

A Wise Woman

A Wise Woman Builds Her House

By a FOOL Who Tore Hers Down With Her Own Hands

Ninth Revised Edition

Erin Thiele

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A Workbook for Women
By Erin Thiele



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Unless otherwise indicated, most Scripture verses are taken from the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB). Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible, and Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the *New International Version*. Our ministry is not partial to any particular version of the Bible but **love** them all to help everyone in any denomination who has a desire to restore her marriage.

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“For My People Perish for a Lack of Knowledge”

On the Rock

*“Therefore everyone who hears these Words of Mine, and acts upon them,
may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.
And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew,
and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall,
for it had been founded upon the rock.”*
Matt. 7:24-25.

Is your house built upon the rock? Are you sure? For God’s Word says that the rains are going to come. They may be in the form of a financial crisis, the death of a loved one, unfaithfulness, health problems or a prodigal child. Will your marriage stand? Great is the fall of most marriages – will yours be next? Or, perhaps it has already fallen. Ladies, it is time for all of us to rebuild our homes firmly on the Rock of Jesus Christ – **His Word**.

We women go to multiple Bible studies and then to a multitude of seminars. We tirelessly saturate ourselves with the Word, yet our homes are out of order and crumbling. Most of our husbands are so preoccupied with hobbies, sports and their jobs that they spend little or no time studying God’s Word. Have you ever wondered if your marriage would end in divorce? Well, God’s Word says, “Therefore let him who **thinks** he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1Cor. 10:12.

The ways of the world, which have penetrated the church and her teachings, will only guarantee the sinking of our hopes and plans for our families. Do you really know what God’s Word says to you as a woman, wife and mother? Have you read God’s blueprints and modeled your home after them? Here are a few of the questions that will be answered by Scripture in the following lessons:

Is there anything wrong with divorce, especially in certain circumstances? Why does marriage counseling usually result in divorce? Why do many women display the attitude and characteristics of an ideal wife toward their employers but not their husbands? If you put your husband first in your life, what will happen to your marriage?

What danger is present when a wife fulfills all of her own needs and her husband fulfills his own needs? Should your pastor be your spiritual leader? Why are insults and evils brought into our lives, and how does this relate to God’s blessings? When you put someone or something ahead of the Lord, what will God do to draw you back to Him? Some preachers tell us that we are commanded to be angry; is this true?

Sound doctrine? We as Christians enjoy the messages from the pulpit or Christian radio that fire us up for the Lord, but what about those messages that bring about conviction? Do you run from the Truth? A lot of our preachers and speakers today feel they need to draw large crowds for financial reasons. It seems that when preachers tell their congregation or listeners what they *want to hear*, it brings in the largest offerings for their ministries. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the Truth, and will turn aside to myths.” 2Tim. 4:3-4.

Ravenous wolves. Jesus warned us of spiritual leaders who would try to deceive us. “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them

by their fruits....” Matt. 7:15-16. We can see the financial fruits of many ministries, yet most of their followers are perishing for a lack of knowledge. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge....” Hosea 4:6. When you listen to the most popular Christian speakers, are you sure their information is based on Scripture, or is it based on psychology and the ideas of man? Do you even know the difference? “ ‘The prophet who has a dream may relate *his* dream, but let him who has My Word speak My Word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?’ ” declares the LORD.” Jer. 23:28. Are you able to discern grain from straw?

Finds wisdom. “My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD, or loathe His reproof; for whom the LORD loves He reproofs, even as a father, the son in whom he delights. How blessed is the man who **finds wisdom**, and the man who gains understanding. For its profit is better than the profit of silver, and its gain than fine gold.” Prov. 3:11-14. If you heard a strong message entitled “Submission,” or “The Contentious Woman,” or “Winning Your Husband WITHOUT A WORD,” would you embrace it enthusiastically or run away from the conviction?

His purpose. Do you know the difference between condemnation and conviction? Satan brings condemnation to us - thoughts that make us feel hopeless. The Lord convicts us in our spirit in order to show us the things in our life that need changing. All guilt is not bad. On the contrary, we *should* feel guilty when we sin. If a person feels no guilt or remorse for his sin, why would he want to repent? Even the hopelessness that condemnation brings can be used for good if we turn to God for our hope. “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28. Did you know that many times, God brings adversity into our lives to strengthen our relationship with Him? It was God who brought the many trials into Jonah’s life to bring about obedience, and it was the Lord who blinded Saul in order to change him into the godly Paul. Does it really matter where the adversity is coming from as long as we allow each of these tribulations to mold us more into the Lord’s image?

My ways, my thoughts. What is written in the following lessons may seem foreign to you. Many of these truths are rarely, if ever, preached from the pulpit, discussed on Christian radio or written about in Christian books. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isa. 55:9. These teachings are found easily in Scripture, but are often overlooked, watered down, or taken out of context to justify an opposing view or even to justify sin. “Every Word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His Words, lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.” Prov. 30:5-6.

A broken and a contrite heart. Is your heart broken and contrite? It must be to receive the Truth. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.” Ps. 51:17. This is the fertile ground which the Lord says will produce much fruit. “Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the Word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he falls away. And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the Word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. And the one on whom seed was sown

on the good soil, this is the man who hears the Word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.” Matt. 13:18-23.

Did not hear it. “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and **did not hear it.**” Matt. 13:16-17. You will need an “ear to hear,” which means listening and desiring to gain the complete wisdom that the Bible has to offer.

Meditates day and night. You will need to renew your mind, to line it up with what God says about everything. Most rely on what is popular according to the world’s standards or follow the so-called “experts” in the field. Let’s never forget that God is our Creator. Does He not know how to deal with every circumstance or relationship He created? “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he **meditates day and night.** And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; *and in whatever he does, he prospers.*” Ps. 1:2-3.

Thy Word is Truth. Satan will try to tempt you into rejecting what is written in this workbook. He may try to cause division by getting you to think or say that you do not agree with the author. First, it doesn’t matter what this author is writing or saying. What matters is what God says, since He is the Author and Creator of life. Secondly, we must remember that Satan will try to discourage you; division is one of his favorite tactics. If you don't believe what is written in these lessons, you have three choices: 1) You could talk to someone *you know* will agree with you. 2) You could just take what you want and pass over the rest like a buffet. Or 3) *you could search the Truth.* “Sanctify them in the Truth; **Thy Word is Truth.**” John 17:17. Please choose to search for Truth. The Truth is nothing to fear; instead, it will set you free. “If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the Truth, and **the Truth shall make you free.**” John 8:31-32. Again, if you question any of this material I urge you to seek the Word to find the Truth.

Seek and you shall find. “But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you.” Luke 12:31. “And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.” Luke 11:9. Use your concordance; allow the Lord to guide you into all Truth. Memorize a verse and ruminates on it over and over in your mind. Then one day it will be as if the light is turned on in a dark room; you will know the Truth! Is it worth the effort? Do you have time? “So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.” Ps. 90:12. If we seek Him first, He promises that everything else will be given to us.

Hunger and thirst. If we are believers, if we are Christians, then our purpose on earth is to glorify God in all that we do. Isn't that what Jesus did with His life? And, if we call ourselves Christians, we are supposed to be followers of Christ. But are we? How do we follow Christ? Maybe you've tried to follow Christ many times before, but you stumbled and were unable to go on. If you can open your heart to God and continue to read the Scriptures that are found in the following lessons, His Word will cause you to hunger and thirst for Him and His Truths. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Matt. 5:6. “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.” Ps. 42:1. What a wonderful way to feel about the Lord and His Word!

His Word. God's Holy Scriptures will be the most important Words on the following pages; *please do not skip them.* **His Word heals.** “He sent **His Word** and *healed them,* and *delivered them* from their

destructions.” Ps. 107:20. His Word is the light that will illuminate the darkness. “**Thy Word** is a *lamp to my feet*, and a *light to my path*.” Ps. 119:105. His Word is Truth. “The sum of Thy Word is Truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.” Ps. 119:160.

Just do it! Once you begin to understand and accept God's Truths, you must then become a doer of the Word. “For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and **not a doer**, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.” James 1:23-24. You must put action behind what you have learned, or there will never be any change in your life!

Zealous for what is good? Let this thought be prevalent in your mind: the teachings in this workbook have been written by a zealot (a fanatic). I got that way when I was backed into a corner in my life. I got that way when I was sinking and looking for something or Someone to save me. “But seeing the wind, he became afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ ” Matt. 14:30. I got that way when I saw a real void in my life which made my heart and my gut ache because I desperately needed that void filled. If this is where you are in your life, then you, too, will become a zealot. Obey zealously - enthusiastically!

Zealous teachings need zealous obedience. “And who is there to harm you if you prove **zealous for what is good?**” 1Pet. 3:13. “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be **zealous** therefore, and repent.” Rev. 3:19. Jesus called for that kind of zealous obedience in his teaching while He walked on earth. “And if your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into the fiery hell.” Matt. 18:8. I’d say these are very zealous instructions from our Lord.

Come, follow Me. “And looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property. And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!’ ” Mark 10:21-23. Are we like the rich man, unwilling to follow Jesus? How many times has He called you, but you were all tied up with the things of this world so you chose not to follow Him? Don’t miss it now; He is calling your name.

Lay aside every encumbrance. “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **lay aside every encumbrance**, and the *sin which so easily entangles us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” Hebr. 12:1. “The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore **lay aside** the *deeds of darkness* and put on the armor of light.” Rom. 13:12. “... in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside** the *old self*, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit...” Eph. 4:22. You must immediately make changes in your life and commit yourself to following Jesus Christ. When will be the next time He calls you? Could this be your last opportunity? Now ponder this sobering verse: “Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” James 4:14. Make every moment, every day, count.

Lukewarm. For those of you who say you have a happy home, this workbook may be too zealous since there is nothing motivating you to change. “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are **lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, I will *spit you out of My mouth*.” Rev. 3:15-16. God despises the lukewarm Christian. Are you on fire for Him? What does He need to do in your life to move you toward Him and His Word? I know what it took for me!

Poor in spirit. Those who are poor have nothing; therefore, it is easier for them to leave everything to follow Him and His Word. “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor.” Luke 4:18. Are you spiritually bankrupt? “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:3. If you were financially bankrupt, you'd certainly be diligently praying for your husband to find a job or a better job so you could pay your bills and your family would be fed, but what about the spiritual food that **you** need to share with your children?

Built his house upon the sand. Let's face it, many of us have built our house on the sinking sand of the world's values. We seek after everything our Lord Jesus Christ lived and preached *against!* You know it's only a matter of time before your house of cards falls. We've seen the signs; we've seen other Christian marriages fall. What makes you think yours will stand? The women who find and read this manual whose houses have already fallen, “and great was its fall,” really have the advantage. Since they have nowhere to live, they pick up the pieces of rubble and begin rebuilding. They have no choice to make; God made it for them. “And everyone who hears these Words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, **and great was its fall.**” Matt. 7:26-27. Begin to rebuild your house, step by step, board by board, upon the rock of Jesus Christ. Use His Word *alone* as your blueprints. Let this workbook motivate you and help illuminate those areas that pertain to the circumstances and situations of your life.

Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord. “And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men... 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble, even the burned ones?... Even what they are building —if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!' ” Neh. 4:2. Expect ridicule and mocking as you begin to rebuild your house. Read the entire fourth chapter of Nehemiah for motivation and preparation.

Highlight in your Bible the passages that explain what they did to overcome those who tried to stop them. First, they prayed when others began to ridicule them and God gave them direction along with “a mind to work.” Next, they set up a defense, day and night. They were also aware of their weak points and set up extra defense in those positions. (Sounds a bit like war, doesn't it? For more on the spiritual warfare that you are facing daily, see lesson 5, “Won Without a Word,” for “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge....” Hosea 4:6.)

The leaders also had to fight against the fear of those they were leading. You will need to be spiritually strong to encourage your children when they begin to fear. “When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: '**Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord** who is *great and awesome*, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.' ” Neh. 4:14. Ultimately, the enemy saw that it was **God** who fought on Israel's side. Our enemy the devil, or those who are working for the devil, will also see the Lord if our “struggle is not against flesh and

blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Eph. 6:12.

Counsel you with My eye. Will you continue through the following lessons with the zealous commitment needed? We are not able to make the changes ourselves. We are sinners; our righteousness is nothing but filthy rags. When we allow God to work in us and through us, He will begin to make the changes from within us. “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will **counsel you with My eye** upon you. Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.” Ps. 32:8-9.

According to His purpose. The Lord comes to us at the exact time of our need. He allows us to come to the turning points in our lives (through various trials) to learn dependence upon Him. It’s during the times of distress that we seek Him, and then He lets us find Him. It’s only during brokenness that real lifelong changes are made. We can praise Him in all things because we have the assurance “that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28. We can see from this passage that our goal must be according to His purpose. What then is His purpose for our lives? Most of us are familiar with Rom. 8:28, but to really understand His purpose we must continue reading. “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to become conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” Rom. 8:29-31.

Do your deeds deny Him? Do you truly love Him enough to obey Him, even as a zealot? Are we more concerned with **our purpose** or **His purpose** in each situation in our lives? Where is your heart? Many times when a trial comes into our lives, we obey in order to comfort or protect ourselves from whatever is hurting us. But if the trial or suffering continues, we begin to see the need for a more permanent change. We develop an insight, which reveals the reason(s) why God has allowed the trial. Possibly, it is for our salvation or the salvation of a loved one; but, certainly, the trial *is* for our sanctification so our deeds will stop denying Him. “They profess to know God, but by **their deeds they deny Him**, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.” Titus 1:16.

My heart of stone. As we look forward to the day of our glorification, God encourages us to be specific in our prayer lives. He wants us to get to the point of truly crying out to Him. When will you come to this point? Will you cry out in a time of frustration or must you get to the point of losing a loved one through death? Maybe it is merely the threat of losing the loved one that will bring you to that point. Possibly, the destruction of your marriage will make you cry out to God. We must ask ourselves, how hard is my heart? “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove **the heart of stone** from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezek. 36:26. Are you willing to ask God for this heart change, “whatever it takes”? The Lord said that if you will only ask, you will receive. “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.” Matt. 7:7.

Hardens his neck. If we are truly Christians, followers of Christ, then we yearn to be closer to Him. Do you yearn for Him? Or do you, instead, surround yourself with things that deaden that desire? If so, you are not a Christian on fire for God, but a backslider. “The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own

ways....” Prov. 14:14. Have you had your fill or must you be broken? “A man who **hardens his neck** after much reproof will *suddenly* be **broken beyond remedy.**” Prov. 29:1.

Broken and contrite heart. You may tell yourself that you do so much for the Lord. You spend so much time in the church nursery or heading up various committees. You think this is real sacrifice and this proves that you are in right standing with God. “For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A **broken and a contrite heart**, O God, Thou wilt not despise.” Ps. 51:16.

Sorrowful to the point of repentance. In order to repent and turn away from the lukewarm life we have lived, we must be sorry. “I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made **sorrowful to the point of repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” 2Cor. 7:9-10.

Destroying speculations and every lofty thing. What is separating you from the knowledge of God? What keeps you from reading His Word daily? If God is not first in your life, what is? Your family? Your job? Crafts? Television and entertainment? What keeps you so busy each day preventing you from even giving God a second thought? “We are **destroying speculations and every lofty thing** raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” 2Cor. 10:5-6.

Confess your sins to one another. Those who have allowed themselves to become convicted are ready to bring change into their lives. If you are ready, begin by confession. “Therefore, **confess your sins to one another**, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16. If you are not broken, you will probably put these pages down now or continue to read them just to prove to yourself that you are the good Christian you claim to be. Unfortunately, we both know it will never change your life and penetrate your heart. It will merely run down your back like water down the back of a duck.

Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal. These pages have been written by one who was broken. God often uses people in our lives to break us. It may be just an annoyance at first; then, it escalates into complete frustration. Do we turn to Him at that point or do we instead harden our hearts or our necks? God is trying to change us, to mold us. “Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal** among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.” 1Pet. 4:12.

Usually we don't like the situation or the person who is bringing the trials into our lives because we can't see that *God* is behind it. We become bitter and angry with the person or circumstances He uses. We try to break this relationship, only to find it follows us. Dear believer, it is the Lord who is trying to turn us, gently at first, but then a little more firmly. (See lesson 10, “Various Trials,” for “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you....” Hosea 4:6.)

Removed lover and friend. God often must remove a friend or loved one in order to place *Himself* first in our lives. We may be in a cold marriage or even separated or divorced. Our children, or our parents, may not be speaking to us. Possibly our brothers or our sisters may not be communicating with us either. “Thou hast **removed lover and friend** far from me; My acquaintances are in darkness.” Ps. 88:18. “Thou hast put me in the lowest pit, In dark places, in the depths. Thy wrath has rested upon me, and Thou hast afflicted me with all Thy waves. *Selah. Thou hast removed my acquaintances far from me; Thou hast made me an object of loathing to them; I am shut up and cannot go out.” Ps. 88:6-8.

**Selah is found often in the book of Psalms to ask the reader to ponder and think over what has just been read. Obey this by pondering what has been written by the Psalmist. Reread it if you need to. What's your hurry?*

They shall see God. How can *I* see the Lord? First, you must have a born-again experience; then, He will begin internal purification. If we do not understand God’s ways, we will become discouraged and many doubts will creep into our minds. “Blessed are the *pure in heart*, for **they shall see God.**” Matt. 5:8. God wants to be first in our lives. (See the next lesson, “Your First Love,” for “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge....” Hosea 4:6.) He wants our lives to reflect Jesus Christ.

They were radiant. Do you want to reflect the love and radiance of the Lord? *Right now*, my sister in Christ, is your chance; don't blow it. Don't turn; do it now. Turn to Him and to Him alone. Do it right now! “They looked to Him and **were radiant**, And their faces shall never be ashamed.” Ps. 34:5. Have you checked your countenance lately? Has it fallen? “Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and it's desire is for you, but you must master it.’ ” Gen. 4:6. How are you doing? If you are not doing well then God says, “sin is crouching at the door.” Perhaps, you’ve already let sin in.

Pray now. “Whatever it takes to soften my heart to these lessons, Lord do it...”

Practical Application

Hearer of the Word and not a doer. “For if anyone is a **hearer of the Word and not a doer**, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” James 1:23-24.

Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned. In order to rebuild upon the Rock, we need to acknowledge our sinfulness before God. Unless we understand that we are sinners, we cannot take another step. As you read this lesson, were you made aware of your sin or did you make excuses or blame others? My beloved, if you are imitating the world by rationalizing your sins and making excuses while at the same time quickly pointing out to others (especially your husband) their sin and shortcomings, you most certainly are headed for spiritual death. Instead of looking at others who have fallen in certain areas, take a hard look at yourself.

If you are under strong conviction, please stop now, get on your knees, and ask the Holy Spirit to show **you** and convict **you** of **your** sinfulness before God. Ask Him to reveal your offenses and whom you have offended. Begin by praying this prayer:

“Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. **Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned**, and done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.”

“Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners will be converted to Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Thy praise. For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.” Ps. 51:1-17.

Confess your sins. Once we confess our sins before God, then we may need to admit we have fallen short and confess our faults to one another. Again, if your conscience is seared, you will minimize your sin, and you will *never* have victory over it in your life! “Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another, and pray for one another, so that *you may be healed*. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16.

His Word healed them. It is God's Word that will change and heal us. “He sent **His Word and healed them**, And delivered them from their destructions.” Ps. 107:20. We must begin to renew our minds. **Using 3x5 cards, write down the verses from this lesson that have brought about the greatest conviction in your heart.** Then, do the same with each of the following lessons. Keep these cards in your purse and bring them out regularly as the Holy Spirit prompts you. If you are not being prompted, pray that you will be.

With God. We must not operate in the flesh. We must work “with God,” move in His direction, and use His Spirit to do what we ought. “With men this is impossible, but **with God** all things are possible.” Matt. 19:26. “Looking upon them, Jesus said, ‘With men it is impossible, but not **with God**; for all things are possible **with God**.’ ” Mark 10:27. “But He said, ‘The things impossible with men are possible **with God**.’ ” Luke 18:27. Any other plan will eventually wear us out and cause us to give up. “For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the **flesh reap corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.” Gal. 6:8. Operating in the flesh will only bring about a temporary external change versus a permanent internal change. “... for the things which are seen are **temporal**, but the things which are NOT *seen* are **eternal**.” 2Cor. 4:18.

A righteous man falls. Be aware that stumbling and failure will come, but *you must get back up*. “For a **righteous man falls** seven times, and *rises again*....” Prov. 24:16. Everyone will fall, but what you do **when** you fall divides the righteous from the unrighteous! The entire tenth lesson of this book is dedicated to making us keenly aware of the trials of Christian life. But for now, let us be aware that we may be held with the cords of our sin until we hate it so much that we will cry out to God continually to be forever

delivered from these temptations. “His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin.” Prov. 5:22. Again, we must work “with God,” knowing full well that He knows best. “Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker — An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ ” Isa. 45:9.

Boast about my weaknesses. And finally, once we “through Christ” have gained the sweet victory, we must share our testimonies with all those whom He brings into our lives. Some find it easy to share Jesus Christ as their savior with every person they meet. If you are on fire like that for the Lord, praise God! Others fail to share their salvation with anyone; it is their little secret with the Lord. Without a doubt, God will bring women into your life who will open a door for you to share what Christ has done for you. “...but sanctify Christ as *Lord in your hearts, always being ready* to make a defense to everyone *who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you*, yet with gentleness and reverence....” 1Pet. 3:15. Will you open your mouth? “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.” Ps. 32:1,3. Let us retrain our lips to share God's power over sin by humbling ourselves and boasting about our weaknesses. “And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather **boast about my weaknesses**, that the *power of Christ may dwell in me.*” 2Cor. 12:9.

Let the Power of Christ Dwell in Me...Amen and Amen!

Personal commitment: to begin to build or rebuild my home on the Rock. “Based on what I have learned from God's Word, I commit to confess my lukewarmness toward Christ and to take the proper steps to renew my mind. I commit to allow the Lord to work through me so that I may gain the sweet victory over my sinful life. I also commit to give God the praise and honor He deserves by sharing my testimony with others.”

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Warning: The material that you have just read and will be reading is not to be discussed with your husband. This is not just a suggestion, but rather a requirement. Many destructive results have occurred to marriages and/or to the women who have unknowingly or willfully shared and discussed the information learned.

Some women have used the passages against their own husbands to beat them over the head with “you should...!” Others who had a pure heart have shared what they have learned in humility and their husbands inadvertently used it against them to beat them down.

Therefore, it is imperative that I ask you, as a sister in Christ, to sign this commitment before continuing with this material since our husbands are to “be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe (our) chaste and respectful behavior.” 1Pet. 3:2.

If you are wondering how you can possibly resist the temptation to tell your husband, let me give you the escape. “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.” 1Cor. 10:13.

Share this material, each concept and each lesson, with as many women, younger or older, as you can find until you have gotten it all out of your system. As you begin to live these lessons in your home “without a word,” your husband will quite possibly ask you what has caused you to change. At that point, you may tell him *briefly*, “I have been reading a workbook for women; there is also a men’s manual. If you are interested, I could get you one” end of conversation.

Personal commitment: To share this material only with other women. “Based on what I have just read, I commit to sharing this material only with other women. I also commit to remaining quiet and not leaving this material around for my husband to accidentally or intentionally read. If my husband does inquire as to the positive change in me, I commit to be ready with the above statement only.”

Date: _____ Signed: _____

About the Author

Erin Thiele is a wife and mother of four boys, Dallas, Axel, Easton, and Cooper, and three girls, Tyler, Tara, and Macy. Her stand for marriage was founded on the Rock of God's Word during her struggle to restore her own marriage; Erin's husband left her for another woman and eventually divorced her. Two years later her husband returned and their marriage was miraculously restored!

Restore Ministries began when Erin searched every denomination in her area but was unable to find the help that she needed. *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage* was written to help those women the Lord sent to her. *A Wise Women* was written as the Lord led her to prepare her home for her husband's return. Five years later *How God Will Restore Your Marriage: There's Healing after Broken Vows* and *A Wise Man* were written for men. This couple's experience is a powerful testimony to God's promises and His faithfulness.

If you have access to the Internet, be sure to visit Restore Ministries Encouraging Women website at: RMIEW.com. On our website you'll be able to read powerful testimonies of restored marriages, join our Restoration Fellowship, and find out more about our other resources such as a Wise Woman Bible Studies and other Online Courses and in our bookstore EncouragingBookstore.com

If you would like to be trained how to minister, please visit our website to find out more about RMIOU "Restore Ministries International Online University" RMIOU.com

The Testimony of How God Restored Our Marriage by Dan Thiele

Dan would like to share the testimony of the restoration of our marriage since the Bible says in Revelation 12:10-11, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death."

Our marriage was dead but by His shed blood it was made alive. It is our hope and prayer that our testimony will help you or someone you know to overcome the evil one. We give God all the glory for what He has done in our lives.

In January of 1989, I left Erin for another woman. However, the Lord gave Erin the heart and endurance to believe God could restore our marriage. It was during this fiery trial that Erin became a new woman. She studied the Bible concerning marriage and began to apply the principles in her life. She never told me, I could just see it.

Like the three youths who were thrown into the fiery furnace, Erin too became “loosed” of things in her life that had her “bound.” She also found herself walking with another, her precious Lord. (See Daniel 3:25.)

Everyone, even the most respected pastors in our city, told Erin that it was hopeless to fight against my desire to leave her and be with another woman. But Erin found in God’s Word that “nothing is impossible with God”! (Luke 1:37) It was during this time that she founded Restore Ministries to help other women who also wanted their marriages restored.

That’s when Erin began her ministry by simply sharing with each of them the Scriptures the Lord had shown her. Soon there were too many women to help individually, so she began to type out the Bible references on an old typewriter her mom gave her. Some of the women who came to her meetings had never held a Bible in their hands, so Erin began to type out entire verses and then make copies to minister to these hurting and abandoned women.

However, the more Erin helped other women, the worse her situation became. Her fiery furnace was turned up when I actually divorced her in October of 1990 mainly because the other woman paid for it. However, even after this I saw she had such a peace, the peace she needed to not fight or contest the divorce, but to trust in her Lord. Undaunted, Erin continued to minister to other women by sharing more of the Word of God. She later told me that she promised the Lord that if He would restore her marriage to the man she loved, me, she would devote her entire life to helping women in marriage crises. He did and she did.

Our marriage was miraculously restored a large part due to Erin’s obedience to not obtain an attorney. God delivered me from my mistake (that I actually immediately regretted once it was final) when it was discovered that even though the judge had granted the divorce on October 30, the papers that had been filed by my attorney had to be overturned due to an error in the paperwork! This, to me, was the first sign from God that He would “somehow” deliver me from the cords that had me bound to the adulteress. Had Erin had an attorney, or if she had fought me, the divorce would not have been overturned and I would never have come back.

Erin “hoped against all hope” (one of her favorite scriptures Rom. 4:18) and received her miracle on January 29, 1991 at 11:10 p.m. when I finally returned home to Erin and our four children. This was after my adultery, and after I divorced her, just a little over two years after I left her and more than a year after she began to minister to other women.

The Beginning of Restore Ministries International

Over the next five years, the Lord gave us both the desires of our hearts and blessed us with three more “restoration” babies as Erin continued to minister to other women. In 1996 the first version of *How God Can and Will Restore Your Marriage* was published locally and sent around the world. This book was made up key of chapters taken out of *A Wise Woman Builds Her House: By A FOOL Who Tore Hers Down with Her Own Hands* that Erin put together. These were simply the lessons she wrote for her Restoration Fellowship that began when I was gone and continued every week for years after I came back home.

That’s when thousands of requests for her book started coming in to our ministry Restore Ministries International and our publishers from all over the U.S. and from abroad.

Many books were sent to prisons all over the U.S. Men wrote saying they were so blessed and began experiencing restored marriages after reading the restoration book for women! That’s when Erin was led to write a version for men. Later she wrote a manual for men, *A Wise Man Builds upon a Rock: By A FOOL Who Built on Sinking Sand* to accompany the men’s restoration book.

Today, through RMI "Restore Ministries International" we now minister to men and women primarily over the Internet and through books, and videos. In 2005 RMI was divided into two ministries: Encouraging Women and Encouraging Men.

I have seen in my life, and in so many people we have helped, that God is more than able to heal and save any marriage! I encourage you to read, reread and read over again the books to learn the truth that will save your marriage and also all the testimonies to build your faith so you too will BELIEVE the Lord’s promises about restoring your marriage!

When you read the testimonies mark all the “seemingly” impossible situations that are similar to yours; but please, don’t focus on how your situation is different. Of course it is because God is looking, actually “roaming to and fro throughout the WHOLE earth, looking for those whose hearts are completely His. To STRONGLY support you” (2 Chronicles 16:9) to give you a testimony that is different, unique and “seemingly” impossible if it weren’t for GOD to help someone else.

Our first FAITH BUILDING *By the Word of Their Testimony* book has both first person and third person testimonies. Before we had a place to send in Praise Reports to our website, we received restored marriage testimonies through many different sources. All of us love to hear it right from the person’s own lips, so now we have first person testimonies in most of our other testimonies books. Whether in first or third person, all these testimonies give “glory to God”!

Erin told me that what got her through the divorce I filed against her (because of the fool I was) that her friend Sue (whom I once met), Sue’s husband told Erin, “If you are loving your husband like Sue loved me, and you are following all same things that Sue did with me—your marriage will be restored too. And one more thing, even if he says he doesn’t love you, he does.”

Let me say the same thing to each of you. If you follow what Erin teaches in her books and take to heart what she says in her videos, like letting your husband go (because that got my attention). And if you obtain the same quiet and submissiveness that I saw Erin had (and that I have seen in so many women who came to our ministry that now have a restored marriage). Then there is no doubt that your husband

will come home too. And if he told you he doesn't love you no matter what he says, he does. Just follow the Lord and fall in love with Him too and don't get in the way of what God is doing. It took a lot for me to see the mistakes I made and the same is true for your husband.

One last thing before I end. Erin never heard of one marriage that was restored before she helped Sue and saw hers restored. Yet we get so many women who have all the hundreds of restored marriage testimonies from our books and posted on our site. And they have all the things Erin (and Sue) had to search for in their bibles (that are now in her books, videos and in our online lessons) and they still complain that their situations are too difficult. I don't know how Erin did it, but I know that if you want what God wants to give you (and save your husband from where he's headed) then do it God's way by faith.

I never gave Erin a hint I would ever come back, but she looked to the Lord and became radiant.

~ Dan

“They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed” —Psalm 34:5

Erin has written other books with her distinctive style of using the Scriptures to minister to the brokenhearted and the spiritual captives. “He sent **His Word** and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (Ps. 107:20). You will find all of her books on one of the RMI websites:

EncouragingBookstore.com
NarrowRoadPublishingHouse.com
NPRH.org
www.Amazon.com

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For more help Please visit one of our
Websites:

HOPEATLAST.COM

RMIEW.com

RestoreMinistries.net

EncouragingWomen.org

EncouragingMen.org

RMIOU.com

Aidemaritale.com (French)

AjudaMatrimonial.com (Portuguese)

AyudaMatrimonial.com (Spanish)