

## You Need to Let "Her" Go

She has held you captive for many years. Physically, she is no longer in your life, but mentally and spiritually, she is very much still a very present force in your life. The two of you broke up years ago, and even though you tell people that you're over her and you're happy that it's over, you're not being one hundred percent truthful with them or yourself. You see, every relationship we enter helps to form our realities and when those relationships are over, the hurt and bitterness left behind often deforms the realities that were inspired by those relationships. For example, you may have found yourself in a relationship with a woman who inspired you to make plans for your future. Before she came into your life, you were just living life one day at a time. You hadn't thought too much about your future and you were content with your surroundings because it was all you knew. You'd lived in a certain neighborhood and you had the mindset of most of the guys from that neighborhood, and then, a woman came into your life and helped you to see a future you'd never dreamed of. She introduced you to hope and you were smitten with her, nevertheless, that relationship ended and she took your newfound hope with her.

It's been more than five years since she's walked out of your life, but you've allowed fear to hinder you from ever having a successful and happy relationship with a woman. You see, you're too afraid to give any woman the opportunity to enter the deepest parts of your heart and mind, so you purposely or maybe unintentionally sabotage any and every relationship you get in once it gets "too serious". Sure, like most men, you want to get married, have children and be happy, but to have a successful marriage, you must love your wife as you love yourself and give her access to the deepest and most private parts of your heart and body. This means that your wife WILL have the opportunity to hurt you like you've never been hurt before, but if you love God and let Him send you a wife, you must trust that she won't use that opportunity even though she has it. For example, when we're married, we become physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially vulnerable to our spouses. As a man, you will sleep on the bed alongside your wife, and this means that if she wanted to hurt or kill you, she could because a sleeping man is a vulnerable man, nevertheless, most of us take that risk everyday because love is greater than fear. You will eat your wife's food, just like she'll eat what you cook and, of course, any crazy (demon-filled) woman could easily poison you, but this rarely happens. Nevertheless, you have the same "opportunities" to harm or destroy your wife as she has to harm or destroy you, so marriage is truly a faith walk. You are giving one another the opportunity to love and help you, but along with that opportunity comes the opportunity to bankrupt, hurt or destroy you. When you love your spouse and you know that they love you,

you won't worry about the evils they could do to you because you trust that you are a good enough judge of character to not bring home a devilish woman. Your wife will have access to your banking information, her name will be on the deed of the house and you will share children with her. These are the risks that we take for love!

I've heard so many men say that they were never getting married or they will never marry again because they'd suffered through divorces and bad marriages, and of course, these proclamations are rooted in fear. They fear going through another divorce, and they fear going through what leads up to divorces, so they opt to live in fornication rather than trusting that God will reveal the wives He's entrusted to love and guard their hearts. Let's face it. We take risks each and everyday. Every time you crank up your car, you risk having an accident. Every time you walk into your workplace, you risk having a crazy co-worker come into the office and open fire. Every time you buy food from the store, there's a risk that some madman has done something to that food; after all, you were not present when that food was being processed, packaged, shipped or placed on the shelves. Your food goes through several hands before it reaches you. Every time you drink water, you are risking your life because who knows what's in that water? The point is... life is full of risks, but the amazing thing about humans is we choose our risks based on our fears and our faith. We have faith that the food we purchase isn't poisoned or tainted in any way. We have faith that we'll arrive safely at work and no one will come into the office and open fire. We have faith that the people we've chosen as our spiritual leaders aren't demon possessed souls who are transferring demonic spirits into everyone they touch. Nevertheless, most men will risk their lives to live the lives they want, but a lot of guys won't risk having to nurture a broken heart to get to the wives they want. Because of this, many men rob themselves of the opportunity to ever know true love. This means that whomever that woman was that hurt you is the most powerful and influential woman in your life today, even though she's not physically present.

Like most women, I'd taken on the project of trying to restore a broken man, because, of course, I wasn't spiritually mature back then. I was so angry with the women from his past because I saw the goodness in him; I saw his potential to be a really good (and happy) man, but I also saw him limit himself by his anger and unforgiveness towards those women. Somehow, I must have forgotten that I am a woman, meaning, I would pay for the mistakes of my predecessors because a man broken by women generalizes the gender, rather than judging the character of the women who've hurt him. Like most babes in Christ, I thought I could be the woman who'd rescue his heart from the darkness that his pain had locked him in. I jumped through many hoops trying to prove myself, but like most relationships, problems did arise, but

unlike most men, those problems, in his eyes, were doomsday threats. Most women, when they love their husbands, want to work out the problems in their marriages, but when a woman is trying to heal a broken man, she soon finds that his perceptions about women flare up when he's angry and scared. When a woman is dealing with a man like that, there is nothing she can do to soothe him or take away the perceived threat that he feels is haunting him because in that hour, she's no longer his wife; she's a woman, and a woman, to him, is an untrustworthy soul. In that hour, all a wife could (and should) do is remain quiet until her husband calms down and is able to identify her by her name and not her gender, and of course, for some men, this can take days, depending on the incident. For others, a small disagreement is magnified to the point where it becomes grounds for divorce.

Nowadays, when I minister to women, I warn them about broken men (just like I warn men about broken women) because I know how women reason. You see, women make things pretty; we restore things and we take pride in being able to take something that is ugly and restore it to its original luster or better. Sometimes, we fail to realize that we don't have the tools to fix broken hearts, cracks in a man's soul or trust issues. There is no concealer for the soul and there are no diet plans that will help a man expel his demons, nevertheless, we often think otherwise. It's not uncommon for women to date, court and marry broken men just because they see the potential in those men. It goes without saying, however, that broken people break people, meaning, a broken man will only break the women who entrust him with their hearts because as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. A broken man doesn't need a woman or a wife; he needs salvation, deliverance and a renewed mind. He needs Jesus more than anything, and just like a broken woman, he needs to take a few seasons off from relationships to get to know the Lord more and to get to know himself more. Nevertheless, the average man jumps from one relationship to the other, never giving himself the time he needs to heal and recognize his own issues. Instead, he deflects his issues onto the women who walked out of his life or been chased out by his hatred, infidelities, trust issues or inability to give women a love that's greater than his fears. But that's not you... right?

The truth is... men aren't like women. You're not emotional creatures, so it's pretty difficult for you to do a little soul searching within yourself to locate your own issues. Most of the men I've mentored deflect their issues onto the women who are PRESENT in their lives. Sure, they still blame their exes for the ending of their relationships, but the bulk of their hurt and anger is placed upon the women who've dared to sport their last names. One of the things I've discovered is that men and women wrestle with different demons. Women often wrestle with jealousy and envy and we point those issues toward other women, whereas, men tend to wrestle

with pride, but they tend to point those issues at the women in their lives. The truth is... over the course of history, women have proven themselves to be powerful enough to bring down the most powerful of men (see Samson and Delilah, Ahab and Jezebel, David and Bathsheba, etc.). That's because demons go by ranks. If you're a powerful man of God, Satan is not going to send a miniature devil after you. He's going to send a Goliath after you, and that's why you need Jesus to pick your wife for you. Love is a beautiful thing and no one should rob themselves of it, but when a man has more fear than he has love, he will cower at the sight of love, often hiding behind the very devils he's trying to avoid. How so? I've witnessed men leave good, Godly women because they'd gotten scared, and they'd run off with some of the most wicked Jezebels and Delilahs. Many of them are resting in their graves right now, while others, are like the living dead. They've drowned their lives in alcohol, trying to find some way to escape the pain of their realities. That's what fear does to a man! It chases him into the arms of the very devil he's trying to flee.

God said, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord." To obtain God's favor isn't a small thing; it's huge, but the amazing reality is... Satan has convinced many men to forsake God's favor and call themselves "boyfriends" for the rest of their lives. Now, God refers to a man finding his wife, but amazingly enough, Satan convinces men to be boys who aren't mature enough to recognize that they're robbing themselves of two of the greatest blessings God ever freely gave to men, outside of salvation: wives and favor.

According to Strong's Greek Concordance, the word "favor" comes from the Greek word "xar" (feminine version: xaris), also known as charis, and it means: (a) grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, (b) favor, (c) gratitude, thanks, (d) a favor, kindness.

Basically, God shows His gratitude to a man who seeks first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness... a man who has allowed God to add everything else to him, including a wife. Such a man inherits the grace, kindness and gratitude of God, meaning, he is blessed by God in his going out and coming in. But the problem is, most men (just like their female counterparts) have played the matchmaker with their own souls and tried choosing their own spouses and it just didn't work. They chose women based on the mindsets they were in (at that time) and the spirits they were bound by (at that time). They were abused, cheated on, arrested, robbed, manipulated, emasculated and abandoned time after time again. What they didn't know is: Satan uses our seasons of ignorance to bruise our hearts and souls so that when our seasons of grace come upon us, we'll reject every blessing God sends our way out of fear. This means that a man who's courted 32 women and been hurt by 28 of those women would be so afraid of being hurt again that he'd either reject a good woman sent by God or he'd hurt her, and that's why God doesn't reveal wives to broken men. Instead of finding wives, broken men find

broken women and marry them. Those women don't become wives once they get married; instead, they become married women, meaning, they don't know what it means to be help meets. They don't come with the favor of God and their love for God hasn't grown up yet, therefore, they can't truly love their "married men" the way a wife loves her husband. The couples then bruise each other all the more and when their marriages end, they seek partners who will validate, restore and rescue them. Of course, because they're broken, they keep finding broken people who will break them even more. That's why you need to let "her" go and move on with your life.

Who is "her"? She is every ex you've ever had. She is the woman who you trusted the most; the woman you gave your broken heart to. She's the woman who took your broken heart and shattered its pieces until it was as fine as dust. She is the woman who's still influencing and affecting every relationship you enter today. You see, because of "her", you mistreat and generalize women. Because of "her", you have rejected the favor of God. Because of "her", the foundation of every relationship you enter is contaminated with fear and doubt. Because of "her", you won't allow yourself to love anyone past your fears. After all, hurt men hurt women. Because of "her", you teach your daughters that men aren't trustworthy and incapable of loving them, so they give their bodies away freely, hoping to at least rent love from the men who look and behave like you. Because of "her", you teach your sons that women aren't trustworthy, therefore, causing them to reject their favor and their blessings to chase up behind every loose woman who wears her pain well. Because of "her", you've thrown away so much of your identity that you don't even recognize yourself anymore. You need to let "her" go so God can bless you with the one woman He's custom designed just for you. Stop robbing yourself of the opportunity to love and be loved just because you put your trust in some woman who was undeserving of your love. Recognize that your broken heart was your own fault because you did not consult with God about "her". I tell people all the time that if anyone could justify being in unforgiveness, I could, but I chose not to take that path because it would have robbed me of the blessings God has for me. I decided to search my own heart, confront my own issues, repent of my sins and embrace the understanding that leads to forgiveness. When I did this, I was able to take accountability for my own issues... issues that led me into two failed marriages. We all choose our paths and I chose the path of love, forgiveness, understanding and acceptance because on that path is something far greater than what I thought I wanted or needed. I urge you to choose that path too because I can testify that it's a path that's full of joy, hope and favor... the very stuff that dreams are made of. To walk this path, you need faith and we all know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. You can't get past "her" without "HIM". You need God to help you heal so that you can understand who

"she" was to you and you'll stop allowing "her" to order your steps. Instead, you'll let "her" inspire you to be a better man and appreciate the wife God has for you because after you've had your heart broken, stumped on and put back together again, you'll learn to appreciate the woman who has the opportunity to break it, but doesn't take that opportunity because she loves you and since the two of you are one, to break your heart means she'd have to break her own heart. There's a "her" out there reserved by God just for you, but you gotta get past the ones Satan used to intercept you while you were on your way to your "real wife". Don't let the wrong women rob you of your chance to be happy, favored and blessed. Let God heal, restore and deliver you, and then, take all that love He places in you and give it back to Him. He will then increase your capacity to love and you'll be able to love a woman (your wife) outside of your understanding to the point where your love will penetrate the immeasurable love she has for you. God will then join His love with the love the two of you have for one another and nothing and no one in this world will have the power to break that bond because a three-fold cord is not easily broken. Believe me when I tell you that there's a "her" out there for you, but you've got to seek the heart of God to get to her heart. The journey to your wife is long and sometimes painful, but ask any man who's found his "good thing", you'll soon forget what it took to get you to your wife after you start sharing your life with her. She's so worth it, but you'll never know this if you let fear lock you in a mindset and leave you there.