

## Your Spouse's Perspective Is Annoying. You Should Listen Anyway!

By Darby Dugger in *Thriving Marriages email* - June 30, 2023

I don't know about you, but I often overlook the Lord's eternal perspective. He sees all of time, from beginning to end, in a single moment. There is nothing that comes as a surprise to God. Before the world began He knew our every day. I fixate on the temporary, so much, that it requires a conscious effort on my part to remember that the Lord doesn't have the same view on my life as I do. ***His outlook is greater than my own.***

### **My husband also offers me a different perspective on life.**

While I can be a drama queen, my husband is very good about keeping a level head. An (almost) everyday occurrence at our house is when I will stress out over something while my husband calmly reassures me that everything will be okay. The specifics may be different, but the concept is always the same:

- *When the children are sick (I have a fear of germs) → Jason will encourage me not to dread.*
- *When I am running late → my husband tells me that everything will work out.*
- *When I grow irritated as I frantically clean the house before company's arrival → my husband speaks about how fellowship means more than clean toilets.*
- *When I am feeling overwhelmed → my husband reminds me of the importance of having healthy boundaries with outside commitments*
- *When I see the end of the world → my husband sees a new adventure. (This is a classic example of how my husband and I think differently.)*

### **Personally, I never receive his viewpoint very well.**

I assume, in these moments, that he is a typical male who is simply trying to "fix" my dilemma. My response is to make him aware that he can't possibly understand the stress that I am under or the reasons behind it and accuse him of not being sensitive to my needs. No matter what encouragement he presents, I quickly dismiss his advice. ***In doing so, I also dismiss a blessing.***

### **I fail to see that my husband could offer me something.**

My husband has a different take on life. His outlook doesn't match my own, but that doesn't mean I should discredit the advice he offers. Instead of pridefully assuming that he can't provide me with anything useful, I should humbly listen to his words of truth. Rather than receiving his carefree attitude as an insult, I should accept his words as a love offering. ***My husband isn't trying to tell me that how I feel is wrong... he is simply trying to offer a different point of view.*** In the same way that I am benefited by reminding myself of God's eternal perspective – I must remember that my husband also offers me a unique perspective that I shouldn't so quickly dismiss.