

*Healthy Marriage Tips from A to Z*  
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## **Zeal**

### More Than Anyone Else - Matt's Thoughts

If you were anything like me when you were getting to know your future spouse, you did whatever it took to spend time with him/her. You arranged and rearranged your schedule to be together. You had difficulty going separate ways when life demanded that of you. You talked on the phone (or emailed/texted depending on what era we're talking about) when you couldn't be face to face. Your "sweetie" (or insert nickname here) was constantly in your thoughts and you couldn't wait to be together again. The world revolved around that one person that made you whole. You were zealous.

Do you have zeal for your spouse today?

Who do you want to be with more than anyone else? A famous person? A person of great influence? A genius? A genie?

No! You want to be with your spouse more than anyone in the world.

### After the "I Do" - Laura's Thoughts

Clearly, the way you showed zeal toward your beloved when you were dating is going to look different than the way you show your zeal now that you're married. I've heard my share of advice about how you should be sure and date your spouse once a week, or how you need to be sure and remember all the things you used to do when you were wooing each other during courtship. Don't hear me saying that these aren't ideas that hold some merit. Continued dating once you're married is a valuable thing. Wooing each other after marriage is sweet and necessary.

But married zeal runs deeper than dating and sweet words.

It means that you seek to know how to best meet his/her needs, and that you lovingly and eagerly pursue ways to meet those needs. It means that you work hard to build your spouse up so that he/she can be a better servant for God's kingdom.

Married zeal comes in the form of a selfless love and an urgent desire to lift your loved one to a seat of joy. It may mean that you need to do something you don't want to do - but you zealously do it anyway because your love for your spouse comes before your own desires to run away from a difficult situation. (I'm talking about everything from a dirty diaper to a painful decision and beyond.)

We all have zeal toward something or someone. Where are you focusing your zeal? Is it in the work place? Is it in your desire to become successful or wealthy? Is it in having the perfect home and the most sharply dressed children?

Or are you zealous in your love for your spouse? Are you daily showing your beloved, with your eyes and your attitude, that you have chosen him/her above all else?

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