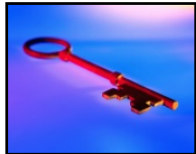


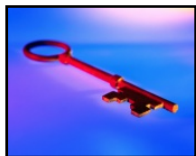
3 Key TRUTHS for Surviving Separation

and the Tangible Tools to Apply Them

If you can latch onto understanding *and* applying these three vital truths early on, you will do more than just survive during this time of separation. You will move closer to God's plan for your life and discover His kingdom purpose amidst the pain. On the second page (or reverse side) you will find some suggestions to help you apply each key truth.



THE FIRST KEY TRUTH: SEPARATION IS A JOURNEY OF FAITH, NOT A RACE TO A FINISH LINE. Many people who find themselves separated and feel abandoned want God to provide a quick fix. However, it is essential to realize that God's methods and timing are often more important than the final outcome. God is calling you to a journey of faith that cannot be measured in the outward signs (or lack thereof) of what's transpiring in your circumstances or how quickly a resolution does or doesn't occur. Regardless of the final outcome, you must decide now if you believe God can do the impossible no matter how hopeless the reconciliation of your marriage may appear. **Will you surrender your itinerary, agenda, fears, options, ideas, opinions, baggage, obstacles, desired outcomes, and timelines to accept God's invitation on this journey of faith...come what may?**



THE SECOND KEY TRUTH: WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST YOUR MARRIAGE. Often times as the drama and emotion of a marital crisis unfolds, our perspective gets short-sighted. Think of it as similar to what happens when you sit in the front row of a movie theater. Instead, you must gain God's broader perspective and make an effort to see the grander scope and sequence of what's transpiring. What's happening in your life right now is about revealing the Husband heart of God who bids you, "Come!" It's about His desire to have *ALL* of your heart, soul, and mind. It's about the after-effects of unwise choices we've all made since the Fall of Man—using people and things to fill a gap that only He can occupy. **Will you allow God to fully and radically conquer every area of your life?**



THE THIRD KEY TRUTH: FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE IS A POSTURE BEFORE GOD, NOT THE PURSUIT OF YOUR SPOUSE. Contending is really an attitude of the heart and a resolve of deeper faith in the middle of the mire, not about taking action to pursue your spouse or trying to singlehandedly save your marriage. Fighting in your own strength is what the flesh will want you to do (things such as initiating contact or convincing arguments, sending numerous e-mails, relentlessly texting him/her, etc.) However, this is a spiritual battle with a high call from the Holy Spirit that very few hear...and even fewer obey. Consider this, your posture before God and your ruthless pursuit of Him will not only impact your life, your spouse, and your marriage, but will also impact your children, your children's children, and every generation to come. **Will you assume the posture of prayer, study, service, and worship; pursuing your relationship with God over chasing down your spouse?**

Surviving Separation

Tangible Tools for Application



Understanding these three key truths won't help you unless you tangibly apply them to your life. Listed alongside each key truth is a Scripture passage to study that will help guide you in the application process. In addition, you will find verses for meditation and memorization. Place the memory verses on index cards. Make several sets so you can have one by your bed, in your car, at work, etc.



APPLYING THE FIRST KEY TRUTH: SEPARATION IS A JOURNEY OF FAITH, NOT A RACE TO A FINISH LINE.

Scripture for Deeper Study: Jeremiah Chapters 29–31, Jerusalem's Exile and Hope for Restoration

Scripture for Meditation: Proverbs 2:6–8 **Scripture for Memorization:** Jeremiah 29:11

Action: Purchase a travel journal, such as the kind found at most bookstores. Spend some time in prayer, committing your journey to God and surrendering each of the following elements: your itinerary, agenda, fears, options, ideas, opinions, baggage, obstacles, desired outcomes, and timelines. On the first page of the journal, write a prayer to God that expresses your decision to follow Him. Pray this prayer first thing each morning. As time passes and you reflect on your relationship with God, add entries and revelations about what He is doing in each of the following areas: spiritual, relational, health/wellness, financial, home, professional, and big dreams and possibilities.



APPLYING THE SECOND KEY TRUTH: WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST YOUR MARRIAGE.

Scripture for Deeper Study: Acts 16:16–40, Paul and Silas in Prison.

Scripture for Meditation: Revelation 21:1–2 **Scripture for Memorization:** Isaiah 55:8–9

Action: Spend some time quietly listening to 3–4 worship songs that focus on praising God for who He is. Play each song twice. The first time, just relax and listen carefully to the lyrics. The second time, write down any truths about God's character that are revealed to you as you listen. Afterward, thank God for each trait you have listed such as His majesty, sovereignty, power, tenderness, etc. Read Psalms 96–100 aloud to God.



APPLYING THE THIRD KEY TRUTH: FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE IS A POSTURE BEFORE GOD, NOT THE PURSUIT OF YOUR SPOUSE.

Scripture for Deeper Study: 2 Chronicles 20:1–30: Victory over Enemy Nations.

Scripture for Meditation: Habakkuk 3:16–19 **Scripture for Memorization:** 1 Thessalonians 16–18

Action: Take a photograph from your wedding and place a sticky note on the back side. Ask God how He wants you to change *YOUR* heart during this time. Ask Him how *He* wants you to pray for your spouse. Pray daily. Each time you notice a change, place a check mark next to each item. Ask a trusted friend (same gender) to meet with you and pray with you at least once a week over the phone, or in person. Allow him/her to hold you accountable to applying each of the three key truths.

Recommended Resources

Broken Heart on Hold (book)

Critical Care for Your Marriage (booklet/DVD)

Yes, Your Marriage Can be Saved (book)

Streams in the Desert (devotional journal)

www.brokenheartonhold.com

www.inverseministries.org

www.marriage911online.com

www.christianbook.com