

How I Confessed My Way to Freedom

Ungodly Belief #2

Ungodly Belief #2: I am responsible for my husband's spiritual growth.

What did I just say? Did I really just write that statement for all creation to read?

Let me clarify one thing right here at the beginning. If two years ago you had asked me if the above statement was true I would have looked at you like you were one noodle short of a full bowl of spaghetti! But, (isn't there always a "but?") I sure was acting like his spiritual maturity was my responsibility.

How? Surely none of you God fearing, Proverbs 31 women out there can relate! Oh please!

Have you ever questioned your husband's prayer life or lack thereof? Have you ever tried to hook him up with an older, wiser, more spiritually mature man as an "accountability" partner? Have you ever tried to get him to worship the way you think he should worship? After you have encountered or experienced God in a new way do you expect him to jump on board with you as if he had the same experience (even though he did not?)

Was there ever a season of your life where you have been the spiritual head of the house and you have subtly hinted, begged or groveled for him to take up that yoke? Then maybe the time came, Praise God, where he took his proper role as spiritual head and then you questioned how he went about things? Perhaps, you gave him an outline of what you expected of him in that role?

Okay, before you start sending my husband condolences in the mail, please know I have not done all of the above...only a few of them! After all, the outline was in my head, I never actually typed it out and printed it!

Have you ever prayed a prayer something like this? "Dear Heavenly Father, I bring before you today my husband, bless his wretched soul, forgive his sins and wash him clean. Please mold him into a better husband, a more dedicated father, make him see he needs to be the spiritual head of our house. Convict him Lord! Convict him of neglecting me and the children. Convict him of his lack of prayer and study of your Word. Convict him to get into a small group of men who will disciple him and hold him accountable. Send men into his life to be an example of what a Godly man looks like." I think you get the idea...

While not all of this prayer is wrong, it isn't exactly what the Lord has in mind. Yes, it's probably exaggerated slightly, or is it? I've prayed similar "I want" prayers in regard to my husband. Basically, change him prayers. What about change me prayers? Ouch! There it is, another confession of mine. Yes, I was praying for the Lord to do all the things I thought He needed to do in my husband in order to be on track to a more spiritual family.

When the Holy Spirit revealed this to me I had to change my thinking and come into alignment with the Father's will. You see I had been praying from my flesh. Praying from the flesh, or old nature as we often refer to it, is a topic all to itself. In short, praying from our flesh is useless. When we pray it should come from a direct download from Father God. Praying the Father's will is the most effective way to pray.

The Lord asked me, "who are you responsible for?" I knew the answer was me. It was then I started asking the Lord to reveal to me what needed changing in my heart. The prayer went something like this: "Dear Papa, Thank you for loving me so much that you can't leave me the way I am. I want to share your heartbeat. Dig up and get out the dirt, sin and shame in my heart. Reveal to me your perfect plan for me. Bust open the lies I have believed and replace them with your truth. Mold me into the wife, mother and daughter you designed me to be. Let your light shine through me so that words won't be necessary. I want to hear your voice more clearly. I want to fall in love with your Word. Place an unquenchable desire in my heart for more of you and less of me. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen."

My daily prayer for my husband simply is this, "Bless him Lord and show him Your favor." I do pray other ways for my husband, but no longer do I pray "change him" prayers, where I give the Lord a list of my wants. Because really the truth is this, the Lord loves my husband more than I can possibly imagine. He has plans to prosper him and give him hope for his future (Jer. 29:11). The reality is this, if your husband is a believer the role of Holy Spirit is filled, there are no vacancies in that department...so GET OUT OF THE WAY!

Since I stopped praying change him prayers and I relinquished the role of Holy Spirit (I was failing miserably anyway) I have seen a dramatic change in my husband. He is in an accountability group. One he sought out, not one I picked for him. They meet once a week for Bible study, prayer and encouragement. He has taken on the role of spiritual head. I am expectantly waiting for more and I know my Papa is not going to disappoint me.

I have talked with ladies whose husbands have taken up the spiritual headship and they are left resentful. They wanted it to happen, but when it finally did, they didn't know how to respond. They were so accustomed to the role and they felt stripped of something. If that is you, I would urge you to seek Godly counsel. These feelings are rooted in something deeper. Maybe you found your identity in filling this role God created your husband to fill. It's time to replace that false identity with truth. God has a very special role for you to fill as a woman and a wife. I encourage you to discover it and reach fulfillment like you never thought possible!

As always, I love hearing from you. If you are struggling in this area and need to talk more about it, I would love to encourage you and pray for you. Please e-mail me at amydover@growinginGrace.cc.