

3. Just P.U.S.H!

A man was sleeping in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light.

The Lord told him he had work to do and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, the man did this every day.

For many years, he pushed from sunrise to sunset. Each night, he returned to his cabin sore and tired, feeling his day was wasted.

One day, Satan decided to make him doubt. "You have been pushing that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved," he said. The man felt discouraged. Satan said, "Why work so hard? Just do the minimum."

The man decided to pray and talk to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "I have worked hard, but the rock hasn't moved. Why am I failing?"

The Lord replied, "My servant, I asked you to push the rock with all your strength. I never said you had to move it. Your

task was to push. Now, you feel like you failed, but look at

yourself. You are strong and have grown much. You have been obedient and faithful. Now I will move the rock."

Sometimes, when God gives us a task, we think we must succeed in our way. But God wants simple obedience and faith. Trust that God will handle the rest.

When everything seems to go wrong... just P.U.S.H!

When the job gets you down... just P.U.S.H!

When people don't react the way you think they should... just P.U.S.H!

When your money is gone and the bills are due... just P.U.S.H!

When people don't understand you... just P.U.S.H!

P + U + S + H = Pray + Until + Something + Happens!

<Adapted from 100 Moral Stories Akramulla Syed Islamic
<http://www.islamicoccasions.com>>

5. The boy and the Apple Tree

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to play around it every day. He climbed to the treetop, ate apples, and napped under its shadow. The tree loved him.

As time passed, the boy grew up and stopped playing around the tree. One day, he returned. The tree asked him to play, but the boy said he needed money for toys. The tree offered its apples to sell, and the boy left happily. He didn't return for a long time.

Years later, the boy returned as a man. The tree asked him to play, but he needed a house instead. The tree offered its branches. The man cut all the branches and left. The tree was happy for him but felt lonely.

On a hot summer day, the man came back. The tree was happy and asked him to play. The man needed a boat to relax. The tree offered its trunk. The man cut the trunk and went sailing, not returning for a long time.

Finally, the man came back after many years. The tree said it had nothing left to give. The man, now old, said he only needed a place to rest. The tree, now just roots, invited him to rest.

Years went by, and the man often visited the tree. He would sit by the roots and tell the tree stories about his life. He talked about his children, work, and adventures. The tree loved to listen.

One day, the man brought his children to the tree. They played around it, just like he did when he was young. The tree was very happy to see new children playing and laughing.

As the man got older, he visited the tree less often. But every time he did, he felt **peaceful** and **happy**. The tree, now just roots, always welcomed him with love.

The tree's love and the man's gratitude showed a special bond. Even though the tree had nothing left to give, it still provided comfort.

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