

Action:

The process of acting or doing.



Acts 26:20 records Paul saying; “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.” Reading this, it struck me that we can say many things, but it is our *actions* that show what we *really* believe. James wrote that he would show his readers his faith by his deeds (James 2:14-18). Additionally, the Apostle John wrote; “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with *actions* and in truth.” (1 John 3:18) Whether demonstrating repentance, showing faith, or loving one’s spouse, the Bible tells us that *action is required* - we must do something!

Marriages are floundering today - we all know that, but what are we doing about it? We don’t understand God’s plan for marriage and too often don’t care about His plan. Yet, the oneness and peace that can come from obedience to God’s word and being the person God has created us to be is possible, but requires action on our part. Rather than acting as children of God and loving their spouse with actions, husbands and wives wallow in unhappy, unproductive marriages or quit and leave hoping that the pain will stop and perhaps they might find fulfillment with another person. This is a huge problem with society today!

I think of Ian and Larissa Murphy. Madly in love when on his way to a job so he couple buy an engagement ring, Ian was involved in a serious car accident that left him with a permanent brain injury. Ian faced many challenges as he sought to gain his life back, but they went on to marry and in spite of many complications and problems, their love story has become an inspiration to many. Their marriage requires *action* - it requires that they both work very hard to make life and marriage work for the two of them and they choose action daily.

What action am I talking about? Doing loving things for your spouse, choosing to die to self and put him or her first. Speaking their love language daily, praying together, growing together - being *together!* It is *not* sitting on the couch watching TV, while your spouse takes care of children or household chores. It *is* working together to meet the challenges of life. You *can* have a fulfilling, fruitful marriage, beneficial to both husband and wife, but it requires action on your part. You have do something to improve your marriage and make it what God wants it to be. What action will *you* take today to improve your marriage?

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Check Out:

Simple Actions That Can Change Your Marriage by Chris Hogan - www.chrishogan360.com

Ian and Larissa’s story: ianandlarissa.com

Eight Twenty Eight: When Love Didn’t Give Up by Ian and Larissa Murphy