

# TENACITY!

## The Moral Strength to Continue in Spite of Difficulties



Every couple faces hard times in their marriage; whether it is external difficulties or internal problems, we all have times where life and even marriage just isn't fun. That is where *tenacity* is important. It is making the decision to remain in the marriage and work through the problems no matter what. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he gave them a command, not him, but the Lord; that a wife must not leave her husband, but if she does, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:1,2) It is interesting that there is the caveat about leaving for the wife, but not for the husband. A wife is given license to leave to protect herself from the potential injury of an abusive husband. Both are told that divorce isn't an option.

Friends, we must fight for our marriage! If things are not going right, get help! See a couple who have demonstrated a strong marriage, your pastor, a marriage counselor - do something rather than stand by and watch your marriage deteriorate into something that cannot be salvaged. My wife and I have counseled hundreds of couples over that past 30 years, but earlier this year, we went for counseling. We weren't in a particularly bad place, but we were stuck on a problem that we just weren't working through, so we went for help. We will get help because, even though we have a great marriage, we know that small problems can become big problems and that *no* marriage is completely safe from coming apart, so we are pretty quick to seek help from someone who help us work through whatever problem we are stuck on.

That is *tenacity* - the strength to continue in spite of difficulties or problems. It is doing what it takes to ensure our marriage keeps going in the right direction. It is working together as a couple, learning more about what it means to be a Godly husband and wife, seeking help when needed, and/or not allowing the little things become big things. It is not something we are born with or just happens, it is something we choose to do. Tenacity is a choice we make - sometimes multiple times in a day. BUT, please hear me; tenacity does NOT mean remaining in an unsafe or abusive situation. Sometimes fighting for our marriage means standing up and saying 'no more' to a controlling or abusive spouse or to addictive or sinful behaviors.

Be tenacious; fight for your marriage. Be willing to stand strong for your marriage, even when you don't feel like it. Be willing to change, to grow as a husband or wife, but also be willing to confront wrong behavior exhibited by your spouse. The only marriages that fail are the marriages in which one or both spouses quit trying to make it work. Make a choice to continue in spite of the difficulties you face.

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

**Articles to check out:**

*Perseverance and Tenacity: 2 Keys to Lasting Relationships* by John Thurman - [johnthurman.net](http://johnthurman.net)  
*Tenacity in Marriage* by Steve & Cindy Wright - [marriagemissions.com](http://marriagemissions.com)