

## **WHEN LOVE GOES BAD**

Totally devastated! That is exactly how I felt on the day my husband walked into the dining room and exclaimed, “Joyce I need you to let me go!” Let him go, I thought to myself. What in the world could he possibly mean? For sure he had lost his mind. So of course I asked and Josh proceeded to tell me how he had fallen out of love with me. After being married to me for thirteen years and birthing six beautiful children (four sons and two daughters), the man had fallen out of love.

“Who is she? Who is she?” That was about all I could get out of my mouth. Who on earth is this other woman? My husband at that moment fell out in the middle of the floor and began to cry while telling me about Melissa. ***Melissa*** was the other woman. She was the other woman who had stolen my husband’s heart.

I stood there with tears streaming down my face as my legs begin to go numb and my heart begin to beat rapidly at a hundred beats per second. All kind of thoughts ran across my mind. I experienced every possible emotion in a matter of five minutes. First, I was extremely sad. Then I became depressed. Thirdly, I felt confused. But my final emotion was one of complete rage! I begin to yell, “You

have lost your mind!” If you even think for one minute that you are walking out of that door and leaving me with our kids, house, dog, and my God what about the church? What am I supposed to tell the Pastor? Josh just gave me a blank stare and walked right out the back door.

The thing that was so unbelievable to me was that Josh and I had been members of a very charismatic, Pentecostal church for the entire thirteen years of our marriage. We had gotten saved and married in the church. Our Pastor and his wife had taught us the truth of the Living Word. We had a good life. We owned our home, raised our children, worked in the ministry, and were great citizens in our community. We had it all together. At least that was what the Devil wanted us to believe. I quickly realized that I had been living a BIG lie.

After the total shock wore off I had to battle with overcoming depression. I felt completely rejected. In order to deal with the depression I became a compulsive eater and gained about forty pounds during this season. So to add insult to insult I now had to deal with feeling completely unattractive with the extra weight. I was bitter, depressed and angry all the time. God knows that it is difficult to treat others good when you don't see anything good in yourself because you have been rejected!

Rejection has a way of vexing the soul. My whole world was wrapped up into being the best wife and mother that I could be. I had poured all of my energy into loving this man who seemed to have forgotten how to really love me back. Was this my reward? Was this how I was going to be compensated for my labor? I had questions for the Lord. In the midst of the pain I knew I had to just trust God. Trusting Him gave me peace and hope, to keep pressing on.

***“Trust in the Lord always and lean not to your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.”***

Every woman has to be careful not to have their identity completely tied to caring for the family. We must remember that each of us are made woman first. Yes, we should take special care of all of those whom God has entrusted to us, but at the end of the day we are still left with ourselves. When the kids are gone, then what?

One of the issues for me was that I believe Josh and I had our children much too fast, which did not give us enough time to enjoy and learn one another. We had six right away all within eighteen months of each other. We did not plan our family it just happened. Partly because the