Successful marriages, especially Christian marriages, are not successful by accident; they are successful because they have learned to be intentional about finishing. Most of us enter into marriage so in love and so positive that we would never think of divorce; much less take the time to guard our hearts against it. "Divorce and marriage problems happen to other people, not us," we often say.

To stand strong in the battle for our marriages, we must be prepared. We can never assume that having a good marriage shelters us from temptation. In this age of “me too”, and “anything goes”, the wise couple will purposefully build walls around their marriage ahead of time to help close the door on threats of temptation.

Five dangerous threats to marriage:

1. Ungodly influences

   Genesis 3:1-3 (NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?
   2And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

2. The lack of seriousness toward God’s commands

   Genesis 3:6 (NKJV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

   **Takeaway:**
   Every marriage must have at least one partner that has an attitude that says; “we are going to obey God’s commands.”

   **Takeaway:**
   It should be every man’s prayer that God would give him the courage to say no when he knows God has told him to say no. Every man must pray that he will be committed to biblical truth in a world where no one is committed to truth anymore. Our marriages are forever going to be in trouble when we are disobeying God’s laws and God’s standards.

3. We try to cover up – rather than confess

   Genesis 3:7-8 (NKJV) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

   Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV) He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.
4. We play hide and seek from God

*Genesis 3:8-9 (NKJV)* And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

**Takeaway:**
In spite of how bad Adam and Eve had treated God; He still took the initiative to seek them out. He didn’t avoid them just because they had done Him wrong.

5. We play the blame game with God

*Genesis 3:10-12 (NKJV)* So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

*1 Corinthians 15:45 (NKJV)* And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.