

Giving You a Fresh Start After Divorce

Are You Forsaken or Redeemed?

This is a question that we need to ask ourselves so we can move on into victory in our lives. When we have been “forsaken” it’s so easy to sink into a pit of despair and find our new residence. That’s not what the Father has for you.

For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken, grieved in spirit, and heartsore—even a wife [wooed and won] in youth, when she is [later] refused and scorned, says your God. Isaiah 54:6 The Amplified Bible, AMP

When I initially started my first Blog back in 2012, my heart was to minister to woman who were going through a divorce. Initially I was going to title it **A Woman Forsaken**, but as I began to write, I heard the Lord say, “Are you forsaken, or have you been redeemed?” It was then I realized the name needed to change. Hence, I changed the title to **You Are a Woman Redeemed**, and that is the message I am imparting to each of you in this current Series “**Giving You a Fresh Start After Divorce**” because that is who you truly are. When you have a relationship with the Lord, you are redeemed!

I’d like to bring you back to the issue of a divorced woman vs a woman who lost her husband because of death. Again, the above verse cannot possibly be talking of a widowed woman whose husband has passed away. She is not refused or scorned. She is sad. She is bereaved but certainly not refused and scorned. I believe that the Word of life that Isaiah is prophesying in Isaiah 54:4-17 is for the divorced woman. Isaiah wanted us to know that although we have been forsaken by our spouse, we do not need to live there and take on the shame from it.

So, I made the decision that I was not going to walk around calling myself forsaken or even allow the feeling to take hold of my heart. I was determined to know that even though my spouse abandoned his family, I no longer needed to identify myself with that label. **I am a “woman redeemed!”**

Now let’s move onto the next verse.

For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion and mercy I will gather you [to Me] again. Isaiah 54:7 The Amplified Bible, AMP

One of the things I love to do is have an in-depth study of what the scriptures are saying. I'll take every version of the Bible that I have (KJV, NKJV, Amplified, NLT, ESV, and TPT – to name a few) along with my Concordance, sit on my bed and read and research and read some more and research some more. I find it fascinating to dig into the Word and get either the Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) meanings. Then I ask the Lord for revelation as to what He may be saying in His Word. I can't say I'm a scholar at this, but I do receive revelation as I search with all my heart.

The verse above is where I felt I needed to do some research. The Scriptures seem to contradict a little. In Isaiah 54:7-8 it says, *"For a brief moment I forsook you. In a little wrath I hid my face from you for a moment ..."* But then in Hebrews 13:5, the Lord says, *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."* These contradictions I found to be confusing. But knowing that in 1 Corinthians 14:33 it says that *"the LORD is not a God of confusion,"* I had to venture on and do some Bible digging.

Isaiah 54:7 starts with *"For a brief moment I forsook you."* In the Hebrew, moment means *rega'* - a wink, a very short space of time, an instant. Then it goes on to say, *"But with great compassion and mercy will I gather you [to Me] again."* The Word "great" comes from the Hebrew word *gâdôwl* – exceedingly, high, mighty, much. "Mercies" means *raham* – compassion, tender love, pity. And gather in the Hebrew means *"qâbats* – to grasp, collect, surely take up. *(The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, James Strong, LL.D, S.T.D., Thomas Nelson Publishers 1990)*

So, what can we gather from this deeper meaning? If I were to put it in layman's terms, I might say, *"Beloved for just a wink of time, an instant, I turned from you. But my love for you is so strong that I released my exceedingly great compassion and tender love towards you to heal and restore you to Myself again."*

Now one can ask why would He turn from us in the first place? Well, could it be because of the divorce? It is something He does not look highly upon – even if it was not of your choosing. Our God cannot look upon sin. That is why when Jesus hung on the cross and took all our sins and infirmities upon Himself, the Father turned from Him ... for a moment. Perhaps the Lord turned from us for a moment because He needed to rebuke us or kindly discipline us.

In a relationship, there are two people and it's never truly just one sided. Even though our spouse may be abandoning us, and may have defiled our marriage bed, we need to look at what our part was in contributing to the breakup of our marriage.

I don't think He would rebuke a widow who lost their husband to death. But could He rebuke a woman who is divorced until He can show what her sin and failure was? Then she can repent, and He can release His love, compassion, and mercy upon her. I'm not sure that's the answer but it's what I discerned.

Remember it was just for a wink that He turned. But His love for us is so great. His desire for us is so strong. His heart for us is so tender that He wouldn't turn for very long.

Kisses from your King

“Your hearts can soar with joyful gratitude when you think of how God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light. He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son. For in the Son all our sins are canceled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood.” Colossians 1:12-14 The Passion Translation, TPT

“Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!’” Lamentations 3:23-24 New Living Translation, NLT

You have a Redeemer **“Who brought you out of darkness and translated you into the Kingdom of His Dear Son”** and what a **Kingdom** it is!

If you accepted Christ into your life, then you have been translated out of that darkness and now live and abide in God’s Kingdom. Learn what that Kingdom is and what it looks like. Know that you will receive all that you need by abiding in Him and living in His Kingdom!

Receive His compassion today, my sister; rest in His arms this moment; drink in His love and be filled with His grace and mercies – **“They are new every morning.”**

Take some time and write about what perhaps you did to contribute to the breakup of your marriage. Get quiet and ask the Father to show you. Then repent and ask for His forgiveness so you can now move on. You don’t want to make the same mistake again in another relationship.

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