



August 2006

- Life is Filled with Challenges
- **3rd qtr Bulletin Insert:** Strengthen Your Marriage

• Church Library

Resource:

Love Must Be Tough
by Dr. James Dobson

A Marriage Covenant is Sacred

...”Promises made at the wedding altar allow entrance into a sacred covenant whose terms are witnessed by God Himself. Christian marriage is a triangle—it takes three for two to become one.”

-Soul Care Bible, Fred Lowery



Our vision is to impact and influence the African American family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically reaching out to the African American pastor, the church and the community with more intentional efforts.

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Life is Filled with Challenges!

A day never seems to pass without one having to make major decisions concerning family, marriage, careers, leadership or even social issues. Joshua certainly understood the concept of challenges. His mentor and leader Moses died and he was very distraught. While he was grieving he had a break through from the Lord—Joshua was commissioned as the new leader of Israel.

If he thought being a spy was a challenge now he is confronted with all the responsibility of leading a people who have the tendency to go away from God rather quickly. Perhaps he recalled the golden calf ordeal or even the unwillingness of his people to remain faithful to their calling. Plus he had tremendous shoes to fill from one whom he admired.

I think the Lord sensed his feelings of inadequacies and incompetence and declared, "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you". What a sigh of relief Joshua must have felt in his heart. The God of his forefathers speaks and announces that whatever challenges come your way in life, I will be with you.

The Lord is also with each of us in the midst of life challenges! Even though they maybe complex, difficult and appear to be hopeless. He is with us! If we are dealing with family or marital challenges, He is with us! And what I like best, the Lord will never forsake us!

Joshua placed his trust in the Lord and was able to accept and effectively cope with life challenges. May I encourage you today to trust Him as well?

Joshua 1:1-5

Alex Person
Manager, African American Outreach
Focus on the Family

Joy

by Rev. Danny Tucker

A smile is probably the most inexpensive gift anyone can give yet it can lift and give joy to the heart. A smile can be the ray of kindness, the ray of hope, the ray of confidence someone may need today.

Sometimes when we feel like the world and life's odds are totally against us it is the momentary smile which can ease our trouble. The situation may look pretty bad, but there is still hope. There is still hope for a change, hope for an unexpected turn of events, hope for a miracle.

The writer of the book of Nehemiah was able to say that the joy of the Lord was his strength. He realized that *joy* is different than happiness. Happiness depends upon outside circumstances. We may feel happy when someone gives us something valuable that we really like. When they fail to give us something that we want at a time when we really wanted it our happiness can quickly disappear. Joy is the peaceful reassurance that no matter what the circumstances might be we know that we are safe and secure. When we have joy, we are at peace while there is turmoil around us.

It is said, when you give a smile, you get a smile in return. Your smile can be just like lending a helping hand - a renewing of the spirit. The renewing of our hope gives life.

This is why the writer of Proverbs said in Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart does good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." (NKJV)