

Anticipation

Looking ahead believing it will happen



Expectation is how you hope things will turn out. Anticipation is different. It is for people whose resting position is leaning forward. Anticipation doesn't just look around the corner; it looks well over the horizon. Anticipation is not a passive waiting, but *looking ahead believing it will happen*. God is faithful; yes, we live in a broken world and we all will face troubles in this world, but as God inspired Jeremiah write; "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." (Jeremiah 29:11) When we focus on the Lord, we can look forward in anticipation because our trust is in Him, not what we see around us.

Living in anticipation rather in expectation will positively affect our marriage. Yes, we must have healthy boundaries and address wrong or sinful behavior, but anticipation is an attitude of trust in the Lord for the future. That positive attitude; that looking ahead, leaning forward can help our marriage grow and become more positive overall. There are so many mysteries and unknowns in life; we have the choice of what we are going to do with those uncertainties. Are we going life in fear and expectation of the worse or live in anticipation of what God wants to do in us and through us? I think of Abraham waiting in anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to him, or David's confident waiting for God's goodness. David wrote in Psalm 27:14, to "wait patiently for the Lord; be strong and courageous. Wait patiently for the Lord."

Where are you in your marriage? Do you *anticipate* the good things of the Lord? Looking forward to what He has for you and your spouse? Or are you stuck in the negativity of a life spent pointing the finger at your spouse and all the wrong *they* have done? Get help if needed, but be intentional about looking ahead, trusting God and doing the work to bring the positivity of anticipation into your marriage.

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

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples connect and work together to meet the challenges of life.

Article to check out:

The Magic of Anticipation by Dan Purcell