



Do I dare hope?
Can my marriage be restored?

C OVENANT K EEPERS

A WORD FROM MARILYN

Regardless of your particular marriage situation, God has answers in His Word. This booklet contains lessons that cover questions which you, no doubt, may be asking.

Abraham, Joseph and David all faced problems that looked impossible. But God worked miracles for them and will do the same for you. With faith and trust in God's Word, nothing is impossible!

God is concerned about you and your marriage and He understands what you are going through. I believe these short teachings will help you and be a blessing to you.

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DO I DARE HOPE?

I. Are you afraid to hope? Or do you want to just play it safe, because you might get hurt or disappointed again? Maybe your circumstances do look impossible. You can't see any way your marriage can be restored, so why hope? God wants us to hope. He gives us reason to hope in His Word. Look up the following scriptures and write them.

Romans 8:28 _____

Psalms 37:5 _____

II. These are great promises. Our Father tells us to put our trust in Him and He will act. He will work everything for good just for you. Isn't that a good reason to hope? Do you know anyone else that can make these promises and keep them? God gives us even more reason to hope.

Psalms 37:4 _____

Psalm 112:7 _____

III. God knows your heart and He understands that there are doubts. He understands that we may look foolish to other people. He even has an answer for these thoughts and feelings with this promise.

Romans 10:11 _____

IV. Meditate on these words, think about them daily and let them go into your mind and spirit. A new hope will rise up inside you. You will have more energy, more peace and more joy.

Isaiah 40:31 _____

When we dare to hope, and rely on the Word of God, we begin to see a vision of a healed marriage that is the desire of our heart.

DOES GOD CARE?

I. Are you discouraged? Do your problems seem overwhelming and you can't see a way out? David felt that way. He was anointed King when he was 16 and yet waited many years before he became King. He suffered many trials and poured his heart out to God in the Psalms.

List some of the ways David felt from the following Psalms:

Psalm 6:6-7 _____

Psalm 143:4 _____

II. We have all experienced these feelings of desperation, loneliness, hopelessness, and despair, but God hears our pleas. What does God say when we cry out to Him?

Psalm 34:17 _____

Psalm 126:5 _____

III. David knew that God heard his cries for help and he put his trust in Him and he became King and ruled over Israel 40 years. God delivered David and he reaped in joy. The Lord does hear our prayers. He does care. He even tells us what to do about our problems.

1 Peter 5:7 _____

IV. God is concerned for you and your marriage. He knows the pain, the hurt and the problems caused by separation from your mate. He knows the difficulty involved in sticking it out and living through the day to day difficulties. God has plans for you and your marriage. He is your help and will heal and build strength in your marriage so you can help others.

Jeremiah 29:11 _____

2 Corinthians 1:4 _____

Turn to God and trust in Him as David did. He will hear you. He will comfort you. He will deliver you. He will use you!

DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYERS?

I. Abraham must have wondered if God really meant what He said when He told Abraham and Sarah they would have a child. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. That looked pretty impossible.

Read the following scripture and write the verse.

Genesis 18:14 _____

II. As you know, Abraham and Sarah had Isaac just as God had promised. Do you know why God blessed Abraham?

Genesis 15:6 _____

III. We can see that the situation looked impossible. Abraham and Sarah were far past the ages of conceiving a child. But Abraham had already put **his trust and his faith** in God for the impossible. What does God say about the impossible?

Luke 1:37 _____

Mark 10:27 _____

IV. So we know God can do the impossible, but what else is necessary in order for us to receive this from God?

Mark 9:23 _____

James 1:6 _____

V. We see that God worked miracles for many people in the scriptures. Another miracle the Lord performed was the raising of Lazarus from the dead. What did Jesus say to Martha in John 11?

John 11:40 _____

VI. Marriage problems can really look impossible. As you can see from these scriptures God loves the impossible. He can give new life to your marriage. To see God's glory be manifested in our own situation we must have **faith and trust, and believe in Him**--not other people. If you are having trouble seeing a miracle for your impossible situation, go to your Father, pour out your heart and tell Him you need His help to believe.

HOW CAN I FORGIVE?

I. You have probably heard the story of Joseph, whose brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph's brothers told their father, Jacob, that he was dead. Joseph spent many years as a slave and many years in prison. How angry he must have been. He must have had feelings of resentment, bitterness and revenge. He had been abandoned by his loved ones and forgotten as if he were dead. Before Joseph's father died he asked him to do something. Write what he told him to do.

Genesis 50:17 _____

II. Joseph was obedient and forgave his brothers. He told them how God had taken the evil they had done and brought it to good. God blessed his whole family. Our Father tells us in His Word what to do when we have been hurt deeply. Write out the following.

Ephesians 4:32 _____

III. Although there is so much pain and our emotions tell us that we have a right to bitterness, rage and anger, we must be obedient. God is very explicit about forgiving others.

Matthew 6:12 _____

Mark 11:25 _____

IV. Even the apostles wondered about forgiving. Jesus didn't say when others repent and say they are sorry, then forgive. He set the example for all of us. No one has suffered as Jesus, yet in His agony He did not wait to forgive.

See Luke 23:34 _____

V. Every day we suffer hurts and injustices from others and from our families. We must not wait. We must forgive. If you are having difficulty with this, ask Jesus to help you speak the words of forgiveness out loud just as He did. He will help you and He will bless you for your obedience.

HOW DO I PRAY?

I. Do you need help in your prayer life? When you are in a desperate situation or a crisis, you know that it is time you really need to pray. Yet sometimes it is hard to put our needs into words. Have you ever wanted to pray for someone else and yet you didn't know what to pray? How does one pray? Jesus said He would send us a Helper, someone to help us pray. Look up the following scripture.

John 14:26 _____

II. The Holy Spirit, our Helper, our Counselor, our Comforter, is the one who can pray through us. He can intercede for us to God. We can pray from our own understanding, but the Holy Spirit prays the will of God.

Romans 8:26 _____

Romans 8:27 _____

III. When we allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us in the language of the Spirit, we are coming into a spiritual realm. We are getting a glimpse of God's realm. We come into His presence and are lining our prayers up with His will. All 120 in the upper room, including the apostles and Mary, the mother of Jesus, experienced this special language or tongue of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 _____

IV. Praying in our spiritual language is a gift that we can use to intercede for the impossible situation. It is also our special love language between us and the Father. Write out:

1 Corinthians 14:2 _____

V. As we come into God's presence and let the Holy Spirit pray through us, we will become closer and closer to the Lord. We will hear His will as the Spirit recalls it to us. Our spirit will become stronger and stronger.

Jude 20 _____

Ephesians 6:18 _____

VI. To receive you must ask, and out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

Luke 11:13 _____

John 7:38-39 _____

As we yield our minds and tongues to the Holy Spirit, we will find a new dimension to our prayer life. We will have new understanding and become a more diligent intercessor. If you do not have this special language ask your Father for it. Surrender your voice to the Holy Spirit and allow His language to break forth.

CONFESSIONS FOR SELF:

"I thank you, Father, that I will be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in my prayer life being (both) alert and intent (in my praying) with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

"And thank you, Father, that I will not lose heart in doing good, for in due time I will reap if I do not grow weary." Galatians 6:9

FOR MARRIAGE:

"I thank you, Father, that you will grant _____ repentance leading to the knowledge of truth and that _____ will come to his senses and escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by Satan, henceforth to do God's will." 2 Timothy 2:25b-26

"I pray and believe, Father, that _____ and I will drink waters out of our own cistern of pure marriage relationship and fresh running waters out of our own well, that _____ will confine himself/herself to me alone, and our children will be for us alone and not the children of strangers with us—that our fountain of human life will be blessed with the rewards of fidelity and that we will rejoice with each other. I pray that I will be as a loving hind—tender, gentle and attractive, and he/she will always be transported with delight in my love." Proverbs 5:15-19

"Thank you, Father, that _____ and I will stand firm in united spirit and purpose, striving side by side and contending with a single mind for the faith of the glad tidings of the Gospel." Philipians 1:27

"I thank you, Father, that _____ and I let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from us with all malice (spite, ill-will or baseness of any kind). And I pray _____ and I become useful, and helpful, and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving hearted) forgiving one another (readily and freely), as God in Christ forgave us." Ephesians 4:31-32

FOR CHILDREN:

"I thank you, Father, that our children shall be disciples, taught of the Lord, and great shall be their peace and undisturbed composure." Isaiah 54:13

"I thank you, Father, that I fear not for You are with _____ and me; You will bring our offspring from the east and gather them from the west...." Isaiah 43:5

"I thank you, Father, that I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and that I am saved and my household as well." Acts 16:31

Marriage Is A Covenant

"...because the Lord was witness to the Covenant
made at your marriage..." *Malachi 2:14*

Covenant Vows Contain

Promises

"love, honor, cherish & obey"

Terms

"for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, until death do us part"

Tokens

the wedding band represents our lasting covenant
"my steadfast love I will keep for you forever...
and My covenant will stand firm for you... I will not
violate My covenant nor alter the Word that went forth
from my mouth." *Psalms 89:28, 34*

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (The Living Bible)

Love is:

very patient and kind
never jealous or envious
never boastful or proud
never haughty or selfish or rude

Love:

does not demand its own way
is not irritable or touchy
does not hold grudges
will hardly even notice when others do it wrong
is never glad about injustice
rejoices whenever truth wins out

Love:

is loyal no matter the cost
always believes in someone
always expects the best
always stands its ground in defending him

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