



Joy That Lasts

By Gary Smalley

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

"Trials can be our greatest experience for they can lead to the source of lasting joy." "Reaching bottom is the first step up." These words of advice come easily, except to those who are hurting. Gary Smalley learned the pain of rejection from a friend so dear, one he considered a near brother. He recovered from his emotional devastation to become a best-selling author, respected marriage counselor, and sought-after public speaker. But it took him two years and a career change to heal from his hurt and turn back to God. It was then he discovered the secret to a life so fulfilling, it would be virtually impossible for circumstances to rob him of his joy. Gary Smalley shares freely the secrets of having Joy That Lasts with his readers. He explains how the trials of living can work for us to produce love and a strong feeling of self-worth. He makes a strong case that most of our prayers are answered, even if we may not recognize them when they are. And he points the way to finding the true source of refreshment that never runs dry.

About the Author

Gary Smalley teaches seminars throughout North America on marriage and the family. Among his books are *The Joy of Committed Love*, *If Only He Knew*, and *For Better or For Best*. His counsel on marriage is also the focus of the film series *Love is a Decision*.; Al Janssen has authored or coauthored 22 books. He is currently senior director of product development for Focus on the Family. Al and his wife, Jo, have been married for 22 years and live in Colorado Spring. They have three children--Joshua, Jonathan, and Anna.

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Chapter One Yes, You Can Have Joy Nancy Bramlett was miserable — trapped in an abusive marriage with no hope of improvement. For her, divorce wasn't an option, but shopping was. It was summertime in Memphis and Nancy, with her friend Linda, were on a mission. They started with clothing. Hopping from mall to mall, and boutique to shop, they tried on all the latest styles and colors. Midday, there was a lunch break at a trendy café or bistro. Sometimes she'd think wistfully about brief times spent living in Boston and Miami, where she could shop at Jordan Marsh or Bonwit Teller. Those happy memories and the thrill of making their latest purchases covered up the pain, at least for a few hours. In time, Linda and Nancy became bored with clothes. So they visited Ethan Allen and Kacey's and many other quality antique shops looking for the perfect dining-room set or a unique accessory for the living room. Late in the summer, with closets full and extra furniture stored away, Nancy held a giant garage sale and cleared out the items she no longer wanted, making room for winter fashions she was planning to buy that fall. During a break between customers, she wondered why all her new purchases left her satisfied for only a day or two. Why, when she had so much, did she need more? At a time when so many acquaintances considered her lifestyle glamorous, why was she so unhappy? Certainly anyone would be envious of the phone calls that came during the months between her husband's seasons in the National Football League? "Is John there?" said the voice. "We're about to eat dinner," Nancy answered. "Elvis wants you guys to come over." Immediately, Nancy turned off the oven, put the food in the refrigerator, and called a baby-sitter. John and Nancy then hurried over to the Graceland mansion for dinner with longtime friend Elvis Presley. Afterwards, they might play a football game at the high school field a couple of miles away, or Elvis might rent the old Memphien Theater so they could watch a movie without being disturbed by a myriad of fans. Sometimes in Graceland, Nancy would slip away for a moment to call her mother to check on her sons, Andy and Don. Isn't this the American dream? For seven years, your husband is a star linebacker in the NFL. After injuries force him to retire, his competitive drive is channeled into business, where he is even more successful. You have all the financial resources you need; you have two children you love dearly. But while your husband provides well financially for his family, he can't give what you want most — some attention, a little time, a sense that you

are important to him. In a word, Nancy wants to feel loved. All the pain of her marriage came to the surface one evening in a bar when one of the secretaries from John's office grabbed Nancy's arm and hissed, "Your husband tried to get me to go to an apartment with him this week. I thought you ought to know about it." Nancy stared at the woman, her mouth open wide in disbelief. Humiliation engulfed her. Her face felt as if it were on fire. She wanted to vanish beneath the table. By the pity she saw in the woman's eyes, Nancy knew she was telling the truth. She turned to her husband and his stunned look confirmed the accusation. "She's lying, Nancy," John quickly blurted. "Can't you see she's just making the whole thing up?" Nancy turned and ran for the parking lot. Sobs convulsed her as she reached their car. John was right behind her. "Nancy, listen to me. That woman's lying. How could you be stupid enough to believe her?" "No, she's not lying!" Nancy shouted back. "I want to know what she's talking about. What apartment? How many other women have you asked to go there with you? Doesn't our marriage mean anything to you?" "Sure it does. I told you, she's making it up. It never happened, Nancy, I swear it." They drove home in silence that night, speaking no more about it, and the next morning they acted as if nothing had happened. But Nancy now knew for sure what had been happening on those nights when her husband didn't come home. She'd assumed he passed out from drinking, and because he didn't come home, she was managing to avoid another ugly abusive scene, so common when he was drunk. How could Nancy live in such an awful situation? Isn't this a prescription for divorce? No one should have to endure such pain. Was there any hope that John could change? Surely after years of addiction to alcohol, barroom fights, battles with police, and abuse of his wife, he wouldn't change. Perhaps you'll be surprised to learn that John and Nancy celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in the summer of 1999. After fourteen years of problems, they found the secret of a happy marriage. It started with Nancy, and John followed a few months later. It didn't happen because Nancy changed John; for years she'd tried to reform him — and only failed miserably. Rather, both found joy to fill their inner emptiness. And once their inner needs were met, they were finally free to begin to give to each other in their marriage. Today, they work together, helping others find the same joy

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Maselli:

The guide untitled Joy That Lasts is the e-book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to you actually. The language that article author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, therefore the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Joy That Lasts from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Grady Meraz:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled Joy That Lasts can be very good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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