

The Best Marriages Are Built on the Small Things

In February we think of Valentine's Day and doing something special like giving flowers, fixing a special meal, going out for dinner, and giving cards or gifts. But, the biggest gift isn't always the best gift.

“Marriages aren't built upon grand gestures. Large wedding parties, once-in-a-lifetime vacations, and expensive, romantic overtures are nice, but they don't sustain a marriage – they only enhance it.”
Jimmy Evans

It takes daily investments of yourself to make a great marriage! These are the things that you do all year long like giving encouraging words, gentle touches (non-sexual guys!), a heartfelt note, a flower, or just your time to listen and become involved in your spouse's world.

“Many couples I come in contact with haven't learned this simple yet profound principle. They've overlooked the **daily displays of love** that make up the foundation of a relationship.” *Jimmy Evans*

LITTLE THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Small words and small actions can tear a marriage apart, or they can build a marriage up. They can hurt, or they can heal.

You can determine to do the small things for your spouse today that will reap a harvest tomorrow. **Gal. 6:7 says it this way: “...whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”**

This verse has tremendous promise for your marriage. We all need to know that we have a place in someone else's life. **When you invest kind words, loving attitudes, and thoughtful actions into your marriage, you will receive an incredible return on your investment.**

You can start by investing in simple things:

- Taking time to listen to what the other person says, even if you don't always agree
- Setting time aside for each other every day
- Being a safe place for the other to share what they're thinking or feeling
- Letting go of the need to be right all the time
- Planning fun activities
- Give her a hug, especially those times when she is struggling with something
- Rub his or her feet or back, give him or her a massage
- Leave notes around the house or in your spouse's clothes telling how special they are to you
- Send a text message or e-mail just to let your spouse know you are thinking about them when you are apart
- Take care of the tasks around the house that your spouse normally does so they can rest or focus on something they want to do
- Take walks and talk with each other, dream about the future, or recall fun times together

The specifics may be different for every couple, but little things like these can heal, strengthen, and refresh your marriage.

I believe with all my heart that intimacy is the prize of marriage, and God wants you to enjoy this prize every day!

But intimacy doesn't come accidentally. **It happens when you learn to invest in the small things on a daily basis.**

I want to ask you a question:

Are you investing your energy into big, one-time displays of your care and concern for your spouse, or are you depositing a little bit each day to build a healthy relationship?

Maybe you've been waiting for the perfect grand gesture when all you really need to give is an average act.

Your encouraging words, your thoughtful note, your support, your full attention, your time, your energy... all of these things are small but powerful marriage builders.

Remember, the grand gestures are wonderful, but the strongest marriages are built on the everyday decisions of love and honor. Make an effort today to show your spouse how deeply you love them – by doing something simple!

*Excerpts from Jimmy Evans January 2014 partner letter – **Marriage Today***

Check out his website for more great marriage ideas! www.marriagetoday.com