

Determination:

A firm or fixed intention -
resolute in purpose.



Anything we accomplish requires determination; that firm or fixed intention - whether it is earning a college degree, finding a job, purchasing a home - the great or small achievements in life. I wonder though, do people enter marriage today with a *determination* that they will do what it takes to remain married for life? Are they *resolute* in their purpose to fulfill their wedding vows. Several years ago, we attended a friend's memorial service; his wife in her comments stated that; "Today, Diego has fulfilled his wedding vows." Pastor Diego did not fulfill those vows; being faithful and committed to Mery until death did them part, without a firm intention to do so. Likewise, we must have a that determination, that intention to do what it takes to remain married for life.

Our wedding vows are a future promise that we will remain committed to our spouse through the problems and trials that we *will* experience in our married lives. Determination means that we will continue working at it no matter how difficult it gets - through all of life's struggles. But that determination to remain married for life is only part of the equation. Are we determined to do what it takes to build a strong, intimate marriage? Are we willing to stretch ourselves and make the changes required to grow in our marriage relationship? Our marriages will deteriorate and die if we don't nourish the relationship and love our spouse unconditionally.

Determination strengthens commitment and leads to long-term marital success; not only to remain married, but to build a marriage that is healthy, strong, and beneficial to both husband and wife. Do you have a firm intention to build that kind of marriage relationship? Are you resolute in your purpose to do whatever is required to work through the difficulties you will face in life together as a couple? Are you *determined* to fulfill your wedding vows? Resolutely decide right now that you do what it takes to build a strong marriage. Attend a marriage seminar, join a couples study group - get counseling if needed. You can have that healthy marriage, but you must be *determined*...

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

Articles to check out: **4 Ways Determination Saves Relationships** by Amy Leo - intentioninspired.com
Steadfast Love in Marriage by Steve & Cindy Wright - mariagemissions.com