



Excerpt from the book, **I Declare: 31 Promises To Speak Over Your Life**,  
by Joel Osteen

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## Day Twenty-Eight

***I DECLARE that I will ask God for big things in my life. I will pray bold prayers and expect big and believe big. I will ask God to bring to pass those hidden dreams that are deep in my heart. If certain promises don't look like they will happen, I will not be intimidated and give up. I will pray with boldness, expecting God to show Himself strong, knowing that nothing is too difficult for Him, This is my declaration.***

A lot of times we think we're not supposed to ask for too much. After all, we don't want to be greedy. We don't want to be selfish. I have people tell me, "Joel, if God wants me to be blessed, He'll bless me. He's God."

But that's not the way it works. God expects us to ask. James 4:2 says, "You have not because you ask not." If you're not asking for God's favor, His blessings, His increase, then you're not releasing your faith.

I know people who do ask, but they pray such small prayers: "God, if You'll just give me a fifty-cent raise." They act like they are inconveniencing God. "God if you will just help me survive this marriage," they say.

No, dare to ask big. Jesus put it this way, "According to your faith it will be done unto you." That means if you pray little you will receive little. But if you learn to pray bold prayers, and big prayers, and expect big, and believe big, it allows God to do big things in your life.

You may have a dream deep down on the inside, but you've never asked God for it. It's not wrong to ask. It's not selfish to ask. God expects us to ask.

The Scripture says in Psalm 2:8, "Ask of Me and I will give you the nations." God is saying, "Ask Me for big things. Ask Me for those hidden dreams that I've planted in your heart. Ask Me for those unborn promises that may seem unlikely to happen in the natural."

In your quiet time -- when it's just between you and God -- dare to ask Him for your deepest hopes, your deepest dreams. It may seem impossible, but just be honest and say, "God, I don't see how this could ever happen, but I have a dream to start my own business. God, I'm asking for You to help." Or, "God, I'd love to go back to college but I don't have the time. I don't have the money. God, I'm asking You to make a way."

Dare to ask God for your greatest dreams, your greatest desires.



## The Husband Store

By Lori Gottlieb

A brand new store has just opened in New York that sells Husbands.

When women go to choose a husband, they have to follow the instructions at the entrance:

You may visit this store ONLY ONCE! There are 6 floors and the value of the products increase as you ascend the flights. You may choose any item from a particular floor, or may choose to go up to the next floor, but you CANNOT go back down except to exit the building.

So, a young woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband.

The 1st floor sign on the door reads: Floor 1: Men who have good jobs.

The young woman thinks, "Well, that's nice. But I need something more than that." So she heads upstairs.

The 2nd floor sign reads: Floor 2: Men who have good jobs and love kids.

"Hmm, family is really important to me, but I think I need a little more"

Floor 3: Men who have jobs, love kids and are extremely good looking.

"Wow," she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going.

She goes to the 4th floor and the sign reads:

Floor 4: These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and help with Housework.

"Oh, that's pretty incredible!" she exclaims, "I can hardly stand it!"

Still, she goes to the 5th floor and the sign reads:

Floor 5: These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, help with Housework and Have a Strong Romantic Streak.

She is so tempted to stay, but she thinks, "This sounds so great, but surely the 6th floor gets even better! Afterall, I deserve only the best, and this is the person I will spend the rest of my life with." She goes to the 6th floor and the sign reads:

Floor 6: You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor.

There are no men on this floor.

This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please.

Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store.

To avoid gender bias charges, the store's owner opens a Wives Store just across the street.

The 1st first floor has wives that love sex.

The 2nd floor has wives that love sex and are kind.

The 3rd floor has wives that love sex, are kind, and enjoy sports.

The 4th, 5th and 6th floors have never been visited.

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This story was adapted from Lori Gottlieb's insightful book, **Marry Him: The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough**.

# Parenting Tip

## Children Need To Know "The Rules"

By Gary Chapman

### Every Society Has Rules.

In a healthy society, rules are designed for the benefit of the whole. Everyone reaps the benefits. However where despotic leaders impose rules that are detrimental to the well-being of the people, people will eventually rebel.

The same principles are true in family life. Mom and Dad have the responsibility to decide rules that are for the benefit of the children. When parents are self-centered and impose unfair and unrealistic rules upon children, eventually the children rebel.

Good rules which are lovingly enforced teach children obedience. Bad rules that are harshly enforced create angry children.

### Rules Must Be Clear and Consistent

Are you having trouble teaching your child

obedience? Children are moral creatures. They have a strong sense of right and wrong. This is evident when you hear the phrase, "That's not fair Mommy."

In light of this, when you state rules clearly to children, state why you have the rule, and state what the consequences will be if the child breaks the rule, then they will clearly understand their boundaries and that they will be disciplined if they step out of line.

Discipline is not a dirty word. It means "training". Every child needs it. It begins by helping a child understand that his/her behavior affects others. If I help mommy set the table, mommy is happy. If I throw the ball on the table, mommy is upset.

It continues throughout life, in reality life is filled with rules. Most rules are there for our good like traffic laws. If we follow rules, life is pleasant. If we break them life is unpleasant.

**The only other ingredient necessary for parents is to**

**be consistent in letting the child suffer the consequences.**

If you remove the consequences because the child cries, then you teach the child to cry. If a temper tantrum will change the parents mind, then the child becomes a terror.

Do yourself a favor, learn to discipline fairly and consistently.

Dr. Gary Chapman is the author of **The Family You've Always Wanted: Five Ways You Can Make It Happen, The Five Love Languages,** and many other books.

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Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

~Catherine M. Wallace~