

COUPLES WHO THRIVE

Unless the LORD **builds the house**, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.
Psalm 127:1

The American Marriage in Crisis:

- The average failed marriage lasts 7.2 years.
- The USA has one of the world's highest divorce rates.
- Close to half of all divorce occurs in the USA.

Everyone who hears these words of mine **and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The **rains** came down, the **floods** rose and the **winds** blew against the house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.
Matthew 7:24-25

THE THREE STAGES OF MARRIAGE

STAGE 1: The Happy Honeymoon Stage. Song of Solomon 4

Intensity

Idealism

Indulgence

Infatuation

Ignorance

STAGE 2: The Despair Stage. Proverbs 27

Dullness

Disagreements

Defensiveness

Disapproval

Despair

Depression OR Divorce

Break Up

Break Down

Break Through

STAGE 3: The Deeper Love Stage.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

1. Open Up.

And now these three remain: **faith**, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

2. Give Up.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and **love**. But the greatest of these is love.

3. Look Up.

And now these three remain: faith, **hope**, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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