

Edifying His Inner Man

Strengthening Your Marriage Relationship

By Kimberly Webb

For many of us, strengthening our marriage relationship is important. But oftentimes, it gets overlooked because we are too busy working, taking care of kids, running errands and attending church/social activities. More often than not, our busy lifestyles cause us to pay little or no attention to our own emotional needs as well as the emotional needs of our spouse. Typically, women are better communicators and have no problem expressing their frustrations to their husbands. For example, some women might say, “Why aren’t you listening to me? I am tired of saying the same thing over and over to you.” Or, “Why do I need you if I am doing everything around here. I guess if I want it done right, I have to do it myself.” This daily routine can be detrimental to a marriage. These little comments tend to damage a man’s ego over time. As a result, years go by leaving neither spouse satisfied in the marriage.

Instead of tearing each other down with this type of attitude, husbands and wives must spend time edifying one another in love, not criticizing or complaining about what the other is doing wrong. One of the key building blocks to a successful marriage is edification. Edification is defined as the building up and uplifting either morally or spiritually of another. The Bible advises us in *Ephesians 4:29*, *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.* With that said, I have found three areas where a wife should begin to edify her husband’s inner man. They are: his strength (**warrior**), his thoughts (**wisdom**) and his needs (**wishes**).

The first area in edifying your husband’s inner man is to encourage his God-given **warrior** strength. I am using the character of a warrior; this is the best example of my husband’s character trait. A husband’s strength is not merely demonstrated by his physical might, but it is also demonstrated by his provision for his family and protection of his family. Christian men who follow the Word of God are the best warriors because they recognize their position as head of the household and seek to function in that role. In primitive times, a warrior would go out early in the morning to hunt for food in order to provide enough nourishment for his family’s evening meal. In modern society, the concept has not changed; the only thing that has changed is the method in how provision for the family is made. For example, in today’s society, a warrior goes to work and brings home money so that he can provide for his family’s basic needs: food, shelter and clothing. Warriors are constantly faced with enemies and obstacles, and sometimes, they have to fight their way out of many traps. But a warrior needs prayer, praise and admiration for what he is doing for his family.

Women, how often do we spend time praying for our husbands? How often do we praise our husbands for all of their efforts and hard work? For many of us, we rarely spend time praying for them or praising them, instead we find time to complain and nag them for all the things they are not doing. We need to start uplifting our husbands by communicating our appreciation for their provision and protection. We need to remind

our husbands of God's promise, "*We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who strengthens us.*" Wives, begin to encourage your husbands in their faith, their family and their careers. Outside of praying and praising your husband, one the greatest things you can do for him is to study him. Spend more time studying and analyzing your husband's warrior traits and compliment him on these traits for they are precious and deserving of admiration.

The second area in edifying your husband's inner man is to help advance his thoughts toward **wisdom**. You might be thinking, "How am I going to do that, he doesn't even listen to me." The answer is, you are not going to do it. God will. Wisdom is a priceless commodity that supplies us with knowledge and information to make good decisions. The Bible says in *Proverbs 15:33*, "*The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom.*" Many of us decide that we are going to tell our husbands exactly what they should do and what they should not do. More often than not, they hear us, but don't heed our instruction. We are not called to lead our husbands. We are called to be help mates designed to help them, not lead them. Our job is to pray that God gives our husbands keen wisdom and insight regarding every facet of their lives and ours.

Some may say, "Well, I guess I will be saying a lot of prayers because my husband routinely makes unwise decisions." The Bible states in *James 1:5*, "*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all generously and without reproach and it will be given to him.* So instead of us questioning their wisdom, we need to pray that God will grant them wisdom. The Bible says that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Begin praying that your husband will seek God for wisdom and that God will bestow wisdom upon him as well as yourself. After praying for wisdom, begin acting in faith by speaking wisdom and faith into his life. The Bible says "*to speak those things into existence as though they were.*" Instead of questioning a decision, begin by saying to your husband, "I know you are doing your best and I am so very proud of you." Seek to always replace the negative comment with a positive comment. You may say, well this is good information, but my husband does not exhibit any of these characteristics. If this is the case, then I encourage you to acknowledge the things he is doing. Begin by speaking life into the areas where your husband is not functioning well. When he does something good, talk to him and tell him how much you appreciate what he is doing and how you believe in him.

Do you know how powerful this is? You will have strengthened and boosted his confidence in God and himself. You are releasing him to be the man of God he was purposed to be, a wise man led by the Lord. What a powerful role we have. Supporting and encouraging our husbands to be guided and directed by God's wisdom. Our families can't help but be blessed, our finances can't help but be increased and our lives can't help but be anointed by God.

The third area in edifying your husband's inner man is to meeting his needs. For some of you reading this, you automatically assumed I mean meeting his sexual needs. Don't get me wrong, sexual intimacy is very important in the marriage relationship. However, meeting his needs of being loved and respected are far greater. Every one wants to be loved and treated with respect. Just because men are strong doesn't mean they don't have feelings, they do. They hurt and get down just like we do. The difference is they hide their emotions and we display our emotions. There are many ways to show love and respect, you can prepare a special meal or place a love note in his pocket. You could even

buy him an unexpected and inexpensive small gift, just because. These sound like simple suggestions, but they will edify your husband. However, one way you can really demonstrate love and respect is by listening to him when he talks instead of feeding the kids, doing the laundry and etc. Actually, sit down and look into his eyes and just listen to him.

Now, I know this is a touchy subject, but wives, if we don't listen, someone else will. Oftentimes, adulterous affairs begin from the man confiding in another woman about his problems and concerns. An emotional connection takes place, and soon after, a physical encounter follows.

I pray that this will elevate and strengthen your marriage relationship. So spend some time focusing on your husband's warrior strength, his wisdom and his wishes and watch God rejuvenate and refresh your marriage.

Kimberly Webb is an accomplished speaker and a powerful orator who leaves an indelible mark on all those who come in contact with her – regularly speaking to women on issues concerning infertility, self identity and marriage. Kim and her husband have more than five years of experience as Christian pre-marital and marital counselors. Kimberly is a graduate from Howard University with a B.A. in Political Science and a Juris Doctorate of Law degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Kim and her husband reside in Carrollton, Texas with their daughter.

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