



The Silent Battle to Confidently Trust and Obey God

by Holly Gilbert

*“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view
of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,
and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”
Philippians 3:8*

Loneliness defined

Loneliness in Scripture

Cain - his life was changed forever by his choice to murder his brother

Moses - cried to God because he could not bear the leadership of His people alone

Abraham - was asked to kill his favored son

Samson - became bereft of God's power

Nebuchadnezzar - ate grass like an animal because of his pride

Mary - had her purity questioned while being used to fulfill God's purposes

Judas - betrayed his most faithful friend and despaired to the point of suicide

Job - had his integrity questioned in the face of his greatest loss

Noah - was scorned because he obeyed God

Prodigal son - found himself wishing he could eat what he was feeding the pigs

Leah - was rejected because she wasn't beautiful or preferred

Rich young ruler - was caught between desire for God and money

Joshua - was reassured by God Himself that He would be with him and not leave him while he bore the responsibility of leadership to His people

Naomi - lost her husband and both sons in a foreign country and determined to return home alone

Hosea - was called by God to be the husband of an unfaithful wife

Jeremiah - was a prophet with a difficult, unaccepted message

Esther - left her home to marry a Gentile king and then risked her life to go alone before him to protect God's people

Joseph - was rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers

Daniel - faced danger alone because of his devotion to God

Jonah - tried to flee responsibility and spent 3 days alone inside a great fish

The lame man - had no one to help him into the moving waters of the pool

Nicodemus - was a ruler who came to Jesus by night

The woman at the well - drew water when no one else was there

Hagar - was driven out of her home and into the wilderness with her child

David - cried bitterly over the loss of a rebel son

Paul - was deserted by everyone when he first stood trial for the sake of the gospel

Christ - Jn. 7:5; Mk. 3:21; Jn. 6:66-67; Jn 16:32-33; Isa. 53:3; Mt. 26:36-40; Mt. 27:46; Heb. 4:15-16

The Experience of Loneliness

Isa. 59:2; Mt. 27:3-5; Ps. 142:4; Ps. 27:10; Ps. 68:5-6;
Jas. 1:27; Ps. 88:18; II Sam. 18:33; Ruth 1:3-5;
Lk. 8:27; Eccl. 2:20; Heb. 13:5-6; Lk. 17:12;
Ps. 102:7; I Ki. 19:4; Prov. 19:4; Josh. 1:5;
Prov. 17:22; Prov. 15:13; Prov. 18:14

*“Our hearts are restless, O God,
until they find their rest in Thee.”*

Augustine

Responding to Loneliness

What I Think

II Cor. 12:9, 10; Phil. 4:7;
Ps. 25:16-21; Ps. 46; II Cor. 4:7-18;
Rom. 8:35-39; Phil 1:6; Eph. 5:19-21; Col. 2:6

*“If you will give God your heart, He will comb all of the kinks
out of your head.”* Dr. Bob Jones Sr.

*“Right thinking about the gospel produces right living in the
gospel.”* M. Barrett

*“If I make much of anything appointed, magnify it secretly to
myself or insidiously to others, then I know nothing of
Calvary love.”* Amy Carmichael

What I Battle

“You are in despondency about temporal affairs: what is the reason why you are in trouble? ...Now, what is all this but simply looking at second causes? You are looking at your trouble, not at the God who sent your trouble; you are looking at yourselves, not at the God who dwells within you, and who has promised to sustain you. O soul! it were enough to make the mightiest heart doubt, if it should look only at things that are seen. He that is nearest to the kingdom of heaven would have cause to droop and die if he had nothing to look at but that which eye can see and ear can hear. What wonder then if thou art disconsolate, when thou hast begun to look at the things which always must be enemies to faith?”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Living as a Christian who is Single

Relationship with God

“So to possess the Lord Jesus Christ is to have every spiritual resource. All strength, wisdom, comfort, joy, peace, meaning, value, purpose, hope, and fulfillment in life now and forever is bound up in Him. Christianity is an all-sufficient relationship with an all-sufficient Christ.”

John MacArthur

“It is here, where we happen to be at this moment and not in another place or another time, that we may learn to love Him – here where it seems He is not at work, where His will seems obscure or frightening, where He is not doing what we expected Him to do, where He is most absent. Here and nowhere else is the appointed place.”

Elisabeth Elliot

“Leave futurity in God’s hands. We may as well, for God will certainly retain whether we leave it to Him or not...Happy work is best done by the man who takes his long-term plans somewhat lightly and works from moment to moment ‘as unto the LORD.’” C. S. Lewis

Relationships with Others

Submitted service

*“Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’
And your gloom will become like midday
And the Lord will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.”*
from Isaiah 58

Accountability

Dating

Eph. 5:15-17; Ps. 25:12; I Cor. 6:12-20;
I Pet. 5:7-8; Jer. 17:9; I Cor. 10:12; Mk. 8:36;
Phil. 1:9-10; II Pet. 1:3; Prov. 4:23-27;
Prov. 28:26; Deut. 4:9; Ps. 139:23-24

*“Lord, I give up all my own desires and hopes, and
accept Your will for my life. I give myself, my life, my
all utterly to You to be Yours forever. Fill me and seal
me with Your Holy Spirit. Use me as You will, send
me where You will, work out Your whole will in my
life at any cost, now and forever.”*

Betty Scott Stam

“The Enemy loves platitudes. Of a proposed course of action He wants men, so far as I can see, to ask very simple questions; is it righteous? is it prudent? is it possible? Now if we can keep men asking “Is it in accordance with the general movement of our time? Is it progressive or reactionary? Is this the way that History is going?” they will neglect the relevant questions. And the questions they do ask are, of course, unanswerable; for they do not know the future, and what the future will be depends very largely on just those choices which they now invoke the future to help them to make. As a result, while their minds are buzzing in this vacuum, we have the better chance to slip in and bend them to the action we have decided on. And great work has already been done. Once they knew that some changes were for the better, and others for the worse, and others again indifferent. We have largely removed this knowledge. For the descriptive adjective “unchanged” we have substituted the emotional adjective “stagnant.” We have trained them to think of the Future as a promised land which favoured heroes attain--not as something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.” Uncle Screwtape to Wormwood in the *Screwtape Letters* (C. S. Lewis)

Conclusions

*Grace for each day and
bright hope for tomorrow!*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Crowded to Christ* - L.E. Maxwell
- *Our Sufficiency in Christ* - John F. MacArthur
- *The Wilderness Within: Exploring Women’s Spiritual Struggles* - Beneth Peters Jones
- *My Heart in His Hands* - Ann Judson of Burma: A Life, with Selections From Her Memoir and Letters - Sharon James
- *Changed into His Image: God’s Plan for Transforming Your Life* - Jim Berg
- *Experiencing God’s Presence* - Matthew Henry
- *Loving God with All Your Mind* - Elizabeth George

- ***Damsels in Distress: Biblical Solutions for Problems Women Face*** - Martha Peace
- ***Disciplines of a Godly Woman*** - Barbara Hughes
- ***Becoming a Vessel God Can Use*** - Donna Partow
- ***Fine China is for Single Women Too*** - Lydia Brownback
- ***The Path of Loneliness*** - Elisabeth Elliott
- ***Now and Not Yet: Making Sense of Single Life in the Twenty-First Century*** - Jennifer A. Marshall
- ***Mount Up on Wounded Wings: For Women from Hurtful Home Backgrounds*** - Beneth Peters Jones
- ***Boundaries*** - Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend
- ***Filling the Empty Places*** - Beneth Peters Jones
- ***When People are Big and God is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man*** - Edward T. Welch
- ***Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure*** - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- ***Why Church Matters: Discovering Your Place in the Family of God*** - Joshua Harris
- ***Battling Unbelief*** - John Piper
- ***The All-Sufficient God: Sermons on Isaiah 40*** - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- ***Nurturing a Heart of Humility*** - Elizabeth George
- ***Knowing God*** - J. I. Packer
- ***Keep a Quiet Heart*** - Elisabeth Elliot
- ***Tyranny of the Urgent*** - Charles E. Hummel
- ***Crazy Busy - A Mercifully Short Book About a (Really) Big Problem*** - Kevin DeYoung
- ***A Thirst for Wholeness: How to Gain Wisdom from the Book of James*** - Jay E. Adams
- ***Women Helping Women*** - Elyse Fitzpatrick & Carol Cornish
- ***Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Women*** - Patricia A. Miller
- ***Beyond Suffering: Discovering the Message of Job*** - Layton Talbert
- ***Think Biblically! Recovering a Christian Worldview*** - John MacArthur, general editor
- ***Not By Chance: Learning to Trust a Sovereign God*** - Layton Talbert
- ***Complete in Him: A guide to understanding and enjoying the Gospel*** - Michael P. V. Barrett
- ***Quest for Love: True Stories of Passion and Purity*** - Elisabeth Elliot

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