

I was a victim of physical, sexual and emotional abuse by my father. I saw him beat my mother from the time I was a toddler until I was 18. My most common prayer as a child was “Please, God, help me grow up quickly.”

So when David and I joined Autumn Ridge, Pastor Karen Anderle suggested I could be a resource for the Healing Hearts Ministries. Then Julie told me the first step was to complete the Hem of His Garment bible study. I said “No problem.” I was so full of pride. I thought the study would be “REVIEW” because I already forgave my father 20 years ago.

But Jesus had other plans for me. Through the Hem study, he showed me that my father’s abuse was still preventing me from trusting men, including my husband, even though I wasn’t harboring bitterness against my father.

David and I have been married nearly 24 years, Praise God, and for the most part our marriage has been strong. When we lived in Hong Kong, mostly due to my depression and too much work, I got behind on our taxes but I told David we wouldn’t be penalized as long as we paid the tax. What I didn’t know until I hired an accountant in 2008 was that we had to request a refund within three years. We could have bought a modest home with the money we lost to the IRS, all because I was unable to tell my husband that I was overworked, I couldn’t do it all and I couldn’t control everything. This mistake was not a sin—my sin was that I didn’t tell David. I rationalized. What he doesn’t know won’t hurt him, right? I didn’t actively hide it, I just didn’t tell him about it when he signed the return because I thought he would divorce me. There were other things about money that I hadn’t told him, either, because I had a right to spend money that I earned or because I thought he’d be too upset. He wouldn’t love me if I wasn’t perfect, would he?

When I did the Hem study, I could no longer rationalize. Proverbs tells me that God hates liars and all sin is an abomination. And Matthew 16:25 finally became clear to me. Was I willing to risk losing my life for the sake of the Lord in order to find it? Did I want to remain an abomination before God by hiding my mistakes? Was I willing to risk my marriage to the man I love more than anyone in the world to obey the Lord? Was I willing to love the Lord more than anyone? Turns out, I was. Last fall, I told David about that costly tax mistake and the other things that I hadn’t previously told him. And do you know what? God conquers all. David still loves me, he didn’t leave me and we both love the Lord with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds and all our strength.

The healing hearts bible studies are for everyone and they can change your life, too.