

# *Scott's Thoughts*



What would it take to make your life better? That is an interesting question. We think about this many times in our lives. The answer for many is Money! Is that really the answer?

Some might possibly answer Love or emotional security. In fact there are almost as many answers as there are people.

I just finished reading a book on marriage. I thought it was well written and the authors, a husband and wife team, made many great points. If a couple would take the book and apply it to their marriage I feel confident it would help them have a better marriage. You might say I've got a good marriage and don't need any help. Then you would fit right in with many people in our world. I should know because I was one of those people. That was until I went to a marriage seminar about three years ago. I went because my wife wanted to go and I wanted to keep peace in our marriage. What I discovered during the seminar was my wife and I had an Ok marriage but there were ways to make it better and we could do all those things without spending any money.

Since that first seminar we have attended another seminar with the same focus and learned even more ways to strengthen our union. I have also consumed several books and numerous articles on the subject. This last book really got my attention because I

realized during my read that the information could be applied to so many other areas of life. In other words the help presented in the book could not only help me with my relationship with my wife but could also my relationship with the world in general.

The one thing the authors really hammered home was the number one problem in marriage is "Lack of Communication." There is a world of difference between talking to each other and communicating with each other. Now if it is difficult for two people who are married to communicate with each other is it any less difficult to communicate with those we come into contact with each day?

Their number one suggestion to help communication was what they called active listening. How many times have you found yourself formulating your response to someone while they are still talking? When you are doing that you have stopped listening and you may miss their point altogether.

While we focus on listening to others so we can improve our interaction with them, maybe it is also time to actively listen to the creator. His word contains the wisdom of the ages as we listen to Him (through His word) we will realize that our lives will become more peaceful, secure, and loving.

Let us know if we can help. Thanks for listening.

—Scott