

Got Thirst?

Crossroads Bible Church Women's Week-end

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When he Doesn't Believe.....

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Introduction: Have you ever said: How long, oh Lord, how long?
Or Dear God, will you ever save my husband?

Do you: Feel alone?

Wonder where you fit in the church?

Feel like a failure?

Feel judged by fellow Christians?

Feel condemned to a joyless life?

Feel that God has deserted you or your husband?

Feel that God doesn't hear your prayers?

Your identity:

How do you define yourself? In what order?

Wife; mother; sister; daughter; aunt, grandmother

Your work title

Wife of a non-believer?

It is important that we see ourselves as God sees us, not as we
perceive others see us.

Your true identity:

You are a child of God.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,
who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

You are an Ambassador for Christ for God's Kingdom on earth!

2 Cor 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were
pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Qualities of an ambassador for Christ: (2 Cor 6) Endurance despite affliction, Purity, Knowledge, Patience, Kindness, Love, Dignity; Authority; behavior that would not bring discredit or disgrace.

- Special ministry – in your own home! Where you go, Jesus goes.

John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

- Believe in yourself. Your self-esteem comes from Christ.
- Kingdom of God within you. Lk 17:21 For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”
- New creature 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- Light of the world Matt 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

This presentation will discuss:

- How to be happy in spite of your circumstances
- How to understand your husband’s point of view
- Leading by example – witness without saying a word
- Build the marriage relationship
- Release your husband to God – Rely on God’s perfect timing for his salvation
- Understand what God means by submission
- How to deal with rejection and hostility
- Be set free from worry and guilt

1. Heaping on the Guilt -> Blame -> Need to get to Acceptance

Leads us to believe there is something wrong with us.

Men get saved without perfect wives. Does not mean you are less of a Christian because your husband is not a Christian.

Blame:

- Relationship with God depends on his own heart, not yours

2. Wait on the Lord

II Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Matt 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- Anger -> Bitterness -> Impatience
- We are fixers
- Tired of praying
- Feel like you have done everything you can do
- Continual disappointment

Eccles 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Who wants his salvation more than you? God does and He does not withhold blessings.

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Spiritual battle - Put on your spiritual armor. Eph 6:10-17
Satan wins if you harbor anger; bitterness.

3. Respect

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

Respect must be restored before anything else can happen. You are the one who CAN do this!

How to restore respect:

- Power of words & touch - words of kindness, love
- Compliment (last time you complimented him?)
- Encourage
- Appreciate

Benefits of obeying God:

- Happy, contented husband
- Rewarded for being obedient to God
- Husband will see God's Spirit in you – learn to trust

4. Witness without a word

1 Cor 2:12;14 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord.... Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

- Walk the walk
- Become friends – search for things in common - spend quality time together
- Don't manipulate the conversation around spiritual topics; leave books or pamphlets around; open Bible if it upsets him
- Don't allow yourself to be drawn into arguments (Non-provocative response: That's what I believe God says)
- Understand his point of view
 - Frustration; jealousy; separation; threatened; demoted to #2; you've changed, he hasn't
 - Meditate on how to reassure him he has no need to fear losing you to God
- Ignore hurtful jabs
- Build bridge of trust Jas 2:18 I will show you my faith by my works.
- Do I trust God to work in my husband's heart through my behavior rather than my words?

He does not put us through more than we can handle.

Heb 12:2 Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith

More difficult your situation: closer you need to be to God.

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...

5. Be aware of temptation

- Loneliness, despair are fertile ground for Satan's lies
- God's promise – joy – fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- Put on your spiritual armor – Eph 6
- No perfect marriage; no perfect husband (We do not achieve perfection in this lifetime; it is His perfection in us)
- Let Jesus fill the void for intimacy; He is your spiritual husband
- You are complete in Christ – not any person
- Work on building intimacy in your marriage

6. Praying for your husband:

- Pray with confidence 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- Pray with power and authority of Jesus Christ
- Don't give up/quit
- See him as God sees him – this will change how you pray

Two things can keep your husband out of the kingdom

1. Deception/Satan/spiritual warfare
2. His own free will

The Secret Weapon- Power of the blood of Christ

- Do you really believe the blood of Christ overcame the power of Satan? Pray knowing this will set you free from fear and help you defeat Satan's tactics.

Don't waste your precious life away wishing for something that does not exist. Phil 4:11 Paul: I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.

Life is not made up of “someday’s” – Someday he will become a Christian and then I will be happy. OR Why can’t I have a Christian husband.... If only.... Leads to bitterness

- Enjoy Life today!
- Accept your desert experience with joy
- Don’t allow bitterness, disappointment, anger to damage your relationship with Christ – complete in Christ (your personal companion)
- Are you willing to accept your husband as he is?

Start feeling positive emotions, God confidence spreads!

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

7. Persistence

- Don’t lose heart. Never give up! Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart
- If = doubt; When = hope/faith
- Sow seeds of belief

Only way a Christian can lose a battle is to give up and quit.

- Satan’s message – no hope
- God’s message – all things possible through Him
- Are you emotionally stable or living on a roller coaster?
- Remember, God loves you, hears you and answers you. You just don’t know when, and if you quit, you may never know.

8. Serving the Lord

- Careful not to compare ourselves among ourselves
- Don’t believe the lie that those who serve more at church are more loved by God
- Who pays the greater price to follow Christ?
- Who stands and serves alone?

You serve an unsaved, possibly unappreciative husband and perhaps at times in an unsupportive church. You have to seek out and cling to every word of truth in order to survive a

difficult home situation. Requires great dependence on God.
You are serving God as you serve your husband.

- Is there anything more important? More difficult? More needed?
- Honor comes from the Father, not other people
Matt 25:21 Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.
- Was Jesus' ministry appreciated and fully understood by family, friends, and the world?
- What price did he pay?
- Do you want to be popular and appreciated or hear "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

9. Meaning of Submission

Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

➤ May be the only scripture he quotes to you
Eph 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

- God has not called wives to be martyrs
- He has called us all to be servants
- Jesus life was not taken from Him – He gave it freely
- Serving is a free gift. That is true submission. Not because I must do it, but because I choose to, because I love you, because God loves him and you.

10. The Church:

- Do you feel supported or alone – can't see where you fit?
Feel like you cannot serve, volunteer, or do activities as much as you would like to?
- Have you been hurt by fellow Christians, experienced these attitudes in the body of Christ?
 - If you were a good Christian, your husband would just walk into the arms of the Lord! Matt 10:34-36; Lk 12:51-52; Lk 14:26-27

- You made your bed, now you have to lie in it. You got what you deserve.
- Lots of advice: you should do this, that, etc.

*** Approval comes from God, not others!!!

- You are not a 2nd class Christian.
- You have an honorable calling.
- The Lord is in you and in your marriage
- One Day at a Time
- God is faithful
- Seek/pray for a spiritual mentor – another woman who will pray with you and walk along side.
- Salvation is NOT your personal responsibility
- Trust God to do His part. He will be there for you.

Zach 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Your job: to be that beautiful, precious flower and grow and bloom in Christ without worry.

God’s job: to grow that seed. I Cor 3:6 Paul planted, Apollos watered, God causes the growth.

A Prayer for the spiritually unequal marriage:

Dear Father in Heaven,

Help me to see my husband as you do, to see him through your eyes. Help me to really know how you truly see him, as that seed with the potential to be your beautiful, loved and precious child, made righteous by the redeeming blood of Christ.

Father, you have ordained him as the head of our household. Help me to honor and respect him, and see the good in him as you see it.

Father, I know you see everyone through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, every spot washed clean. Help me to see myself and my husband as you see us, through the filter of your Holy Spirit, seeing only the incredible beauty and potential that you have designed, that you have gifted us.

Thank you Father, for this gift. Help me always to appreciate it and be grateful for it, to wait upon you and be patient, knowing that you have made everything beautiful in its time.

In Jesus Christ's Holy Name,
Amen