

Journey:

Passage from one place to another



People tend to be fixed on the destination; finishing school, purchasing a home, attaining the job, retirement, the completion of pregnancy (birth), - marriage. People often view the wedding day as a *completion*; when, in fact it is the *beginning*. The beginning of a journey; a journey of: joining two lives into one, growing together, meeting the challenges of life, maturing and growing in our walk with the Lord - the list could go on and on. The journey does not end until we stand before our Lord and Savior. Even if our spouse dies, the journey as a couple continues because of the influence our spouse has had on us - the memories, the experiences, the effect of God using our spouse in our life.

We all want to get “there,” to attain the marriage we want, to enter into that “bliss” promised by the culture fixated on the *destination* rather than the *journey*. I will tell you that after nearly 44 years of marriage, the journey does not end in this life-time. Carmen and I are “one” in so many ways and yes, we are *there* in a sense in that as we’ve worked through so many challenges in our lives that we naturally stand together in many areas. But the differences are still there - we still have to work on communicating well and working through conflict and striving to meet needs. We are still doing the work to grow in the Lord and in our marriage relationship. Yes, the journey is not as difficult today as it was many years ago, but new challenges, new problems continue to arise as we continue this journey together.

Friends, are you on a journey *together* with your spouse? Are you praying together? Honing healthy boundaries and communication skills? Are you growing *together*, in your relationship with the Lord and with each other? Are you doing life *together*? If you are not growing together though the journey of life, you are growing apart and it will lead nowhere good - remember J.R.R. Tolkien’s quote: ‘In a more perfect world or even a better situation, a person might have found a more perfect mate – but in reality, one’s true soul-mate is the one he or she is actually married to.’ Travel this journey called life *together*!

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com - The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource to help you and your spouse grow together.

Articles to check out:

***Marriage is a Journey, Not a Destination* by Marriage Dynamics Institute - www.marriagedynamics.com
Growing Together through the Journey of Marriage by Emmanuel Abimbola - www.marriage.com**