

# *Starting Over Again*

*A true story of one woman's triumphant rise from  
the devastation of divorce and spousal abuse.*

Susan Voyles

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This book is dedicated to.....

The Lord who never left my side. Who supplied all my needs and never stopped loving me. To all the people who loved and supported me during this time in my life, I want to say thank you. I will forever be grateful.

*“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”*  
Philippians 4:13 (NIV)





## Chapter 1



Starting Over Again are three words that can be very devastating and frightening to think about. These words can symbolize the ending of one thing and a new beginning for another. When we get married, we take a vow we are going to be married to that person for the rest of our lives. What happens when your spouse comes to you saying they no longer want you, instead they want a divorce. For that moment in time your world stops, you suddenly go numb, cannot breathe or think. You cannot hear anything except those words, 'I don't want you'. You feel angry, rejected, betrayed and deceived. At first you are in denial. You keep telling yourself this is just a bad dream. Surely, he did not say that, let alone mean it. Still you see him packing his bags as he is getting ready to walk out the door. Now you begin to panic.

Many questions begin going through your head. What am I going to tell the children? How are they going to react to the news? Will they blame me or be mad at their father? What are people going to now think about me? Will my friends treat me different? What are they going to say at church? Will God still love me? After all God hates divorce. What about money, how am I going to pay for everything? The life two people built is now going to be mine alone.

He's about ready to leave and you begin to feel desperate. Your mind is scrambling. You're trying to think

of anything you can say to make him realize the mistake he's making. You try to make him feel guilty by telling him how it is going to hurt the children. He tells you by getting the divorce it will be better for everyone. Especially the children since all the fighting and arguing will stop. You try to shame him by saying he is being a coward, a real man would stay and work things out. He says, "We tried counseling several years ago and it did not work, remember?" You remind him you only went once. How does he know if it will work? He didn't even give it a chance. One time will not fix anything. He tells you, "It does not matter, the only way to solve our problems is by getting a divorce."

None of this is working, now your desperation is turning into anger. You cannot understand why he doesn't realize what he's doing or the pain this divorce will cause you and your children. You tell him, "Fine, if he wants to leave go ahead. He will never see his children again." You know this is going to really make him mad and he is going to walk out, although at this time you do not care. That is what you want him to do. You are in shock and you're angry. This has completely caught you off guard. You really shouldn't be surprised though. It is not as though your marriage hasn't been in trouble for some time now.

You have so many emotions going on right now, you cannot form a logical thought. You begin to argue, he blames you and you blame him. All this time you are arguing, your children are standing there wondering what in the world is going on. You have temporarily forgotten

about them as you desperately try to save your marriage.

To calm you down he tells you this is only a trial separation. He wants to see if your marriage can be worked out. This tactic works, as you calm down and tell yourself there is hope. You begin to think about all the things you can change about yourself. If you do this, it will make him happy. He will notice this change and want to come back home.

As he leaves taking his bags, you have this strange sense of happiness. You believe in a few days he will realize what he has done. He will miss the life he had and want to come home. What you do not know is, he never had any intentions to come back home. He was leaving you and walking into the waiting arms of another woman.

This is my story of how I took a journey through my wilderness on my road to redemption. A story of how two people changed the lives of many others who knew them. One man's betrayal cost one man his life, two children their fathers, and two families were destroyed. The price of one decision or action can be very costly. The devastation of a divorce does not only affect the people involved. It also has a ripple effect on the people they encounter in their lives. Before I can begin to tell you about my journey through my wilderness, let me first tell you how I managed to get to this point in my life.