



# The "Oh Yeah!"

## Letter

### Pushing or Pulling?

by Tim Loper

Wet noodles. Chains. Ropes. Three examples of things that don't react well to being pushed. Wet noodles just buckle when pushed. Chains just collapse and kink. Ropes may unravel. A lot of effort can be expended pushing on the end of a rope and none of that effort ever makes it to the other end! The effort only crumpled up the rope and its sense of direction was lost. Ropes are designed to have tensile strength and totally lack compressive strength. Ropes are intended to be pulled, not pushed. Our children are like ropes. Especially in the middle years and the teen years.

Have you ever been "working on it" with children in some issue of life only to see little or no results in the actions or in their hearts? Perhaps you are working from the wrong end of the rope! We have to learn how to pull our children into the attitudes and behavior where they need to be. That being now said and very true, there is a core difficulty with "pulling" our children to where they should go - we have to be ahead of them! Scripture calls it "leading". We cannot effectively direct our children without getting ourselves in obedience to Scripture and in right relationship with God. And we can't do it from the easy chair; we have to get involved, get in submission ourselves, take some classes, implement what we learn and then we can get out ahead of them.

Our children are watching us. They are aware of our spiritual strengths and weaknesses. They are observant of our character flaws. They see our movie watching habits and know the music we listen to. They catch on to our priorities and habits. They see how we view and value relationships and what we say about the pastor and his family. Are we leading where we want them to follow? Are the fruits of the Spirit evident in our life? Do we show grace and mercy to the lost? Do we challenge our Christian friends to grow and pursue God in how they run their business? Have we forgiven and found forgiveness and peace with our past?

We as parents are not perfect and we know it. We acknowledge that we are not all that we should be. We all desire our children to be "better" than we are.

\* WHERE IS YOUR CHILD IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE FUNNEL? WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR FUNNEL? SEE GKGW CHAPTER 14 FOR A REFRESHER!

\* THE EIGHTH FATHER'S MANDATE IS TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH YOUR CHILD BASED ON GOD'S WORD NOT MAN'S WISDOM!

\* DON'T NEGLECT TO START PLANNING NOW FOR THOSE LONG SUMMER DAYS! SIT DOWN WITH YOUR SPOUSE AND ASK THE LORD WHAT YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON WITH EACH OF YOUR CHILDREN - MORALLY, ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. SET REALISTIC GOALS AND CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION. A WRITTEN VISION IS A TASK NEARLY ACCOMPLISHED!


### ♥♥♥♥ Marriage

Most people don't mind talking about leadership too much when discussing parents leading children. They generally agree in philosophy even if they struggle with application. However, when it comes to the need for leadership in marriage, many bristle or shut down. Often, this is due to a lack of true understanding about the purpose or application of leadership. As a wife, I find myself concerned with all the conceivable caveats (abuse or moral questionability of the husband). However, moving past the obvious exceptions, leadership is a requirement of any well functioning organization. To have and accomplish goals takes leadership and God has designated the husband to fill that position.

The husband, as the servant-leader of the organization of family, has the ominous role of serving, establishing goals for, and being closely involved with each member of the family. It is not enough to simply set goals and expect the wife to implement them. He is responsible for walking out those goals. He is to literally 'hus-band' his family. 'Husband' is actually an agricultural term which means to cultivate. The husband is to cultivate in each member of the family whatever seeds God has placed in them.

The wife's role, though sounding simple, in reality is very difficult at times because it is intangible. To respect her husband, the wife needs to show him that preferential treatment in action - not only when he is present, but also when he is not. The most difficult time for most wives seems to be in the decision making process. Naturally, every effort should be made to come into mutual agreement, but when that cannot be found and the wife is sure her husband is wrong, nothing is left for her but to continue to show respect and to trust God with the outcome. Again, though this sounds so simple, it is the walking out of this truth that is the challenge.

Tim and I recognize that we so often miss the mark with these simple sounding goals and we are grateful for the grace the Lord extends to us and that we can then extend to each other!

 A Parenting Treasure From The Word "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Cor 11:1 What better motto could there be for us as Christian parents?!

### FUN Idea OF the Quarter

- IT'S TIME TO DUST OFF THE BOOTS, TENTS, AND BACKPACKS!
- IT'S TIME TO TAKE A DAY OFF AND GO TO THE ZOO!
- IT'S TIME TO TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS AND SEE WILDFLOWERS!
- IT'S TIME TO PICNIC AT A LAKE OR EVEN AT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK!
- IT'S TIME TO GO HIKING!
- IT'S TIME TO FLY KITES!
- IT'S TIME TO GO BOATING!
- IT'S TIME TO EAT DINNER OUTSIDE!
- IT'S TIME TO MAKE A LIST AND DO THOSE FAMILY THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS INTENDED TO DO! DON'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER! DON'T HAVE TOO MANY TOMORROWS!

### Announcements

It is with hearts on the brink of bursting with joy that we announce that our precious daughter and son-in-law are pregnant! This baby has come as a tremendous surprise to all of us as Tim and Ashley have only been married a few months, but sometimes the biggest surprises bring the biggest joy! Ashley's due date is October 12th and we simply can't wait!!!

### CONTACT US



timami@cox.net



1026 W. Woodman Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85283




480.491.9331

We should want our children to go beyond where we are. Because we know these things, we sometimes find ourselves requiring of our children what we do not do ourselves. In other words, we get caught "pushing."

Gary and Anne Marie taught in GKGW that by the time our children are in middle years we should be more and more heavily leaning on the strength of our relationship and the influence of that relationship with our children. When our children are of that age, they are also aware of our character. No more can we hide behind the authoritative instruction, we are in this parenting relationship for the long haul; we cannot afford to alienate our children in our hypocrisy.

The question is: are we going to get up to speed like a race car in the Daytona 500 with our children "drafting" us in the

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## Quotes Worth Remembering

*"Children will invariably talk, eat, walk, think, respond, and act like their parents. Give them a target to shoot at. Give them a pattern that they can see clearly, and you give them something that gold and silver cannot buy."*

*~Bobby Graham*

car behind us and then, when they are older, see them sling shot out of the safe, easy position behind us into the lead and go further and faster than we ever could. Or are we going to be looking over our shoulder and push them another direction saying, "Don't follow me, go the other way"?

You decide.

## Books We Love...

If you have questions about family leadership, try the following great books. "Maximized Manhood" by Edwin Louis Cole is a fabulous book teaching men what it looks like to lead as man, husband, and father. "On the Other Side of the Garden" by Virginia Fugate is a wonderful book for wives helping to understand the intricacies of submission and respect and how that works with any type of man.

Tim & Ami Loper  
1026 West Woodman Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85283