# A-Z Guide MARRIAGE RECOVERY



DR. BILLY WILSON

# A-Z Guide MARRIAGE RECOVERY

GUIDE TO RECONCILIATION

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#### NTRODUCTION

y mother and father were apart for fifteen years through separation and divorce. The emotional and spiritual walls between them seemed impenetrable. However, God miraculously broke down the dividing walls and they were reunited for thirty-two years of marriage the second time!

This book will take you through steps to help you recover your marriage. Perhaps you are separated from your spouse at this time or maybe you are living in the same house but emotionally and spiritually estranged. Maybe the walls seem impossible to penetrate. Take courage. God is able to do the impossible.

As you take these simple A to Z steps, I believe you will witness God's grace at work in your primary relationships in a new way. By Christ's authority you can recover all.

I would like to give special thanks to Nathan Ashton our World Impact television producer for assisting me by compiling and writing this material. Thanks Nathan. Good job.

We pray you will enjoy your recovery journey all the way from A to Z.

Dr. Billy Wilson

# DEFINITION OF RECONCILIATION

#### RECONCILIATION - NOUN

1. The act of reconciling

#### RECONCILE - VERB

[L. reconcilio; re and concilio; con and calo, to call, Gr. The literal sense is to call back into union.]

1. To conciliate anew; to call back into union and friendship the affections which have been alienated; to restore to friendship or favor after estrangement; as, to reconcile men or parties that have been at variance. (Webster's Dictionary, 1st ed, 1828)

Go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother
—Matt. 5.

We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. —2Cor. 5. Eph. 2. Col. 1.



### ACCEPT

irst, love compels us to accept people for who they are (1Peter 4:8) instead of focusing on who they are not. Most popular definitions of the perfect relationship are flawed. Jesus was often found in the company of imperfect people – publicans, drunkards (Matthew 9:10-13), and common laborers (Mark 1:16-20).

Second, you must accept your own mistakes. Getting your own attitude right must come before you can see clearly to help someone else (Matthew 7:3-5). When relationships don't work anymore, it is because of both parties' actions. Be willing to accept your mistakes and work to correct them.

Third, you must accept that Jesus is the perfect instrument of reconciliation (Ephesians 2:13-18). Trust Him above all else. Place your future in his hands.

God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
(Reinhold Niebuhr: 1892-1971)

#### 

he Bible does not just contain the words of God; it is the Word of God. It is the ultimate story of love, sacrifice, and reconciliation between a perfect God and flawed humanity.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16,17 NIV)

The Bible will be your guide. It will judge the thoughts and attitudes of your heart (Hebrews 4:12-13). It will bring wisdom and life (Proverbs 4:20-22), healing and rescue (Psalm 107:19,20). The Bible will teach you to love selflessly (1Corinthians 13). It will be the rock you need during the darkest hours (Matthew 7:24-25). It will show you how to fight for your marriage.

The Bible will make you a better person; the kind of person you need to be.

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education. (Theodore Roosevelt: 1858-1919)

#### COMMUNICATE

hile your pain is very real, you are not the only one hurting. Strife and separation hurts everyone. You need compassion to really see other people's pain. Jesus let compassion move him to bring healing (Matthew 9:36, 14:14; Mark 1:41, 6:34). Pray this prayer and let God increase His compassion at work in your heart.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred. let me sow love: where there is injury, pardon: where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope where there is darkness, light where there is sadness, joy O divine Master. grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console: to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

(Saint Francis of Assisi: 1182-1226)

#### DEGISION

ove is not something that appears out of the air. Love is a decision. Consider the example of our Lord Jesus; In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-45), He placed his feelings under dominion to his will and decided to go to the cross. His decision to love us, irrespective of the cost, brought reconciliation between God and man (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). Then, on the cross He made another decision and said, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34).

Today you can decide what kind of a person you will be. You must decide to extend love and forgiveness toward those who have hurt you. Deciding to follow the example of Jesus is the best decision you will ever make.

And if the feelings of hurt, hate, bitterness, or sorrow return tomorrow then you must decide again to love and forgive (Matthew 18:21-22).

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. Fears are paper tigers.

You can do anything you decide to do.

(Amelia Earhart: 1898-1937)



#### ENCOURAGEMENT

here was a time in the life of King David when things were so bad that his own people spoke of stoning him. But in the face of this tempest David, "found strength in the LORD his God" (NIV). The King James Bible says it this way:

"David encouraged himself in the LORD his God."
(1 Samuel 30:6)

WHO encouraged David? David encouraged David! It's great to be encouraged by others when we face adversity, but at times there is no one else. Notice that David didn't just "encourage himself," he "encouraged himself in the LORD his God."

Here are four ways to encourage yourself, and find strength, in the LORD: Pray (Philippians 4:6-8), read the Bible (Proverbs 4:22, Isaiah 26:3), find Christian fellowship (Acts 2:42), and sing praise to God (Psalm 8:2).

Oh, be still, my soul, and rest, / When the tempest's raging. /
He who doth our sorrows share, / In His love and tender care /
Trials more than thou can bear / Will not let thee suffer.

("Be Still" by William Ebel: pub 1911)

#### FORGIVENESS

orgiveness is a command from God. It is a choice and decision. It is about letting go of wrongs, both real and imagined. It is about getting yourself right with God and releasing justice into His hands. It is about opening a door in the wall between you and the other person.

Forgiveness is not forgetting or saying that something wrong is really OK. It is not about control. It is not dependant on the other person's response. In the end, forgiving is necessary for reconciliation (Mark 11:25-26). The alternative, unforgiveness, is a cancer that will destroy you first and those you care about next. True forgiveness is without limits but is a process that often needs to be repeated (Matthew 18:21-22).

Forgiveness is the giving, and so the receiving, of life.
(George MacDonald: 1824-1905)



#### GRACE

ne definition of grace is "the unmerited favor of God". Each and every one of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Nothing good can come out of our fallen nature (Romans 7:18). Without the help of God we will continue to fail and cause hurt.

But God has commanded grace toward us. It is by grace we are saved (Ephesians 2:8). He encourages us to approach his throne of grace to obtain help in our time of trial and distress (Hebrews 4:16). No matter what hits you, God is still in charge. Things may be out of your control, but they're never out of His control. Trust Him. He will give you the grace you need for the situation you are facing. God's grace is the bulldozer that fills in the gaps caused by our own failings and makes reconciliation possible.

I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.

(John Newton: 1725-1807)

#### HUMLTY

od resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5-6). People resist the proud as well. It is important to understand that difficult places are the result of mistakes; many of which are yours.

Now is not the time for bravado, pride, or even blame. Now is the time for humility. Examine your own role in the situation. Ask God to help you see it. The Bible promises that God gives honor to the humble (Proverbs 29:23), exalts them (Matthew 23:12), and lifts them up (James 4:10).

If thou desire the love of God and man, be humble, for the proud heart, as it loves none but itself, is beloved of none but itself. Humility enforces where neither virtue, nor strength, nor reason can prevail.

(Francis Quarles: 1592-1644)



## NO INIQUITY

tatistics say that children from divorced homes are more likely to divorce and children raised in abusive homes are more likely to abuse. This is iniquity. It must be broken.

The good news is that Jesus has made a way out. If you accept Him then you can be redeemed from all iniquity (Titus 2:14). He purchased your freedom from the past and made all things new (2 Corinthians 5:17). He delivered you from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13) and spirit of disobedience. He has raised you up to do good (Ephesians 2:1-9).

It doesn't matter what the past was like or where you came from. The curse of the past ends with you by the power and blood of Jesus Christ. Every time you notice your own wrong thinking, read Isaiah chapter 53 and rejoice that Jesus paid the price to break the cycle.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb] the iniquity of us all.



#### JESUS

esus is our example when it comes to reconciliation and Ephesians tells husbands to "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (4:25).

Jesus is the one who makes reconciliation possible. He tore down the wall of partition between God and man and made peace (Ephesians 2:13-15). He is the one who washes away iniquity and makes you a child of God (John 1:12).

Before you can be reconciled to another person, you should accept Jesus as lord and be reconciled to the everlasting God (Romans 10:9). Without this, any attempts to reconcile earthly relationships are futile because they are temporal and will come to an end.

Kneel and pray right now. Ask Jesus to forgive your wrongdoing (1 John 1:9). Pledge yourself to Him. Cast the weight of your burdens on Him and accept His comfort and life (1 Peter 5:7).

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:16)





any times the greatest price for a couple's separation is paid by their children. Kids will struggle with the same fear, guilt, loneliness, shock, and anger that you do. Yet they are the most unprepared.

In the middle of the hard times, strive to remain humble and tender toward your kids. Love them unconditionally. Remind them often that this is not their fault. Allow them to ask tough questions and tell them the truth.

Don't let your frustrations spill over on them, but help them look to God along with you (Ephesians 6:4). Remind them that God is good; God works all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). God will use their hardship for His glory. In fact, the faith and simple love of little people can be part of what God uses to bring reconciliation to big people.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. (Matthew 19:14, NIV)

#### LISTENING

here are few skills more important than listening (James 1:19). Usually we hear what we want to hear, not what the other person is trying to communicate. Many conflicts can be resolved easily if we learn how to listen.

Listening tips: 1) Develop the desire to listen. 2) Let the other person do most of the talking; listen 70% and talk 30% of the time. 3) Ask open ended questions and then be quiet. 4) Don't interrupt; what you think is vitally important may not be. 5) Don't put the other person on the defensive.

Listening is more about understanding than it is about who is right or wrong. Spending time letting someone else speak their mind or heart says, "I love you," more powerfully than a hundred greeting cards.

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.
(Epictetus: 55-135)



#### WEWORES

he Bible counsels us to take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 5:10) and to focus on things that are good. There was some reason you chose to be involved with your spouse in the first place, and you created some wonderful memories. Take some time every day to remind yourself of these good times.

Moving forward, work to create good memories. Be on the lookout for those simple, beautiful moments that just happen. Remember them on purpose because you will become what you think about.

"Finally brothers,
whatsoever things are true,
whatsoever things are honest,
whatsoever things are just,
whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely,
whatsoever things are of good report;
if there be any virtue,
and if there be any praise,
think on these things."
(Philippians 4:8)

#### NEVER

here are three words you must never use. The first is Never. Comments like, "He will never change," or "She never notices," or "They never care," aren't helpful. Muttering, "This will never work," and "I will never see my children again" is also dangerous. Using the word 'never' has a way of breeding doubt and blinding you to possibility. Remember that Jesus said it only takes faith like a mustard seed to move mountains (Luke 17:6).

The second word is Divorce. Close the door in your mind and never use this destructive word. Humans tend to look for the easiest option. Don't let this word create an option in your mind.

Finally, never use the word Should. Sentences with "he should," or "she should" can be deeply hurtful. They imply that you are omniscient and know all the answers. You don't. Only God can know someone's heart (Psalm 147:4-5; Proverbs 15:11). In fact, beware of the phrase, "I should have" because it can bring either true wisdom or useless regret.

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Proverbs 18:21 NIV)

#### OATH

eep your word.

Never, ever lie – no matter what the situation, lying will always come back to haunt you. You could lose everything, but your word can never be taken from you. You can choose to give it up, but it is the one thing you can least afford to lose.

God hates a lying tongue and a false witness (Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 6:16-19). In fact, God includes liars in the same list as whoremongers and murderers destined to burn with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). This is serious business.

Speak simply and let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no (James 5:12). Make your word sacred, and others will respect you for it (Proverbs 16:12, 13). Through this they will learn to trust you.

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. (Proverbs 12:19 NIV)



#### PRAYER

he most powerful tool available to you is prayer. It is your communication link with heaven. It brings rescue (Psalm 55:16-17). Jesus, who had a habit of praying (Luke 5:16), told his disciples to pray simply, earnestly, and along these points (see Matthew 6):

Father, I give you honor.

Make things on Earth as they are in heaven.

I trust you for my needs.

Forgive me my error.

I choose to forgive others who have hurt me.

I am weak and need you to deliver me.

For this, and much more, you are worthy of all glory.

Amen.

Prayer is work and persistence is necessary (Luke 18:1-8). God will not make you pray but rather sent the Holy Spirit here to help you (Romans 8:26, 1Corinthians 14:15). You can study the Bible (John 15:7), pray in faith (Mark 11:22-26), and expect God to answer.

We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties. (Oswald Chambers: 1874-1917)

## OULT

ife can be quite a burden. People seem to demand one more thing than we have to give. The sum pressure of work (or no work), deadlines, bills, crazy kids, even crazier in-laws, health problems, insane drivers, unsympathetic judges, incompetent cashiers, and dirty diapers can be crushing. If you don't find a way to set aside these things, they will rule you.

The Bible records several moments in Jesus' ministry when he was overwhelmed. At times like these, He withdrew and prayed (Mark 6:30-32, Luke 4:42, 5:15-16). If Jesus had to get away for moments of stillness and quiet, you do too.

Quiet moments are a part of coping with the stress of life. There are many things you can't change by worrying, but God can change them if we let Him (Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 37:7, Isaiah 41:10). Practice stillness.

Quiet minds cannot be perplexed or frightened but go on in fortune or misfortune at their own private pace, like a clock during a thunderstorm. (Robert Louis Stevenson: 1850-1894)

### REPENTANCE

epentance before God is the process whereby we overcome sins by changing the attitudes and actions that are out of harmony with God's teachings and thereby conform more completely to his will. When we repent, God has promised to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9).

Since divorce is a breach against God where we destroy something God made (Matthew 19:6), repentance is needed.

King David wrote the 51st Psalm after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. In it he first admits his error (v3) and swallows his pride (v4-6). The result is that he was cleansed (v7), mended (v8) and has a renewed passion for God (v9-13)

Repentance before man proceeds along much the same path. First it requires admission and humility. Then cleansing, mending, and passion can follow.

Repentance is to do so no more. (Martin Luther: 1483-1546)



#### SELF-DENIAL

elfishly focusing on your own wants, needs, desires, pressures, or pains causes contention, argument, and strife. Even the need to win the argument is selfish.

Self-denial, on the other hand, does not consist in abandoning things that cause us pain, giving to others that for which we have no use, or providing service that costs us no inconvenience. Nor does it consist of doing these things, even unto death, if the end goal is gain. That too is selfishness.

Self-denial is a sacrifice of self-interest. Charles Finney wrote, "it is a singleness of eye, to glorify God, and do good to others... self-denial implies the death of selfishness."

Jesus said you must, "take up your cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Then he set an example of what true self-denial looks like; Jesus died, without guarantee of resurrection, because it was the will of his Father God. While we were yet sinners, He died to bring us good (Romans 5:6-8)

There never did and never will exist anything permanently noble and excellent in a character which was a stranger to the exercise of resolute self-denial.

(Sir Walter Scott: 1771 – 1832)

#### TENDERNESS

enderness is a softness of heart birthed out of love and compassion. It has nothing to do with age, gender, or occupation; A mother comforts her baby in the middle of the night. A soldier wraps a refugee in a blanket. A teacher takes an extra moment with a student. A child gives her father a hug. God lifts up fallen man. Someone notices a need and fills it.

Repeatedly the Bible speaks of God's compassion extended toward us as "tender mercies" (Psalm 25:6, 40:11, 51:11, 103:3-4, 145:8-9; Luke 1:78-79; James 5:11 KJV). Likewise we are commanded to be tender-hearted and forgive each other (Ephesians 4:32). A right heart is a gift from God (Psalm 51:10) but is something we must guard (Proverbs 4:23).

A hard heart leads to trouble (Proverbs 28:14), will not see miracles (Mark 6:52, 16:14; John 12:39-41), and will lead you away from God (Hebrews 3:7-13).

So cultivate tenderness and begin to be a blessing to everyone around you.

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you – not because they are nice, but because you are.

(Author Unknown)

#### UNDERSTANDING

hat will it take to move forward toward reconciliation? What do you need to avoid the same mistakes in the future? You need wisdom and understanding.

Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

(Proverbs 4:5-7 NIV)

Understanding has nothing to do with IQ or even information. It has to do with insight and empathy. We all know extremely smart people who cannot apply what they know. Maybe this is you.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." So seek wisdom and understanding. Those who lay hold of them lay hold of life (Proverbs 3:18).

The thinking it took to get us into this mess is not the same thinking that is going to get us out of it.

(Albert Einstein: 1879-1955)

#### VALUE

ou will take care of the things you value. You will gladly give them priority, money, and attention. Take an inventory right now of the things you value; First, write down the activities that occupy your time. Next, note what you would do if money did grow on trees. Finally, list the triggers that make you angry. These are all indicators of what you value.

Now look at the list as if it belonged to a stranger. Would you like to know that person?

Jesus said, "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20-22) Your heart and your treasure are tied together. In order to make a change in your future, you must make a change in the things you value today. Seek God today (Matthew 6:33) and put treasure into the parts of your life you want to grow.

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.





hen God made mankind, He gifted us with free will. God could have programmed us to love him. He could have even dictated every aspect of our lives – including our marriages.

But He didn't. So you have the ability to chart your own course, and carry responsibility for your choices.

Lucifer fell from heaven because he said, "I will ascend into heaven... I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13-15). On the other hand, Jesus was exalted in heaven because he chose to obey and willingly submit to God's will (Mark 14:33-42; Philippians 2:8-11).

Your will is a powerful asset or a deadly poison. Almost every other page on this book is subject to this one. No one can make up your mind but you. Choose to submit your will to Jesus!

Jesus didn't die for you because it was fun He hung there for love because it had to be done And in spite of the anguish his word was fulfilled Love is not a feeling it's an act of your will (Don Francisco: 1946-)

## EXCITEMENT

K, after so many tough words like Self-denial, Value, and Will, its time for something a little more fun.

Every relationship needs some excitement. A few pages back focused on good Memories. I'm sure you can recall some fun moments. We often get stuck in a rut and neglect the spark that a change-up in the routine can bring.

Do something out of the ordinary for your spouse today. It doesn't have to be complex or expensive. You know what they like.

Hey, you could even read the Song of Solomon to one another. This is a book filled with passion.

Keeping things eXciting is worth it!

Affection can withstand very severe storms of vigor, but not a long polar frost of indifference. (Sir Walter Scott: 1771-1832)



#### YARMULKE

rthodox Jewish men wear a skullcap, called a Yarmulke, when they pray. It symbolizes their submission to God's authority. It reminds them that God is above and man is below. It also shows their trust in God's covering and protection.

To the Christian, the image of Christ as a Good Shepherd is similarly used; the sheep obey and the shepherd protects them (John 10:1-18; Psalm 23).

Everyone must be under some kind of authority. Law abiding people have nothing to fear from the police. In fact, they will help, and even kill, to protect a good person. When they show up, it's the bad guys who run. Likewise, when God shows up, devils flee but the righteous stand firm (James 4:7; Psalm 1, 140:13) for God takes care of those who trust in Him (Psalm 91).

I am not saying you need to get a Yarmulke, but I do hope you get the concept. Choose to seek God, be aware of who He is, and learn to trust in Him on purpose.

[The yarmulke] is an indication that one recognizes that there is something above you. It says,

"Above my intellect is godliness."

(Pinchas Stolper)

#### ZKLAG

ere, at the end of the A-Z Guide, I want to share a story with you from the life of David. It is found in 1 Samuel, chapter 30.

David and his men returned from a successful war campaign to find their city of Ziklag burned to the ground and their women and children taken captive as slaves. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep (30:4). The men were so grieved they spoke of murdering David.

But David went to the priest and prayed. He asked God, "Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?" God said "Pursue: for you shall surely recover all" (30:8-9).

So David and 600 men set out to find the army that burned their homes and stole their families. Along the way 200 men, too tired to continue, were stationed at the river Besor to guard the supplies. The remaining men continued the pursuit. When they found the enemy army partying with spoils taken from Ziklag, David and his men "smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day" (30:17).

David recovered all the women, children, flocks and herds, even precious possessions. There was nothing lost "neither small nor great" (30:18-19).

When the army returned to the Besor River some fighting men didn't want to share the recovered treasure with those who stayed behind. David said, "Those who fight shall receive the same as those

who guard the stuff" establishing a principle for the army of Israel (30:21-25).

There are three points I want you to remember from this story.

FIRST: Don't leave your family unguarded. You might be off making a living or even winning wars but if you do not look after your home, you may return one day to find it burned.

**SECOND:** Your family is worth pursuing. It doesn't matter if they were swept away by outside attacks from marauding hoards or slowly eaten by termites from within. Go up and pursue them.

THEO: You can recover all. Go as far as your strength will allow and then lean on God. David left a guard behind at the river Besor but granted them the same blessing as those who went into the fight. Everyone went home to rebuild their shattered town surrounded by their reunited family.

You can recover your marriage. You can be reconciled.



# REJOIGING IN RECONCILIATION

#### IN HONOR OF MARION AIVA WILSON

SEPT 21, 1933 - NOV 5, 2010



The story of Alva and Joyce Wilson is a journey of reconciling grace. After separation and divorce the grace of God led to a miraculous reunion and years of fruitful ministry.

During a 1999 interview with his parents, Billy Wilson had the opportunity to ask his Mom and Dad, "What happened? How could two people who found themselves so far apart ever be reunited?"

This memorial episode of *World Impact* will give you hope that reconciliation is possible.



#### WORLD IMPACT WITH DR. BILLY WILSON

World Impact with Dr. Billy Wilson addresses the deeply felt needs of hurting people around the world. We believe that only Jesus can do a real and enduring good in people's lives. Our goal is to be:

**Personal and Relevant** - We help individuals renew real and lasting relationships with God through exhortation and clear scriptural presentation on issues faced by Christians everywhere.

**Available** - We use any practical delivery format available including TV, literature, and the Internet to connect with as many people in as many places as possible.

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#### **A-Z Guide Marriage Recovery**

One letter at a time, Marriage Recovery is the A to Z guide to reconciliation. For those with struggling marriages or hoping to make a fresh start, this book provides insights and answers from the word of God for the major issues that marriages deal with, from A to Z.

Whether you are physically, emotionally or spiritually separated from your spouse, reconcilliation is possible, regardless of how impossible your current situation seems. God is able to do the impossible.

Included are topics on repentance, forgiveness and grace among the twenty-six other inspiring lessons to help you and your spouse. In this book, Dr. Billy Wilson also shares his parent's personal story to inspire readers that they too can have hope for reconcilliation.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. William M. Wilson is the fourth president of Oral Roberts University. He is recognized as a global influencer with unwavering ethics and strong business acumen who has a passion for building Spirit-empowered leaders to impact the world.

Wilson has also fostered unique global partnerships through *Empowered 21*-an initiative launched at ORU that brings together ministry leaders, scholars and next genera-

tion voices from the Spirit-empowered movement. *Empowered 21* has expanded exponentially and today influences nations through 12 regional cabinets with significant ministry leaders.

Wilson is a noted Bible teacher with a weekly television program "World Impact with Dr. Billy Wilson." For more than 15 years, the program has inspired and empowered viewers from a biblical worldview in 170 nations and in five languages.

Wilson served on the ORU Board of Trustees as vice-chair until his election as president. He is a renowned speaker and author, writing several books including "Father Cry," "Foundations of Faith" and "Fasting Forward."

Wilson holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky University in Secondary Education. He also holds a Master of Arts degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Pentecostal Theological Seminary.