

Surviving Foul Weather

1 Peter 3:8-12

If you've ever been married, or been to a wedding ceremony, you may have heard these words at some point...I, ____, take you, ____, to be my lawfully wedded (husband/wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, **for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.**

Marriage should mirror God's image, multiply a godly heritage, manage God's realm, mutually complete one another, and model Christ's relationship to His church.

God has provided us with everything we need to survive those foul weather days in marriage. And just because you are experiencing bright blue sky days now in your marriage doesn't mean that you don't need to make sure you are prepared in the event that a low blows in.

Apply the Oil of Relationships **GRACIOUSLY**.

1 Peter 3:8-12 — **8** *Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

How can we apply the oil of relationships graciously? Peter's going to give us 4 points of application...

1. Move towards them **LOVINGLY**. 1 Peter 3:8

- Live in **HARMONY**
- Live with **SYMPATHY**
- Love like **FAMILY**
- Live **COMPASSIONATELY**
- Live in **HUMILITY**

2. Respond to them **UNFAIRLY**. 1 Peter 3:9

There are three ways to respond implied in this verse...

- Returning Evil for Good - **SATANIC** Living
- Returning Good for Good & Evil for Evil - **NATURAL** Living
- Returning Good for Evil - **SUPERNATURAL** Living

You Give Back Better Than You Are Given!

3. Acknowledge your need to live **DEPENDENTLY**. 1 Peter 3:10-11

- Control our **SPEECH** - *let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;*
- Turn away from **EVIL INTENTIONS** - *let him turn away from evil*
- Be devoted to **DOING GOOD** - *and do good*
- Seek to make **PEACE** - *let him seek peace and pursue it.*

4. Remember your **ACCOUNTABILITY**. 1 Peter 3:12

- God is **WATCHING**
- God is **LISTENING**
- God is **JUDGING**

Let's be a people who are prepared to survive foul weather in marriage, a people who move towards others lovingly, treat others unfairly, live dependently and acknowledge our accountability before Jesus in all our relationships, but especially in our marriages.

The only hope for our marriages in this broken world is the grace of God. And the good news is that He has given us exactly what we need to survive foul weather days in marriage so we can build our marriages on His solid foundation and leverage them to spread His glory to all those we come in contact with. So...**apply the oil of relationships graciously** and watch God transform your life and your marriage.

Let's talk about surviving foul weather in marriage...

1. How would the qualities mentioned in v.8 make a difference in a marriage, or any relationship that was struggling with foul weather?
2. What does it say about us if our standard response is to repay evil for evil (v.9)?
3. Where can we find God calling us to "bless" in this life that we may obtain a blessing (v.9)?
4. Peter's quoting Psalm 34 in v.10-11. What's the connection between that Psalm and his comments?
5. Why do people struggle with the notion of accountability (v.12)?
6. What can you do to help others apply the oil of relationships graciously to their marriages?