

You had food every day and your sandals never wore out. I don't understand why everything is so hard." I think they would have said, "Lord we didn't know where we were going, and we were not sure if You would get us there." The Israelites day-to-day experience of wandering through the desert could have been better if they simply believed the Lord was good. They had what they needed practically, but they couldn't see that their faith was lacking. Often wives are picking at men to lead better, when it's their fear of the future that is causing them pain in the moment.

Because of his fallen humanity, a husband's leading will never be a straight line. Yet, the normal wandering a couple must experience causes wives daily pain because they often interpret all of life through the grid of potential doom. Whereas, when a wife is leaning on God's goodness, she is resting in the fact that God works all things together for good, including her husband's shortcomings.

As the wife is more secure in God's care for her, she has more freedom to give encouragement to her husband as a gift. This is a very important shift for a wife. When the Scriptures tell the wife to respect her husband, all of Scripture would never affirm that he has to 'earn' it, but it feels that way to a wife when she lives in too much fear. Oftentimes in the early years of marriage, the wife is irritably waiting for her husband to "get it right," and he is trying to live up to that expectation. When women want marriage and life to be safer than it can be, a husband's normal failure carries too much weight and the wife becomes too self-absorbed. In addition, when wives try to encourage their husbands to do better out of fear and selfishness it will never inspire their husbands. Yet, as a wife's selfishness and fear is being exposed, she can

grow into speaking life-giving encouragement to her husband. When a woman is moving away from self-absorption the words she speaks feel less like a demand to the husband and more like a gift to help him go for it.

Finally, after wives learn to rest better in God's care and to speak unselfish encouragement, they need to learn to wait. The wives Peter addresses in his epistle had unbelieving husbands, and they were afraid these men would not care for them. Instead of waiting in faith, these wives were turning to something they could work on (their outward beauty), and thus Peter says, "Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is so precious to God" (1 Peter 3:3-4). Wives who don't let the Lord deal with the terror in their heart turn towards things they can control or work on (exercise, cooking, shopping for clothes, fixing their husband), and this just makes them "noisy" in such a way that husbands have a harder time hearing the Lord. Genuine faith brings quietness to a woman's heart that helps her husband to hear the Lord. In reflecting on this theme, **Sharon Hersh** says, "I am learning that maturity is not the absence of longing, but it is the ability to wait in loneliness." Even when a wife is living by faith and offering good encouragement, there will be significant periods of waiting in loneliness. That waiting says, "God will not forget me!"

I hope this is helpful as you grow in your marriages and embrace the truth that, "**Every husband is called to lead his family with confidence and every wife wants to help him get there.**"

NEWS

Although Julie is taking a sabbatical from retreat/seminar teaching during this school year to home-school her oldest two children, she has had several opportunities to facilitate women's retreats over the past year. She has one more left at [Peachtree City PCA](#) in Atlanta, Oct 1. Gordon recently did a marriage workshop at [Fullness Christian Fellowship](#) in Birmingham and is scheduled to do another one at [Dulles Community Church](#) in Washington, D.C. this January and will be teaching again this fall at Southeastern Bible College. We are in the initial stages of planning our first major fund-raiser to be held in either late March or early

April 2006. To finalize this commitment, the Daymark board is meeting in October with representatives of a group that will help us to organize and carry out the fundraiser. Please continue to pray and consider joining as we move to shore up the financial base to grow in the direction the Lord is leading. We will get you details and ways you can help as we progress.

about DAYMARK

Daymark Pastoral Counseling is a non-profit organization designed to make Gospel-centered pastoral counseling and teaching resources accessible to individuals, couples, families, churches and para-church organizations. Gifts or financial contributions made to Daymark are tax deductible.

**P.O. Box 59768 Homewood,
AL 35259 (205)871-3332**

www.daymarkcounseling.com