

Future

Time that is to be or come after the present



Couples tend to stop looking to the future together once they marry. Researchers found that one of the biggest changes for couples once married is that they stop dreaming together. Couples tend to get caught up in the present; dealing with the day-to-day problems, and don't take time to look to the future. One writer stated: "When two people love each other, they don't look at each other, they look in the same direction." Couples tend to deal with present challenges and focus each other rather than *where* they are going.

We have to find the balance; yes, we need to live in the present, but we also need to look at the future. As another writer stated; "A person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it." We have goals, objectives, and plans in our careers, but do we have goals and objectives for our personal lives? For our marriage and family? We have the promise of Heaven and eternal life with Jesus, but we also live in the present world - what are we going to do with the time we have here on earth? The Lord says in Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The Lord has plans for us, do we know what those plans are and how we can fulfill them?

Throughout Scripture, the fathers of the faith made plans. We see this in the life of Paul when he wrote about plans to visit the different churches. Those plans may adapt to the circumstances, but Paul made plans for what he felt the Lord led him to accomplish. It is important for us also to set plans for the future, individually, and as a couple. We hold on to those plans lightly, open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, but looking to the future us accomplish what the Lord would want us to do and where He would want us to go. It also helps us to remain on the same page as a couple.

What is your vision for your future? Where do you see the Lord leading you and your spouse together? Do you have goals and objectives for the coming year? For the long-term? Carmen and I began setting one and five year and long-term goals and objectives and then make plans to accomplish them 25 years ago. It has been incredible to see how the Lord has achieved those goals *and* how He has made changes along the way. We want to be in God's will, and we prayerfully seek where He wants us to go in the future. We dream together and it has done a lot to strengthen our marriage and help us to grow together in our faith in the Lord and our love for each other. Consider your future together as a couple and what the Lord would want *you* to accomplish.

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

Articles to check out: *Marriage Goals (And Why You Need Them)* by Lindsey Cover
maturinglifeinChrist.org

Marriage: Looking Forward to the Future - Family Education
www.familyeducation.com/family-life