

# FORTY PRINCIPLES FROM 40 YEARS



**Principle #1: Be Grounded in God's Word**

**Problem: Faulty Foundation**

Your foundation must be founded on the Word of God; not on worldly wisdom or a faulty foundation made of sand which will crumble.

**Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)** "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.<sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.<sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.<sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

**Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)** "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.<sup>7</sup> Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

**Make it Personal:** What do I need to do to ensure my life is built on Christ with the Bible as my ultimate foundation?

## Principle #2: Seek Wisdom

### Problem: Foolishness

Seek wisdom. Pursue wisdom. Ask God for it! Godly wisdom can save you from so much foolishness in life and in your marriage.

*James 1:5 (NLT) "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."*

*Proverbs 2:2-3, 6-11 (NLT) "Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.<sup>3</sup> Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding...<sup>6</sup> For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.<sup>7</sup> He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.<sup>8</sup> He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go.<sup>10</sup> For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.<sup>11</sup> Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe."*

**Make it Personal:** How will I be more purposeful about pursuing godly wisdom?

## Principle #3: Be Content

### Problem: Discontentment

Contentment is key in life, in marriage, in parenting, in your job, in all circumstances. It's a choice you must practice daily. Choose to be content with the spouse God gave you, instead of finding faults and comparing them to someone else. Choose the mindset "You're perfect for me... my 10!"

*Philippians 4:11 (NLT) "Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have."*

**Make it Personal:** How is my spouse perfect for me? How will I share this with them?



## Principle #4: Be Strategic

### Problem: Emotional Chaos

Be strategic and prepared in order to help eliminate emotional chaos. Have a plan to address issues and find practical solutions for matters at hand. Resist nagging and whining.

*Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)* "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty."

**Make it Personal:** What are the areas that I need to be more strategic about rather than chaotic?

## Principle #5: Set Them up for Success

### Problem: Failure

Equip and prepare your spouse so they can succeed. Find ways to make them look good, highlight what they're good at. Enrich their life and let them know they can trust you. Help each other succeed.

*Proverbs 31:11-12 (NLT)* "Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.<sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."

*Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)* "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed."

**Make it Personal:** What things can I do that will make them "look good" and help them succeed?



## Principle #6: Be Humble

### Problem: Pride

Pride is detrimental to any relationship. God opposes the proud. So get over "having to be right..." Admitting that you're wrong is very sexy. Practice saying: "I was wrong. I'm sorry. Will you please forgive me?"

*Romans 12:3 (NLT)* "Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."

*1 Peter 5:5b-6 (NLT)* "...And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'<sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor."

*Proverbs 11:2 (NLT)* "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."

**Make it Personal:** In what ways can I practice humility this week?

