

# Believing the Best in Your Spouse

## No More Perfect Date Night

**Jill Savage:** You know, there is nothing better than knowing that someone believes in you.

**Mark Savage:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** In fact, during our dark season...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** It was uh a scene I'll never forget. Um we were sitting in Cracker Barrel, and you asked me a question...

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** And I stopped and really paused and prayed, um and as I did, the answer I gave you was not an answer you expected, because instead of giving you the answer...

**MS:** Which you normally would.

**JS:** That's right, I normally would have, but God was changing me.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And instead of giving you the answer, I told you that I believe that you and God could figure out the answer together. And that was the answer I gave you.

**MS:** Hmm. Yeah. And that was so powerful.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** Why? Because Jill said she believed in me. And that was love in action.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** And what's true of most, every man is that he so longs for his wife to believe in him.

**JS:** Yeah.

**MS:** But what gets communicated is really that lack of belief.

**JS:** Mm-hmm. In 1 Corinthians 13:7, God tells us that love believes all things. So to believe all things means that we actually give others the benefit of the doubt, and it means that we actually expect the best in someone, or believe...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** The best in someone. And that's really powerful for both men and women.

**MS:** Right. But sometimes we have trouble believing the best uh because of the past.

**JS:** Well, that's true, right? And and, and so sometimes we we have to really um take our thoughts captive...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** Push them in a different direction, um because we do have trouble uh believing things because of the past because maybe trust was broken.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** So if trust is being rebuilt, or if trust was broken and um you're healing from that...

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Then you have to believe the best in who that person is becoming.

**MS:** Hmm.

**JS:** Uh and it... So it's expecting the best from that spouse...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** Who is rebuilding trust.

**MS:** Sometimes we have trouble believing all things because of our childhood.

**JS:** Very true.

**MS:** And for sure, that would be true of me. I uh I had trouble finding the best as as I was growing up because of the chaos and the conflict that happened in my home.

**JS:** Right. Well like... Maybe you're quick to expect others to fail because there was nobody dependable in your childhood.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** I mean you really experienced that.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** I mean, the most dependable person was your grandma...

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** But you were in and out of her home, so it wasn't a constant.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Um maybe it's it's hard for you to believe that others will respond to things like they should, like that they'll give you appropriate responses, so you have a fear of their anger. And that actually doesn't even come from your spouse, it comes from your childhood.

**MS:** But it's um...

**JS:** Imposing.

**MS:** Imposed upon our spouse...

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** And then we're already assuming that our spouse is gonna behave that way anyway.

**JS:** Right, right.

**MS:** 'Cause that's all we've ever known.

**JS:** Right, or you believe that somebody's gonna fail you because all of the other influential people in your life...

**MS:** Failed.

**JS:** Failed you.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And so, definitely believing the best can not only be affected by what's happened previously in our relationship, but it can be what's happened previously in your life.

**MS:** Mm-hmm. I will... I think too, that uh our personality can play into what we assume others will do or don't do.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** Like for Jill, she is uh... She's very positive, the glass is half-full.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** Uh I'm... I can be negative and the glass is half-empty.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** And so I am matched with childhood experiences. Uh and I think that too, uh probably because I'm, I'm predisposed to look at the negative experiences and to latch on to those, I can really breed mistrust.

**JS:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. And here's the other thing to understand that if we don't believe the best...

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** Then it's often we risk being critical, um we risk seeing the splinter in someone else's eye while...

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** Missing the log on our own eye. And I know that when this starts to happen to me, it's because pride and judgment start to creep up...

**MS:** Yeah.

**JS:** And they rise up inside of me.

**MS:** Mm-hmm. Yeah.

**JS:** And so then um my judgment keeps me from being able to believe the best.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** And honestly, not believing the best in each other grieves God. 'Cause God believes the best in us.

**MS:** Right.

**JS:** He absolutely does. And that may be news to you because you may view God through the eyes... You know, you may have the face of your stepfather who was abusive on the face of God, or you may have the the face of your mother who you never could um...

**MS:** Please, yeah.

**JS:** Please on the face of God.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** The truth is, that's not true to the character of God. God absolutely believes the best in you. He sees the possibilities.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** He has put them inside of you. And so when we don't believe the best in each other, it grieves God. And it really denies that he's at work, that he is powerful, that he has the ability to make changes. It's almost like he... You know, we kind of believe, "Oh well, he he might have started something, but he'll he'll forget about it."

**MS:** Yeah, he's too busy.

**JS:** That's... Yeah, that's not true.

**MS:** That's not true. I I think too, uh, just a practical way that God believes the best is his spirit lives inside of us.

**JS:** Mm-hmm.

**MS:** And his spirit lives inside of us which is gonna produce a good result.

**JS:** Yeah. Once we say yes to God, we have to say yes to God, and once we say yes to God, that spirit lives inside of us. So he doesn't force himself on us, um but he extends his hand and says, "Hey, you know, I created you to be in relationship with me, but you get to choose that."

**MS:** Mm-hmm. Right.

**JS:** And so it's important to recognize that God does believe the best in us, and then he asked us to believe the best in one another. And bottomline, not believing all things is not loving.

**MS:** Mm-hmm. Right.

**JS:** And so we... This comes from 1 Corinthians 13 which is the love chapter in the Bible, it says that it believes all... Love believes all things. So as you go about your week, live out God's truth by believing the best in your spouse and those that you love.

**MS:** Mm-hmm.

**JS:** This is how we tangibly love well.

**MS:** Yeah.