

After 40 Years – Other Gifts – by Marcy Lytle

Yes, we still get gifts for each other, which seems contrary to a lot of couples that have been married a while. We do love to travel, but those trips aren't our gifts. We enjoy having wrapped packages to open along with the kids, when we celebrate Christmas with them! But just in case you want some "other" ideas for Christmas gifts for him, ones that aren't gifts to be wrapped, here's good list of ideas to surprise him with all month long. Starting December 1.

1. Grab his hand and dance – in the kitchen, the bathroom, the bedroom, or on the front porch. It doesn't have to be perfect or rehearsed, it's just a connection and a smile with feet moving.
2. Do his chore – Surprise him one morning by taking out the trash or some other common chore he has. Do it for him, expecting nothing in return.
3. Linger beside him a while – when sitting on the sofa after the show is over. Lay your head on his shoulder, and hold his arm, and tell him how much you love him.
4. Leave a sticky note on his steering wheel – not a novel idea, but a good one. A Christmas love note – why not!
5. Draw his bath – with candles lit – instead of his normal shower. Invite him to sit and soak and linger and enjoy.
6. Send him a card in the mail – yes, snail mail! Write a sweet note inside and mail it to him, and I bet he will love it!
7. Send him a card via email, too, on another day! There are lots of free options to use on the web, just pick one and delight his day!
8. Read together – at a coffee shop - books you both enjoy – and sip and smile – then share a while.
9. Buy new cologne and perfume for the two of you – while out together shopping for others. Enjoy the scents and renew the romance.
10. Organize one of his drawers, if you think he'd allow and love. I think he will love!
11. Make his favorite treat and surprise him with it at work, or one night after dinner, or in the car while out and about.
12. Make hot tea for him, with honey and lemon, one cold morning and bring it to him in bed.
13. Take him to breakfast one weekend morning, to his favorite spot and don't cringe if he orders biscuits and gravy.
14. Compliment what he's wearing and how nice he looks, be specific, and give him a kiss.
15. Leave a treat on the seat of his car one morning.
16. Add a lunch note in his to-go lunch or on his plate, like you did/do for the kids. A little rhyme about how much you love him!
17. Plan a date, and invite him out, with time and place and what to wear!
18. Offer a spa night for him, while you rub his feet with lotion, massage his neck, and whatever you think of!
19. Get tix to a sports game and tuck them under his pillow, for you and him, or him and a friend.
20. Sit next to him while watching a holiday show, instead of in separate recliners – that's a no!
21. Ask him outside with hot chocolate in hand, to observe the sunset on a clear cool evening.
22. Grab his hands and pray out loud over him before he starts his day.
23. Clean his car, inside and out, if you can – as a surprise!

24. Take him to his favorite store and let him browse, even if it's a hardware store, and listen to him dream about that next big tool.
25. Set a surprise treat in the fridge – maybe cheesecake or ice cream – and invite him to seek and find one night for fun!

If that sounds stressful or too much, only pick a few that fit you! If he never does anything for you like this, ask and pray that you can give anyway – and leave it up to God to speak to your husband. That's the only thing that works! And give anyway. Don't expect some sort of response, or get disappointed if there is none. Give as if you're giving unto Him – because you are. And enjoy.