

SEPT 2019

GLEN & SHAWN SOLBERG

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Losing Hope for Your Marriage? Help from 1 Peter

My heart was breaking as I sat with this young couple. When we met a few months before, they were both full of hope for their future. But now, they are having increasing conflict and hurtful exchanges. The husband is isolated and angry. The wife is lonely and withdrawing from the marriage. How could this couple move so quickly from a place of great hope to this place of conflict and despair?

Maybe you can relate to this couple. The hope and optimism you once had for your marriage has faded into “reality”. And whether you are just getting started in marriage or been together for decades, we all face seasons where things are hard. How can you and I truly persevere through those stormy seasons in our marriage? And is there something better than just “enduring them” or “gritting our teeth” through them?



The book of 1 Peter has real, practical encouragement for us in these seasons. This book was written to those who were in a time of suffering as Christians. Here are the verses:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:3-9

God, through Peter, wants to infuse us with His hope. And he does that by calling us to focus in three directions....

Keep reading by going to: bit.ly/losing-hope (link is case sensitive)

Ministry Number: 501-570-6125 • Email: GlenS@MarriageRevolution.com • Website: theSolbergFamily.org
Donate Securely at: bit.ly/helptheSolbergs (case sensitive) -- Be sure to select the Little Rock Office. Thank you so much!

Seeking Him: Intimacy with Christ by Bill Elliff

When you said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." Do not hide your face from me ..." (Psalm 27:8-9). If we are to know God deeply, we must humbly realize that He is the initiator of intimacy. It is not man that first pursues, but God. Scan your Bible. You will notice the relentless pursuit of man by none other than God Himself. He is calling, inviting, speaking to man. Even the heavens are daily declaring invitations to us, beckoning us to enjoy His glory.

The greatest proof of this, of course, is that He intentionally sent His Son. In Him, God's Word became flesh and "dwelt among us that we could behold His glory" (John 1:24). He was sent for one reason: that we might be rejoined to God in personal relationship and be eternally satisfied and useful to Him.

In David, we find a man who is willing to cooperate with God in His pursuit. When he hears God's call to seek Him, he says, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." This immediate cooperation happened because David understood the value of intimacy with God. He had experienced it and the taste was underneath his tongue ... a taste that compared to nothing else. Earlier in this Psalm he shares the one thing that he now desires supremely: One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. (Psalm 27:4).

The greatest tragedy, of course, is when God is pursuing, but we are not cooperating. Preoccupied with the small, unsatisfying, passing morsels of the world around us, we miss the feast because of our shortsightedness and misplaced values. Pause and realize that God is inviting you to seek His face! What a miracle! What a privilege! What a gateway to all that matters and lasts.

And then, do whatever is necessary to take the time to pursue Him. Adamantly and continually resist all that dulls your spiritual sensitivity. Resists the devil's deceptions to substitute gods. Increase your time in this pursuit. Read His Word; fast and pray and spend time with His people. Wait on the Lord until your spiritual eyes clear and you see Him before you, reaching His arms to embrace you.

The reward will be a connection with the Divine that will satisfy your heart's longing as no other. In fact, you will discover that this is what your soul has always longed for. This is why you were made. And as you seek Him, you will discover an inexhaustible treasure. He will become—as He should—your greatest delight.

LINK: <https://billeliff.org/blogs/news/seeking-him>

Sept. Verses:

You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to You, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Hide not Your face from me. Turn not Your servant away in anger, O You who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.

Psalm 27:8-10

Prayer Requests for September: Thank you for your prayers!

MARRIAGE REVOLUTION: Please pray with us as we know one of our important next steps in our Little Rock office is bringing on another counselor or couple to help with the growing number of couples that He is bringing. Pray the Lord alone will lead this.

MENTOR TEAM: We had a great fellowship time with our Mentor Team here in Little Rock! Pray the Lord would grow that Team so that we could come alongside more young married couples to help them build a strong foundation for marriage.

TIME AWAY: Shawn and I and Sarah and Caleb will be traveling in September to see Josh and Audrey in North Carolina and to spend some time relaxing on the beach as well. Pray for this time away to be refreshing and for our time as a family (the 6 of us) to bring us all closer together.

OUR FAMILY IN 2019: Our focus is Colossians 3:1-3 – that all 6 of us would truly seek the things that are above – the things of His Kingdom. And not get distracted by the things on Earth, as we surrender and allow the Lord to live through us day-by-day.

FIRST LOVE: That all 6 of us would never lose our "first love" for Jesus Christ and the pursuit of an active and growing relationship with Him. And that after Him, our priorities would be: Marriage second, Family third, and Ministry activities and everything else after that.