



Right now...at this moment in your journey as a married couple, what is in front of you is a blank page.

God is calling you to write the next chapters of your story boldly and confidently, knowing that he is with you and will lead you through all of the ensuing moments before you.

The good times and the bad times. In sickness and in health. All the days of your life.

It's your story. No matter where you are in life, that story of the two of you is still unfolding.

So in the end what will your story look like? What do you want it to look like? More importantly, what does God want it to look like?

A REALITY CHECK

CHANGE IS WONDERFUL...AS LONG AS SOMEONE ELSE IS DOING IT. IF YOU WANT SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE TO CHANGE, CHANGE YOURSELF FIRST. AND THEN WATCH HOW WHAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE BEGINS TO CHANGE.

“You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves.”

— Saint Francis de Sales



The reality, I have discovered, is that spirituality is the very core of our being. There is a famous quote that puts a lot of life into context for me.

“We have to remember that we are not human beings having spiritual experiences. Rather we are spiritual beings having human experiences.”

My hope, too, is that when life feels good and things are going your way (as they often will) that you will pause for a moment to recognize that the hand of God has gifted you with yet another one of life's many blessings. (God, by the way, has a habit of doing that.) He is a good and gracious God who has great plans for all of your lives. My prayer is that you will believe that, trust in Him always, and follow Him wherever He chooses to lead you.

Scripture tells us that the road is narrow that leads to life. For me, choosing the narrow gate has made all the difference. May all of you choose to enter through the narrow gate. It took me some time to find that. My hope is that you might find it sooner than I did.

A Reflection

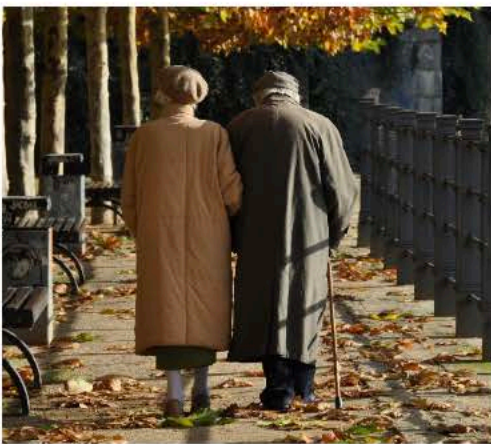
Once upon a time...a man was sitting quietly on a green, wooden bench in a lush green park on a beautiful day. It was early in the morning and the park was beginning to come to life. The winding asphalt path in front of him was filled with dog walkers and runners. Men and women on bikes were zipping by, too.

The nighttime stars were fading away and losing their sparkling dominion of the skies. The morning sun was rapidly beginning to take over its mission to light up the day.

The frenetic pace of the new day seemed to be wrapped up in some unexplained rhythm of life. In the almost frantic morning, a paradox seemed most obvious. In the chaotic cadence of the early hours of the day, the world seemed to be in some type of God-sent order. An unlikely absurdity of calm and harmony.

The man began to notice the people crossing in front of him. The elderly gentleman with the red, white, and blue patriotic cane he used to steady himself. The young woman powerwalking through a small crowd of people in front of her. The people came in all sizes and shapes. Tall and short. Thin and stocky. In good shape and not-so-good shape. All sorts of people from no doubt all walks of life.

And then he noticed a couple. A man and a woman walking hand in hand. They looked to be married. Their walk was a slow one. Leisurely. Methodical. Easygoing. Unhurried.



It seemed as if they wanted to enjoy each step; as if they wanted to cherish each moment; as if they didn't want to waste the precious time they were spending together.

And then the man realized as he watched that couple that the way they were walking with one another is exactly how God

walks with us. He holds our hand to lead us. He puts his arm around us to guide us. Hand in hand. Arm in arm. Step by step. Moment by moment. God is always there. Always with each one of us. In that one couple, the man realized that the Lord of All Creation is by our side with every breath we take.

The way married couples walk with each other in the love they share with one another is a sign to the world of the way God walks with us and loves every one of us.

Strong, faith-filled marriages have never been more important than they are today. In your marriage can someone else see the love of God reflected in the way you live your life?

A Moment with God

Dear Lord, you told your Apostles that you had chosen them to go and bear fruit so the world would know that you are the Christ. Help us know that we, too, have been chosen by you to love one another so well that we will be witnesses to the world around us of your great love and mercy for all of us. Amen.

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.”

— Pope Saint John Paul II