THE RIGHT SOURCE FOR BEING HEALED FROM DIVORCE ISSUES

Your path to being healed from divorce issues

A major part of your life involves relationships. One of the most difficult relational experiences is a divorce. Jesus deals with those emotions that come from divorce. He can teach you and empower you to win over the emotional and relational struggles it causes .

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Introduction

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Divorce

This study doesn't deal with the rightness or wrongness of the divorce issue, nor does it deal with whether or not you should get a divorce. It is working with the divorced person and helping them win over the trauma and devastation that comes from a divorce.

Dealing With Divorce Issues

If you are divorced, you know you are in a good relationship with God, you are suffering from the divorce, and this suffering is the major issue you are facing, then this study with Jesus is the one that will help you the most.

I Feel Guilty About Getting Divorced

If God is dealing with you about having gotten divorced and is saying that what you did was wrong, then you may need to go to wctlc.com Start Page and select "I need RESOURCE MATERIALS to help others." If your life has areas in it that need help, renewal, repair, and improvement in your relationship with Jesus, then the "**Getting Forgiveness For A Mistake Or A Sin**" pamphlet will help. If you are not sure whether the guilt you feel is from God, then you may need to go to wctlc.com Start Page and select "I want to overcome a LIFE PROBLEM." Then go down to the "Guilt" picture in the collage and select it.

I want to be a BETTER CHRISTIAN.

A wonderful way for you to find out whether or not you did the wrong thing, is to go to wctlc.com Start Page and select "**I want to be a BETTER CHRISTIAN.**" Read the information on that page and see if there is a study that will help with issues you are having with your conscience and your relationship with God. Another study that may be the answer to a possible breached relationship with God is the "spiritual" study. It deals very specifically with your relationship with your heavenly Father. Go to wctlc.com Start Page and select "I want to overcome a LIFE PROBLEM." Then go down to the "Spiritual Needs" picture in the collage and select it.

All your struggles with divorce may go away just as soon as you make things right with God. Pray and ask Jesus if He wants you to join Him in the *Divorce* study, the *Better Christian* study, or the *Spiritual Needs* study. Depending on what you and Jesus decide, any one of those studies will help you with your relationship with God. They will teach you how to talk to Him and find out what His will is for your life. All these studies will expose you to Jesus and the Bible in such a way that you will get the clarity, peace, truth, and help you need, so you can enjoy life.

Handling Your Mistakes

You may have done something that was wrong; and, you may have done it knowing God was against it. Then later, you can try to straighten it out. But, your method of "straightening" it out may cause as many problems for you as the wrong deed. Before you try to handle decisions you made concerning divorce, you need to take your situation before Jesus and let Him help you make the right one. Guilt, depression, assumptions, self-justification, and human effort can take a bad situation and make it worse.

Don't just decide you did wrong; don't just decide you did right; don't just decide whose fault it was. Jesus' forgiveness and healing don't deal with guilt, fault, what you deserve, or how bad it was. He deals in grace that gives you things you don't have to deserve. He gives you mercy that keeps you from getting punished for *anything* you did wrong. He gives you gifts that don't have anything to do with what you can do in return. He will start your life over based on His supernatural power that is bigger and better than anything you or anyone else can do.

Getting Back With A Spouse
If you are divorced, and God is dealing with you about going back to your spouse, and your spouse is willing to consider getting back with you, and it is something both of you are willing to work on, then read the introduction in the "The Right Source For Healing A Marriage." Ask Jesus if He wants to take you through that study; see if He says it would help you get back together with your spouse.

Divorce Was The Right Thing To Do
Once again, if you are divorced, you know you are in a good relationship with God, you are suffering from the divorce, and this suffering is the major issue you are facing, then this study, with Jesus, is the one that will help you the most.

Chapter One - Truth
Emotions Are Very Important

From A Mind Change To A Heart Change
Jesus wants to help you stop seeing how big your issues with divorce are and start *believing* in His power. He wants to help you open your heart to feelings of being loved. It may take some time for Jesus to change your circumstances, your mind, your finances, your relationships, and your physical condition; but, all of that will happen, if you allow Him to change your heart.

Your heart may believe in the power, impossibilities, and greatness of your problems with divorce. As long as this is true, you won't be able to *believe* in the love, compassion, and power of Jesus. He is talking to you, so as to help you redirect your attention and help you concentrate on your relationship with Him. This all takes place, as Jesus talks to the reasoning of your mind.

***Feeling* Loved**
Ask Jesus to show you how much He loves you *just as you are*. But, He will show it to your heart in a supernatural way, rather in a logical, mental way. Your mind must have Jesus convince it with facts, evidence, truths, and things that make sense. You heart doesn't respond to that kind of help. If your mind finally excepts something as true, it changes right there on the spot. It is at that point, you will typically think that the whole issue is settled; but, you heart probably didn't change at all.

Typically, your heart only listens to your mind and your body. It forms emotions from what your body experiences and your mind believes to be true. Once your mind is convinced that Jesus is the answer, that *opens* the door for your heart to be changed. It doesn't change it; but, it makes it possible for your heart to be willing to be changed. Jesus wants to bypass your hearts normal way of producing emotions and provide it with a miracle.

Feeling **The Fruit Of The Spirit**
The goal is **Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (NIV).** These are the emotions Jesus wants to be dominant in your heart. The spiritual miracle that brings it about is **Philippians 4:8: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--<u>think about such things</u> (NIV).**

If your mind is thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts, it is opening the door for your heart to be able to receive **the fruit of the Spirit** that is listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

You have exposed your heart, to powerful thoughts, that have been built on all kinds of human experiences and philosophies. Some of the things your heart has been exposed to have hurt your heart. From now on, Jesus will be giving it new, wonderful experiences. But, your heart will be trying to receive these experiences and principles from Jesus by using its normal procedures, for forming new emotions; but, **the fruit of the Spirit** are supernatural emotions.

Getting Supernatural Results
Jesus will be showing you how Romans 10:8 and Matthew 7:7 will help you start thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts. Matthew 7:7 is your way to win in every aspect of the Christian life. The first part of the verse says: ***Ask*** **and it will be given to you.** Romans 10:8 says: **But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming (NIV).** Jesus will use these two verses to help you learn how to win at life.

Getting faith in your heart is another part of brings Jesus' powerful healing to it. It has had some very bad experiences that have hurt it and caused it to build up walls of protection for itself. Faith in Jesus and His power to protect it, will bring incredible healing. Jesus is going to be teaching you how to get *His faith* into your heart. When that happens, you will experience what Hebrews 11:1 says: **Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see (NIV).**

Once you are **sure** and **certain** that you have been empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts and feel Galatians 5:22-23 fruit of the Spirit emotions, your heart will get a healing by filling it with these supernatural abilities from Jesus. As you go through these studies and prayers, Jesus will be teaching you and empowering you to get this emotional healing. Plus, He will help you start applying these things to every other part of your life.

You Are God's Child
Because you are God's child, He accepts you and cares what happens to you; He is your Father. Forget, for a few moments, about your emotional needs, your physical needs, your financial needs, your relational needs, the outside world, the people and circumstances of life, and simply let Him talk to you about you. You are important to Him; and, He wants you to be able to *feel* His love. Accept His love for you for no other *reason* than because you are His child.

As long as a child is at home, they have very little responsibility for their protection, care, and relationship. If the parent is God, the child is being cared for by the greatest parent in all of existence. As a great parent, God gives you the right to make your own decisions. And, He knows you will make some really bad ones. So, while under supervision, He gives you the freedom to make your own decisions. But, He would like for you to make them based on His love for you.

God *Is* Love

God Loves You

God doesn't just *have* love; He *is* love. He doesn't just feel a love for you; He has taken a love-action, so as to demonstrate His love. He sent Jesus to come and die for you, so you could know there is no one who loves you more than He does.

Here are some things you need to think about and accept:

- God loves you more than you love yourself.
- He knows everything and can anticipate what you are going to need long before you need it.
- He is always with you and is always available to be your protection.
- He has all power and authority and can, therefore, keep bad things from happening to you.
- He knows your future and can steer you away from those things that would have hurt you.
- He has all wisdom, knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, and understanding and uses them to make sure you get the very best of everything.

God Is Sending You To School

John 16:33 (NIV) I (Jesus) have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. <u>In this world you will have trouble</u>. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Since God is such a great parent, why does He allow you to have trouble at all? **2 Tim 2:12a (NIV) if we endure, <u>we will also *reign* with Him</u>.** You are going through these things to be trained for an incredible eternal life in your heavenly Father's Kingdom while having an awesome life now.

Rev 20:6 (NIV) Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will *reign* with Him for a thousand years. Rev 22:5 (NIV) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. <u>And they will *reign* for ever and ever</u>.

Your goal may be to just get healed from your issues with divorce; and, that is a reasonable goal. But, Jesus wants to use this situation, to teach you how to *defeat* this struggle with divorce. He could heal you and you go on about your life with no knowledge of how to win at life. Or, He can take you through a study and prayer time, that helps you become **strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph 6:10 NIV).** It would be great if you would be healed *and* use this situation to learn Jesus' power-truths.

Yielding To God's Love

Pouring Love Into Your Heart

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God *has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Even if you didn't have a very loving set of parents and don't know how to react to love, just relax and yield to God's love that is already in your heart. Even if you have always combined the idea of sex with the concept of love, let Him show you a love that goes far beyond sex.

If you have come from a situation where extreme or unreasonable discipline was made a part of love, let God show you *grace* (gifts you don't have to earn) and *mercy* (forgiveness and freedom from punishment that you deserve to experience). Before things can get better *around* you, they must get better *inside* you.

As Jesus teaches you how to allow God's love to influence your heart, things start getting better inside you and around you. Internal healing will change your perspective about the things in you and those things that are outside of you.

Pouring Love Into Your Future

Jesus wants to give you a life that isn't so affected by those things around you. If you can allow Him to do it, by trusting Him, He will give you a healed heart that will be excited and filled with faith and love, even when things start looking bad. Instead of friendlessness and aloneness being able to get inside you and take away your love, joy, and faith, you will be able to use tremendous amounts of love, joy, and faith to defeat painful and secluded feelings and circumstances.

Your relationship with Jesus will become so positive and secure, that you will have all the power, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge from Him for how to defeat those painful, frustrating, threatening, derogatory, negative, and sometimes evil feelings. As you go back to looking at your issues with divorce, you won't need to ignore them, as if they don't exist, you will be able to face them with Jesus' healing power. You won't feel like you don't have any choice but to feel that way, Jesus will show you a better way.

It is so much easier to live, win, and succeed at life, when you are filled with the love, joy, excitement, happiness, and faith you get from your heavenly Father. You and Jesus will work together to bring you into the victorious life in God.

Chapter One - Prayer
My Emotions Are Very Important

From A Mind Change To A Heart Change

Jesus, help me stop seeing how big my issues with divorce are and start *believing* in Your power. Help me open my heart to feelings of being loved. Since it may take some time for You to change my circumstances, my mind, my finances, my relationships, and my physical condition, help me believe it all will happen; help me allow You to change my heart.

Jesus, if my heart believes in the power, impossibilities, and greatness of my problems with divorce, set me free. Help me *believe* in Your love, compassion, and power. Help me redirect my attention to concentrating on my relationship with You. Let all this take place, by You reasoning with my mind.

I'm *Feeling* Loved

Jesus, show me how much You love me *just as I am*. But, help me expect You to show it to me in a supernatural way, rather in a logical, mental way. Since my mind has to have You convince it with facts, evidence, truths, and things that make sense, help me understand that my heart isn't capable of getting that kind of healing. If my mind finally excepts something as true, it changes right there on the spot. But, help me not think that the whole issue is settled in my heart.

Jesus, help me understand how my heart works. Since it usually forms emotions from what my body experiences and my mind believes to be true, help me be convinced, in my mind, that You are my answer. Let that *open* the door for my heart to be changed. Even though that doesn't change it, let that make it possible for my heart to be willing to be changed. Bypass my hearts normal way of producing emotions and provide it with a miracle.

I'm *Feeling* The Fruit Of The Spirit

Jesus, help me reach the goal of **Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (NIV).** Make these emotions dominant in my heart. Let Philippians 4:8 be that spiritual miracle that brings it about: **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (NIV).**

Jesus, empower my mind to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts, so it will open the door for my heart to be able to receive **the fruit of the Spirit** listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

Jesus, I have exposed my heart, to powerful thoughts, that have been built on all kinds of human experiences and philosophies. Help me realize that some of these things have hurt my heart. From now on, give it new and wonderful experiences. Since my heart will be trying to receive these things from You, by trying to use its normal procedures, help me understand it will fail. Instead, work a miracle and put the Holy Spirit's supernatural emotions in it. Let **the fruit of the Spirit** fill my heart.

I'm Getting Supernatural Results

Jesus, use Romans 10:8 and Matthew 7:7 to help me start thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts. Let Matthew 7:7 be my way to win in every aspect of the Christian life. Help me believe that if I ***ask*** **it will be given to** me. Teach me how to use Romans 10:8: **But what does it say? "The word is near me; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming (NIV).** Help me use these two verses to learn how to win at life.

Jesus, help me get faith in my heart, as another part of brings You' powerful healing to it. Heal those bad experiences that have hurt it and caused it to build up walls of protection for itself. Give me faith in You and Your power to protect it, so You can provide it with incredible healing. Teaching me how to get *Your faith* into my heart. Let me experience what Hebrews 11:1 says: **Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see (NIV).**

Jesus, let Your faith make me **sure** and **certain**, so I will be empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts and feel Galatians 5:22-23 fruit of the Spirit emotions. Let that heal my heart by filling it with these supernatural abilities from You. As I go through these studies and prayers, teach me and empower me to get this emotional healing. Also, help me start applying these things to every other part of my life.

I Am God's Child

Jesus, because I am God's child, You accept me and care what happens to me; He is my Father. Help me forget, for a few moments, about my emotional needs, my physical needs, my financial needs, my relational needs, the outside world, the people and circumstances of life, and help me let You talk to me about me. I am important to You; help me *feel* Your love. Help me accept Your love for me for no other *reason* than because I am Your child.

Jesus, like a child that is at home, help me see that I have very little responsibility for my protection, care, and relationship. Since my parent is God, I am being cared for by the greatest parent in all of existence. But, as a great parent, God knows I must be given the right to make my own decisions. And, He knows I will make some really bad ones. Therefore, help me understand that He is giving me the freedom to make my own decisions. So, help me make them based on His love for me.

God *Is* Love

God Loves Me

Jesus, since God doesn't just *have* love, but, *is* love, help me believe that He doesn't just feel a love for me. He has taken a love-action, so as to demonstrate His love for me. Help me appreciate that He sent You to come and die for me, so I could know there is no one who loves me more than He does.

Jesus, help me think about and accept these things:

- God loves me more than I love myself.
- He knows everything and can anticipate what I am going to need long before I need it.
- He is always with me and is always available to be my protection.
- He has all power and authority and can, therefore, keep bad things from happening to me.
- He knows my future and can steer me away from those things that would have hurt me.
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God Is Sending Me To School

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Rev 20:6 (NIV) Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will *reign* with Him for a thousand years. Rev 22:5 (NIV) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will *reign* for ever and ever.

Jesus, help my goal be, to not just get healed from my issues with divorce. Use this situation, to teach me how to *defeat* this struggle with divorce. Help me not just be healed and go on about my life with no knowledge of how to win at life. Take me through these study and prayer times and help me become **strong in** You, **Lord, and in** Your **mighty power (Eph 6:10 NIV).** Help me be healed *and* let You use this situation to teach me power-truths.

I'm Yielding To God's Love

Pouring Love Into My Heart

Rom 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God *has* poured out *His love* into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us. Jesus, even if I didn't have a very loving set of parents and don't know how to react to love, help me relax and yield to God's love that is already in my heart. Even if I have always combined the idea of sex with the concept of love, show me a love that goes far beyond sex.

Jesus, if I have come from a situation where extreme or unreasonable discipline was made a part of love, let God show me *grace* (gifts I don't have to earn) and *mercy* (forgiveness and freedom from punishment that I deserve to experience). So that things can get better *around* me, let them get better *inside* me.

Jesus, teach me how to allow God's love to influence my heart, so things can start getting better inside me and around me. Let internal healing change my perspective about the things in me and those things that are outside of me.

Pouring Love Into My Future

Jesus, give me a life that isn't so affected by those things around me. Help me trust You, so You can give me a healed heart that will be excited and filled with faith and love, even when things start looking bad. Instead of friendlessness and aloneness being able to get inside me and take away my love, joy, and faith, help me be able to use tremendous amounts of love, joy, and faith to defeat painful and secluded feelings and circumstances.

Jesus, let my relationship with You become so positive and secure, that I will have all the power, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, from You, for how to defeat those painful, frustrating, threatening, derogatory, negative, and sometimes evil feelings. As I go back to looking at my issues with divorce, help me not ignore them, as if they don't exist. Help me face them with Your healing power. Empower me to not feel like I don't have any choice but to feel that way; show me a better way.

Jesus, teach me that it is so much easier to live, win, and succeed at life, when I am filled with the love, joy, excitement, happiness, and faith I get from my heavenly Father. Work together with me to bring me into the victorious life in God.

Chapter Two - Truth
How Do You Feel About Life?

Your Attitude About Life Matters

It is important that you realize that the way your life is now isn't the kind of life Jesus wants you living. Life with Satan lying to you, worrying you, running you down, depressing you, and your body causing you all kinds of problems, isn't anything like what Jesus has to offer.

Jesus is saying to you in **John 10:10 (AKJV) The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** You are resisting Satan **the thief** and yielding to the **abundant** life Jesus wants to give you.

A New Approach For You

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. You are used to the pressures of life, like your issues with divorce, the things of your body, other people, and the world coming at you with great force. Working with Jesus is totally different. Jesus is standing at the door of your life and knocking. Instead of Him coming at you with great force, you have to *ask* for His help.

Through salvation, Jesus gave you your God-given free will back, which returned the control of your life. In order for you to be set free from your struggles with divorce, you will have to *pursue* Jesus' help. **John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.** Jesus made you *free. If you want,* you can "do what it takes" to get His power to be healed from your difficulties with divorce. You are now free to decide if you want His help.

New Power Emotions For You

Jesus is making wonderful emotions *available* to you: **Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** These are the emotions Jesus is *wanting* to fill your heart with; but, you only get them by *asking* for them. If you ask, they will stick with you through this difficult time of pain, struggle, defeat, confusion, frustration, loneliness, and weakness.

Your New Life Is Working For You

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Jesus didn't just improve your old life; He gave you a new one. What you have experienced, in your past, isn't what you will be experiencing, in your future. You may not see what it meant for Jesus to remove you from your old life and give you a new one; but, He is much more powerful than you can ever imagine. Because you have this new life, you *are* able to win over these difficult situations.

Pray and ask Jesus to help you see a little bit of your future. Ask Him to show you how He is going to use your born-again life to help you with your problems with divorce. He is showing you that your Jesus-life is awesome. It doesn't matter how difficult, demanding, enslaving, and controlling your old life was, before you were saved; Jesus set you free from it. But, you must *allow* your new life to take over.

Jesus wants to convince you that you have become very powerful through Him, since you became a child of God. Up until now, you may not have taken full advantage of your Christian life. He is showing you what to do to start winning over your issues with divorce.

A New Goal For You

Mat 6:25 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? The rat race you were running in was all about survival; you had to have food, clothing, a place to sleep, protection from the elements, and transportation for getting places. This required money, so you could buy these things and pay the bills they created.

When you became an adult, it didn't take long for your life to be dominated and controlled by money. Because you didn't know that **life** is **more important than food, and the body more important than clothes,** you became a slave to a job, a career, the needs of your body, and the demands of your life. This rat race and the demands it puts on you can be one of the major reasons you are struggling with divorce. It takes your priorities away from you and drains your relationship with yourself, others, and Jesus.

When you spend most of your time, effort, and money on preparing for a career, advancing in your career, making money, and doing what it takes to get ahead, you don't have time for Jesus. You don't have time to spend being trained Biblical principles. The rat race is using up all your time, your energy, and all your resources. You need all the things Jesus is offering you; but, do you have the time, the energy, and the desire to put in with Jesus and His training?

A New Source Of Supply For You

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. When you open the door to Jesus, He helps you make the right decisions, as to how to get all your needs met. Jesus is right now helping you find a better way of life, where you come to Him and He gives you the rest, peace, joy, and happiness you need. It is *time and effort* you need; you need to be able to spend *time* and the necessary *effort* for getting your issues with divorce dealt with by Jesus.

A New Purpose For You

Luke 12:15 (NIV) Then He (Jesus) said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." There are goals, plans, and purposes that you have set for yourself. There are things you think will make you happy. And, since you have believed that **possessions** have the potential for making you happy, you pursued them.

The main issue in life is, Jesus has the happiness you seek. If you get an abundance of money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, or accomplishments, you have invested yourself in *things* to bring you happiness and meet your needs. Jesus is saying to you in **Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well.**

Happiness comes through you seeking God's kingdom and righteousness. Once you get happiness through God, then you can start getting things *while already being* happy. That keeps *things* from driving you and forcing you to pursue them. God takes your decisions, your goals, and your time and effort and heads them in the right direction. That causes *things* to pursue you.

A New Kind Of Happiness For You
Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

If your attitudes are down, frustrated, stressed, filled with pain, or fatigued, *you* won't be able to deal with your struggles with divorce. This Scripture is a list of God's power-emotions that inspire and empower you to go through life with great positive feelings. *Happiness* only exists for as long as things are going well for you; joy never leaves you.

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this so that My *joy* may be in you and that your *joy* may be complete. Jesus gives you *joy*; it is a new kind of happiness that is stable, powerful, inspiring, and supportive. It floods your heart and inspires your life no matter what is happening! Joy gives you the power to attack, change, and handle some of the most difficult times in your life.

Joy isn't influenced by your struggles, difficulties, challenges, or problems. It keeps you excited and *joyful,* so you can defeat those things that are coming against you or hurting you. Happiness leaves you right at that time when you need to be filled with positive emotions, so you can win over a life-challenge.

A New Kind Of Power For You
Rom 8:37 (NIV) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. You need to notice how things work with Jesus. He is establishing a relationship with you. He gives you knowledge, understanding, wisdom and power; and, you *allow* them to flow through you into the various situations you are facing.

When your issues with divorce make you feel weak and helpless, Jesus gives you supernatural power that makes you **more than** a **conqueror through Him Who loved** you. With Jesus, you get a relationship of supernatural power, that enables *you* to do things *you* couldn't do before and feel good feelings *you* couldn't feel before. Together, you and Jesus win over these struggles.

Here is how it works: **Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives me strength.** Don't be disappointed that you haven't been able to win over this problem on your own. It actually helped you look outside yourself to Jesus. Christianity isn't about you *trying* to live it.

Jesus, right now, is teaching you how to work together with Him. He is not only empowering you to win over your issues with emotions, He is teaching you how to use His power to win over all those things you struggle with. As you study these principles and pray these prayers, you are being empowered to change.

You Are Giving Jesus' Life A Chance

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth *and the life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus created you; He caused you to come into existence; He gave you your life; and He did it for a very special purpose. He has an awesome plan for your life; but, you, the world, and the devil have plans for you as well. You have already experienced your plans, the world's plans, and the devil's plans for your life. Now, give Jesus a chance to be your new life and new relationship.

The next issue is, how do you *give* Jesus a chance? How do you *let* Jesus show you what life is really all about? How do you *allow* Him show you what your life is all about? It is true that He is a life that is wonderful, powerful, and exciting, and, wants to live it together with you. But, how do you *let* Him join you in life and show you what your full potential looks like?

You are constantly being exposed to concepts that make sense and are things you want to do. But, even though you, as a Christian, want to, pray to, try to, and determine to, you find yourself falling short. Here you are, struggling with emotions, and you are getting wonderful truths. But, many of them are truths you have already know. In the next Truth Chapter, Jesus will teach you how to *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* with Him.

Chapter Two - Prayer
How Do I Feel About Life?

My Attitude About Life Matters

Jesus, Since the way my life is now isn't the kind of life You want me living, help me get Your way of life. Teach me how to win over a life where Satan is tempting me, pressuring me, driving me, trying to depress me, and my body is causing me all kinds of problems. Jesus, since **the thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:** You have **come that they might have life, <u>and that they might have it more abundantly</u> (John 10:10 AKJV),** teach me how to defeat Satan **the thief**, so You can give me a full and abundant life.

A New Approach For Me

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! <u>I stand at the door and knock</u>. If anyone hears My voice <u>and opens the door</u>, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.

Jesus, set me free from the way life has pressured me, like the pressures I have with divorce, and give me a totally different life with You. When the things of my body, other people, and the world come at me with great force, help me realize You don't do that. You stand at each door in my life and knock. Instead of me expecting You to force Your blessings on me, help me invite You into each area of my life by *asking* for Your help.

Jesus, since, through salvation, You gave me my God-given free will back, help me share the control of my life with You. Help me be set free from my struggles with divorce, by *pursuing* Your help. **John 8:36 (NIV) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.** Since, through you doing this, I have been made *free* to "do what it takes," help me get Your power to be set free from my difficulties with divorce.

New Power Emotions For Me

Jesus, put the wonderful emotions in me, listed in **Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** Fill my heart with them, by me *asking* for them right now. Let them stick with me through this difficult time of pain, struggle, defeat, confusion, frustration, loneliness, and weakness.

My New Life Is Working For Me

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Jesus, help me understand that, when I got saved, You didn't just improve my old life; You gave me a new one. But, teach me how this works; help me see that this new life isn't forced on me. Help me realize that You have things for me to do, so I can take advantage of my new life.

Jesus, You are much more powerful than I can ever imagine. You have the ability to do things I never thought possible. But, if I don't know how to get them flowing in my life, by asking, they will be available to me but not forced on me. Help me go through the Truth Pages and find out what all You can do. Then, help me pray the Prayer Pages, and asking for all of them.

Jesus, help me see a little bit of my future. Show me how You are going to use my Christian life to help me with my problems with divorce. Show me that my Jesus-life is awesome. It doesn't matter how difficult, demanding, enslaving, and controlling my old life was, You set me free from it. But, help me realize that I must join You in moving out of it into my new life.

Jesus, help me see how powerful I am through You, since I became a child of God. Up until now, I haven't taken full advantage of my Christian life. There are truths that I haven't known about and, therefore, couldn't ask for. Show me what I need to do to start winning over my issues with divorce. Show me what You and I can do together, so I can take full advantage of being a child of God.

A New Goal For Me

Mat 6:25 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. <u>Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes</u>? Jesus, help me be set free from the rat race, I was running; it was all about survival. Show me that even though I have food, clothing, a place to sleep, protection from the elements, and transportation for getting places, you have a better way of getting them.

Jesus, give me a way of life, where I am not dominated and controlled by money and the need for things. Help me see what it means that **life** is **more important than food, and the body more important than clothes.** Show me how to not be a slave to a job, a career, the needs of my body, and the demands of my life. Help me see that this rat race and the demands it puts on me can be one of the major reasons I am struggling with divorce.

Jesus, teach me how to not spend most of my time, effort, and money on preparing for a career, advancing in my career, making money, and doing what it takes to get ahead. Take me from the place where I don't have time for You. Give me time to spend with You, so I can be trained Biblical principles. I need all the things You are offering me. Give me the time, the energy, and the desire to be with You and Your training. Keep my life from taking away my priorities and draining my relationship with myself, others, and You.

A New Source Of Supply For Me

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet <u>all your needs according to</u> His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Jesus, now I know that, when I opened the door to You, You started helping me make the right decisions, as to how to get all my needs met. Help me find a way of life, where I come to You and You give me the rest, peace, joy, and happiness that I need. Show me that it is *time and effort* I need; help me be able to spend *time* and the necessary *effort* for getting my issues with divorce dealt with, by You.

A New Purpose For Me

Luke 12:15 (NIV) Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; <u>a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions</u>." Jesus, examine my goals, plans, and purposes that I have set for myself; examine those things I think will make me happy. So, since I have believed that *they* have the potential for making me happy, I pursued them. Help me reevaluate what will really make me happy.

Jesus, teach me that the main issue in life is, You have the happiness I seek. Show me that, if I get an abundance of money, possessions, positions, power, prestige, popularity, pleasure, or accomplishments, I have invested myself in *things* to bring me happiness. Help me understand that You are saying to me in **Matthew 6:33 (NIV): "But seek first His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well."**

Jesus, teach me that happiness **and all these *things* will be given to** me **as well**, if I seek first God's **kingdom and His righteousness**. Teach me that once I get happiness through God, then I can start getting things while already being happy.

A New Kind Of Happiness For Me

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Jesus, show me that if my feelings are down, frustrated, stressed, filled with pain, or fatigued, I won't be able to deal with my struggles with divorce.

Jesus, let this Scripture, which is a list of God's power-emotions, inspire and empower me to go through life with great positive feelings. Teach me that *happiness* only exists for as long as things are going well for me; joy never leaves me.

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this so that My *joy* may be in you and that your *joy* may be complete. Jesus, You give me *joy*; help me realize that it is a new kind of happiness that is stable, powerful, inspiring, and supportive. It floods my heart and inspires my life no matter what is happening!

Jesus, let Your joy empower me to attack, change, and handle all the difficult times in my life. Show me that it isn't influenced by my struggles, difficulties, challenges, or problems. It keeps me excited and *joyful,* so I can defeat those things that are coming against me or hurting me.

A New Kind Of Power For Me

Rom 8:37 (NIV) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. Jesus, help me understand how this works with You. You are establishing a relationship with me. Give me knowledge, understanding, wisdom and power. Then help me *allow* them to flow through me into the various situations I am facing.

Jesus, my issues with divorce make me feel weak and helpless at times. Give me supernatural power that makes me **more than** a **conqueror through** You **Who loved** me. Show me that with You, I get supernatural power that enables me to do things I couldn't do before and feel good feelings I couldn't feel before.

Jesus, help me understand how Christianity works through this verse: **Phil 4:13 (NIV) I can do everything through Him (Jesus) Who gives me strength.** Jesus, help me not be disappointed that I haven't been able to defeat this problem. Show me that it actually helped me look outside myself to You. It helped me realize I needed someone bigger than myself.

Jesus, help me see that not only will You empower me to win over my issue with divorce, You will be teaching me how to yield to Your power to win over *all* those things I struggle with.

I Am Giving Jesus' Life A Chance

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth *and the life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jesus, You created me; You caused me to come into existence; You gave me my life; and You did it for a very special purpose. Give me Your awesome plan for my life. Help me resist the world's, the devil's, and my plans for me. I have already experienced my plans, the world's plans, and the devil's plans for my life. Give me Your new life and Your new plans for me.

Jesus, how do I *give* You a chance? How do I *let* You show me what life is really all about? How do I *allow* You to show me what my life is all about? I know it is true that You are a life that is wonderful, powerful, and exciting, and, want to live it together with me. But, how do I *let* You join me in life and show me what my full potential looks like?

Jesus, I am constantly being exposed to concepts that make sense and are things I want to do. But, even though I, as a Christian, want to, pray to, try to, and determine to, I find myself falling short. I am, struggling with emotions, and I am getting wonderful truths. But, many of them are truths I have already know. Teach me how to *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* with You?

Chapter Three - Truth
Everywhere I Look, Things Look Bad

Your View Is Changing

John 15:11 (NIV) I have told you this so that My *joy* may be in you and that your *joy* may be complete. There are times when we all feel aloneness. There are even times when you can experience intense friendlessness; but, most of the time it goes away. This kind of emotion isn't like feeling isolated; time doesn't gradually cause you to forget your divorce and feel better.

Even though you may not be aware of it, Jesus has helped you with this persistent problem. He has put a powerful emotion in your heart called *joy*. It is more powerful than your struggles with divorce. It has been available to you from the moment you accepted Him as your Savior and Lord.

The problem is, you must *know* a provision is yours, in order for it to start working in your life. **John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will *know* the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

Joy isn't overcome by physical issues, finances, circumstances, emotional struggles, or relationship problems. Jesus has given you this *power-emotion* that keeps you happy no matter what happens to you or how you typically feel. If you believe you *have* it, joy will stick with you and empower the emotions of your heart at times, when it doesn't seem possible for you to feel like that. Sometimes you can feel so joyous, during a bad situation, that you almost feel guilty for feeling that way.

Your Faith Is Changing

You May Not Feel It

Since Jesus has already given you joy, He will now help you learn how to believe in Him, trust Him, rely on Him, and put your issue with divorce in His hands. Your healing flows through your relationship with Jesus and your *faith* in Him. If you *believe* He has done this for you, it opens your heart to His healing power. Right now, you may not feel like believing, trusting, relying, or depending on Him; but, that is okay. He is the One Who has a special faith that you don't have *yet*.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus authors or starts *your* faith, by speaking *His* faith into your faith; and then He perfects your faith, by making it stronger and more stable.

Joy And A Supernatural Faith

Let Jesus *continue* taking you through the process of healing your heart through His faith being spoken into your faith. Your faith, that you get through human reasoning, will never be able to get the job done. Jesus will heal your heart by supernaturally empowering *your faith* to believe, trust, depend, and rely on Him. As you *ask* for His faith to empower your faith to believe that He has put joy in your heart, His faith causes your faith to know He did. But, you must be ready for a battle.

As Jesus speaks His faith into you, Hebrews 11:1 happens in your heart and mind. **Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see.** *Keep asking* for Jesus' faith to be spoken into you, so you can know He has given you His joy. This is a supernatural experience. The moment you are **sure** and **certain**, is the moment you have just experienced Jesus' faith spoken into your faith.

Joy And A Supernatural Consistence

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become *weary* in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. If you aren't **sure** and **certain** you have Jesus' joy, don't **become weary in doing good;** keep asking! Ask Jesus to help you keep asking Him for being **sure** and **certain** that He has given you His joy. This is about what you believe about Him.

Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--<u>how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things</u>? Ask Jesus to help you believe in this truth. Keep asking Him to help you feel **sure** and **certain** that He did give you His joy. Ask Him to help you believe He is faithful, telling you the truth, and will do it because you are God's child.

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, <u>how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who *ask* Him</u>! What are *you* doing? You are *asking Him* to help you believe that Jesus gave you His joy that is replacing your struggles with divorce. *Asking* is how to *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* with Him.

Act On The Basis Of The Fact

Start With Your Mouth

Now add one more aspect to this process. **James 3:2 (NIV) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault <u>in what he *says*</u>, he is a perfect man, <u>able to keep his whole body in check</u>.** Start *saying* that which is true. Say something like, "Jesus, I know You have given me Your joy." Then start thanking Him for it.

Don't Confess Hope

Rom 8:24-25 (NIV) For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for <u>what we do not *yet* have</u>, we wait for it patiently.

Human hope is something you hope will happen but aren't sure. Jesus' hope is something you know *will* happen. **John 14:2-3 (NIV) In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.** This hasn't happened yet; but, you know it will; so, you use Jesus' hope for it. But, with this joy issue, it has happened. So, confess faith.

You Already Have It

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. <u>Against such things there is no law</u>. Faith only deals with what already exists. You are not asking for something and then *hoping* it will come into existence. You are not asking for something and then hoping it is God's will for your life.

1 Cor 6:19 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, *Who is in you*, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own. The Holy Spirit and His fruit of the Spirit are already in you; therefore, joy is in you, as a part of the fruit of the Spirit. **There is no law** against the fruit of the Spirit, so it has already been God's will for you to have it.

Confess With Faith

James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, is dead. Since joy already exists in the fruit of the Spirit and **against such things there is no law,** admit you have it. When Jesus speaks His faith into you, so you can believe He *has* given you joy, He is helping you believe you have something He has already given you. You become **sure** and **certain** of the fact that He *has* given you the fruit of the Spirit.

From the point that Jesus speaks His faith into your faith, it is your job to ask Him to empower you to "act on the basis of the fact" that you have His joy, as one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. When you feel Satan trying to give you doubt about it, tell Jesus that you believe in Him and what He has done. One of the ways Satan tries to give you doubt is to cause you to feel the same old emotions that you have been feeling. He is trying to get you to believe Jesus didn't do it.

Use Your Mouth And Your Heart

It's How You Got Saved

It's possible that no one told you this; but, the procedure you used to become saved is the one you use for everything else in Christianity.

Rom 10:8-10 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and *believe in your heart* that God raised Him from the dead, you *will* be saved. For it is with your *heart* that you believe and are justified, and it is with your *mouth* that you confess *and are saved*.

This mouth and heart procedure is how you get everything from Jesus. The way you get healed from struggles with divorce is the same procedure that you used to get saved. Just as surely as that procedure saved you, Jesus is using it to heal you. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the *word of faith* we are proclaiming.**

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you *will* be saved. You did that and you got that! Now, you are ready for the process of walking in the Spirit.

Chapter Three - Prayer
Everywhere I Look, Things Look Bad

My View Is Changing

Jesus, there have been times when I have felt aloneness. There have even been times when I experienced intense friendlessness; but typically, it all went away. But, this time it didn't gradually go away and I felt better.

Jesus, I didn't know You have already helped me with this persistent problem. It hasn't felt like You have already put a powerful emotion in my heart called *joy*. Help me believe I have an emotion that is more powerful than my struggles with divorce. Help me believe that it has been available to me from the moment I accepted You, as my Savior and Lord.

Jesus, help me *know* this and all Your provisions are mine. Help me study these truths, so I will find out about all of Your provisions that You have given me. Help me "do what it takes" in order for all of them to start working in my life. **John 8:32 (NIV) Then you will *know* the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

Jesus, since joy isn't overcome by physical issues, finances, circumstances, emotional struggles, or relationship problems, and since You have given me this *power-emotion,* that keeps me happy no matter what happens to me or how I typically feel, help me believe I *have* joy. Help me believe it will stick with me and empower the emotions of my heart at times, when it doesn't seem possible for me to feel like that. Let me feel so joyous, during a bad situation, that I almost feel guilty for feeling that way.

My Faith Is Changing

I May Not Feel It

Jesus, since You have already given me joy, help me learn how to believe in You, trust You, rely on You, and put my issue with divorce in Your hands. Let my healing flows through my relationship with You and my *faith* in You. Help me believe You have done this for me. Let it open my heart to Your healing power.

Jesus, right now, I don't feel like believing, trusting, relying, or depending on You; but, help me understand that this is okay. Help me understand that I feel this way, because You haven't spoken Your special faith into my faith *yet*.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus, author or start *my* faith, by speaking *Your* faith into my faith. Then perfect my faith, by making it stronger and more stable.

Joy And A Supernatural Faith

Jesus, take me through the process of healing my heart through Your faith being spoken into my faith. Help me always keep in mind that my faith, that I get through human reasoning, will never be able to get the job done. Heal my heart by supernaturally empowering *my faith* to believe, trust, depend, and rely on You.

Jesus, I am now *asking* for Your faith to empower my faith, so I can believe that You have put joy in my heart; let Your faith cause my faith to know You did. But, get me ready for a battle.

Jesus, speak Your faith into me, so that Hebrews 11:1 happens in my heart and mind. **Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith is being *sure* of what we hope for and *certain* of what we do not see.** Help me *keep asking* for Your faith to be spoken into me, so I can know You have given me Your joy. Help me understand that this is a supernatural experience. When I am **sure** and **certain,** help me always realize that I have just experienced Your faith spoken into my faith.

Joy And A Supernatural Consistence

Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become *weary* in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Jesus, if I pray and ask for Your faith and I don't become **sure** and **certain** I have Your joy, help me not **become weary in doing good;** empower me to keep asking! Help me keep asking You to make me **sure** and **certain** that You have given me You joy. Teach me that this has to do with what I believe about You.

Rom 8:32 (NIV) He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all--how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Jesus, help me believe in this truth. Help me keep asking You to help me feel **sure** and **certain** that You did give me Your joy. Help me believe You are faithful; You are telling me the truth; and, You will do it, because I am God's child.

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who *ask* Him! Help me see that this is what I am doing. I am *asking You* to help me believe that You gave me Your joy, that is replacing my struggles with divorce.

I'm Acting On The Basis Of The Fact

I'm Starting With My Mouth

Jesus, help me add one more aspect to this process. **James 3:2 (NIV) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault <u>in what he *says*</u>, he is a perfect man, <u>able to keep his whole body in check</u>.** Empower me to start *saying* that which is true. Jesus, I know You have given me Your joy; and, I thank You for it.

I Am Not Confessing Hope

Rom 8:24-25 (NIV) For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for <u>what we do not *yet* have</u>, we wait for it patiently.

Jesus, help me keep in mind that human hope is something I hope will happen but am not sure. Your hope is something I know *will* happen. **John 14:2-3 (NIV) In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.**

Jesus, even though this hasn't happened yet, I know it will; so, I am using Your hope for it. But, with this joy issue, I believe it has happened. So, I now confess faith and say again: I believe You have given me Your joy.

I Already Have It

Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. <u>Against such things there is no law</u>. Jesus, teach me that faith only deals with what already exists. Help me understand that I am not asking for something and then *hoping* it will come into existence. I am not asking for something and then hoping it is God's will for my life.

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I'm Confessing With Faith

James 2:17 (NIV) In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by *action*, is dead. Jesus, since joy already exists in the fruit of the Spirit and **against such things there is no law,** I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that I have it.

Jesus, since You have spoken Your faith into me, so I could believe You *have* given me joy, You have helped me believe I have something You had already given me. I have become **sure** and **certain** of the fact that You *have* given me the fruit of the Spirit that contains joy.

Jesus, since You have spoken Your faith into my faith, empower me to "act on the basis of the fact" that I have You joy, as one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. When I feel Satan trying to give me doubt about it, help me always tell You that I believe in You and what You have done. When Satan tries to give me doubt, so as to cause me to feel the same old emotions that I had been feeling, empower me to not allow him to get me to believe You didn't do it.

I'm Using My Mouth And My Heart

It's How I Got Saved

Jesus, no one told me that the procedure I used to become saved, is the one I use for everything else in Christianity.

Rom 10:8-10 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and *believe in your heart* that God raised Him from the dead, you *will* be saved. For it is with your *heart* that you believe and are justified, and it is with your *mouth* that you confess *and are saved*.

Jesus, teach me that this mouth and heart procedure is how I get everything from You. Help me see that the way I get healed from struggles with divorce is the same procedure that I used to get saved. Help me believe that just as surely as that procedure saved me, You are using it to heal me. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the *word of faith* we are proclaiming.**

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you *will* be saved. Jesus, I did that and I got that! Now, get me ready for the process of walking in the Spirit.

Chapter Four - Truth
Walking In The Spirit

Spiritual Legs

Gal 5:16 (AKJV) This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Just like a human walks by taking steps with two legs, walking in the Spirit is a two-step process. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the *word of faith* we are proclaiming.**

First, you confess Biblical truths with your mouth and then, you get Jesus' faith, so you can *believe* in your heart that you *have* that truth in your life. How do you get Jesus' faith? You do the same thing you do to *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* with Him. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you.** These are The Three Keys To All Of Christianity.

Every time you see the words, *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* or when you see the words, "do what it takes," that is telling you to *ask.* These words will be italicized for a while, so you can get used to the principle that they are telling you to *ask* and not telling you to use human effort, determination, commitment, making up your mind, or human reasoning. Now back to the subject.

Faith in Jesus develops a special relationship that you really need. It is a matter of you seeing how powerful, loving, gracious, and generous He is. The more you *let* Him put His faith in you, the more joy you will start to experience. The more joy you start to feel, the more healing your heart will receive. Building this relationship is a matter of *allowing* your mouth and your heart to take you to Him. Your mouth and heart are your spiritual legs for walking to Jesus.

Your Faith Source Is Changing

Your faith may be really weak; but, if you *allow* Jesus, by asking Him, to give you *His faith*, you will be able to *believe* He wants to help you. Then your relationship with Him will improve; and, your provisions from Him will increase. But, out of all the problems you are facing, your heart is in the greatest trouble. It is the place where Jesus wants to put His faith.

Your heart is the road, the way, and the avenue through which Jesus will supply you with the healing you need in *all* areas of your life. Your heart must be helped to *believe* that even though you have tried many things that ended up failing you, you are now at the place where Jesus will do what nothing else could do. This is vital for you and your heart to accept. *By you asking Jesus*, your heart will become receptive to His faith and will allow His faith to be spoken into your faith.

Your Perspective Is Changing

This heart and physical struggle with divorce, is like looking through blue tinted glasses; they affect the way everything looks. Even though they make things look blue, things aren't really blue; it's the glasses making them *look* that way. The things in your life aren't bad like they look, because you are a child of God. And, a child of God is born into a family that *owns* incredible things.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in <u>all things</u> God works <u>for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose</u>. Your issue with divorce is making life look bad like blue tinted glasses. But, even those things that look bad, God is forcing them to work out for your good. He takes each thing in your life, and because you are His child, He makes it become a benefit to you.

The Flow Of Your Life Is Changing
If something makes those things around you look bad, even though they aren't, it hurts your attitudes, your faith, your hope, and your anticipation. It becomes a downward spiral that you need Jesus' supernatural help to stop. Jesus is giving you an upward spiral, where you start hoping, believing, and expecting all things to work together for good.

Jesus makes it where you are able to take the blue tinted glasses off and put on rose tinted glasses. He changes your overall perspective of life, by using the fact that you believe in Romans 8:28; He brightens your day. But, you must *ask and keep asking* Him to help you have an increasing faith in Him and the Bible. And, *as you are asking*, keep in mind that you are *asking* for things that you inherited, when you were born again into your heavenly Father's family.

Jesus will be saying things to you, through these words and prayers, that will *gradually* help you receive more and more of His faith in your heart. His power-faith will make all the difference in your *heart*; and it will help you confess truth with your *mouth*. When that happens, you are walking in the Spirit. Your spiritual legs, which are your mouth and heart, have taken you toward Jesus and His provisions.

Your Resources Are Changing
Jesus knows that the feelings from divorce hurt deep down in your body; and nothing seems to help it go away. He knows that even medication will just take away your life rather than fix the pain. He knows that you are suffering and wants to teach you how to yield to His joy, so you can get the healing you need. He is reaching out to you, helping you learn to trust Him.

It is important to realize that Jesus is asking you to *make* the first move. He is asking you this in **Matthew 11:28 (NIV): "<u>Come to Me</u>, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** It is also important to realize that you are coming to Jesus, by studying and praying over these truths. Studying helps your <u>heart</u> know what to believe and praying guides your <u>mouth</u> into what to say. This helps you <u>walk</u> in the Spirit <u>to</u> Jesus. Jesus is the destination you are walking to.

Your Attitude Is Changing
Your situation and the pain it is causing you, makes you impatient and wanting immediate results. But, because of your God-given free will, the results come, little-by-little. You are learning how to *yield*, how to *believe*, how to *trust*, what to *say*, and how to *rely* on Jesus. As this happens, you will feel more and more of the joy, rest, and happiness flow through you, as you go through your day. The joy is yours; you inherited it. It is ready for you to *yield* to; and, it can immediately influence your life.

Heb 10:22 (NIV) Let us *draw near* to God <u>with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith</u>, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. You made a first move, when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and allowed yourself to be baptized in water. Each first move you make, leads you into greater power, success, victory, and healing for divorce and for all the other problems in your life. This speeds up the process.

You are *drawing near* to your heavenly Father! You are *drawing near,* by taking steps, of walking in the Spirit, to your heavenly Father. You are using your mouth and your heart, as legs, in the spirit realm. The power of those legs is coming from the truth-input of your studying. And, it is coming from the prayer-input of all your prayers. That is you being empowered to walk, as a child of God.

Things That Can Create Doubt

Past Disappointments

Jesus knows that even when things have happened to you that should have encouraged you and given you some expectations of happiness and peace, you were in such pain and feeling such friendlessness you couldn't react with faith, hope, peace, and expectation. Because of your struggles with divorce, your heart has been walled off. You have used some systems and philosophies that built walls in your heart.

Even though walls in your heart have helped to protect you, are you willing to *allow* Jesus to take them down? He *will* do what no one else has been able to do. You need to *let* these studies and prayers open your heart to Jesus' faith, so you can totally yield to all He has for you. *Ask* Jesus to help you not *allow* past experiences to keep you from believing He can and will do this for you.

Past Efforts To Cheer You Up

Jesus knows you and your friends have tried to cheer you up and encourage you, but you weren't able to take advantage of these efforts. You may have smiled and tried to show appreciation for their concern, but you still felt the pain and aloneness on the inside. The fact that they couldn't help you and you couldn't respond to these efforts, doesn't mean your situation is impossible.

Ask Jesus to use His words and prayers to help you start *believing* you can be healed. *Believing*, in your heart, that Jesus is healing you is the experience you are looking for. Then being able to *confess* it with your mouth, will help you to get the results in your body and in your life. Jesus is like a light shining in a dark room. He doesn't just try to cheer you up or just encourage you; He provides you with a whole new supernatural outlook on life.

Temporary Results Can Cause Doubt

Cheery, positive thoughts and friendship-support can help a little; but, what you need is a change of emotional perspective. Since healing from Jesus comes through love, faith, trust, reliance, peace, joy, and assurance, all you have to do is *allow* Him to put these things into your emotions. Keep in mind that this *"allowing"* isn't human effort or human reasoning; it is accomplished by you *asking* Jesus to empower you to do it.

Temporary "cheering up" didn't last, because it wasn't like the power of Jesus. Just because all your efforts, all the "expert's" efforts, and all your friend's efforts couldn't bring permanent result must not be *allowed* to make you skeptical. Jesus has a faith that comes through the truth you are hearing and the truth you are asking for. It is a matter of you asking Jesus to help you realize that these are Jesus-words you are reading and praying.

Delay Can Cause Doubt

Reading positive, cheery, uplifting words are like your car breaking down and needing a mechanic to do some repairs on the motor. It wouldn't solve the problem, if you gave your car a good cleaning and polishing. Jesus is using these words and prayers to reach down in those areas where you are hurting and healing them. As you *allow* Jesus to use these words and prayers to build faith in your heart, that will *gradually* help you *believe* in Him and His power to heal.

Delay can be frustrating to you and cause you to doubt that it is ever going to happen. Just like temporary results can hurt your ability to *open* your heart to Jesus' faith, so can delay. Healing through Jesus typically doesn't come all at once. This is because there are some spiritual growth issues that need to take place in you. Jesus is using this time, He is spending with you, to teach you how to live, as a child of God. But, there will be miracles that start helping you believe in Him.

You Are Now Experiencing A Love-Gift

A lot of healings, blessings, breakthroughs, and miracles, from Jesus, come in small amounts over periods of time. Your reaction to those healings, blessings, breakthroughs, and miracles will make all the difference in what He continues to do for you and with you. You need to be looking for them, noticing them, giving Jesus the credit for them, and thanking Him for them. Being thankful will put you on the path to total healing.

As you walk in the Spirit, you need to be walking on the right path to the right destination. Thankfulness leads you into a path of relationship with Jesus. He is doing these things, so as to build a better relationship with you. It is important that you not just want to be helped and not care about that relationship. Thankfulness, by noticing Jesus' miracles in your life, helps you appreciate Him and learn to love Him more.

If you demonstrated your love for someone by giving them a gift and they took the gift and spent all their time with it, you would be disappointed. The reason you gave the gift was to further establish and build the love relationship between you and them. The gift was supposed to be the pathway to a more meaningful love relationship with them. But, because they just cared about the gift, it became a distraction, a detour, and a way for you to be hurt and rejected.

Jesus loves you and is doing all these things, because of His love and desire for a relationship with you.

Chapter Four – Prayer
I'm Walking In The Spirit

I Have Spiritual Legs

Gal 5:16 (AKJV) This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Jesus, help me compare the way I walk, by taking steps with two legs, and walking in the Spirit as a two-step process. **Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your *mouth* and in your *heart*," that is, the *word of faith* we are proclaiming.**

Jesus, teach me how and then empower me to confess Biblical truths with my mouth and then, help me get Your faith, so I can *believe* in my heart that I *have* that truth in my life. Teach me that the way I get Your faith is to do the same thing I do to *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* with You. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.** Help me understand that these are The Three Keys To All Of Christianity.

Jesus, every time I see the words, *let, allow, give, yield to,* and *cooperate* or when I see the words, "do what it takes," help me keep in mind that they are telling me to *ask.* Help me understand that they are telling me to *ask* and not telling me to use human effort, determination, commitment, making up my mind, or human reasoning.

Jesus, let faith in You develop a special relationship that I really need. Help me see how powerful, loving, gracious, and generous You are. Teach me that the more I *let* (pray and ask) You to put Your faith in me, the more joy I will start to experience. The more joy I start to feel, the more healing my heart will receive. Help me build this relationship with You by *allowing* or asking You to empower my mouth and my heart to take me to You. Show me that my mouth and heart are my spiritual legs for walking to You.

My Faith Source Is Changing

Jesus, *my* faith is really weak; but, I ask You to give me *Your faith*, so I will be able to *believe* You want to help me. Then let my relationship with You improve; and, my provisions from You increase. But, help me realize that out of all the problems I am facing, my heart is in the greatest trouble. Heal it, so it can be the place where You put Your faith.

Jesus, since my heart is the road, the way, and the avenue through which You will supply me with the healing I need, in *all* areas of my life, help it *believe* that even though I have tried many things that ended up failing me, I am now at the place where You will do what nothing else could do. Help my heart and I accept this. *By me asking You*, I believe my heart will become receptive to Your faith and will allow Your faith to be spoken into my faith.

My Perspective Is Changing

Jesus, since this heart and physical struggle with divorce are like looking through blue tinted glasses, help me believe that it is affecting the way everything looks. Help me accept that they really aren't blue; it's the glasses that are making them *look* that way. Help me believe that the things in my life aren't bad like they look, because I am a child of God. And, as a child of God, I am born into a family that *owns* incredible things.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in *all things* God works <u>for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose</u>. Jesus, my issue with emotions is making life look bad like blue tinted glasses. But, help me believe that even those things that look bad, God is forcing to work out for my good. Help me accept that He takes each thing in my life, and because I am His child, He makes it be a benefit to me.

The Flow Of My Life Is Changing

Jesus, help me realize that, if something makes those things around me look bad, even though they aren't, it hurts my attitudes, my faith, my hope, and my anticipation. It becomes a downward spiral that I need Your supernatural help to stop. Give me an upward spiral, where I start hoping, believing, and expecting all things to work together for good.

Jesus, make it where I am able to take the blue tinted glasses off and put on rose tinted glasses. Change my overall perspective of life, by using the fact that I believe in Romans 8:28; brighten my day. Empower me to *ask and keep asking* You to help me have an increasing faith in You and the Bible. And, as I am asking, help me keep in mind that I am asking for things that I inherited, when I was born again into my heavenly Father's family.

Jesus, say things to me, through these words and prayers, that will *gradually* help me receive more and more of Your faith in my heart. Let Your power-faith make all the difference in my *heart*; and let it help me confess truth with my *mouth*. When that happens, help me see that I am walking in the Spirit. My spiritual legs, my mouth and heart, are taking me toward You and Your provisions.

My Resources Are Changing

Jesus, You know that the feelings from divorce hurt deep down in my body; and nothing seems to help it go away. You know that even medication will just take away my life rather than fix the pain. You know that I am suffering and want to teach me how to yield to Your joy, so I can get the healing I need. You are reaching out to me, helping me learn to trust You.

Jesus, help me realize that You are asking me to *make* the first move. You are asking me this in **Matthew 11:28 (NIV): "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** Help me realize that I am coming to You, by studying and praying over these truths. Studying helps my heart know what to believe and praying guides my mouth into what to say. This helps me *walk* in the Spirit *to* You. You are the destination I am walking to.

My Attitude Is Changing

Jesus, sometimes the situation and the pain it is causing me, makes me impatient and wanting immediate results. But, because of my God-given free will, the results come, little-by-little. Help me learn how to yield, how to believe, how to trust, what to say, and how to rely on You. As this happens, help me feel more and more of the joy, rest, and happiness flow through me, as I go through my day. Help me believe the joy is mine; I inherited it. Help me *yield* to it; and, let it immediately influence my life.

Heb 10:22 (NIV) Let us *draw near* to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Jesus, I made a first move, when I accepted You as my Lord and Savior and allowed myself to be baptized in water. Teach me that each first move I make, leads me into greater power, success, victory, and healing for divorce and for all the other problems in my life. Let this speed up the process.

Jesus, I am *drawing near* to my heavenly Father! I am *drawing near*, by taking steps, of walking in the Spirit, to my heavenly Father. I am using my mouth and my heart, as legs, in the spirit realm. Help me always keep in mind that the power of my legs are coming from the truth-input of my studying. And, it is coming from the prayer-input of all my prayers. I believe that this is me being empowered to walk, as a child of God.

Things That Can Create Doubt

Past Disappointments

Jesus, You know that even when things have happened to me that should have encouraged me and given me some expectations of happiness and peace, I was in such pain and feeling such friendlessness I couldn't react with faith, hope, peace, and expectation. Because of my struggles with divorce, my heart has been blocked off. I have used some systems and philosophies that built walls in my heart.

Jesus, even though walls in my heart have helped to protect me, I now *allow* You to take them down. Do what no one else has been able to do. Let these studies and prayers open my heart to Your faith, so I can totally yield to all You have for me. Help me not allow past experiences to keep me from believing that You can and will do this for me.

Past Efforts To Cheer Me Up

Jesus, You knows my friends have tried to cheer me up and encourage me, but I wasn't able to take advantage of those efforts. I smiled and tried to show appreciation for their concern, but I still felt the pain and aloneness on the inside. Help me believe that just because they couldn't help me and I couldn't respond, doesn't mean my situation is impossible.

Jesus, use Your words and prayers, that You are giving me, to help me start believing I can be healed. Believing in my heart that You are healing me is the experience I am looking for. Then help me see that being able to confess it with my mouth, will help me to get the results in my body and in my life. You are like a light shining in a dark room. You aren't just trying to cheer me up or encourage me. Provide me with a whole new supernatural outlook on life.

Temporary Results Can Cause Doubt

Jesus, sometimes cheery, positive thoughts and friendship-support help me a little; but, I look to You to give me a change of emotional perspective. Since healing from You comes through love, faith, trust, reliance, peace, joy, and assurance, I *allow* You to put these things into my emotions. But, help me keep in mind that this *"allowing"* isn't human effort or human reasoning; it is accomplished by me *asking* You to empower me to do it.

Jesus, temporary "cheering up" didn't last, because it wasn't like Your power. Help me believe that just because all my efforts, all the "expert's" efforts, and all my friend's efforts couldn't bring permanent result, You are empowering me to not be skeptical. Give me Your faith, that comes through the truth I am hearing and the truth I am asking for. Help me realize that these are Your words I am reading and praying.

Delay Can Cause Doubt

Jesus, if my car needed repairs on the motor, I wouldn't just give it a good cleaning and polishing. Help me use the same principle on my life. Use these words and prayers to reach down in those areas where I am hurting and healing them. As I *allow* You to use these words and prayers to build faith in my heart, let them *gradually* help me believe in You and Your power to heal.

Jesus, sometimes delay frustrates me and causes me to doubt that it is ever going to happen. Just like temporary results can hurt my ability to *open* my heart to Your faith, so can delay. Help me understand that healing, through You, typically doesn't come all at once. Show me that this is because there are some spiritual growth issues that need to take place in me. Use this time You are spending with me, to teach me how to live, as a child of God. Let there be miracles that start helping me believe in You.

I Am Now Experiencing A Love-Gift

Jesus, since a lot of healings, blessings, breakthroughs, and miracles, from You, come in small amounts over periods of time, help my reaction to those healings, blessings, breakthroughs, and miracles bring thanksgiving into my heart. Help me be looking for them, noticing them, giving You the credit for them, and thanking You for them. Let me being thankful put me on the path to total healing.

Jesus, as I walk in the Spirit, help me walk on the right path to the right destination. Let thankfulness lead me into a path of relationship with You. You are doing these things, so as to build a better relationship with me. Keep me from not just wanting to be helped and not care about that relationship. Give me thankfulness, by helping me notice Your miracles in my life. Let that help me appreciate You and learn to love You more.

Jesus, I wouldn't want to give someone a gift and them appreciate the gift and not me. Help me see that the reason You are giving me gifts is to further establish and build the love relationship between You and me. These gifts are supposed to be the pathway to a more meaningful love relationship with You. Heal my heart, so I won't care about the gift, and, it becomes a distraction, a detour, and a way for me to hurt and reject You.

Jesus, You love me and are doing all these things, because of Your love and desire for a relationship with me. Help me show great love and appreciation to You, as You bless my life with miracles, healing, and a wonderful relationship with You.

Chapter Five – Truth
Are You Convinced?

Ask For This Result

Prov 3:5-6 (AKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. It isn't possible for you to **trust in the LORD with all your heart**, if you aren't convinced in your mind. That is why the Bible spends so much time trying to give your mind proof, evidence, and truth.

Prov 16:25 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Your mind, on its own, won't come to the place where it accepts Jesus and the Bible as total truth. That is why you had to first be born again, so you could get the mind of Jesus. As an unsaved person, you lacked the ability to be convinced of spiritual things.

You Are Ready For Heart-Healing

1 Cor 2:14 (NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he *cannot* understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Your mind, on its own, won't come to the place where it accepts Jesus and the Bible as total truth. That is why you had to first be born again, so you could get the mind of Jesus. As an unsaved person, you lacked the ability to be convinced of spiritual things.

You Are Ready For Heart-Healing
1 Cor 2:14 (NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. Your old mind was never going to be able to let your heart be healed. But, you have a new, supernatural, Spirit guided mind that can be convinced of supernatural, spiritual things: **1 Cor 2:16 (NIV) "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. The type of things you think drastically affect your heart. It is made up of all the things your mind has accepted as being true. Philippians 4:8 isn't a suggestion; it is a major principle for you to *ask* Jesus to bring your mind under its control.

Feeling **The Fruit Of The Spirit**
The goal continues to be **Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (NIV).**

These are the emotions Jesus has made dominant in your heart. The spiritual miracle that brought it about was **Philippians 4:8: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (NIV).**
Since your mind is now thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts, it has opened the door of your heart. Your heart is now receiving the fruit of the Spirit emotions. Even though you exposed your heart, to powerful thoughts, that were built on all kinds of human experiences and philosophies, Jesus is answering all the prayers you have prayed, and is giving you the miraculous, supernatural fruit of the Spirit emotions.

Getting Supernatural Results
Romans 10:8 and Matthew 7:7 will continue to help you think Philippians 4:8 thoughts. When Satan tries to get you to think something that isn't a Philippians 4:8 thought, Ask Jesus (Mat 7:7) to help you keep thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts. Ask Him to keep speaking faith into you (Heb 12:2), so you can continue believing you have been empowered to think those kinds of thoughts.

As you remain **sure** and **certain** (Heb 11:1) that it is true you are empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts, it becomes time for you to confess with your *mouth* what you believe in your *heart* (Rom 10:8). You will be able to say with confidence that you have been empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts. You aren't saying these things to the devil. You are saying them to yourself and to Jesus. Don't do much talking to the devil; he isn't going to be converted.

Jesus Changed Your Mind
Satan will try to bring your emotions back to a focus on the feelings, situations, and circumstances of your past. Ask Jesus to help you keep your eyes focused on the greatness, the possibilities, success, and power of Jesus' healing of your issues with emotions. Tell Jesus that you believe you have been completely healed, that you believe in Him and His faithfulness to you.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. This is the same principle as **Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, *and I will* give you rest (Mat 11:28 NIV).**

To fix, means you keep your eyes locked on Jesus and don't let Satan pull them off. It is to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that you are healed (Rom 10:8). This is how you do everything in the spirit realm, as a child of God (Gal 6:9).

The Three Keys To All Of Christianity must be applied to this mouth and heart principle. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you.** Ask Jesus to empower you to never yield to Satan and start believing his lies. **Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

Ask And It Will Be Given To You

Asking Rather Than Trying
Gal 3:3 (NIV) Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? You can make your mouth say the right things and you can believe the right things in your heart. But, if they are doing them through your human determination and faith, they will give you human results. You need the supernatural faith, power, and transformation from Jesus. Just like you asked Jesus to heal your emotions, you keep asking Him to empower you to keep believing you are healed.

***Ask* and it will be given to you:** If you *try* to do the right thing, you are looking to you. If you *ask* Jesus to empower you to do the right thing, you are fixing your **eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of** your **faith.** Any instruction or commandments in the Bible must be obeyed and lived through asking. Any promises in the Bible must be obtained and lived by *asking.*

Winning Rather Than Failing
John 15:5 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. Asking, seeking, and knocking keep you connected to Jesus. **If a man remains in Me** must have a procedure for doing that, or, you will find yourself trying to do that and failing. But, if you *ask* Jesus to empower you to keep doing it, He will give you the power to keep confessing it with your mouth and believing it in your heart.

The Three Keys To All Of Christianity are covered in a full way in another study and prayer time. For now, allow Jesus to help you always be faithful and proficient in the ask key. Even if you forget to ask for something and find yourself trying to do it with human effort, the ask key is still the answer. There is no principle under ask; you need to *ask* Jesus to help you to remember to *ask.*

1 Th 5:17 (NIV) Pray continually. Ultimately, Jesus will teach you how to bring everything to Him. All you have to do is add Jesus' name to a question in your mind and that will invite Him into that issue. Rather than thinking, how am I going to do this? You think, Jesus, what is the best way to do this? Soon you will be thinking *with* Jesus and discussing things *with* Him all day long.

What Happens Next?

Old Testament Examples

The Bible not only has powerful truths that transform your life, it has wonderful examples that help you see and understand these truths. Jesus will be using one of the people from centuries ago to train you because they faced the challenging issues of life like you. He made sure that the Bible contained records of some very important people's lives.

Out of all the people who have lived on this planet, Jesus handpicked some that would help you get a pictorial view of how to handle divorce issues. You will be able to see the example of a person who put their trust in God and their example will help you believe, trust, and rely on Jesus, so you can win over your struggles with feeling lonely. You will be able to use their life to see how to take advantage of the things of God. Their life-examples will lead you into a life of faith, love, joy, happiness, and success.

Chapter Five – Prayer
I Am Convinced

I'm Asking For This Result

Prov 3:5-6 (AKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart <u>and lean not on your own understanding</u>; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Jesus, since it isn't possible for me to **trust in the LORD with all my heart**, if I am not convinced in my mind, help me yield to the Bible, as it spends a lot of time trying to give my mind proof, evidence, and truth.

Prov 16:25 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Jesus, help see that my mind, on its own, won't come to the place where it accepts You and the Bible as total truth. Thank You for helping me be born again, so I could get Your mind. As an unsaved person, I lacked the ability to be convinced of spiritual things.

I'm Ready For Heart-Healing

1 Cor 2:14 (NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he *cannot* understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Jesus, my old mind was never going to be able to let my heart be healed. Thank You for giving me a new, supernatural, Spirit guided mind that can be convinced of supernatural, spiritual things: **1 Cor 2:16 (NIV) "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.**

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Jesus, thanks to You I am now able to think the type of things that bring healing to my heart. Since it was made up of all the things my mind had accepted as being true from the world, I can now bring healing to it. Philippians 4:8 isn't a suggestion; it is a major principle for me to ask You to bring my mind under its control.

I'm *Feeling* The Fruit Of The Spirit

Jesus, thank You helping me keep this as my goal: **Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (NIV).** These are the emotions You have made dominant in my heart. The spiritual miracle that brought it about was **Philippians 4:8: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things (NIV).**

Jesus, since my mind is thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts, it has opened the door for my heart to be able to receive the fruit of the Spirit. Even though I exposed my heart, to powerful thoughts, that built on all kinds of human experiences and philosophies, thank You for using the fruit of the Spirit as my new supernatural emotions.

I'm Getting Supernatural Results

Jesus, Romans 10:8 and Matthew 7:7 are now helping me think Philippians 4:8 thoughts.
I *ask* You (Mat 7:7) to help me continue thinking Philippians 4:8 thoughts. I *Ask* You to keep speaking *faith* into me (Heb 12:2), so I can *keep believing that I have been* empowered to think those kinds of thoughts.

Jesus, as I remain **sure** and **certain** (Heb 11:1) that it is true I am empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts, help me confess with my *mouth* what I believe in my *heart* (Rom 10:8). Help me always be able to say with confidence that I have been empowered to think Philippians 4:8 thoughts. Help me not say these things to the devil. Help me say them to myself and to You. Help me not do much talking to the devil.

Jesus Has Changed My Mind

Jesus, when Satan tries to bring my emotions back to a focus on the feelings, situations, and circumstances of my past, help me keep my eyes focused on the greatness, the possibilities, the success, and Your power of healing my issues with emotions. I believe I have been completely healed, and I believe in You and Your faithfulness to me.

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus, help me accept this as the same principle as **come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, *and I will* give me rest (Mat 11:28 NIV).**

Jesus, help me keep my eyes locked on You and not let Satan pull them off. Help me confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that I am healed (Rom 10:8). Help me do this with everything in the spirit realm, as a child of God (Gal 6:9).

Jesus, help me apply The Three Keys To All Of Christianity to this mouth and heart principle. **Mat 7:7 (NIV) *Ask* and it will be given to you; *seek* and you will find; *knock* and the door will be opened to you.** Jesus, empower me to never yield to Satan and start believing his lies. **Gal 6:9 (NIV) Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

I'm Asking And It Will Be Given To Me

I'm Asking Rather Than Trying

Gal 3:3 (NIV) Are me so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are me now trying to attain my goal by human effort? Jesus, keep me from making my mouth say the right things and believing the right things in my heart, but, doing them through my human determination and faith, so I won't get human results. Give me the supernatural faith, power, and transformation from You. Just like I asked You to heal my emotions, help me keep asking You to empower me to keep believing I am healed.

***Ask* and it will be given to you:** Jesus, heal me from *trying* to do the right thing, so I won't be looking to me. Help me *ask* You to empower me to do the right thing, so I will be fixing my **eyes on You, the Author and Perfecter of** my **faith.** Make it clear to me that any instructions or commandments in the Bible must be obeyed and lived through *asking.* And, teach me that any promises in the Bible must be obtained by *asking.*

I'm Winning Rather Than Failing

John 15:5 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; <u>apart from Me you can do nothing</u>. Help me always use asking, seeking, and knocking, so they will keep me connected to You. **If a man remains in Me:** Jesus, help me use this procedure for doing that, so I won't find myself trying to do that and failing. Help me always *ask* You to empower me to do it, so You will give me the power to confess it with my mouth and believe it in my heart.

Jesus, help me become faithful and proficient in the ask key. If I forget to ask for something and find myself trying to do it with human effort, help me see that the ask key is still the answer. Teach me that there is no principle under ask; help me *ask* You to assist me in remembering to *ask.*

1 Th 5:17 (NIV) Pray continually. Jesus, teach me how to bring everything to You. Help me add Your name to a question in my mind and that will invite You into that issue. Rather than me thinking, how am I going to do this? Help me think, Jesus, what is the best way to do this? Help me be thinking *with* You and discussing things *with* You all day long.

What Happens Next?

Old Testament Examples

Jesus, since the Bible not only has powerful truths that transform my life, it has wonderful examples that help me see and understand these truths. Use one of the people from centuries ago to train me, because they faced the challenging issues of life like me. Since You made sure the Bible contained records of very important people's lives, help me take advantage of them.

Jesus, out of all the people who have lived on this planet, You handpicked some that would help me get a pictorial view of how to handle divorce issues. Help me see the example of a person who put their trust in God and let their example help me believe, trust, and rely on You. Help me use this historical event, so I can win over my struggles with feeling lonely. Use their life to help me see how to take advantage of the things of God. Let their life-examples lead me into a life of faith, love, joy, happiness, and success.

Chapter Six – Truth
How To Get
The Benefits Of Biblical Training

This is your opportunity to allow Jesus to use a person's life, recorded in the Bible, to give you an example of how to keep your Jesus-faith growing, how to change your approach to life, and how to get your emotions healed. Your issues with your divorce aren't the only aspect of your life and what you are going through. There are a lot of things that are happening to you. If you will allow yourself to enter into Joseph's life and see yourself going through what he is going through, Jesus will help you use this Biblical example to lead you into greater Jesus-faith, better philosophies of life, and powerfully healed emotions.

1. Establish Your Relationship With Jesus And His Bible

God Makes Things Work For Joseph's Good

In the Old Testament part of the Bible, there was a young man named Joseph whom God had special plans for. He started out with positive emotions of being loved by his father, because his father actually considered him his favorite. However, when parents have favorites, this creates real problems with the other children. Plus, Joseph didn't handle his relationship with his brothers well. He did what spoiled brats tend to do; he tattled on his brothers and tried to get them in trouble. This is where things started going down-hill for Joseph.

God Makes Things Work For Your Good

Jesus wants to use Joseph's life as an example of how to handle bad situations, like struggles with divorce, that tend to push you into an emotional crisis. Joseph's emotional crisis was caused by relationships; and, that may not be the major cause of your issue. But, the cause of your crisis isn't as important as how you *deal* this emotional crisis in *your* life. Joseph's life is picked up in Genesis chapter 37, verse 2 (Gen 37:2) when he was seventeen.

2. Learn From People In The Bible

Joseph's Past Experiences

Gen 37:2-4 (NIV) This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

Now Israel (the new name God gave Jacob) **loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.**

Your Past Experiences
Your heart can start out damaged, because of bad relationships in your past. However, it can also be damaged by life struggles, finances, physical conditions, circumstances, previously lost loved ones, and spiritual issues. These things cause your heart to be overwhelmed, have doubts, experience fears, feel depressed, enter into hopelessness, get frustrated, lash out in anger, and many other emotional reactions.

All kinds of things can cause damage to your heart, because they are bad things happening to you and in you. You can especially be damaged emotionally, if a lot of bad things happen to you all at once or one right after another. It can challenge your faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on God.

3. Learn From Other People's Mistakes

Joseph's Relationship Building System
Gen 37:5 (NIV) Joseph had a dream, and <u>when he told it to his brothers</u>, they hated him all the more. Joseph's brothers were already mad at him; yet he tried to impress them with a dream that God gave him; everyone makes mistakes.

Jesus' Relationship Building System
Sometimes it doesn't matter how hard you try to win people over or try to make your life better, it seems like all your efforts backfire on you. It's true that you need friends; but, you need Jesus to help you get and spend time with the right friends. Jesus' training will help with that.

When things go from bad to worse, it can drain your hope, faith, and positive expectations. When you are already lonely or isolated, other negative things can really take you down or make you more alienation. But, there was a work of God that had shined a special light into Joseph's life.

Joseph had two dreams; they were going to reveal something extremely important to him. His life was going to have many setbacks that would try to destroy him. But, those two dreams were given to him, <u>so he could hold on to them for the rest of his life</u>. Jesus has done that for you.

4. You Must Have Purpose

Jesus' Way Of Facing Issues
Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, <u>Who for the *joy* set before Him</u> endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Do you see it? Jesus had **the joy set before Him** and Joseph had two dreams set before Him, you need to have a dream set before you. If you don't have a Jesus-future set before you, it will be very hard to be healed. The pain is pushing you; but, hope for your future will elevate you into a wonderful desire.

Jesus' Way For You To Face Issues
You may not remember it; but, there is something God has spoken to you at some point in your life. Pray and ask Him to help you go back to a time when He caused you to feel special. He told you that you were going to be a special person. He helped you feel like there was something you were going to do that was important. This "dream" He gave you may be crushed and downplayed; but, it was real and true for your future.

God has *very* special plans for you; He has a dream that He wants you to embrace. He gave it to you for you to hold onto, so as to help you face this time of struggle with divorce. It doesn't matter what kind of diagnoses, messages, or evaluations you are getting from pain, circumstances, or people; God's message to you is the only message that counts. Spend some time with Jesus, asking Him to show you how important you are to Him; let Him help you dream again.

5. Accept That Humility Wins Friends

Joseph's Lack Of Humility
Gen 37:6-8 (NIV) He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" <u>And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said</u>.

Humility Will Help You
Joseph's life-problems were forming through relationships; he was failing to realize that he was creating major hostility against himself. His brother's attitudes were growing against him no matter how much Joseph tried to help them see his value. It's important for you to accept that Joseph's life-struggles were just as painful to him as your struggles with divorce are to you.

Joseph was experiencing major pain from them just like you are with divorce. However, in his case, he needed God to teach him how to go about winning friends. Even if your emotional crisis doesn't have anything to do with relationships, good friends are very important to your future. Difficult emotions affect relationships and relationships can cause difficult emotions. That is why you need Jesus to help you.

6. Accept That Jesus Really Cares

Using The Joseph-System
Sometimes you can try to impress others by bragging on yourself or you can try to get people to feel sorry for you by complaining. Since those around you don't seem to be impressed or can appreciate what you are going through, you can start trying to point out your own qualities or complain about the magnitude of your struggle.

The reason you need Jesus rather than people to help you with this issue is, the more you brag or complain, the less people want to be around you. Bragging and complaining come across, as you saying you are better than them or your problems are greater than theirs. That probably wasn't your message; you were just trying to help them like you or care about you.

People will pull away from you more, if you start trying to impress them. Whether you are trying to impress upon them your value or you are trying to impress upon them how much you are suffering, they will only get involved for a short time. Then they will gradually drift away from you.

Using Jesus' Win-Win System
Jesus wants you to be convinced about this very important truth: **Rom 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am *convinced* that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, <u>will be able to separate us from the love of God *that is in* Christ Jesus our Lord</u>.** Ask Jesus to help you be convinced of this truth; it will help you turn to Him and His very committed love for you.

If you do what you think should help you have more friends and it makes things worse, that is very hurtful and confusing to you. When you come to God with pride, it hurts your relationship with Him also. However, Jesus has a way for you to develop friendships with people and with God through a very different system. The friends He will help you get will be the kind where you and they support each other.

7. Ask Jesus To Help You With Your Mistakes

Not Being Able To Read People
Gen 37:9-11 (NIV) Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Be Able To See Other's Needs
The important reason God was giving Joseph these two dreams was for his future. God wanted Joseph to have these promises buried inside his heart. God didn't give them to him, so he could try to impress people; He gave them to him, so he could battle his life-problem like you are battling your difficulty with divorce. This is an important time in your life, where you need to get your eyes off of your current situation and on God's wonderful future He has planned for you. It will help you cooperate with Jesus' healing power.

8. Don't Misinterpret The Events

Joseph's Life-Classes
In Genesis 37:12-17, Joseph headed into God's future plans for his life. They were going to be challenging life-classes that would try to make him feel such aloneness that he would give up on life. Why would God design a difficult life that had struggles, problems, and emotionally challenging aspects to them? You may not be able to fully embrace the reasons for what you are going through; but, Jesus is turning you into a fighter. He is helping you realize you don't have to put up with negative, harmful emotions.

Your Life-Classes
Right now, it probably seems like you aren't even able to be helped. But, God is going to lead you through this issue with divorce and bring you out victorious. But, the way He goes about helping you may be a little bit surprising to you. He wants to get you involved in His knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power. You are His child; and, He wants to share Himself with you.

Jesus is healing you; but, He is also helping you learn some principles that are going to be life-saving to you and to other people you meet. God had plans for Joseph that needed some very special training; they were very difficult assignments; but, they took him to a wonderful place where large quantities of people were blessed through him; and, people will be blessed through you. Your miraculous story is going to give them hope.

9. Let Jesus Give You A New Attitude

Your problem with divorce didn't enter into your life, so as to destroy you; it is actually going to be something you and Jesus will use to help you win. If you don't have any struggles, then you can't win any battles. All successful athletes, successful professionals, successful parents, and successful marriages have faced major difficulties. They just "did what it took" to win over them. Jesus wants to empower you to win and win in a powerful way.

Everyone around you is suffering with some kind of struggle in their life too. Like you, they can try to handle it alone, through other humans, or through supernatural power which comes by turning to Jesus. The special thing about you is, you are learning the step-by-step procedures for getting Jesus and His provisions. If He just healed you and didn't train you concerning how it all works, you wouldn't be able to pass it on to others.

Chapter Six – Prayer
How To Get
The Benefits Of Biblical Training
1. I Am Establishing My Relationship With Jesus And His Bible

God Makes Things Work For Joseph's Good

Jesus, use this Old Testament event about Joseph, whom God had special plans for. Help me learn from his mistakes and successes for how to be healed and stay healed from issues with divorce. Show me the emotional problems created in him by being loved by his father as his favorite. Teach me what it did to him in his relationship with the other children.

Jesus, even though Joseph's life is different from my, help me see how emotions of loneliness and a need for acceptance caused Joseph to not handle his relationship with his brothers well. But, help me also see how You are going to use all of this to get him to Egypt, as his main assignment. Help me understand that you are going to use my situation with divorce to teach me how to be blessed and help others be blessed as well.

God Makes Things Work For My Good

Jesus, Joseph was a spoiled brat and did what they tend to do, tattling on his brothers and trying to get them into trouble. Like Joseph, I have made a lot of mistakes in my relationships with my family. And, I have experienced a lot of mistakes from them. Use Joseph's life, as an example, to teach me how to handle bad situations that tend to push people into emotional crisis.

Jesus, whether my emotional crisis came from relationships or has started affecting my relationships, help me learn how to not only be healed, but, to be a blessing and a help to the people around me. Teach me that the *cause* of my emotional crisis isn't as important as how I handle it in *my* life. Let me be blessed and helped through the examples in Joseph's life.

2. I'm Learning From People In The Bible

Joseph's Past Experiences

Gen 37:2-4 (NIV) This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

My Past Experiences

Jesus, help me see that the original damage in my heart can often start out because of bad relationships; however, help me understand that it can also be caused by life struggles, finances, physical conditions, circumstances, previous losses of loved ones, and spiritual issues. Help me see that these things cause my heart to be overwhelmed, have doubts, experience fears, feel depressed, become hopelessness, get frustrated, lash out in anger, and many other reactions.

Jesus, show me that it isn't as important what the things were that caused the damage to my heart, it is important that I see how I responded to them. If a lot of bad things happen to me all at once or one right after another, I can respond by being overwhelmed. If something happened to me financially, I can respond with worry or fear. Whatever my emotional crisis is, I need to be healed through a faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on You in that area.

3. I'm Learning From Other People's Mistakes

Joseph's Relationship Building System

Gen 37:5 (NIV) Joseph had a dream, and <u>when he told it to his brothers</u>, they hated him all the more. Jesus, help me understand Joseph's motives, when he tried to impress his brothers, who were already mad at him. Show me where I am interacting with the people around me. Help me keep in mind that everyone makes mistakes. Help me be able to grow in my relations by seeing my mistakes; but, help me not be hurt by my mistakes.

Jesus' Relationship Building System

Jesus, when I am already lonely or isolated, help me realize that other negative issues can really take me down or make me even more alienation. But, help me notice the work of God that shined a special light into Joseph's life with the two dreams. Show me Your wonderful plan for my future. Like Joseph, my life is going to have many setbacks that will try to hurt me. But, let the dreams You have given me, be a special thing I can hold on to for the rest of my life.

4. I Have Purpose

Jesus' Way Of Facing Issues

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, <u>Who for the *joy* set before Him</u> endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus, You had **the joy set before** You. Joseph had two dreams set before Him. Help me have a dream set before me. Give me a Jesus-future set before me, so I will not only have healing, I will have faith for my future. Let hope for my future elevate me into a wonderful desire to live a healed life.

Jesus' Way For Me To Face Issues

Jesus, I may not remember it; but, there is something God has spoken to me at some point in my life. Help me go back to a time when God caused me to feel special. Remind me that He told me that I was going to be a special person. He helped me feel like there was something I was going to do that was important. But, help me see that this "dream" He gave me may be crushed and downplayed; but, it was real and true for my future.

Jesus, make it clear to me that God has *very* special plans for me. He has a dream that He wants me to embrace. He gave it to me for me to hold on to, so as to help me face this time of struggle with divorce. Teach me that it doesn't matter what kind of messages I am getting from circumstances and other people. Help me accept that God's message, to me, is the only message that counts. Show me how important I am to You; give me back that dream.

5. I'm Accepting That Humility Wins Friends

Joseph's Lack Of Humility

Gen 37:6-8 (NIV) He (Joseph) said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" <u>And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said</u>.

Humility Will Help Me

Jesus, help me understand that Joseph's life-struggle was forming through relationships; he was failing to realize that he was creating major hostility against himself. His brother's attitudes were growing against him no matter how much he tried to help them see his value. Show me that bragging and complaining aren't the answer for winning friends. Help me see that his difficulties were just as hard on him as my struggles with divorce are on me. Help me see that he was experiencing pain from his life-challenges just like I am.

6. I Accept That Jesus Really Cares

Using The Joseph-System

Jesus, sometimes I can try to impress others by bragging on myself or try to get people to feel sorry for me by complaining. Since those around me don't seem to be impressed or can appreciate what I am going through, help me not take that approach with people. Help me bring the magnitude of my struggles to You.

Jesus, help me see that the more I brag or complain, the less people want to be around Me. Show me that bragging and complaining come across, as me saying I am better than them or my problems are greater than theirs. Even though that isn't what I am trying to say, help me see that my needs for a relationship cannot come through these methods. Help me first establish and experience a healing in these areas from You.

Jesus, help me realize that, it is only through turning to You for my value, my needs for love, my needs for care, and my needs for healing, that I can live a healed life. Help me see that the people around me are looking to those around them for their needs to be met, in most cases. So, when others reach out to them for help, they can't help, because they are busy looking for their own needs to be met from them.

Using Jesus' Win-Win System

Jesus, empower me to be convinced about this vital truth: **Rom 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am *convinced* that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Jesus, teach me a way to have relationships with the people around me through Your principles. Help me deal with all my problems, needs, and issues, by learning how You want me to get them solved. Help me have wonderful relationships with the people around me, because You have worked so many miracles in my life. Rather than me looking to others for my needs being met, help me be a wonderful friend, can help them with their needs, issues, and problems.

7. I'm Asking Jesus To Help Me With My Mistakes

Not Being Able To Read People

Gen 37:9-11 (NIV) Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

I'm Able To See Other's Needs

Jesus, show me that the reason God was giving Joseph these two dreams was for his future. God wanted Him to have these promises buried in his heart. Help me see that God didn't give them to him, to impress people. He gave them to him, so he could battle his issues.

Jesus, help me yield to your evaluation of me, so I don't try to get my esteem and confidence through bragging or complaining. Teach me that this is an important time in my life, where I need to get my eyes off of my current situation and on God's wonderful future, He has planned for me. Let it help me cooperate with Your healing power.

8. I'm Not Misinterpreting The Events

Joseph's Life-Classes

Jesus, use these illustrations in Genesis 37:12-17, of Joseph heading into God's future plans for his life. Help me see that they are going to be challenging life-classes that will try to make him feel such aloneness that He gives up on life. Teach me why God would design a difficult life that had struggles, problems, and emotionally challenging aspects to them. Help me see that You are turning me into a fighter. You are helping me realize I don't have to put up with negative, harmful emotions.

My Life-Classes

Jesus, help me fully embrace the reasons for what I am going through; show me that I am very important to You, myself, and some people who are going to need my help. Right now, it seems like I am not even able to be helped myself. But, make it clear to me that You are going to lead me through this issue with divorce and bring me out victorious. You are going to teach me an aggressive system that takes me from being a victim to a victor.

9. I'm Letting Jesus Give Me A New Attitude

Jesus, help me see that victory over my difficulty with divorce is in itself a wonderful thing; but, also help me see that it is going to help me learn some principles that are going to be life-saving to me and to other people I meet. Just like God had plans for Joseph that needed some very special training; help me understand that He has them for me.

Jesus, show me that just like life-issues were very difficult for Joseph, they are very difficult for me. But, help me see that they took him to a wonderful place, where large quantities of people were blessed through him; and, they will be blessed through me.

Jesus, teach me that my problem with divorce hasn't entered into my life, so as to destroy me. Show me that it is actually going to be something You and I use to help me be a winner. Teach me that if I don't have any struggles, then I can't win any battles. Remind me that all successful athletes, successful professionals, successful parents, and successful marriages have faced major difficulties. They just did what it took to win over them. Help me win and win in a powerful way.

Jesus, show me that everyone around me is suffering with some kind of struggle in their life. They can try to handle it alone; they can try to handle it through other humans; or, they can handle it through supernatural power by turning to You; help me turn to You.

Chapter Seven – Truth
How To Solve Issues With Divorce

1. Use Joseph's Life To Help You

Joseph's Life-Change
Gen 37:12-13 (NIV) Now his (Joseph's) brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

Your Life-Change
There was a time when life was reasonably normal for you. You had your problems and issues; but, it was a life that you were used to. There were things that you, no doubt, wanted to be improved and made better. But, you most likely didn't want your whole life to change.

Joseph was about to have his whole life *drastically* changed. When things like that happen to a person, there are incredible emotional traumas that take place. How was Joseph going to survive this massive change that was about to come into his life? The answer is, he won each challenge through something that he had previously tried to use to impress people. Your life changed; but, it can take you into a wonderful future through the power of joy.

2. Understand The Next Phase

Things Looked Bad For Joseph
Gen 37:18 (NIV) But they saw him (Joseph) in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. Even though Joseph didn't realize it, he was leaving home permanently. He thought he was just on a temporary journey and would go back to the way things were. That happened to you; you started on a life path that you thought would let you stay in a normal life.

Things Look Bad For You
There was a time when you made certain decisions and then settled into a routine. You had ways of working around your problems; things were staying pretty much the same day by day. Then that thing happened that opened the door to your struggles with divorce. You didn't plan it this way; you didn't prepare for life to be this way; and, you don't want it to stay this way. You want to go back to the way things used to be.

Issues with divorce are keeping you from being able to go back to the life you had before this challenge took over. Like Joseph, you are now going to have to make some emotional and physical adjustments to survive. This is where God came through for Joseph and where He is coming through for you. He has a life that will be different; but, it will be so much better!

3. Realize That Difficulties Are Normal

Joseph's Challenge

Gen 37:19-20 (NIV) "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." Like all humans, it is normal for you to have to face difficulties, problems, and issues.

Your Challenge

You may not have known it; but, God put you on this planet, so you could choose to become His child; and, since you did, you are to learn how to be skillful in winning over challenges. As a child of God, you have special powers and abilities available to you. This life, on earth, provides you with challenges that give you *opportunities* to learn how to take advantage of God's power and provisions.

As a child of God, if you weren't faced with difficulties, you wouldn't have anything to practice on. God has some very dynamic plans for your life, here on earth and in eternity. But, they are going to require that you become trained, skillful, talented, experienced, mature, and successful. That was what He was doing with Joseph. He wasn't just getting him ready for succeeding in Egypt, He was getting him ready to reign in eternity.

God's Plan Challenged

You have a spiritual enemy, who is called Satan; he wants to destroy you, so you can't become successful in the things of God. These brothers of Joseph were yielding to Satan's attitudes and character. God had a wonderful dream He had planted in Joseph's heart. He wanted it to empower Joseph and inspire him into a life-plan that was going to help him be very successful and help a lot of people. Joseph's brothers were yielding to Satan and wanted to kill that plan of God.

Joseph's life was about to move out of his control; however, Jesus was right there protecting Joseph and protecting God's plan for his life. Jesus is also right there protecting you and God's plan for your life. Just like things were really looking bad for Joseph, so are they looking bad for you. *But*, nothing is going to kill you or your dream, as long as you keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't let friendlessness or aloneness control you. Let Jesus help you overcome them and be trained to win.

4. Believe That God Is Protecting You

A Slight Adjustment In Joseph's Challenge

Gen 37:21-22 (NIV) When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

Jesus Is The Adjustment In Your Challenge
Jesus knew you were going to be facing these difficult challenges; and, He made sure there were special provisions, instructions, training, and power waiting to protect you. Everyone has to face the difficulties of life; no one escapes. The choice is, do you want to face them alone, or, do you want to face them with Jesus and His power? You have chosen to face them with Jesus and all He has to offer; and, that was the wisest decision you will ever make. Jesus had Reuben there to keep Joseph's brothers from killing him.

God knew how to make sure Joseph was able to keep moving forward toward that special plan He had for his life. He made sure Reuben was there to keep Joseph's future alive. And, He is doing that for you. He is providing these studies and prayers, so you can grow in your relationship with Jesus. Jesus is your power-protection for keeping your dream alive during major emotions of being alienation and feeling isolated

5. Don't Worry About The Way Things Look

A Small Miracle For Joseph
Gen 37:23-24 (NIV) So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing--and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. A pit filled with water would have killed Joseph. An empty pit, with no water in it, didn't look like a miracle; but it was!

You have heard about being in the pits or down in the dumps. Joseph was literally down in a pit; his life was out of his control; but, it wasn't out of God's control. But, God had given him a dream; God had shown him his future; and it wasn't dying in a pit. If God hasn't shown you your dream yet, ask Him to show you your future.

A Small Miracle For You And Your Friends
Jesus paid a heavy and painful price for your future. He bought you a wonderful and successful life that is going to be a great blessing to you and to many other people. Jesus isn't *just* coming to *your* rescue; He is coming to the rescue of all the people He is going to help and save through you. Don't let the weaknesses you feel right now hurt your faith in the future Jesus has for you.

6. God's Ways Won't Always Make Sense To You

A Miracle That Changed Joseph's Life
Gen 37:25-27 (NIV) As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, <u>and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt</u>. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

Joseph's brothers weren't thinking these thoughts on their own; Joseph's life wasn't in their hands. God had plans for Joseph; and, God caused everyone and everything to play right into *His hands*. Let Jesus show you that this is what is happening to you; God is in control of your life. God wanted Joseph to go to Egypt and He wanted Joseph to be trained in some life-classes along the way. So, He got Joseph out of the pit and headed him to his next life-assignment.

A Miracle That's Changing Your Life
You are going through some very difficult times; but, your life isn't in anyone or anything's hands. Believe in the God that took Joseph from what looked like his death to a very dynamic and wonderful life. You will be facing some challenges; but, pray and ask Jesus to help you see them as *life-classes*. See the "pit" you are in as a stepping stone leading you into a dynamic and wonderful life. Don't let friendlessness and being isolated win over God's wonderful plan. Ask Jesus to empower you to win over them.

This problem with divorce doesn't have the power to destroy you; Jesus is lifting you up and get you out. But, as He lifts you out, don't misunderstand where He takes you next; taking you out of this problem may not be the "out" you wanted. Joseph didn't go back home; he went to his next assignment. Just like Joseph needed to be in Egypt, so his dream could be fulfilled, so do you need to be heading toward your special destination. As God lifts you out of this "pit," trust Him to know what to do with your life next.

7. Believe You Can Trust Jesus!

Joseph Is Heading To Egypt
Gen 37:28 (NIV) So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

You Are Heading Into God's Plan
Your life may seem like it is out of control; but, just because it is out of *your* control doesn't mean it is out of *God's* control. When you accepted Jesus, as your Lord, Savior, and King, something very wonderful and special happened to you. Your heavenly Father took control over your circumstances. He brought you to these studies and prayers; and, He is using them to get you to the next life-class assignment. He is *forcing* your circumstances to *all* work out for your good.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that *in all things* God works for the *good* of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

- You aren't suffering alone; Jesus is right there with you.
- You aren't suffering needlessly; you are being trained for how to help hurting people all around you.
- You aren't suffering in order to lose; Jesus is teaching you some powerful and wonderful principles that will set you and many others free.
- You aren't suffering because you did something that you are being punished for; Jesus has already forgiven you for everything you have done, are doing, and will do that is wrong.
- You aren't suffering because you are being mistreated; Joseph wasn't being mistreated even though it looked like it at the time.

You, like Joseph, will see things perfectly clear when you get to the prize. The challenge is for you to be like Joseph and go through these life-classes with power, faith, peace, joy, and ultimately to victory. Jesus wants to give you the power, faith, peace, and joy you need, so you can win *all during* the journey.

Chapter Seven – Prayer
How To Solve Issues With Divorce

1. I'm Using Joseph's Life To Help Me

Joseph's Life-Change

Gen 37:12-13 (NIV) Now his (Joseph's) brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

My Life-Change

Jesus, there was a time when life was reasonably normal for me. I had my problems and issues; but, it was a life that I was used to. There were things that I wanted to be improved and made better; but, I didn't want my whole life to change. Help me see that, like Joseph, my life changed drastically, but, for an important purpose. Help me see that You are heading me into a wonderful plan.

Jesus, teach me that, when things like a total life change happens to a person, it is typical for there to be an incredible emotional trauma that takes place. Help me use Joseph's survival during this massive change to understand how You want to help me survive. Show me how he won each challenge through something that he had previously tried to use to impress people. My life changed; but, let it take me into a wonderful future through Your power-joy.

2. I'm Understanding The Next Phase

Things Looked Bad For Joseph

Gen 37:18 (NIV) But they saw him (Joseph) in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

Jesus, show me that even though Joseph didn't realize it, he was leaving home permanently. He thought he was just on a temporary journey and would go back to the way things were. Help me see that, that happened to me; help me see how You are about to take me into powerful miracles because of this drastic change in my life.

Things Looked Bad For Me

Jesus, there was a time when I made certain decisions and then settled into a routine. I had ways of working around my problems; things were staying pretty much the same day by day. Then things happened that opened the door to my struggles with divorce. I didn't plan it this way; I didn't prepare for life to be this way; and, I don't want it to stay this way.

Jesus, I want to go back to the way things used to be. But, my issue with divorce is keeping me from being able to go back to the life I had before this difficulty took over. Like Joseph, help me allow You to make some emotional and physical adjustments, so I can survive. Show me that this is where God came through for Joseph and where You are coming through for me. Help me accept a life that will be different, but will be wonderful!

3. I'm Realizing That Difficulties Are Normal

Joseph's Challenge

Gen 37:19-20 (NIV) "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

My Challenge

Jesus, since it is normal for me to have to face difficulties, problems, and issues, show me that God put me on this planet, so I could become His child, and, so I can learn how to be skillful in winning over challenges. As a child of God, teach me that I have special powers and abilities available to me. Teach me that this life, on earth, provides me with challenges that give me opportunities to learn how to take advantage of God's power and provisions and win at life.

Jesus, as a child of God, I need to be faced with difficulties, so I can have something to practice on. Show me that God has some very dynamic plans for my life here on earth and in eternity. But, help me see that they are going to require that I become trained, skillful, talented, experienced, mature, and successful. Help me see that You aren't just teaching me how to succeed here, You are getting me ready to reign in eternity.

God's Plan Challenged

Jesus, teach me that I have a spiritual enemy who is called Satan; he wants to destroy me, so I can't become successful in the things of God. Show me how these brothers of Joseph were yielding to Satan's attitudes and character. God had a wonderful dream He had planted in Joseph's heart. He wanted it to empower him and inspire him into a life-plan that was going to help a lot of people.

Jesus, like Joseph's brothers were yielding to Satan and wanted to kill the plan of God in his life, Satan is trying to use this issue with divorce to kill Your plan in my life. Use this situation, like You used Joseph's situation, to lead me into Your wonderful plan for my life.

Jesus, help me understand that Joseph's life was about to move out of his control. Make it clear to me that You were right there protecting Joseph. And, You were right there protecting God's plan for his life. Help me see that You are also right here protecting me. And, You are right here protecting God's plan for my life. Just like things were really looking bad for Joseph, so are they looking bad for me. *But*, let me see that nothing is going to kill me or my dream, as long as I keep my eyes on You. Empower me keep my eyes on You.

4. I'm Believing That God Is Protecting Me

A Slight Adjustment In Joseph's Challenge

Gen 37:21-22 (NIV) When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

Jesus Is The Adjustment In My Challenge

Jesus, You knew I was going to be facing these difficult challenges. And, You made sure there were special provisions, instructions, training, and power waiting to protect me. Help me keep in mind that everyone has to face the difficulties of life; no one escapes. Teach me that the choice is, do I want to face them alone, or, do I want to face them with You and Your power? I have chosen to face them with You and all You have to offer; help me see that this is the wisest decision I will ever make.

Jesus, show me that You had Reuben there to keep Joseph's brothers from killing him. God knew how to make sure Joseph was able to keep moving forward toward that special plan He had for his life. Help me see that You are doing the same for me.

5. I'm Not Worried About The Way Things Look

A Small Miracle For Joseph

Gen 37:23-24 (NIV) So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing--and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. Jesus, I can understand how Joseph may not have seen the miracle of the pit not having water in it. Help me learn from this that even during some very bad looking things, You are working miracles for me.

Jesus, I know about being down in the pits or down in the dumps emotionally. Joseph was literally down in a pit; his life was out of his control; but, help me always see that it wasn't out of God's control. Help me understand that God had given him a dream; God had shown him his future; and, it helped him see that he wasn't going to die in a pit.

A Small Miracle For Me And My Friends

Jesus, help me remember that God has a future dream for me; I now ask You to show me my future. You paid a heavy and painful price for my future. You bought me a wonderful and successful life that is going to be a great blessing to me and to many other people. Help me see that You aren't just coming to my rescue; You are coming to the rescue of all the people You are going to help and save through me. Keep the weaknesses I feel right now from hurting my faith in the future You have for me.

6. God's Ways Won't Always Make Sense To Me

A Miracle That Changed Joseph's Life

Gen 37:25-27 (NIV) As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

Jesus, help me understand that Joseph's brothers weren't thinking these thoughts on their own; Joseph's life wasn't in their hands. Show me that God had plans for Joseph; and, He caused everyone and everything to play right into His hands. Help me see that this is what is happening to me; God is in control of my life.

Jesus, since God wanted Joseph to go to Egypt and He wanted him to be trained in some life-classes along the way, He was seeing to it that everything was working together for Joseph's good. So, He got Joseph out of the pit and headed him to his next life-assignment. Show me how this is working for me. Help me see some of the things He is doing, as He uses my circumstances to accomplish His plan for me.

A Miracle That's Changing My Life

Jesus, I am going through some very difficult times; but, make it clear to me that my life isn't in anyone or anything's hands. Help me believe in the God that took Joseph from what looked like his death to a very dynamic and wonderful life. Help me be okay with the fact that I will be facing some challenges. But, I ask You, Jesus, to help me see them as life-classes.

Jesus, help me see the pit I am in, as a stepping stone leading me into a dynamic and wonderful life. Help me not let sadness and being alienation win over God's wonderful plan. Empower me to win over them. And, empower me to "do what it takes" to cooperate with His plans.

Jesus, teach me that the problem with divorce isn't able to destroy me. You are going to lift me up and get me out. But, when You lift me out, help me not misunderstand where You take me next. Help me realize that, as You take me out of this problem, it may not be the "out" I wanted.

Jesus, Joseph didn't go back home; he went to his next assignment. Just like Joseph needed to be in Egypt, so his dream could be fulfilled, help me see that I need to be heading toward my special destination. As You lift me out of this pit, empower me to trust You to know what to do with my life next.

7. I Believe I Can Trust Jesus!

Joseph Is Heading To Egypt

Gen 37:28 (NIV) So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. Jesus, my life may *seem* like it is out of control; but, help me see that just because it is out of *my* control doesn't mean it is out of God's control. Teach me that when I accepted You as my Lord, Savior, and King, something very wonderful and special happened.

I Am Heading Into God's Plan

Jesus, teach me that my heavenly Father took control over my circumstances, when I was born again. He brought me to these studies and prayers; and, He is using them to get me to the next life-class assignment. Make it clear to me that He is *forcing* my circumstances to *all* work out for my good. **Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.**

- Jesus, help me always be aware that I am *not* suffering alone; You are right there with me.
- Help me always realize that I am *not* suffering needlessly; I am being trained for how to help hurting people all around me.
- Help me always keep in mind that I am *not* suffering in order to lose; You are teaching me some powerful and wonderful principles that will set me and many others free.
- Help me always believe that I am *not* suffering because I did something that I am being punished for; You have already forgiven me for everything I have done, am doing, and will do that is wrong.
- Help me always know that I am *not* suffering because I am being mistreated; Joseph wasn't being mistreated even though it looked like it at the time. I, like Joseph, will see things perfectly clear when I get to the prize.

Jesus, teach me that the challenge is for me to be like Joseph and go through these life-classes with power, faith, peace, joy, and ultimately into victory. Give me the power, faith, peace, and joy I need, so I can win all *during* the journey.

Chapter Eight – Truth
How To Start Winning

Things Didn't Just Happen To Joseph

Gen 37:36 (NIV) Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph <u>in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials</u>, the captain of the guard. Like you, Joseph had no idea why these things were happening to him. But, since his faith was in God, he knew Who was controlling his circumstances. You will be able to see what his attitudes are, once he gets to Potiphar's house.

Look at Joseph's situation and how God orchestrated it. He is in Egypt; He is at Potiphar's house; and Potiphar is one of Pharaoh's officials. Joseph's first miracle was, his brothers didn't kill him. That might not have looked like a miracle; but, it was a supernatural miracle of God. God's miracle in Joseph's life was for his brothers to throw him into a pit that didn't have any water in it. If he handled it correctly, he would have been praising God for the pit. *But*, it is hard to feel good about these types of miracles because they don't look like miracles.

Things Don't Just Happen To You

If you feel like your life is out of control, it adds to the suffering that the difficulties with divorce are causing you. But, if you know your life is in God's hands, it helps you understand that you are heading toward some awesome and blessed future circumstances. Where you are may not look like a miracle; but, it took incredible miracles to keep you alive, so you could be here.

Things Are Following A Pattern

Joseph Had To Trust God

The Midianites sold Joseph <u>in Egypt</u>: God wanted Joseph to be in Egypt all during his next life-classes. So, Joseph was sold by the Midianites in Egypt. But, Joseph wanted to go home; he didn't want to be in Egypt. However, Joseph had two dreams that assured him that things were going according to plan.

You Must Trust God

Things happening that you don't understand and sometimes don't even agree with, make life-classes hard; they seem to be hurting you, confusing you, and mistreating you. But in truth, you are being empowered and trained on how to handle your challenges with divorce. You aren't just being healed *from* this issue; you are going to demolish it with principles that demonstrate God's power.

Your journey through emotional struggles will end up being a life-story that you will gladly tell to many people. You will tell it with joy, excitement, appreciation, and confidence. It will be a miraculous story; but, it may not seem all that miraculous, as you go about living it. However, if you follow Joseph's example, you can actually go through it with great joy.

It All Fits Into A Training Course

Joseph Wasn't Just Training To Be A Slave

The Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, <u>one of Pharaoh's officials</u>: God wanted Joseph to rule in Egypt, as second in command to *Pharaoh*. So, Joseph was bought by Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. As long as Joseph continued to cooperate with God and flow into his next assignment, he would come out of each life-class with great training. He wasn't a slave in Potiphar's house to learn how to be a slave; he was there to learn how to rule over Egypt.

You Aren't Just Training To Be Healed

Keep in mind that, Joseph *did not* know what God's plan was! However, Joseph knew that God had a special plan for his life. This empowered him to put all he had into the assignment. Like Joseph, put all you have into this assignment. If you will accept this assignment and allow Jesus to teach you how to win over your challenges with divorce, your journey to victory and successes will be much more meaningful and powerful.

Keep in mind that things secluded you are trying to cheat you out of flowing into and winning over each life class. Your encounters with divorce are bringing you into a relationship with Jesus that will take you much farther than healing. Jesus went around healing all kinds of people that you never hear about again. But, people like Peter got provisions, blessings, training, and opportunities that were incredible.

Fight The Good Fight Of Faith

Joseph's Freedom From A Bad Attitude

Gen 39:2-4 (NIV) <u>The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered</u>, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. <u>Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned</u>.

As far as Joseph was concerned, he would still rather be back home with his dad. He could have handled this life-class with resentment, rebellion, resistance, and inactivity. But, if he had, he wouldn't have learned how to be ready for his next assignment (prison) and his main assignment (ruler).

Your Freedom From A Bad Attitude

Just like things were extremely difficult for Joseph, the problem with divorce is extremely difficult for you. Like with Joseph, emotions of friendlessness, aloneness, alienation, and being isolated are standing at the door of your heart. When you know your future is being built from your present, it helps you ask Jesus to give you faith, trust, and expectation for great things to come your way.

But, as Joseph looked to God for direction, God gave him emotional power to push through it and succeed at his current assignment. When you feel these emotions pounding on your heart, let those feelings be your warning that you need to turn to Jesus and ask Him to empower you to push through them and succeed at your current assignment.

Resist All Temptation

Joseph's Decision

Gen 39:6-10 (NIV) So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph, day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Your Decision

Your struggles with divorce create very difficult feelings; they need to be overcome with faith and confidence in Jesus. Let Him give you peace, happiness, pleasure, enjoyment, entertainment, and excitement. Satan has a lot of things that look like they might be the antidote to this issue.

Joseph was a person with the same weaknesses, thoughts, feelings, temptations, and struggles as you. It is important that you not read into him some special quality that you don't have. He was just a regular human that had turned his life over to the relationship and provisions of God. God didn't give him anything He didn't give you. Ask Him to help you not yield to anything that would keep you from living The Victorious Christian Life.

Just like God was empowering Joseph to be able to handle the pit, being sold into slavery, and being stuck in Potiphar's house rather than being at home, He is empowering you. **1 Cor 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

Don't Take Any Shortcuts

Joseph Looked For A Way Out

Gen 39:11-14 (NIV) One day he (Joseph) went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

Look For The Right Way Out

Joseph could have thought that maybe having a sexual relationship with Potiphar's wife might help relieve the pain of physical issues, anxiety, anger, depression, loneliness, hopelessness, fear, and many other negative emotions that were trying to take over his life.

What could help you get some peace and help with your problems with divorce? Is it inappropriate sex, pornography, drugs, alcohol, video games, the internet, or some other kind of physical pleasure? Joseph chose God as his answer and was able to ward off all these temptations. Ask Jesus to help you make a commitment to always do the right things.

It Pays To Do The Right Thing

Joseph Stayed On Track

Gen 39:16-20a (NIV) She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, <u>the place where the king's prisoners were confined</u>.

Stay On Track

Just like God needed to get Joseph into a place where He could put him in contact with Pharoah; but, as is often with you, things didn't look like they were heading in a positive direction for Joseph. However, Joseph was yielding his heart to the faithfulness of God. Even though things don't look like they are getting better, know that God is in control of all your circumstances.

Know that God is working *everything* out for your good. And through that knowledge, don't yield to temptation, anger, fear, doubt, depression, hopelessness, loneliness, or despair. There may be one or more life-classes for you to go through before you get to the life God has planned for you; but, He will get you to that wonderful plan, if you stay on track.

Chapter Eight – Prayer
How To Start Winning

Things Didn't Just Happen To Joseph

Gen 37:36 (NIV) Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph <u>in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials</u>, the captain of the guard. Jesus, like me, Joseph had no idea why these things were happening to him. But, since his faith was in God, he knew Who was controlling his circumstances. Help me learn from how he took all these changes in his life, once he got to Potiphar's house.

Jesus, teach me that Joseph's first miracle was, his brothers didn't kill him. That might not have looked like a miracle; but, it was a supernatural miracle of God. Show me that God's miracle, in Joseph's life, was for his brothers to throw him into a pit that didn't have any water in it. Let me see that if he handled it correctly, he would have been praising God for the pit.

Things Don't Just Happen To Me

Jesus, when I feel like my life is out of control, show me that it adds to the suffering that divorce struggles are causing me. Help me know my life is in God's hands; help me understand that I am heading toward some awesome and blessed future circumstances. *But*, even though it is hard for me to feel good about these types of miracles, because they don't look like miracles, show me that where I am is a miracle.

Things Are Following A Pattern

Joseph Had To Trust God

The Midianites sold Joseph <u>in Egypt</u>: Jesus, help me identify with Joseph during his next life-classes. Show me what it would feel like to be sold by the Midianites in Egypt. But, help me feel Joseph's desire to go home; he didn't want to be in Egypt. Teach me that this is what makes my life-classes so hard; they seem to be hurting me, confusing me, and mistreating me. But, make it clear to me that because I am turning to You, You are empowering and training me how to handle these challenges.

I Must Trust God

Jesus, because of all these things I am going through, You have helped me learn and receive so many wonderful truths. Help me see that You are taking something that seems bad and forcing it to work out for my good. Help me trust You with these struggles and believe the You will always make them work out for my good.

Jesus, help me see how well Joseph won all during each life-class. Show me that he didn't just barely make it through. Show me that I am not just being healed *from* this issue; I am going to demolish it with principles that demonstrate God's power. Help me realize that my journey through my struggles will end up being a life-story that I will gladly tell to many people. I will tell it with joy, excitement, appreciation, and confidence. Help me win over life's struggles like Joseph did.

It All Fits Into A Training Course

Joseph Wasn't Just Training To Be A Slave

The Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, <u>one of Pharaoh's officials</u>: Jesus, use this to teach me how God is working in my life: Just like God wanted Joseph to rule in Egypt as second in command to *Pharaoh,* and was bought by Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, my life has the same strategy, careful guidance, and love working for me. Help me have Joseph's attitudes and character, so I will cooperate with You and believe in You for the plans of my life.

You Aren't Just Training To Be Healed

Jesus, make it clear to me that Joseph *did not* know what was happening to him. He did not know the end result. Help me believe that God has a special plan for my life. Let this empower me to put all I have into the assignments You give me. Help me accept this assignment and allow You to teach me how to win over my challenges with divorce.

Jesus, help me keep in mind that things that are causing me concern are trying to cheat me out of flowing into and winning over each life-class. My encounters with emotions are bringing me into a relationship with You that will take me much farther than healing. You went around healing all kinds of people that I never hear about again. But, people like Peter got provisions, blessings, training, and opportunities that were incredible. Make me more like Peter.

I Am Fighting The Good Fight Of Faith

Joseph's Freedom From A Bad Attitude

Gen 39:2-4 (NIV) <u>The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered</u>, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. <u>Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned</u>.

Your Freedom From A Bad Attitude

Jesus, show me that just like Joseph would have rather been back home with his dad, I would rather life go back to normal. Help me see that Joseph could have handled this life-class with resentment, rebellion, resistance, and inactivity. But, if he had, he wouldn't have learned how to be ready for his next assignment (prison) and his main assignment (ruler). Make it obvious to me that just like things were extremely difficult for Joseph, the problem with divorce is extremely difficult for me. Help me react with cooperation and faith.

Jesus, show me that, like with Joseph, emotions of frustration, anger, loneliness, confusion, and depression are standing at the door of my heart. But, help me see that, as Joseph looked to God for direction, God gave him emotional power to push through it and succeed at his current assignment; and, He will do the same for me. Help me open my heart to the emotions You want to give me, so I can end up like Joseph with my main assignment in place.

I Am Resisting All Temptation

Joseph's Decision

Gen 39:6-10 (NIV) So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph, day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Your Decision

Jesus, my struggles with divorce create very difficult attitudes; they need something to overcome them with faith, happiness, pleasure, enjoyment, entertainment, and excitement. But, help me understand that Satan has a lot of things that look like they might be the antidote to this issue. Let me accept the fact that Joseph was a person with the same weaknesses, thoughts, feelings, temptations, and struggles as I do. Help me *not* read into him some special quality that I don't have.

Jesus, show me that, just like Joseph was a regular human that had turned his life over to the relationship and provisions of God, You are doing the same with me. Help me realize that just like God was empowering him to be able to handle the pit, being sold into slavery, and being stuck in Potiphar's house rather than being at home, He is empowering me.

1 Cor 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

I Am Not Taking Any Shortcuts

Joseph Looked For A Way Out

Gen 39:11-14 (NIV) One day he (Joseph) went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

Look For The Right Way Out

Jesus, help me see that just like Joseph could have thought that maybe having a sexual relationship with Potiphar's wife might help relieve the pain of physical issues, frustration, anger, depression, loneliness, hopelessness, fear, and many other negative emotions that were trying to take over his life, I can wonder what could help me get some peace and help with my problems with divorce?

Jesus, help me be on guard against temptations like Joseph faced. Help me not think about or allow to enter into my mind questions like: Is it inappropriate sex, pornography, drugs, alcohol, video games, the internet, or some other kind of physical pleasure? Like Joseph, help me choose God, as my answer, so I will be able to ward off all these temptations.

It Pays For Me To Do The Right Thing

Joseph Stayed On Track

Gen 39:16-20a (NIV) She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, <u>the place where the king's prisoners were confined</u>.

Stay On Track

Jesus, help me have Joseph's attitudes, when my life seems to be going from bad to worse. God needed to get Joseph into a place where He could put him in contact with Pharoah; but, it didn't look like things were getting better for him. Help me do like Joseph and yield my heart to the faithfulness of God.

Jesus, even though Joseph couldn't see that things were improving, help me be like him and know that God is in control of all my circumstances. Help me be like him and know that God is working *everything* out for my good. And through that knowledge, help me not yield to temptation, anger, fear, doubt, depression, hopelessness, loneliness, or despair.

Chapter Nine – Truth
How To Keep Winning

1. By Jesus Being With You

Joseph Is Almost There
Gen 39:20-23 (NIV) Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the *king's prisoners* were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

You Are Almost There
Once again, Joseph had more than enough reason to be concerned over his health, feel depressed, feel hopeless, be filled with fear, doubt God's faithfulness, get mad, be overwhelmed, and feel all kinds of other negative feelings; he was *no different* than you!

It's hard to go from a pit, to slavery, and then to prison and maintain a faith-filled attitude toward God. It's hard to face divorce problems, and keep believing things are heading in a good direction. But, Jesus is taking you through all these words and prayers, so as to help you do just that.

You Are Growing Relationally
Those things that Satan is trying to destroy you with will fall off, when you allow Jesus to take you into training in His principles, your relationship with Him fills you with His power, and wraps you in His love. And, not only will you be set free from challenges of divorce, Jesus will train you and empower you to win at life.

This issue wasn't a choice for you; you are being *attacked* with its challenges. You are being pushed into conditions and emotions that are very powerful and potentially controlling. But, the thing you are being asked for is trust. Jesus has power that you are learning how to yield to. He is teaching you attitudes and character that get you ready for His power to flow in and through you.

You Are Growing Spiritually
As you continue to yield to Jesus and all He has to offer, you are learning how overcome the difficulties with divorce and start winning at life. Joseph was just as susceptible to these types of issues, as you are. He didn't have any more power to resist them than you do. He didn't have more potential, better opportunities, more talents, better circumstances, or better skills than you have.

Joseph just did what you are doing; he turned his issues and emotions over to God; and, God did the rest. Start acting on the basis of the fact that Jesus is blessing and empowering you. Let the work that Jesus did in Joseph be done in your emotions. Ask Jesus to help you not allow the circumstances and struggles you face to influence you. Most emotions come from some kind of event or circumstance that got it started.

2. By God Working On Your Behalf

Seeing From God's Perspective

Gen 40:1-3 (NIV) Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, <u>in the same prison where Joseph was confined</u>. Keep in mind that Joseph was just like you are; he didn't have a clue as to what his future was going to be.

Here are the things you know that Joseph didn't know:

- You know it was *God* Who was heading him into becoming second in command to Pharoah.
- You know it was *God* Who allowed him to be hated by his brothers and thrown into a pit.
- You know it was *God* Who had some Midianite traders come by, so Joseph could be sold into slavery in Egypt.
- You know it was *God* Who caused Potiphar to buy him because Potiphar was **one of Pharaoh's officials.**
- You know it was *God* Who allowed Joseph to be thrown into prison because it was **the place where the *king's* prisoners were confined.**

This Is How God Is Working With You

Since God is giving you a bird's eye view of Joseph's life, it helps you see through Joseph's life how God is working for your good. Like Joseph, you don't know why you are going through what you are going through. But, like Joseph, God is exposing you to life-classes, so you will be trained, experienced, talented, skilled, and mature, when your main assignment comes.

Like Joseph, you are going to need all these experiences, training, challenges, and victories. Jesus is getting you ready to take on a wonderful assignment that will fulfill all your dreams. Start looking back at the events of your life and see if you can see a pattern. What has God been trying to teach you all of this time? What does the central theme seem to be in each event of your life? What has all of it qualified you for?

3. By One Thing Leading To Another

God Was Setting Joseph Up

Gen 40:4-8 (NIV) The captain of the guard assigned them (Pharaoh's officials) to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, each of the two men--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison--had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

When Joseph came to them (Pharaoh's officials) the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "<u>Do not interpretations belong to God</u>? Tell me your dreams."

God Was Adding Skills To Joseph

This is new for Joseph, he has never interpreted a dream before; but, he has been in constant contact with God. He looked to God for getting him out of the pit. He looked to God for controlling his life in slavery. He looked to God for handling his life as a manager in Potiphar's house. He looked to God for keeping him from sinning with Potiphar's wife. He looked to God for helping him while in prison. He was looking to God to help him with these dreams. As you practice looking to God for everything, it becomes your lifestyle.

God Is Adding Skills To You

Your relationship with God is progressive. Just like your classes in school were progressive, as you moved from one grade to another, so are Jesus' life-classes. He uses them to teach and train you things in life that get you ready for the next life-class. As you study and pray, you are trained and empowered to move from one life-class to another until you get to your main assignment.

You are going through a difficult life-class right now. But, it is preparing you for your next assignment; and, it is preparing you for your main assignment—God's great plan for you. The main lesson is for you to do like Joseph and put everything into it. Potiphar put him in charge of his whole house, because of his attitude. He applied himself to the class with great commitment.

Is This The Moment Of Graduation?

Joseph Needed Patience

Gen 40:9-14 (NIV) So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

"This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. <u>But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison</u>.

You Need Patience
You may get tired of going from life-class to life-class; you may start looking for the end of training. If you aren't careful, you will lose interest in what it is Jesus is trying to teach you. As long as He is keeping you in life-classes, there are still *very important* things you need to know. You don't want to move into your main life-assignment and have missing skills, talents, abilities, and experiences. It is okay for you to hope; but, stay the course.

Helping Hurting People

You Are A Different Person
Gen 40:20-21 (NIV) Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

These life-classes trained and empowered Joseph, so that his interpretation of the dream came true. And, just like Joseph, there are people who are counting on you allowing Jesus to train, empower, and heal you of divorce problems. As you yield your life to Jesus and His training, you not only get wonderful victories in your life, you become trained by Jesus in principles that can set anyone free. The more experience you get, that you cooperate with, the more skilled, experienced, and trained you become.

Handling Disappointment
Gen 40:23 (NIV) The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. When you start trying to decide what is going to help you win over your difficulties with divorce, when you think you know what is going to happen next, you set yourself up for disappointment.

Let Jesus help you put your complete trust in Him. Let Him help you live your life one day at a time; keep your eyes on Him. Don't worry about what is going to happen next; that will hurt your heart. Trust Jesus and allow Him to decide when He is ready for you to get each breakthrough in your life. Let Him decide when He will give you your next assignment.

Training Is The Most Important

God Was Getting Pharaoh Ready For Joseph
Gen 41:1-9 (NIV) <u>When two full years had passed</u>, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted--thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings."

God Is Getting People Ready For You
You have a deep desire to be set free from struggles with divorce; and, that is good. But, there is something even more important than your complete victory over it. Your struggles with it are motivating you to learn, apply, and become very successful in using Biblical principles that will not only set you free, they will be able to set many other people free.

The thing for you to keep in mind is, You are spending time with Jesus learning wonderful things. They are things that you need to know to win over it and to win at life. Let Jesus decide when each life-class has accomplished its goal. Plus, like with Pharaoh, God is preparing the hearts of people, so you can share your life, victories, and training with them.

It's All Worth It
It wasn't the pit, Potiphar's house, or the prison that was important for Joseph. It was the way he was growing, maturing, and being trained during them that was getting him ready to rule as second in command in Egypt. You need to allow your challenges with divorce to motivate you to keep studying and praying for these things from the Bible.

The greatest thing that is going to happen to you isn't just winning over this issue; it is the person you become as you do this. The growth you gain will make all your past struggles seem like nothing. Your future is dependent on you allowing Jesus to take you through as much time and training as you need.

Don't Turn Inward; Focus On God

Finally!
Gen 41:14-16 (NIV) So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but *God* will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

All of Joseph's struggles, difficulties, disappointments, and pain brought him to this point. Rather than turning inward and allowing all these things to make him mad, depress him, overwhelm him, damage him, and destroy him, he turned to God. God poured faith, love, encouragement, training, and blessing into him. So, when he *finally* got to the place where God had been taking him all along, Joseph's faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on God were strong. *And*, he was a very trained, experienced, mature, talented, and skilled leader.

Jesus Gave Joseph What He Needed
Gen 41:25-31 (NIV) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. <u>God has revealed to Pharaoh</u> what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

It is just as I said to Pharaoh: <u>God has shown</u> Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

Understanding The Journey
Joseph had come all the way from his home with his parents and brothers to this moment in time. God had exposed him to all kinds of leadership training; but, Joseph only had two little dreams way back in his youth that gave him any indication, as to why he was going through all those challenges. It seems like it would have been so helpful, if God had allowed him to see this moment to encourage him; but, that isn't God's purpose in your life.

Part of your life-classes has to do with your relationship with God. He is all about relationship-building faith, trust, dependency, and reliance. Joseph had to learn how to walk with God, while trusting Him; and, together they established a wonderful relationship. God and Joseph were going to be working together to lead a nation through crisis. *And*, God and Joseph were going to start building the nation of Israel at the same time.

An incredible thing was about to happen. Joseph's family would move to Egypt. While there, God would build them into a mighty nation. He would then take them to the land He had promised Abraham. There they would go through their life-classes until they became the people you know today. The Jews in Israel are the people that Joseph helped have food, so they could survive and grow into the nation of Israel.

Your Training Opens The Doors
Joseph said in **Genesis 41:34-41 (NIV): "Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."**

The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

Appreciating The Journey

Now look at Joseph; remember that little kid that was hated by his brothers, because he told on them? Remember that little brat that bragged on the two dreams God gave him and made his brothers hate him more? Remember the pit, Joseph being sold to the Ishmaelites, him being a slave in Potiphar's house, and the wife that lied about him? Remember the prison and the cupbearer that forgot for two years about the wonderful interpretation Joseph gave him? Now look at the wisdom and maturity that God had trained into Joseph through all those life-classes.

Challenges with divorce and all the other difficulties you are facing are tough; but, they are just life-classes getting you ready for an awesome future. Jesus is going to train you in Biblical principles that will get you ready for powerful, dynamic, and wonderful things in your future. Just let Jesus help you through this time in your life. He will empower you to learn how to win over every obstacle you face.

Chapter Nine – Prayer
How I Keep Winning

1. By Jesus Being With Me

Joseph Is Almost There

Gen 39:20-23 (NIV) Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

You Are Almost There

Jesus, help me see that Joseph maintained his relationship with You. He was able to go from being a slave, being lied about, and being put in prison without getting damaged spiritually or emotionally. Help me not give this credit to Joseph only; help me see what You are able to do in my life. Help me understand that he was getting all his successes through keeping his eyes on You. Help me keep my eyes on You.

I Am Growing Relationally

Jesus, teach me that those things that Satan is trying to use to destroy me with, will fall off, *as* I continue to allow You to take me into training in Your principles, fill me with Your power, and wrap me in Your love. And, not only am I being set free from divorce difficulties, You are building a relationship with me, training me, and empowering me to win in all areas of life.

Jesus, teach me that, like Joseph, this emotional issue wasn't a choice for me, I am being *attacked* with this challenge. I am being pushed into physical issues and emotional conditions that are very powerful and potentially controlling. They are just as challenging as the things Joseph went through. And, You were able to help him not only win over all the things he went through, You helped him become a ruler in Egypt.

I Am Growing Spiritually

Jesus, help me keep yielding to You and all You have to offer. Help me see that this is how I keep overcoming this difficulty and keep winning at life. Help me see that Joseph was just as susceptible to these kinds of problems as I am. Show me that he didn't have any more power to resist it than I do.

Jesus, it is easy for me to see Joseph as being different than I am. Show me that this would take all the examples and training away from me. Help me understand that he didn't have more potential, better opportunities, more talents, better circumstances, or better skills than I have. Show me that he just did what I am doing; he turned his issues and emotions over to You; and, You did the rest.

Jesus, help me start acting on the basis of the fact that You are blessing and empowering me. Let the work that You did in Joseph be done in my emotions and life. Help me not allow the circumstances and struggles I face to influence me. Since most emotions come from some kind of event or circumstance that got it started, heal me from all those things that originated it. Heal me from my pits, slavery, imprisonment, and disappointments.

2. By God Working On My Behalf

Seeing From God's Perspective

Gen 40:1-3 (NIV) Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, <u>in the same prison where Joseph was confined</u>. Jesus, help me understand this hidden plan You put Joseph on; even though he didn't have much of a clue, as to what his future was going to be, he learned how to completely trust You.

Jesus, help me allow You to build trust in You through You giving me this birds eye view of Joseph's life:

- Jesus, because I know it was *God* Who was heading Joseph into becoming second in command to Pharoah,
- because I know it was *God* Who allowed him to be hated by his brothers and be thrown in a pit,
- because I know it was *God* Who had some Midianite traders come by, so Joseph could be sold into slavery in Egypt,
- because I know it was *God* Who had Potiphar buy him because he was **one of Pharaoh's officials,**
- because I know it was *God* Who allowed Joseph to be thrown into prison since it was **the place where the *king's* prisoners were confined,** I know He is working similar miracles in my life. Because I can see through Joseph how God works, let it help me put my total trust in Him for my situations of life.

This Is How God Is Working With Me

Jesus, since God is giving me a bird's eye view of Joseph's life, I thank You for using Joseph's life to help me see how God is working for my good. Help me keep in mind that like Joseph, I don't *yet* know why I am going through what I am going through. But, like Joseph, I believe God is taking me step-by-step toward this wonderful plan He has for me.

Jesus, like Joseph, help me believe and cooperate with these step-by-step life-classes, so I will end up at my wonderful destination, just like Joseph. Help me believe all of this for my future. Help me realize that I will end up trained, experienced, healed, transformed, and blessed, so I will be ready to do what You have planned for me.

3. By One Thing Leading To Another

God Was Setting Joseph Up

Gen 40:4-8 (NIV) The captain of the guard assigned them (Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker) to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, each of the two men--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison--had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

God Was Adding Skills To Joseph

Jesus, teach me that, just like Joseph had never interpreted a dream before, You want to use me to do similar things with You. Help me stay in constant contact with You, as I go through the challenges of my life.

Jesus, Help me:

- Look to You for getting me out of my pits,
- Look to You for controlling slavery in my life,
- Look to You for handling my life as I manage the issues in my Potiphar's house,
- Look to You for keeping me from sinning with my Potiphar's wife,
- Look to You for helping me while in my prison,
- Look to You to help me with those dreams You give me to interpret.

God Is Adding Skills To You

Jesus, teach me that my relationship with God is progressive. Help me progressively move from one life-class to another like I moved from one grade to another in school. Use them to teach and train me things in life that get me ready for the next life-class. As I study and pray, train and empower me to move from one life-class to another until I get to my main assignment.

Jesus, help me go through the emotional life-class, I am going through right now. Let it prepare me for my next assignment; and, let it prepare me for my main assignment of the great plan God has for me.

Is This The Moment Of Graduation?

Joseph Needed Patience

Gen 40:9-14 (NIV) So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

"This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. <u>But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison</u>.

I Need Patience

Jesus, when I get tired of going from life-class to life-class, help me *not* start looking for the end of training. Help me not lose interest in what it is God is trying to teach me. Help me realize that, as long as God is keeping me in life-classes, there are still *very important* things He is trying to teach me.

Jesus, help me not move into my main life-assignment and have missing skills, talents, abilities, and experiences. Show me that it is okay for me to hope; but, help me stay the course.

Helping Hurting People

I Am A Different Person

Gen 40:20-21 (NIV) Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

Jesus, just like these life-classes trained and empowered Joseph, so his interpretation of the dream came true, help me be ready for people, who are counting on me allowing You to train, empower, and heal me of divorce problems. As I yield my life to You and Your training, help me not only get wonderful victories in my life, help me become trained by You in principles that can set *anyone* free.

I Am Handling Disappointment

Gen 40:23 (NIV) The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. Jesus, when I start trying to decide what is going to help me win over my difficulties with divorce, when I think I know what is going to happen next, show me that I am setting myself up for disappointment.

Jesus, empower me and train me to move along one day at a time with You. Help me keep my eyes on You. Help me not worry about what is going to happen next. Show me that trying to anticipate Your next move will hurt my heart. Help me trust You and allow You to decide when You are ready for me to get each breakthrough in my life.

My Training Is The Most Important

God Was Getting Pharaoh Ready For Joseph

Gen 41:1-9 (NIV) <u>When two full years had passed</u>, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted--thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "<u>Today I am reminded of my shortcomings</u>."

God Is Getting People Ready For Me

Jesus, I know it is good that I have a deep desire to be totally set free from problems with divorce. But, help me see that there is something even more important than my complete victory over it. Help me understand that my struggles are motivating me to learn, apply, and become very successful in using Biblical principles that will not only set me free, they will be able to set many other people free.

Jesus, show me that it isn't all the things I am going through that are important; it is the life-classes I am taking during them that is getting me ready to be able to fulfill my main assignment. Help me be completely trained, empowered, transformed, and skilled in the area You will be assigning me.

Jesus, help me allow my issues with divorce to motivate me to keep studying and praying these things from the Bible. Show me the greatest thing that is going to happen to me isn't just winning over my struggles; it is the person I will become, as I do this. Teach me that the growth I gain will make all my past struggles seem like nothing. Help me see that my future is dependent on me allowing You to take me through as much time and training as I need.

It's All Worth It

Jesus, help me always keep in mind that it wasn't the pit, Potiphar's house, or the prison that was important for Joseph. It was the way he was growing, maturing, and being trained during them that was getting him ready to rule, as second in command in Egypt. Help me allow my challenges with emotions to motivate me to keep studying and praying for these things from the Bible.

Jesus, teach me that the greatest thing that is going to happen to me isn't just winning over this issue; it is the person I become, as I do this. Make it clear to me that the growth I gain will make all my past struggles seem like nothing. Help me keep in mind that my future is dependent on me allowing You to take me through as much time and training as I need.

I Am Not Turning Inward; I Am Focusing On God Finally!

Gen 41:14-16 (NIV) So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." "<u>I cannot do it</u>," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "<u>but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires</u>."

Jesus, just like all of Joseph's struggles, difficulties, disappointments, and pain brought him to this point, help me not turn inward and allow all these things make me mad, depress me, overwhelm me, damage me, and destroy me. Help me turn to God, so I can do the same thing. Just like God poured faith, love, encouragement, training, and blessing into Joseph, pour them into me.

Jesus, let me be like Joseph, when he *finally* got to the place where God had been taking him all along, his faith, trust, reliance, and dependency on God was strong. *And*, let me be like him and be a very trained, experienced, mature, talented, and skilled leader.

Jesus Gave Joseph What He Needed

Gen 41:25-31 (NIV) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

It is just as I said to Pharaoh: <u>God has shown</u> Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

Understanding The Journey

Jesus, just like You took Joseph all the way from his home with his parents and brothers to this moment in time and exposed him to all kinds of leadership training, take me on this type of journey. Just like You only gave him two little dreams way back in his youth that gave him any indication as to why he was going through all those challenges, let me have some dreams that help me reach my destination.

Jesus, help me understand that God doesn't typically allow me to see my future clearly; but, help me see that this is because it isn't His purpose for me. Teach me how to walk with Him, while trusting Him. Let this establish a wonderful relationship together with Him. Show me that, just like God and Joseph were going to be working together to lead a nation through crisis, *and* to start building the nation of Israel at the same time, help me join Him in His work for my generation.

Jesus, Your plans extend far beyond what I can imagine. That incredible thing that happened through Joseph's family moving to Egypt enabled You to build them into a mighty nation. You took them to the land You had promised Abraham. There they went through their life-classes until they became the people I know today. It's amazing that the Jews in Israel today are the people that Joseph helped have food, so they could survive and grow into the nation of Israel.

My Training Opens The Doors

Joseph said in **Genesis 41:34-41 (NIV): "Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."**

The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

Appreciating The Journey

Jesus, help me look at Joseph in this final point in his life; help me remember that little kid that was hated by his brothers because he told on them. Help me remember that little brat that bragged on the two dreams God gave him and made his brothers hate him more. Help me remember the pit, Joseph being sold to the Ishmaelites, him being a slave in Potiphar's house, and the wife that lied about him. Help me remember the prison and the cupbearer that forgot for two years about the wonderful interpretation Joseph gave him.

Jesus, show me the incredible wisdom and maturity that God had trained into Joseph through all those life-classes. Help me understand that divorce challenges and all the other difficulties I am facing are tough; but, they are just life-classes getting me ready for an awesome future. Train me in Biblical principles that will get me ready for powerful, dynamic, and wonderful things in my future. I open my heart and life for You to help me through this time in my life. Empower me to learn how to win over every obstacle I face.

Chapter Ten – Truth
The Three Toolsets

Being Equipped To Win In Life

Jesus will be providing you with three toolsets that you will need to use, so you can keep winning over divorce issues. You are now moving into an even greater relationship with Jesus. His training will help you become *extremely* skillful by learning how to use these spiritual tools. By establishing a relationship with Him, He will teach you how to apply these three toolsets to your problem with divorce and to every other issue in your life.

Your next step is called spiritual growth; Jesus is using this growth to increase your relationship with Him; He will use it to train you and help you be aggressive and faith-driven. He will empower you to become a mature, trained, experienced, and skilled child of God.

The three toolsets, that Jesus is providing you and training you how to use, will be like you going down to the store and buying your very first set of tools for a new career. You wouldn't know much about how to use them; but, you would need to buy them, so you could take them to school, where they would train you in their use.

A Project To Practice On
If you bought woodworking tools, then you would need to get some *materials* to practice on and you would need a *project*. Jesus has made three spiritual toolsets available for practicing on your difficulty with divorce. The *material* you are working on is your life; and, the *project* you are working on is your struggles with divorce.

Your new spiritual tools are basically kept in three "toolboxes." They are labelled, **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity, The Seven Biblical Principles,** and **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God.**

Since this problem with divorce is something you have a real desire to keep winning over, Jesus is using it as your major "project." Using your spiritual tools to keep winning over this issue helps you get skillful with these tools. Jesus will also be going through various other needs you have and letting you practice using these three toolsets on them as well.

Since your problem with divorce is the biggest and most challenging issue in your life, it will be the hardest for you to completely win over. So, there will be times when Jesus will have you *practice* on some smaller issues, just so you can get an immediate result.

Getting Some Successes
Easier, smaller problems in your life will take less effort to win over. You will need to see your three toolsets help you get more results from time to time. Complicated, and difficult problems like divorce will take a lot of skill, experience, talent, and power. You will need to allow Jesus to teach you, train you, help you practice, and help you grow spiritually, for you to get a more final success over this problem. Success in dealing with divorce, will be like crafting a big, beautiful cabinet, as one of your main projects.

A beginner craftsman will make a lot of mistakes. And, if you are working on wood, it isn't always easy to fix the mistake. In some cases, you might have to get a new piece of wood and start over. However, with your issues with divorce, you can't just find a new problem and start over. So, Jesus will help you practice on some other issues, so you can get better at using spiritual tools that are supernatural, powerful, and very different from what you are used to.

Spiritual Growth
If you were a person in sports, working on something that was going to take a lot of physical strength and agility, there would be special routines that you would have to do every day to get your body ready for it. You would be required to do exercises that may not seem like they had anything to do with your goal. But, as a professional in sports, you would have to trust your coach. You would have to be willing to allow them to take you into physical training, special diets, and practices that got you ready for the real thing.

Jesus knows what He is doing; there can be many studies and prayer times that don't even mention your issues with divorce. But, they are vital to your future successes in dealing with your difficulties with it and with all of the rest of your life's assignments. Spiritual growth has to do with your power, your training, your skills, your talents, your experiences, and your abilities. Jesus is teaching you how to be a very successful child of God. And, He is using your problem with divorce to teach you how to succeed.

The Training And Provisions Of Jesus

Spiritual Power Tools

The world says that absolute power corrupts absolutely. This isn't true of Jesus: **Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "*All* authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus has immediately shared His power and authority with you; and, He is telling you to go share it with everyone else. Spiritual growth helps you have the necessary attitudes and character, so Jesus' power and power tools won't tempt you to be corrupted. Instead, you will get the same generosity, love, and compassion for others that Jesus has for you.

Spiritual growth helps you get the mighty power and principles of Jesus; and then you yield to them, so as to help hurting people. You will be exposed to power tools that could be used for wrong, bad, and evil purposes. But, Jesus watches over you and makes sure they are used for win/win methods, systems, programs, and relationships that bless everyone who is willing.

Character And Attitudes

Most training programs don't deal with the attitudes and character of a person. The hospitals, clinics, businesses, schools, and suppliers will typically provide an evil person with the same things that they do to an honest person. As long as they get their money, they don't usually try to make sure the person is going to use their provisions for good. However, Jesus cares more about honesty and integrity than anything else.

Jesus wants to know what you are going to do with all your wins, victories, and successes. If He healed you, blessed you, and gave you His power and you purposefully used it for wrong, bad, and evil, that would make Him a part of what you did and who you are. Jesus isn't going to drive the get-away car while you rob the bank. He makes sure your attitudes and character will yield to His miracles, blessings, healings, and power for only right, good, and righteous purposes.

Jesus' Top Priority

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. So, if Jesus spends a lot of time working on your spiritual growth, rather than just trying to help you keep winning over your struggles with divorce, you will know why. He wants you to learn how to win over these things by them flowing through you *as* a righteous, good person. However, this will happen to you by Jesus living in and through you.

Jesus wants to empower you to win and then go out and live a good, right, and righteous life with others. He wants you to share your victories for becoming a person who only involves themselves in win/win things. But, you will only *be* this type of person through a relationship with Jesus and His mighty power.

If you will allow Jesus to change your attitudes and character through the three toolsets, you will start winning in a greater way over your difficulties with divorce. You and Jesus will use this new freedom and success for wonderful, loving, and caring things. Many people will benefit from the new you.

What's Next?

Moving Forward With Jesus

You have been involved in studying with Jesus and Him helping you understand and grow through your studies and prayer times. You have spent time praying and asking Jesus to put the truths in your life that you discovered during these studies. These two procedures of studying and praying are getting you used to and ready for a special life with Him. This is introducing you into *procedures* that work in Christianity. Studying and praying for things are you using a couple of the tools in your three toolsets.

It is important to keep in mind that study and prayer are only two of many tools that are vital and powerful for helping you keep winning over your battle with divorce. All the exposure to the truths in these studies and all the prayers, you have prayed, will need additional support. For example, you will need to *believe* that these studies and prayers are working.

Faith to believe is very important to God; and, so are other things in the three toolsets. So, ask Jesus to help you be ready for becoming skillful in all He is about to provide you.

Chapter Ten – Prayer
My Three Toolsets

I Am Being Equipped To Win In Life

Jesus, as I keep dealing with issues involving divorce; and, since this is what is bothering me the most, provide me with and teach me how to become knowledgeable in using the three toolsets, that I will need in order to win over this and many other issues. Move me into a closer and closer relationship with You, so You can take me into training that will help me become *extremely* skillful with these tools.

Jesus, through my relationship with You, help me apply these three toolsets to my issues with divorce and to every other difficulty in my life. Teach and empower me to take this next step into spiritual growth. Use spiritual growth to increase my relationship with You. Use it to train me and help me with all my struggles. Empower me to become a mature, trained, experienced, talented, and skilled adult child of God.

Jesus, help me see that these three toolsets, that You are providing and training me how to use, will be my set of tools for a new spiritual career. Help me get to know all about what they are, what they do, and how to use them. But first, help me make them mine, so I can keep bringing them to Your school, where You will train me and empower me to use them to win at life.

My Project To Practice On

Jesus, help me understand what *materials* I will be using to practice on. And, help me establish a *project* that You and I will be working on. Show me how to own these three spiritual toolsets, so we can keep working on my issues with divorce, as my main project. Help me see that the *materials,* I will continue working on, will be my life; and, the *project* I will mainly be working on, will be my struggles with divorce.

Jesus, teach me that Your spiritual tools are basically kept in three "toolboxes." Teach me that **The Three Keys To All Of Christianity** "toolbox" holds three tools, **The Seven Biblical Principles** "toolbox" holds seven tools, and **The Eight Power-Attitudes Of God** "toolbox", holds eight tools. Help me get better acquainted with them and learn how to apply them to every area of my life.

Jesus, since this issue with divorce is something I have a real desire to win over, use it as my major "project." Help me use these spiritual tools to continue to overcome my struggle with it. Let all the practice I am doing, help me get skillful with these spiritual tools. In addition, take me through various other needs I have and let me practice using these toolsets on them as well.

Jesus, since my difficulty with divorce is the biggest and most challenging issue in my life, help me see that it will be the hardest for me to completely win over. So, help me accept times, when You will have me practice on some smaller issues. Help me cooperate with you, as you deal with lesser issues. But, as You are showing me how to win over these smaller issues, help me keep learning important lessons.

I'm Getting Some Successes

Jesus, help me see that easier, smaller problems in my life will take less effort to win over. Help me be willing to let you teach me how use these three toolsets to get immediate results from time to time. Since struggles with divorce are complicated, and difficult, show me that it will take a lot of skill, experience, talent, and power.

Jesus, help me allow You to teach me, train me, let me practice, and help me grow spiritually, so I will get a greater success over this problem. Show me that the process of winning over my biggest issue, will be like crafting a big, beautiful cabinet, as one of my main projects.

Jesus, as a beginner craftsman, I will make a lot of mistakes. And, if I were working on wood, it wouldn't always be easy to fix the mistake. In some cases, I might have to get a new piece of wood and start over. However, help me see that with my issues with divorce, I can't just find a new problem and start over. So, help me practice on some other issues, that I can get better at. Help me understand that these spiritual tools, are supernatural, powerful, and very different from what I am used to.

Spiritual Growth

Why Am I Having To Learn Skills?

Jesus, like in sports, help me get my spiritual strength and agility built up. Like in learning any skill, help me learn special routines that I will have to do every day to get me, a spirit being, ready for the assignment. I will be required to do spiritual exercises that may not seem like they have anything to do with my goal. But, like a professional in sports, I will have to trust You, my coach.

Jesus, help me be willing to allow You to take me into spiritual training, special spiritual diets, and spiritual practices that get me ready for the real thing. Help me be patient, cooperative, filled with faith in You, and completely committed to all You require of me. Help me understand that You are using my problem with divorce to teach me how to succeed in life.

Healing Through Training

Jesus, help me always believe that You know what You are doing. Show me that there can be many studies and prayer times that don't even mention my issues with divorce. But, help me realize that they are vital to my future successes in dealing with my problems with it and with all of the rest of my life's assignments.

Jesus, help me see that spiritual growth has to do with my power, my training, my skills, my talents, my experiences, my maturity, and my abilities. Help me understand that You are not going to just heal me. You are going to teach me how to win over it. Teach me how to be a very successful child of God, so I can start winning over everything for now and for eternity.

My Training And Provisions From Jesus

Spiritual Power Tools

Jesus, the world says that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Teach me that this isn't true of You: **Mat 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "<u>All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me</u>. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

Jesus, You are sharing Your power and authority with me, so I can go share it with everyone else. Let spiritual growth help me have the necessary attitudes and character, so Your power won't tempt me to be corrupted. Instead, give me the same generosity, love, and compassion for others that You have for me. Set me free from spiritual cancer that wants everything from You for selfish, self-centered, and unloving motives.

Jesus, give me Your spiritual growth, that helps me win through Your mighty power and principles. Then let me be used by them to help hurting people. Expose me to these power tools, that could be used for wrong, bad, and evil purposes. But, make sure they are used for win/win methods, systems, programs, and relationships, by transforming my attitudes and character. Accomplish this in me, so I can be a blessing to everyone who is willing.

Character And Attitudes

Jesus, since most training programs don't deal with the attitudes and character of a person, help me keep in mind that hospitals, clinics, businesses, schools, and suppliers will typically provide an evil person with the same things that they do to an honest person. However, since You care more about honesty and integrity than anything else, help me be healed from my issues with divorce, while You are transforming my attitudes and character.

Jesus, empower me to do right, good, and righteous things with all my wins, victories, and successes. Heal me, bless me, and work through me with Your power, so You and I can purposefully use them for win/win results in the lives of the needy. Help me be a person that You do great things in and through, so You can be loved, appreciated, and accepted by those who experience all these things.

Jesus, You are going to make sure my attitudes and character are such that I will yield to Your miracles, blessings, healings, and power for only right, good, and righteous purposes. Help me cooperate with this goal.

Jesus' Top Priority

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first <u>His (God's) kingdom and His righteousness</u>, and all these *things* will be given to you as well. Jesus, when You spend a lot of time working on my spiritual growth rather than just trying to help me win over my issues with divorce, help me always keep in mind why. Help me see that Your goal is to help me learn how to win over these things, by them flowing through me, as a *transformed* righteous, good, and loving person.

Jesus, help me win and then go out and live a right, good, and righteous life with others. Help me use these victories for only involving myself in win/win things. Help me *be* this type of person through a relationship with You and Your mighty power.

Jesus, help me allow You to change my attitudes and character through the three toolsets, so I can start winning more and more over my battle with divorce. Help me use this new freedom and success for wonderful, loving, and caring things. Let many people benefit from the new-me.

What's Next?

I Am Moving Forward With Jesus

Jesus, thank You for allowing me to be involved in studying with You. Thank You for helping me understand and grow through my studies. Thank You for teaching me how to spend time praying and asking You to put those truths in my life, that I discovered during my studies. Help me continue using these two procedures for studying and praying with You. Help me get used to and be ready for a special life with You.

Jesus, thank You for using these two procedures, of study and prayer, to introduce me into an even greater way of seeing how Christianity works. But, let me see that they are only two of many tools that are vital and powerful for helping me win over my issues with divorce.

Jesus, make it clear to me that all the exposure to the truths in these studies and all the prayers I have prayed, will need additional support. Help me understand that I will need to *believe* that these studies and prayers are working. Show me that faith to believe is very important to God; and, so are many other things that the three toolsets will provide me. So, I ask You to help me be ready for becoming skillful in all You are about to provide for me.