

## **“Loosing” a Home**

In the foreclosure of my home, I wrote to my key friends to ask them what they thought about posting a journaling series on our ministry website to encourage other women who are also “loosing” their homes. My intent is to share with the thousands of other women “loosing their homes,” how God is meeting me in my time of loss and grief. All of my friends are better spellers than I; even better writers, but one of my friends’s caught a mistake I had made.

She replied, *“Your new series sounds wonderful, but I believe you mean to say “Losing” a Home, not “Loosing.” Losing would refer to something lost. Loosing would refer to something let loose—being untied, for instance.”*

After reading her reply, I thought to myself, “I think I got it right after all.” Examining her definition for “losing” in comparison to “loosing,” I realized my prayer all along in this foreclosure process is that God would prepare my heart to “loose” myself from my home, if it was in the way of his plans and purposes for my life. “Losing” a home implies something which I have lost, maybe even something I can no longer find or have. But “Loosing” refers to something I have let go of, or something God has untied me from. Instead of losing a home as if I have failed and all is hopelessly lost, I began to ask God to change my perspective to “loosing” my home where my heart would be untied from something that is not of his plans and purposes for my life.

I remember back in the beginning of the foreclosure process; my prayer was for God to not allow the process to get to where we would have to leave our home until my heart was ready for it. I was asking that God would change my heart. I knew my heart was loyal to this home, maybe even more than his plans for my life. The question remained if this home was part of God’s plan for my life or if this home was in the way of God’s plan for my life? My prayer was two fold: 1) If this home was not in the way of His plans for our lives, would He allow us to keep it and 2) If this home was in the way of His plans for our lives, would he prepare my heart to let it go. I knew I needed God to do a work in my heart in order to let it go with confidence, trusting God has a deliberately good reason for not cooperating with our efforts to keep it. I didn’t want people looking at us in confusion as to why God had not come through for us. I wanted my life, all parts of my life, to be a testimony to God’s sovereignty and faithfulness. He is deliberately good and he is passionate to bless us as his children. We know these truths from his Word, even his discipline is a sign that his children belong to him. Thus, even from the beginning of this process, my prayer all along has been that my heart would be “loosed” from anything, including my precious home, which is not part of God’s good plans for me and my family.

Understanding this truth theologically is quite different than understanding this truth in the practical every day arena. Did the prayer of my heart keep me from experiencing deep grief and sorrow in the loss of my home? Absolutely not! Grief is a processing of loss which must be experienced in order to get to the other side of the loss. In fact, we are made different people from going through the process and getting to the other side. For whatever reason, God desired that I we go through this grief journey. This path was the only path in our lives at this particular time which would bring us to the place he desires for us, both in terms of his plans and his character work in our lives. We are not ever sure of why God is doing what he is doing in our lives, but we can trust he has good reason in doing it. Whether we lost our home due to our own mistakes or from an external financial storm around us, which is usually a combination of the two, God is ultimately working everything in our lives toward one common goal-to become more like him!

We are uniquely designed, but our ultimate goal as his children is to reflect our Heavenly Father to a literally “lost” world. The only way to do this is to remember who has revealed our Heavenly Father to us- the Son, Christ Jesus. Therefore the only way for us to reflect our Heavenly Father is the world around us is to surrender ourselves to Christ Jesus, who is working in us and through us to become more like himself. This became my prayer in the loss of my

home. I did not want to bear the world's image of hopeless and futile loss; but rather the example of my Savior Christ Jesus, who entrusted himself to the Father's hand in "loosing" himself from his heavenly home, in confident obedience unto his Father's plans and purposes for his life here on earth. If Christ did not lose his home, but rather "loosed" himself from all attachments outside of the Father's Will, this was my hope as well.

My home was obviously in the way of this process and I therefore desired God to "loose" me from my allegiance to it. Did I desire to "loose" my home, even in knowing it may be necessary in order for God to continue his work in me? No, I fought hard for it. Oh how we all tend to fight for the very things which keep us from God's best for us. In my case, there were emotional and financial lessons in "loosing" my home which I needed to learn in order to be more like Christ Jesus. Not only did I have lessons to learn and inner character to be changed, God obviously had something better, according to what is of eternal value, planned for me. I am grateful that in Christ Jesus we not only find hope and grace in our mistakes, as well as storms of defeat, but that God is constantly working through the circumstances of my life as part of his work in me. When it comes down to it, it is his image in me that bears eternal value in my life. In the end, I will not have lost what I wasn't going to be able to keep anyways. In the meantime, God is providing for my needs as he "looses" my heart from the things which entangle me from his glory and purpose for my life.

In Ephesians 1:1-4, Paul encourages us to choose God because God has chosen us. In "loosing" myself from all other allegiances, I am set free to choose Christ Jesus' identity and plans for my life. May we all "*Put off the old self;*" (Ephesians 4:22-24), that we may then be able to "*Put on the new self*" instead. If we continue to align our allegiance with his hand in our life, even in the daily choices of where we live and what we "own," we will "loose" ourselves into his plan for our lives, "losing" only what is in the way.

*"O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!*

Isaac Watts

Marilyn Williams

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Loosing a House, not a Home!

*Psalm 90:1 "Lord, through all generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were created, before you made the earth and the world, you are God, without beginning or end."*

*2 Peter 3:13-14 "We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him."*

Dear Jesus,

You truly are my home! *"From the moment I was born, you have been my God."* (*Psalm 22:10*). It hasn't mattered how young or old I am. It doesn't matter what state I have lived in or whether I "owned" our home or rented it. You have always been my home. You are greater than all your gifts because you are the gifter. You are greater than all created things because you are the Creator. You have existed before my world came to be and you will judge over this world in its end. How silly am I to place so much of my attachment to my surroundings when you are the creator and gifter of all things in my life. As long as I have you I am home. Help me to remember this Lord when I get homesick for my old house, and when I can't seem to settle into my new house. Remind me where my real home is, in you and you in me. With you in me and my soul safely in the palm of your hands, I can settle anywhere temporarily. Everything in this world will pass away and we won't miss it because we will be physically home with you. Until that day, dwell in me richly Lord Jesus. May your presence be my home and security.

*Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From thou art God,  
To endless years the same.*  
Isaac Watts