

How to PRAY Effectively for a Marriage in Crisis



Miracles will occur in a troubled marriage as a result of prayer. These suggestions are not listed in any particular order, however, we *firmly* believe each individual spouse's intimate relationship with God (or lack thereof) is where crisis ends and reconciliation begins. If only one spouse wants to work on the marriage, let God work with the one heart He has. Many marriages have turned around because one spouse focused on God. Remember, NOTHING is impossible for Him! [Romans 12:12](#), [Luke 18:27](#)

Conviction - Often times, there is an unwillingness, on the part of one or both spouses, to own up to their part of the breakdown. Regardless of what has transpired, pray for both spouses to stop pointing fingers at each other and, instead, to bring their own individual hearts before God in daily examination. May each spouse humble him/herself, confess their sins, repent, and ask God for forgiveness. If there is a "prodigal spouse" fleeing the marriage, pray that he/she would quickly get to the "bottom of the bottom," come to Christ in repentance, and seek His forgiveness. Then, do the same thing with his/her spouse and family with a sincere heart and desire to change sinful patterns and divisive behaviors. [Psalm 51](#), [John 8:1-11](#), [Romans 3:21-26](#)

Resources - It is vital to equip willing spouses with biblically-based reconciliation resources. Many times, only one spouse is interested in working on the marriage (suggestions that address this situation and other specific needs are listed on the back of this handout.) Pray not only for the reconciliation resources needed, but that hearts would be open to using these materials, seeking God's wisdom, and following a path toward reconciliation. [2 Corinthians 5:11-21](#), [Proverbs 2:1-11](#)

Intimacy - There is always an intimacy issue involved when a marriage is in crisis. Pray for both spouses to strengthen their individual intimate relationships with God. Pray that whatever forms of "counterfeit" intimacy have come into play in the marriage (such as addictions, affairs, idolatry, career pursuits, strongholds, etc.) will be acknowledged, and that a pursuit to discovering individual wholeness and healing in Christ be the highest priority. [2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#), [John 4:1-28](#)

Stability - Due to the emotional upheaval of a marriage in crisis, most routines, procedures, and schedules are completely disrupted. Pray for normal routines and procedures to take root, especially for the sake of the children involved. Pray for adequate rest, a balanced diet, exercise, regular school/work and church attendance to be established and consistent. If there are children involved, pray for their emotional stability and safety by "clothing" them in God's spiritual armor through prayer. [Romans 8:15-17](#), [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

Intervention - When a marriage is in crisis, it is necessary to pray for intervention on several fronts. First, pray for the Divine intervention of Almighty God to come against all forms of retaliation, harm, and/or plans for harm, division, divorce, etc. Ask God to restrain all the evil that Satan has launched to damage the marriage so that the truth and love of God can miraculously intervene and pierce the darkness. Pray against a spouse making desperate attempts to pursue his/her prodigal spouse, and instead, to redirect that energy toward pursuing God. Finally, pray for both spouses to restrain from making emotionally-based decisions, listening to opinions of those who want to divide the marriage, and/or pursuing legal action. Pray that they would forgive one another. [Colossians 3:12-14](#), [Matthew 19:5-6](#), [Malachi 2:15-17](#)

Support - Pray for at least one godly accountability/prayer partner to come alongside each spouse to support the reconciliation process and provide wise counsel. Pray for a person who will meet with and mentor each spouse on a weekly basis to keep him/her focused on God. If one spouse has been abandoned, pray for the anchoring hope of Christ to support him/her as the battle wages long. In addition, pray for the establishment of a well-rounded support system to help shoulder the crisis, especially where emotional needs of spouses and children are involved. [Proverbs 4:1-9](#), [Hebrews 6:17-20](#), [Romans 15:13](#)

Reconciliation Resources



Help

If **both** spouses want to work on the marriage, the first two resources we recommend are listed below:

Critical Care for Your Marriage

A First Response for a Marriage in Crisis
Booklet/DVD
Clint and Penny Bragg
www.inverseministries.org

Marriage on the Mend

Tangible Tools to Restore Your Relationship
Book (workbook also available)
Clint and Penny Bragg
www.inverseministries.org

If only **one** spouse wants to work on the marriage, the first three resources we recommend are listed below:

Yes, Your Marriage Can Be Saved!

12 Truths for Rescuing Your Relationship
Joe and Michelle Williams
www.Marriage911Online.com

Marriage 911

Workbook and Support Partner Handbook
Joe and Michelle Williams
www.Marriage911Online.com

Critical Care for Your Marriage

A First Response for a Marriage in Crisis
Booklet/DVD
Clint and Penny Bragg
www.inverseministries.org

BOOKS AND WEBSITES

Broken Heart on Hold

Surviving Separation
Linda Rooks
<http://www.brokenheartonhold.com>

Unfaithful

Hope and Healing after Infidelity
Hope and Healing Ministries
Gary and Mona Shriver
www.hopeandhealing.us

Faithful and True Ministries

Sexual Addiction Recovery
Jerry and Susan Sinclair
www.southpointbaptist.org/psalm51.htm

Illusions of Intimacy

Unmasking Patterns of Sexual Addiction
Signa Bodishbaugh
www.christanglican.com

I Do Again

Hope Matters Marriage Ministries
Jeff and Cheryl Scruggs
www.hopeformarriages.com

Journey to Wholeness

Healing Conferences
Conlee and Signa Bodishbaugh
www.christanglican.com

Bridge to Life

Classes and Resources
Don and Becky Smith
www.bridgetolife.org

National Institute of Marriage

Marriage Intensives for Couples in Crisis
www.nationalmarriage.com

Stubborn Pursuit Ministries

Communication Coaching for Couples
Richard and Sharon Wildman
<http://www.stubbornpursuits.wordpress.com>

Can My Marriage Be Saved?

True Stories of Saved Marriages
Mae and Erika Chambers
www.savedmarriagenetwork.com

In-Step Ministries

Blended Family and Single Parent Support
Dr. Jeff and Judi Parziale
www.instepministries.com

DOWNLOAD FREE MARRIAGE VIDEO PODCASTS AT
www.InverseMinistriesPodcast.org

