

What to Do When Facing Divorce

Erin Thiele

Cover Design by Dallas Thiele • NarrowRoad Publishing

What to Do When Facing Divorce

By Erin Thiele



Published by:
NarrowRoad Publishing House
POB 830
Ozark, MO 65721 U.S.A.

The materials from Restore Ministries were written for the sole purpose of encouraging women. For more information, visit us at:

www.NRPH.org
www.RMIEW.com
www.RestoreMinistries.net

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without written permission from the author, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review.

Unless otherwise indicated, most Scripture verses are taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, and Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the New International Version. Our ministry is not partial to any particular version of the Bible but love them all for the purpose of helping everyone in every denomination.

Copyright © 2014
by Erin Thiele

First Printing: 2002
Second Printing: 2014 Revised

ISBN: 1-931800-09-X
ISBN 13: 978-1-931800-09-9
Library of Congress Control Number: 2014909300

Table of Contents

1. Whose Trust IS the Lord.....	4
2. Your Wonderful Counselor.....	7
3. Difficult QUESTIONS with Biblical ANSWERS.....	18
4. Praise Reports & Restored Marriage Testimonies!	56
5. New Testimonies of Restored Marriages After a Divorce!	86
About the Author	123

Chapter 1

Whose Trust IS the Lord

Dear Beloved Brother or Sister in Christ,

Many people have written to our ministry when facing divorce. So many continue to call and write our ministry DESPERATE for help. To be ready to help the masses of people who come, often in a panic, I have compiled many of our resources together in this book.

If you come to something you have read before, read it again. The more you “renew your mind” the more you will replace the lies of the world with the faith in your Lord. The more faith, the more the fear you are experiencing will fade away. And what will remain will be the “peace that passes ALL understanding”!

In addition, NEVER skip reading the Scripture verses, even if you do know them by heart. The verses will do something wonderful to your spirit. There is a “washing of water with the word” that will cleanse your mind, soul and spirit. It will put out the fire of fear. Begin by reading this:

“By wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established
And by knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.”
Prov. 24:3-4

Through this book, I believe that you will gain the wisdom, understanding and knowledge you will need to do “the right thing” and release your attorney.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

And do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He will make your paths straight.”

Prov. 3:5-6

The wisdom gained by reading this book, ESPECIALLY the Scripture verses, will help you to know “what” to do. The understanding comes AFTER you have obeyed; the knowledge helps you with discernment knowing how to handle the next crisis and how to help guide others.

Releasing your attorney will take faith and trust in the Lord, which I believe you will gain through reading the MANY awesome testimonies of those who chose to trust in their Lord and He faithfully “delivered them from ALL their distresses”!

“Thus says the LORD,

Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind

And makes flesh his strength,

And whose heart turns away from the LORD.

For he will be like a bush in the desert

And will not see when prosperity comes,

But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,

A land of salt without inhabitant.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD

And whose trust IS the LORD.

For he will be like a tree planted by the water,

That extends its roots by a stream

And **will not fear** WHEN the heat comes;

But its leaves will be green,

And it will not be anxious in a year of drought

Nor cease to yield fruit.”

Jer. 17:5-8.

I write this letter to you in the BOLDNESS that came from watching God DELIVER me (and so many others I have had the privilege to minister to). Our Lord and Savior delivered us all from the “lion’s mouths” from the “fiery furnace” as He led us “through the valley of the shadow of death” of attorneys and divorce papers. I understand because I was served my papers at my door by the sheriff, I had lies on my

divorce papers, my papers stated an amount of child support that would not meet the needs of my 4 small children. I knew that by NOT going that I would be “losing by default” and I, too, tried to “walk by faith” when everyone, Christians and pastors, were telling me to “get a good lawyer to protect myself and my children.”

I KNOW what I am asking you to do will be terrifying, but nothing I share in this book is something I have not lived through, nor many others just like you. We all faced it with trepidation in our hearts. But as we KNOW from reading Scriptures – our God was FAITHFUL and more POWERFUL than any attorney or any spouse who wanted to divorce us. You will experience the same deliverance if you simply trust Him.

Keep your eyes on the One who can save you from destruction. Don't choose to allow FEAR to keep you from the blessings of peace and a restored marriage. Fear is the enemy's way of pushing Christians to do what he KNOWS will lead to their destruction. You will never gain your MIRACLE if you operate in fear. Trust, faith and OBEDIENCE to His Word will bring about RESTORATION.

May the Lord bless you with a RESTORED MARRIAGE as you release your attorney and take the hand of Jesus!

Rejoicing in His faithfulness,

Erin

Chapter 2

Your Wonderful Counselor

Taken from the book
How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage

My husband is filing for divorce; what should I do?

How do I find someone to defend me?

How can I protect myself and especially my children?

Many Christians, counselors and even pastors will advise you to get a good Christian lawyer to protect you and your children. However, when I was faced with this same dilemma, I looked to Scripture and went to the “Mighty Counselor.”

I found in His Word that He had promised to protect and defend me! I chose Him and did what His Word told me to do. He was not only faithful, but mightier than any attorney or court could be because I put my trust in Him ALONE!

Who has known the mind of the Lord? “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For **who has known the mind of the Lord**, or who became His counselor?” Rom. 11:33-34. Speak to the Lord. Then **sit quietly** and **hear** from Him.

Woe to the rebellious. Egypt represents the world. “ ‘**Woe to the rebellious** children,’ declares the Lord, ‘Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin; Who proceed down to Egypt, without consulting Me, to take refuge

in the safety of Pharaoh, and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!’ ”
Isa. 30:1-2.

Have you sought protection in the court system? Do you trust your attorney MORE than you do your Lord? “...Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength.” It makes your heart turn “away from the LORD.” Jer. 17:5.

It shall not approach you. “And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.” Matt. 5:38-48. Usually we are worried that our husbands won’t take care of us and that they’ll take too much of what we or our children deserve. If you act like he’s your enemy and fight, he’ll fight back. Hasn’t he in the past?

Many share “horror stories” about those who have divorced to scare you into getting a good lawyer. Just remember, “A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but **it shall not approach you.**” Ps. 91:7. Instead, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Rom. 12:21. Release your attorney and trust God ALONE to deliver and protect you.

Dare go before the unrighteous versus saints? “Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?” 1Cor. 6:1. This is a very firm Scripture. Would we dare God? If you merely show up in court, you are standing “before the unrighteous.”

In most states you do not violate the law if you don’t show up in court if you are served with divorce papers. You merely lose by default. Some make you sign a waiver that you will not appear, and in some (as in the state of Florida at the time of this writing) you neither have to sign the papers nor show up.

Check it out and don’t just take one person’s word for it if they tell you you “have to” do anything. *I took this verse literally when I was served my divorce papers. I didn’t sign the papers nor did I show up for the hearing – and God delivered me! Had I gone to an attorney or shown*

up in court, I would not have seen the mighty deliverance of the hand of God!

We shall judge angels. “Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that **we shall judge angels**? How much more, matters of this life?” 1Cor. 6:2-3. God is mocking us, showing us how petty and insignificant the matters of this world are in comparison to our life with Him.

Matters of this life. “If then you have law courts **dealing with matters of this life**, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?” 1Cor. 6:4. The courts today do not follow Biblical teachings as they did when this country was founded. As a result, we have rulings and burdens placed upon believers that neither God nor our founding fathers had in mind. If you choose the courts to help you, you will choose *their* judgment over God’s protection and provisions.

Before unbelievers. “I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that **before unbelievers**?” 1Cor. 6:5. When the church began to ignore the Biblical teachings, they also began to ignore the church’s correction.

*I have NEVER heard of a man who turned from his sin of adultery after being confronted by the church. Some temporarily changed, but in **all** cases they returned to the other woman! So don’t ask your pastor to talk to your husband. Allow God to turn and soften your husband’s heart.*

Rather be wronged or defrauded. “Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be **wronged**? Why not rather be **defrauded**? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren.” 1Cor. 6:7-8. God says it is better that you are wronged and defrauded (cheated or tricked).

Most women that I speak to who are in the process of divorcing are so caught up in what they'll get, how much money for support and how many possessions. If you don't allow yourself to be wronged, your husband will end up angry and bitter. If you don't allow yourself to be backed up to the Red Sea, you will never see God's power of deliverance! Remember that the "cares and riches of the world will choke the Word!" (Matt. 13:22)

We are told that Demas left Paul because the cares of the world choked the Word from him. The following verse tells us how... "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the **worry** of the world and the deceitfulness of **riches** choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Matt. 13:22. Scripture says specifically that it was because of "worry" and because of "riches." Don't worry about or get caught up with money or possessions.

Trust that "Our God will supply all our needs," even when your papers say that he doesn't have to pay enough child support or it doesn't "look" like there will be enough money for you and your children. Many have fallen from their faith because the Word was choked out.

My divorce papers stated that I wouldn't get nearly enough to support myself and my four small children. But God softened my husband's heart because I trusted the Lord. I didn't even need to ask for more or tell him my plight. God placed in my husband's heart the desire to pay all of our bills until he came home!

Because you are lukewarm. Don't get a lawyer. If you have one, dismiss him or her. Every one of the women who tried to convince others that it was all right to compromise any of the Scriptural principles that are written in this book or in *A Wise Woman Builds Her House: By a FOOL Who Tore Hers Down with Her Own Hands*, is still living a life of singleness.

Maybe this is not what you want to hear. It is not what I like to write either. But I must resist allowing my heart to govern what is written for Him or He will cease to use me.

A defeat for you. “Actually, then it is already **a defeat for you**, that you should have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?” 1Cor. 6:7. This is your answer: if you go into court with your spouse, it is already a defeat for you. You may get the money or the possessions, but you will lose your husband!

No one will see the Lord. “Pursue peace with all men, and sanctification without which **no one will see the Lord.**” Heb. 12:14-15. If you wish to act as Christ acted (Jesus was totally innocent) remember that He “opened not His mouth in defense,” 1Pet. 2:23. God can begin to work in your husband’s life because you are planting seeds of life and no longer giving Satan fuel for destruction (see 1Pet. 3:1).

We want our husbands to see Jesus’ ways in us. We quench the work of the Holy Spirit when we do the things we “want to” instead of what we “ought to.” Do it **God’s way!**

Put away. “Let all bitterness, wrath and anger and clamor and slander be **put away** with all malice.” Eph. 4:31. If you have a lawyer, slander and wrath **WILL** take place. This is what divorce is all about. You must put it away from you. It doesn’t matter if you have a “Christian” attorney or not – all “**deliverance by man is in vain**”!

Deliverance by MAN is in vain. “O, give us help against the adversary, for **deliverance by man is in vain.**” Ps. 108:12-13. I have heard countless accounts of all the ways that people try to deliver themselves, only to find that even though the judge gives a judgment of a certain amount of money or protection, the courts can’t make your husband pay or protect you from his vengeance or physical harm!

There has been much media attention given to those who don’t pay child support. You have heard stories about men who come after their wives for physical revenge — and law enforcement can’t help them! Allow God to turn your husband’s heart (Prov. 21:1).

Your husband doesn’t need stricter penalties, but a heart for you and your children. You have His promise: “When a man’s ways [*your ways*]

are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” Prov. 16:7.

Take refuge in the Lord. “It is better to **take refuge in the Lord** than to trust in man.” Ps. 118:8. A lawyer is no substitute for the Lord. If you think you can have both a lawyer and God’s protection the following verse explains that they are opposing one another. “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and **whose trust is the Lord.**” Jer. 17:5-8. You can either be blessed or cursed. You decide.

Cease striving. “**Cease striving** and know that I am God.” Ps. 46:8-10. Put it in His hands. Stop wringing your hands about it; stop discussing it with everyone. Be still! If your husband has already begun divorce proceedings, and you have already humbled yourself and turned from your wicked ways, then follow these steps:

Called us to peace. Tell your husband that you do not want the divorce, but that you will not stand in his way (Ps. 1:1) and that you will NOT contest the divorce either. Tell him that you don’t “blame him” for wanting to divorce you. Tell him that you will still love him (if the “hate wall” is down), no matter what he chooses to do. “Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave...but God has **called us to peace.**” 2Cor. 7:15.

Sweetness of speech. Again, be sure to tell your husband that you will not contest or fight him in the divorce and that you won’t get a lawyer for yourself. (If you have a lawyer, tell your husband that you will dismiss him or her.) Tell your husband that you trust him and know from his past that he will be fair, and that he will do what he believes is right for you and your children. “**Sweetness of speech** adds persuasiveness.” Prov. 6:24.

I hate divorce. Tell your husband that you have made so many mistakes in the past that you don’t want to make any more. You hope that he will allow you NOT to sign the divorce papers. I told my husband that since our was a state of “no-fault” the divorce would go through even if I did not sign the papers. Seek the Lord for how He

wants to deliver you and the words that He wants you to speak to your husband. Remember, the Lord said, **“I hate divorce.”** Of course if he persists in your signing, agree to sign and then pray diligently that the Lord will stop him from pursuing you to sign. If you are not the same disagreeable woman that you were, and your husband sees a humble and meek wife, then he will not continue to press. Don’t offer suggestions to try and please your husband; this is displeasing to the Lord. Seek the Lord! (See: “Wives, Be Subject” under the heading “Sarah’s Obedience: Submission unto Sin?” in *A Wise Woman Builds Her House: By a FOOL Who Tore Hers Down with Her Own Hands.*)

Nothing is impossible. However, if you have participated in the divorce procedure, all is not lost. Ask the Lord’s forgiveness and your husband’s forgiveness also. Demonstrate your desire that you want the family together by dropping any and all legal action or protection. God will begin to heal right now: **“With God nothing is impossible.”** Matt 19:26. If you have retained a lawyer, dismiss him or her immediately if you want the Best to defend you. Then pray, “Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help us in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this, O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee.” 2Chron. 14:11.

Harder to be won. If you have already been through a divorce, bitterness and resentment and extreme anger are probably what your husband feels toward you now. Pray that God will forgive your transgressions and blot out the bad memories he has (Ps. 9:5) and replace them with good thoughts. Pray harder and be sweeter (again, sweetness of speech adds persuasiveness) at every opportunity that you may have with your husband to win him back. Remember, “A brother offended is **harder to be won** than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.” Prov. 18:19. (See Chapter 8, “Won Without a Word.”)

Then I could bear it. God does understand what you are going through. Read some of Ps. 55; He’s speaking directly to you. Beginning in verse 6, “Oh that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.

Behold, I would wander far away, I would lodge in the wilderness. I would hasten to my place of refuge, from the stormy wind and tempest.” Vs. 12-14: “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, **then I could bear it**; nor is it one who hates me who exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend, we who had sweet fellowship together....”

Steal, and kill, and destroy. If you have “flown away” go back home. Satan is in his glory because he has again managed to divide and conquer! Take back the ground that he stole from you; he is a thief! “The thief comes only to **steal, and kill, and destroy**; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.” John 10:10. Give God the victory and the testimony by turning this around for **His** glory! Instead of throwing away “your cross” (your troubled marriage), pick it up again and follow Him!

Take up his cross daily. “And He was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow Me.’ ” Luke 9:23. Be sure that your cross isn’t heavier than He has designed for you; take off all your lack of forgiveness and bitterness. It’s a heavy weight to carry and, eventually, you won’t be able to continue to carry it. You may not even be able to lift it up now, to begin to follow Him.

Take off any “works of the flesh.” The flesh will wear you out and break you down. Let go and let God restore. Use this time to fall in love with the Lord! If your cross feels too heavy to bear, there are burdens on your cross that **you** have put there. He does not lie and He has promised that He wouldn’t give us more than we could bear!

There is no one besides Thee. Now let us together pray as Asa prayed in 2Chron. 14:11: “Lord, **there is no one besides Thee** to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee.”

Below are a few short testimonies (or Fruit of the Word) from those who have chosen to follow the ways of the world or the ways of God:

Testimony: A woman came into class for the first time only a week before she was to take the “evidence” of her husband’s infidelity to her attorney. The attorney said that if she could show this to the judge, he could get her more money. The lesson that night was “Wonderful Counselor.” Without saying a word in class, she went home and threw the shoe box full of “evidence” into the trash. Since then, her husband has continued to pay her bills though he married another. She is still praying and trusting God.

Testimony: A young woman believed God when she read that “He is our Provider.” When she read the divorce papers, which stated that she was barely going to get enough to pay the small rent payment for herself and her children, she made up her mind to continue to trust God. Then she acted on her faith. She told her husband that she trusted him and that she was sure that he would help take care of them as he had done so faithfully in the past. He did continue to pay **all** their bills and even gave her spending money from time to time out of his girlfriend’s savings! The other woman and the attorney tried to falsify the divorce papers, but they were not able to succeed because God had turned her husband’s heart. The divorce did go through, but shortly thereafter, they were remarried.

Testimony: A woman tearfully contacted us whose husband had filed for divorce. She said that she also had a friend who had filed. She said that she was so sympathetic that she failed to share with her friend about her own troubled marriage and that she was trusting God to help her.

A few weeks later she heard a shocking report on the news: her friend’s husband was so distraught about the divorce that he planned to kill his wife before he would let her leave. Yet the net which he had hidden caught his own foot; he died in the fire that also destroyed their entire house.

Testimony: An older woman came to Restore Ministries after her divorce was final (though a friend had begged her for months to come!). She shared with others the devastating effects of fighting it out in court. She did receive “all that she deserved”: the house, a new car and alimony. Yet she now has a former husband who will have nothing to do with her. He has thousands of dollars worth of bitterness that the court made him pay to her and to her divorce lawyer.

Testimony: A woman came to a prayer group (not Restore Ministries) asking that they pray for her upcoming divorce. They prayed that God would have the judge provide well for her and her children. God answered that prayer and the court awarded her an ample amount of money in the divorce. Only a few months later she was asking for prayer again since her husband had not paid her a dime! Again they prayed for the court to be firm with her husband. The judgment again was in her favor.

Only weeks later she asked that the prayer group pray that the police would “find him” and bring him back for “justice”! He had fled to another state to avoid paying. At this point the police threw him into jail. That prayer group failed to really trust God for her protection, for Him to turn her husband’s heart and have him “want” to provide for his family. “And **my God** shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19. Only God’s way will bring “victory.”

Don’t follow the world’s way; trust only in Him. I promise you that He will never let you down. Only as you compromise or look to the flesh for strength and protection will things go awry. Still, it may take going through the fire of endurance (*with Him*) to reach the victory He has waiting for you. Will you pick up your cross and follow Him?

How much faith do you have? Enough to take the step to allow the Lord to fight for you without a lawyer? My beloved sister in Christ, release your attorney, and take the hand of Jesus.

Personal commitment: to trust God alone. “Based on what I have learned in Scripture, I commit to trusting the Lord to fight for me in this

battle. I will release my attorney (if I have one) and I will not show up in court (unless I will be in contempt).”

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Chapter 3

Difficult QUESTIONS with Biblical ANSWERS

The following letters are from a web column that we used to have on our website, which we now use to compile our Q&A Series books. Since discontinuing our Q&A Column, we have been encouraging women to seek God on their own, after studying the verses in the RYM regarding what God says about going to court, and find that He is not only able to lead them, but also give them the peace they need.

THE QUESTION:

ERIN, MY HUSBAND IS GOING INTO COURT ON A PRETRIAL MOTION, I AM FRIGHTENED. I HAVE BEEN SEEKING GOD'S HELP ON THIS ON WHAT TO DO. MY HUSBAND WANTS THE DIVORCE AND WANTS TO SETTLE. I DO NOT WANT TO GO TO COURT EITHER, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO REPRESENT ME, I HAVE A LAWYER. I NEED HELP. WHEN I HAVE BEEN PRAYING I FEEL GOD WANTS ME TO STAND STILL AND WAIT FOR HIM TO MOVE HIS HAND. I TRUST IN GOD WITH ALL MY BEING, BUT WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THE ISSUE OF BEING REPRESENTED?

THE ANSWER:

Before you do ANYTHING **release your attorney** and reread Chapter 13 of the *Restore Your Marriage* book.

To find out whether you have to be in this pretrial meeting, contact the office where you are to appear. Tell them that you have **released your attorney** and you are **NOT** contesting the divorce. Ask that you be released from having to appear and tell them that **WHATEVER** your husband wants you already **AGREE** too.

Unless you have been "served" legal papers requiring you to go, just don't move.

If you have been served, and will be in contempt if you don't appear, then you go but **DON'T SEND AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU!** When asked anything, agree with whatever your husband has said or wants. It's as simple as that.

The fear that you are experiencing has turned to panic. It is a tool the devil will use to cause you to react hastily and do foolish, **IRREVERSIBLE** damage to your situation. You must seek the Lord for peace. **MANY** other women have faced this **VERY SAME** situation and God has protected them. He is testing your faith, but at this moment you are failing the test.

Your marriage can be restored even if God allows the divorce to go through. Mine went through; others stopped right at the courthouse.

PLEASE get alone with the Lord. And be sure you are not talking to anyone who is fueling your panic attack with his or her opinions and poor advice. God is all you need. He is **MORE THAN ABLE** to take care of the whole thing!

I noticed you read the book only once. You need to read it **OVER AND OVER AGAIN**. Reading it just once will not **RENEW** your mind. Those who gained victory in their marriages and had a "peace that surpassed **ALL** understanding" were those who literally wore their book out!!

THE QUESTION:

I have released my attorney. My husband has said nothing, **but he is beginning to call periodically again, he seems much friendlier!!!!** He even asked for my work number. **Do you think that releasing the attorney will help bring down the hate walls?** I feel more peace in my heart since I did this!!!! The Lord has blessed my husband with the opportunity for a teaching position, which came through me. My husband is ecstatic about it. Do you think this is one of the blessings you were speaking of?

THE ANSWER:

Yes!! The teaching position, through YOU, along with you both now being on the same side in this divorce stuff (his side), has certainly begun to bring the hate wall down!! Praise the Lord! Now, as you continue to walk in more and more obedience and meekness, you will see the "wall" come down more and more. Once down, you will be able to pour unconditional love on him which NEVER FAILS!!

Since your divorce has not yet gone through (and hopefully NEVER WILL) you and your husband can still be intimate. Make sure he KNOWS that you are available! Not in what you say, per se, but in your look and response to him. A woman knows how to let a man know when she is interested. You may want to replay video number four and listen to Dan's response as he shares what drew him back to me. I'll be waiting for a Praise Report!

State: California

Present Marital Status: my spouse is divorcing me.

THE QUESTION:

The Lord has reaffirmed Hab. 2:1-4 and has told me that He would save my husband and set us free. I have already signed the papers but apparently they were mixed up. I will be obedient to the Lord and thus to my husband. I plan to have the paper notarized and will send it to my husband after I move. My prayers have been that I am willing to lose

everything so my husband would be saved and he is tired of needing to help me every month. He still doesn't want to be married even though he misses me.

THE ANSWER:

Did YOU instigate the resigning? Or was it your husband or your husband's attorney? The reason I asked is because VERY OFTEN a "mix up" is the result of answered prayers and the divorce is dropped. The way you said it, "I will be obedient to the Lord and thus to my husband. I plan to have the paper notarized and will send it to my husband after I move. My prayers have been that I am willing to lose everything... he is tired of needing to help me every month," leads me to believe you signed them as some sort of righteous deed that YOU instigated.

Your comment about your husband being tired of needing to help you concerns me because it may indicate that you are more concerned with pleasing your husband than with pleasing the Lord OR that you are still asking your husband for help.

But what I would like to address at this time are the many concerns I have with your questionnaire. Let me begin with the validity of this marriage.

Drawing from MANY things I read on your questionnaire, I wonder if you are suppose to restore your marriage to this "husband."

1. Since the marriage was a result of adultery.
2. It being your husband's second marriage.
3. The fact that you are in a single's group.
4. Your husband is a non-believer and you were a believer when you married him.
5. The children you have with you are not from this marriage.

Maybe your husband still, in God's eyes, is married to his first wife. Which would mean your husband is committing adultery with you; and YOU are still single but have fornicated since you are not married.

Matt. 5:32: but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for {the} cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matt. 19:9: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Mark 10:11: And He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her;

Mark 10:12: and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

Luke 16:18: "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

Is your husband's first wife unmarried at present? If she has remarried, I would ask that you still seek God as to whether or not you should restore your marriage. You may have married this married man while the man you should have married is still out there for you. Was there someone else at the time you became involved with this married man, or did someone appear afterwards? You did mention you dated someone since being separated. And your husband has asked you not wear your ring. Prov. 16:33: The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

You are not the first woman that I have counseled in this way. This ministries intention is NOT to restore just any marriage, but to help discern the will of God concerning each marriage He sends our way. One woman, who is now happily married, was the unmarried adulteress. In other words, she had lured a married man away from his wife and married him. When she found the truth in God's word, she purposed to help restore her husband's marriage to his first wife, which she did. (She

had even had a child by this man). There was another man that she was intending to marry when she became involved with this married man. She married him and her (new) husband lovingly accepted her child and may have already adopted her by this time.

NOTE:

For those reading this column, if you or your husband are in a second or subsequent marriage, as it states in the *Restore Your Marriage* book, you must SEEK the Lord concerning restoring your marriage that is now failing or has fallen apart.

Some ministries, because of the confusion and because most of their marriages are first marriages, have made it their doctrine that ONLY first marriages are ACKNOWLEDGED by God. Some have named them "covenant marriages" based on the book of Malachi. However, we have NOT done so for many reasons. One, because God DOES recognize second and subsequent marriages (See Deut. 24:1-4) If God hadn't recognized this woman's second marriage as a remarriage, then the woman would have been in adultery and consequently would have been stoned. Secondly, I have seen MANY women have a second or subsequent marriage restored by God. All sought the Lord and were willing to remain unmarried or go back to her first husbands, but GOD restored that second or subsequent marriage! God has made no special formula or guidelines since we were asked to live by grace rather than putting ourselves under the law. This was His plan in order for us to SEEK the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is what I HOPE this Q & A column does - cause you to SEEK HIM!!

PLEASE, please do NOT write and ask me to tell you which marriage you should try to restore, or what wife belongs to your husband, since he has been married six times! SEEK Him!!!

State: Illinois

Current Marital Status: married

My spouse lives with someone else.

A divorce has been filed.

I have an attorney.

My spouse is in adultery.

THE QUESTION:

Erin: The divorce my husband filed is starting to go forward. My husband is in an affair and the woman is real pushy. My husband never calls or comes over. I think that the affair is pushing the divorce. If the divorce goes through, which I am praying it won't. If my husband marries the other woman, should I stop my stand for my marriage? Is this the point I should stop hoping for the restoration of my marriage? I have prayed to God and feel He wants me to keep praying and wait.

THE ANSWER:

My hope is that the divorce won't even go through. But that may depend solely on you. Why have you not dropped your attorney? "Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?" 1Cor. 6:7. If Jesus is Lord of your life, why do you not trust Him enough to protect and defend you? "Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength" since He knows this will cause your heart to turn "away from the LORD." Jer. 17:5

You know the truth since you read the book, but it is not enough. You **MUST** apply what you have learned. James 4:17 "Therefore, to one who knows {the} right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin." It's not enough to say Jesus is Lord, your actions say that He is **NOT**. Luke 6:46 "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

If you begin to trust and obey Him now, you will not have to worry about your husband remarrying. You are **EXACTLY** where I was. The divorce did go through; but well before it did, my **NOT** contesting and **NOT** having counsel brought great conviction into Dan's heart. The other woman was the one who called the attorney, paid for the attorney and pushed Dan to pursue the divorce even though his heart had changed towards me. Prov. 5:4 "But in the end she is bitter as

wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword." But God used it for my good because I trusted Him. He was faithful to bless me because I was faithful to trust in Him! Dan's eyes were opened to the fact that this other woman was like I USED to be - PUSHY. Had I not changed, he may have dropped her after the divorce and found someone else, but it WOULDN'T have been ME!

State: Texas

Current Marital Status: married but separated.

My spouse is divorcing me.

THE QUESTION:

I am presently working thru workbook but searched for answers to questions (ordered the tapes today). Husband says in Texas I must respond to papers or they default, which he doesn't want. He wants me to review them and respond. I've looked at them to be submissive but am concerned. Papers are unfair plus I feel that means I agree to divorce. He wants me to sign papers but hasn't demanded either. If I am to respond to papers should I get an attorney's help or self represent? Please advise, I want to do right.

Default means that the divorce will still go through and everything stated in the papers will be granted just as he has requested.

THE ANSWER:

The next time your husband contacts you about the papers, make sure you are "prayed up" and have fasted (3 days for favor if you have time). Sweetly, explain about the issue of default as I have stated, and then ask that he allow you NOT to sign them. Explain that you have made so many mistakes and that you don't want to make any more. But, if he insists, you will. His reasons for wanting you to look over the papers and sign them, is to ease his conscience. No one feels right about hitting someone who won't defend him or herself.

Do NOT get an attorney for any reason. That is when you will lose. We have to be willing to allow ourselves to be pushed up to the "Red Sea" and trust that God will perform a miracle. If instead we look to man for help, we will ultimately perish.

State: Florida

Current Marital Status: married but separated

I have an attorney.

THE QUESTION:

The other woman my husband is emotionally (supposedly not sexually) involved with is twice divorced, has a 13 yr. old son and parents who are supporting her relationship with my married husband. I have prayed God will bring all the adults in this picture into conviction for their parts in the destruction of my family and that they will find salvation. Should I pray that God would rescue that child from a home where he is being taught it is okay to destroy your own family and the families of others? Sometimes we Christians make praying so complicated. When I was seriously seeking the restoration of my marriage, I sought the Lord and tried to direct my prayers, since I really didn't know what to do.

I prayed Scriptures that the Lord illuminated to me when I was reading my Bible.

THE ANSWER:

I must tell you, I, too, prayed for conviction to come to all who were involved in encouraging, or condoning my husband's adultery. Only Dan ever became convicted - none of the others. I would suggest that you concentrate your prayers on your husband's heart.

In reference to the 13-year-old boy, children need to be with their parents so you wouldn't want to pray for him to be "rescued." However, praying blessings over the parents is Scriptural. Matt. 5:44: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you..."

Also, God said not to go into court. Why do you have an attorney? 1Cor. 6:7 "Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?"

Luke 6:46 "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

State: Pennsylvania

Current Marital Status: married but separated.

I have an attorney.

I am in a support group: the name of the support group is Covenant Keepers.

THE QUESTION:

Instead of just submitting re: selling house, I told husband I was submitting because I believe it is right to and apologize for not doing so in past. His e-mail: I should NOT submit to him & MUST make up my OWN mind. We don't have children; he wants to sell our home, buy one in a different state and have children with the OW. I want to submit and not blow it again. (Re: Q above: I can't tell if he's angry; we only e-mail. He's seen counselor to get "closure" and "move on with his life.")

THE ANSWER:

A man HATES when his wife tells him she is submitting. Wives are to just DO IT. When a wife tells her husband she is submitting she is acting like a Pharisee and greatly hindering her hopes of restoration. Matt. 6:5 "...in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full." I believe this "Pharisee spirit" is the number one reason why so many of those seeking restoration are never restored.

You mentioned that your support group is Covenant Keepers. So many of those who are attending these support groups seem to be Pharisees - at least the ones I come in contact with. I think this spirit is catching. I do not believe that it is coming from the foundation of the group itself,

but that the "support group" setting attacks Pharisees. They LOVE to share their sufferings and have people pity them. If you spend time around this kind of person, you too, will pick up the same attitudes and responses. Prov. 14:7 "Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge. 1Cor. 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

I saw so much of this same thing when Restore Ministries had "support" groups; that's why I stopped them and encouraged "classes." But so many want to make classes into support groups.

For right now, e-mail your husband back and apologize for your "religious" response. Tell him the truth is, that you trust whatever decisions he makes will be the right ones. Leave all "church" talk and comments out. I really wish you had the Be Encouraged tapes. It would really help you to hear the different ways that the Lord led me to respond to day-to-day confrontations.

Of course, after you "agree," you need to pray that God will protect you and your children and deliver you from any of your husbands "plans" that are not His will. Use these verses:

Prov. 16:9 "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."

Prov. 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

Jer. 17:5-7 "Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD."

State: Florida

Current Marital Status: married but separated

Would you say Jesus is your Lord? no

Do you have a designated quiet time with the Lord? No

THE QUESTION:

Husband went to court today. The judge is giving me 10 days to meet with my husband and his attorney. My husband is offering me 10 years of alimony, and never be able to take him to court for revision of alimony. If I do not meet and agree with husband and his attorney, judge will decide in a month. I feel so doubtful this marriage can be restored. Should I meet with husband and his attorney?

THE ANSWER:

Yes, and agree to the terms or any new ones that are offered. Go with the Lord as your counselor and ask Him to "defend you" in the spirit realm where the real battle is being fought.

If you can believe that your marriage will be restored, the details of the alimony settlement aren't important.

What makes you doubt that your marriage can be saved? Faith is things unseen. Do you believe God is not able? Do you feel unworthy? None of us deserve a restored marriage. But unless you have unconfessed sin in your life, God can restore your marriage.

Your doubt is probably found in that Jesus is not Lord of your life (as you stated on the questionnaire.) You can make Him Lord right now by giving Him your life. He bought me with a price and now I am no longer my own. It was the BEST thing I ever did in my entire life!! You can know Him personally by spending time in His Word. Read the Psalms, they tell of His power. Read Song of Solomon, these are His letters to you. He loves you, I know. He is with you right now and wants an intimate relationship with you. Are you willing?

THE QUESTION:

My husband has served me with divorce papers. He has no grounds for a divorce, he just doesn't want to be married. The law entitles me to 1/2 of his moneys. He's absolutely FURIOUS over the idea of my getting half. I have no idea what he has. He kept that from me. Should I settle for less than half in hope that he will return? Should I take what is entitled to me, and still hope for his return?

THE ANSWER:

First of all, your statement "He has no grounds for divorce, he just doesn't want to be married" needs to be addressed. Your husband may not have "legal grounds" but he certainly must have a reason. No one walks away from a commitment, no one. If you believe that he has no "grounds", then you must go to the Lord and have him show your husband's reasons to you. Most men who make the statement "I just don't want to be married" have become involved with another woman. (And please don't go looking for evidence of another woman. Take my word for it and get on your face before the Lord, NOW!) This is the time to cry out to the Lord, not to worry about settlements!

However, since you asked, whatever the law entitles you to, you do not have to take. Instead, if you are interested in restoration, you need to show your husband through your attitude and actions that you trust him to give you what "he feels" you should have. Don't use terms like "what is fair." These verses may help you: Matt. 5:40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to take from you."

He must know that you care about him, and if the thought of the law entitling you to half of his moneys is making him angry, it can't be good. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matt. 5:9.

And please make sure you do not have an attorney. If you have one release him /her immediately! No excuses!

A divorce has been filed.

THE QUESTION:

I have read the book & workbook & watched all videos. Before I read your books, my husband filed for divorce & I hired an attorney against my better judgment. The case arbitrated which means a settlement is agreed upon, so I signed the proposed arbitration agreement. Since I read the books, my attorney wants me to sign divorce judgment. Since this is so far gone is there any purpose in dismissing my **attorney**? Should I sign? Also, my husband is in & out of hospital with kidney stones. Should I visit/call/send card?

THE ANSWER:

At whatever point that the truth reaches us, we are then accountable to obey or disobey God's Word. 1Cor. 6:7 asks this question: "Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?" I ask you the same question. One of our most recent restorations occurred when a woman dismissed her attorney just two weeks before her court date. **THE DIVORCE NEVER WENT THROUGH.** She walked **IN FAITH** and God rewarded her. Because God has the ability to look at the heart of the one who is following His principles, this usually determines the outcome. Many women who write want a "written guarantee" from me that **IF THEY DO...** then their husband will ..." God's Word is guaranteed, I can make no guarantees, I am merely a servant of the Lord.

As to whether you should visit, send cards, or call your husband is determined by your relationship with him. Has he asked you to call him, or has he made it clear he no longer wants a relationship with you? To pursue someone who is **ATTEMPTING** to get away will only intensify his demise for you. If, however, you are still close, then send him flowers, call to see if he got them and ask him if he would like a visit. If

he says "no" to anything, or sounds as if he is tired or doesn't want to talk, GET OFF THE PHONE - QUICKLY!

THE QUESTION:

We DON'T have children. For years, I was depressed /anxious /controlling /didn't want children (too overwhelming when I had no energy). By God's grace, now healthy & have normal desires/energy/behavior. I know I was a horrible wife and I regret it! Any additional advice based on 1) his desire to have kids w/OW and 2) his family's & counselor's encouraging him to "move on w/life" (w/OW)? He has strong desire to please Mom, who despises me, likes OW (he told me this). I know our situation is not too big for God.

THE ANSWER:

First, you need to get the hate wall down completely. If he is still "slightly" angry, it is too much. Simply releasing your attorney will do this. If you are on one side and your husband is on the other, the hate wall will never come down, but will increase with the help of your attorneys.

Once the hate wall is down, and then God can begin to turn your husband's heart. He will begin to come around more often. When the past comes up, then you can use that as an opportunity to confess and repent for the kind of wife you used to be.

This should lead to God fulfilling your desire for children. If you are not divorced, then intimacy with your husband can produce "fruit"! 1Sam. 1:5 says, "...but the LORD had closed her womb." God closed Hannah's womb, but opened it as she sought the Lord.

As far as your mother-in-law, you have an opportunity right now to turn this around. On the "Be Encouraged" videos I share in depth about my bad relationship with my father-in-law and how the Lord led me to fast "for favor" three days and how God performed a miracle! He became my advocate!! Impossible but true!!! Watching or listening to the tapes will bless you.

A divorce has been filed.

THE QUESTION:

Your ministry advises against hiring an attorney. My husband told me that he wanted me to hire one. He wants me to have my own representation. What should I do?

THE ANSWER:

Have you made it clear to your husband that you will trust him in his dealings? Have you conveyed that you therefore feel that hiring an attorney would not only be costly, but could result in a battle between your attorney and his? You certainly would not want that to happen.

With this shared, more than likely your husband will not insist that you get an attorney. If however, he does, then it would be wise for you to ask him to hire (or select) one for you. If he follows through and does obtain an attorney for you, then you need to ask your husband the same questions the attorney asks you, to find out how your husband would want you to answer.

The most important thing right now is that you get on the same side - HIS. This usually results in the divorce never going to court! :)

THE QUESTION:

My brother-in-law is definitely not following your recommended course of action. They have been to numerous counselors, and each now has his/her own respective attorney. As I look at the whole situation I am left wondering what our role is in all of this. I believe that God calls us to love them, and yet, my sister's continuous blatant disobedience leaves me wanting to avoid her company at any cost. We see fruit in the life of my brother-in-law. He has truly shown a desire to reconcile. I mentioned to him, the idea of firing his attorney, and he said he would definitely think about it. My sister has not shown any remorse or regret

for her actions. Does that mean we stay away from any contact with either of them?

THE ANSWER:

Oh, how I hate to see families fall apart and become just another statistic. I suppose there was no way to really help this precious couple "through" you. It really does take the effort one of the persons involved to see a change. However, prayer, really sold out prayer, can totally and radically change even the most hopeless situations. Matt. 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you." Never give up praying. James 5:16 ... The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

The remorse that you are looking for in your sister is very rarely seen in situations like this. We tell those that are hoping for restoration not to look for it, because it is a faith walk. Dan was not remorseful even after he returned home and this is common. The trial is not over once the "other person" is out of the picture or the spouse is home. The "refining" fire stays hot until the one hoping for restoration is totally transformed.

As far as your brother-in-law being a young Christian, we see young and old believers restored. It just takes doing things "God's way" versus the "world's" way:

Matt. 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

Matt. 7:26 "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.

How best to help. Prayer of course and then being there if either is seeking your help. Unless they are "seeking help" it does more harm to

"try" to give it. Prov. 29:1 A man who hardens {his} neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

Continued in tomorrow's column.

THE QUESTION:

My brother in law has decided not to release his attorney. He will not take the chance of allowing his children to live with his ex and another man. He also has had a change of heart and is not interested in reconciliation.

When I read your letter my spirit just grieved. Knowing what lies ahead for this family lays heavy on my heart.

THE ANSWER:

When the decision is made to choose an attorney (the flesh), over trusting in the Lord when it comes to the welfare of the children, God tells us what will be the outcome in 2Chron. 15 and 16. King Asa had trusted the Lord and had come out victorious in every enemy attack. Then, for the first time, he chooses to trust in treaties and appeals; this is when we read the verse we have all heard many times in 2Chr. 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

I have witnessed so many divorces and seen so many Christians, believing they were doing the "right thing" chose to "protect" their children through their attorney, courts or litigation. Unfortunately, this results in shear destruction for the children. Jer. 17:5 "Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD."

I wasn't surprised to hear that once your brother-in-law chose to keep his attorney that he no longer really desired or was seeking reconciliation. The above verse is so true. When we seek mankind and the flesh to fight for us, our heart naturally turns away from the Lord

and we lose His heart, which has always been for reconciliation. 2Cor. 5:18-19 "Now all {these} things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

To really fight (the world's way - attorney, etc.) for the "protection" of their children, the believing spouse would need to speak against their own flesh (their own wife or husband). This is slander. And Ps. 101:5 says, "Whoever slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy..." Now, the believer is put in the position of being on God's "hit list." That's just what the enemy had in mind as he continued to instill fear into their hearts; to push them to take matters into their own hands and "fight" for what they thought was right. But God says something different. He is truth; the devil is a liar. God says:

Matt. 5:39 "...do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matt. 5:40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

Matt. 5:41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two.

God promises to fight for those who follow these scriptures.

Even if they do win complete custody the world's way, the spouse who loses custody many times feels they have only one remedy: to kidnap their own children. Statistics say that 90% of missing children are now living with a non-custodial parent.

If they do work out "an arrangement", the children live in doublemindedness and become "unstable in all their ways" (James 1:7). Both households are completely different: different rules, expectations, etc., not to mention, the two households are often at war with one another and these precious children are caught in the middle. 1Kgs. 3:25

“And the king said, ‘Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.’ ”

Usually the children's grades drop at school, and then discipline problems begin. Hours of counseling are sought as a solution, but counseling will NEVER change anything for the better since the root "cause" is never rectified.

There is no way a spouse can protect his/her children from a spouse who has fallen into adultery or sin. The only way is to help deliver the spouse "caught" in adultery through the love that never fails, prayer and fasting that can break every enslaving yoke, and seeking the Lord by standing in the gap.

Statistics and personal acquaintances prove that this is true and that this is the only right course. The Bible is NEVER wrong for His Word IS truth.

It truly grieves me, as I know it does you. Isn't sad and tragic for all who are involved in this divorce? May the Lord give you peace during your grief.

THE QUESTION:

A divorce has been filed. My wife has filed divorce papers and is asking me to sign a settlement agreement so that the divorce will go through quickly. If I do not sign anything, I will hold up the process. I do not have an attorney and am willing to agree to whatever the settlement agreement says. Your book advises against signing divorce papers, but also to agree with your spouse and make peace. What do I do?

THE ANSWER:

The plan here would be to wait. Just don't do anything right now and wait to see what your wife does. Things may change and you won't have to sign anything. However, if she calls you and asks you what is going on with the papers, then we would suggest you do the following:

Humbly share with her - "Her name, I have made so many mistakes in the past and just don't want to make any more. However, the most important thing to me is your happiness; so if you really want me to sign the papers, I will."

Remember, Scripture is clear about not standing in the way of the sinner (Ps. 1:1) and allowing the spouse who wants to leave to leave (1Cor 7:15).

This is a tough spot to be in, but God will see you through. Continue to pray for wisdom and trust that His will be done. This also is a good time to fast for three days for favor.

THE QUESTION:

Erin - you mentioned that you have seen people who were doing everything right but their marriages still were not restored. That in a lot of cases they still had a heart condition that was wrong.

I received my divorce certificate and I am now really divorced, Erin - can you maybe pray and find out from God whether I have a heart condition that is hindering my restoration.

I feel so let down because I have done what was expected of me - I had no attorney, I did not fight the divorce, I have forgiven and been kind and submissive, I have stopped being intimate with him, I have lost weight and you said that this is a sign of a broken and contrite heart. Still I must be doing something wrong.

THE ANSWER:

Yes, there is a heart condition that is in need of change. After answering several of your questions, it is now easy to see why your marriage is not restored.

Your initial letters gave the appearance of a strong and committed believer out to finish the race set before her. Later, rebellion was uncovered. When you realized it, instead of bringing yourself to

humility, there was a period of time that you, in a way, blamed God for it - like He had let you down. This is a grave and serious heart problem.

Then there were several days' hesitation on obedience; another serious heart condition. It seems that you care more about your marriage being restored than you do about being obedient, meek and quiet. But those are the things that restore a marriage.

When I entered into the "race" for my marriage, I, too, began it with my marriage as my goal - for me. But very soon I began running it for Him, for my Lord. He had entered me in the race to change **me**. He became everything to me. And even as things got worse and worse, He could not let me down, because He owed me nothing. And if He never restored my marriage, I would still have praised Him and done everything I had done because He was worth it and He deserved it.

I never deserved, nor earned, a restored marriage. I am too much of a sinner and a wretch. But God in His mercy gave me one. It was through the suffering that I learned obedience, which gave me the right heart toward Him, which was His goal all along.

THE QUESTION:

My husband just told me that he and the OW have decided to get married. I said nothing to him but OK. Yes, I ran to God first and will continue to run to Him with all of my heart.

Help...what do I do now?

THE ANSWER:

Stay in the Lord's presence seeking Him. Have you seen your husband's heart turned back to you? The stages are:

1 - NO MORE ARGUMENTS - There can be NO arguments or strife in any conversations with your spouse.

2 - LETTING GO. Once the spouse knows that they are FREE to go, that you will not pursue, then this, along with the rest from strife, will bring the anger wall down.

3 - YOU'RE DIFFERENT. The gentle and quiet person emerges and your spouse is drawn back to you. However, the cords of his sin are still usually holding him and may be pulling him toward a divorce and a new marriage, but his heart is NOT in it. You are still intimate and you show unconditional love.

4 - DIVORCE. Possibly a divorce goes through; but you give your shirt, coat, go the extra mile, allow yourself to be defrauded and release or never get an attorney. Because of your loving response to the evil done to you, your spouse begins to feel conviction. Also, troubles are mounting in the enemy's camp and the OW begins to take on a bitter and sharp tongue. However, you have now captured the gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. You smile at the future knowing your hope is in Him.

5 - REMARRIAGE PLANS - When the enemy comes in "roaring" about a possible remarriage, your heart is fixed. You know your spouse doesn't really want it, but you are content to live a life of singleness with the Lord since you are really "in love" with Him.

I hope this helps.

THE QUESTION:

You take a very strong stand against hiring an attorney. That Jesus is our counselor. That would seem to me like the same mentality, which says it is wrong to go to a doctor if you are sick, that Jesus is our healer. You really do take a strong position on this, which is fine. Those are your convictions. Why would hiring an attorney destroy your chances of having your marriage restored?

THE ANSWER:

It is not impossible for God to restore a marriage when a lawyer is involved. However, most marriages never survive this battle in court. Most men, whose wives have gotten an attorney, are extremely bitter and refuse to even associate with them.

Also, when you hire someone to speak for you, you are ultimately responsible for what they say and how they say it. I have ministered to many women who, through tears, explained how their attorney handled their case in a way they never would have wanted it handled. Then they say they wish they had known to release their attorney before the case went to court.

Nevertheless, God can restore a marriages **IN SPITE OF** our mistakes; **ESPECIALLY** those done in ignorance. Yet, God also says that we will reap the consequences of our ignorance.

The other reason why I take such a strong stand against a woman having her own attorney is because I have seen marriages **NEVER GO TO DIVORCE** court when a woman was obedient to His Word as stated in 1Cor. 6. In other words, the marriage was restored before the divorce went through! If you had seen this happen time and time again like I have, wouldn't you advise the same? I have my own powerful testimony that I share on the videos. We are told that the blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony is what saves. Do you suppose that I should share something else? When each spouse has their own representation, then they are "divided" and therefore their marriage will not stand.

I made other mistakes while in the midst of my marital crisis, yet in spite of these mistakes, God mercifully restored my marriage. However, I would never **KNOWINGLY** lead someone the wrong way or in a way that I would not or have not, walked myself; would you?

A divorce has been filed.

THE QUESTION:

I read your response to hiring a lawyer in a recent Q & A column. I did hire a lawyer prior to being exposed to your ministry. I asked my husband if he'd like me to fire her and he said no, that I should have my own legal representation. I did settle for less than what the law entitled me to in order to maintain peace between us. I went as far as to tell him I didn't want any money. He ended up giving me some. He's been calling me just to say hello. The divorce is going on. Did I do the right thing?

THE ANSWER:

NO. If I had asked Dan, he would have told me the same thing. As a matter of fact, most men WANT their wives to get attorneys so they can relieve themselves of the guilt. James 4:17 says this, "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

I have received so much mail, from so many women, giving all their reasons why they HAD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY.

The answer to everyone who wrote this type of letter IS THE SAME.

NO EXCUSES!!

If you want the Lord to defend you, then you must do it HIS WAY!! It's not my way it's HIS WAY! God only gets the victory when HE ALONE defends us. Making treaties is exactly what Asa did and it destroyed him! 2Chr. 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

Prov. 1:20-29 says, "Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; At the head of the noisy {streets} she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city, she utters her sayings: How long, O

naive ones, will you love simplicity? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing, and fools hate knowledge? Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. Because I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; And you neglected all my counsel, And did not want my reproof; I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, When your dread comes like a storm, And your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, When distress {and} anguish come on you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, because they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of the LORD.

So many of you ask for help, then when wisdom from God's Word is given, you find somehow NOT TO FOLLOW IT. But still, you expect restoration.

THEN, you write because things have gone awry. This is what happens - when you don't accept God's wisdom, and then she (wisdom) will laugh at your calamity.

THE QUESTION:

Erin, I am divorced and know God will bring my husband home. When God brings him home & since we are divorced should we remarry as soon as he asks to come home. I am confused on this matter, I don't recall you ever saying at what point and time did you and Dan remarry, I remember you recalling the phone call asking if he can come home and you went and met him and gathered his items. Did you remarry right away? My husband and I are closer with each day - I want to make sure I do it right.

THE ANSWER:

In my case, only 3 weeks after the divorce, I had two people call me who said that while they were praying, the Lord told them I was NOT divorced. I thought that MAYBE Dan hadn't gone to court and hadn't told me since I did not receive any final papers. I meekly asked him if

he had gone, which he replied "yes." Confused, but knowing God was up to something, I again received another call, the third conformation, from someone who heard this same thing! The next day, I saw the final papers when Dan brought them by.

There was a BLATANT mistake right on the front page with our legal names. After prayer, I felt led to call Dan's attorney to tell him of the error. When I told him, he became EXTREMELY excited and pressed me to find out if either of us had remarried (this was Dan's intent as you know). When I assured him no, he said emphatically, "Don't. You are not legally divorced!" "However", he went onto say, "It is only a matter of filling a small paper that can make it legal."

With this information, I of course was rejoicing in the incredible sovereignty of God!!! Had I gone to court or had a lawyer, this blatant mistake would have never occurred, therefore, I was rejoicing, too, in God's grace that enabled me to not go to court or get a lawyer.

Yet, here I was with this vital information not knowing what to do with it. I fasted and the truth began to gnaw at me. I had to be upfront with Dan so that he would know the truth and also so he could make it legal by just signing one paper.

That night after the children went to bed, when Dan was getting ready to leave, I told him. I was shocked at his response. He was ecstatic! He said that God had delivered him from the biggest mistake of his life!!! Then a grave concern covered his face as he said, "Erin, please don't tell anyone about this! If word gets back to "her" then she will force me to make it legal!" I assured him I wouldn't, and he left.

So much was revealed to me that day. That he was pushed into it, that she had been the one to pay for it and that Dan knew it was a mistake! But most of all that he had been delivered, and so had I!! However, NOTHING was ever said after that. It was as if the divorce and our conversation never had happened.

But, if you have seen our web site, you know that God did answer my prayers for a big wedding. I had prayed that we would have another wedding someday. GOD IS SO FAITHFUL!

Those who have had to legally "remarry" have done so differently:

One man moved back home into the spare bedroom, they planned a small ceremony at their church for the following week. They were married and had a weekend honeymoon.

One couple took off work the next day at noon, went to the court house, got married and the husband moved his things in that night!

Some have stayed in their apartment and planned the wedding for a month later, sometimes two, so that more people could witness their miracle.

They vary just as much as the testimony themselves.

Yet, ALWAYS, it was the way the husband felt most comfortable. The wife, happy to have a restored marriage, was content with ANYTHING!

THE QUESTION:

What is your opinion on attorneys? In our state without an attorney I would most likely lose my kids to my wife. I feel that she will not give them the Godly home that they deserve and there are safety issues at hand as she lives a wicked lifestyle that revolves around a partying life. I do have an attorney to get the custody of my kids. My attorney does not need to slander or lie to help my case. Is it not possible that God can use the attorney to help in this case? I believe that God will restore our marriage and I have always felt this way.

THE ANSWER:

Your assumptions, "In our state without an attorney I would most likely lose my kids to my wife", leads you to the conclusion that

THEREFORE you must use an attorney. On the other hand, you believe "that God will restore our marriage and I have always felt this way." God certainly can intervene on your behalf, but don't expect Him to do so when you are acting out such doublemindedness and relying on your own reasoning.

Yes, you may be able to hire an attorney who won't slander or lie, but you won't have God defending you. I would choose God over any man or woman. You can't have both. Jer. 17:5 "Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD." When you turn your hopes to your attorney, rather than totally trusting in the Lord, your divided heart is turned from Him.

Those who trust in the Lord ALONE are those who see mighty things happen! And what YOU need is something mighty to happen. Your marriage will not just "in time" be restored; it needs a miracle. Your wife will just not "eventually" come around; you need the hand of God to turn her heart.

The only way to rescue your wife and children from the wicked lifestyle that they are in, is for YOU to get RADICAL with God; throwing all you have and all that you are to Him.

Just recently, a man from New Zealand was not only facing losing all seven of his children, whom he had not seen for over six months, but was also facing the prospect of going to jail. He chose God over his attorney. Within just a couple of weeks his wife called him, then they spoke face to face, then he saw his children, now he spends every moment he's not working with her and the children. He knows first hand what God can do. Do you think he could have had the same results with an attorney? NEVER!!!

THE QUESTION:

I just got an e-mail from my husband. He has mentioned getting divorced before and selling the house. I asked to deal with one thing at a time. We sold the house quickly. In today's e-mail, he said he doesn't

want the kids to believe he's coming back home to live. He wants to talk. He is ready to file for divorce and is hopeful to work out details without hiring attorneys. He then listed the issues (amount of support he'd give, visitation, etc... I don't know what to tell him. There is no hate wall. We are both very kind whenever we speak. Do I just tell him that I don't want a divorce because I still love him and not sign any papers?

THE ANSWER:

Tell him that you still love him, but understand why he wants the divorce; that whatever he decides in regard to the support and visitation is fine with you. Tell him that you are concerned about signing papers because you have already made too many mistakes, and you really still love him, but again, you will do whatever he asks and understand why he wants to divorce you. You may want to find out if he can obtain a divorce without your signature in your state. Then if you don't have to sign you can mention it to him.

Only God can turn his heart and stop the divorce. Remember, even if it goes through, God can turn his heart and you can remarry. I will believe with you in prayer that it won't go through.

THE QUESTION:

I filed for divorce a couple months ago before I got your materials to keep my husband from taking the kids to another state to stay with him and the OW, and also to protect the child support. I want to dismiss my petition for divorce but my husband has asked me repeatedly not to.

THE ANSWER:

It certainly is a dilemma and not an easily answered question. You certainly do want to dismiss the petition, but since you told him you were going to and he has told you not to, you will have to submit. It may be wise to tell your husband that you believe that you should release your attorney, but will submit to him and not do it if he doesn't

want you to. If he holds to it and says, "No, don't do it." Then don't. However, if he says something like, "Well, I don't want you to, but I am not telling you that you can't...." then go ahead and do it. Most husbands, saved or not, have a fear of God and are afraid to be responsible for decisions they know are wrong. Listen carefully, but don't manipulate. If you are not sure, repeat what you think he said and ask if you are right. The devil is clever and many have been deceived into pleasing their husbands rather than obeying them. Prov. 16:7 "When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

At this point, you will need God to intervene and stop the divorce. Since you already have gotten the materials, I am sure that you have noted the need for repentance before the Lord for your errors. The courts cannot protect you from your husband taking your children out of state or keep them from the other woman. There are hundreds of children that have been taken out of state and hidden, even though the custodial parent had the law on their side. Only God and your kindness will keep your husband from removing them from you.

The statistics concerning child support show that only 50% of women with custody ever get a penny of child support. Out of those only 15% get what they were awarded. And only 15% of those get the amount that they need; hardly a good reason to seek the courts help. However, 100% of those who trusted the Lord have attested that God has supplied all their needs either with or without their husband's help. And in 100% of those who trusted in the Lord, released their attorney, and told their husbands that they trusted them to provide for them - their relationship improved "miraculously."

THE QUESTION:

My divorce will be final in a week. I did get rid of my attorney and my husband decided on his own to give me some money. I told him I didn't want it. We are getting along fine. He's out of state. We speak once or twice a week and we're fine with each other. Yet, he is still going through with the divorce. I am just beside myself over this. I don't want the divorce to go through. Is it still possible to get back together if a

divorce does go through? I know that you and Dan did. Is this common? After a divorce do many marriages get back together?

THE ANSWER:

Marriages being restored after a divorce are very common. Also, you need only read the testimonies to see how often the divorce stopped at the VERY LAST MINUTE! Since you are "just beside (your)self over this" it will probably need to go through. The days ahead will be for refinement and to build your faith. Even though you have so many miracles staring you in the face, you still don't trust the Lord. God will take it as far as He needs to; a lot will be up to you.

THE QUESTION:

A divorce has been filed. My spouse lives with someone else. I am tormented. I do not know how to let go of my attorney, I have made a phone call, been to his office, but I am afraid to let him go. My family has given me money for his retainer, because at first I wanted to receive alimony. I was a bad wife. I am afraid God will not restore my marriage, and I have thoughts of myself being alone and poor, (if I let my attorney go.) I am a weak person, how can I let my strong attorney go? God Bless you and your family.

THE ANSWER:

How can you let your "strong attorney go"? It will come through a faith in trusting God. If I didn't have a close relationship with the Lord, I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to do it either! It seems that you trust the strength of your attorney more than the power of the Lord.

Don't release your attorney because I say so, you must do it out of your own conviction. I can tell you honestly, that I trust NO MAN or woman. I trust the LORD alone. He will protect me, like no one else can!

This is still one of my favorite verses; I hope it will help you also. Take time to memorize and meditate on it...

"Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit." Jer. 17:5-8.

I go into depth about those who applied some or maybe all of the principles, but with the wrong heart, in one of the videos; though I can't remember which one. I can honestly say that I have NEVER known of anyone that the Lord did not honor. God does not give us false hope - He is faithful. All those that I "thought" were following and still didn't have restored marriages, the Lord was faithful to reveal later some deception, pride or down right rebellion that they had tried to cover up. The Lord knows all!

THE QUESTION:

My husband lives with the other woman, he has an attorney, I dismissed mine, his attorney has advised him not to pay any of the bills, or rent on our apartment. At this time I do not have a job, our daughter is in school, and I am getting public assistance, also my car is broke down. He told me that when I get evicted from our apartment that he will take our daughter until I find a place to live. I am full of fear, I am angry with him. I am lacking faith; any advice would help.

THE ANSWER:

Let's begin with how to get faith Matt. 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

To be able to ask boldly for what you need and to trust that He will grant your requests, make SURE that you have NO hidden sin. Confess or turn away from ANYTHING and EVERYTHING. The devil will bombard you with guilt and condemnation if there is sin in your life and it will affect your prayer life.

Then you need to KNOW that God is able and He promises to provide ALL that you need.

Phil. 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

He may provide it through your husband or another source, but He IS faithful.

Ps. 37:25 I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread.

Luke 12:27 "Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.

Don't sit and fret. It will push you to do the wrong thing! Ps. 37:8 tells us, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret, {it leads} only to evildoing."

And you better watch your anger towards your husband. Reread the chapter "Potter and the Clay" in the Restore Your Marriage book. Remember, Gen. 4:6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not {your countenance} be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

THE QUESTION:

I just finished reading Chapter 12 of your book "How God Will Restore Your Marriage." My wife has filed for divorce against me, and we live in a state (Illinois) where I believe we must appear in court. My lawyer has already appeared in court once on my behalf, we filed a counter motion to allow me to stay in our home living in separate sections of the house (as we both are now) while we resolve the divorce, and I have another hearing set for May 6.

At that time, I will have to testify as to why I should keep residence in our home and custody of our 4 children (18, 16, 14, 10) instead of my wife. Now, I am all of a sudden convicted that I will have to say things to describe my wife's lifestyle that I do not want to say, yet are only truthful and factual. I still love my wife and I do not at all want to divorce her. I want to restore our relationship and do not want to alienate her any further. I have had to keep records of her "wrongs." Corinthians says that is not love. But what about "rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's"? However, her new life style ignores Jesus who once was her Savior (we were baptized in the same water together 10 years ago!). Our family finances have been abused. I have gone so far...what do I do now? I am so confused. I only want to do what is right, and I want to reconcile with my wife. I need a miracle.

THE ANSWER:

If you truly want the best for your family, which is a RESTORED marriage, then you must RELEASE your attorney. Then tell her of your mistake in getting an attorney, filing a counter motion in order to force her to allow you to stay in the home.

1Cor. 6:1-8

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent {to} {constitute} the smallest law courts?

Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?

If then you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?

I say {this} to your shame. {Is it} so, {that} there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,

but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?

On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that {your} brethren."

You say you love your wife, but what you have done thus far tells her and God something different.

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

You can see that one wrong has led to another. If you continue and slander your wife, you will put yourself in opposition to God. Ps. 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy..."

You are to be your wife's protection, not her enemy. Eph. 5:28-29 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He

who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it..."

Throw away her wrongs, better yet, burn them and tell her you have done so. Your wife and your family is not Caesar's or the government, they are yours to protect. Not through legal intervention, but getting on your face before God and repent of the man that you are.

You cannot blame your wife for her new lifestyle. You have not been the husband that YOU should have been or your wife would not have succumbed to the temptation.

Eph. 5:25-30 tells us:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church, because we are members of His body.

Did you love your wife like that? But it is NOT TOO LATE. Show her that you take FULL responsibility for what has happened and do what God's Word tell you to do.

Please read the following two testimonies of men who were not afraid to do what is right and NOW BOTH have a RESTORED MARRIAGES at the bottom.

No one who has ever released their attorney or followed the other BIBLICAL principles that we have shared has EVER regretted doing so!!! Not ONE!!

Please take a moment to read these testimonies. One is from a man who faced loosing EVERYTHING - including his 7 small children. Instead of looking for LEGAL protection he instead TRUSTING His Savior. The second one is just as powerful.

I guarantee that the ways of the world will bring HEARTACHE and continued wars and litigation. But God's ways are perfect, healing, and guaranteed by Him to work -- if your trust is in Him alone!

Chapter 4

Praise Reports & Restored Marriage Testimonies!

*"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the **word of THEIR testimony**, and they did not love their life even to death." Rev. 12:11.*

Nothing is Impossible With God

The following praise reports and testimonies are filled with miracles of men and women who took God at His Word and believed that "nothing was impossible with God!" Those who have had the miracle of a restored marriage have several things in common. All "delighted themselves in the Lord" and He gave them "the desires of their heart." All of them "hoped against hope" when their situation seemed hopeless.

All of them "fought the good fight" and "finished their course." All of them were determined "not to be overcome with evil" but instead to "overcome evil with good." All were willing to "bless their enemies" and to pray for them that "despitefully used and persecuted them." All "turned the other cheek" and "walked the extra mile." All realized that it was "God who removed lover and friend far from" them and it was God who "made them a loathing" to their spouse. All of them understood and believed that it is NOT the will of man (or woman) but the "will of God" who would "turn the heart" whichever way He chose.

All refused to fight in "the flesh" but chose to battle "in the spirit." None were concerned to protect themselves, but trusted themselves "to Him who judges righteously." All of their trust was "in the Lord" because their trust was "the Lord." **All released their attorneys (if that was part of their testing) since they "would rather be wronged or defrauded."** All of them "got out of the way of wickedness" and "let the unbeliever leave" since they "were called to peace." All refused to do "evil for evil or insult for insult." All loved their spouse who may have been unfaithful because they knew that "love never fails."

This is the same journey that the Lord took me back in 1989. That year I made a promise to God that if He would restore my marriage to my husband, that I would devote my life to telling others about Him and His desire and ability to restore ANY marriage no matter what the circumstances. The Lord was faithful and restored my marriage, suddenly, two years later **after a divorce**. (Yes! AFTER a divorce!) Now I faithfully, with the Lord's continued help, love, support, and guidance, spread the GOOD news that nothing - NOT A THING - is impossible with God!

It is important to know that our ministry was FOUNDED to help all those who were told by pastors and Christian friends that their situation was HOPELESS. Those who come to us for hope are facing a spouse who is deep in adultery, who has moved out (often in with the other person), whose spouse has already filed for divorce or has had a divorce that has gone through. 99% of those who come, come alone for help since their spouse is not interested in saving their marriage, but is desperately trying to get out. Over 95% claim that they are Christians and most are married to Christians. Over half are in some type of Christian service and many of the men who are involved with other woman are pastors who have left not only their wife and children, but their church as well.

If you, or if someone you know, is facing devastation in their marriage, there is hope. Read these awesome testimonies that prove that God is MORE than able to restore ANY marriage!

Restored x 2!!

My wife moved out 5 months ago in October as a temporary separation, which then turned into her filing for a divorce in February. Over that period of time we were able to see each other a lot because of our 2 boys. She said I was always welcome to come over to see our boys.

Over the last 6 weeks we spent time together eating dinner at the house as well as at her apartment; we watched TV and played rummy, but she never showed any signs of coming home or would she talk about it.

But I continued to stand on God's Word, although I never acted on the circumstances like everybody was trying to convince me to do (i.e. **GET AN ATTORNEY**, move your money into a different bank etc.). I always showed her kindness regardless of how I felt or what I saw.

She came over Friday night and before leaving she gave me a kiss, which totally stunned me. I didn't hear from her again until Easter Sunday, late in the afternoon, when she picked up the boys. She said she'd call later, which she did, and proceeded to tell me that she had some wasps in her apartment, so I went over there with some wasp spray to see if I could help.

We ended up playing rummy and talking about the house and during that conversation she told me that she had been thinking about some things lately, and then she said, "I want to come home, I want to do family things again and work on the house, but I'm afraid." We talked and hugged and kissed and she said she needed a few days.

Then, last night (4 days later) she is coming home! We are now making arrangements to get her out of her apartment and return home.

Our final divorce hearing was scheduled for April 16th only 2 weeks away!! She said I would not need to worry about going that day.

All I can say is, "we serve a mighty God"!!! I know only He could have "turned her heart"!!

Her father told me that she told him only 3 weeks ago that she was "SURE" that this (divorce) is what she wanted. Only a few weeks before that she had told me regarding the divorce that "This is something that I feel I need to do, and I want to start new". There were many other times she told me similar things that really hurt, but I continued to trust the Lord knowing that He always causes me to triumph! God is an awesome God!!

The biggest miracle out of all this is my Encouragement (Prayer) Partner was scheduled to go to his final divorce hearing on April 5th and asked me to fast and pray with him. Only two days after my wife told me she wanted to come home, my Prayer Partner's wife went to the attorney and canceled their divorce!!

Two wives choosing to stop the divorce and restore their marriage in the same week!! I was two weeks away from a divorce and my prayer partner was 3 days!

So those of you who see no change in your circumstances, continue to stand on God's Word and trust Him. My wife told me that she had been thinking about coming home for a few weeks yet I never saw any difference in her! So don't look at the circumstances! Trust the Lord!! He's always faithful, and always on time!

Prayers ARE answered!

Dear Dan and Erin,

I have been doing as you have lined out. Although I still have facets of my life to clean up and ask forgiveness for I have managed to **release my attorney** even though that proved to be more difficult than I thought it would be.

Just ten minutes ago my wife left with the children, as it is her week to have them. The visit was great! I told her that I was wrong in the things that I had said and done in the past and asked her as humbly as I could for her forgiveness. Not only did she forgive me, she also asked for

forgiveness! It's true! God is awesome and prayers ARE answered! I did not expect this at all. In fact, I was on guard and ready for the thief.

Although I miss my family **I am so grateful that peace has shown back up** and I was even getting anxious about wanting her to leave in case the thief was thinking about showing up. Then, after awhile, I told her that in the past I had not been wise and had in fact, been a fool. At this, incredibly, she came towards me and gave me a hug - a genuine hug that lasted for about a whole minute! This was so awesome! God is awesome!! I was given the opportunity to help her with the bags and fix a minor thing on her car. God - thank you!

Praise be to God as my prayers were answered and in a manner better than I had thought possible or probable.

God bless you both and thank you for the opportunities and peace that I have been allowed to experience.

Praising God!

I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate your prayer and support. About a week ago I requested prayer for my son. He was being asked by his father to meet the OW. This was also something that she has been pushing for. My son does not want to meet her, because as he told me, 'Why bother? It is not going to last.' What a child of faith. He did not, of course, say that to his father, but he did tell him that he did prefer not to meet her. He has not pushed the issue since that day that I requested prayer. I am continuing to pray that it does not happen.

I am also seeing several small signs that God is moving in this marriage even though my husband has already filed for divorce, but I am praying that it does not happen. **I have not used an attorney or contested the divorce. The night I spoke on the phone with my husband and told him I was not doing either, the hate wall came down immediately.** Again thanks, and God bless you all!

My husband is home!!

After an eight-month messy affair with the OW, my husband left on January 10th of this year to go live with her.

In my broken state I began to pray and cry out to God. I could not accept the stock answers from others saying that I was better off without him or God would heal me and give me someone else. I know God is a sustainer and a healer because he had done this for me so many times before. But, this time I wanted to see the Hand of God. I wanted a miracle. **I was scheduled to go to the attorney I hired to sign the legal separation papers on a Monday, but on Sunday morning the Holy Spirit spoke to me and told me not to take any action.** He said I was in too much pain, and that act alone would be painful, and my husband's legal response would cause even more pain. He also began to direct me to leave my husband alone, not to call him, to drive another route home from work so I wouldn't pass his place of business, do not ask him for anything, etc. and just pray and give it to Him.

I saw a testimony on a Christian magazine website about a woman who had her marriage restored after a ugly divorce and financial devastation. I contacted this woman and we began to correspond through emails. Her words of encouragement brought hope and life to my wounded spirit. She referred me to another marriage restoration website, that also blessed and encouraged me. I was so excited to hear that others were standing and believing God for their marriages.

I erroneously typed in Restore Ministries one day and found this website. I ordered the Restore Your Marriage book and the women's workbook. I also ordered the audiocassette of the "Be Encouraged" series, which I listened to and from work each day. I also ordered and was blessed by the "Queen Esther" video.

God confirmed through Erin the direction He was giving me for this situation. He also taught me many more principals and wisdom through her ministry. I was so touched by the answers Erin received through her radical prayers. I came home everyday and read the testimonies and praise reports and other materials I received. I journalized and stayed in the word--especially psalms and proverbs as instructed. It was so good

and I began to be healed and find peace, although I still had my struggles and pitfalls.

I prayed a radical prayer asking God that every time the OW came against me with her strong spirit of influence (pushing my husband to go legal, trying to push me out of our business and home) and every time the spirit of the enemy would speak through her that my husband would see it, and it would irritate him and he would become my protector. I prayed that her own foot would get caught in the net she set for me. After that prayer and others, my husband and the OW began to have weekly fights. During those battles he would come home for refuge.

This Monday, he came home with his personal belongings packed in his truck. He has been home ever since! He called me twice on my job today. He hasn't called me at work for many months. He has apologized and says he doesn't know how I was able to still be nice to him and love him during all this. He told me that he doesn't want our marriage to fail. He says I wouldn't believe the lessons he has learned. He still needs lots of prayer (me, too) and deliverance from the things he entangled himself in during his rebellion.

I am writing to say that Erin lived through the things she did and went before us for a testimony and for a Divine purpose. Her wisdom and the principals she learned are powerful. Please ask God to give you a teachable spirit and follow the instructions of those He has anointed to teach us in different areas of our lives--you will be tremendously helped and blessed. Please be encouraged. God IS fighting this battle for you!

Praising God with Joy Unspeakable!

My eyes are all puffy from crying, but not in sadness, with joy unspeakable! My heart is so very full right now that it's difficult to really express how wonderful our Lord is, and how grateful I am for this ministry and the blessing that obeying these radical principles has brought me.

God used my obedience in not getting an attorney, to not listen to my mom, dad or even my pastor, who strongly tried to inform me that I don't have to just "roll over" in these proceedings. **They wanted me to get an aggressive attorney who would really make my husband feel dire consequences for his current conduct.** But by God's awesome and incredible grace and through, I'm sure, the prayer of my ePartner and the RMI office in response to my SOS request; today I obeyed these principles and trusted God.

Not only did God bring financial blessing in the hearing I was firmly asked to attend by my husband today, God also used me as a witness to the court representative, who never saw "such agreeable and nice people" in all her years of participation in some of the 19,000 divorces in our county. (God help us!)

But most important to me, after over 6 months of separation and years of my contentious behavior, I finally saw my husband's hate wall come down before my very eyes. As we talked about money and custody issues over the course of these two hours, God shut my mouth and only opened it when I had something fabulous to say about my husband, his integrity, his great earning capacity, his care of the children and his responsible way of providing all of our needs and managing our money. Although I repented early on in this "Spiritual Adventure", my husband was not open to hear anything I wanted to confess. (I'm sure, because he had heard "religious" things out of my arrogant, self-righteous mouth many times before.) God is changing me. So I just waited.

Today God gave me the chance to admit to my husband: (and to the clerk) my problems in handing money, my disorganization, my irresponsibility and the past problems I have had in using strong pharmaceuticals (legitimately, but now, praise God, I'm off them!) to manage my chronic pain.

By the end of the "interview", when I admitted to being "flaky", he actually contradicted me and praised me in front of the clerk, saying that I could really produce great things when I put my mind to it. He also said that I was sensitive and caring with the children and how very

understanding I am about his demanding work schedule. Talk about **BLOTTING OUT** the memory! I nagged him **CONSTANTLY** about his work for the last 10 years (probably even in the last 10 days!) And I didn't even ask God for that one! Praise Him! He knew I needed it!

Whereas before when we saw each other he was aloof and abrupt, never looked at me nor talked more than he absolutely had to, today he took the elevator down with me (I'm disabled) instead of the stairs. Then he walked out of the building with me, shared with me something of what his day was going to be like and then (Hallelujah!) he agreed to have dinner with us tomorrow night! I heard myself say, "If it gets too hard to get away from work, don't get stressed about it. I won't tell the kids, in case you can't make it." (Huh!? I know where **THAT** came from and it wasn't me!)

He said, with conviction, "I will make it happen!" Then he called out, "see you tomorrow" as he ran to his car. If you had any inkling of what his work is like, you'd be hopping up and down in praise that our God could turn his heart enough to even **SAY** something like that!

I come to these praise reports when I am feeling discouraged, and just raising my voice in praise to God for what He's doing for others lifts my countenance and causes "mountain moving faith" to rise up in me. So please, please dear brother or sister, take time right now to use your voice in thanksgiving and praise to our magnificent, living Lord, who can take even a court hearing and use it to His good! And "take courage" that God is working on your behalf even as you obey Him right this minute.

Giving God the Glory!

I just want to give God the praise, glory and honor for being a loving Father, after being separated, I received divorce papers 2 days ago. Flesh rose up and I wanted to get revenge after reading that he was going to take everything including the children.

I in error called my spouse and he was cold and I realized the hate wall was still up.

I cried out to God but it felt like the enemy was gaining control. I sent a SOS and immediately was given Psalms 20 to read, thru my tears I read it out loud several times and a peace came over me. I spent the next 2 days quoting that God would never leave me nor forsake me and that nothing can happen to me without God allowing it. I kept speaking scriptures to keep my mind from becoming carnal.

Last night I spoke to my husband explaining why I wouldn't get an attorney and he was compassionate and said he wants to work out the divorce without an attorney; he even shared some fears he has!!!!

We actually talked for over 30 minutes and there wasn't any hostility or hatred in him, he was even laughing. I thank God for touching his heart and touching mine. We haven't talked on the phone more than 5 minutes in at least a year. God used that time to allow him to see a change in me.

It may seem like nothing but believe me it was a big thing and I know it was God answering the prayers of those who stopped and prayed for me.

I will always give God the glory in the restoration of my marriage.

God is Good!

God is so good! After my husband filed for divorce in September 2001 I fled back home, which was a 4-hour drive from where we lived. I was afraid of the outcome, and feared actually discovering he was involved in an affair.

We had been separated for only a few days before my husband started calling and wondering why I had left- I thought he would never care if he saw me again the way he was treating me. After three weeks of separation, I discovered restore ministries and began to change my ways to please the Lord. I released my attorney the same day I discovered Restore Ministries website, and began searching for another job that

would bring me and the kids closer so that we could work on rebuilding our family and marriage.

I prayed like never before, and within a few weeks received a job offer in a town only an hour drive from my husband! We've been separated two months, just enough time for me to realize what my purpose is- to Please God!

My husband and I have continued contact, I no longer argue or disagree with him, and he desires to be with me. I don't know where the divorce process is at this point, as I have told him I agree to whatever terms he has. He is looking forward to us moving, even though he doesn't say it, I can tell it in his voice!

God is working in my life, and I am so very grateful for His love and mercy!!!!!!

My Hope is in Him

I am praising God for HIS faithfulness...mercy...grace! HE is revealing truth to me on a minute-by-minute basis... and I am in AWE of HIS presence. I discovered this ministry through a friend...and after much prayer and confirmations...I am releasing my attorney TWO DAYS BEFORE OUR CASE GOES TO TRIAL. I have called on the LORD...and He has shown me 'unsearchable things that I did not know...' and through this ministry...and the explanation of the Word...that is ABSOLUTE TRUTH...I am STEPPING OUT IN FAITH...and trusting HIM with the results.

I have been believing for my marriage since my husband announced his intentions to leave in July of 2000. On July 19, 2000...GOD wrote a promise on my heart...of restoration...recommitment...and reconciliation with my husband of 10 1/2 years. God asked me to wait...to trust...and to OBEY. Today...I have a better understanding of what that obedience is! PTL!!!

I am resting on the promises of my Heavenly Father! He is my ONE and ONLY! Praise HIM in advance for answered prayer! I am counting

on the promises of God...to 'uphold me with HIS righteous right hand!' I am scared...but God has searched my spirit...and knows my heart's desire...and HE has given me the love for my husband that only HE can give. I don't have what it takes on my own.

I stand...on the promise of HIS Word...that is HIS truth...that comes from HIS power...

In the grip of God's amazing grace... I wait on the LORD...My soul waits...and in HIS Word I place my HOPE.

Psalms 130: 5

Moving with God

It has been 2 months since my husband filed for a divorce, and one month since we've been separated. Upon notice of the divorce, I decided to move the kids and me to my hometown, 330 miles away from my husband. When I moved I prayed about it, because I didn't know if what I was doing was right or wrong, or good or bad for my marriage. When I got a job, I felt like God was guiding me, so I accepted and moved.

After a few days of separation, my husband began calling and giving me the message that he was not taking the separation well. However, at that point, I was still hurting and healing from all the pain and suffering I had endured and didn't really show much concern.

When I began to analyze my life in terms of my marriage, I was drawn to a marriage forum on the Internet that referred me to this website. It was DIVINE INTERVENTION!

I ordered the book *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage* and released my attorney the same day I found the website. I have a restored hope for my marriage that I NEVER thought would happen. Although I never really liked living in my husband's hometown, after reading the book and the testimonies, I knew that if I was serious about restoring my marriage and family I would have to bring myself physically closer to my husband.

I was on fire for the Lord at this point, and began sending my resume out to every CPA firm in my husband's area. Within a week, I have gotten three interviews for positions that would put me within 50 miles of my husband, and one that would put me right in the same town!

God is so good to me! I have been praying and my husband has been calling, almost like reaching out to me. He still is pursuing the divorce, but I no longer have an interest in pressing for child support. As Erin said, I told him that I trust him to provide for his children.

I don't know how things will end up, but my walk with Christ and my faith in God has grown tremendously the last few weeks. I pray that my move will not only bring the kids closer to their father, but will also bring me closer to my husband, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Praise Report from Missouri

I would like to thank God for small victories. After being separated for 8 months with very little contact, I received a letter from my husband of 28 years telling me it was time for closure of our marriage and for us to move on with our lives. **He wanted me to look for an attorney for both of us to use.** We set up a meeting at a public place to discuss this.

Before I went I prayed and wrote what I would say. It just so happened that on the daily Q&A someone asked what to do if spouse asked for divorce. The answer was **"I love you and do not want this divorce, but I can understand why you do."** I opened and closed my **"speech" with this.** I prayed for a gentle and quiet spirit. The meeting went well. My husband said he would find the attorney. When we walked out to the car, he said, **"Well give me a hug."** It was a very tentative hug, but a hug. Then he said "Take care of yourself, hon." That is what he used to call me!!!!

I know it sounds very little, but when there has been no contact at all, I praise God for the small things. This all happened at a time when I had just about given up all hope, even had stopped praying the prayers and reading the books.

Now I am praying that he will not find an attorney that he will be too busy. I am looking forward to restoration!! Thank you, Dan and Erin for your witness. and most of all, thank you God for not giving up on me even when I gave up on You.

Praise Report from Iowa

Yesterday, I was reminded that on Tuesday I was to attend a pre-trial conference on my impending divorce. **I had let go of my attorney 2 weeks earlier, and decided to walk in faith.** That's when I found 3, that's right, 3 men of God that would stand for me and my marriage, during that 2 week time!!!!

Also during that 2 week time, God led another man to my door, and through sharing of my faith in God and his upcoming miracle in my marriage (please note that even as I write this, my marriage looks hopeless to anyone else looking at it. But I choose faith, hope and trust instead of what my eyes are seeing). Anyway, this man was lead to give his life to Christ at church last Sunday (what a blessing).

As I prepared for my court date, I had those men standing for me praying, I had a small study group praying, and I had the people in your office praying. I did not know what was about to happen, just knew I had to trust God in the hope he has placed in my heart. As it turned out, my wife forgot about the meeting at the courthouse. Her **attorney** wanted to know if I wanted to go ahead and try to broker a "divorce deal" anyway. I said I could wait and would rather not participate in moving this along on a swifter path. She said that she could reschedule this meeting but it would take 2-4 weeks. I said take your time. Through the prayers of many individuals, God has given my marriage and my family the additional time it needs for God to heal the wounds in our marriage. Thank you in the office for praying for me, and bringing the Lord up close and personal during this tribulation.

Praise Report from California

I listened to your words from the Lord and have obeyed (I stopped the legal action)!! The Lord has shown me that He is in control and will bless my obedience!

Yet, I would have never believed it if I hadn't seen it happen with my own eyes! My husband said he would have nothing to do with a personal loving God. **Ever since I dropped my attorney, he began seeking God!** Praise to the Lord!!!! He fulfills ALL His promises to us as we believe and obey without fear! Now I wait for His salvation.

Thank you for your wise word to me in this crisis time of my life. I thought I'd done the wrong thing by signing the divorce papers when my husband asked. I had truly done it in obedience to my husband, as unto MY Lord. Right afterwards the Lord gave me Jeremiah 31:22 "How long will you vacillate, O wayward daughter? For the Lord says: something new and different will happen. Israel will search for God." That's why the Lord answered my prayers - now my husband is seeking the Lord!! What if I had been too afraid to trust Him?

Praise Report from Florida

I became part of your prayer ministry just about a month ago. Well, praise the Lord - I bought one book.

I had filed for divorce, but when I came to your website, I told the lawyer not to serve my husband the divorce papers, but I put off dismissing her. Then the Lord told me to be obedient. I had a lot of people praying that the Lord would restore our marriage, help with our finances (which are really tight). I had people praying specifically that the attorney would refund at least some of the money I had borrowed from a generous neighbor.

Would you believe, I spoke with the attorney yesterday to **release her as my attorney**, and praise God, even though we did not argue and though my contract clearly stated NONE of the \$3,000 dollars would be refunded, in the end she was more than PLEASED to refund my \$1,800.00 of the fees!!!

Praise the Lord! HE CAN DO ANYTHING!!!

I am just so amazed at the daily work in our marriage. Another miracle - my husband placed an order for his book from your ministry! I feel so unworthy of the glory and goodness the Lord gives. Pray that I may glorify Him completely and always. He is the miracle maker!! He will remove doubt, just ask, and just simply ask. I love the Lord Jesus. May He bless this website so that it may grow and flourish throughout the world. I have been in a lot of different Christian counseling; Restore Ministries International is by far one of the most Biblical ones I have ever seen! Yes, He will restore.

My love in Christ to you all!!

Another Praise Report from California

Praise God! **When I had fired my attorney, my husband has since fired his attorney!!!** When he stood before the judge, even with signed papers in his hand, he told her (the judge) we were not ready and the papers were out of order!

I have been living off work comp due to a major back surgery and God has faithfully provided for me -- through my very kind and generous husband!!

He just told me he is no longer offended by Christians and has seen changes in me! He tells me he could never imagine starting over with someone new and though he holds no promises he is holding off the divorce proceedings! I am still learning how to walk with my Savior but I know He is faithful to complete the work He has started in me (and my marriage) as I look to Him. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces shall never be shamed. Ps. 34:5 Thank you for your ministry and God bless you for your faithful walk with Him.

My Husband Didn't File!!

"Tomorrow during lunch I'm going to an attorney to file for divorce." was what my husband said to me! But Praise the Lord; he NEVER kept that appointment because I cried out to the Lord in my spirit for help.

As soon as we got to church, I went into the ladies room. In the lounge, God immediately sent a woman who saw me crying. She comforted me with the principles she had learned in *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage*, then we prayed together. That very night my husband became violently ill.

As my husband left for work the next morning he said, "I won't be keeping the appointment with my attorney like I said." God had turned his heart!

Friends Marriages BOTH Restored!!

Two women met by Divine appointment at church one morning. While talking briefly, they found that both of their marriages were in major trouble. They exchanged phone numbers, and, thus, God answered each of their prayers for "someone to help them." Both of them wanted their marriages, yet each of their husbands were trying to get out of their commitment. Both ladies were newly saved and both of their husbands would have nothing to do with church.

These women began going to a Wednesday night home group together. One evening a couple whose marriage had been restored through Restore Ministries just happened to visit this home group. Each woman shared her prayer requests for marital help. One of the husbands was still at home but sleeping in another room and hadn't spoken to his wife for almost four months. As the other woman began to share her request, she broke down weeping. Her husband was going to court in less than two weeks; he was divorcing her.

The restored couple just looked at one another and squeezed each other's hands. They knew why the Lord had "providentially" led them across town for the meeting that night. When they broke for prayer, the restored couple walked over to the woman whose husband was divorcing her and asked if they might pray for her. They shared that

they had a restored marriage, that the Lord had obviously sent them there that night, and that God was going to turn the whole situation around. They finished by stating, "God won't allow the divorce to go through." As they spoke, tears ran down her face and dripped onto the floor. After they prayed, the three of them went over to the other woman to pray for her.

After prayer that night, all four of them sat on the couch visiting while the couple shared their entire testimony of how God restored their marriage. The entire home group listened in. Then the husband excused himself and went to the trunk of their car. He returned with two books and handed each of the women a Restore Your Marriage book.

More than a month had passed when the restored couple ran into the group leader of that home group and inquired about these two young women. He stated quite calmly that they were doing well and both of them were now attending church with their husbands! After recovering from the shock, the couple asked for details.

It seems that the husband of the woman who hadn't spoken to her in four months, unexpectedly accepted an invitation to go to a potluck dinner at her home group when the leader called and got him on the phone! His wife, of course, was ecstatic when he told her. But when she called for directions it wasn't that night! The group leader told her he had misunderstood, it wasn't that night, but next week! Her heart sank. Then he proceeded to tell her to just "come on over anyway." The couple did go and spent the evening just visiting with the group leader and his family. After the meal the group leader asked her husband if he wanted to take a little walk while the ladies cleaned up. While they were walking, the group leader said to her husband, "Son, the problems that you and your wife are having, well, everybody has them. You just have to work through the problems." That is just what her husband needed to hear. That night things totally turned around for her and her husband.

For the other woman and her husband it was even more miraculous! Two weeks after she met the restored couple, she went to the courthouse for the divorce hearing. **She had released her attorney,** as

the restored couple had told her that she had to, but because it was so close to the hearing, she was required to go to the hearing or be held in contempt of court. The young woman sat nervously praying while she waited for their case to be called. She remembered the night the restored couple had prayed and what they had said: "God won't allow the divorce to go through." But here she was about to be called into court. Finally, as she heard their name called she leaped out of her chair. She trembled as she went into the judge's chambers and sat down. Her husband's attorney was there glaring at her. Her head felt like it was spinning as the attorney and judge spoke. Then she heard it. "Divorce granted!!" It felt like a knife pierced through her chest. But then, as the judge leaned over to write his name on the papers, he stopped. He said that his name was not on the papers and that he could NOT GRANT THEM THE DIVORCE!

This woman thought she was dreaming. Had he said what she thought he said? All three of them got up and walked out. This woman's husband and his attorney stood together talking while she leaned against the wall still in shock at what had just happened. The attorney told her husband that he would have to start all over by filing again. Extremely upset, her husband rushed over and grabbed her hand and stomped out.

Two nights later her husband got saved!

Nothing is impossible with God. That means NOT A THING! So if your situation seems hopeless, the Lord has a plan. He is never late. If your divorce is still headed for court, don't despair, instead trust Him, and believe Him. If we trust Him, cease striving, wait for Him, and hope against hope, then all things will work together for our good, if we love Him and are called according to His purpose, not our own!

Restoration in New Zealand

This man came to our website seeking help. After getting the men's book, he wrote to our Q & A Column with this:

"My wife has left. What do I do about seeing our children? I agree with your books on my marriage. The law in NZ is that if I don't contest the

custody order then I won't see the children until they are 16. My wife has alleged abuse by me of the children. Should I not fight to see our 7 (age 1-13) children? **If I don't go to court and she does then she will have no legal obligation to let me ever see our children again."**

This man had not seen his seven children for over SIX MONTHS!!

We advised him to trust the Lord, **RELEASE his attorney** and not to DEFEND himself against the allegations. The magnitude of his decisions and his ultimate trust in the Lord has brought about an AWESOME blessing. Here it is:

After he agreed that to trust the Lord was the ONLY WAY, he experienced a tremendous peace. He was able to work his farm better, and then he called and asked for a large packet of materials to be sent to him to give to all the men he knew that also needed help.

A few weeks later, he wrote about all the Lord was doing in his life. I felt impressed to tell him to agree with Dan and me in prayer that "his wife would need his help and call him." The laws in effect said that she could contact him, but that he would be thrown in jail if he contacted her! We agreed and prayed. Three days later, we received this praise report:

"Last night at 7:15 I got a phone call from my wife. First contact with her for just over 6 months!!! I couldn't believe it!! She rang ME! You said you would pray she had a need. She has no money and wasn't going to give the children any Christmas at all. But she (God) decided to ring me only ONE time and ask if I would send her some money for the children. She then talked to me for 7 and a half hours. Yes, till 2:45 this morning!!! I was in a state of shock for much of the call, but thanks to your books etc., must have done some right things for her to talk so long.

I didn't once say, "I love you" even at the end. If she had said it then I would have. I didn't even ask if I could see the children or her or anything like that so there was no pressure for her to do anything for the

money. She gave me her address to send some money to (I agreed but she didn't give an amount - left that up to me).

She told me most of what had happened to her and the children during the past 6 months. At about 1 o'clock she said she hadn't meant to talk for so long and then carried on for a lot longer. I tried to listen to her and agree wherever could. We had a great talk about the Word and God and the good things of God.

There was no mention of another call or anything. I didn't even hint that I wanted to see her or talk again. When we were talking I wasn't sure if I should be asking her for forgiveness yet or if it was the right time. I couldn't remember if you said I should as soon as possible or not. Because I was unsure I didn't say anything. ???

Her talk about her walk seemed pretty good. She said a lot about rebellion and how bad it was and things like that. How can what she was saying line up with the Word and yet in the area of marriage she can't see it (YET?????)

She also seemed to accept that the marriage was over and it was going to be like her parents. (Who split when she was 2 and are both on their 3rd marriage). Then she said "I don't want it to end like her parents." ??? This was a miracle!

And yes, I am thanking God. Is there anything I should do now other than pray God continues to turn her heart back to me?????. This is the scary time because one wrong word could wreck everything. I believe she will ring again. After all she rang once that I didn't expect. (Yes, I know by faith I should have, but after the place I got to last night I no longer did).

I will try to read through both the books again, today, in case she rings again tonight, but I have a very busy day on the farm. (Hay time).

I tried not to say anything bad about anything she was doing with the children or the house that she has bought.

I want to praise God and tell everyone that has been praying, but I feel I shouldn't tell anyone (how not to) because she didn't give me any permission to share that she had rung me.

Must go I got 2 and a half hours sleep and am late leaving for the milking now. I just wanted to share this. Is this awesome or what? I know it's God!! Bless you heaps and heaps. He did give her a substantial check for the children's Christmas. Then a new test came:

My wife rang again today. Praise God!!!! **She wants to work out the money between us and not involve the lawyer. *She has already run up \$15,000 + legal bills and doesn't want any more.*** She asked if I would pay off a gift that she got of \$30,000 to put a deposit down on the house she bought. She wanted me to give her \$100 a week for 6 years. She wants me to keep the farm for the children. She was talking about a divorce and not sure whether to carry on with it. I think she realizes she can't marry again in God's eyes.

I said "yes" I liked her principle, but could I pray about it before deciding. What I want to do and believe God wants me to do. (If you agree then please pray that my wife will accept it.) I want to give her the \$30,000 as a gift so she cannot owe these other people. She was not happy because they are already telling her what to do even though it was supposed to be a gift. I can get the money (GOD is great) as a gift to me (real gift) and no one will ever know how she got the money. Is it good for me to do as much as possible for her money wise???

Also I want to offer to pay her mortgage. I can take this from the farm as part of my personal drawings and no one will ever know what it is being used for except my wife and God. Does this sound right???? If I haven't heard from you before she rings again (I believe that she will, GOD is working big time) then this is the offer I will make her.

Also, I want to offer that if she needs money for anything else to ask me first. This seems right to me. Am I right in all this? Should I be doing as much to help as I can???

She has long term plans for everything, but I know God has started turning her heart back to me. Why else would she be ringing?

She said today that she has never stopped loving me.
I think God is so good and awesome.

Here are just three more of his praise reports:

"Do you know how awesome it is to pick up the phone and hear "Hi, it's me here" on the other end! After over 6 months of not hearing her voice and now I've had my 3rd phone call!!! We talked for 4 hours until she was late getting the children from school. Thank you for all your prayers. I can never repay you but God can."

"My wife came around tonight for two hours with all 7 children!!! She didn't seem totally comfortable. She talked and came inside and had a coffee. The children got heaps of their things and loaded up the van. It was awesome! Before today, I hadn't seen her or 4 of the children for 6 and a half months; then in town, and here at our house tonight. This praise report seems impossible -- it was just 6 days ago when I talked with her for the first time in 6+ months.

AWESOME AWESOME AWESOME - GOD can surely move fast!!

Then we got this:

"When she turned up with all 7 children and their 2 dogs and they all got out of the van it was neat. Then them all staying so long and coming in was awesome. It was hard to not say anything about us!! But I managed. The children all talked to me and shared heaps. As you can guess with 7 of them it was hard to keep track of all the conversations and I always seemed to have one on my lap and another one trying to get on. Praise God!! Do you know how nice all this is?! Bless you for your Godly advice and prayers! Thank you!!"

Then we got word that they were either spending time **TOGETHER** at the farm or her house, but **ALWAYS** together!! Within about 6 weeks we got news...

Number 8 is on the way!!!

Because of her pregnancy and her being tired with all the children, she was open to more and more help from her husband. Then we got this.....

IT'S OFFICIAL - Praise the Lord!!

My WIFE IS HOME!! She has stopped getting the government money and fully moved back. Praise God!!! Now we are relying on God to supply our needs and sort out the rest of our situations. It is official. My marriage has been restored!!!!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

We don't know what the future holds but we are together as a family and that's the most important thing! If anyone has any doubts about your books working, then they haven't tried them, because I can state that they work perfectly! It's only about 4 months from when I started getting to your principles (GOD's) and they have proven true in every way!!!!

I thank you again. You are awesome in God and may He bless you and all you do.

All the questions this man asked and applied was one of the principles from the Word of God and the course for "men" hoping for restoration. A man is to protect and therefore can offer support much more than a woman can Biblically.

My Wife is a New Woman!!

A man contacted us from our own church. He left a message on our voice mail that he was desperate for help. He said he was counseled by his associate pastors (along with other Christian friends) to **counter sue his wife for divorce and to put a restraining order on her to protect their children!** He said he and another man were on their way to where she was staying, to confront her and her lover!

When we called him back, both Dan and I got on the phone and listened as he recounted the escalating series of events over the past few weeks.

I had to ask Dan to interrupt him since I could no longer bear to hear any more details! At this point, we began to share the TRUTH with him. He was open and more than willing to embrace the Biblical principles that were shared. He kept repenting throughout the conversation for failing to deal with his wife Biblically.

It seems their trouble had began after God had miraculously restored their marriage. Right after the restoration, his wife became extremely ill. He confessed to "not seeking the Lord first" but sought many physicians. ("...he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians 2Chr. 16:12). Each prescribed more and more medication for her painful condition. At the end of his rope, he sought the Lord for his wife. His prayers were answered when the doctors suddenly realized that they had misdiagnosed his wife. It would need surgery to correct the problem, which it did.

Unfortunately, it was all part of the devil's scheme. Her pain was gone but she found herself addicted to the pain medication she had been taking.

Again, he confessed to not seeking the Lord, but the arm of the flesh. He made the mistake of committing his own wife to a drug rehab center. In the center, she met a man, another drug addict. She committed adultery there and was convinced that she loved this new man, not her husband. We shared that he put her into a place where there was no protection, and because of her vulnerability as a woman, especially with all that she had to endure with her illness and then with major surgery on top of it, he had failed as a husband.

Then both of them checked out of the center and she moved in together. At this point, she contacted her husband to tell him that they were through, that she met the man she loved, that she wanted a divorce and had already filed. When her husband fought back, she told him she also wanted the children. This is when all the legal battle began and when he finally got a hold of our ministry.

Our counsel to him was to first drop ALL legal action, which meant also releasing his attorney. We asked that he NOT shame his wife

anymore and refuse to talk to ANYONE about their situation any more. We then told him that the next time she contacted him, **to tell her that he had released his attorney and he would never take any legal action against her.** Then he was to tell her how TOTALLY and COMPLETELY this entire thing was HIS FAULT! That she was not responsible for ANYTHING. That he loved her more than ever, and that if she needed ANYTHING he would be waiting by the phone to help.

His wife called that same day, and he relayed all that we had said with a heart of love for his wife and humility in his voice. She was shocked!! That very same day she called to say she didn't know what to do. She wanted to come home, but didn't know how to do it! He told her just to drive home and he would handle the rest.

When she walked into the house, she was met with open arms and a dozen red roses!

Her husband jumped into his car and drove to the apartment where she had been staying. He went in, packed up and loaded all her things and headed for home. As he drove up he was singing, "I took back what he (the devil) stole from me!"

A few days later, we received a phone call from a very tearful and grateful wife. She told us that she had no idea what had happened to her. She said she was completely deceived!! But when her husband told her that it was his fault and took the entire responsibility, suddenly, it's like a veil was removed from her eyes! In an instant her feelings changed completely!

She said that she could NEVER repay us for saving her.

We see this couple sitting in the front row of every service. Just recently, the husband read the men's book over and over again during a prolonged fast. At the end of the fast, he couldn't believe the change in his wife! He said that the Lord completely transformed her into the Godliest woman he had ever seen!!!

I Was the One Who Left Him!!!

A woman e-mailed wondering if we could help her. Things were totally different in her situation. She said, "I am the one who left and was in adultery. Can you help me? I became involved with a man and was convinced that I should leave my husband for him. I have two children that I home school. One day while driving (**after I had filed for divorce to be with this other man**) God just came all over me. Instantly, I knew what I was doing was wrong and knew I had to turn around. But when I told my husband, he totally changed from wanting me. **He said that if I didn't file for divorce he would. I have already been served with divorce papers.** Is there any hope? He says he won't forgive me. I have tried to reason with him, but it seems to make him more determined."

I wrote back to say, yes, there is hope and that her husband is undoubtedly hurt and doesn't trust her any more. "Reason" will never turn his heart or bring him into the revelation of forgiveness. It will take the Lord turning him, exactly as He was faithful to turn her. It may take some time and a divorce may be necessary for the Lord do. "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:6.

I wrote: "The Lord will take this time to mold you and change you so that you will glow in the goodness and love of the Lord. It will certainly be painful at times; He totally and completely had to make me over. There is a dear friend who lives here in Pensacola whose situation sounds almost exactly like yours. She was the one who was unfaithful, she wanted a divorce and then she had a revelation about her condition before the Lord. When she repented and came back to the Lord, her husband refused to accept her back. It took some time and many, many trials and tests, but I saw this woman become one of the most spiritually powerful women I have ever met. What we found in all of this is that it was really no different in her situation than in mine. What our common bond was our restored marriage. The Lord showed me that no matter how a woman came to our ministry, restoration was the same. Most who come are like myself; their husband has left and is in adultery. Many other women come when their husbands are abusive, are drinking

or into drugs. Surprisingly, at least a fourth of all the women who come have been in adultery themselves."

Then she wrote: "Do I cease ALL spiritual conversations and conversations about reconciliation and just let him see the work God is doing in my life? He told me that his pastor told him to go to counseling, but he refuses."

I wrote: "Don't you make contact, but when he does (or you just make contact when exchanging children) be sweet, joyful in the Lord (not necessarily in your situation). And most importantly, ask for the Lord's love to fill you so that you can love your husband unconditionally, which means, loving him if he doesn't love you back or even if he rejects you. Now I am not saying to love him aggressively. Just stay sweet and quiet. You need not make any advances for a man to know that you love and care about him. When two people first meet, a woman can just let a man know how she feels by the way she looks at him, the way she talks to him and the way she responds to him.

Personally, I am glad he is not interested in counseling. It ALWAYS causes more problems than it solves. Your consistent love (the love that's found in 1Cor. 13) that is first patient, will win him since we have the promise that "love never fails."

Then she asked, "My husband wants me to tell him EVERYTHING about my adultery. I don't know how to handle this." I wrote: Giving "details" about past affairs can be very damaging for your future. Your husband is falling into the same trap many of us have faced, desiring to "know" everything. However, since he is asking, you must respond. Try and be discreet and only answer what he has asked, go no further in the circumstances or details. Use the time to "minimize" the feelings you thought you had for the other man and "maximize" your love for him even when you were unfaithful. Also, share how it was clearly deception that caused so much of your adultery. Share your need for his spiritual protection that you got out from under which put you in such a vulnerable spot. And reiterate your awakening to the need for his protection.

Finally a Breakthrough

She wrote: "Last night my husband came over at 9:00 p.m. and stayed until 3:00 a.m.. Even though there were some "rough" spots, I could tell there was a calm and a peace in his heart. The main thing he is working through right now is memories of my unfaithfulness to him. My "words" do not mean much to him at this time, because he feels he cannot trust me. So I am trying to just SHOW him on a daily basis my commitment to him and the change God has brought into my life through my actions. It is so much better when I hold my tongue and just smile!"

Closer to Victory!

"What a precious weekend I had with my husband. We literally spent most of the weekend side by side. He had me over for dinner Saturday night and Sunday night and both nights I ended up staying with him. However....THE ULTIMATE thing happened Saturday before we went to sleep. He said... "We should pray." He took my hand and he prayed and thanked God for His work in our lives. This brings me to tears."

It's so Close!!

"Last night we talked about me moving back into our home. I have been trying to be completely silent about this because I have noticed that ANY amount of pressure from me causes him to go the other way."

"Once before he made a comment about me moving back, but when my face lit up he quickly said, "But I am not sure that is what I want yet." I told him that I trusted him and what he thought was best. However, on the inside I am LONGING to be by his side everyday again."

The Fire Hits!

"The divorce date is tomorrow and my husband is adamant about my going!" She *didn't have an attorney* and her husband had already agreed she could stay home, but the enemy was working hard - since he knew his time was short!!

Victory!!

The morning of the divorce her husband called and said "DON'T GO! Stay home!!" **When her husband went, he had the divorce dropped!** A couple of days later he asks his wife to come home! Praise the Lord!!!!

New Testimonies of Restored Marriages After a Divorce!

*"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the **word of THEIR testimony**, and they did not love their life even to death." Rev. 12:11.*

Dawn: "God Brought us Full Circle"

As I was sitting in church recently with my husband and children, listening to the preacher, God reminded me that we were in this same place two years prior, but with a broken marriage. God truly has brought everything full circle. As the preacher continued his sermon, I remembered being at the very same altar two years ago asking the Lord to please give me peace and to show me what I needed to do. I had no idea that everything that would transpire afterward would be for my own good—for I was nowhere near the kind of Godly woman that the Lord needed me to be.

I was not serving the Lord the way I was supposed to be serving Him. I was neither hot nor cold, but lukewarm. I was comfortable going to church and trusting God for things. However, I was not on fire for Him. I did not take pleasure in nurturing the ministry the Lord gave me (my family) through cooking, cleaning, and other household duties. I did not allow my husband to be the leader of our family. I did not listen nor respect him. I was clean on the outside, but filthy on the inside, and I

didn't even know it. I was gradually tearing my house down until my life and marriage ended up going down into sinking sand.

While deep in the sand, I humbled myself and prayed to the Lord and repented of my sins. I asked the Lord to make me a better wife to my husband. In my cries to the Lord, He had one of my friends send me the link to *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage*, and my eyes began opening wide to the kind of woman I truly was and how I needed to be. I was disobedient to God's Word -- rebellious, contentious, and a Pharisee. Though I asked my husband to forgive me, he already decided that he wanted a divorce and planned to move out of the house as soon as he could. Yet, I knew God would restore my marriage, despite how things appeared, and continued to hold on to His promises. Although I wanted my husband to stop his thoughts and actions of divorce and turn his heart back to me, I began praying and seeking for God's will in my life.

As I trusted God more and more for His will to be done, He provided me with a complete makeover. He took away the victim coat and showed me that I was actually the perpetrator: I was contentious, hateful, bitter, unforgiving, deceitful and loud. I hated being home. The Lord had a lot of work to do within me. It was painful to look in the mirror and see that I wasn't the person I thought I was, not the person others thought I was. Chaste and respectful, one of the lessons I studied while reading *A Wise Woman*, I was not. The Lord was gracious enough to show me that I hadn't embodied any of these Godly qualities, and was a harlot in every sense of the word. The Lord removed all of my ugly, worldly traits layer by layer, and replaced them with fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All of the biblical principles discussed in the RMI resources I didn't know to begin with, so I had to re-study them multiple times to sink in. The tests that I underwent after learning and studying of His Word were much harder and painful than the ones from my school days, but they are also more rewarding. I struggled with several things - learning not repaying evil for evil, keeping my mouth shut, and not defending myself. Though difficult, the best part is that the Lord was always with me. He saved me from the fire, and although

He may not have always spoken to me in the midst of my testing and trials, He never left me. These tests stretched my faith (especially when I couldn't hear Him) and gave me the endurance that I needed to finish this part of my race.

The most difficult obstacle for me to overcome was fear. The Lord addresses fear many times in His Word. In Isaiah 40:10 NIV, it says "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." I clung to my fears - fear of rejection, fear of being hurt again. After the Lord allowed the divorce to go through and He began bringing the wall down between me and my husband and began bringing my husband around, my fear still grew within me and I pushed my former husband away. I pushed him away a few times before the Lord showed me what was happening. He revealed to me that my restoration journey was almost a year longer than it should had because I kept intervening, leaning on my own understanding rather than His. God was putting things back together again, but I was pushing them apart. God was bringing my husband around and allowing my husband to allure me, but I was pushing him away. Once I realized it, I asked the Lord to help me conquer my fear and restore my marriage if it truly was His will.

In His will for my journey, I ended up going through the seasons with the Lord as my Husband twice, due to my fears. The second time around, I learned to relate to every situation and everyone on a different level than before. Each season gave me a deeper appreciation for the Lord as my Husband. While I was going through the seasons with my Love, I was also going through the season with my then former husband. I was and am so in love with the Lord that I had let everything go, but He kept telling me that a life of singleness (as defined by the world) was not His will for me and my children.

The turning point in my journey came about when my former husband continued alluring me, and this time I knew what it was - God's will. We were in Canaan Valley, ironically, when the Lord told me that despite my mistakes and fears that He was going to restore my marriage. Wow! There were hints hidden in different things the Lord

was showing me. After the Lord's revelation to me, my former husband and I talked even more, but all appeared to stay the same. Then my friend passed away. I was devastated! I watched his marriage get restored not even a month before he died. During this time, my former husband was there to comfort me and my daughter. The Lord used this sorrowful time in my life to bring us even closer together and make our relationship new.

The thought of remarriage to my former husband never crossed my mind. I was happy with the Lord as my Husband and very content living the way that we were. However, the Lord had other plans. My husband decided that he wanted us to get remarried as soon as possible and then the Lord took over from there. This was one of my biggest tests in my journey - overcoming my fears of remarriage and trusting in the Lord. The morning of our wedding ceremony, I was so overcome with fear that when the judge commented about never marrying a bride with cold feet, I nearly passed out. I was praying to the Lord during the entire ceremony to help me conquer my fear and keep obedient to His will; I wanted to run. He reminded me of 1 John 4:18 (NASB) which says that "there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love." The Lord helped me through the entire ceremony which lasted two minutes, but seemed like an eternity.

There have been a whirlwind of changes that the Lord has made in me. Changes that I could not have made on my own. God has been using me to help others in their Restoration Journeys from the very beginning of mine. I always enjoyed helping others in their time of need, which is why I am a volunteer firefighter, and helping others with their journey is an extension and a new part of serving others through and for the Lord. I also love being home and serving my family now. I am learning so many things about being home, cooking and cleaning. I am still getting brave enough to learn how to quilt, sew, and crochet, as I love to learn. Although I am a work in progress, I am content with being at home and taking care of my first mission field, my family. This is something I always wanted to do, but didn't know how until I was led to this ministry.

Now I am starting a new part of this journey with new tests and trials. I am so glad that I had RMI and all of their resources to help me be ready for this part of the journey. I know that this is a lifelong journey and the thing that I want everyone to know is that I love the Lord with all my heart.

I recommend every resource RMI has to offer. They are filled with the truth that every woman coming to this ministry needs. I read all of them at least twice, and keep them for future reference. I also suggest writing out the Bible verses that speak to your heart on 3X5 cards. The resources are so wonderful and give you the raw truth while you are broken to help you build a relationship with the Lord as your Husband.

When I found RMI, I was broken and looking for the truth. I found this ministry just when I needed it, which confirms that the Lord's timing is perfect. I couldn't take the RMI courses right away so I reread what I did have from the ministry, and then moved on to other books like *Workers@Home* about keeping up with my home -- another part of His plan.

During this journey, which will last for a lifetime, I found something I never had before, a real relationship with the Lord. When He took me as His bride, my life completely changed. Things that used to matter to me no longer mattered. I wanted and want to live to please Him, and do the things He called me to do.

Honestly, I would not change a single minute of the time I spent getting to know my new Husband. It was time that I needed with Him. He is still my everything and now that I obey Him and have a restored marriage as a result. He has been blessing me so much that I cannot even begin to tell you in just a testimony or praise report. He has given me back everything that I lost over the past two years ago—and so much more. Everything that I allowed the enemy to steal from me since I never tithed and was ignorant to the truth.

I hope that each of you all find Him in a deeper more intimate way, a relationship with Him is worth every tear, heartache, and loss that you will endure.

God's plan is to bring everything full circle as we follow Him along our Restoration Journey.

Sonnette: "ReMarriage to EH is at Hand!"

My praise report today is based on today's Daily Encourager, "Where Would I be Without Your Love", because I have been so encouraged by it. I cannot allow the enemy to steal the joy of what God is busy doing in my life right now.

"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger."
Psalm 8:2

I have been thinking about what to write in my PR but have been putting it off thinking I would write my PR after my vows have been said, yes ladies you read correctly, my remarriage to my EH is at hand and I Praise God and give Him the Glory!!!

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:12

"If anyone is in Christ He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, created to be like God." Ephesians 4:23-24

What I would like to encourage you ladies about today is this: Don't be afraid to leave behind the old self, the old mindsets (thoughts), the friends, the family, in-laws, and embrace being alone with the Lord making Him your HH and allowing Him to be Your Husband, Provider, Comforter and Strength.

Do not be conformed by the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. This verse resonated through me after feeling so far away from the Lord during a 3-day fast, and after SG, He showed me that I needed to have His Word stored in my heart and mind, that I needed His Word to fill me up and be my focus. So it was back to my 3 x 5 cards to not only read, but this time to memorize. When we have God's Word filling up our hearts and minds, the enemy can't steal our joy in the Lord!

Ladies, I want to encourage you, many, many PR of Restored Marriages are at hand!! Stay focused on the Lord, make Him our HH and given Him the No.1 place in our lives. When my EH and I were dating, he used to tell me that "I'm perfect for him". I wondered if I would ever hear those words said to me again. Well I did ladies! :), and for this I can only give the Lord the highest Praise!

"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Psalm 27:13-14

At RMI we are taught Revelation 2:4, "For I have this against you, you have left your first love." I am certain that this restoration journey will always and forever be a success when we "delight ourselves in the Lord" and we know that "He will give us the desires of our hearts"!!! :) :)

~Sonnet in South Africa

Monday, 5/26/14, Daily Encourager

"RESTORED in South Africa"

It all began in February 2012, a couple of days after our 7-year anniversary. My sister-in-law came to tell me that my husband was involved with another woman and that a year prior had been involved in a relationship I knew nothing about.

Sadly I handled the situation all wrong from day one! Of course, I was devastated and heartbroken and had a feeling of unbelief like (IS THIS

REALLY HAPPENING TO ME???) . Unfortunately like so many women do, I confronted my husband and the OW at their workplace as they worked together, and just continued to handle the situation all wrong by snooping, asking questions and confrontations.

Of course, my situation only got worse and worse and a month or two later my husband asked me to move out and find a place for my daughter and I to live, while. He moved in with the OW. And because I continued to pursue him and again confronted the OW, the OW forced my husband to divorce me. During all of this I was seeking the Lord and I became a part of the "Stander's Ministry", but there was a lot I still did not know and had to learn, but the Lord did give me peace regarding the divorce.

God did start changing me as I started growing closer to Him due to the heartache I was experiencing seeing my husband with another woman. As I desperately prayed, things started getting bad between my husband and the OW and a couple of months later their relationship came to an end and my husband moved in with me (but we were divorced) and it caused my contentiousness to worsen. I snooped on my husband's cell phone and found a pic of him with a new OW and that's when he moved out and in with a friend.

At that time I became heartbroken again, my heart felt like it had broken into a million pieces. I cried out to the Lord in desperation asking Him why? Why was I having to go through the pain and heartache of another OW, this was the third time— I could not understand! I thought after my husband moved in I was "experiencing" a restored marriage. It was at this time I truly believe the Lord heard my desperate prayers and led me to a woman who posted a prayer request on a website and sent me the RYM book. This was the turning point and from the time I read the RYM book!

Reading RYM is when I started understanding and started experiencing a peace that surpasses all understanding. God's Word says that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free, but I up until the point of reading the book, I was being destroyed for lack of knowledge.

God taught me to forgive, especially in the beginning when I found out about the OW, this was an area I prayed a lot about and it was not easy but I knew I had to. Now looking back I thank God because I now realize the new OW that entered my husband's life was a chance for me to put into practice the principles I learned from the RYM book and a test for me to again work on my contentiousness and letting go.

After reading RYM, I also completed the Free Marriage Evaluation Questionnaire and received the Daily Encourager with its amazing testimonies of women going through similar situations. I was sent the lesson regarding "Intimacy when Divorced" and I started my first lessons with RMI.

When I came to RMI another important principle I learned was tithing, since embracing this principle and tithing here to my storehouse, I have not suffered lack, not a day went by that my daughter and I did not have what we needed! When I was without a job (another Praise as I started a new job in the same week I got remarried to my husband), I did not lack as whenever I was really low on funds and would not even have money for bread—my HH would always provide for us in the nick of time! What I learned was that when we tithe He does rebuke the devourer!

The most difficult times that God helped me through were after my husband left the second time (after I believed I had experienced a restored marriage) and we separated again. The very first month I lost a lot of weight and struggled to come to terms with what I was going through. I was very desperate and at that time I did not have such a close relationship with the Lord. In my desperation I asked God for a sign or to show me what I was going through or why I was going through it, anything. On two separate occasions God spoke to me.

The first time was through a vision where He showed me a leg that was infected, and the pus had popped and it was healing. Then He showed me a sore, then a scar and then the sore completely healed with no scar. Then on the second occasion God spoke to me through a colleague who told me about a sermon he had watched on T.V. The preacher was preaching about how snow falls on the ground and how it can destroy a crop, but that the destroyed crop is what prepares the soil for the next crop because it destroys all insects and weeds from the soil. I guess God

needed to speak to me in these ways because at that time I was not reading and studying God's Word like I do now through RMI. Now because I read the Bible everyday and do the lessons daily through at RMI, God gave me hundreds and hundreds of promises through His Word that I was reading and studying.

The turning point in my restoration happened when I started reading the *How God Can & Will Restore Your Marriage* Book. As I read, God started showing me the areas I needed to repent of that led to the breakdown of my marriage. Applying the "Letting Go" principle and the "Intimacy After Divorce" principle led to HUGE positive and immediate changes!!

I suspected and believed I was close as soon as I started reading the RYM Book and as I started doing the lessons. Being a "Stander" I suffered a lot of setbacks and frustrations where things *seemed* to be going well, but then something would happen and I would fall to pieces every time. You see my husband and I got along very well. Even when he was living with the OW, we would chat and were quite close. But the missing link was the principles I learned through RMI, which kick started my Restoration Journey to completion!!

I would recommend everything that RMI has to offer: the books, the videos, the Daily Encourager and most of all the Bible. Reading the Bible everyday in conjunction with doing your lessons everyday and praying God's Word, packs a powerful punch! I would also recommend doing the 3 x 5 cards which RMI teaches us to write down and read throughout the day and to also memorize as many promises from God's Word. Hide them in your heart so that the enemy cannot steal God's promises.

I encourage every lady reading this to never, never ever give up!! Just continue to do your lessons daily and if you're not doing them—sign up for lessons! And please don't be just a hearer but be a doer of the Word and do everything that you are taught. You are so very blessed that the Lord has led you here to RMI to teach you the truth of God's Word. So be sure to hide God's Word in your heart, memorize as many scriptures as you can and always remember that FAITH moves mountains! God is

a God of the impossible and He is MORE than ABLE! His word never returns void but ALWAYS accomplishes its purposes!!

SABRINA: “RESTORED After Falling into Adultery with my Ex-Husband”

Hello and may God blessed you with the desires of your heart as you begin to follow the Lord and His plan for your life.

My name is Sabrina and I'm 43yrs old and I have 4 grown children. What brought me here to this ministry was because God saw my heart that was full of sorrow and hurts. However through my separation, which led to divorce (and I was the one who filed the divorce), my heart bled for years and I could not understand it. But I ended up back with my former husband after all those years of separation, because I began to follow His ways. It was then God started my Restoration Journey and I began my journey.

Here is my RESTORED Marriage TESTIMONY.

I always had in my heart that I wanted to marry someday, but, I never knew that I actually would. When I met my husband I knew there was something special about him. I had always been very shy when I dated, but not with him. We began dating and my husband surprised me one day by making a statement saying, "You are going to be my wife." I knew there was something about him, but marriage wasn't what I had in mind and from my expression he knew it too. As we were dating, GOD started dealing with us in regards to intimacy, since we were not married. We started reading a book that "scared us straight" and we quickly married and began going to church.

After 3 years we started having troubles and I became contentious. I constantly started asking him to leave and also began shaming him by my words, which resulted in him becoming distant. I just didn't care anymore! Satan had a field day with me and boy did I suffer because of it! You guessed it! My husband just up and left me. We were separated for 5 years and after 3 ½ years, I wanted a divorce, even though a "still small voice" was telling me not too. But because I was rebellious, I went through with the divorce that my husband never wanted.

Afterwards like most of you, I felt empty and lonely, so I began dating a married man (who was at the time separated) thinking it was going to help me to get my husband out of my heart and off my mind. But GUESS WHAT???? It didn't.

I can honestly tell you that I really don't know how I ended up here at RMIEW, but thank God I did. This ministry has brought me such a long way and has showed me so many things I never knew about. It's a wonderful place to be and to grow in the Lord and experience Him, believe me I know!

Now over the years I always told God I wished He would fix my marriage, and wanted to know why I could not get my ex husband out of my heart. This is something I just couldn't understand. I cried for so long and then soon after coming here I ran into him. I found out he was involved with someone else and had been with this woman for 4 and a half years (she was married but separated from her husband).

After seeing him, I realized I wanted my marriage back and then stopped messing with the man I was with. My husband, on the other hand, was still involved with the other woman so it looked pretty hopeless. As I said, I guess I always wanted my marriage and felt that is it hopeless until I ran across your ministry. I quickly read Erin's book *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage* and boy did this show me so many things about myself and what I could finally admit, that the marriage mess was my fault. I felt so hurt because of my past actions. But reading Erin's testimonies and all the others made me feel wonder and hopeful that possibly mine could be restored too.

Soon God began helping me a lot, but I realized I needed someone to be there to guide me. I knew it would not be easy. Soon after I changed, I began to see my ex and talk to him, but knew this was not enough. I wanted to see God move just like he moved in Erin's situation and everyone else's. When I filled out my questionnaire I ended it with: Please help me.

Thankfully I never went to counseling, so I didn't make mistakes like that. On Friday, December 23, 2011, was a big turning point for me, it's

when I decided I needed to begin helping other woman, and I filled out the Minister in Training Evaluation so I knew what I would need to learn to help women in crisis.

RMI has meant so much to me. When I applied to become a Minister in Training I wrote to the Team:

My heart is so still so overwhelmed because of things I have learned about myself. It has made such a difference in me, because I didn't know I was carrying all this stuff. It's been a challenge but what you all mean to me, words can't express. You all have helped me to see what God has probably been trying to show me but I couldn't sit still long enough to listen. You showed me it's not all about me and my marriage being restored, but it's more about helping others — thank you so much!

The reason I am interested in becoming a MITC "Minister in Training Candidate" is that even though I never thought of being a minister, I know I can encourage other women very well, even when I can't encourage myself. There have been many people who tell me that I needed to be a minister, but I thought "No, not me." But I really enjoyed just lifting people up, you know, it made me feel better when I did.

NOW, after being here almost a month, and going through your first course, I now want to be what GOD wants me to be, and if it's being a minister, wow, it will be such a joy to know you made a difference in one person life — that's joy!

When Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one came back, it make me look at myself. I want to be the one who came back and made the difference.

Now I need to confess that with all of this I tripped up! My husband continued to come to see me after seeing the changes in me, and we continued to see each other **but against scripture**, we started having sexual relations even though we were divorced. Deep down inside I knew it was wrong, which only led my husband to be confused between me and the other women. Then he left me again after 3 months after he had promised we were would marry. I was devastated.

Surprisingly, this time I was okay, and knew I just needed more time with the LORD. I went through storm after storm, but God was always with me. I confessed my involvement with my FH to the RMIEW leaders, and I was immediately set free from guilt. Then I began to move forward and put all my focus on the Lord—completely letting go of my husband. I kept my mouth quiet, fasted and constantly prayed to be closer to Him. That's when He helped me learn to depend on Him and Him alone.

It was at this time that I wanted even more to help other women with marital issues because I didn't want anyone to feel the way I was feeling. I wanted to share the peace I received after I finally put God first in my life and began seeking Him alone; not my husband or my children. I started trusting Him in everything because He wanted so much to be part of every situation my life (as well as yours).

The turning point came when my ex-husband and I began dating again but I also found out about the OW, that she was still in my husband's life. I cried like never before to GOD, pouring my heart out to Him. I started talking to GOD and I told Him how I was feeling (not anyone else) and that I wasn't going to stop crying out to Him and He helped me.

As I said before, He first led me to find Restore Marriage Ministries and I knew it was GOD's will to restore my marriage after I saw the heading *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage*. I ordered the book and discovered God's principles, and I learned how I had violated so many of them, which brought me to my KNEES. I immediately asked God to forgive me and went to all five of my children and confessed my faults instead of my husband's faults as I had done in the past. Then I was led to contact my former husband and apologize for everything. HE said that he had forgiven me a long time ago.

Ladies, God is AWESOME! I first would like to thank God for what He is doing in my life and KNOW this; I had nothing to do with this. NOTHING!

On March 8, 2013, my marriage was restored! YES it really was! MINE! I was *remarried* on March 8th and believe it or not. Just before we remarried, my husband began opening up his heart to me and spending time with me but this time without us being intimate—I just couldn't believe he wanted to wait too. WOW! God knows how to turn things around!!!

My husband even apologized and confessed that he never wanted to leave me. I can't express enough how long I was not ready for all of this and why I asked the Lord if it is His will and He if wanted us to be remarried, then have my husband ask me again—and to my amazement—he did!

Yes, I still have a lot of work to do, but my GOD has got me. Ladies God is AWESOME and He is all we need.

Dear friend, never think the Lord doesn't hear your cries, He does. We can't help, but God is faithful in every area you need Him in. You see, this is why you are here now because He's heard you cry. Be ready to grow and know that everyone in this ministry loves and cares for you.

"Dear Jesus, guide and help this woman and let her know that, there's nothing to impossible for You and You are their new Husband now and trust You only. AMEN"

Be Blessed.

Cowboy Restored in Texas

Hi Erin,

A little over ten years ago I was diagnosed with MS Multiple Sclerosis. My wife left soon after. A friend got me 2 books - *A Wise Man* and *How God Will Restore your Marriage*. I read both books and learned so much, I wanted to help others. I soon set up a website and even had my email address posted on your website so that I would help other men. Within a month, I had received emails from over 6 countries and 2 dozen states. My health did not get better and neither did my

relationship. I soon had to change some things in my life - mainly my work habits, but I never lost faith about my reconciliation with my wife.

My pastor during the time my wife left was a Godsend. If not for his spiritual leadership and help understanding scripture during my time of restoration, I probably would be writing a different letter. He was the pastor of the church I attended and later moved to a small town where he preached for several more years and felt a call to return to the military as a Chaplain. He is currently in Afghanistan serving as a Chaplain to our soldiers overseas. His knowledge of the Bible is deep and he has the ability to read and understand Greek and Hebrew to seek true original scripture interpretation to prevent taking things out of context.

During my troubled times, he took *A Wise Man* and wanted to build a men's Bible study from it. However, he ended up moving to another church. I stayed in contact with him throughout my restoration and visited his church after my wife and I remarried in November 2009.

I also had my prayer partner during my time of restoration. It was his testimony that gave me hope shortly after my brother passed away with cancer in May of 2005, at the height of my pain and separation from my wife. He told me about this ministry where I went to purchase the books he recommended, your books, and thus headed down the same trail he was headed.

His wife had left also. My prayer partner was a "poster child" for what someone should look like that wanted and believed that his marriage was on it's way to restoration! Well it was!! In 2006 his wife came home and they now have a happy marriage with a daughter named Grace! These men were vital men placed by God in my life that stood in the gap with me as I went down my trail to restore my marriage.

I was also blessed that my own parents and my children stood beside me and at the top of the list, let me mention them again, were the men above, for without their prayers and faith, it would have been a very tough ride.

Then in November of 2009 - my wife and I remarried!! Not only was my marriage restored, but my MS is in remission AND I have a new job. The road maps of scripture help me through some really tough times.

Holler back!

God Bless your trails!

Coke

"Be the kind of man each morning that when you wake up and your feet hit the floor the devil says "Oh crap, he's up!"

Stand Firm!

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work for the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Cor. 15:58 KJV

I was driving home late one night from a rodeo in the summer of 1982 after taking part in a riding competition. The rain was pounding the highway. The drive was slow and I found myself in a deep conversation with my Lord. My heart had been heavy over the last several months about a young woman whom I felt was going to be my partner for life. During my conversation with the Lord, I felt certain that this woman would soon be my wife. The rain became a cleansing revelation to me that I knew beyond all cowboy wisdom, that my Holy Pardoner, Jesus Christ, was about to open a gate into a new pasture for me.

The dirt road to my place was flooded. I quickly realized that the storm had nearly destroyed my home. A tornado had blown the barn over and hail stones had knocked out every window on the north side of my home. All the rooms were flooded as three inches of rain and hail blew into the house. Propane gas vapors filled the house, and all electricity was knocked out. I managed to find one room that still had a bed intact and was dry. I wasn't worried about the propane vapors. The house was well ventilated at this point and everything had been shut off.

I located a dry bedroll and I soon found myself listening to the thunder and lightning as I lay down to rest. I felt a strong peace which affirmed the covenant I was about to enter into with God and my future bride. I slept soundly as the heavens rang out about my heart.

On April 16, 1983, I married Edie. I had been raised by sensible Christian parents. Family issues were simple for a family in an agricultural environment with a God-centered culture. Edie, on the other hand, had grown up under the shadows of an alcoholic father who had created a lifetime of turmoil, resulting in a broken family. But, I was a cowboy! I could do this.

Over the next fifteen years or so, my marriage went through many of the typical ups and downs. Our three children had become the center of our lives. They were becoming strong Christian leaders among their friends. To this day, they remain very close to their Lord and Savior. My cowboying, ranching, rodeoing and teaching duties had put a strain on our marriage. I had become a workaholic.

As the man of the house, I was influenced by the world and had become very different from the man that God wanted me to be. I thought of myself as a great cowboy, and I had a false sense of myself as being a sound man of God.

At this point, I had believed that my house had been built on a rock. My walls were brick and the roof had steel beams for protection overhead. I thought of myself as a good man and for all intents and purposes, the world saw Coke Hopping as a great man. But I had too much pride to see that my ways were destroying my family.

Issues began to arise within our home and slowly, the walls began to crumble. On occasion, the word “divorce” was shouted. On several occasions, my wife left on trips that involved drinking and staying away for several days. A slow pattern of peaks and valleys began in our relationship. Each time, the peaks were higher and the valleys were lower. It was only a matter of time before the valley became a pit.

In early 2000, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (“MS”). I had had symptoms two years earlier, but doctors had dismissed the neurological symptoms as having developed from spinal cord injuries from years of bareback riding. The burning sensations down my side were attributed to scar tissue on my spinal column in my neck. I soon found myself in the hospital with MS. Little did I know that this would soon become my very own “thorn in my side” just as the Apostle Paul had to endure.

The MS diagnosis affected my physical and emotional stability. My MS was relapsing/remitting which meant it came and went, but it was possible for the symptoms to worsen with each relapse. Physically, I was doing ok. But heat and stress would kick in, and I would often have to lie on a cot in my office at the end of the day, exhausted. My short-term memory became a constant battle. I dropped things, I tripped over things, I slurred my speech, and I became an angry man. My children could not understand why I was never happy. I argued frequently and lost many friends from my angry outbursts. And I lost the ability to be the man that my wife so desperately needed in her life.

In 2004, my wife was back in her father’s life. She was his “little girl”. Their relationship had been on and off throughout Edie’s youth and sadly it continues in this way to this day. He asked her to become a part of his auction business. My wife finally had a father in her life who took care of her and loved her as a father should, what she had always wanted as a child. Edie began driving back and forth to Amarillo every weekend to work with her father in his auction business. I could see that she was drifting away from me. Our finances started to collapse and I had to approach my father-in-law for help. I talked to him about my relationship with my wife and explained that I was worried because he had become the central figure of a man in her life, not me. He explained that as her father, he was supposed to be the central figure in his daughter’s life.

My father-in-law had quit drinking soon after my daughter was born. However, he was still pretty much the same individual except that he no longer drank. Some would describe him as a dry alcoholic. He was a hard man who had lost everything but he had struggled in recent years

to build a strong business in the area. He was very well respected in the business world, and he seemed to be walking down a different path, thanks to a new relationship with his church. My father-in-law honestly believed that his relationship with his daughter should be ranked higher than my relationship with her, and he believed this to be sound doctrine. Yet, this was not scriptural. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” Eph. 5:31 NIV As her husband, I should be the man in Edie’s life.

My wife continued to work at the auctions every weekend. In October 2004, I was hospitalized again. My wife brought up the issue of divorce again. It was the perfect time for her to do this. I was in a situation where I could not fight back. It’s sort of hard for a cowboy to follow a woman down the hall in a hospital gown with the back split open! Looking back, I can see God shaking his head at the situation I had put myself into.

Things did not change much over the holidays. In February 2005, I left home with my boys to attend the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. We had several livestock projects entered in the stock show. I recall calling my wife on the phone on Valentine’s Day to tell her “I love you.” The reply I received was just the opposite. My wife was driving to San Antonio to see her boys, not me, and it became obvious that she was not alone. She showed up at the stock show, watched the boys participate in their events and left soon after. I remember standing in the parking lot, crying and screaming at the devil. I knew he was behind this whole thing. Upon returning home, my wife had packed her bags and left.

Marriage was the first institution God created, “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” Gen. 2:23–25 NIV, and it is the last institution established in Revelation, “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Note: Fine linen represents the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) Then the angel said

to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”” Rev. 19:7–9 NIV. Satan has had one mission since the Garden of Eden, which is to destroy every marriage that he can. It is his goal to do it and he knows that he is running out of time. It is at the very core of his overall battle plan to destroy mankind, to destroy the marriage covenant of a man and woman with God. Little did I know that my challenge to Satan would turn into the battle it did. It was “game on” and I was not well prepared at all.

In 1985, I had lost a brother to a motorcycle wreck and now in May 2005, my other brother was dying of cancer. I was working at the Sankey Rodeo School in New Caney, Texas, as a Saddle Bronc instructor when I received the call that my brother had passed away. As I drove home with my boys, I really missed my wife and thought that this situation would surely kick-start our reconciliation. It did not. In fact, my wife did not even sit anywhere close to me. It was clear to everyone that she was not part of my life. I tried to act pitiful and I did indeed look pitiful. I’m also sure that I looked pitiful to everyone else, including my children.

At this point, my wife had moved out, changed addresses, was partying in the town her father lived, and was pretty much out of my life. I had told my two teenage boys that their mother was not coming home. The youngest just shrugged his shoulders and said she was never here anyway. My attempt to get the boys to tell their mom to come home did not work. And I know that it was wrong of me.

It was at this funeral that a long-time friend showed up to pay his last respects. I have known Brice since he was old enough to walk and carry a rope. As a 10 year old little boy, he had attended Texas Tech football games with me while I was the Texas Tech Masked Rider in 1979 and 1980. Brice called me the following day and I brought him up to date on what had happened in the past year. To this day, I still recall his joyful attitude. His confidence was off the charts. AND to top it off, his wife had separated from him and she was living in Dallas.

Brice explained to me that he had been given two books—A Wise Man and How God Will Restore Your Marriage. He told me about the internet site and he directed me to find it. I told him that I only wanted to read what was true about divorce and marriage from the bible. He quickly explained that the books were not commentaries about marriage, but rather, roadmaps to the relevant scriptures throughout the bible. Every question I asked Brice, he answered with scripture. Jesus did the same thing when he was tempted on the mountain. Jesus had replied to Satan’s temptation three times with “It is written...” Matt 4:5–10 NKJV Brice described his situation with his wife and how their separation had happened. Every time I talked to Brice, he always spoke positively and was upbeat about his wife’s return. And he also talked about how we would all go to Applebee’s for a chocolate shake when my wife returned! All I could think of was how hurt Brice was going to be in the end.

His wife had an apartment and a good job. Brice immediately became my prayer partner. I remember Brice praying with me as his horseshoeing hammer pounded horseshoe nails into the horse hooves. Whenever I asked how it was going with him, his reply would be, “Great, living the good life! Can’t wait for my wife to return home!”

The summer was tough. My wife had changed her residence so that after six months, she could divorce me from the county she lived in. She was working for her father. I found out later that her father had paid for her divorce lawyer. My wife had also developed a relationship with one of his employees who would later lead her down very dangerous paths. My father-in-law went to church and was given a book by his pastor that supported the doctrine of divorce. My wife gave me a copy of the book and another copy to my oldest son. I quickly went to my pastor, Dewayne. My pastor quickly showed me the errors in the so-called manual. It was false doctrine presented by wolves in sheep’s clothing. “For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. Mal. 2:16 NKJV

The manual on divorce had originated from a Baptist seminary in Louisiana. I called the university and I was eventually directed to a professor who explained that the paper had been written by a student as research for his PhD. The student had been told that if the paper's contents were stated as being doctrine from the bible, it would not receive a passing grade. Somehow, the paper had made its way out of the university and into several churches. Now, it was floating around churches supporting the interpretation that any divorce was biblical. "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber." 2Peter 2:1-3 NKJV Sometimes churches and counselors can do a lot of harm.

My wife and I sought Christian counseling for a short period. The counselor suggested that my wife go see a psychiatrist. Edie went and the psychiatrist diagnosed her as suffering from Borderline Personality Disorder ("BPD"). The session quickly turned to how I should act for my wife and it turned my wife off. The talks did nothing more than talk and blame. The woman who was our counselor was a Christian, but she was clearly way off scripturally in how to treat our situation.

In June 2005, I hired a lawyer, since my wife already had a lawyer representing her. Naturally, I thought I had to protect myself. Brice told me one day to get rid of my lawyer. I replied that I would lose the ranch. He quickly explained that I could not serve two masters. "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matt. 6:24 NIV I could not pray on one hand for my wife to come home, and on the other hand, PAY a lawyer to fight for me in court. My lawyer had already won alimony payment of \$500 per month for me to help with my two boys at home. My wife was already two months behind and was about to be hit with a summons that stated the amount was going to be deducted from her paycheck. I

was doubtful about this issue for a long time. I had been served divorce papers and all hope seemed to be slipping away.

On many nights, I retreated to a pasture at our ranch where a ridge looked over a small creek known as Indian Creek. I spent many nights praying on this ridge and the bridge over Indian Creek that led to our ranch. I realized in August that I had to step out in faith and release my lawyer. I visited my daughter and my oldest son and explained the situation. I had earlier mailed the signed alimony settlement to my lawyer to start the process for collecting funds. I told my children that I just could not do it and that I was going to call the lawyer and instruct him to withdraw the papers and to withdraw from representing me. My children and I prayed together that Sunday evening.

On the following Monday morning, my daughter called to inform me that she had received a \$500 gift from someone in her office for her real estate class tuition. We were excited. I called the lawyer and told him of my plans and he reluctantly agreed. By the end of the week, I had contacted my lawyer numerous times and he never received the signed court papers in the mail! God's plan was in motion!

Over the next several months, I received calls from my wife demanding that I come to court. In Texas, a spouse can get a divorce without the other spouse. I knew that my wife just wanted to fight with me. The divorce was inevitable. I was served papers and I took them out to the pasture and burned them at the foot of a cross that I had set up to pray at. I received a cell phone call one afternoon while I was on horseback from a court officer telling me that I had to be in court the next morning at 9 a.m. I said, "No sir, I don't." He soon became very angry and said that it was my duty to come in. I just simply kept riding across the pasture and said, "Nope". He said that my wife could get everything. I just said, "Don't think so." Now he was mad! And he didn't even have anything invested. I never went to court and I never signed anything. I just looked over at the other cowboy with me and smiled and we rode off into the sunset. (Do note that divorce laws vary state to state.)

I made many mistakes over the many months to come. I pursued my wife when I should not have, which revealed things that God was trying to protect me from. And it created issues for forgiveness when my spouse returned home. My wife was still involved with the other man ("OM"). She had a job in her new town and she was able to secure 100% financing for a new home. I told Brice all about these new developments about my now divorced relationship and he simply said that she would lose her job, she would lose her house, and she would even get sick. All these things did in fact happen and my wife went down a very dark and tough trail. And once again, her father abandoned her.

I quickly learned that I did not need to pray for Satan to leave her. Our prayers are powerful and they work. Each time I prayed for Satan to leave my wife, he did. Often times, my wife would call me and be sad about our situation and want to come home, but Satan would return and find her house clean without the Holy Spirit for her protection and he would come back seven times worse and this was literally destroying my wife spiritually, emotionally and physically. "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first." Luke 11:24–26 NIV I soon learned to pray a hedge of thorns around her as Hosea did for Gomer. "Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way." Hosea 2:6 NIV

In 2006, there were several instances when my wife wanted to reconcile and once, we even bought wedding rings. This too, went south. When we were purchasing the rings, I had a feeling of unease. Sure enough, the OM was not far behind.

This ole cowboy was sure enough in love with his wife, but I wasn't listening to God. I was not reading scripture and seeking wisdom from what I read. I continued to check up on my wife and found out more things that God was trying to protect me from. I was like a dog in a

fight with a porcupine, I just kept going back for more needles! Ever try to remove porcupine quills from a dog?

Brice never stopped “standing in the gap” and I never stopped having faith that my wife would return. But I had to develop discipline to stay in the Word.

2006 came and went. My rodeo company was doing ok. My teaching job was ok. Our divorce had not affected our ranch and home. But the stress and physical demands of my job and the rodeos was affecting my MS condition. There were several issues with the OM and my wife. He was constantly in trouble with the law and my wife was headed down a dangerous trail with him. The year ended with our family including my wife, going on a cruise. All three of my children went as well as my future son-in-law. The trip was five days long. The cruise was nice. My wife and I got along fine. But it was obvious that her heart was somewhere else.

On the other hand, Brice was experiencing a restored marriage with his wife. His wife had moved back to their home!

The new year was going to be better. I knew that my time as a teacher was coming to a close. The MS was making it harder and harder to get through the day. I soon put in my retirement notice and I was able to leave school in March 2007 with enough days accumulated so that I could get paid until June. A new job opportunity came up and I moved to the College Station Area. I put the ranch up for sale and my youngest son moved south with me. My daughter had just graduated from Texas A&M and my oldest son was attending Texas A&M.

2007 came in with me gaining new faith in restoration. The turning point literally came when I took my eyes off my wife and placed them on my Lord and Savior. I stepped out of what the worldly zone of emotions was telling me. I begin focusing on scripture. I fasted more to get closer to the Lord. I was willing to let God take control of my life.

By now, my books, *The Holy Bible*, *A Wise Man* and *How God Will Restore Your Marriage* paperback books were worn out. My roadmap through the bible was more clear and my priority became God first, not my wife. But best of all, I gained a new perspective of reading scripture and a new relationship with my ole Holy Pardoner!

MS was still an issue in my life. One thing that resulted from my struggle with MS was the softening of my heart. God had softened my stance on some old tough guy cowboy attitudes. I went back to several old friends that I had blown up at and asked for their forgiveness. This act also showed me that I was also supposed to forgive my wife. “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”” Matt 18:21–23 NIV And this meant that I had to forgive daily!

My actions in the early years had set the stage for the demise of my marriage. Yes, my wife had inherited a curse from an alcoholic parent and had parents who were divorced. However, scripture also shows that blessings can break curses. That was my job as a husband and head of the house.

We men underestimate the role that we are called to hold as head of the house. The husband is commanded to love his wife. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.” Eph. 5:25–26 NIV

The husband is instructed to treat his wife as an equal heir. “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” 1 Peter 3:7–8 NIV

My physical home had been destroyed and the walls washed away, but my very existence stood on a rock. That principle is the foundational

scripture that starts you down a trail to restore your marriage. To make it through the cacti, rattlesnakes, droughts, cows running off, and getting bucked off your horse, you will need the very Word of God to guide you on the trail that Jesus wants you to walk down. Most people will submit to the ways of the world and after a period of time, they will give in to the ways of this world and do what the latest reality show says AND they will not see restoration. Ask Job from the Old Testament. It does not say how long his ordeal took. Ask Hosea from the Old Testament. It doesn't say how long Hosea had to wait until he was instructed to go back into town and acquire his wife Gomer.

Looking back and reflecting on my restoration process, it is easy to see the signs that I was getting close to restoration since I now have 20/20 hindsight. I think one of the hardest things for most people is to have 20/20 foresight.

Things started falling apart in my wife's life in the spring of 2007 when she injured her back at work which made it difficult for her to work, resulting in issues with her ability to pay the mortgage for her house. All I could do was just be there to answer the phone in a positive spirit, but I did not give her money because I knew that that was not what God wanted me to do. I did help several times to repair stuff around her house, although I saw evidence of the OM's stuff. At the end, when I moved my wife's belongings back to my home, I only moved her stuff. I'm sure some homeless person benefitted from the stuff that was left on the curb.

The biggest thing I remember about this time period was not so much what my wife was doing but "where my heart was with the Lord." I had a sense of peace and the feeling of panic that I had whenever my wife went left or right did not affect me, as it had in the beginning.

This can be a dangerous time in the restoration process. It creates a sense of "OK, I don't think I want her back now, or I can live without her!" I always tell men to BE CAREFUL! Satan is now moving the pendulum back the other way. He knows he is losing the battle. Remember the scripture above from Hosea—God said that He would

return Hosea's wife and HE (God) would remove the mouths of Baal from her. When this process starts, stay the course and let God finish his work and be prepared to accept your wife when she returns. If you don't, then it will be you who has turned your back on the marriage covenant that you entered into, as God is restoring your marriage. The whole Book of Hosea is about the adulterous relationship of God's chosen people with their Lord.

The turning point for my restoration came when my heart became peaceful with my relationship with God. I felt a sense of "Ok, I'm going to be OK." I also recall feeling or thinking it was ok to move on *without* my wife. That's when I had to stop and battle this. I think lots of couples do this and for this reason, I think that is why there are a lot of marriages that are not restored. The spouse that leaves will say something like "I don't love you anymore and I never will! SO move on!" And the spouse, the one on the receiving end of this comment, usually hangs in for about 10 months. This almost happened to me too.

Little did I know about all the little things that God was doing in my wife's heart. Had I moved on, I would not have been able to see the Holy Spirit flow from my wife's heart and mouth today as she gives praise and honor to her Savior! My turning point came about after two years. As I look back, it seemed to play out in phases that mostly paralleled my walk with Jesus.

My restoration happened in January 2007 when I had to make some changes in my job. My health was starting to affect my work, and could have been due to the stress from my marriage. Nonetheless, I knew I had to do something. As I started to move in a positive direction to fix things, I tried to do it in a way, which reflected a new Coke. I took my clothes to get pressed at the laundromat, I dressed in clean clothes and tried to improve my "first impression image" everyday. I tried to look positive and if I was having a bad day, I tried to fake it until I really felt positive.

When it came time to move, my wife contacted me and wanted to move with me. I was happy that she was ready to load up in my covered wagon as we moved to a different ranch. Things were pretty good. At

first, I believe my wife moved because my boys were moving with me. It became obvious on a couple of occasions when I found stuff from the OM that she had been in contact with him. This is a tough time for lots of relationships, I am sure. It was tough for me.

It was obvious from what I saw where the OM's heart was and how Satan was pulling his strings. I could see very easily that this was not a man of God and this one fact gave me confidence that my Lord would prevail. I also think that knowing this kept me from doing anything stupid. I remember telling my wife at this point that we were leaving Sodom and Gomorrah and that I could not look back at my past sins and that if she did, I could not look back to help her. This was tough, but I also did my best to do it with a loving heart. Lot's wife looked back because she missed her past and she was turned to a pillar of Salt. (Gen. 19:21–26 NKJV)

Each man has his own trail to walk. Each man will journey down a different path that leads through different canyons and over different mountains. I tell you that scripture never changes and never contradicts itself. Some say you can read the bible a hundred times and it will tell you a hundred different things each time. Not true! The Word is, and always will be! Go out under a tree and place a plumb bob hanging from a tree limb so that is barely touching the soft sand underneath it. Gently move the plumb bob to one side or the other so that it makes scratch marks in the sand as it moves back and forth. Watch it move back and forth and sooner or later, the plumb bob will come to a complete stop at the **BOTTOM DEAD CENTER** every time. That is the Word! The Word may speak to you differently each time you read it, and it should. As for those scratch marks outside the center point, they are similar to how you interpret the Word to meet your own wishes. It is the living Word and it will speak to you, but you will need to understand true doctrine to keep the plumb bob centered. Because of the Holy Spirit that remains here after the Jesus ascended to Heaven in the Book of Acts, the Word will speak to you like no other book. It never changes! It never contradicts itself! It has withstood thousands of years of interpretation! **AND** numerous authors wrote it over hundreds and hundreds of years apart from each other. There is a reason why it is

called the Holy Bible—It is the very WORD of God that was spoken and recorded by a very special group of writers!

Each man will have a different journey and each man will develop his own testimony. A friend of mine went through a similar set of circumstances as I did. He fought for restoration for about a year and then he remarried and had another child. Then one day, his ex-wife returned after five years and she commented that if he had waited, she thought they would have gotten back together. This friend of mine is now in another marriage with another woman and another child. He told me later that looking back, waiting five years was not a very long time to wait. But he had already remarried.

God gives each of us the tools we need and His promise of Salvation and Restoration and it never changes throughout the scriptures. So why do you think that your situation would turn out any differently? You must have faith and the Lord does allow for you to pray for faith. But there will come a time that we all must act on that faith! Saddle up whatever bronc the Lord has given you. Some of you will get bucked off. Some of you will make a great 8-second ride and then jump off with so much pride that in the end you will fall flat on your face as you walk out of the arena. And some of you may even get on a donkey, just as Lord did when he rode into Jerusalem for the Passover. But in the end, I promise that the horse you will ride in God's army will be a magnificent animal that you will ride next to Jesus on his Horse. It's time to enter the round pen and select your mounts for the ride ahead. Have faith in your Lord and Savior, and stand firm. If you get bucked off, I say to you, "Get back on!!!"

My wife and I remarried in November 2009. My wife now has a new relationship with Jesus Christ and it is because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I did have to sell our small ranch, but now I manage a larger ranch with a nice home. I was able to complete my Masters in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications at Texas A&M and I graduated with my oldest son. My daughter is married and expecting their first child. My youngest son is now in college. My wife teaches 2nd grade now and is anxious to be a grandmother. My MS is in remission.

My home was washed away but not its foundation. I am thankful to my parents for establishing the Christian doctrine in my life. I pray that my life will do the same for my children. John Wayne said in the movie *The Cowboys*, "It's not how you're buried; it's how you are remembered."

It is your Savior, Jesus Christ who will get you through, nothing and no one else. Let these books serve as a map to help you find your way through God's Holy Word—The Bible. God will lead you as you become "A Wise Man" building your home on a rock. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matt. 7:24–25 NIV

Stand Firm and may God bless your trails!
Coke and Edie Hopping

P.S.

Brice, it is time we had that chocolate shake at Applebee's!

Coke served our Men's Ministry for many years. Just recently Coke, went to be with the Lord, He was just 55. He is greatly missed.

"Who am I?"

"Just a man," I keep reminding myself. I am unable to control anything it would seem.

I look up and cry out "why?!"

No answer.

Does He hear what we say?

Does my pain, the pain in my heart, somehow matter enough to Him that He could take it away?

Why doesn't He answer in the way that I want, WHEN I want?

"Save my marriage. Save my family, Lord. Please. I have messed things up past the point that I, in my own flesh, can fix. I need YOU to fix it. Please God."

How many times had I prayed that prayer on my knees... Pleading with God to somehow pull me out of this pit that I had dug for myself.

I had lost what was most valuable to me: My wife and son. She wanted nothing to do with me.

When I was able to see my son it was though I was reduced to more of a relative than his father.

So much pain.

I knew what the Bible said. I had read through it more than once growing up in a Christian home. Certain scriptures would come to mind and give me hope. Hope was almost gone though.

One day it left altogether.

I had reached bottom and knew it. I knew God was "there." I had seen Him in the lives that He changed. In the miracles that He did every day. It takes more faith to look around at the wonders of our world and say that it made ITSELF. No, I never doubted his EXISTENCE, only his PLAN.

I felt at times that I was not IN IT... That somehow everyone else around me had it better... They had the blessings and I didn't. Their prayers were being heard- while mine were being shoved onto some holy "filing cabinet," never to see the light of day.

I would love to tell you that my breakthrough happened right then. That my life turned around in a moment and God just delivered me in the most miraculous way.

But it didn't happen that way.

Months went by and I kept moving on. But not in a good way... My faith was shaken... My heart that was once broken became a hard, crusted-over brick in my chest. Not able to give out a tender "God breathed" love or even receive it. The scar tissue had become almost impenetrable. I vowed I would never hurt like that again.

God had allowed everything to be taken from me. My family, my job, my "stuff"- all replaced with self-loathing and despair. Some days I wanted no more of this life. I didn't want to wake up to "this" in the morning. To know that I had to live in this feeling of being unloved. Forgotten.

-But one day... There was a change-

God gave forgiveness. He gave love. He gave it all so long ago. I had forgotten what His son had done for all of us. If His blood could save us from all the sins that we would EVER commit - why couldn't that same blood cover my life? My marriage? My family?

"Take heart, have faith for I have overcome the world."

"In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

I was ready to try once more. Even if the outcome was to live a SINGLE life for Jesus- I wanted that. Did I want my wife back? Sure! My son? Of course... Did I have the faith to believe that it would happen? Wish that I could say I did, but I really didn't. I just knew that God COULD do all things. He WOULD be good and faithful in all things like His word said.

—I needed to be faithful to HIM as well—

I had stopped being faithful. I had always remembered to ask God for what I needed when I needed it—But what about remembering to give BACK to HIM? You may say, "Well God doesn't need anything. He's GOD. He made it ALL."

Well in a way this is true, this line of thinking is damaging and does not line up with the words He gave us to live by in scripture.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and **test Me now** in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast *its grapes*,” says the Lord of hosts. “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:10-12

He said TEST me - The ONLY place in the bible where He tells us to do that.

You're probably asking, "What does GIVING have to do with restoring my marriage??"

More than you know.

He told us to be faithful in **all** things. Not just *some* things.

So how can He bless, restore and give to us what we need and desire when we literally have His hands bound with spiritual "handcuffs"? The answer is: He can't. We are limiting Him and His working in our lives. And the tragedy is, we don't even know it.

-What IS Tithing??

Tithing, as you read above, is giving God's portion of our income

BACK to Him. What is His portion? His word tells us that 10% belongs to Him. That is all He asks. You may say, "I can't AFFORD to tithe."

I am here to tell you that you can't afford NOT to! It cost me everything, literally everything by stealing from God.

Malachi 3:7-9 explains what I did and what most of you are doing too. "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!*"

Ignore or dismiss His word and suffer the consequences. OR TEST God, just as He asked you to do and see how He will do MORE with 10% than YOU can do with the other 90% and how this will slam the door on the devourer who has stolen your life from you.

Where does my tithe belong?

Your tithe belongs where you are being spiritually "fed."

It *could* be your home church. It could be this ministry. Wherever that place is be FAITHFUL and give back to Him. I promise you will see big changes take place in your life.

It did in mine.

When I started to give that 10% of what I had (which, being without a job was very little and took all of my faith) to this ministry, I starting to see things happen. Breakthroughs started to take place. It was a journey that started with God showing me this simple truth: You can't out give God and it's foolish to steal from Him.

Jumping to the "good part" of my story... **Yes, my marriage was restored.** Yes, my wife and I are in love and are better people now.

Yes, I am able to see my son everyday and I even know what his favorite cereal is!!

These gifts I am so thankful for!

I will never forget what started this chain-reaction of events and blessings. An easily, overlooked command. To "give and it shall be given." To entrust all "worldly wealth" to Him. So that He can show you things that are more precious than handfuls of diamonds or bars of pure gold.

I am a rich man.

Not in earthly wealth, but in riches that will last forever.

~ Axel Thiele,

Axel is Erin's and Dan's son.

About the Author

Erin Thiele is a wife and mother of four boys, Dallas, Axel, Easton, and Cooper, and three girls, Tyler, Tara, and Macy. Her stand for marriage was founded on the Rock of God's Word during her struggle to restore her own marriage; Erin's husband left her for another woman and eventually divorced her. Two years later her husband returned and their marriage was miraculously restored!

Restore Ministries began when Erin searched every denomination in her area but was unable to find the help that she needed. *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage* was written to help those women the Lord sent to her. *A Wise Women* was written as the Lord led her to prepare her home for her husband's return. Five years later *How God Will Restore Your Marriage: There's Healing after Broken Vows* and *A Wise Man* were written for men. This couple's experience is a powerful testimony to God's promises and His faithfulness.

If you have access to the Internet, be sure to visit Restore Ministries Encouraging Women website at: RMIEW.com. On our website you'll be able to read powerful testimonies of restored marriages, join our Restoration Fellowship, and find out more about our other resources such as a Wise Woman Bible Studies and other Online Courses and in our bookstore EncouragingBookstore.com

If you would like to be trained how to minister, please visit our website to find out more about RMIOU "Restore Ministries International Online University" RMIOU.com

Restore Ministries International

POB 830

Ozark, MO 65721

USA

More Help

Since this book was first published, it has resulted in *many* restored marriages, as each, in faith, trusted God and became agreeable. One marriage that was restored, made it's way into a new book we will soon be offering.

**Michele Michaels
Facing Divorce—Again
My Restoration Journey
True Story Novel**

This book, and many other Restoration Journey True Story Novels will be available in our bookstore.

EncouragingBookstore.com

For even more help
Please visit one of our
Websites:

EncouragingWomen.org

EncouragingMen.org

HOPEATLAST.COM

RestoreMinistries.net

RMIOU.com

RMIEW.com

Aidemaritale.com (French)

AjudaMatrimonial.com (Portuguese)

AyudaMatrimonial.com (Spanish)