



FAITH matters

October 24, 2022

My husband, Larry, and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Flaunting superstition, we were married Friday, October 13, 1972. We've always joked that it was our lucky day but luck had nothing to do with it.

Marriage is hard work. Inevitably, there are ups and downs, trials and triumphs, joys and heartbreaks. We certainly had our share. Yet, through it all, two things sustained us: deep love for each other and a growing faith in God.

I'm not suggesting that it's impossible to have a happy marriage if you don't share faith in God. I'm sure there are some couples who do. From my experience, however, worshiping, praying, and reading the Bible together greatly strengthened our marriage and, I dare say, even saved our marriage.

Writes Frederick Buechner about marriage, "...a marriage made in Heaven is one where a man and a woman become more richly themselves together than the chances are either of them could ever have managed to become alone. When Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding in Cana, perhaps it was a way of saying, more or less, the same thing."^[i]

That has been true for us. We feel very blessed to have shared so many years together and had a partner who listened to us, encouraged us, and supported our dreams.

God surely has been with us, helped us, and shown us what unconditional love is and does. The beautiful hymn, "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"^[ii] captures the depth of God's personal love for each of us. Verse two acknowledges that not everyone finds someone to share their life. Why that is so or why some marriages last 50 years and others not long at all isn't the point. As you read through this hymn, whatever your circumstances, may you sense that God loves you and has been, is now, and will be with you forever.

1. "I was there to hear your borne cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

2. "When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

3. "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

4. "I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

~Written by Rev. Margie Osborn

[1] Frederick Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark, A Doubter's Dictionary*, (New York: Harper Collins, 1993) 87.

[1] Text and Music Ó 1985 John C. Ylvisaker.



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