage.com

5 Essentials for a Thriving Marriage - FamilyLife Ministry - www.familylife.com