

# Marriage Marker<sup>SM</sup>:

## Fortitude in Marriage

Fortitude (Perseverance) is an indispensable necessity. It faces the adverse situations in life: the negatives inherent with one's state of life; the conflicts and setbacks that inevitably arise; the stumbling blocks on the road. **Fortitude takes them on with positive endurance; seeks out tools to use, and moves on to positive solutions.** Without it, problems remain problems. With its empowerment, problems become challenges to overcome. Its motto is: "**Never give up (trying) and never give in (to negativity).**"

Jesus on the Cross is both Fortitude's model and victory. His acceptance of sacrificial suffering to the death was proof He would never give up in fulfilling His vow to be our Brother, Shepherd and Friend forever...to forgive every confessed and corrected fault, to stand by the saved and seek out the lost, to listen to every request and answer every prayer, to love and never give up on anyone.

God made marriage and family a vowed commitment to "Love one another the way I have loved you." Jo.15:12, 13. "Love is patient and kind, it does not put down, it does not provoke or brood over injury ... it sustains, believes in another, hopes and endures to the end." 1Cor.13:4-7. "Purify your souls with the discipline of love and give constant proof of your good will for each other..." 1Pet.1:22. (The Bible is replete with multiple directives. Check it out. It is a tool to be constantly used. It is Jesus' remedy, and it works!) Follow Jesus' Model who loves us as His own bride, and expect it of your partner. God loves this way and demands no less toward our committed others. But especially, **never give up!**

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