



GROWING YOUR MARRIAGE

THE MARRIAGE ALMANAC
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Choosing the best YES - By Lorie Weires

On the side of our yard, we have a row of beautiful evergreens. Recently, John and I were dismayed to discover that one of those trees had fallen. But we were encouraged when we noticed it was the whole tree roots and all! We were hopeful we could save it.

Being extremely heavy, we pulled it back to an upright position with our truck and attempted to secure it with stakes and ties. But, because of its weight and bulkiness, just when we'd get it staked, it would fall another direction. Deciding it wasn't worth the risk of it falling on one of our grandbabies, we decided our only option was to cut it up and throw it in the woods.

But then we had a thought, what if we cut off some of the large branches that were weighing it down? If we lightened it, the tree could be safely secured in the upright position, giving it the best chance to grow. John added dirt for a better foundation, and we even trimmed some of the other trees a bit to give the sun a chance to do its work. This was such a better plan than discarding it.

As I looked at that tree, I realized how this applies to marriages too. Sometimes I get so weighed down by all the extras in life, that I lose sight of my priority - my marriage. These extras may even be good things on their own, just not good for my marriage at this time. The large branches were beautiful on our tree, but were hindering it getting back to a good position and able to grow.

I have a problem saying no. I like to say yes to my kids, grandkids, friends, church and more. John has helped me to see that sometimes when I say yes to everyone else, it means I am saying no to him. "No, I don't have time to ride to Lowes with you, I have to go to this function I said yes to." or "Oh, I'm sorry, I can't have lunch with you, I have a lunch date with a friend."

We also tend to get so busy in our ministry work that we forget time for just us! Both of us have a hard time saying no to all things church related. But the busier we get elsewhere, we lose sight of us. We find ourselves bickering more, and we know it's time to do some pruning!

When we start saying no to things, it lightens our load and allows us to say yes to each other. By focusing on each other and keeping our eyes on HIM, it allows us to grow stronger together. This helps all aspects of our lives. I am a better mother to our kids when they see that their parents are solid and happy. I am a better friend, mentor and leader when my relationship with John is in good shape. And of course, I am a better wife when I save time for him.

Is there something YOU need to trim from your lives to be able to invest in YOUR marriage? Do you find yourself saying yes to others and no to your spouse? Don't let your marriage relationship suffer and definitely don't just give up.

We needed to cut the branches of the fallen tree to give it a chance to grow stronger and better. Maybe it's time to trim some of the unnecessary branches, plant the roots of your marriage in deep soil, look to the SON and give your relationship a chance to thrive!



"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42 NIV

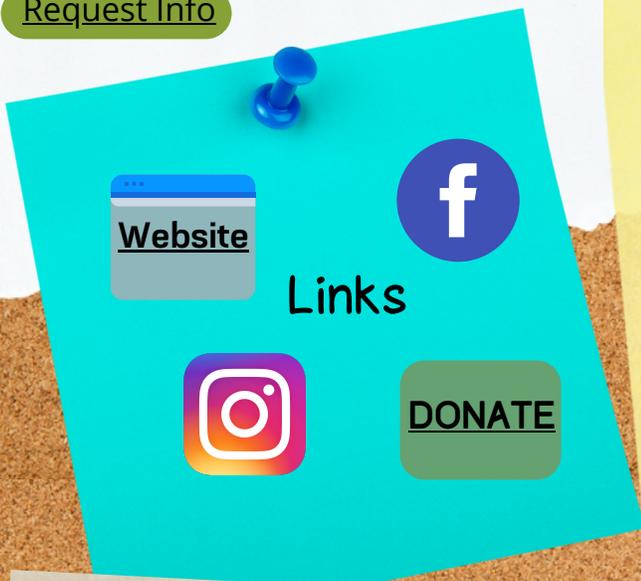
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