

Ron, here is the ****complete chapter**** with the story, followed by ****two Nuggets of Wisdom**** and ****three Proverbs from the Book of Proverbs****, formatted so you can ****cut and paste****.

Learning to Function as an Amputee

Divorce is not illegal. The Lord even allows it to take place and gives reasons why it may happen. But at the same time, wisdom must prevail. Scripture tells us clearly that God detests divorce, and there are good reasons why.

When two people marry and truly love one another, they begin the process of becoming one. Biblically, that means something deeper than most people realize. It means you begin crucifying parts of yourself so that two lives can become one life together.

You no longer belong only to yourself.

You belong to each other.

When both people walk faithfully in that path, the blessings can be extraordinary—spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. That is the design the Lord intended. Seeking that path is one of the wisest things two people can do.

But it is not an easy path.

There are dangers and difficulties along the way. As two people move toward becoming one, the enemy will constantly attempt to divide what God intended to unite. Sometimes those attacks are obvious. Other times they are subtle and deceptive.

At times the enemy may even convince a couple that separation or divorce is easier than continuing the struggle to stay together.

Now, there are rational reasons why divorce sometimes occurs. I will not attempt to list them here. But many times what appears to be truth is really smoke, fog, and mirrors used by the enemy to weaken and eventually destroy what once was strong.

I do know this.

If two people have truly become one, separating from that union creates a wound that takes time to heal.

The only way I know how to describe it is this: it is like learning to function as an amputee.

Imagine someone who has lost an arm or a leg in combat. Suddenly their life is completely different. They may wake up in a hospital bed, in pain, uncertain how they will move forward. There is physical therapy, emotional adjustment, and the long process of learning how to live life in a way they never expected.

The loss of a spouse through divorce can feel similar.

Something that was once part of you is suddenly gone.

The life you once shared, the routines, the hopes, the future you imagined together—all of it changes. You must learn how to move forward with a part of yourself missing.

And sometimes that missing part was the very thing that helped nourish the people around you. It may have been the part of your life that gave joy to your grandchildren, the moments when the two of you shared quiet happiness together, or the simple comfort of knowing someone walked beside you every day.

When two people become one, they do so for a purpose.

Before anyone chooses to separate and remove that part of their life, the consequences should be weighed very carefully.

But the truth is, those consequences can never truly be weighed.

No one can fully foresee what the loss will feel like. No one knows how deep the pain may run or how long the struggle will last. The road that follows separation is often far more difficult than anyone ever imagined when they first considered it.

Because once the separation happens, both people must learn how to walk forward again—different than they ever expected.

Nuggets of Wisdom

- When two people truly become one, separating that union leaves a wound that takes time, patience, and grace to heal.
- Decisions made in moments of pain or conflict can create consequences that last far longer than anyone expected.

Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5–6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

****Proverbs 14:12****

"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

****Proverbs 15:22****

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."

Ron, this chapter is ****very emotionally powerful****. It's one of the chapters readers will likely stop and think about for a long time.

When you're ready, the next step we should probably do is something that will really help you see the progress you've made:

****build the Table of Contents for the entire book.****

You actually have ****more chapters finished than you may realize.****