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Faint Not

By Doug Cook



SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW THE VISION GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART

His Way Newsletter

At first, you may perceive this to be a typical Mother-in-law bashing story. But please continue with me and I believe you will completely understand my motivation.

During her younger years, my mother-in-law attended church, and was truly seeking God. But when my wife was 6 years old, her mother delivered another daughter that died very shortly after birth. Instead of drawing closer to God during her devastation, she blamed God for not healing her baby. Any relationship she had developed with God before this tragedy, ceased to exist.

The unforgiveness she had toward God spilled over into the rest of her relationships as well. Years later, by the time I arrived in the picture, she was a very bitter, angry woman and most of the time didn't have anything nice to say about anyone. Most of her family only came for short visits, because it was difficult to spend any extended time with her. Truthfully, my mother-in-law was probably the last person anyone expected to make it to heaven because of her anger against God. In fact, when she passed away and the pastor asked the family

for something positive to say at her funeral service, it was difficult for anyone to think of anything.

During my wife's visits with her mom, she would tell her how I was corrupting her with my religion. She would also belittle the "occult church" we were attending, because of their "corrupt" teaching. Although, we found out she knew about the teaching because she would watch our church's program on TV on Sunday mornings (God has His ways)!

She was also a hard liquor drinker and smoked cigarettes profusely. In fact there was so much smoke in her house, even after a short visit, our clothes would reek of cigarette odors. With her blatant disregard for any resemblance of a healthy lifestyle, the expected results were scores of medical problems with her physical body.

On one occasion my mother-in-law, suffering from clogged arteries in her neck (a direct result of smoking), had to have a special surgery and was given a very slim chance of survival. My wife and other family members were at the hospital that night, so my young granddaughter (about 4 years old) was spending the night with me. As we began our prayers before

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Suggestions are always welcome at info@emeraldministries.com

she went to bed, she began weeping for her great grandmother, crying out to God saying, "God, please don't let her die, she doesn't have Jesus in her heart." As her "papa," I would have moved the world for her at that moment if I could have. But how much more would her heavenly father respond to this kind of unselfish faith from His little princess whose prayer touched His very hearts desire. I got up from that prayer with no doubt that my mother-in-law would survive the surgery. In truth, she lived another 7 years after that prayer.

When my mother-in-law's life on this earth was drawing to a close due to cancer, my wife and I knew that God had not reached her yet. My wife's prayers during the final days were that her mother would not have any pain. In the last few days, while she was in the hospital, her mother would decline any offer of pain medication. The nurses were amazed because they could not believe someone with that much cancer could endure that kind of pain. God faithfully answered my wife's prayers.

My prayers were focused on God softening my mother-in-law's hardened heart so He could reach her. I remember telling my wife 3 days before her death, "She is not right with God yet. He may have to use an out-of-body experience, give her a close enough glimpse of hell to singe her toes and then put her back in her body and tell her she has one last chance. As hard-headed as she is, He may have to scare the 'hell' out of her." Some of you may say I lacked compassion, but I wanted God to do whatever was necessary for her salva-

tion. Please understand...I still had my granddaughter's prayer ringing in my ears. If you need biblical support for my stance read Jude 22-23 "*And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*"

Two days before my mother-in-law's death, she unexpectedly told my wife she "had to go talk to God" and slipped into a coma-like state. My wife left the hospital that evening thinking she may not survive through the night. But in the morning when my wife arrived at the hospital, her mother was awake and coherent. She spent all day with her and came home that evening when her mother fell asleep. Her mother passed away in the early hours of that next morning.

Our daughter and granddaughters were not able to be there when she died, so arrangements were made with the funeral home to have a short, family-only viewing before they cremated her body. To help clarify these circumstances; all they do is lay the body on a table, brush the hair back and drape a blanket over them. There is no makeup or nice clothes used when they do a cremation. The funeral home attendants gave several warnings of how she may look before they allowed us to see her. The only ones in attendance were my wife, daughter, 2 granddaughters, son-in-law, my wife's cousin, and I.

My granddaughter (the one who prayed for her 7 years earlier) was crying, upset and a very

hesitant to enter the room, but when she got up the courage and we all got in the room we were amazed. There was a peace in her countenance we had never witnessed before. She was the best looking dead person I had ever seen in my life, even without any makeup. In fact, she looked better dead than she had ever looked alive. And my granddaughter, the intercessor, came out of the room with her tears dried up and calmly said, "She looks so peaceful." I reminded her of the prayer she prayed as a little girl and assured her that God just let us all know He answered her prayer, and she is with Jesus now.

Brothers and sisters there are many things we could glean from this account, but my main point is that we must NEVER FAINT (don't give up). Gal. 6:9 says, "*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*" If you are believing for loved ones to be saved, Faint Not! If you are believing for a restored marriage, Faint Not! It doesn't matter about circumstances or how far away from God you think they are. God created them and He knows what it takes to reach them.

I know my mother-in-law had a last minute, death-bed, out-of-body encounter with Jesus 2 days before her death, which resulted in her conversion. What happened in that experience is not known and is between her and her Creator. All I know is He was, and is, faithful to those that believe in Him, and ALL He requires of us is to pray and BELIEVE.

Knowing God's grace, I am also absolutely convinced, as soon as my mother-in-law arrived in heaven; Jesus gave to her very thing that she thought she lost...

her baby girl Penny Denise!

“Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless, such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;”

1 Corinthians 7:27-29 KJV

A Christian and Separated?

Are you believing for restoration in your marriage relationship?

Do you have a friend, family member or fellow believer in your fellowship that is struggling with a separation and want to give them true, loving, biblically based support?

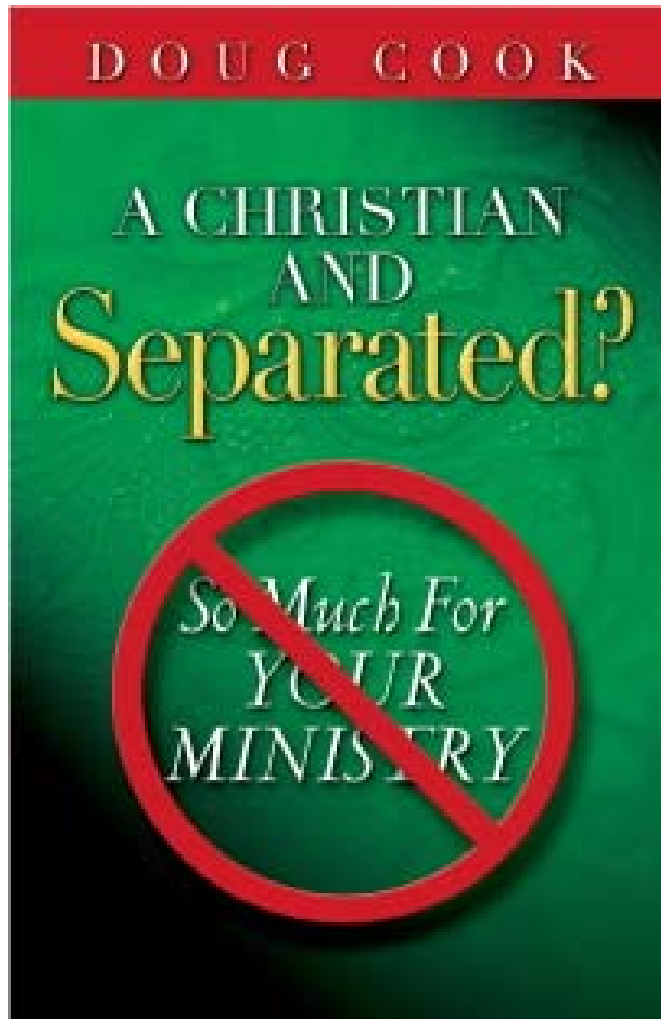
Are you wanting to believe for your relationship, but the counsel coming from other “Christians” is telling you, “Go on with your life, God will bring someone better along?”

Have you told someone at church your separated and now they want you to step down from your ministry “Until you get your ‘First Ministry’ right?”

Faint Not!

If your answer to any of the questions above is a disillusioned YES, we strongly recommend this newly released book by Doug Cook:

A Christian and Separated? So Much for Your Ministry



Experiencing a separation himself, Doug had “first-hand” encounters with attitudes and misconceived philosophies in the church that bordered on condemnation rather than support in restoration. *A Christian and Separated* uncovers these ingrained attitudes and beliefs in an effort to bring guidance, hope, encouragement

and most importantly restoration to suffering marriages.

Because he endured the pain of a previous divorce and seven years of separation in his second marriage, God has given him immeasurable knowledge about these traumatic life experiences.

Although there are a lot of great books on Christian marriage, few come from the author’s personal experience and fewer address the disparaging reaction from Christians towards fellow believers that are struggling with this issue.

This book can be ordered through one of the following avenues:

Visit **Amazon.com** or

Dial **1-866-909-2665** and providing the Title, Author, and ISBN #

978-1-60266-433-3 or

Go to your local bookstore and ask them to order by the ISBN # 978-1-60266-433-3 or

You may also **download it** in PDF format for free at the website address:

www.achristianseparated.com

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What 54 Hours Can Do For You!

By Stephen Edelstein

“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto my Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” Matt 6:16-18 KJV.

The first time I read this I was struck with the thought that fasting was a requirement. It doesn't say if you fast but *when* you fast. Just the thought of not eating was enough to wonder if I was capable of going through a fast. I made up every excuse as to why I could not fast. I loved food so much that I could never go on a fast. After all I have spent the last thirty five years in the Hospitality Industry surrounded by food every day. I have been working at a restaurant in Houston, Texas owned and run by Christians, one that is truly blessed, and I oversee the kitchen operations. I had more excuses than hours in the day.

Last year I fasted a few times. On those occasions I found it to be quite a difficult task after about the twelfth hour. I would start to have headaches and my body was wondering where the sugar was. I thought the best way to fast was to just expend as little energy as possible and just relax. That meant for a long, boring day. Fasting did allow me to get closer to God, through His word and prayer. Those moments where I felt closer to God Please remember I am making these comments a year later.

I recently fasted for the first time this year, for a

period of 54 hours, for the last two weeks. These fasting periods were totally different than the ones I did last year. My plan is to fast weekly for a period of 54 hours when possible, or at least one day a week.

I had been asking God for direction prior to these fasts. I had been seeking God's will. I truly believe that when one fasts, how you spend that time is totally up to you and God. Prior to the fast I had started a "house cleaning" at home, at work and most importantly with my spiritual state and my relationship with family members. In other words "I NEEDED TO KILL THE FLESH!"

I remember when I passed the first twelve hours that my hunger pains and headache were not present. This time I was very active physically, cleaning out various parts of my house from top to bottom. I didn't have to wonder where my strength would come from, I knew that Jesus would provide, and did He ever. I did more "house cleaning" in two days without solid food with energy leftover to spare than I would have done under circumstances when I ate. I realized that all things are possible with Jesus if you believe!

Throughout the fast my mind was constantly filled with the Word of God, worship music, and just thanking Jesus for all he does in my life. Food is a gift of God's. He made such a variety of food types that have great taste that results in giving us pleasure.

I pray that you will accept God's Word to fast. Remember fasting is a requirement. Fasting is a form of worship. *“And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.”* Luke 2:37 KJV