

4 Ways to Build Up a Godly Husband

My husband, John, is a self-proclaimed computer geek. Do you know what that means? Lots of talk about CPUs, RAM, network access, accessibility, blah, blah, blah. For years listening to the computer mumbo-jumbo drove me crazy.

#1—I didn't know what he was saying.

#2—I didn't care. (I mean, I was still trying to figure out what to make for dinner while he was talking about reconfiguring hard drives ... or something like that!)

I would try to be patient when John talked through a computer issue at work, but I'm sure my face displayed the (bored and overwhelmed) truth.

Then a couple of years ago I started to think differently. I realized:

1. John processed problems by talking them out. It truly was a blessing that he turned to me!
2. When I gave John space to talk it helped him decompress. Once he got the words out, they were off his mind and he could spend the rest of the time focusing on our family ... and me.
3. When I listened to John talk about computer stuff, it became easier for him to talk to me about everything else. As I became a good listener in all areas, he more freely opened his heart concerning the deeper stuff of life. And I'm not the only one who benefited.

The more I started listening (really listening), the more connected my husband felt toward me and the more he opened up to our family.

After being married for nearly 25 years, I still don't understand the CPU/IBS/ABCDEFGH talk, but it doesn't really matter. I'm thankful that I can meet my husband's needs.

Recently, I've tried not only to be a *patient* listener, but I've also worked to be a *thankful* listener. God has blessed me with a smart, capable and hard working husband who trusts me and wants to spend time sharing what matters to him. I'm thankful that we have each other to turn to and talk to. I'm thankful that we don't have to completely understand each other's worlds, but we are still available to listen and care.

Steps You Can Take

1. Give your husband the room to vent and share about his day.
2. Ask how you can be praying for your husband.
3. Make it a point to tell your husband how much you appreciate him.
4. Take time to pray for each other.

Are you a good listener? Being a thankful listener is important in marriage @TriciaGoyer

Prayer

God, thank you for my husband. Thank you that I can be a sounding board for him in numerous ways. Thank you for this man, and help me to be a thankful listener. Help us to draw closer together as we meet each others' needs in numerous ways.

Tricia Goyer has written more than 35 books, including both novels that delight and entertain readers and nonfiction titles that offer encouragement and hope. She has also published more than 500 articles in national publications such

as Guideposts, Thriving Family, Proverbs 31, *and* HomeLife
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