

Journeying together

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After almost three decades, my husband and I realize that marriage, like life, is a journey, not a final destination. It's a partnership in which unexpected circumstances arise, and changes are made and new courses taken.

Taking this journey, we've gladly followed the "travel advice" in the chapter "Marriage" in *Science and Health*. It instructs us to have mutual aspirations, to be like-minded, having the same motives and tastes (see p.60). This book also explains why these instructions are necessary: "If my friends are going to Europe, while I am *en route* for California, we are not journeying together. We have separate time-tables to consult, different routes to pursue. Our paths have diverged at the very outset, and we have little opportunity to help each other. On the contrary, if my friends pursue my course, we have the same railroad guides, and our mutual interests are identical; or, if I take up their line of travel, they help me on, and our companionship may continue" (p. 21).

In our marriage, "traveling in the same direction" means putting God first in our lives and seeking daily to do His will. This shared motive strengthens our partnership, giving it meaning, purpose, and direction. As our commitment to God and to each other deepens, we find wonderful opportunities to serve others, individually and jointly.

Such activity draws us closer by helping us appreciate the spiritual qualities we individually express. Instead of competing, we see our union as a blending of qualities such as loyalty, kindness, patience, orderliness, spontaneity, flexibility, dependability, and mutual cooperation and support – especially during difficult times. Respecting our unique strengths, we can combine our different talents for individual and joint betterment.

Every day brings new experiences, and marriage provides the opportunity to share in each other's joys and progress. So, whenever we hear that two people plan to marry, my husband and I hope and trust that they are saying to each other, "I love you enough to accompany you on life's continuing adventure."