

A Woman & Her Walk With God Series

Encouraging Women to Walk With God on the Brighter Side of Life



Volume One
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A Woman & Her Separated Heart

This is the last study in our little mini series on a Woman & Her Emotional Health. Today we are going to talk about how a Christian woman can develop a separated heart, even though she is busy trying to walk with God in the everyday details of her life.

As we begin, I want to say that it is God's desire that we give Him our whole heart as we walk with Him. What does it mean to walk with God with our whole heart?

1. It means to LOVE Him with our whole heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
2. It means to TRUST Him with our whole heart. (Proverbs 3:5)
3. It means to SEEK Him with our whole heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)
4. It means to OBEY Him with our whole heart. (Psalm 119:2)
5. It means to REPENT to Him with our whole heart. (Joel 2:12)

These are the things that we do that show God that we are walking wholeheartedly with Him. And I truly believe that this is how many well meaning Christian women want to walk with God. I know this is how I do. But you know what? Sometimes it doesn't always work out that way. I often begin my journey in a wholehearted way, but somewhere along the path I get sidetracked from time to time. And how does this happen? Through the door of indecision. Yes, I want to love God with all my heart . . . But then I want to love some of the things in this world with part of it too. Oh, how I think I want to trust God with all of my heart . . . But I want to be able to have my fears too. And sure, I say I want to seek God's wisdom and advice about everything that I do . . . But then I also want to know what my friends and family members think about it too. **And it is through this very narrow door that someone very subtil sneaks in and does his best to stir up doubt in my heart, so that I will harbor the wrong kind of desires in my mind, and eventually give in to the wrong kind of actions with my behavior.** And who could this very subtil creature be? None other than the devil himself.

Ever since the beginning, the devil has been in the business of stirring up trouble and separating the hearts of women from wanting to live totally for God. Turn with me to Genesis 3:1-7 and I'll show you what I mean.

As this chapter opens up, we see Eve was a wholehearted woman walking wholeheartedly with her God. She was minding her own Christian business and she was doing her own Christian thing. And then along came the devil . . . In the form of a subtil serpent to encourage her to doubt the character and Words of God through using these four simple words . . . "***Yea, hath God said.***"

And isn't this is exactly how he speaks to our own indecisive hearts today too? We get up very tired on Sunday morning, and we don't really feel like going to church, and then Satan whispers into our hearts, "***Yea, hath God REALLY said that you need to go to church? After all, it isn't going to church that saves you, and you know that there are a million and one things you could be doing with this time instead.***" Or our husband does something to offend us, and we are struggling with the fact that he isn't even sorry for it, when Satan whispers into our hearts and says, "***Yea, hath God really said that you HAVE to put up with this jerk of a fellow? You know that God wants you to be happy in your marriage, and if you stay with this guy, you are never going to be happy.***" And

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then sometimes, when we are exhausted from battling with our children over homework, obedience, cleanliness, and eating what's in front of them, Satan sneaks alongside of our hearts and says, "*Yea, hath God really said that YOU have to be the one that raises these kids? You are a smart cookie, why don't you go get yourself a career and let someone else do this dirty work?*" Or, here is one: you are beginning to grow as a Christian and you have made the decision to separate yourself from your carnal friends and the secular entertainment that you used to enjoy, and one day, as you are feeling bored and lonely, Satan says to your heart, "*Yea, hath God really said that you can't hang around those folks anymore. After all, isn't God all about love and acceptance? You know that you miss them, so why don't you just go get a R-rated movie, some wine coolers, and invite them over for the night. It won't hurt anything.*" And the list goes on and on about the subtle ways that Satan speaks to our hearts during the times when we struggle and feel indecisive about things.

But you know what? The bad news is that he doesn't just stop there. The tool of doubt is just what he uses to pry the door to our hearts open, if he sees that we are willing to allow him and his subtle talk stay for a while, he grabs his overnight bag and begins his real separating work, which is **creating in us a desire to want more than God wants us to have.**

This is exactly what Satan did to the heart of Eve in the Garden of Eden. After he caused her to doubt God and His Word, he enticed her to desire more than God wanted her to have by making her *think* that God was withholding something very special from her.

And he does the same thing to separate our hearts from being devoted to God and His Word too. "*Is this all there is to your life . . . Work, home, church, work, home, church? Don't you long to be free from all of that so that you can be able to do so much more with your time? Look at you, you are burned out, you deserve a break. Surely God would want you to have a break now and then. Come on, buy the boat, trailer, timeshare, etc., and get away for the weekend . . . Or maybe a couple of weekends . . . Or maybe the whole summer . . . And also during the winter. You'll be better for it, I promise you.*" "*See that woman that lives next door, she has it made: good job, babysitter for the kids, time to work out at the gym, and gorgeous home. That is the kind of life that is made for you.*" "*Remember how good your old boyfriend used to treat you, well, it won't hurt anything if you give him a call, read through his old letters, or plan to have lunch with him from time to time. You know your husband doesn't really meet your needs, and you know how good it would make you feel.*" **Satan says to the doubt that has already opened up our heart.** Now, you are not only **doubting** the truths of God's Word, but now you are **desiring** the very things that are going to draw you away from wanting to even know the truths in God's Word.

And then after your desire has developed a healthy appetite for the forbidden fruits of life, Satan grabs you by your own lust and leads you into selling yourself out for the love of money (I Timothy 6:1-11), a love for the world (James 4:4), and a lust for more and more (Proverbs 15:27). What started out as a simple conversation with doubt, eventually led to a lifestyle filled with sin and destruction. And how do you feel at the end of it all? Hopeless. Discontent. Unfaithful. Dirty. Unworthy. Scornful. Cold. Hypocritical. Lethargic. Calloused. Critical.

What are the signs that Satan is busy separating your heart from living wholeheartedly for God? **You begin to be in and out of church, up and down about truth, and hot and cold about Christian fellowship. You find yourself back in the groove with your old friends, old ways, and old habits. And you become critical of the servants of God and begin to become offended when Christian friends try to invite you to things or talk to you about anything spiritual.** And why do you begin to act like this? Because the love of the Father is no longer in you. I John 2:15-16 says, "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world.*"

So, what can we do to protect our hearts from being deceived by Satan like this?

1. Seek God and His righteousness first in all things. (Matthew 6:33-34) This will help us to battle the doubts that Satan brings our way.
2. Commit our ways unto the Lord, so that our thoughts will be established. (Proverbs 16:3) This will help our hearts from foolishly desiring the wrong things.
3. Separate ourselves from the carnal things of this world. (II Corinthians 6:14-18) If we don't touch the unclean things of this world, then we can't be defiled by them. And if we aren't defiled by them, Satan can't use them to destroy us.

Walking wholeheartedly with God brings us a life of joy and peace. Don't allow the devil to trick you into doubting God or His Word and don't allow him to deceive you into thinking that God is keeping anything good away from you. The Bible even reminds us of this in John 10:10 when it says, "*The thief (Satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I (Jesus) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*" Jesus has come to give us an abundant life, and one of the best ways that we enjoy it is through its by-product of emotional stability.