

Vicky O'Brien

“God couldn't have answered my prayers more clearly”



As a young child I believed in God, but I was very upset with Him when my Dad passed away suddenly when I was 18. I went to University and someone invited me to church, but I found it too emotional and backed away. I graduated as a teacher, married a man I'd fallen in love with and we had our first son. Life felt good and I thought I could do things on my own without God.

Times got tough when we had our second son. His birth was terrifying and the experience traumatised my husband and led him to be deeply depressed. Over the next year, his behaviour changed dramatically to the point where I didn't recognise the man I'd married. I found myself in a frightening place and felt vulnerable and isolated.

One day, my husband told me he couldn't live with me or the boys anymore and was leaving us. I felt crushed and broken, and worried about how I'd cope financially. I turned to God, asked Him for help and came to church the next Sunday morning. The same afternoon my Mum visited and, although she didn't know what had happened, she told me she wanted to sell her house in London and move to Nottingham to help with my boys. This was enough to pay off my mortgage. God couldn't have answered my prayers more clearly.

As time went on, my husband received counselling for his depression and we were reconciled. I'd promised to stand by him in sickness and health when we got married 10 years earlier and I still loved him. So, he moved back into our family home and things got better.

Then, five months later, I discovered my husband had been having an affair. It had been going on for two years. We separated and once again I was a broken woman, but this time I had God and the support of my church family which made all the difference.

I knew I needed to forgive my husband for what had happened and, although this was humanly impossible, God intervened again in my life. The day before our son's third birthday, I came to church consumed with worry that I had to spend the next day with my husband. The talk that day was entitled: 'Forgive fast'. It spoke directly to me and after praying, I felt a weight lift immediately and breathed deeply for the first time in eight weeks. Amazingly, throughout my sons birthday the next day, I felt fine!

God continues to work in my life and is so good to me. The more I listen, the more He shows me the way I need to go and what He wants for me. This year I turn 40 and will get divorced, but I am full of hope and excited to see what God has in store for my future.

