

How This Woman Found Healing After Her Husband's Betrayal Through Porn

By now, many of our readers have had the chance to read the latest blog post regarding a husband's full disclosure. This may leave many questions from the wife's standpoint such as "What happens to me?", "How do I get through this" or "Is my marriage over?" Others may be reading the blog, and they may be objecting to the idea of their husband waiting six months before he discloses his secret struggle.

Having walked through the blazing inferno that is caused by a husband's pornography addiction, I would like to share some of our story and offer hope and encouragement that this is not where your story has to end.

To many, I would be considered a victim of scattered disclosure. I would have considered myself more as a victim of scattered discoveries and naivete.

I met my husband in 2002, and we began dating in 2003. While he worked in construction, he also worked in a recycling plant, and he would often talk about the pornographic magazines that would be brought in. I knew he looked at those magazines, and because I was still reeling from the effects of my broken engagement with another man, we quickly entered a sexual relationship.

Many of my friends talked about porn videos and how watching them with their significant other really enhanced their sex life. Soon after moving in with my future husband, I welcomed pornography videos into our home. I told myself it was just to improve our relationship, and I believed that it would not hurt anything.

We were married in 2005, and within the first month of our marriage, we found out we were going to become parents. One night after coming home from work, I realized my husband was now watching internet pornography. I was crushed! What I had invited into my home was now growing in size, and it was replacing the intimacy I was supposed to experience with my husband. I convinced myself that he was looking at it because of some complications with my pregnancy, and though I was secretly hurting, I trusted it would discontinue as soon as the baby was born.

It didn't.

Eventually, I would discover that my husband was in chat rooms, sharing emails and talking or texting while I worked in the evenings. I didn't understand this at all, as I was not neglecting my husband's needs. I would confront him with my findings, only to be told he would stop because he really loved me. The only excuse I would hear would be the one that would remind me that I was not at home in the evenings, that I was putting all of my focus into my job.

A few years after our second child was born, we started to attend church. My heart became heavily convicted about watching pornography with my husband, so we made the choice to rid our home of all pornographic materials. I believed we had put that old life behind us and was looking forward to the new life ahead.

My life came crashing down quickly when I came home from work late one night to a message from another woman. She told me that over the past several months, she had been having regular conversations with my husband and had planned to meet him at a hotel. He had told her he was never married and had no kids, so she thought it was acceptable to have this kind of relationship with him. Shortly before flying out, she came to the discovery that he did, in fact, have a family, and she felt I should be made aware.

How could my husband not only deny me as his wife, but the existence of his children as well, all for the sake of his sexual addiction?

The pain and pressure instantly became too much to handle, so I had to make the decision to separate from my husband. He tried telling me he was sorry, but in my immediate reaction, I just could not deal with the hurt anymore. In anger, he punched the wall with our daughter standing beside him and ran out the door, leaving our kids screaming and crying.

It was a difficult week. My kids made it clear that they hated me for sending their daddy away. I hated myself for the person I had become, and I allowed myself to believe I had let my husband down, which is why he was searching elsewhere. I hated him for hurting me so badly when I loved him so much.

I walked through my home, picking up all the photos I could find of us as a happy family, and I cried. I looked at our wedding picture, and I sobbed. I loved this man with everything I had, but the wounds were so deep I didn't know how to process them. In the end, my deep love for him caused me to invite him to come home.

Shortly after he moved back home, I became pregnant with our youngest. He got stuck in the middle of it all when family members questioned his paternity since my husband and I had separated for a time. Thankfully he was so young that he will have no recollection of those moments and remarks.

Unfortunately, though my husband never went down the road of planning another affair, he still struggled with pornography. His behavior, his anger, his reactions became warning signs to me, and I would start digging until I found something. This continued for years, until I hit another breaking point.

I found myself crying out to God, pleading for Him to take my pain away. God asked me to pray for my husband, and I argued that I had been for many years. I was gently but sternly

reminded that I had been praying for my husband to be fixed because of my pain and not because I felt my husband deserved it. Though I did not have the words to say, I knelt by my bed and began to cry for my husband—crying with a level of heaviness in my heart that I couldn't understand.

Within hours, I found myself sitting on the opposite side of a pure confession. My six-foot-two husband, who is always strong, crumbled in front of me. With tears streaming down his face, he spoke for hours of all the secret things he had been through in his life: witnessing his father's affair, keeping the secret and feeling full of shame because he never told, wondering why those who knew what was happening never stepped in to protect him, and carrying the residual anger in his heart since his parents divorced. He shared how financially difficult times in his life made him believe he wasn't enough, that he could never provide for us. When I worked late, all he heard in his head was that no one cared to spend time with him. All of these were limbic lies, a direct spin-off of the trauma he endured early in life.

All of these years, I had been so focused on my wounds that I could not see he was broken more deeply than one could imagine. That night, my husband came to the end of himself, and that is where he found the true beginning of God's grace, mercy and love. We have not looked back, and my husband now walks in full knowledge of who he is because of who Christ is. He no longer harbors guilt, shame and blame in his heart. It took time, but eventually, the walls of trust started to build back up. I no longer view myself as a victim of my husband's struggle but instead see myself as an overcomer of a battle straight from the pits of hell. We are not only restored, but more in love with each other than I ever thought could be humanly possible.

Ladies, you're going to find yourselves on the opposite end of those confessions and trust me, they are going to completely break you. Nothing will be able to numb the pain you're going

to feel, and I have no doubt that you're going to react out of the immediate pain, but I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you'll respond.

Some of you may have known about your husband's struggle for quite some time, while others will be completely blindsided by the disclosure.

The lie is that your husband cannot change, but the truth is through Christ, he most certainly can. If your husband has been on his six-month journey, walking through the Conquer Series with a group of men, he is completing the necessary steps to stand up and say he is willing to fight the tough fight for you, your children, your grandchildren and all the generations to come.

Allow yourself time for the revelation of everything to sink in before making any decisions that would affect your family for the rest of your life. Once you've had time to process everything you've heard, I would encourage you to engage in a conversation with your husband. Through this journey, he will have had study guides and would have been encouraged to keep a journal. When you can tangibly see the dedication he put forth on this journey, I believe many of you will be able to join hand in hand with your husband to walk out this journey.

It's OK for you to find a support system of like-minded women who are going through or have already gone through a similar situation. Look to them for prayer and encouragement. Do not allow yourself to participate in a man-bashing group but instead, immerse yourself in a group of women who are on the journey to find themselves again while seeking complete healing for their husband and their marriage. {eoa}

KingdomWorks Studios is currently producing a powerful series that will help you through this journey. Be sure to sign up to receive updates about this latest project.

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7 Hope-Filled Steps to Help You When Suffering Strikes

Suffering is hard. So we work just as hard—if not harder—to avoid it. We don't want to talk about it. And we run away from it. We devise detours that often end up causing even more complications.

Of course, no one wants to suffer. It's even more difficult when we have to watch a loved one suffer. But the reality is that suffering is guaranteed for Christians.

- Paul said it: “Yes, and all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12).
- Peter confirmed it: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though some strange thing happened to you” (1 Pet. 4:12).
- And Jesus, Himself, said it: “In the world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33b).

The timing and degree of suffering may vary. Still, the one constant is that in this broken world, suffering is an experience few, if any, escape.

Two movies

Our aversion to viewing suffering was especially evident in the response to the recent release of two movies. *I Can Only Imagine* and *Paul, Apostle of Christ* were released within a week of each other this spring.

Both movies have strong Christian themes; however, one brought

in box office receipts of more than \$79 million to date, while the other grossed \$17 million. The casts of both include well-known actors. One movie is based on a popular song. The other depicts the suffering of early Christians and the end of the apostle Paul's earthly life.

Both movies also included a measure of suffering. And both ended with the death of a main character. But *I Can Only Imagine* had a happy ending, while the characters in *Paul* would experience their happy ending only when they reached heaven.

I wonder if the significant difference in box office receipts is related to the level of suffering depicted in each movie.

Choices

We have choices in how we respond to suffering. And some choices are more biblical than others.

Consider the following options:

▪ Avoid it at all costs

Our natural tendency is to run from suffering as fast as we can. But this habit can develop into a lifestyle of hedonism: the pursuit of pleasure and self-indulgence. A hedonistic life values pleasure above all else. When experiences become inconvenient or unpleasant, our overriding focus is to escape as quickly as possible, regardless of the cost.

▪ Seek it out

At the other extreme is masochism. A masochist actually finds pleasure in their own pain. Not only do they *not* avoid suffering, but they seek it and relish it when it occurs.

Although you may not know many people who are masochists, most of us know people who like to wallow in their suffering. Their lives are a continual pity party and their motto is "Woe is me" as they seek a steady stream of sympathy.

While the Bible gives us a lot of information about responding to painful circumstances, it never calls Christians to be masochistic. We are not to delight in suffering for suffering's sake.

But there's one more response to suffering—a response every Christian is called to have:

Walk Through It

Christians are called to walk through suffering. The Bible describes us what that looks like:

- **Consider yourself blessed.**

Jesus told His followers they are blessed when they are persecuted for righteousness (Matt. 5:10). Suffering and trials *will* come (John 16:33).

- **Share the comfort.**

The apostle Paul tells us that suffering develops empathy. We are able to take the comfort we received and in turn, comfort others (2 Cor. 1:4).

- **Maintain an eternal perspective.**

Paul also notes that suffering and affliction produces a glory than enables us to maintain an eternal perspective (2 Cor. 4:17). It's easy to focus on the present when we're hurting. But this life is *not* all there is.

- **Be the body.**

Paul reminds us that Christians are not called to suffer alone. We are to help each other, bearing each other's burdens whenever possible (Gal. 6:2).

- **Learn from it.**

The writer of the book of Hebrews notes that sometimes pain and hardship occur as a result of the Lord's loving discipline

(Heb. 12:5-7). C.S. Lewis once said, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Are we listening?

- **Grow from it.**

James wrote that we should count it as joy when we undergo trials. Not masochistic joy for the trial, but joy because we know the testing of our faith produces perseverance or endurance (James 1:2-4).

- **Continue to do good.**

Peter tells us that while good deeds may cause suffering, we should not stop doing good just because life becomes difficult or painful (1 Pet. 3:17; 4:19).

As a 21st-century, Western Christian, the concept of suffering, especially suffering for my faith, is fairly removed from my day-to-day experience. But early Christians (as well as contemporary Christians in other countries) knew what it was to live in fear for their lives simply because they self-identified as followers of Jesus Christ.

Going back to the two movies I mentioned earlier, when I watched *Paul, Apostle of Christ*, I was struck by a reminder. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to those early Christians who suffered for Christ as they passed the baton of faith to the next generation.

When it's my turn, I pray I will follow their example.

How do you respond to suffering? {eoa}

Ava Pennington is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She writes for nationally circulated magazines and is published in 32 anthologies, including 25 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. She also authored *Daily Reflections on the Names of God: A Devotional*, endorsed by Kay Arthur. Learn more at .

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7 Powerful Promises to Build Your Faith for the Impossible

Are you or a loved one facing a very difficult problem? Does it seem that others around you have given up all hope? It's a tough spot to find yourself in, but it happens. God's people give up hope for healing every day. They even believe that God tells them that He won't come through for them. Don't you be one of them. Always encourage yourself in the faith to believe, and no matter what, always give others a reason to believe for their miracle as well. Even if the situation is labeled impossible, or the disease incurable—trust God. He is faithful and just; He never changes; and He never goes against His Word.

To stir your faith to trust God, I have included seven promises of God for you to ponder upon.

“The Lord shall fight for you, while you hold your peace” (Ex. 14:14).

“He gives power to the faint, and to those who have no might He increases strength” (Isa. 40:29).

“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint” (Isa. 40:31).

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isa. 41:10).

“When you pass through waters, I will be with you. And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame kindle on you” (Isa. 43:2).

“For the mountains may be removed, and the hills may shake, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord who has mercy on you” (Isa. 54:10).

“No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment, you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me, says the Lord” (Isa. 54:17).

May the encouragement of hope be instilled within you today as you focus on God’s promises to fight for you, to defend you against all odds, to hold you up when you are afraid and to give you strength when you feel weak in the faith. {eoa}

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The Matthew 28:20 Truth This Mom Needed Most

“Momma,” he called from the dark bedroom. “Is Jesus here?”

“Yes, Justin.”

“Ok, don’t worry, Mom, we just can’t see Him,” he shouted from

his bed.

I plopped down on the sofa, letting Justin's words reverberate in the frayed edges of my mind. What he so blithely acknowledged and accepted I needed in every part of my being. I needed to know that yes, Jesus was here.

In the midst of my mommy chaos, between the sandwiched moments of calm and at the core of my purpose, I longed for His presence. Oh, to rest like my 4-year-old-son in the uncomplicated knowledge that Jesus is here; I just can't see Him right now.

I gazed about at the stray toys scattered around the room, a laundry basket with half-folded little shirts and pants, bits of food drying on the high chair and realized how often I segmented Jesus' presence to pieces of life filled with calm and serenity.

But Jesus walked on top of the water to Peter in the wind and waves. Surely, He can come to me before my dishes are washed, while I change the baby's diaper and as I pick up scattered books. He doesn't wait for my perfect timing or until I have everything in order in my life. He is here in the middle of my mess.

"Lord, if it is You, bid me come to You on the water," Peter said when He saw Jesus walking toward him on the water.

"Come!" Jesus told Peter.

Like Peter, I see distractions, and my focus leaves the one whose hand holds me above the waves.

"But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" (Matt. 14:28-33; NASB).

The question asked innocently by a little boy grew to become a sweet reminder of Jesus' presence every day.

“Is Jesus here?” I asked under the sheet-tent where Justin and I huddled. His toy mower and his stuffed Clifford took up the rest of the space where we sheltered from bad people.

“Is Jesus here?” I asked while we walked. Trees swayed gracefully above the path, blue sky and sunshine winked down through the yellow autumn canopy above us.

“Is Jesus here?” I asked. Justin stood on a stool with his little hands in sudsy water. Our fingers were wrinkled, water dripped down our elbows onto the floor while the dishes soaked.

“... I am with you always,” Jesus told his disciples after He died and rose again. He wanted His disciples to remember even when they couldn’t see him anymore, “... I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20b).

Justin sat in the pebbled sand, “Is Jesus here?” he asked me expectantly. He looked up into my face, his eyes questioned mine, a big dump truck rolled at his knees. A dimpled hand on the yellow truck paused, expecting the answer, waiting with anticipation, “Is He, Momma?”

Mommies need to know, and sometimes littlest disciples are the best reminders.

“I am with you always...”

“Yes, Justin, Jesus is here.”

He nods his blonde-headed approval and smiles, “We just can’t see Him.”

“Momma,” he pauses and looks about, “is Elijah around here somewhere?” {eoa}

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What We Talk About When We Talk About Forgiveness

What's one of the most common reasons we give for not forgiving others?

If you're like many people, you might have answered that our forgiveness implies approval or tolerance of the behavior.

We read about it, talk about it and teach it. Yet for most of us, forgiving others is one of the most difficult things we can do.

A recent conversation with a friend reminded me that one reason we may find it difficult to forgive is because we misunderstand what it is we're forgiving.

What if I told you we are *not* forgiving the sin?

Remember what David wrote in the Psalms? "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak, and You are blameless when You judge" (Ps. 51:4).

Even the Pharisees of Jesus' day understood that God alone can forgive sin. That's why they pitched a fit when Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins. In Luke 5:18-25 (ESV), we read:

Now some men brought in a bed a man who was paralyzed. They searched for ways to bring him in and lay him before Him. When they could not find a way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his bed into their midst before Jesus.

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

The scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is He who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

When Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered them, "Why question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, rise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he rose before them, and took up that on which he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

Yes, only God can forgive the actual sin. And since Jesus is God, He demonstrated that He also has the authority to forgive sin.

Perhaps that's one reason we struggle with forgiveness. We're trying—and failing—to forgive something that we don't have the right to forgive. We justify our failure to forgive by saying we don't want to communicate a tolerance for the sin. Or that it's not right for the other person to "get away with" what they've done.

So where does that leave you and me? If we're not forgiving the sin, then what are we forgiving?

Consider that we are forgiving the *offense*. The offense against our rights. Against our values. Or our family. Against whatever it is that we hold dear.

Matthew 6:14-15 tells us, "For if you forgive men for their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men for their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins."

By forgiving the offender, I'm saying my rights are less important than freedom from bitterness and resentment. I'm saying my job is not to forgive actual sin, but the offense *against me*. The offense that has trespassed *my* rights.

Could it be that the act of forgiveness is the ultimate act of admitting that I am not God? That in giving up my right to be angry and resentful, I am submitting to the authority God has to forgive sins?

Could it be that when we forgive others, we're admitting an awareness that we are desperately in need of the same forgiveness? Because, let's face it, it's just about impossible to go through life without giving offense, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Sooner or later, we will need others to forgive our offenses against them.

Even so, forgiveness is not something we can even begin to do in our own strength. We need the prompting of the Holy Spirit to motivate us to surrender our rights (Gal. 2:20). And we need the power of the Holy Spirit to humble ourselves to actually forgive (John 14:15-17). Finally, we need the Holy Spirit's comfort to know that God is a just judge (Gen. 18:25) and we can trust that He will make all things right in the end.

There's a freedom in forgiving others. Freedom in knowing God is God and we are not. Most of all, freedom in offering what we, ourselves, need.

What are your thoughts? {eoa}

Ava Pennington is a writer, speaker and Bible teacher. She writes for nationally circulated magazines and is published in

32 anthologies, including 25 *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. She also authored *Daily Reflections on the Names of God: A Devotional*, endorsed by Kay Arthur. Learn more at .

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Satan's Sneaky Strategy to Derail Your Life and Ministry

When is the last time you've actually had a real rest? Do you even remember what it means to rest? You know a time set aside to relax your mind and emotions from the busyness of work and ministry and from the stress of this world. A lot of health issues would be solved or prevented by taking a rest once in a while.

God is the initiator of rest, and He gave us a living example of what it means to rest. We read in the book of Genesis that God created the world in six days, and on the seventh day He rested and enjoyed the fruit of His labor. Rest is supposed to be pleasurable. If it's not, you need to take some time to prioritize your life and bring it back into balance.

Are you working too much? Is your work schedule having a negative effect upon your family life? If so you need to get a different job. You think to yourself, "*I can't afford to get a different job.*" Well then, I suggest you downsize your lifestyle so you can afford to do so. Life wasn't created to be centered on houses, cars and other materialistic things; life is meant to be lived, centered on a relationship with God and shared with others. But all too often, God's people have become enslaved to a materialistic world or to a schedule that is destroying the very things they truly love.

I have been in ministry for nearly 25 years now, and I can tell you, the busyness of ministry will destroy you if you allow it to do so. Like most ministers, I had to learn how to set healthy boundaries. I can't tell you how many people have begged me or even tried to guilt me into giving out my phone number to them. I can't do it. I would never have a rest, and the end result would be catastrophe for my family, my ministry and for me. And that is just what the enemy would want. He wants you to burn the candle at both ends so you burn out, abandon what God has called you to do and/or die prematurely.

When the apostles came to tell Jesus all the exciting things that were going on in their daily lives, in their ministries, what did He tell them to do?

The apostles met with Jesus and told him everything, both what they had done and what they had taught. Then He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest a while," for many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

So they went into a remote place privately by boat (Mark 6:30-32).

The fourth commandment tells us that we are to remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. Regardless of the day you consider to be the Sabbath, take it, don't run around, but rest and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

The point is this: Rest is just as important to your well-being as eating healthy and exercising. And in order to rest properly, you need to set up boundaries in your life to protect you and your loved ones, and the longevity of your life, ministry or business. A time of rest is good—enjoy it.
{eoa}

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This article originally appeared at .

The Philippians 2:5 Way to Press Into Peace When Anxiety Threatens

Bad moods happen, and they happen to me especially when I find myself tired, frustrated or anxious. But what if, as Philippians 2:5 (NASB) states, “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus?”

Is it possible to trade a bad mood for God’s peace?

Not long ago, I tested this idea when, after a long flight, I found myself squeezed inside a crowded shuttle heading for an off-airport parking. Once safely in my seat, I took a deep breath, readying myself to dive into my bucket purse to retrieve my keys.

But as I searched the dark cavern, shoveling the contents this way and that, I discovered my keys were missing.

I felt a bead of sweat pop out on my forehead. I was 40 miles from the house, and my husband was off riding his Harley with his Christian motorcycle friends. He wouldn’t be available to rescue me until late that night. I felt my eyebrows knit together. I was in a pickle.

I looked up from my search to see that for the first time in history, my car would be the very first shuttle stop in the parking lot. I shot off a quiet prayer. *What do I do, Lord?*

I felt the peace of His presence. "Trust Me," He seemed to whisper.

I told the driver, "My keys seem to be missing."

He said, "I'll call the office to see if anyone turned them in. What do they look like?"

My cheeks felt hot. "Uh, the keychain is a plastic square with a book cover on it."

The woman next to me said, "You're an author?"

I gave her a sheepish nod. "What's the title?" the driver asked.

This time I laughed, "Well, it's *When You Don't Know What to Pray*."

"Sounds like you'd better do a little praying now," the woman suggested.

"I'm on it," I said with a grin.

The driver dropped off the other passengers while I fumbled in my purse. When I was the last passenger in the van, the driver drove back to my car. "Maybe you could see your keys through your window."

Good idea, only they weren't there.

I reboarded the van and kidded with the driver as he drove me to the office so I could do a purse dump and maybe try to call for a ride home.

With the entire contents of my purse piled high on an office table, I stared into the deep, black hole of my purse. My keys weren't there, and I shook my purse to prove it. *Wait! Was that a jingle I heard?*

I carefully ran my hand against the interior walls of the

purse until I discovered a huge hole in the lining of a zippered pocket. When I pushed my fingers through the hole, I touched my keys!

I happily boarded the van again, and the driver took me back to my car. He said. "You're not like most who lose their keys around here."

"What do you mean?"

"You were laughing and cracking jokes, but my last lady was crying hard."

"Oh no!"

"Then there was the passenger who lost his Lexus. Just before he called the cops, he decided to call home. That's when his wife reminded him he'd driven the station wagon."

So why hadn't I lost my cool?

It was because I'd called out to God and felt His presence. In that moment, He'd asked me to trust him. That gave me permission to relax despite my difficulty.

Try it. Relax in God and enjoy the journey.

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because He trusts in You" (Isa. 26:3, MEV). {eoa}

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How God's Miraculous Healing Surprised This Faithful Servant

A beloved volunteer at Deeper Fellowship Church in Orlando, Florida, shares the amazing story of her healing from the debilitating effects of a stroke. Pastor William McDowell's new book, *It's Happening*, shares many such stories of God's wonder-working power.

The Wondrous Warfare Weapon That Will Keep You in the Battle

Isaiah 43:1 says, "But now, thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine."

We read in Genesis 32:28 "Your name will no more be called Jacob, but Israel. For you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Do you ever feel like life is a struggle? I love to read and study the men and women who have walked before us. We have much to learn from their lives as we walk the runway of life.

Romans 15:4 (TPT) tells us, "Whatever was written beforehand is meant to instruct us in how to live. The Scriptures impart to us encouragement and inspiration so that we can live in hope and endure all things."

We all have dreams and expectations for life. We dream about the perfect man who will sweep us off our feet and all those perfect children, a successful career and ultimately a long, happy life. But you must give up the illusion that you deserve a life that is problem-free. This is false hope and living in a fantasy world.

When your dreams are battered, you are betrayed by a friend, someone you trust lies about you or you lose your job, which has many negative effects on your life, clouds of despair try to take the sunshine from your dreams.

This is when you need to open the Word of God and study the lives of men and women chosen by God to change their family and their nation. We all go through the stripping process of taking off the old and putting on the new. This is a lifelong process. But as we grow in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit reveals the truth to us, we learn "how to" fight the good fight of faith. We keep our weapons of warfare sharp, ready to cut asunder the thick chords of the enemy trying to choke the Word from our heart.

Jochebed was a strong woman of faith, but most Christians don't even know who she is. She fought the good fight of faith for her family. She raised three leaders: Moses, Miriam and Aaron. How did she do it? Hebrews 11:23 (MEV) tells us, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months, because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's command."

By faith, because they saw! They knew that God created all children, and they had made a commitment to follow the Lord. They were confident in Him to turn everything around for good.

They didn't know how, or understand, but they had confidence in their God! Jochebed's life speaks through her children. She paved the way for Moses to lead the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt to the promised land.

Life is not always easy. As children of God, we are living in a war zone: good versus bad. As we look around us, we can see that the battle is raging. As children of God, we need each other to pray and encourage one another in this battle. You need the gathering of your Christian friends and the anointing of a church to hold you up in this life and help you.

Many of us are nursing old wounds that keep us in bondage. The Lord is saying to you today, "Let it go!"

Life is a process; in the process, you find the promise. In the promise, you find His presence. In His presence, you find His purpose. In His purpose, you find His pleasure. As a woman of God, a real woman created in His image, you have all the sources and resources of heaven available to you as you are being formed into His likeness as you walk the runway of life.
{eoa}

Joyce Tilney is an author and teacher. In her new book, The Real Woman Grows Roses from the Thorns of Life, you will be encouraged as you walk the runway of life. For more information: therealwomanjt@ and .

Why Healing Should Matter to You in These Last Days

Never underestimate the power of healing, whether it be your healing or the healing of another in these last days. Healing

points to the Messiah. It proves that the God you have been professing all these years is real. This is why the enemy fights so hard against this message. He is afraid of the fruit of salvation that is harvested through healing.

Take the limits off of God about who can and who cannot be healed. Throughout all these years of ministering healing to people around the world, I stand amazed at who receives their healing and who doesn't receive what God has for them. I have witnessed the most rebellious people on the streets receive instant healing, and they are so amazed that in the midst of all their rebellion, someone reached out in the name of Jesus, and they were healed.

I'm speaking about one man from the streets of Guatemala who was waiting to have an operation to amputate digits because terrible gangrene had set in, and he was instantly healed. When he climbed up on the operating table, the doctors were wondering why he was even there.

Another young rebellious teenage boy, screaming obscenities in our faces because he hated the one we represented—God—but when his freshly broken arm (that had been broken in a gang fight earlier that day) was instantly healed, he stopped his filthiness and was able to listen and hear us.

How about all the young street kids with STDs who were instantly healed? How about the dead baby in the womb of a young prostitute who came back to life instantly when healing hands were placed upon the womb of that young, lost lady? These miraculous healings testify louder than our words that God is alive and well and he loves and cares about them.

God is just waiting for us to activate our faith on behalf of other people. And when we do—great things happen.

How about your next-door neighbor? You hear that this person is sick and dying from cancer. What are you going to do about it? Will you take the risk of rejection and reach out in the

name of the Lord and share the love of God with them through a healing touch? Do you understand the impact you can start to have all around you in these last days?

Romans 15:18-19 says to us, "For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."

If you will wield the power of signs and wonders you can win both Jew and Gentile in greater numbers to the Lord in these last days. {eoa}

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