



january 8, 2021

Hi KC Parents!

This week on Jan 3rd, my husband and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary!

Wow, we're both stunned that life could fly by that fast. I know it's cliché, but oh so true!

Although our wedding day was 45 years ago, I can remember so clearly standing at the altar, tearfully gazing into Bob's eyes as we said our vows. When we repeated, " 'til death do us part," I gulped at the thought of the distant future. It seemed so far away and impossible to wrap my mind around. But that didn't matter to me; I was all in! We were in love and embarking on our lifelong journey together!

Forty-five years later, I can confess our marriage has been far from perfect. Don't get me wrong—both of us would tell you we've had a great life together and feel so blessed to still be in the game. Simultaneously, "being in the game" means real life, and there's no escaping it. It means weathering many storms, highs and lows, ups and downs, wins and losses, sickness, health, abundance, scarcity, good times, and difficulty. If you're like us and have added children into the mix, life becomes even more exciting and exhausting.

All the while, God, in His wisdom, love, and grace, maximizes perfect opportunities like marriage to chip away at our selfishness, our impatience, immaturity, and disobedience.

Our secret to staying together is no secret at all. Jesus, the center of our lives and our relationship, has been our saving grace. We would not be celebrating this monumental anniversary without him in the picture. Even if your spouse isn't a Christian, you can improve your marriage by growing in your walk with Jesus. Getting closer to Him and experiencing His love has a profound impact on everyone our lives encounter.

Looking at the future, I know that " 'til death do us part," we will be working on our relationship. It's not a "we have arrived" situation; it's always a continual effort. The good news is that after all these years, it's becoming easier. We're learning to enjoy our differences, we don't sweat the small stuff like we used to, and we pick our fights wisely!

Stay in the game, friends; there is a reward for the hard work.

Often when we're surrounded by our kids and grandchildren—amid laughter and enjoying each other's company, Bob and I will catch each other's eyes from across the room. We fix our gaze and smile knowingly at what each other is thinking. "We are so blessed, so, so blessed." Herein lies the fruit of God's faithfulness and the legacy he has grown throughout the years as we've continued to say, "I do" to each other.

Blessings,
Viv Stone

