

Healing a Broken Marriage

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Can God Revive a Dead Marriage?

—the answer is an emphatic YES!

“Behold I am the Lord... is there anything too hard for Me? [Jeremiah 32:27](#)

KEY PHRASE: “If ye be willing and obedient”

“If you will obey the Lord your God by diligently observing ALL His commandments...”
([Deuteronomy 28:1](#) NEB)

“I will bring it health and cure” [Jeremiah 33:6](#)

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” [Hebrews 13:4](#)

Dear Reader,

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! More than telling you what God has done for us, we want you to know what God will do for you.

It took a miracle to keep our marriage together. We went from dismal failure to victory in Christ, moment by moment, and, from bitter tears to rejoicing in the Lord.

The analysis of a failure – especially since we both believe God had brought us together and greatly blessed us – lies in our both being raised in unstable homes... homes that left us emotionally scarred and emotionally insecure. “Those who follow God’s directions will never meet with defeat.” ([2T 515](#)).

Neither my husband nor I could help each other because of our fears, doubts, guilt, sins and weaknesses which caused us to continually stumble, driving us to despair.

Yet we gained victory in Christ Jesus at last, moment by moment, because “Love [God’s love in us] never fails.” [1 Corinthians 13:8](#)

Through it all I found myself being drawn closer to God, and my character being refined in the process. My strength, my security, my stability was to be found in Christ alone. Now I have learned to pay attention to His Holy Word, the Bible.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.*

Wishing you all God’s blessings! [3 John 2](#)

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For a free copy of *Steps to Christ* or *Ministry of Healing*

The Best is Yet to Come

(by Hans Diehl, Dr HSc MPH)

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My shirt stuck to my body like glue. I was soaking wet. I had been lecturing for nearly two hours to an audience of some 500 people in a sweltering tent on a hot Wisconsin summer day. Another lecture was scheduled after lunch.

For once I didn't want to see anyone or shake any hands. Nothing else was on my mind but to reach my air conditioned room, shower, rest and reorganize my thoughts.

"Dr. Diehl, may I talk to you?" I heard a timid voice at my elbow.

"Oh no, no, not now," my body screamed. But I stopped and turned to her. She was forty-ish and definitely overweight. I had finished my lecture entitled "How to Eat More and Weigh Less." I could see she wanted further counsel.

The inner struggle continued. Surely her questions could wait. I had so many important things to do! But then I thought about my reason for being in this place: to help people sense God's love more effectively through better health.

"Please?" her eyes were sad but hopeful. We walked to an air conditioned trailer that served as the sound studio for the convention.

Over the next two hours the pressure and fatigue drained out of me as my clothes gradually dried. I felt drawn to this struggling fellow pilgrim, and I ached with her pain.

She talked about her home life. Her husband was a good provider but a poor communicator. He said he loved her but didn't live it. He led out in the life of the church but hadn't prayed with her for years. With romance gone and intimacy a fading memory, they increasingly were sharing the same roof but living separate lives. She felt like a married single.

As she became increasingly isolated, depression set in. She felt worthless, lonely, unloved, used, intimidated. Good became a pacifier, an outlet for her pain. She couldn't remember when her husband had complimented her cooking, or smiled at her when she dressed up for him. He was charming with strangers but withdrawn at home. To make matters worse, the food added pounds, and her thickening figure deepened her depression.

I groped for the right words. What could I say? I naively suggested new lingerie, a different perfume. But even as I said those things I knew better. She needed some Christian assertiveness training. She mostly needed emotional support, a feeling of worth. But a Christian psychologist was not available. And the church would not understand.

How inadequate I felt that day. I gave her a copy of my book, *To Your Health* and inscribed the words "Don't ever give up. The best is yet to come." We prayed together, and I entrusted her to the care of the Good Shepherd. She left with tears in her eyes.

I wondered what had been accomplished. I had mainly just listened. But my clothes were dry now and I felt relaxed. My pressured mind was decompressed. It was time for my next lecture...

Four months have passed since that sweltering summer day. Today I received her letter:

Many, many thanks for coming to Wisconsin. Your good counsel, both in the seminar and in private, has changed my life. Not knowing where else to start, I began with the diet. I followed all of it, to the letter. I have lost 22 pounds and am still going down. I walk as regularly as possible. I've also lost most of my aches and pains. My feet, ankles and eyes no longer get puffy. My blood pressure is coming down. I feel great. My friends tell me I have a special glow.

To my surprise, after one week, my husband joined me in the new way of eating. He has lost 23 pounds and feels better than he has for years.

Your personal counsel has been important too. Soon after I got home my husband and I came very close to breaking up. I just felt like the blackboard of my life was all filled up with pain and sorrow, and there wasn't room left to write any more grief on it. Nothing had ever been resolved.

When it finally came down to the line, my husband agreed to sit down and talk. At long last, we really communicated...

The end result was simply that we forgave each other for everything and started over fresh. He is a different man now, and, I realize, I am a different woman. He still does all the aggravating things he ever did (can a leopard change his spots?), but they no longer bother me, because he is learning to make me feel loved. He urges me to stay with the dietary program. He calls me "skinny," and I love it. He makes an effort to be attentive and romantic. And I'm doing a bigger share of loving too. GLADLY. (New nightgowns and all!)

How prophetic you were when you wrote in your book "the best is yet to come." Since we forgave and started over, life has become sweet as honey. It's as though the years of pain and anguish had never happened. My joy is so great that yesterday I got down on my knees and sang the Doxology! And it felt perfectly right.

With gratitude from the bottom of my happy, healthy heart...

I sat for a long time, holding that letter, recalling that day. It seemed I had done so little. Yet God had blessed the intent of my heart and fused it with her need. He had used me, tired, sweaty, reluctant, in the worst of circumstances, to extend His healing touch to another. And now, I too, felt like singing the Doxology.

The promise jumped to my mind: "Cast your bread upon many waters, and you shall find it after many days." In this case, it came back buttered!

Key to a Successful Marriage

“What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder” [Matthew 19:6](#)

—Read [Matthew 19:3-9](#)

“And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave⁽¹⁾ to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?” [Matthew 19:5](#) (see also [Genesis 2:24, 5](#) and BC 453-4, [AH 106](#))

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” [Ephesians 5:31](#)

⁽¹⁾*cleave* – stresses strength of attachment (Webster’s) Young’s uses the word “adhere,” implying a *growing together*, or figuratively a deliberate accepting.

“Constantly behold Him [Christ], and your love for Him will daily become deeper and stronger as it is submitted to the test of trial. And as your love for Him increases, your love for each other will grow deeper and stronger... The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven.” [AH 106](#) (see also [AH 341-7](#) and [MB 63-5](#))

5 STEPS TO RECONCILIATION

1. Seek the Lord “with ALL your heart” [Jeremiah 29:13](#)
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness [Matthew 6:33](#)
(A broken relationship indicates that one spouse or both have lost their vital connection with God), see [2 Corinthians 13:5](#)
2. Ask God to give you repentance ([Psalm 139:23](#), [Romans 2:4](#), [SC 28](#))
Read the entire chapters on “[Repentance](#)” (ch 3) and “[Confession](#)” (ch 4) from Steps to Christ
Confess your sins to God and to one another ([James 5:16](#) and [1 John 1:9](#))
Forsake the sins that destroy the relationship ([Proverbs 28:13](#))
“Create in me a clean heart, O God” [Psalm 51:10-13](#) ([Ezekiel 36:26](#))
3. Ask God to give you the grace to forgive one another ([Matthew 18:22, 35](#))
“Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.” [Luke 11:4](#) (see [MB 113-116](#), [Psalm 32:1](#), [86:5](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#), [Matthew 6:12](#), [14-15](#), and [James 2:13](#))
4. Forget the past: “Forgetting those things which are behind...” [Philippians 3:13-14](#) ([Micah 7:19](#))
”Let it rather be healed.” [Hebrews 12:13](#) ([Galatians 6:1](#), [ED 113](#))
“Only the love that flows from the heart of Christ can heal.”
5. “Love one another, as I have loved you.” [John 15:12](#) ([Proverbs 10:12](#), see definition of Love in 5BC 340, section on Love’s definitions)
Read [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#) on Love (God’s love in us – try the [Amplified Version](#))
Love is a plant of heavenly origin... we must cultivate it daily.” [6BC 1090-2](#)

True love is not an emotion or an impulse, but a decision of sanctified will. (see EGW's comments on [2 Corinthians 5:14](#) in [6BC 1100-1](#))

How to Love: see "The Builders of the Home," [MH 356-362](#)

You must be born again... of the Spirit. [John 3:3-8](#)

The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (see [6BC 1112](#) and [SC 58](#))

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." [2 Peter 1:4](#) (see [7BC 942-3](#))

Contrast: "For the withholding of love is the negation of the spirit of Christ, the proof that we never knew Him..." *Henry Drummond "The Greatest Thing in the World,"*

Conclusion: "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." [1 John 4:8](#)

Some further Thoughts

Taken from the Adult Sabbath School Lesson of March 15, 1986, *by permission*)

We have already seen in [Ephesians 4:4, 5](#) that there is "one body... one Lord, one baptism." This means that Christ has only one bride, the church, for there is just "one faith" and "one body." There is only one husband in the spiritual marriage, and that is Christ. In a sense, baptism becomes the wedding ceremony between Christ and the new church member. Christ as the husband becomes "jealous" when His people start following after "other lovers." *You can imagine how it must break His heart to see them becoming infatuated with the world,* (emphasis supplied).

It is beautiful to watch two being who have many distinctive differences as well as similar interests become more united as their love deepens, this kind of unity results in those who are so much unlike coming together in a mutual relationship, without losing their personal identity. Such a union helps us understand the union of Christ with His church. Both are one. Let no one separate them—man and wife, the church and Christ.

Further Study and Meditation: Read [The Adventist Home, pages 211-215](#) for a picture of what the father's role is to be, and [pages 231-239](#) for a description of the mother's role.

[Ephesians 5](#) outlines Christ's relationship to His church as well as the husband-wife relationship. How does Christ regard the church as His earthly bride? "The church of Christ is very precious in His sight. It is the case which contains His jewels, the fold which encloses His flock,"—EGW Comments, [S.D.A. Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1118](#).

"The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife. Every true believer is a part of the body of Christ. Christ regards unfaithfulness of a wife to her husband."—EGW Comments, [S.D.A. Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 985-6](#).

"Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard."—[The Acts of the Apostles, p. 12](#)

Summary: If love is a plant of divine origin and all true love comes from God, then the unity which is an outgrowth of love can come from God alone. Apart from Christ there can be no genuine unity in this world. (see EGW Commentary on 1 Corinthians 13 / [6BC 1091-2](#))

Application: There is no broken home which is beyond the power of Christ's transforming grace to mend and heal *if both partners are willing to yield to Him*. Likewise, if our relationship with Christ has been severed or severely strained, it is never beyond the hope of restoration. Christ is willing for this to happen. *All it takes, then, is our willingness*. There is hope for what appears to be hopeless. Ask yourself the following:

Has my relationship with Christ been strained?

—If so, is it affecting my home relationship?

—Am I willing to let Christ mend and heal if such action is needed?

(Emphasis is supplied by the compiler)

How to Check One's Spiritual Health

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith”

(See [2 Corinthians 13:5](#), [1SM 89](#), [COL 158](#), [EV 619](#), and [GC 601](#))

1. Are you seeking FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness? [Matthew 6:33](#)
2. Are you doing ALL to the glory of God? [1 Corinthians 10:31](#)
3. Are you trusting God with ALL your heart and acknowledging Him in ALL your ways? [Proverbs 3:5, 6](#)
4. Are you a hearer or a DOER of the Word of God? [James 1:25](#) ([AA 558](#), [DA 504](#))
5. Are the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life? [Galatians 5:22, 23](#) ([9T 155](#), [SC 58](#))
6. Do you love to study God's Word, the Bible? [Jeremiah 15:16](#)
7. Do you delight to do God's will? [Psalm 40:8](#)
8. Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? [Luke 6:45](#) Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? ([SC 58](#))
9. Do you have the Spirit of Christ? [Romans 8:1-9](#)
10. Is there a difference between knowing the Bible and knowing God? [1 John 4:8](#), [1 Corinthians 13](#), [Jeremiah 22:16](#) “FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST...” [Philippians 1:21](#)

* IF WE ARE CHRIST'S our thoughts are with Him and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. ALL we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in ALL things.

Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.” ([SC 58](#) “The Test of Discipleship,” [SC 44](#), [Galatians 2:20](#), [6BC 1109](#), [2 Corinthians 5:15](#), [COL 116](#) and [362](#), [DA 65](#), and [ED 57](#))

KEY: A cold or lukewarm condition in one’s spiritual life indicates that a person has no living connection with the True Vine (see [John 15:1-8](#), [SD 71](#), [5T 482](#), and [Psalm 139:23-24](#))

CURE: Seek the Lord with ALL your heart.

([Jeremiah 29:13](#), [GC 601](#), [Revelation 3:16-19](#)) The Bible is full of examples of people who loved God with ALL their hearts—people who had a communication and love relationship with God: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, David, Jonathan, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Nehemiah, Ezra, Zerubbabel, Job, Esther, Zacharias and Elizabeth (see [Luke 1:5-6](#)), the Marys, the prophets, John the Baptist, the apostles, Paul... King Josiah “...turned to the Lord with ALL his heart, and with ALL his soul, and with ALL his might...” [2 Kings 23:25](#)

Contrast: “and he [Amaziah] did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart.” [2 Chronicles 25:2](#)

The definition of “but not with a perfect heart”: he was not WHOLEHEARTED in God’s service. (see 3BC 278, [2 Chronicles 16:9](#), 3BC 251, and [MB 91](#) on [Matthew 6:22](#))

What is Love?

From worldly music and lyrics we hear statements like:

—Love is the voice that makes our hearts palpitate...

—Lord, we don’t need another mountain... what we need is love, sweet love...

From a rock singer we hear the desperate cry:

—I want to know what love is...

SO WHAT IS LOVE?

The word “love” is probably the most abused, misused word in the English language. “I love you!” is often a hollow, meaningless phrase. Let’s look at the definitions of love:

Love. Gr. “agapao,” whose wealth of meaning the English word “love” inadequately reflects. Our word “love” means so many different things, and conveys so many diverse ideas, that the true meaning of “agape” is obscured by this translation. The Greek had three words to convey the ideas we seek to express by our one word “love”: agapan, philein, and eran.

“**philein**” in general describes affectionate, sentimental love based on the emotions and feelings. Insofar as it is based on the feelings it is subject to change as the feelings change.

“**eran**” denotes passionate, sensual “love,” love that operates essentially on the physical plane. Certain forms of infatuation may be classed under this variety of “love.” Eran is not used in the New Testament.

“**agapan**,” as used in the New Testament and contrasted with philein, describes love from the standpoint of respect and esteem. It adds principle to feeling in such a way that principle controls the feelings. It brings into play the higher powers of the mind and intelligence. Whereas philein tends to make us “love only those who love” u, agapan extends love even to those who do not love us. Agapan is selfless, whereas eran is purely selfish, and even philein may, at times, be marred by selfishness.

The noun form, **agape**, is confined almost exclusively to the Bible. The agape of the New Testament is love in its highest and truest form, the love above which there is no greater—love that impels a man to sacrifice himself for others ([John 15:13](#)). It implies reverence for God and respect for one’s fellow men. It is a divine principle of thought and action that modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections. 5 BC 340 (see also comments on verse 44—Love Your Enemies)

“WAS NOT THIS KNOWNG ME?”
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE

[Exodus 34:6-7](#) ...the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth (see also [John 3:8](#) “ye must be born again.”)

[Romans 5:5](#) ...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

[Galatians 5:22](#) BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

LOVE

[God’s love in us] ([Amp](#))

[1 Corinthians 13:5](#) Read the [chapter](#)... following are excerpts:

[v. 4](#) Love suffers long and is kind: love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

[v. 5](#) does not behave rudely, does not seek its own; is not provoked, THINKS NO EVIL (see [Philippians 4:8](#))

[v. 6](#) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

[v.7](#) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things

[v. 8](#) LOVE NEVER FAILS

(Note: compare this chapter in different translations)

Love, the most valued attribute

The attribute that Christ appreciates most in man is charity (love) out of a pure heart. This is the fruit borne upon the Christian tree.

Love, a plant of heavenly origin

Love is a plant of heavenly origin, and if we would have it flourish in our hearts, we must CULTIVATE IT DAILY. Mildness, gentleness, long-suffering, not being easily provoked, bearing ALL things, enduring ALL things—these are the fruit upon the precious tree of love—EGW
[Comment on 1 Corinthians 13 \(6BC 1091-2\)](#)

[Galatians 1:16](#) KEY: TO REVEAL HIS SON N ME... (see also the SDA hymnal "[We Would See Jesus](#)")

[2:20](#) It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. (see also SDA Hymnbook "[Not I, but Christ](#)")

"Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple. Everyone God has predestined to be 'conformed to the image of His Son' ([Romans 8:29](#)). IN EVERYONE CHRIST'S LONG-SUFFERING LOVE, HIS HOLINESS, MEEKNESS, MERCY AND TRUTH ARE TO BE MANIFESTED TO THE WORLD." ([DA 827](#), [Ephesians 4:1, 2](#))

LOVE, THE DECISION OF A SANCTIFIED WILL

(EGW [Commentary on 2 Corinthians 5:14](#))

- The love of Christ in the heart is what is needed. Self is in need of being crucified. When self is submerged in Christ, true love springs forth spontaneously. It is not an emotion or an impulse, but a decision of a sanctified will...
- Surrendering self to God is all He requires, giving ourselves to Him to be employed as He sees fit. Until we come to this point of surrender, we shall not work happily, usefully, or successfully anywhere. (see [6BC 1100-1101](#))
- Love your enemies. Compare [Romans 12:20](#). The word for “love,” *agapan*, denotes the love of respect in contrast with *philein*, which describes the love of emotion (filial love), such as exists between members of the family (see [Matthew 5:43](#)). The command would be impossible if it enjoined men to *philein* their enemies the same emotional warmth of affection that they feel towards the immediate members of their families, nor is that expected. *Philein* is spontaneous, emotional, and is nowhere commanded in the NT. *Agapan*, on the other hand, can be and is commanded, for it is under the control of the will. To *agapan* our bitterest enemies is to treat them with respect and courtesy and to regard them as God regards them. (5BC 340)
- The children of God are those who are partakers of His nature. It is not earthly rank, nor birth, nor nationality, nor religious privilege, which proves that we are member of the family of God: IT IS LOVE, a love that embraces all humanity. Even sinners whose hearts are not utterly closed to God’s Spirit, will respond to kindness; while they may give hate for hate, they will also give love for love. BUT IT IS ONLY THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT GIVES LOVE FOR HATRED. To be kind to the unthankful and to the evil, to do good hoping for nothing again, is the insignia of the royalty of heaven, the sure token by which the children of the Highest reveal their high estate.” ([MB 75](#), “The Spirituality of the Law”)
- Love is a precious gift, which we receive from Jesus. Pure and holy affection is not a feeling, but a principle. Those who are actuated by true love are neither unreasonable nor blind. Taught by the Holy Spirit, they love God supremely, and their neighbor as themselves. [MH 358](#)

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

(EGW's quotations also included)

- “CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER, EXCEPT THEY BE AGREED?” [Amos 3:3](#), [AH 66-7](#)
- “Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude... In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest.” [DA 331](#), [MB 16-7](#)
- [Ephesians 5:22-33](#); [1 Peter 3:1-11](#), also [1 Corinthians 7:5](#) and [PP 46](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#), [6 BC 1091-2](#), [Proverb 10:12](#).
- By God's grace ([Philippians 3:10](#) / [7BC 905](#)), forsake the sins that destroy the relationship:
 - Cease from strife. [Proverb 17:14](#), [20:3](#); [Ephesians 4:26](#)
 - Censure: “no one has ever been reclaimed from a wrong position by censure and reproach; but many have thus been driven from Christ and led to seal their hearts against conviction. (see [MB 129](#); [Isaiah 58:9](#); [4BC 306](#), [v9](#) “the pointing of the finger”)
 - Depression, nature of: [SC 71](#), [PK 164](#). The cure [Isaiah 41:10](#), [MH 148](#)
 - Emotions: [Galatians 5:19-26](#); how to control emotions: [5T 514](#); [ML 318](#) (doubts and fears grow by indulgence, see [4T 558](#)); the cure: [Proverbs 3:5-18](#)
 - Escapism prevents and delays healing. Choose [Matthew 11:28-30](#), [John 10:10](#)
 - Insecurity: [Hebrews 13:5](#), [Psalm 23:1](#)
 - Mind-cure: [Philippians 4:8](#), [1T 711-2](#); [Psalm 19:14](#), [3BC 1145](#), [PP 460](#), [MH 241-259](#), also [Psalm 42:11](#) and [43:5](#)
 - Put away lying, anger, bitterness, evil speaking [Ephesians 4:25-31](#)
 - Resentment: see [4T 243](#)
 - Retaliation: “Not rendering evil for evil” [1 Peter 3:9](#), “By indulging a spirit of retaliation we injure ourselves. We destroy our own confidence in God, and grieve the Holy Spirit” [COL 171-2](#). Claim [Isaiah 59:19](#)
 - Self-pity injures you, see [SD 298](#) and [MH 476](#); instead, consider Christ's suffering for us [Isaiah 53](#) / [4BC 1147](#)
- **KEY:** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. [Ephesians 4:32](#)
- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” [Philippians 4:13](#)

—“Christ first and last and always.” [SC 69](#)

—“Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart.” [AH 94](#)

—“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? —by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” [Psalm 119:9-11](#)

—“Those who follow His [God’s] directions will never meet with defeat.” [2T 515](#)

A SPOUSE'S PRAYER

I pray that you may accept me,
as God has accepted you ([John 6:37](#)).

To treat me, as God has treated you ([Matthew 7:12](#)).

To help me, as God has helped you ([Psalm 40:2](#)).

To be merciful to me, as God has been merciful to you ([Psalm 103:10](#)).

To forgive me, as God has forgiven you ([Luke 11:4](#)).

To give me another chance to redeem the failures of the past,
as God has given you another chance – and not one, but many ([Psalm 86:5](#)).

In other words, I am praying that you may love me,
as God has loved you ([John 15:12](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#)).

I pray that you may remember the marriage vows that you made to me, *before God: “to love,
honor and cherish”

And I pledge myself anew to keep these marriage vows to you (*[Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5](#))

“Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very far apart” ([AH 94](#)).

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's
sake hath forgiven you” ([Ephesians 4:32](#)).

Written by Josette P. Stevens

THE SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE VOWS

“And now, *solemnly promising before God, and in the presence of these witnesses, will you have this man (woman), to be your wedded husband (wife), to live together after God’s ordinance in the sacred estate of matrimony? Will you love him (her), cherish him (her) in sickness and in health, in prosperity or adversity; and, forsaking all others, keep yourself ONLY unto him (her) so long as you both shall live? Do you so declare?”

(Taken from the Manual for Ministers)

*see [Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4, 5](#)

DECLARATION OF HAPPINESS

(Written by Ellen G. White to her son after three months of his marriage)

Live for the glory of God, be tender, kind and courteous to each other. The happiness of your lives will consist in making God your trust, and in seeking to make each other happy. Practice self-control. It is so easy to speak thoughtlessly, words that grieve and wound. Do not venture to trifle with each other’s feelings. Practice patience, encourage love, discipline yourselves to guard every word and action, and study how you can be a blessing to each other.

Love is a delicate plant; rude blasts frequently bruise it if they do not uproot it entirely.

Never make a third person your confidant. Your private life is sacred; keep the barriers high, that no one may presume to intrude into the sacred circle. Be calm and tranquil, patient, forbearing, and forgiving.

A word more: do not speak a word of jest that shall injure or reflect upon the other. Never recount the mistakes, or errors, or faults of each other in the presence of a third person, or in company, be the circle ever so select. Live for God and each other.

Why Marriages Fail & the Remedy

(Read [Matthew 19:3-12](#))

- ✚ Causes: “because of the hardness of your heart” [Matthew 19:8](#) (see also [Mark 10:2-12](#))
 - Unwillingness to obey God’s explicit commandments in [John 15:12](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#), [Ephesians 5:22-33](#); [1 Peter 3:1-11](#) (note: to disregard or reject God’s word is rebellion)
 - Selfishness is the root of ALL evil (see [ED 226](#) and [DA 417](#))

- ✚ Remedy: “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?” [Jeremiah 8:22](#)
 - “There is a cure for the disease of sin.” (see 4BC 394)
 - “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” [Hebrews 7:25](#)
 - “Those who follow His directions will never meet with defeat.” ([2T 515](#))
 - “If ye be willing and obedient...” [Isaiah 1:19](#)
 - See [Biblical Guidelines for a Happy Marriage](#)

Biblical Cause for Divorce: Adultery

- *Is it worth the price?*

✚ Cause: “Thou shalt not commit adultery” [Exodus 20:14](#), [Matthew 5:27-32](#), [MB 63-65](#), [Romans 7:3, 13:9](#))

— “But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul” [Proverbs 6:32](#), [8:36](#) KJV, ([PP 460](#))

✚ How does it start? (see [Matthew 15:19](#), Remedy: [Proverbs 6:32](#), [8:36](#); [PP 460](#))

— “It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us” [MB 118](#)

— Remedy: The prayer: “Bring us not into temptation...” is itself a promise (see [MB 116-119](#) on [Matthew 6:13](#) RSV)

— Notice Jesus’ words to the woman caught in adultery: “Go, and sin no more” [John 8:11](#).

✚ Tasting the bitter fruits of transgression:

— It brings reproach upon God’s name and cause ([2 Samuel 12:14](#), [5T 139](#))

— It is devastating in its effects

—breaking up families

—estranging friends

—ruining careers

—leads to financial loss

—destroys trust, the very foundation of a relationship

—causes loss of influence

—brings guilt, fear, anxiety, insecurity and recriminations

—worse of all—if the sinner does not repent it means loss of salvation: “the wages of sin is death” [Romans 6:23](#) ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#), [Hebrews 13:4](#), [Malachi 3:14-15](#)).

Conclusion: “Keep the Commandments of the Lord and His statues which I command you today for your good” [Deuteronomy 10:13, 6:24](#) NKJV)

EMOTIONAL DIVORCE: a married couple living in the same house, but their hearts are miles apart.

What if your spouse is not willing to repent at this time?

—Continue to pray for him/her

—Seek divine guidance through the Bible

—Consider God’s longsuffering toward His people (see [Psalm 78:36-39](#), also [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#) “love suffereth long and is kind,” [6BC 1090-1092](#), [Galatians 6:9](#)). Read [1 Corinthians 7](#) (all). See “Attitude Toward an Unbelieving Companion,” also “A Burdened Wife Counseled to Keep Cheerful,” [AH 348-352](#))

—Seek divine guidance through the Bible

—**The joy of the Lord is your strength** ([Nehemiah 8:10](#))

(see also: “the Lord is my strength” [Exodus 15:2](#); [Psalm 27:1, 4](#); [18:1, 2](#); [105:4](#))

—“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you...” [Isaiah 41:10](#)

—“Be strong in the Lord” [Ephesians 6:10](#). “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” [Philippians 4:13](#).

—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” [Psalm 46:1](#)

—“For every trial, God has provided help” [MH 248-9](#)

—**God will control the waters of affliction** (See [Psalm 42:7, 8, 11](#); 3BC 736; [Psalm 34:4, 9](#); [2 Timothy 3:11](#)). “Spread out your case before the Lord” [MH 72](#).

✚ Read: “Why Weepest Thou?” [DA 794](#) “In the garden, Mary had stood weeping, when Jesus was close beside her. Her eyes were so blinded by tears that she did not discern Him... And all the time they might have been rejoicing in the knowledge of a risen Saviour.”

✚ The Refining/Pruning Process: [Isaiah 1:25](#)

—What it will accomplish:

Emotional and spiritual growth – maturity (see [Ephesians 4:13](#), [2 Peter 3:18](#))

Enable you to comfort others (see [2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#), [6T 365-366](#))

—“**He satisfies the longing soul**” [Psalm 107:9](#)

—“Christ is all and in all” [Colossians 3:11](#)

—Our only security is in God (see [Hebrews 13:5](#), [10:23](#); [Psalm 23:1](#)). God was the source of the psalmist’s happiness. God was his all in all. [Psalm 73:26](#), 3BC 804 *portion*; see also [Psalm 16:11](#)

—“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend* that sticketh closer than a brother” [Proverbs 18:24](#).

* Christ, the true and faithful Friend, the One who never fails. (see [2T 271](#), 3BC 1010, [SC 100](#))

- “Jesus cheers the life and brightens the path of all who truly seek Him” [PP 412](#).
- “But he who gives all and does all for Christ will know the fulfillment of the promise. “The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.” ([Proverbs 10:22](#), [PK 60](#))
- “ Yet even for those who have found bitterness and disappointment where they had hoped for companionship and joy, the gospel of Christ offers a solace.” ([MB 65](#); [Matthew 19:3](#); [Jeremiah 15:16](#); [Psalm 119:97, 111](#))
- Remember the therapeutic value of sacred music and hymns.
- “Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise... unto God” [Psalm 147:7](#)
- “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”** [Philippians 4:4](#)

THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF SACRED MUSIC AND HYMNS

(Some examples)

Song Titles:

—Come to the Water

—Fill My Cup, Lord

—Reach Out to Jesus, He's Reaching Out to You

—Give Them All to Jesus and He Will Turn Your Sorrow into Joy

—What a Friend We Have in Jesus

O what peace we often forfeit

O what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer.

—Break Thou the Bread of Life

“And I shall find in Thee my all in all ([Colossians 3:11](#)).

“Heeding Thy Holy Word, I win the strife”

—His Eye is on the Sparrow

“And why should I be discouraged?”

“Why should the shadows fall?”

“Why should my heart be lonely?”

“When Jesus is my portion

“My constant Friend is He

“His eye is on the sparrow

“And I know He watches me.”

—In the Garden

“And the joy we share as we tarry there

“None other had ever known.”

—Leaning on the Everlasting Arms ([Deuteronomy 33:27](#))

“What have I to dread?

“What have I to fear?

“Leaning on the everlasting arms.”

—God will Take Care of You

“Be not dismayed what e'er betide,

“God will take care of you.”

—My Faith Looks Up to Thee

“May Thy rich grace impart

“Strength to my fainting heart.”

HAPPY THE HOME

Henry Ware, the younger (1794-1843) and
John B. Dykes, 1866

Happy the home when God is there,
And love fills every breast;
When one their wish, and one their prayer
And one their heavenly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to every ear;
Where children early lisp His fame
And parents hold Him dear.

Happy the home where prayer is heard,
And prayer is wont to rise;
Where parents love the Sacred Word,
And all its wisdom prize.

Lord, let us in our homes agree
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to Thee,
And love to all will reign.

(SDA Church Hymnal)

Key to Abbreviations of E.G. White Book Titles

Key Book Title

AA The Acts of the Apostles
AH The Adventist Home
IBC The SDA Bible Commentary Vol. 1, etc.
CD Counsels on Diet and Foods
CG Child Guidance
CH Counsels on Health
CHS Christian Service
CM Colporteur Ministry
COL Christ's Object Lessons
CS Counsels on Stewardship
CSW Counsels on Sabbath School Work
CT Counsels To Parents, Teachers, and Students
CW Counsels to Writers and Editors
DA Desire of Ages
ED Education
EV Evangelism
EW Early Writings
FE Fundamentals of Christian Education
GC The Great Controversy
GW Gospel Workers
LS Life Sketches of E.G.W.
MB Thoughts From The Mount of Blessing
MH Ministry of Healing
MM Medical Ministry
MYP Messages To Young People

PK Prophets and Kings
PP Patriarchs and Prophets
SC Steps To Christ
SD Sons and Daughters of God
ISG Spiritual Gifts, vol. 1 (2SG, etc.)
SL The Sanctified Life
ISM Selected Messages, book 1 (2SM, 3SM)
SR Story of Redemption
IT Testimonies, vol. 1 (2T, 3T... 9T)
TE Temperance
TM Testimonies To Ministers
ITT Testimony Treasures, vol. 1 (2TT, 3TT)
WM Welfare Ministry



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Original Cover (circa 1994):



"What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder,"
-Mark 10:9

*Healing a
Broken
Marriage*



"So long as you both shall live"
A compilation by
JOSETTE P. STEVENS

About the compiler:

Josette P. Stevens – Lassen is a humble servant and handmaid of the living God who can not only speak authoritatively on the subject of revival and reformation in personal life, marriage and relationships, but has also by God's grace lived the principles presented here and can truthfully testify that God's promises are true and trustworthy.

This French born pilgrim immigrated to the United States in 1961 and a decade later discovered important Bible truths while studying the [Bible](#) and the [Ministry of Healing](#) by Ellen G. White. She was baptized four years later and became a vibrant member of the [Seventh-day Adventist Church](#).

Josette's interesting life has spanned a variety of careers which all have one thing in common – service to others. This CNA has been an angel of mercy to precious souls in convalescent homes, hospitals, private homes, and hospice care. She has been involved with the [Weimar Institute](#) and has studied extensively the [NEWSTART Lifestyle Program](#), disease prevention, natural remedies, and AIDS and the immune system. She has also authored a number of articles in such publications as *The Self Supporting Worker* and the [Adventist Review](#); and she has compiled more than a hundred useful Bible studies. Her work spans a wide variety of subjects, including benevolence and forgiveness.

I discovered Josette quite by accident and in a most unusual/unexpected place. I was searching the internet, looking for satellite equipment when I came across a brother, Max Ocon, who seemed to be living what I only dreamed. Max heads up [Satellite Evangelism](#) and on his website he reserved a place for special and much needed ministries. I visited his ministries page, spotted the [Josette Stevens Corner](#) and immediately took interest in the "Healing a Broken Marriage" link. I had tried in vain to find just this kind of information on other more popular websites. And I found it just in time because very shortly after that I had a "blow up" with my dear wife, just before church too. I ended up dropping the family to church and returning home. I was driven to reach Josette. I craved more information, and also was seeking permission to edit this powerful work. I also discovered half the benefit was missing if we only read through this compilation without following the references. So I wanted to add links to these powerful Bible and Spirit of Prophecy supporting quotes. I found Josette's church on just the sixth try. Because of time zone differences I actually called before she arrived. Many of the members were going up to the mountains for a retreat and I thought she was among them, so I left my name and contacts. Later that week Josette returned my call but had to leave a message because I was not home. We finally connected later that week. Things had grown worse in my home, but talking with Josette was refreshing and encouraging. She also granted me written permission to update this powerful work and add the vital links. And then she prayed with me. Since then we have spoken and prayed a couple more times. As you read these inspired messages I am confident you will find hope and assurance. There is hope! That hope is in Jesus, the master of relationships and our very best example of how to live and love right. The best is yet to come...

Josette strives "to reflect the joy of living in and for Christ"

"Christ in me, the hope of glory" Colossians 1:27.

"For to me, to live is Christ" Philippians 1:21

—[Earle Geoffrey Greaves](#)