

# ***2024 A New Year; A New Marriage!***

## ***A Marriage Tool from Between Two Trees***

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things...”  
Philippians 4:8, 9

It is time to gain our bearings; where have we been, where are we going, and most important, where are we now. As we look to God to make something new of our marriage, we have to take responsibility for both our past and the future of our relationship. There will be things we must bury---and things we must pick up from the heap, brush them off, refresh them and carry them with us. There may be some things new that we will need to pick up or learn as we go forward, as well.

Use the questions below to inventory the relationship you have and the marriage you want in the year ahead.

What are the things you are grateful for in your relationship? These are the things you want to strengthen and secure in the year ahead.

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Name one negative pattern personally or as a couple that has been established in your mind, heart, or behaviors or the last year or recent years.

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Name 3-5 characteristics of your relationship that must be left behind---  
(These are things that are burdensome, ugly, and hurtful. Be sure they can really be left behind i.e. “attitudes, practices, patterns etc.”)

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Name 3-5 qualities of your relationship that need to be redeemed, picked up, brushed off, and carried into the future.

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Name 2-3 things that no matter how hard you try, they will be part of your future and you will need to thrive in spite of these.

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Discuss a strategy together a strategy to address and neutralize this challenge that you carry with you.

Name 3-5 things about your marriage that are “admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise”.

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One new thing I would like us to work together on in 2024 is...

Write a prayer asking God to begin the work of redemption in your marriage in 2024--- bringing true, noble, right, pure, and lovely things into your relationship. Thank Him for the “strength” areas that help provide the energy you need to make changes. Use this time to bless your spouse---speak affirming confidence in them and hope for the year ahead.

