

# *The Snare of Seduction*

*Safeguarding a Woman's Heart in a Sex Saturated Culture*

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# Introduction

I am so glad you have decided to do this Bible study. I began writing this study after an intense season of walking through the Refiner's fire. I, like Peter, had something that needed sifting. Praise God for His refining fire! Even though I've survived with several scars, I've asked that He will never allow me to forget the fire I went through to get where He's brought me. I celebrate with Paul! *"Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him"* (2 Corinthians 2:14). I am going to be corresponding with you under the name of Sarah Laney. This provides safe boundaries for my marriage and family. I invite you to do the same.

As God began bringing women into my life who freely shared very intimate issues, I noticed a pattern. Most of them struggled with issues pertaining to their sexuality. Whether they were compromising their God given sexuality emotionally or physically, they all felt confused and enslaved at various levels. I began to wonder what was going on with my generation! What influenced us to compromise our sexuality? Why did so many Christian women consider making wrong choices outside of marriage? Why were so many of them finding themselves enslaved to thinking patterns or actions outside of God's will for marriage? God began bringing women across my path who had already found themselves stuck in a web of sin and wanted to know how to get out of it. I wanted to understand why we struggled with remaining faithful to God and to our commitments. As I searched His word and began to ask Him to show me the answers to these questions, I was astonished by what I learned. I was also astonished by how God began working in me as I organized these truths into a study to share with you. After two years of diligently seeking God's direction and message for this study, it became very obvious; the women in the body of Christ are being seduced at one level or another. They are being caught in a "snare of seduction" and are desperate to be set free.

A roadmap of my life would show you that many roads I have taken ended in one place: God's mercy and grace. As God continues to bring new levels of freedom to my life, I stand amazed at how much He loves me. He has pulled me out of every pit of sin I have ever wallowed in. I am overwhelmed that He loves me enough to not only forgive me, but to restore me as well.

I will be honest with you and tell you that even though I've had some restoration, I am still vulnerable to the same challenges you may face when it comes to being "seduced."

The enemy wants nothing more than to stop me from sharing this message. He continues to try to seduce me away from my devotion to the Lord. I would never want to portray the image that I'm incapable of falling back into a pit of sin. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As we navigate the road ahead, my prayer is that you will be encouraged in your own journey to sexual purity and faithfulness. I also pray our awareness is heightened when we step outside of God's boundaries for our sexuality, how we can safeguard ourselves from sexual seduction, and how we can live faithful lives to God and our spouses. I also want to expose Satan's schemes of sexual temptations so we will no longer fall captive to him. My prayer for you is that by combining the truths and promises of God's Word with insight into our own human vulnerabilities, we will experience victory. We can begin to see how every thought we entertain can have the power of life or death. We will see how the enemy is doing everything he can to break up Christian marriages by attempting to lure women (and men) into sexual sin outside of their marriages.

If you have ever battled thoughts about other men in your life (famous or not), this study is for you. If you have found yourself comparing your man to another, this study is for you. If you have ever thought about having a relationship outside of marriage, or have had one, this study is for you. If you find yourself constantly being "seduced" into relationships at any level, this study is for you. Join me as we travel along the path to freedom and purity together. As you respond to the daily questions, I encourage you to take time to write your answers and thoughts. You will have the option to print the pages out to respond on. The act of writing slows down our thought processes from warp speed to a pace where we can process our emotions and our heart. It is also a healthy way to express ourselves to our God.

I have created a blog that you may visit any time through the study. Feel free to leave comments under an alias name if you desire to do so. A link to the blog is provided at the bottom of each page in the online study. Simply click on "[Sarah's Blog](#)" to be immediately redirected. I also have an email address available to you if you have questions or would like prayer. It is [sarahlaney1@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahlaney1@yahoo.com).

Now, I invite you to grab your bibles and come along side me as we study God's Word together!

## Personal Testimony

In the periods of time I have spent seeking Christ, He has shared truths from His Word that have set me free from the chains that bound me. The process has been quite a ride! I earnestly seek to know God better and want to continue to please Him with my life. Although I am walking with God in obedience, I have known many seasons of disobedience. I have walked right into the enemy's playground and have known defeat too many times because I had little knowledge of God's Word and God's love. Fear and desire for approval influenced me, but through this process of writing, God has brought me to new levels of freedom.

I have known multiple forms of bondage in my life since childhood. Each left me vulnerable to all kinds of temptations. By age nine, I was pulling out my hair by the handfuls from the stresses of shame and bondage. During the writing process, I found a picture of me that I would like to share with you. It spoke volumes about the kind of bondage I was in. I was posing in stocks in Williamsburg, Virginia. Although I was just posing, you can see the shackles around my wrist and the bald spot on my head. As I stared at the picture for the first time in years, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper to my heart, "you have been in shackles since childhood and it's time to break free of them and walk in freedom, my child."

The exposure to sexual sin at a young age and having raw emotional wounds left me vulnerable to the enemy. Because of these wounds, I was often caught off guard by the enemy and fell for his schemes. Whether I was acting out in rebellion or numbing my pain through alcohol, drugs, or sexual sin, the enemy was keeping score of my wrongs and heaping shame upon shame. By the time I made it to the altar in marriage, it was all I could do to hold my head high above the heaviness of shame. I never knew I could actually have a chance to be washed clean from my past and be a pure bride again. During the early years of my marriage I made choices that continued to heap shame upon shame. Ultimately it would bring me to a place of utter desperation.

I know what it feels like to want to give up living because the pain of regret and shame is so

overwhelming that you just want to go home to the Father. I know what it feels like to hate yourself, yet wishing you knew how to love yourself.

I know what it's like to have the King of Kings and Lord of Lords love on me, regardless of my past. I have seen the power of the Father come to my aid and teach me how to battle against the war waged against me. I've learned the enemy comes to kill, steal, and destroy, but the Father comes to give life. Even though the enemy tried to keep me defeated, the attacks drove me instead straight into the arms of my loving heavenly Father! I had pushed everyone nearest to me away, so when I called out for help from those closest to me, I got no answer. In that place of utter aloneness, though, I discovered I really was not alone. Someone was standing above my dark pit waiting for me to reach out for His hand. It was Jesus. I remember asking Him that if he was going to pull me out of this pit, to please chain my wrist to His so that I could not ever fall back in. He has been faithful to do so! The Bible has taught me that what Satan meant for harm, God can use for His glory. We serve a mighty God, and He has been so faithful to me even when I was not.

You see, the amazing thing is not only did God pull me out of that pit of sin, but he provided a few godly women to come along side of me to help me walk out my recovery. I will forever be grateful for them. His word promises to send aid to us time and time again. He was so faithful to do so! I will be honest with you. I don't have it all together and I'm on a path just like you, to know the freedom Jesus came to give me. I, like you, still face temptations of many kinds and am learning to break free of other bondages in my life. However, God has made me aware of Satan's schemes when it comes to sexual seduction and how to recognize it.

The Bible teaches us that God not only forgives our sins and redeems our lives, but he crowns us with love and compassion. We are all a work in progress. What a promise we share! May my journey encourage you to recognize the battle waging around us. May my life and yours be an example of God's faithfulness to His promises!

# Acknowledgements

There are several people that God brought into my life during my season of restoration and healing. They all played a key part in my healing process that allowed me to be where I am today; sharing God's truth with others.

First and foremost, I want to thank my Lord and Savior for all He has done for me. May your Holy name be glorified through the writing of this study. I will always stand in awe of the way you offered such mercy and grace when I deserved it least. You are my one True Love and I will praise your name for all you have done and continue to do for me. May my life be a testimony of your amazing love!

My dearest husband. Where would our family be if you had not died to your flesh and humbly followed God in obedience? Thank you for loving the Father so much that you would lay down your life for another. You have laid your precious life down for the sake of God's name to be glorified in your life. I will never know how to thank you enough. My prayer is that God would allow me to humbly serve you the rest of my earthly days and that He would walk you into all that He has for you. Thank you for showing me what true love really is.

Bobbie, I don't know how to express in words what your ministry of counseling through Green Acres Baptist Church has meant to me. My life was truly saved and dramatically changed because of your words of wisdom and encouragement. God used you as a vessel to speak truth into my life on the day I thought my life might end. You offered a place of safety that allowed me to become see through for the first time in my life. I had never experienced such safety in all of my life. Thank you for offering a place of true grace. I love you dear sister. May you be immensely blessed for allowing the Lord to use you in His people's lives.

Margie, I don't know where to begin. Thank you for being my best friend. You came to my aid time and time again and richly blessed me through your love as a friend and a daughter of the King. Thank you for loving me when I was least lovely to others. You were my first friend who God enabled to see my heart when my life was a chaotic mess. I know that the anointing on your life has overflowed into mine. I know that God is going to bless many others through the call He has on your

life. If I had not known you differently, I would have thought you truly were an angel sent to me from above. I count myself blessed to be called your friend, dear sister. I love you!

Beth Moore, although you don't know me personally and your eyes may never read this, I want to honor you before the Lord and any others reading this. I want to thank you for pouring out your heart on written pages so the Lord can be glorified. I came to know the Savior through Breaking Free and was so richly blessed through all of your studies. Thank you for allowing God to use your past for His glory. I have learned so much through your studies and can't begin to express in words how much God has changed me through them! I humbly thank you for ministering to your sisters.

Michelle and Cune, thank you for your unconditional love. I feel honored to call you my brother and sister in Christ. Thank you for speaking truth into my life and showing me who I am in Christ. Thank you for showing me how to stomp on the enemy and how to sow seeds of God's love into my life. I bless you for sharing "Big Jesus" with me. You are all about the Kingdom here on earth and it shows in every area of your lives. May the Lord give you both your heart's desire. I consider myself richly blessed to have you both in my life. I praise God that we share a "Big Jesus" together! I love you both.

Mary and Rick, thank you both for leading me through inner healing and deliverance. I thank you for ministering to me and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead me to new levels of freedom. Your ministry has been huge in my life and I bless you both.

Corey and Tristy, thank you for living such see through lives before me. Thank you for ministering to my soul when I was so broken. You both are such powerful ministers of God's Word. His glory is written all over you both and I bless you in Jesus' name for the love you have for His people.

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I can hardly wait to see all the people you are going to touch through your own testimony. I love you and bless you, sister.

Marie, your wisdom has been such a blessing to me, dear sister. Thank you for all the “God talks” and many laughs that my soul so desperately needed! Thank you for joining me in my “pit” to help me revise this study. I’m sure you would agree with me that it was not a pretty one at times! I humbly thank you for the time you put into this.

Rachel, thank you so much for editing this study and walking through it. Your passion for women is so touching and I have felt so humbled at times by your encouraging words throughout this process. I am praying for you and the ministry ahead of you. God is going to use you so powerfully in the women’s lives he brings to you!

Kelli, without you, this would not have been possible to see this come to pass on-line. You are a rich blessing to me and our church. Although you work “behind the scenes”, you are not overlooked, dear one! Your love for God is so apparent. The first time I met you I was in awe of your passion and love for the Father. Your testimony blew me out of the water. Thank you for sharing your heart with me and for all you have done to allow this project to come to pass.

Lastly, I want to thank Linda for planting the seed for this study to be written. God has used you as a huge resource in my life and continues to do so. Thank you for believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself! I can’t tell you what that has meant to me. I will forever be grateful that you encouraged me and opened every door for this study to be a possibility. Thank you for seeing my heart for the Lord. Thank you for setting this “woman in motion”! May God continue to bless your ministry at Green Acres Baptist Church.