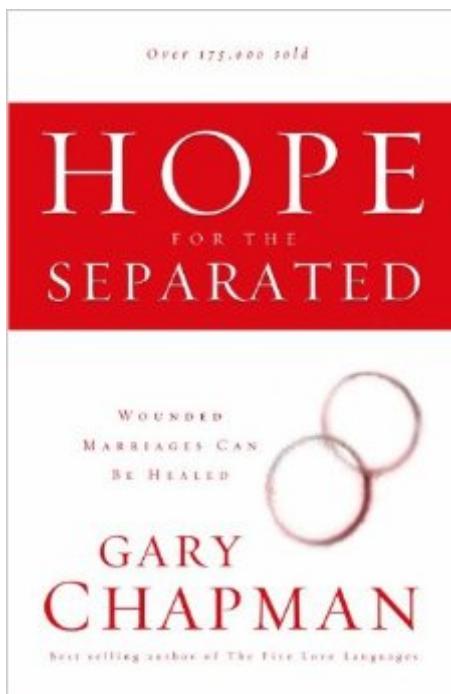


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# Hope For The Separated: Wounded Marriages Can Be Healed (Chapman, Gary)



## **Synopsis**

The unfortunate reality is that Christians are separating and divorcing at the same rate as the unbelieving world. But does separation have to mean the end? You may not feel like reconciling. You may not see hope for a reunion. But the biblical ideal for a separated couple is reconciliation. So how do you do it? When doors slam and angry words fly, when things just aren't working out, and even when your spouse has abandoned your trust, there is hope. *Hope for the Separated* will show you through God's Word that your marriage can be restored. Recognizing that restoration will not happen for everyone, Dr. Chapman also gives insightful advice for those who experience the pain of divorce.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I read this book thinking that it would have all of the answers for getting him back. In reading it, I realized that getting him back would be pointless. He has to want to work things out. - It reminded me of Exodus with Moses and Pharaoh. Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the people of Israel go. Chapman states that just because something is God's will, He did give human beings free will, so they may decide to go against God's will. I like how Chapman backs up his books with Scripture. Using the book as a guide, I was able to note some of the faults I'd made in the relationship, and some that I've made since. I would like to seek reconciliation, but he as to want it to. In the end, he may decide that he would much rather part, and that is something that I'm going to have to accept.

Chapter 6 - Long Distance Love

This chapter takes 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and breaks

it down. Each section of this chapter is one of the characteristics of LOVE from Paul's letter to the people of Corinth. Seeing it broken down makes it much easier to digest.

Chapter 8 - How Do I Handle The Loneliness

Fellowship with others!

Chapter 10 - If Your Spouse Returns

I thought that this sounded a little idealist. Chapman said to call, but I tried email. Either way, he can choose to listen to the voicemail or deleted. With email, he can choose to read it or delete it.

Using the other information that Chapman gives in steps toward reconciliation, I strongly recommend seeing a pastor at your church or a Christian counselor. A non-Christian counselor will be of little benefit if you are working toward a Christ-centered relationship.

The main problem of my marriage was that I did not know what marriage really meant and what my role was supposed to be in the eyes of God. I never hit my wife, cursed at her, said anything mean to her at all, I don't smoke, drink or do drugs. I am an Active Duty Military member and everyone who knows me says that I am a great father and was a "good-enough" husband. Once I had been woken up, I realized that it is not about being good enough. My wife deserves me to be not only the best husband I could be, but the best father and the best man I could be. Unfortunately, it took a separation for me to realize this. My wife decided to leave me after 6 1/2 years of marriage and two kids. She has lost her trust in me. Yes, it was my fault but I didn't see it coming. We have been separated for over 5 months now and all I can think about since the separation is getting her back. Although, since our separation, I have been saved, read Love Dare, The Resolution for Men, How to Forgive Ourselves Totally, The 5 Love Languages, and this book; sought out professional counseling to help me change my ways for the better and for someone to talk to; talk to my pastor on a consistent basis; started going to church twice a week, bible study twice a week, and am constantly reading my bible and listening to K-love, I still have doubt that she will take me back. I have done a complete 180 but I realized that I could do everything right and she still may not come back due to her lack of trust in me and the gravity of what I have done. Never the less, I made a choice on the day she told me that she wanted a separation and that was to do whatever I can to change and to get her back.

Dr. Gary Chapman has extensive training in counseling and it shows throughout this book. Unlike many other Christian marriage books written by people with minimal training or experience, in this book Dr. Chapman draws upon his years of counseling experience to guide people experiencing the deep pain of marital separation. He makes many great points such as (page 63) "we must acknowledge our feelings but we do not serve them." He makes another really good point on

pages 36-41: "After separation, an inferior feeling person will typically blame himself for the failure of the marriage, then he or she pleads with the spouse for a chance to start over. When that is spurned, he or she sinks into deep depression and entertains thoughts of suicide." One of the steps in turning your thinking around is to realize that God has not given up on you. In spite of all that has happened God still intends to bring you to wholeness. Accept God's forgiveness, forgive yourself and concentrate on the future. The best chapter in this book is Chapter 4---Developing Your Relationship with God. Here Dr. Chapman teaches on deepening our walk with God. We appreciated how he emphasized the importance of strengthening our faith during the darkest times of life. This chapter was a pleasant surprise which you don't often see in marriage books. The rest of this book emphasizes seeking ways to restore broken marriages. Over and over, Dr. Chapman emphasizes that the purpose of separation is reconciliation. (Page 93) "Your goal is reconciliation with your spouse. You want to keep all roads open in that direction." But sometimes his advice sounds very cold. He writes on page 95, "You are separated but not divorced. Lonely and alone.

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