

*Healthy Marriage Tips from A to Z*  
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## **Are You Buoyant?**

### Unsinkable...ness - Matt's Thoughts

Do you remember the little jingle "The unsinkable taste of Cheerios, not a lot of sugar to weigh down those Cheerios" (The off brands are unsinkable too by the way.) You push it down with your spoon and it slides to the side and floats to the top in defiance. You cover it with banana slices and BAM it pops up next to the banana slice with arrogance. You struggle to destroy it and all the evil that lies within it by taking it to Mt. Doom in Mordor where the ring was forged and oh, sorry, wrong ring.

So, Cheerios - and the off brands of it - are buoyant. Seemingly no matter what is done they overcome and rise to the top. Does that describe you? Do you choose to rise to the top, or do you allow circumstances to dictate your mood? This is a mindset in life that has implications in marriage. People in healthy marriages rise to the top instead of fighting each other. We achieve this by [recognizing who the enemy is](#), joining forces with our covenant partner and relying on the faithful Lord - the original rofl.

The enemy is Satan, the accuser\*. We are in the trench side by side with our spouse defending each other by building each other up with [appreciative actions and words](#). Satan wants to tear down our marriage relationship and friendly fire is one of his most effective tactics. In our family a verse [we often quote at meal times is](#), "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). The children think we are directing this teaching at them, but I need this drilled into me to help me keep my aim away from Laura.

On my own I don't have that unsinkable...ness, but the Lord is faithful and buoys me. It's a matter of me letting go of my selfishness and living by His Spirit. As with living by the words in James 1:19 this is easier said than done. If we allow, God's grace changes us to be more like him day by day.

### Lord of the Rings - Laura's Thoughts

Admittedly, I know a lot more about Cheerios than I know about Mt. Doom in Mordor in *Lord of the Rings*. Four boys and thirteen thousand (off brand) Cheerios later, I've seen the buoyancy of Cheerios a few times. And yet, Matt got me thinking about the *Lord of the Rings*.

Our wedding rings symbolically bind us. They represent the covenant we made with each other and to God on our wedding day.

We have two choices: We can let God be at the center of our marriage, and let Him give us the grace to react and respond to our spouse in a godly way - or we can let Satan creep in and chink away at the beauty of the bond that our wedding rings represent. We can buoy, even when we don't feel like it, even

when it hurts, even when it's hard - or we can give in to the selfishness that at the time seems the easier choice.

The question we must ask ourselves is this: In our marriage, who is the Lord of the Rings? Is it God - or is it the Deceiver? Are we allowing God to help us rise to the top, or are we carelessly sinking into a pit of selfish living?

*\*Read Rev. 12:9-12 for insight on the accuser and how to overcome him.*

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