

When I am hurt, Lord, by these broken relationships in my life, remind me to cling to You. Truly, You alone are all I need. In You, I am safe. In You, I am loved. In You, I can enjoy the life You give me, no matter what those I love do or say.



Jesus, I need help. I cannot cope with this relationship on my own any longer. I need a counselor, a friend, a support group-something! Someone who will understand what I am going through, someone who can give me advice. Please help me find the right person, the person who will reveal Your light and wisdom to me.



Prayers for Difficult Times
Barbour Publishing

Dysfunctional Relationships



No one came with me. Everyone abandoned me...But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

Creator God, I focus so often on how I want others to change. I pray for them, I nag them, I lecture them, I beg them, I try to manipulate them. Ultimately, none of it does much good. Instead, God, show me where *I* need to change. I put myself into Your hands. I am willing to have You do whatever it takes to heal my relationships.



Create in me a clean spirit, loving Lord,
and renew in me a steadfast spirit.

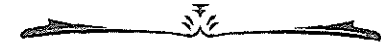
(Psalm 51:10)

It is hard to cope with relationships that are broken. We keep hoping that somehow things will change. That in spite of the way things have always gone in the past, *this time* things will be different.

We play our own role in these dysfunctional relationships. We may be what counselors call an enabler, allowing the individuals involved to keep doing things that hurt. Or we may get sucked into the fights and insults, the unproductive conversations and hurtful habits.

But God wants to heal our entire lives, including our relationships. The healing is not likely to happen overnight-but our God can do amazing things. A miracle that takes time is still a miracle.

Remind me, God, not to judge You by the human relationships that have let me down. Thank You that You are the perfect and ever-loving Friend. You never seek to use me or manipulate me. Instead, You constantly heal me and help me become more truly free of all that holds me back. Your love will never fail me.



Dear Father, I feel selfish and guilty taking time for myself. I long to run away-but I am afraid of what I will find when I come back. Remind me that I am no use to anyone if I do not take care of myself. Give me the courage to set boundaries that protect my own well being.