

FROM THE CREATORS OF FACING THE GIANTS

FIREPROOF

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Even the most troubled marriages can be transformed
with a little love, patience, and guidance

Adopt a "no losers" policy in your marriage. One of the greatest tactics of the enemy is the age-old "divide and conquer" strategy. However, your spouse is not your enemy. The Lord says, "A house divided against itself will fall" (Luke 11:17). The truth is that marriage is a team sport and your spouse is your teammate. Remember, when you are on the same team you win as a team or you lose as a team. There is no such thing as a win-lose outcome in marriage...ever! It is an illusion that Satan loves for us to believe because as soon as we square off as adversaries, and we begin fighting with our teammate, the team loses. Don't be fooled by the enemy; recognize that for the team to win, both of you need to feel like winners.

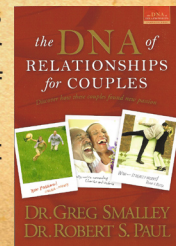
Focus significant energy into making your marriage feel safe for both of you. When people feel unsafe or insecure physically, mentally, spiritually, or emotionally their natural tendency is to close up and protect themselves. If you worry about being hurt, disappointed, criticized, ignored, dishonored, etc, opening up to each other becomes like trying to pry open a manhole cover while standing on it. The easier way to enjoy a satisfying connection with each other requires being able to relax in each other's presence. When you feel truly safe with each other you will naturally relax, open your heart, and an intimate connection will occur effortlessly.

Support and encourage each other. Many marriages start off with great hopes and expectations, only to end up being disappointing, restrictive, and often hurtful. The relationship can feel as if there is not enough room for both people to be all that God desires. An ideal marriage, however, is one that provides both the opportunity and encouragement for each of you to discover and develop the fullness of what God has placed within. Know that your differences were created by God intentionally and purposefully. Learn to appreciate and delight in His handiwork as it is discovered and manifest.

Discover the romance and passion of a Christ-centered marriage. Choosing to walk with Christ and connect with His purpose positions us to engage in an uncommon adventure. Life itself moves beyond merely searching for comfort, security, and/or pleasure toward opportunities to invest our time and energy into things that also have eternal significance. We don't sacrifice the joy; we simply add meaning to it. Marriage offers the opportunity to share that adventure together. Living, learning, and loving together with purpose creates a constant source of true romance and passion that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Invite your spouse to join you in this adventure, and then ask the Lord to lead.



Robert Paul had his own marriage miraculously transformed after years of struggle and heartache. He and Jenni have now been married for over 28 years. Bob serves as the Co-President of the National Institute of Marriage where over the last ten years thousands of couples in marital distress have come to find their own miracle. For more information, visit www.nationalmarriage.com.



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