

# Surviving Life's Storms

Coach Jeremy Williams guided a sad Greenville, Georgia, high school football team from oblivion to remarkable heights.

In 2002, Williams took the reins and had a miserable 1-9 season. But in 2009, the GHS Patriots reached the state playoffs, losing to the team that went on to take the championship trophy.

It was an extraordinary journey for the Patriots as they marched through a decade that brought new spirit and enthusiasm not only to the school, but also to the entire community. The school's story is one thing, but no less noteworthy is Coach Williams' personal story.

Williams led the Patriots while caring for a young son born with spina bifida and dealing with his own Lou Gehrig's disease, which made him increasingly disabled.



Williams and his wife, Jennifer, share both stories in *Tenacious* (Thomas Nelson, 2013). All along the way, Williams kept his focus – and the team's focus – on discipline, character and faith.

These three qualities can help us overcome the challenges we face. Look for examples in the Bible:

- Cultivate the discipline of Joseph (refusing adultery with his boss' wife – Genesis 39).
- Emulate the character of David (staying loyal to King Saul who sought his death – 1 Samuel 19).
- Claim the faith of Daniel (facing the lions' den – Daniel 3).

Accept the fact that adversity will come your way. Be prepared by developing and practicing discipline, character and faith in your life every day.

Max Lucado, minister and author, said: "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this."

*I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you (Isaiah 43:2 HCSB).*

– Beecher Hunter