

Married To An Addict

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I think it's fair to say if you are reading this, trials and suffering have come your way. Trials have a way of sifting the believer. The word *sift* in the Greek means "to sift, shake in a sieve; by inward agitation to try one's faith to the verge of overthrow." (from *Strong's Concordance*) John Bevere, in his book *The Bait of Satan*, talks about how Satan asked God to sift Peter so severely that he would lose his faith.

...**But God** had a different purpose in the time of sifting.

"Any thought process or heart attitude that is rooted in selfishness or pride will be purged. As a result of this tremendous shaking, all of Simon Peter's self-confidence would be gone... He would no longer function independently but would be interdependent on the Lord." (p. 94 *The Bait of Satan*)

Interdependency is learning how to be one with Him in your suffering. James 1 promises that God is equipping you in your trial and completely developing your faith so you will lack nothing. I don't know about you, but I was not equipped to handle my marriage, and honestly, for most of it I was white-knuckling it, just trying to survive.

Just one of my siftings from a few years ago: About a year into a new job the Lord blessed us with, my husband gambled away over \$20,000. Night after night, the anger and fear rose up in me as I tried my best to control the situation. After exhausting my own means of "managing" our lives, the Lord met me with a sharp rebuke. He basically said that the way I was responding to this trial was cutting me off from my only source of help. I needed to unclench my fists and learn how to **receive from Him** all that He had for me to learn and receive in my suffering. I needed to learn how to be one with Him and let the Holy Spirit do, through me, what I was not able to do on my own. In Titus 3 we read that—

We too were once enslaved to various sinful desires...

But God... poured out richly upon us His Holy Spirit

There are two roles of the Holy Spirit in your life:

Sanctification: We become one with the God's Holiness. *God is light and in Him there is no darkness*, but I am full of darkness (fear, anger, anxiety, depression, resentment). So, as you ask and give Him permission to be one with you—trust me when I tell you—there will be a purging of the darkness in your life! 1 Corinthians 6: 19 says that *you are not your own*; meaning, if you are His, you do not have the freedom to make decisions on your behalf. You also do not have the freedom to treat your spouse poorly because you are hurt. You belong to God and He will bring light and life into your spirit.

Power: Acts 1: 8 *But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you*; This power enables you to do and say things that you wouldn't be able to do or say otherwise. It is a power that will help you to endure the hardship of your life because the love of God has been poured upon you even in this trial (Romans 5: 3-5).

I would not have chosen this life; however, I would not trade it for another—because of **who** the Lord has become to me. *In His presence there truly is fullness of joy* (Psalm 16:11).

RESOURCES *Hope Ahead* by Barb Mulvey and Cris Paulson— a great starting point
The Gospel by JD Greear- takes a look at the idolatry that causes fear and anger
The Bait of Satan by John Bevere- talks about the sin of offense and forgiveness

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