

In 1998 after a series of terrible choices and a nature that was full of selfishness and sin, Bill found himself at the end of his ability to continue on this path that he had created. He had determined that there was only one solution and it was to end the years of pretending normal and living a life of lies. He felt that he had no place in God's plans. In the 3 years prior to 1998, Bill had accepted Jesus Christ as his savior; however he found it impossible to turn everything over to Him. He spent a good amount of time in bible studies, accountability groups, and one-on-one discipleship with church elders and mentors trying to turn his life around. Unfortunately, Bill was still not surrendering all to Christ. After a few years and feeling discouraged, Bill accepted his plight and decided that he would never be the man God called him to be. The only option was to terminate his life.

Fortunately, God had other plans for him. The night prior to Bill's master plan, God showed up spiritually in Bill's bedroom in a way more powerful than ever before. Bill felt the Holy Spirit speak to him telling him that he must turn himself in and become transparent. This clearly was not what Bill was looking to hear. He had spent his life hiding, full of shame, and pretending to be normal. The Holy Spirit did not give Bill any other instructions but he was so convicted by this experience he set out to do God's will. Bill sought out professional Christian counseling from a man that was called by God to lead men through the issues that Bill struggled with.

Bill's first visit with his counselor [Rick Reynolds](#) ended with Rick telling Bill that if he was willing to continue working with him, Bill was going to ultimately turn himself in. These were the same exact words that Bill heard in his bedroom from the Holy Spirit. Bill knew right then that God had provided him with the person who would instruct him in the right direction. He now realized that fully turning his life over to Christ was going to be extremely difficult, with lots of up and downs, but God would undoubtedly bring him through it all and He would change his life for His better purpose.

Rick, who had been in Bill's shoes years prior, spent 3 months with Bill counseling him and teaching him what it was to be accountable to God. Then it was time for Bill to become transparent to his wife Debbie. Bill had already become transparent to Rick and to God, but Debbie was now going to hear things that would change her life forever. Bill was not doing this to unload his guilt and hurl it on Debbie. He was seeking oneness in his marriage and that only could be obtained through openness and transparency.

Debbie, who was a Christian for about two years, was in a woman's group studying the book *Search For Significance* by Robert S. McGee. This book and the women she was studying with helped Debbie truly know that her identity and significance was in Christ. She had also just returned from a Woman of Faith conference where she had learned what forgiveness was and how it was crucial in her Christian walk. In fact, 3 days before Bill was to turn himself in, Debbie shared with the entire church at a Sunday service what she had been

enlightened on at this conference. Debbie had no idea that she would be tested on that very subject, only days later. Debbie was also the self-reliant type prior to coming to Christ. She was the opposite of codependent and many times she would internally mock woman who would remain in unfaithful relationships.

Bill knew God was in complete control and regardless of what happened, following his move to transparency, he was doing God's will and this was the only answer. Bill also learned from Rick that he deserved death for all the times he sinned against God and anything less than death was mercy. Bill was grateful for God's mercy. Debbie, Bill, and Rick met on October 15, 1998 in Rick's office and Bill began to share with Debbie everything about his life. Debbie learned about him being molested as a child and adolescent. She learned about Bill's flagrant promiscuity as a single man and his infidelity as her husband. That day Debbie's life was turned upside down, her discernment compass went from being one of self-reliant to the realization that the only true discernment she would have in the future would come from the Lord.

Debbie was blessed with a number of great Christian women in her life and the next few months were spent under their encouragement, empathy, and hope. Although Debbie knew that she was justified to leave the marriage she relied on God's provisions and grew deeper in love with Him. Bill and Debbie continued to meet with [Rick Reynolds](#), through trust in God and a desire to be transparent they found hope and oneness in their marriage.

Satan would have loved to see this marriage be destroyed, along with the two children they had. As a result of them turning to God they found hope in Him, they now have a fruitful marriage with a third child and a heart for ministry. They want to be used by God to help other marriages see how God is glorified when they find their joy and hope in Him. They have spoken individually and as a team at churches and conferences. They have a heart and calling to share with whomever will listen, that through Christ who strengthens us, there is Hope In Marriage. If you would like to learn more about how they can be used to serve please email them at contactus@hopeinmarriage.org.