

Transformations

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016



WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT SUMMER!

We also hope you're refreshed and ready for the hectic pace of the fall season. If you have children and teens you're most likely on the move day and night. Fall is also a time for getting around to doing things we need to do, whether it's doctor or dentist appointments or even some form of marriage renewal or enrichment. This is one of our busiest Septembers yet with several people reaching out to us for marriage and family coaching for the first time.

In this edition of 'Transformations' we are looking at our marriages and the need for prayer. As you read, you will be reminded about an essential ingredient of successful Christian marriage, "communing with God." Also, we are introducing our new book, 'The Ephesians Essentials Parenting Guide.'

RSM Opportunities

For Men: OAKS of Righteousness – Building men for spiritual leadership in the home – October and November Thursday evenings, 7:30-9pm. Talk to Dave about joining us!

For Ladies – a time of learning, sharing, and encouragement led by Linda. We are using an excellent new book and DVD, "Uninvited" by Lysa TerKeurst. Wednesday evenings, for 8 weeks in October and November.

To receive Dave's Daily Prayer Page, email us at dave@rsm-helps.com.

Impacting Marriages and Families

God's Spirit is transforming marriages and families as we come alongside in the living room. We hope to encourage you with these stories (Note: names have been changed.)

Books, workshops, seminars, blogs, DVD's, counselling – we have plenty of good information for our marriages. This being true, why are we seeing so many marriages in crisis today? What essential are we missing? Prayer. We are not being prayerful as couples, acknowledging our need for God's help. "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.



With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18. Often we don't know how to pray but Paul says to "pray in the Spirit." What does that mean?

Have you ever faced a situation that is beyond your control? Paul says to pray on all kinds of occasions, including times when Satan and the powers of darkness are attacking us. This is focused prayer that unites us in deep communion with the Holy Spirit from a deep place in our hearts. We pray in the Spirit because we desperately need God's help. In our own marriage, we have become clearly convinced of the need for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as we have cried out for God's help. —cont. on reverse

rsm
resuming life

RSM exists to restore God-centered unity in marriages and families



RSM is now on Facebook and Twitter. Please help us by "liking" and "following" us. Thanks!

Executive Director's Message –Scott Halse

The arrival of September means the return of a packed calendar and little time to spare. One of the challenges (and joys!) of the Christian life is to extricate ourselves from an often self-imposed busyness so that we can wait upon the Lord in prayer and in silence (see Lamentations 3:25.) It is easy for me to mistake the obligations of family life as a distraction from prayer, as an obstacle to stillness, when in fact my spouse can be my closest partner in the exercise of prayerful

listening. We can encourage one another to take time to simply be in the presence of our God, and we can listen for one another as a form of mutual love and support.

Furthermore, insofar as marriage demands that we grow in other-centeredness, it is a great boon to our life of prayer. Commenting on Peter's command to husbands that they understand and honor their wives (1 Peter 3:7), Wayne Grudem writes, "No husband may expect an effective prayer life unless he lives with his wife 'in an understanding way, bestowing honor' on her." By God's grace, may we demonstrate our love for one another as we pause from the busyness of the day, praying for each other and waiting upon the Lord.

Available Resources to Order:

Coming Soon! 'Ephesians Essentials Parenting Guide.' From the pages of Ephesians, we provide 10 essentials for successful parenting. Parents and grandparents will be moved by the power of God's word in re-shaping their thinking about Christian parenting.

The 'Marriage Oneness System'

Couples are building oneness in their own marriage with this DVD and Workbook and then sharing the experience with other couples. Churches are also using this marriage discipleship resource for small groups and to train marriage ministry leaders.



RSM Affiliated Ministry: Dianne Nolson

Each year the Lord gives a word from His Word that particularly speaks to me and guides my thoughts and ministry in amazing ways. My journals shine with joy, hope, trust and, in 2016, strength. Promises are fulfilled each year as He prepares and leads through circumstances that are not unexpected to Him.

God's strength took me through a hot summer in spite of being under doctor's care. He blessed RSM's involvement with folks who needed strength in their weakness as they were coping with crumbling marriages and heart-breaking family situations. As we follow up those who crossed our paths at both camps, we pray—"that out of His glorious riches, He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being." —Ephesians 3:16

Your Support Impacts Marriages!

When we're asked about the cost of our coaching, we are glad to say there is no fee because God moves in the hearts of people like you who believe in building and restoring marriages. We do expect people we coach to invest what they can in this ministry because the Bible principle is "Freely you have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8. Your partnership in this ministry is strong encouragement that God is with us. Thank you.



Impacting Marriages and Families (continued from front)

Bible Principle: Prayerfulness

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

Pat and James are like many couples today. They are Christians and church members. They understand the importance of prayer. They have been married for 11 years and have three children. They have recently been arguing and fighting and they are wondering how to deal with this. They have read marriage books and gone to marriage seminars over the years but Pat is concerned that they don't pray together in their marriage. She wants James to take the lead in praying together as a couple.



James and Pat decided to reach out for help. They came for marriage coaching. One evening the conversation came around to praying. James, like most husbands, wanted to pray with Pat but he was finding it too hard. Why do men avoid praying together? We know they take pride in being their wife's hero. Asking for God's help is admitting their weakness. Also, men question their ability to be spiritual leaders in the marriage. With coaching help, James was able say a simple prayer thanking God for his wife and asking for help with their children. Pat did the right thing. She thanked James and told him how much the simple prayer meant to her. Her affirmation will motivate James to pray again.

The RSM Team

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