



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

Day Twenty-Nine

I DECLARE God is working all things together for my good. He has a master plan for my life. There may be things I don't understand right now but I'm not worried. I know all the pieces aren't here yet. One day it will all come together and everything will make sense. I will see God's amazing plan taking me places I never dreamed of. This is my declaration.

Everyone deals with disappointments and challenges that don't seem to make sense. It's easy to grow discouraged and think, "Why did this happen to me? Why did my loved one not make it? Why did this person treat me wrong? Why did I get laid off?"

I want you to understand that even though life is not always fair, God is fair. And He promises in Romans 8:28 that all things work together for our good.

I believe the key word is together. You cannot isolate a challenge in one area of your life and say, "Well, my whole life is ruined." That is just one part of your life. God can see the big picture.

One disappointment is not the end. Your life doesn't stop because of a single setback. The challenge you are facing is simply one piece of your puzzle. There is another piece coming that will connect it all. It will work together for your good.

Some people become bitter before all their pieces come together. God has promised a great plan for you. He has predetermined you to live in victory. When events occur

that you don't understand -- hard times that don't make sense -- don't let yourself be stuck there. God has more pieces coming your way.

You may feel like your life is missing something, whether it's in the area of your finances, your career, or your marriage. But all God has to do is add some to the puzzle, and your life will feel whole and complete. Those new parts may be the right people, the right opportunities, or the right breaks at just the right time.

Don't be impatient. It's not over until God says it's over. If you will keep pressing forward, one day you will look back and see how it all played into a master plan that God had designed for our lives. You have to have a deep inner trust, a confidence down in your heart that says, "I know God has a great plan for my life. I know He is directing my steps. And even though I may not understand this, I know it's not a surprise to God. Somehow, someday, He will work it out to my advantage."



Part 2 -- 12 Alternatives To Saying "NO" to Children

By Carol Tuttle

You need to set limits and say "no" sometimes. But *how* you say it makes a difference—both in how your children feel about it and how cooperatively they respond.

Consider these options for the 4 types of children that are both supportive of your child's true nature and may communicate what you really mean better than a simple, "No."

(Continued from last week's Part 1)

Saying "No" to the Determined Type 3 Child

- *Oh, wow—look at you!*

These Type 3 children often get told "No" for whatever big feat they've just done. They'll be more likely to stop when you need them to if they hear this validating message first.

- *How great that you want that. You can go after it.*

Instead of automatically saying you won't buy or provide something they want, allow this child the challenge of manifesting it for themselves. These children are endlessly resourceful and entrepreneurial.

- *Okay. But just one rule: _____.*

Consider the possibility that sometimes you say "no" to this child more often than you need to. You shouldn't let them run wild or run you over, but you will both be happier if you give this child (girl OR boy) enough room to adventure and explore. Provide firm guidelines to keep them safe (a physical boundary, a time limit, or one direct rule) and then let them get their hands dirty.

Saying "No" to the More Serious Type 4 Child

- *No, because...*

These children think deeply and want to know the reasons behind things. For example: "No more cookies because we're having dinner in 20 minutes and I'd like you to eat it." The reason "Because I said so" doesn't work for these children.

- *I'm so glad you want that. You're able to have what you want most.*

Instead of trying to keep your child from wanting more, validate the desire. Express confidence that they will be able to identify what's the highest priority to them.

- *Please tell me why you want to do that.*

These children have thought-out reasons for everything they want to do. If you shut them down with a "no" before they feel they've had a chance to explain, they may rebel. Ask their reasoning. You may get to have an interesting conversation.

Do you know the Type of child you're parenting?

Parenting is easier and more intuitive when you know your child's Energy Type.

If you don't yet know which Type of energy your child expresses, read my book, **The Child Whisperer**. As you apply it, your children will be happier, more cooperative, and more successful.

<http://thechildwhisperer.com/alternatives-to-saying-no/>

Marriage Tip

How To Have Quality Time With Your Spouse

By Sheri & Bob Stritof,
About.com Guide

Don't let your job, or the kids, or volunteer work, or time with friends and extended family interfere with your marriage.

Bottom line: if you don't schedule time for one another, you won't have the time.

Many couples today find that being married doesn't guarantee that they will have quality time with one another. If you are both busy, you have to plan to spend time together. Here are some ideas.

1. Schedule a weekend just for the two of you. Write it on your calendar, put it on your computer planner, etc. Don't change it for any other event. You don't have to go anywhere.
2. Have lunch together once a week. On nice days, meet in a park.
3. Let your children know that you two need time alone together. Tell them they can knock on your closed bedroom door only if there is blood.
4. Walk around the block together.
5. Do chores together like the dishes or weeding. It may not

sound like quality time, but it can be.

6. When you are running errands together, turn off the radio or CD player in the car and talk with one another.
7. Take showers together.
8. Spend 20 minutes a day in daily dialogue.
9. Arrange for a quiet evening at home alone once a month.
10. Hire a babysitter to watch the kids for a couple hours even though you are home. This works wonders!
11. Work out a deal with another couple to have them watch your kids overnight so you can have a romantic evening alone ... then you watch their children for them.
12. Schedule dates with one another. Having an evening or afternoon out together twice a month is a good beginning.
13. When you travel together, don't take work on the plane or road trip. Spend that time talking with each other.
15. Have a one night stand with each other.

Bottom line: if you don't schedule time for one another, you won't have the time.

What You Need:

- The Commitment
- A Calendar

Ten Dating Rules for Married Couples

By Sheri & Bob Stritof,
About.com

Follow these rules so your dates with your spouse are fun and help the two of you to connect with one another.

1. Follow the advice of researchers and do something different, out of the ordinary, on your dates.
2. Agree that your dates will not be at home unless absolutely necessary.
3. Accept that a date is not getting together with your in-laws or attending a party.
4. Don't invite another couple on your date.
5. Schedule when the two of you will have a date. If your calendar is tight, go for once a month with a goal of increasing

your dates to twice a month at least.

6. Unless there is a true emergency, keep your promise to have a date, whether it is weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.
7. Your date should last at least 2 hours.
8. Choose dates that will be fun for both of you.
9. If you have children, plan in advance for child care while the two of you are on a date.
10. Share your expectations of the date with one another.

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For more:

Marriage Tips, Resources, or copies of these Sunday Inserts visit:

www.TheMarriageLibrary.com

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