



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** Experiencing a Fulfilled Marriage – Part 2

**Guest(s):** Patricia Ashley

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**Dr. James Dobson:** Well, hello everyone. I'm James Dobson, and you're listening to Family Talk, a listener supported ministry. In fact, thank you so much for being part of that support for James Dobson Family Institute.

**Roger Marsh:** Welcome to Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh. And if you were with us yesterday, we heard part one of a classic presentation given by author and speaker, Patricia Ashley. She talked about how to revive a struggling marriage. A good healthy marriage can be maintained in today's culture, but it requires work and taking our troubles to the Lord. Husbands and wives must both be determined to honor God in their relationships, by putting him first above all else. Patricia Ashley is a well-known author and speaker. She and her late husband, Vernon, were married nearly 50 years, and together, they raised three grown children. Today, we'll be hearing the conclusion of Patricia's presentation, where she highlights how to heal the bond between a husband and wife and how to cast away our expectations and put our focus back on the Lord. So let's join Patricia Ashley for the conclusion of her presentation, right here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

**Patricia Ashley:** When my daddy calls me, we literally, on the phone, laugh for about two minutes. I just be so glad to hear his voice, and he be so glad to hear mine. We just laugh. Do you hear what I'm saying? And my mother, if she calls me and if my father's at home, she will say everything she's got to say to me before she give him the phone, because she knows that, once he and I start talking, it's all over. But you know what?

I know and God brought me to a place, as much as I love my father and enjoy him, and I think my father's a great man, even when my mother used to get on his nerve and he used to get on her nerve, even when I used to get upset with him about some of the things he did to me, he was always a big man. In my sight, there was nothing he couldn't do. And you know what? I had to take all of that admiration, and I had to connect that to my husband. God had to begin to show me areas, not focus on his negatives, but focus on his positives, while he's still performing the negatives.

Come on now, you saw something in him. Start focusing on his positives and start letting him know. And let me tell you something, when you compliment a

man, and all of them are like this, even if they crazy, all of them are like this, giving them true, not flattery, but when you give your husband true compliments, and when you say true positive things to him about him, it is like putting water on a plant. I know what I'm talking about. Do you all hear me?

Even if they reject it, even if they act like it didn't move them, believe me, if you walk out the room and peek back at them, they like it. That's why our daughters are able to steal our husbands' heart. My daughter's 20 years old, and there's nothing my husband won't do for her. And they had that kind of relationship, and I wondered, "How did she have his heart?" She would sit up at the dinner table, five years old. I learned from my five year old daughter how to deal with my husband. She would sit up at the dinner table, and she wouldn't even have to talk. She'd just point for what she wanted, and he'd get it.

I said, "What is this? I don't have that kind of control." And I said, "I'm going to watch her, and whatever she does, I'm going to do." Do you understand what I'm saying? Are you all listening, ladies? I'm telling you how to experience fulfillment. When he'd be working on the car, she would go out there and lay up under the car or sit down on the side of the car and talk to him. So I started going out there, sitting at the side of the car talking. And when he'd be out in the backyard cutting the grass, she'd be walking up and down the grass with him and talking to him. And guess what? I started walking up and down the grass and I started talking to him. Come on now. And when he came home from work, I'm telling you how to do it, ladies, when he come home from work, she'd run to the door.

Now, she did this until she left home. She'd run to the door and be so glad to see him. "How you doing, daddy?" Give him a big hug and just act like her day had just begun. And guess what, ladies? Hey, do you hear me? I felt like, "This girl's got his heart, I want it, and I'm not going to compete for it, because I want him to have a good relationship with her. But I believe his heart is big enough for me and her." And little by little, now, at first, he was suspicious, and he thought I was crazy. But I was a woman on a mission.

Do you hear me? Yes, that's why marriages are falling apart today. I'm telling you, listen, love reciprocates. After a matter of time, guess what started happening? Girl or as they say, girlfriend, I started telling him all of the good things about him. Guess what? He started telling me good things about me. Now, it took a while. I got to be honest with you, it took a while, but God had to test me. God said, "Are you doing this to please me or you just doing it to reap the benefits?" I said, "God, if I got to stand before you to give an account, to give an account," and we're going to do that, ladies, if you're married, you're going to stand before God to give an account.

If you are going to stand before God to give an account for the kind of wife that you are, get your feelings healed. They are hurt, some of them. Set your affections on things above. You know what happens when you do that? You stop having expectations out of your mate, and you take the stress off of your

marriage. And you free him up, because you know what? If there's something wrong with you, there's probably something wrong with him. Or if there's something wrong with him, there's probably something wrong with you. Because you chose each other, you connected.

And for the most part, we, as women, can see good from our perspective, and we can just see what we're enduring and what we're going through. But if we were to look at some of our relationships from our husband's perspective and see the world through their eyes and feel the world through their emotions, then we would see that they have as many needs as we do. And it's a mutual thing. But we must come to a place that we're going to experience fulfillment is to release our expectations and say, "God, I don't expect him to be sensitive to me, but I expect you to be sensitive through him to me. I don't expect him to love me unconditionally, but I expect you to love me unconditionally through him. I don't expect him to be sensitive to me and to dwell with me according to knowledge."

Come on now. "I don't expect it to come from him, but God, all of my expectations is in you. I expect you to teach him how to be sensitive to me as the weaker vessel. I expect you to do it through him to me." Now, come on, now, what have you done? You've placed that weight on God. You've cast those cares on God. And guess what you do? You get out of your husband's face, and you get in the face of God. You stop talking and pulling on your husband, and you began to talk and pull on God.

Come on now. So the thing is, what you must do is make a decision whether or not God is able. And you can know that he's able because of who he is. And then, you must know that God is for your marriage. He's for the success of your marriage, whether or not you chose him or not. God would desire to choose him for us, but most of us get ahead of God. And God has to make the wrong one the right one. Come on now. But He's able. He can do anything. We want fulfillment in our marriages? We've got to look at it God's way. We've got to leave and cleave. We can't put our marriages asunder. And then, we got to know what God's purpose is for marriages.

God's purpose for marriage is that we have companionship, but now, we must have companionship with God first. Because the word in Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they agree?" We should be able to agree spiritually first. We should be able to agree emotionally, and we should be able to agree physically. And see, for the most part, we want to go into it agreeing physically. We are attracted physically. Like I hear my daughter say, "I like men with pretty teeth." I said, "Baby, you better like more than that. You better look for more than just pretty teeth." Come on now. And I know that she is, but that's just one of her things. We have those kinds of things.

We had better know that God would have us to connect in the spirit realm first, that we would agree spiritually. And if there's not spiritual agreement in your house, begin to ask God to give it to you, because you know what? God loves

your husband more than you do. Yes, He does. And He's more concerned with Him than you are. Ask God for spiritual agreement. God knows what it takes to bring it about. And then, if we are going to experience the fulfilled marriage, as it relates to companionship, our husbands must dwell with us according to knowledge, in First Peter 3:7. And then, God intended for marriage, in order that it would be fulfilled to accomplish enjoyment.

We should be able to experience gratification, delight, and pleasure, in our mates. But one of the reasons we don't always experience that is because of perversion. Remember we said that, everything that God said was good, man perverted it? Now, from my understanding of what I've read in the Bible, God gave us physical intimacy as a wedding gift. Do y'all hear what I'm saying? Now, I don't know about some of you, but you try to give the best gifts that you can find. How many of you following me? In the mind of God, the best gift, come on now, that He could give to a couple was physical intimacy. And you get the gift of children. It's a gift that keep on giving. You get the gift of children as a result of physical intimacy. Now, it's been so perverted. First of all, we pervert it by opening the gift before time.

Yes, we do. You've done that, slipped and opened a Christmas present before Christmas. And when it becomes Christmas, there's no fun opening that thing up. You've taken all of the joy. There's no rapture and explosion of ecstasy. And so, sometimes, we can't enjoy the gift, because we've opened it before time. So what we have to do is we have to go back and say, "God, make this right in me. Purify me. First, forgive me, sanctify me, make me whole." And then, God began a work. Some of us have been molested, and that's why we don't enjoy the gift. Come on now. Satan get footholds in our relationships, because we won't respond sometimes intimately to our husbands. We tempt them to lust. We incite lust in them, because we won't respond to their needs. Sometimes we struggle, we trying to change these men and create them and mold them and make them and manipulate them, and you just end up frustrated.

But God made him, and God is for your marriage and He's for your mate. He wants your husband to enjoy the marriage as much as he wants you to. Some of you just need to be more sensitive and ask God to open up the understanding of your eyes. But the key is place all your expectations in the Lord and know that he's for the success of your marriage. Know that, know that God wants us to be fruitful. Now, God would have us to multiply, to have children. And ladies, if you don't do anything else, ask God to give you his heart about having children. There is a spirit of murder in this country, that hates babies. Now, if you've had an abortion, God is for you. He will heal you. He will forgive you. He will take away the guilt and the shame and all that needs to be done.

But we need to be committed to life. We need to start honoring women that are pregnant, and we must take a responsibility. We, as women of God, especially some of you older women, the Bible, God's going to get y'all. He said that the older women are supposed to teach the younger women, and they're not doing it. Older women are to teach the younger women. You have a responsibility.

You're going to stand before God for not teaching younger women. You must go to younger women, when you know they're pregnant, and you must say, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb. God has done a good thing in you, that he would trust you to nurture a life."

Uh-huh. We got to do that. You got to go out of your way. I don't care if she's a stranger. And those babies in their wombs, listen, when I get a chance, I bend over and talk to the baby in the womb. I said, "Baby, you are blessed. God has purpose and plan for your life. We are eagerly and waiting for your birth with great expectation. You're going to be a great woman or man of God." Then I said, "My name is Pat."

Yes, I do. Yes, I do. Then I tell the mother, I said, "Now, when this baby is born, it's going to recognize my voice." Do you hear what I'm saying? It's real. It's that real to me. It's that real. We must make a commitment to encourage women to be fruitful and then, become extended families. Women are not having babies, because we live in a selfish and an egocentric society. We don't want to make the necessary sacrifices. My mother had five of us, and we were considered a small family. Do you understand me? We must get the heart of God, since that's whose we're going to stand in front of one day anyhow. Get his heart now and ask God to forgive us for not encouraging women when they're pregnant and overlooking them. We should celebrate those women. And when you get a chance, bless these women and encourage them.

Praise God. Hallelujah. God would have that our marriage would accomplish protection. I know my pad is out. That the marriage would be protected. Let me tell you something. Whether your husband is saved or unsaved, do you know, whether he's saved or unsaved, God can use him to protect you? Because if the truth were told by each one of you, if you can think of something, things that your husband warned you of, relationships that your husband disapproved of, and some of your other girlfriends, as that relationship developed, you found that there were things in it, that was just a dead end. You ended up hurt or betrayed or you ended up being used, and he tried to rise up to protect you by saying, "You know what? There's something wrong with her. I don't know what it is, but I don't feel good."

You know what? Unless he's a schizophrenic, most of them will rise up and say things to you, even if they're drunkards, even if they're alcoholics. Do y'all hear what I'm saying? And I'm not putting down the alcoholic, because God is for the alcoholic. But I have seen men that were alcoholics still, in their drunken state, say things to their wives, that was wise counsel. Now, he may be draining her emotionally, but he will say things to her that will protect her. And even unsaved men, I have listened to things that Christian women have told me that their unsaved husbands told them. And I said to myself, "It couldn't be closer to the gospel, if he hadn't read it out of the word."

Because God will sanctify him and anoint him and use him to protect you, even if he's unsaved. Because that's what God intended for the marriage to

accomplish. God intended mostly for the marriage to illustrate an example of Christ in the church. Christ has joined Himself to the church eternally, forever. Christ has said to the Church, "I will never, no never, leave or forsake you." Christ has said to the Church, "I will never, no never." And sometimes, they say marriage is like flies at a screen. You got those waiting to get out and those waiting to get in.

Some of us are waiting for excuses to abandon and abort our marriages, and we wait for an opportunity for our husbands to do what some of these folk tell us it's okay to do. But if it was okay to divorce your husband, because he was found in adultery, then why do you deal with the guilt afterwards? Why do you deal with it? And those of you that have done it, I don't care whether he beat you. You understand what I'm saying? I'm not saying stay there and be beat. Get to safety. But let me tell you something, there is no way around the guilt. And guilt is an indicator. Just like you scream when somebody burn you with something hot, it's an indication that there's something wrong there. Guilt is an indication, and you have to deal with that guilt. And I have met married couples, who's now remarried.

God has blessed them in a second relationship, but every last one of them that is living in the real blessings of God, you know why it is? Because they said that they came to a point where they submitted and they began to realize that what it took to make the second marriage successful, the same amount of prayer. I'm telling you now, the things that they were running from in that first marriage, they met in the second marriage. The things that they had to overcome in the first marriage, they were confronted to overcome. They had to still overcome those things.

But now, for those of you that have experienced that and you've gone through it, guess what? Don't keep that a secret. You should start investing into the marriages of other people. You should become men and women that's committed to the success of other people's marriage, because you know how violent divorce is. You know how it's a tearing. You know how painful it is. I'm going to say this in closing. My husband left to go to Greenland for a year, and we were leaving, we were separating on good terms. And do you know, when the packers came in to our living room to get his personal belongings that he would need for that year, no one told me how painful it was going to be, on good terms. Come on now.

There was something uncontrollable inside of me that caused me to want to run and leap on the back of the packers and say, "No, put it down." Do you understand what I'm saying? It was violent. There was a tearing that took place in my heart. And when you divorce, there's like a ripping and a tearing that takes place in your heart, and it's painful. You must, if God has restored you and you are recovering in a second marriage, you have a responsibility to encourage young couples and people whose marriages that you know are in trouble. And when you see folk with their marriages in, you know what they look like, because you know what you looked like, you know how you felt. You can listen

to women, you can look at women and tell when they're in pain and when they're going through.

Roger Marsh:

Boy, it's very true that younger married couples can certainly learn how to have a fulfilled marriage by watching older couples, who have weathered many seasons together. What powerful and encouraging words from Patricia Ashley over the past couple of days here on Family Talk? Reminds me of the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 12, verse 10, he wrote, "Be devoted to one another in love, honor one another above yourselves." Now, if you missed part one of Patricia's presentation or if you'd like to share the entire conversation with a friend or someone who needs some encouragement in their own marriage, I encourage you to visit our website at [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk). That's [drjamesdobson.org/familytalk](http://drjamesdobson.org/familytalk). Now, if you've been married for any length of time, it's no secret that some marriages go through difficult times. In fact, most marriages do. Perhaps you find yourself forgiving your spouse over and over again, and it's frustrating you.

Or perhaps you bend over backwards to help your partner feel loved and accepted. And then, the only response you get is anger, indifference, or frustration. You might even be at the point where you and your spouse are ready to hang it up and just head on out the door. Well, if this sounds like your marriage, please know that there is hope. And here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we have a powerful resource written just for you. It's Dr. Dobson's classic book called *Love Must Be Tough*. It offers guidance that gives you the best chance of rekindling romance, renewing your relationship, and drawing your wife or husband back into your arms.

To get your copy, it's very simple, all you have to do is go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org), click on the resources tab, and then, select store. You'll find a copy of *Love Must Be Tough* waiting for you. And we'll be happy to send it to you as our way of thanking you for a suggested donation of just \$20. Remember, your marriage is worth fighting for. So go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org), click on the resources tab and then, select store to reserve your copy of *Love Must be Tough* today. I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of Dr. James Dobson and all of the staff here at Family Talk, we pray that you would have a blessed day. And be sure to join us again here tomorrow for a very special edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer:

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.