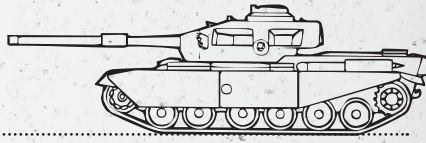


PATIENCE



WARM UP

An essential ingredient in a successful marriage is patience. Being patient and generous of your time to your wife promotes understanding. Remove patience, and understanding becomes vague, leading to a breakdown in communication - and once communication goes, the marriage is in trouble. To better understand our wives we need to make time for them.

It is interesting to note that diamonds and graphite are made of the very same element: carbon. The difference is in the preparation. Both start with the same ingredients, but if the timing (patience) is incorrect in that process, what is formed is not a beautiful diamond, but something that has much less value and strength - graphite. I believe the same holds true for marriage; it's all in the timing.

They say "diamonds are a girl's best friend". Are you that best friend for your wife? Are you her diamond? Do you take the time to listen to her? Or is the game on TV, the article in the newspaper, that email or text to send more important?

BACKGROUND

James reminds us that patience helps bring completion or perfection. So the next time you feel that your wife is going on about nothing or getting on your case - **be patient, listen, give her your time.**

Remember, the most important ingredient in the formation of a diamond is patience.



READ James 1:4



QUESTIONS

1. What do we do or not do that makes our wives say or feel that we have no time for them?

CONSIDER THIS

Love is spelt T.I.M.E. What we spend our time on reflects what we really love or where our priorities lie.

2. Many men need to learn to be attentive. What are some ways you could develop your listening skills?

3. What are some of the things (monetary and non-monetary) that we can do to give more of our time and show our appreciation to our wives?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will listen to my wife more often by giving her my undivided attention and I will make more time for her.

I will be more patient to make my marriage "indestructible".



WRAP UP

Discuss with one another about the times when you have been patient with your wife and the outcome because of this. Also share about the times when you have been impatient and what has happened.