

Flourish:

grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way



It is safe to say that everyone would like a flourishing marriage; a successful, thriving marriage. In fact, Christian marriages *should* flourish—they *should* grow or develop in healthy or vigorous ways. God’s plan is for our marriages to flourish, that they be a testimony for Him. One theme throughout the New Testament is growth—that we would grow in our love for God and for others. That growth would bring healthy, flourishing marriages.

Growing or developing in a healthy or *vigorous* way requires purpose and intentionality. While many people tend to think that relationships grow on their own, the truth is that left to themselves, relationships will wither and die. Like a flourishing garden—a garden that is beautiful, peaceful, and refreshing; a marriage must be nurtured and cared for. It requires work! We must pick the weeds of miscommunication and beat back the barriers to intimacy that tend to grow too quickly in any marriage.

One author wrote; “Flourishing is a condition that is created by choices we make in the worlds we live in.” We have to make right choices, choices to do things God’s way and not our own. No matter what the culture says or what problems we encounter in life, we must obey God and live godly lives. The Psalmist wrote that the righteous will flourish. We will not flourish as a person or a couple without the active pursuit of growth and maturity in Christ.

Do you have a flourishing marriage? A marriage that is growing in a healthy way, beneficial to both husband and wife and a testimony for the God you serve? Be intentional about developing healthy communication and work together as husband and wife in every situation. You *can* have a *flourishing* marriage!

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

Articles to check out:

Flourishing in your Marriage - Podcast by Todd & Karen Ehman

How to Make a Marriage Flourish by Dawn Camp - www.incourage.me