

Forge

**To form or produce something,
often with effort.**



There are two aspects of *forge*; there is the *forging* that God does in us. It is the refining process; where trials and challenges are a part of shaping us and strengthening our faith. And then there is the *forging* of a strong, healthy marriage. It is the work *we* do to *form or produce* a marriage that honors God and benefits both husband and wife. Both aspects are required in the believer's life as we grow in our relationship with God and with our spouse.

Sanctification; the life-long process of growing into who we are *in Christ* requires effort. God *forges* us; He molds and shapes us into who He wants us to be. That forging is not always easy, painless or fun. Think of the process to *forge* steel. The process uses heat and the force of hammering, pressing, or rolling to create high-strength, durable steel. The Lord often uses the trials and troubles to forge us; to shape us - it can be a painful process. It is the Lord's work, but we also must take an active part in the process. First, we surrender to the Lord and allow His work, and then we participate by being an active part in the relationship through prayer, worship, knowing God through His word, and living in community with other believers. As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, it should be reflected in our marriage relationship.

Oneness; the life-long process of growing unity and intimacy with our spouse also requires effort. Forging; *forming or producing* a healthy marriage requires the effort of both husband and wife. It is not always easy, and just as there are sparks and pressing when forging steel, there will be difficult discussions, tough days, and sometimes, it just won't be very fun as we make the effort to forge a great marriage. Proverbs 27:17 states, that as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. That, my friends, is *forging* and it happens so much more in the marriage relationship than any other relationship we have. Forging a strong, healthy marriage requires effort; are you committed to making that effort?

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

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples forge a healthy, strong marriage.

Article to check out:

Spiritual Intimacy: 3 Ways to Forge a Stronger Marriage by Andy Allan - www.familylife.com