

## Getting your Marriage Back.

Well, let me first mention that I am not a marriage counselor. My wife and I have definitely had some difficult times over the years, but have discovered some things together that I can share with you after 13 years of marriage.

Before we were married we were best friends. We did everything together. We had common interests, common goals and common friends.

After the children arrived, things started to change. Things were tighter financially, because Lerryn quit her job to help raise the kids. I was struggling to keep a small business a float (which ultimately failed resulting in a large loss of finances). At the time, I was working out of town, away from the family for several days at a time. We started to drift, and didn't do as much recreational activities together. The fun was taken out of our lives, and every moment was spent just trying to survive, or trying to get some sleep. Things were indeed tough. But we didn't give up.

The easiest thing I could have done is give up, because – lets face it – to keep the fire alive is a difficult thing to do. It would be easy to run away, and easy to make all kinds of excuses to justify my decision. But I have found that if you keep focused on the better, things will eventually change.

Now our kids are a little older now, and heaps of fun. We do most things together, and have tons laughs all the time.

I think the biggest thing to keep your marriage alive is to look at everything you did when you fell in love with your spouse. Yes, maybe your interests have changed, and even your theologies on life may have altered. Nevertheless, try and find things that both of you enjoy to do. This might require some compromise on both sides. Try to spend just a bit of time every week to sit down and do things together, just like you did before you were married - even if it is just going out for a walk, or checking out a movie. Stay the course, and don't give up, because the fire will come back.

At the end of your life, all the things you have accumulated – your successes, your awards and your possessions will mean nothing. What will matter is the quality of your true friends, family and the people you have helped along the way.

Things will get better in time, if you are just patient.

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