

THE MISPLACED BRIDE

A BEAUTIFUL STORY THAT DEPICTS THE TRAGIC
REALITY OF SIN, SALVATION, STRUGGLES
AS A BELIEVER AND VICTORY AT LAST



J E G R U N T E A M

THE MISPLACED BRIDE

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PREFACE

ABBA's Dwelling has had the privilege to receive questions from and provide counsel to many people who, overwhelmed by the "tyranny" of the old nature, seek the pathway to complete deliverance.

"The Misplaced Bride" powerfully illustrates the truth about the fallen nature of man in its subjection to sin and the devil and the power of Christ to deliver all and sundry from the bondage of this corruption called "The Old Man." It carefully captures God's provision for a victorious and fulfilled Christian life.

It is expedient that you pause and pray at strategic points as you flip through the pages of this book so that the truths delicately delivered will go beyond head knowledge to become a revelation deeply engraved on the tablets of your heart.

May you encounter the Lord Jesus Christ as
you read, and take time to meditate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this book could not have been possible without the help of God and the ABBA's Dwelling team, who, through diligence and patience, compiled and edited this book with great skill and precision.

We cannot express enough thanks to the JEGRUN Writing Team, without whose unfailing and generous assistance this project could not have been finished, for their pivotal roles in ensuring doctrinal checks and balances. Their encouraging and constructive feedback, valuable comments, and suggestions played a significant role during the preparation of this book.

Finally, to the One who brings all things together in perfect harmony, God, the Source of wisdom and inspiration, be all the glory

and honour forever. Amen.

1

DELIVERED FROM CAPTIVITY



Christina struggled to get herself up from the floor of her bedroom. She had become so accustomed to the pain that she sometimes felt numb when the blows were inflicted on her.

She staggered to the bathroom and, using her right palm, cleaned the layer of fog on the mirror while propping herself up with her left arm.

She struggled to find her face, moving her hair this way and that way until she caught a glimpse of her actual image. Then, she burst

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into tears.

After whimpering and wailing for a good thirty minutes, she stopped abruptly. Her eyes were now bright red, swollen and exhausted, and her entire head felt heavy, pulsating with pain. She glided her tongue over the cut on the right end of her lower lip and winced in pain. The cut was deep and fresh, and the pain was intense.

The bronze ring's unique mark on her left cheek was noticeable. Each punch had forced the impacted skin to contour to the shape of the ring on the finger of the enraged army General.

She wondered how the same man could, in one moment, be the sweetest thing on earth to have his way with her in bed and, in the next moment, become a monster she hoped

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and prayed to be delivered from.

“Oh my God, not again!” she said with a shaky voice, startled by the sound of the gate to her house opening.

“Not again, please! Not again, please!” she whispered as she looked for a place to hide in the bedroom, even though she knew there was nowhere she could hide where General Oldman would not find her.

Her heart began to pound, and her blood pressure began to rise. She began biting her fingers – a habit she had developed under severe fear and anxiety. She heard the sound of the front door opening and closing, followed by the quaking throbs of the army General’s boots.

This scene had repeated itself countless times,

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like a nightmare she never would wake up from. She knew what exactly to expect.

Her husband, General Oldman, would walk into the room drunk and high on drugs with an eerie smile on his face, and then he would force himself on her, using all manner of abusive, obscene, and condescending words in the process. She would wail out of pain and fear, but he would strangle her to keep her silent. She would kneel beside him while he ate the food she had to prepare precisely how he'd like it.

If General Oldman felt there was a flaw with the food - and a "flaw" could be anything, including if the volume of soup in the bowl was more or less than General Oldman's prescribed 3.5 inches - she knew what penalty to expect.

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The General would aggressively swing his leg to her stomach, driving his boots painfully below her chest. She would scream and cough out blood while the General laughed and walked out of the room. It would then usually take a lot of pills to deliver her from her pain.

This was her life. Actually, she had no life. She had cried and prayed for a way out but to no avail. She was betrothed to Oldman at birth, and when she came of age, she was so attracted to him and sealed the deal. But unknown to her, she was his prisoner.

It was impossible to scale through the layers of sergeants that General Oldman had appointed to “guard” his house, a command she understood meant they were under strict orders to prevent her from going out at any cost.

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In addition to the sergeants, a pack of military-trained, fierce, bloodthirsty dogs was parading the compound. The dogs' growls sent shivers down her spine every time she tried to breathe fresh air. She dared not overstep her bounds.

On one rare occasion, in the absence of General Oldman, she roamed the perimeter of her courtyard, dreaming about a day when she'd finally be able to escape the "prison walls" and be finally free.

She wondered how she fell in love with the General and agreed to seal the marriage deal her parents had signed. She wished she understood who Oldman was and what she was signing up for *for* the rest of her life. Oldman had the most alluring ambience, and his house was as magnificent as the buildings she had always dreamed of.

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All the many times she visited, she admired his perfectly built home. The walls were beautiful to her, and the house had the most gorgeous furniture and shiny utensils she could ever imagine.

However, she soon discovered that the house was not all it appeared to be, and most depressing was the lifelong woes and sorrow that awaited her as Mrs. Oldman.

Every inch of her heart was soaked in regret, and her eyes told the story. She couldn't rewind time, yet freedom seemed a lifetime away. Her situation seemed hopeless. But was it?

Christina's eyes widened. She felt a strange comfort deep within her soul as she heard a giggle across the fence. She looked left and right to be sure one of the General's

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Sergeants wasn't watching or following her.

Then, she took careful and steady steps towards the fence. She heard another giggle, then the sound of playful laughter across the wall. It reminded her of her days of freedom. She would give anything to find another reason to laugh again.

Peeping through the hole in the fence, she saw the most beautiful thing she had ever seen: Dr. Newman - a calm-looking gentleman with a warm smile and a loving gaze playing with his wife in the garden in front of their house.

They threw a yellow frisbee at each other and laughed as they tried to catch each other's throws. Some dogs roamed the garden, but they differed significantly from the semi-lions she had within her fence. These dogs

were playful and beautiful. They sometimes helped catch the frisbee.

Christina's heart yearned for such an atmosphere of love and intimacy. She wished she could exchange places with that other lucky woman, whatever her name was. This hole in the fence became Christina's glimmer of hope and a doorway into another possibility.

She found her mind replaying the lovely scenes of Dr. Newman's family playing together and the words of affection they spoke to each other. She always waited impatiently for General Oldman to leave the house so she could find her way to that hole in the fence and peep at Dr. Newman. Her sight of him led to admiration. Admiration led to fantasy. Fantasy led to an expectation. And the expectation led to desire.

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One day, the unthinkable happened. Dr. Newman hugged his family and sent them in after spending quality time with them. Then, he turned straight towards the hole in the fence, and his eyes met hers. Her heart leapt, and she gasped in shock, not knowing what to expect next.

Dr. Newman walked calmly and peacefully toward her. She had never seen such love and peace in a man's eyes. With every step came a gradual build of a gentle smile on Dr. Newman's face. Something in her melted at his smile, but the surprise was not over.

The most unexpected happened when Dr. Newman reached the other side of his fence. He said to her, "*Christina, what do you want?*"

Christina gasped, covering her dropped jaw with her right palm, a million questions

running through her mind:

“How did he know my name?” “Has he been watching me all this while?” “How am I to respond to him?”...and many more.

“Christina, what do you want?” rang through her mind.

Despite her perplexity, she could not take her eyes off him. It was difficult not to be transfixed by Dr. Newman’s calm, peaceful, and loving gaze. She began to pile all the ambitions of her heart into a request to spill it before Dr. Newman.

Could it be that God was about to answer her prayer? Could this request be her way out? Only time would tell, but she would not waste this opportunity for anything.

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“I’m tired of my life,” she began when she found her voice. “I am married to an oppressor who only uses me as an object of gratification. I am constantly in fear and anxiety. I cannot predict the next cruel thing he will do to me. I lost everything when I decided to marry him, and now, I’m about to lose the only thing I have left: hope and a sense of humanity.

I have watched and seen the way you love and cherish your wife. I want that from you, Dr. Newman. I want you to marry me and deliver me from the claws of General Oldman. I’d rather be a second wife to you than remain a first wife to this wicked slave master I call my husband.”

She could see Dr. Newman’s eyes filled with compassion, which gave her hope. Her hope for a positive response from him was finally

dashed when she heard his answer: “*Dear Christina, it is illegal for me to get married to you while your husband is still alive, for then I would be accused of adultery.*”

“*So do you mean the only way out is for my current husband to die?*” asked Christina.

“*Yes, that is the only way out,*” replied Dr. Newman before walking away into his house.

“*Please wait, sir!*” interjected Christina. Then she smiled seductively, pursed her lips, winked her eyes, and turned her body sideways – an attempt to reveal her curves with the hope of fascinating him.

Dr. Newman had a blank look – a sign that he was not impressed by what she showed him.

“*I promise to be anything for you, Doctor.*”

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What is your favourite dish? I can cook it for you. Everyday, I'll love and cherish you tirelessly. You will never find me boring, not in bed, not outside the bed. Please Doctor, don't pass on this wonderful offer I am giving you. You will not regr...."

"Not so, Christina. You are not obligated to render any service to me. The Scripture says in Romans 6:20, 'When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.'

So long as you are married to your husband, you are free from obligation to me. I cannot be accused of marrying another man's wife.

According to Romans 7:2, 'By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him.'

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This was Dr. Newman's final response before he turned to walk away. Christina knew she had only one prayer point: General Oldman must die.

One day, Christina's prayer was answered. She heard wails and sounds of commotion outside her house. Then, one of the Sergeants informed her that General Oldman had been killed in a Civil war. His corpse had been brought back home in a coffin.

She looked over and saw an inscription on the coffin: "*Late General Oldman. Cause of death: fatal blow from Supreme Captain Yeshua on Calvary hill, Golgotha.*"

She could not forget the profound joy that the words of the Sergeant brought her when he said, "*The General is dead.*"

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Without delay, she gathered together all her belongings and ran to the gate of Dr. Newman's house.

Before she could knock at the gate, the door swung open, and Dr. Newman stood there, smiling at her. She attempted to hug him but, as if condemned by self-realisation, stopped halfway when she realised how dirty her dress was.

Dr. Newman smiled and stepped aside. Then, some servant girls took Christina gently into a beautiful gold-plated building beside the gate, where she bathed and got ready to get dressed.

When she opened the wardrobe, she was stunned at the beautiful wedding gown that hung there, and then a realisation hit her: she was getting married to Dr. Newman!

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She peeped through the window and discovered that the ceremony was already set with many happy guests, food, and good music. She stood before the many witnesses and said her vows to Dr. Newman.

He was about to put a ring on her finger, when something bothered her: what about his first wife? She looked around but couldn't find the woman she had seen through the hole in the fence, and then it struck her finally: Dr. Newman had no second wife.

Everyone that was married to him was his first wife. Each one had a personal relationship with him and enjoyed full attention and affection. The entire house was divided into segments. It became clear to her that this was not just a house but a kingdom.

Dr. Newman was not an ordinary man; He

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was a King - Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent: capable of everything, knowing everything, and existing everywhere simultaneously. He was the Most Excellency, yet the most accessible.

After the wedding ceremony, she was ushered into a glorious building that would become her new home. As she opened the two-leaved gate that led into her building, she saw an inscription on the wall: *“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness - Romans 6:18.”*

It seemed a paradox to her how someone could be free from bondage to become a slave to another. She certainly knew she had a lot to learn. The euphoria of her new reality was cut short by a bang she heard at the gate of Dr. Newman's house.

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Mr. Temptation, General Oldman's equally aggressive and violent junior brother, had come to claim his elder brother's properties after his death and insisted that his elder brother's wife be part of the "items" he would inherit. Christina's heart began to beat fast again. A new phase of battle had begun for her.

"Be alert and of a sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8).

Dear Reader,

Do you find yourself locked within the four walls of sin and addiction with no hope of escape like Christina? Have you come to see that the only way of escape is for the nature of sin you carry (the Old Man/Mr. Flesh/Carnal nature) to die?

Have you realised that as long as this old nature is alive, nothing you ever do can please God? Do you know what the shower close to the gate of Dr. Newman's (Jesus Christ's) kingdom represents? Have you undergone that shower and sealed a new covenant with Dr. Newman? Have you been washed clean by His Blood? Are you now a citizen of His kingdom? Are you truly born again?

We want you to ponder these questions as

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you proceed with the rest of the story. Come along with us.

2

THE BELIEVER'S STRUGGLE WITH SIN



Christina heard a loud knock at the main gate and walked gracefully to the gate, holding up the lower end of her beautiful dress. She gasped when she peered through the large peephole and caught sight of Mr. Temptation's face.

He was also staring at her with a vicious smile on his face. She thought she was staring at her former husband for a split second. The resemblance was striking both in features and mannerisms.

"Hello there!" he spoke with a deep and

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penetrating voice, grinning and winking at her. *“I brought something sweet and lovely for you from the family,”* he continued.

She wondered what that could be but remembered Dr. Newman said He owns everything in the country, and there is nothing she could ever need that He will not provide.

“No, sir. I have all I could ever need. My husband provides for me and I’m fine. Thanks though,” she replied.

“Oh do not be naive, Christina! We both know you always want more stuff and your husband couldn’t possibly have the money to provide everything you need or even want. And we have so much money in the family and can afford to take care of our former bride, if I can say that,” he said with a

chuckle. *“Can you guess what I have? It is your favourite!”*

“I do not need anything other than what my lovely husband has given me,” Christina said firmly.

“Oh come on!” Mr. Temptation replied.

“You heard her. Leave now,” Dr. Newman said with a calm but authoritative voice. He had been standing right behind Christina. His voice soothed Christina's fluttering heart.

“She is not the person you used to know. Her favourite things have since changed. She is completely new. We have a new family, which will have nothing to do with you or your family any longer,” he continued.

“Take a look at our certificate,” he said,

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lifting a golden paper with a text that said, *“Christina is now in Christ a new creature. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.”*

“You lie!” interrupted Mr. Temptation. *“I’m listening to none of this. Christina is mine and must come with me. I vow to do everything within my power, even to the last.”*

With fury, Mr. Temptation turned to Christina, *“Mark my word. I will humiliate and frustrate you until you come back to me. The moment you married my elder brother you became my family’s property. Watch your back, because I’m coming after you.”*

He then turned and left violently, a steam of fury trailing him.

Dr. Newman placed his right arm on

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Christina's shoulder and spoke loving, reassuring whispers into her ear, "*Christina, you have to be careful and stay alert so that Mr. Temptation does not sweep you off your feet or make you believe that your desires for me are not real or that you still want that life of imprisonment that General Oldman and his family gave you.*

Do not even have a long conversation with him. You are strong and can say no to any offer from your former family no matter how alluring, great smelling, rich and promising it looks. I can assure you that he will continue to try to reach you but nothing he gives you is good.

You are no longer the same and you have no obligation to that family. Those who belong to me have been delivered from General Oldman with his passions and lusts. Mr. Temptation

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cannot dominate you because you are now married to me. Set your mind, heart, and affection on the beautiful things I have for you in this Kingdom. I know the plans I have for you.”

A gentle mist came around her as he spoke, strengthening her.

“*What is this?*” she asked.

“*It is called grace,*” replied Dr. Newman. “*This is what I provide to all who decide to marry me. This mist will follow you everywhere and teach you to say ‘No’ to the requests of Mr. Temptation.*”

The next day, Christina woke up to the chirping sound of a colourful bird that had

landed on her window stool, holding a white envelope in its beak. It gently dropped the sealed letter on the window stool and sang more before leaving.

With curiosity, Christina opened the window, took the envelope and noticed that it was addressed to her. She took it from the bird's beak and unsealed it. As she opened it and read it, her hands began to quiver.

It started with, "I know you very well. You are no good. If your new husband finds out who you are, all of this euphoria will come to an abrupt end. With all you have done, you are not worthy to be married to Newman. He deserves someone better."

The letter detailed all her past mistakes, all the atrocities she committed while married to General Oldman. Oldman had made her do

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countless heartless things that she knew were wrong, but she could not disobey Oldman's instructions or resist his ideas.

Having now known Dr. Newman a little, she knew that he could never approve of her past shameful acts. Shame washed over her, and her heart quaked in fear. She feared that her days with Dr. Newman would soon come to an end.

While she sat in her room with tears streaming down her face, another colourful bird flew onto the window stool with another letter. She slowly pulled up the window and took the note. As she opened it, she was amazed at what she saw. Mr. Temptation had sent her a picture of himself with trimmed hair and corporate clothing.

He looked so handsome with a lovely smile,

revealing a dimple on his cheek. The glitter in his eyes and his beautiful shirt moved her heart slightly. One could not deny that he looked good. His shirt was sky blue - her favourite colour.

He also sent gorgeous pictures of his house and bedroom with all her favourite hues. Fresh flowers were everywhere, and he had written her name with a flower. Her heart began to melt slowly.

The final picture was the straw that broke the camel's back: a well-prepared three-course meal of special delicacies on the dining table. She thought she lived in the best mansion one could ever dream of in Dr. Newman's mansion, but the pictures from Mr. Temptation's house showed that this guy had notched his game ten times higher.

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Suddenly, she began to feel a little bored with this so-called mansion she now lived in. She became blind to the sparkle of her own home.

“Yes, I am free but a little constricted at the same time,” she thought. *“I need a little freedom to see what is out there. It does not mean I will leave my new husband. Moreover, if he decides to throw me out because of my wicked past, there would be waiting arms for me.”* She wanted some freedom to satisfy her unbridled curiosity.

Just under that last picture was a note written in cursive:

‘My dear Christina,

I’m so sorry about the way I spoke to you yesterday. I was so distraught by the demise of my elder brother and the fact that I had

almost lost a beautiful damsel like you. I have prepared my entire house for you, a bedroom like you have never seen, and a sumptuous meal. I promise to treat you gently and not make you suffer like you did with your former husband. I'll treat you even better than your current husband.

Let me love and cherish you like the queen that you indeed are. Please don't say no to me. I cannot do without you. Even with all the properties my wealthy brother left behind, there is nothing I want as much as I do you, my darling. So meet me outside the gate after sunset. Let's have a wonderful time together. I'll bring you back home before daybreak, I promise.

With love, Temptation.'

Christina's imagination was on fire. She

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daydreamed about being in the arms of Mr. Temptation on that beautifully flowered bed, enjoying the sumptuous-looking meal. Those pictures got her salivating badly. She couldn't wait till sunset. Just after sunset, Christiana tiptoed outside the golden gate of the mansion.

As expected, Mr. Temptation was waiting for her. He smiled broadly, his teeth shimmered even in the dark. He whispered her name so gently, and she ran into his arms. The desire in her heart turned into a passion when she sniffed his romantic cologne.

He led her gently to his gate, and it swung open. She saw all the sergeants of General Oldman, but this time, they all stood in an array, dressed in different uniforms, and each welcomed her with a warm smile and a salute. She giggled, thoroughly impressed,

reinforcing more of what Mr. Temptation had said in his letters.

Before she stepped into the gate, she felt a gentle restrain within her – it was that mist, that divine supply Dr. Newman gave her to strengthen her and allow her to say no to the requests of Mr. Temptation.

She stopped for a second as she tried to remember what her husband had told her about Mr. Temptation and the entire family of Oldman. But she was distracted by the sweet sound of a violin, then another, and then another until she lifted her eyes and saw an entire orchestra playing her favourite song.

That overwhelmed her senses. She found herself running onto the dance floor in the courtyard with Mr. Temptation. She let him hold her closely around her waist as they

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danced. The entire community cheered them on.

She walked into the dining room to feast on the sumptuous meal. As she sat and opened the first plate, she was disgusted at the sight and smell of what she saw. The well-decorated plate had been filled with fresh human faeces.

She lifted her face in shock and saw the eerie smiles on the faces of Mr. Temptation and the Sergeants. Then they burst out laughing, and their laughter was filled with horror. They took off their new outfits individually to reveal their true identity.

Christina gasped and tried to escape, but she was no match for their tight grip. They removed her beautiful garment and replaced it with the rags she used to wear in Oldman's

house.

“There goes Dr. Newman’s bride,” one said.

“Yes, the so-called new person in Christ,” another responded sarcastically. *“Same old girl we always knew.”*

“We now see how new a creature you actually are,” added another.

They all dragged her into the bedroom, whose bed was beautifully laid with flowers. Underneath the layer of flowers were thorns, broken glasses and various types of sharp objects.

In unison, they lifted her and slammed her on the bed. What she thought would be a soft landing eventually turned out to be the most painful experience.

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Christina wailed from the unimaginable pain she was going through, and one by one, Mr Temptation and each of his Sergeants raped her in that room, laughing and mocking as they did so.

There she lay in great pain, the newlywed wife of Dr. Newman, being abused on the bed of his enemy. She abandoned her place in the mansion for a moment of pleasure. She was indeed a misplaced bride.

Just before dawn, Christina staggered through the courtyard of Mr. Temptation and walked through the iron gate. The Sergeants had fallen asleep after eating and drinking gluttonously.

She felt empty and filthy and full of shame. She was almost sure Dr. Newman would throw her out for her past sins and adultery.

“Dr. Newman really does not deserve a slut like me,” she thought.

Still, she had to find out what he would do to her. Walking through the gate into Dr. Newman's mansion, she knelt before her husband on the lawn, weeping profusely. The shock of this rendered Christina motionless. It was the first time she had seen Dr. Newman cry.

Just then, she heard the mocking laughter of Mr. Temptation and his Sergeants echo through the gate as they sneered at her, *“There's your bride, Dr. Newman! We all had a taste of your beloved! She rewarded your love with wickedness. Shame on her. She deserves to be thrown out to the dogs, she does not deserve to be your wife anymore!”*

Their comments drove the shame and regret

deeper into her heart.

She knelt closer to Dr. Newman and bowed her head to the ground. Christiana said, *“I have cheated on you, my husband. I was enticed and led away by lies. Now, I have soiled the beautiful dress you gave me and have now been defiled terribly. I do not deserve anything good from you. But please will you perhaps forgive me and clean me up again?”*

Then, for the first time, she saw something that perplexed her the most. Blood flowed from Dr. Newman’s wrists from what looked like a wound inflicted by the piercing of a nail. The wound was fresh, and she could tell it brought much pain.

Christina wept bitterly.

Dear Reader,

The fact that one has been saved and given a new life does not mean that temptation is banished.

Temptation is the lot of every man or woman who is living. Have you discovered and learned to apply the grace of God made available to you to say 'No' to sin? (Titus 2:11).

Have you realised that every temptation appears enticing since, by its nature, it is designed to appeal to your lust, i.e. what you like? (James 1:14). Do you see Satan's tactics of persistent temptations?

Do you know yielding to temptation means rejecting all Christ has done for you? Have you found yourself 'sneaking out' of God's presence, out of the shadow of the Almighty,

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of the watchful eyes of your parents/guardians/pastors/disciplers to have some fun' in the land of sin? Do you feel remorseful each time you sin but still find yourself repeating it?

Part 3 shows the way out of the struggle with sin. At this point, we beg you not to read this book in a hurry or read it as a story.

You may pause and pray desperately at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to give you illumination and revelation and to show you the way out.

3

THE WAY OF VICTORY OVER SIN



“**M**y dear children, I write this to you so you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” (1 John 2:1).

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).

Christina was in the pool of her tears, repentant, remorseful, and confessing. She lifted her face when she heard Dr. Newman approaching her but turned her eyes down

immediately they met his.

She felt too dirty to look into those pure eyes. She began to feel a liquid substance dripping on her head, flowing along her hair, neck and back, coursing through her body. The more she was soaked in it, the more the guilt of her sin left her.

She looked up and saw Dr. Newman's palms spread over, and the Blood poured over her. This liquid substance felt like the most potent cleansing agent she had ever known. All of a sudden, she felt her skin begin to sparkle again.

"No! Nooo! Nooooooo!" the wicked Sergeants shrieked and stormed away. They could not stand Christina's transformation.

All cleaned up, Christina joined hands with

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Dr. Newman as they walked together to her chamber. His smile was indeed heartwarming.

“I’m sorry I hurt you,” she said.

Dr. Newman gave her a puzzled look.

“What do you mean you hurt me?” he asked.

Christina paused. *“I know I hurt you by sneaking on Mr. Temptation’s invitation. I am really sorry,”* she said.

“I have completely forgiven you, my dear,” replied Dr. Newman. *“According to my records, you have committed no wrong.”*

“Dr. Newman, I really want to please you,” she said after they entered the house.

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“I hate to do anything that causes you pain, but sometimes I find myself under such intense pressure from Mr. Temptation’s offers that feel irresistible. And this book you gave me...” she said, pointing to the shining book on her bedside, *“...draws me in constantly but every time I try to read it, I don’t understand it. I wish you could be with me all the time. I feel full and complete when I’m with you.”*

“I can be with you all the time,” said Dr. Newman as he smiled.

“You can?” asked Christina with an excited shock.

Dr. Newman stretched his right arm towards the window, and a gentle breeze began to blow in until it filled the room. The atmosphere felt electrified with a powerful

yet holy force. She saw the draft gather around her, forming a giant bubble.

Inside the bubble, she saw a reflection of Dr. Newman on all sides. She felt surrounded by him, but more than that, she also felt his presence deep in her heart.

“What is this?” she asked.

“Not what, but who,” said Dr. Newman smilingly. *“This is a person. Ruach is His Name. He will help you, comfort you, guide you, teach you, counsel you, intercede for you, advocate for you, strengthen you, and bring to your remembrance all that I have taught you.”*

“Wait! This is amazing. But does this mean I won’t need you any longer?” asked Christina naively.

"Of course, you will always need me," replied Dr. Newman with a chuckle.

"You cannot possibly do anything without me. Ruach will not speak from Himself. He will only take out of me and declare to you. He will also show you things before they happen. Be sensitive to His leading and do not grieve Him," was Dr. Newman's last instruction before he departed Christina's chamber.

She looked around her and could still feel the invisible holy presence around her. She opened the golden book on her bedside and, for the first time, heard a whisper in her spirit, *"Do you understand this book? I can explain it to you."*

"Yes, there are many things I do not understand," replied Christina. *"Why did Dr.*

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Newman say he had no recollection of my adultery with Mr. Temptation?"

"Read Hebrews 8:12," said Ruach with a loving whisper.

"What? Hebrews? Where is that?" asked Christina, fumbling until she found it.

"I will forgive their wickedness and never again remember their sins," she read.

"So you see, Christina, when you confessed your sin to Dr. Newman and received forgiveness by his Blood, the record of your sin was wiped entirely from his records and his memory.

That is the power of the Blood of Dr. Newman. When you come under his Blood,

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he forgives you, forgets your wrong, and forgets that he forgave an iniquity. That's what you get - a spotless slate!

So, in his eyes, his Blood doesn't just make you a forgiven sinner but a sinless saint. Nothing less than the blood can make you acceptable in his sight. Recall that he couldn't even look at you when you came in from General Oldman's house until his Blood had washed you.

The Blood is a powerful weapon. It will cleanse you from every wrong and make you acceptable in his sight anytime you apply it by confessing your sin and asking for forgiveness. It is only a confessed sin that can be cleansed by the Blood."

Christina's eyes beamed with joy as she got this revelation.

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“I’m so excited to learn this today,” she said.

“Will you stay with me and teach me more?”

“I am always with you. I will never leave you.”

“Ruach, does what you have said mean I can always sneak to General Oldman’s house as often as I want, and Dr. Newman will always accept me if I come through the Blood?”
Christina asked.

“No,” Ruach responded decisively. “That would be an abuse of God’s grace. Read Hebrews 10:26.”

“If we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins,” Christina read aloud.

“Sinning wilfully and deliberately because of

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the provision of the Blood is a huge mistake many of Dr. Newman's brides make. Mr. Temptation usually deceives them into believing they can continue in defilement with him and still be married to Dr. Newman without any consequences.

Doing so will alienate you from Dr. Newman and expose you to afflictions from your adversary, and one day, you will go outside and not be able to return because the gate would have been shut."

"So what should I do?" asked Christina with concern. "How can I constantly live a life that is pleasing to Dr. Newman? Is it possible to consistently say 'No' to the offers of Mr. Temptation?"

"Yes, it is possible, Christina," replied Ruach.

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“For the next couple of weeks I will teach you from Romans 6-8. Then you will understand all the secrets of a victorious Christian life.”

And so it was that every morning, Christina got up and knelt beside her bed to pray. Each time she did, she felt that holy bubble surrounding her and praying became easy.

Then, she would open the golden book and meditatively converse with Ruach. This book became her favourite. Her cravings for the previous books she used to read died utterly.

On her window pane lays a pile of papers. Mr. Temptation continued to send his letters regularly. Christina would usually pack the pile and dump it in the trash can at the end of every day. She grew confident in her relationship with Ruach and beamed daily

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with the joy of her salvation.

One day, Ruach taught her from Colossians 3:3 and Romans 6:7, 14.

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” – Colossians 3:3.

“For he who has died has been freed from sin.” – Romans 6:7.

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, because you are not under the law, but under grace.” – Romans 6:14.

“General Oldman (your sinful nature) is dead...”

“Mr. Temptation shall no more overcome you...”

“When General Oldman died, you became free from the lordship of Mr. Temptation...”

Holy anger welled in her heart as she soaked and meditated on these words. So, Mr. Temptation knew he could no longer oppress her, yet he kept sending those letters to threaten her, remind her of her past, make her feel condemned, and transgress against Dr. Newman?

Just as she thought on these, she heard a bang on the gate of Dr. Newman. Mr. Temptation, desperate for her and embittered that she had not responded to his numerous letters, pulled out all the stops and came for all-out harassment.

Before anyone could reach her, she rushed towards him. Mr. Temptation was taken aback by the holy rage he saw in Christina’s eyes.

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For the first time, the tables had turned. He had come to threaten her but now found himself shaken.

“Mr. Temptation!” Christina began sternly, *“I am no longer a slave to you. Your family’s legal right to me was due to my marital agreement with your elder brother, General Oldman. When he died, that covenant was broken, and I became free.*

You have intimidated and lied to me for the past few months, and I have ignorantly believed you. I want to inform you that it is game over from now on! I don’t care about my past anymore because the Blood of Dr. Newman has washed me clean, and I’m not just a forgiven sinner. I’m now a sinless saint!

I have the grace not to heed to the lusts of

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my flesh because the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, including me! I am victorious over you and your tricks because greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world! I am..."

"Ahhhhhh!" screamed Mr. Temptation, stopping his ears with his hands and running back into his gate. He could no longer hear that pure truth that streamed with faith and fire from the mouth of Christina.

As he ran away, he yelled, *"She knows the truth! She now knows the truth! Why did we let her know the truth? She has been set free. She is no longer a misplaced bride."*

High up, far above Christina's chamber, stood Dr. Newman with arms folded, observing the scene from afar. He smiled and nodded his head. Christina was now ready for the next

phase. He walked into her room, and she ran to hug him as soon as she saw him. He always loved when she did that. She began to do that only after some weeks of relating with Ruach. Before then, she always bowed to greet him like a slave – a gesture that made his heart bleed.

“Christina, I need to tell you something,” said Dr. Newman.

Christina turned to see tears and concern in his eyes. She knew she had done nothing wrong to hurt him, and these tears seemed different. It hurt her to see him hurt.

“What is it, my Lord?” she asked with a sense of duty, but Dr. Newman remained silent.

Then she began to hear the screams, the cries of pain and woes from General Oldman’s

compound.

She recognized precisely whose cry she heard. Beulah, her younger sister who was also a wife of General Oldman, had remained a captive in his house after Christina left and married Dr. Newman.

“I’m sending you on a mission to rescue her, Christina. I love her too. I provided the Blood for her cleansing too. I have a glorious chamber for her in my kingdom. I don’t want her to remain a slave in the house of General Oldman.”

As he spoke, Christina saw six servants approach her, each holding a piece of armour: **The shoes of peace.** As she wore them, they gave her firm footing. It would be challenging to fall wearing those shoes.

The breastplate of righteousness. This shining piece protected her heart and emotional faculties from the corruption and lustful passions advertised to her in General Oldman's residence.

The belt of truth. This piece held the other parts together, giving her firmness, balance, and sturdiness.

The shield of faith. Beaming with radiance, this armour piece would help quench the fire-lit arrows General Oldman's Sergeants would fire at her.

The helmet of salvation. This glittering piece of armour would help protect her mind. Her experience had shown her that Mr. Temptation could not overcome her until he first toyed with her mind.

The sword of the Spirit. The last piece, and her favourite. This was her only offensive weapon.

Fired by the command of her husband and master, being ever so concerned to please him in all things and fully equipped with the armour he provided her, she matched out like a warrior and stood in front of General Oldman's gate.

The once feeble, cowardly, and sinful Christina had returned as a warrior princess to plunder her former master, who had oppressed her, and to set more captives free.

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Dear Reader,

Do you honestly believe that victory over sin is possible? Can you identify the secrets of living a victorious Christian life from the story? Do you know the power of the Blood of Jesus? Do you understand that when God forgives you, He also forgets the sin? Have you confessed your sin to Him and asked for forgiveness?

How's your relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Helper Christ left for us? Have you realised you have difficulty understanding Scripture because you've not engaged the Holy Spirit?

AFTERNOTE

The deliverance from sin that the Bible teaches does not connote a deliverance from the ability to sin. We will never lose that ability as long as we are on earth and wear this mortal body.

Additionally, the temptation to sin is common to all men. The only person who has escaped temptations permanently is the person in the grave. When someone claims to have given their life to Christ, and that person is still living in sin, there are two possible explanations for that predicament:

- 1. There was no genuine conversion in the first place.** The kind of conversion experience that can break the hold of sin over a person's life must be genuine. That person must come face to face with the revelation of the cross and see their old man crucified with Jesus on

that Cross. This **MUST** come by revelation.

Some people know this revelation the first time they hear the message of the Cross. For others, the revelation comes as they persist in digging into the truth and meditating on Scripture. However, victory over sin becomes a reality when light breaks forth in a person's spirit.

2. There was a genuine conversion that was not consolidated. Some believers come to the point of genuinely encountering the Cross and walking in victory but soon fall out of this reality as they fail to take consequent steps to consolidate their experience.

These consequent steps are sometimes called the “therefores” of the New Creation Life. Colossians 3 is full of some of those “therefores.”

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After the Holy Ghost has illuminated one's spirit and brought them to the point of laying hold of the victory that comes by the revelation of the Cross, it becomes the IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY of the believer (not the Holy Spirit, not God, but the believer) to take practical steps to put an end to the activities of the old sinful nature.

Some of those reasonable steps might include unsubscribing/unfollowing social media channels that are a source of temptations, disposing of media materials (movies, books, magazines, songs, pictures, documentaries, etc.) that only stir up sinful lusts and separation from friends and social circles that encourage the sinful lifestyle.

The instruction from the Bible is “come out from among them” (2 Corinthians 6:17). Please note that these practical steps do not by

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themselves bring deliverance. Nothing less than a revelation of the Cross brings salvation.

These reasonable steps consolidate the spiritual reality brought about by the work of the Holy Spirit when our eyes are open to see Jesus Christ crucified for our sins and our sinful nature hanging on the Cross with Him.

It is possible to live a Christian life and not fall into sin. The Bible is clear about this in several places (Matthew 1:21, Romans 6:1, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 5:24, 1 John 3:8-9). We must avoid the deception of thinking that the fact that we have tried and failed in our personal lives means it is impossible. "Such things are impossible with men, but not with God" (Luke 18:27).

Daily, continuous, and consistent victory

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over sin is a reality made available only because the grace of God that brings salvation and keeps one holy has been made available in Christ Jesus (Titus 2:11).

Those who have learned to tap into that grace and walk daily in it will experience the blessedness of a continuously sanctified life. Such people will go beyond the realm of repetitive rising, falling, and repenting, which is the unfortunate reality of many believers today.

Sinful impulses can be controlled by:

- Continuously realising that your old man was crucified on the Cross with Him.
- Learning to draw from the grace to say no to sin, available in Christ Jesus.
- Being watchful and prayerful so as not to enter into temptation.
- Being sober and vigilant so as not to fall

into the devil's traps.

- Filling your heart with the word of God, meditating on it day and night. Being accountable to a more mature Christian to watch over you.

P.S: Even though seven points have been listed above, the aim is not to present a list of 'activities' that guarantee victory over sin. The actual ingredient for victory is the first point mentioned (Continuously realising that your old man was crucified on the Cross with Him).

The other six points are simply ways to consolidate the experience of the first point. Those six points, on their own and exclusive of the first point, cannot bring victory over sin. They can only give a false sense of religious piety.

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“These rules may seem good, for rules of this kind require strong devotion and are humiliating and hard on the body, but they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person’s evil thoughts and desires. They only make him proud.” (Colossians 2:23 TLB).

Finally, you must understand that you are a new creature in Christ if you have accepted Jesus into your heart. To understand what it means to be a new creature in Christ, first, it is necessary to comprehend creation itself.

Understanding creation and the fall of man that led to the birth of what we now call “The Old Creation” will provide a solid basis for understanding the term “New Creation” entirely.

All those explanations are outside the scope of this book. Relevant books and messages

are suggested in a later section of this book. In summary, however, to fully understand 2 Corinthians 5:17. We would like you to begin to read from verse 14.

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:14–17 NKJV).

“...because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.”

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There is a death that Jesus Christ died for all. This was made possible because God included us in His death before the foundation of the world (Romans 6:8 MSG, Ephesians 1:4).

So, the reality is that when Jesus died, we also died (if we have genuinely put our faith in Him and come to a revelation of His finished work at the Cross).

“He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves...” Even though we died with Him, we are yet alive. Hallelujah!

This is the mystery that we pray you will beg God tirelessly to open your eyes to see. Even though we died, we are alive. We are alive, not because we were resuscitated but because another life entirely, another nature that has

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no connection with the previous one we had before we died, has now come to dwell in us.

One nature had to die for the other to come in. Both natures could not coexist. The birth of the second could only come about after the death of the first. We entered this life through death, and by dying daily, we will sustain, maintain, retain, and grow in this new life. We pray for the Holy Spirit to give you understanding.

“From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh.”

It is, therefore, incorrect to regard those who are now new creatures in Christ according to the flesh. What God did was not tame the old nature. God did not help the old nature. God did not strengthen the old nature to make it new. The old nature is completely helpless

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and utterly hopeless.

God decided to put it to utter death. So, those of us who belong to Christ are entirely new. We are brand new men with a brand new nature and a brand new ancestry. Because of the radicality of what God has done, we are also free from all ancestral curses.

This is because the person who belonged to our original ancestry and was thus under bondage to their covenants (that old nature) was crucified with Jesus at the Cross.

The new nature we now carry has a heavenly ancestry. We are thus wholly excluded from the dominion of Satanic powers (Colossians 1:13), not because of some earnest prayer and fasting routine, but simply because of the basic understanding of what Jesus Christ has done.

“...old things have passed away...”

This is another critical understanding of what it means to be a new creature. The Bible says old things have passed away, not just “old bad things” or “old sinful things” but old things in general.

Dear reader, we want you to know that if you have faith in Jesus Christ, old things have passed away (*not* old things are passing away or old things will pass away). Old struggles, old habits, old addictions, old limitations, old difficulties, old confidences, old identities, and old notorieties **have passed away**.

“...behold, all things have become new.”

The next word is probably the most important in that verse: behold. The word ‘behold’ means see. It speaks of a divine revelation,

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and that is the key to experiencing in practice the rich blessings locked up in that verse.

Your eyes must be open to behold, by divine revelation, this reality before you can experience it. We ask you would bow your head right now and beg God to open your eyes to see.

Much of our victory over sin and the devil lies in our ability to see and keep seeing. Little wonder Satan fights so hard to blind the eyes of people so that they will not see the light and know the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4).

We also noted that Paul prayed a lot for the eyes of the understanding of his converts to be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). The secret of beholding the Cross continuously is the secret of constant victory over sin and the devil.

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“All things have become new.” The Bible says this, and we hope you will believe it. All things, not many things, or most things. All things, not just all bad things. All things have become (not will become).

Your spiritual identity has become new; your records in heaven have become new (Satan has nothing to accuse you of since the blood of Jesus has washed away all your sins); your ancestry has become new (as you have been grafted into a heavenly genealogy and are no longer within reach of ancestral powers); your nature has become new (you now carry the life of God in you, you can no longer be a slave to sin). Praise the Lord!

RECOMMENDED READING

- Becoming Like Jesus by Gbile Akanni
- The Overcoming Life by Watchman Nee
- God's Commitment to You by Gbile Akanni
- The Spiritual Man by Watchman Nee
- Raising Agents of Transformation by Gbile Akanni

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Misplaced Bride is a story that gives a graphic expression of the life of men before salvation while they are “married” to the old nature of sin and after the revelation of their newly found faith in Christ Jesus, who sets them free entirely from the former.

It chronologically follows the woes of Christina as she longs for a better life beyond her abusive and dehumanizing union with an old army general. When she finally gets to where she always wanted to be, she is dragged back into that life of misery. Christina asks herself, “Will I ever be truly free?”

With its theme centred on an illustration from the book of Romans chapters 6-8, The Misplaced Bride shows how a believer is truly saved and lives forever victorious in Christ. The story tells of our redemption from the groanings of bondage to the glory of righteous boldness.

ABOUT US

This book is a JEGRUN publication, written and compiled by ABBA's Dwelling.

JEGRUN, which stands for Jesus Global Revolution, is a group of young people from diverse denominations and nations passionate about revival and seeking to become arrows of Calvary whom God will use to confront His enemies at the gate in this end time.

JEGRUN hosts a weekly online program focusing on young people's areas of interest, such as discipleship, marriage and relationships, and career development.

ABBA's Dwelling, as a part of JEGRUN, seeks to share profound spiritual truths through the lens of creative writing and interesting conversations.

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