What Do I Have to Lose?

Losing my way and finding God's #100daysofbeingaloser

A 50-day devotional

Book 1

Janice Wolfe

Foreword by Francie Taylor

Copyright © 2024 Causeway Media Group.

All rights reserved.

All Scripture is taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Editors | Dan Wolfe and Angie Zachary Photo Credit | Autumn Kirves Photography ISBN 9798218971410



For information or additional copies, please email info@causewaymediagroup.com.



Dedication

Lovingly dedicated to my seven children—the three who suffered through loss with me and the four who received me while navigating your own losses.

Each one of you is a treasure and gift for which I thank God every day.

Table of Contents

Forewor	d	vii
Introduc	etion	ix
Day 1	Lose the Throne	1
Day 2	Sometimes When You Lose, You Win	3
Day 3	Temporal Loss, Eternal Gain	5
Day 4	The Fear of Loss	7
Day 5	Both Are Lost	9
Day 6	Lost and Found	11
Day 7	Lost in a World of Fear	13
Day 8	What Have I Got to Lose?	15
Day 9	Lost on Purpose	17
Day 10	Start Losing Today	19
Day 11	I've Got to Lose Something	21
Day 12	The Lost Dog	25
Day 13	No Matter What I May Lose	29
Day 14	No Loss, No Gain	33
Day 15	Are You Lost?	37
Day 16	The Lost Child	39
Day 17	Lose the "Squatter's Rights" Mentality	43
Day 18	All Is Not Loss	47
Day 19	Lose the Sword	51
Day 20	The Motivation to Lose	53
Day 21	Afraid to Lose	55
Day 22	A Different Way to Lose	59
Day 23	A Hard Loss	61
Day 24	Lost at Sea	63
Day 25	The Four Keys to Losing Myself	65

Day 26	The World to Lose	67
Day 27	Trust Jesus with the Loss	69
Day 28	When You Give, You Lose	73
Day 29	Lose Myself	75
Day 30	The Impact of Loss	77
Day 31	The Path to Loss	79
Day 32	The Power to Lose	83
Day 33	Lose the Old	87
Day 34	Envy: A Lost Cause	93
Day 35	No Fear of Loss	97
Day 36	More to Lose	101
Day 37	Committed to Losing	105
Day 38	Losing the Eternal Advantage	109
Day 39	You Can't Lose with Jesus	111
Day 40	Blood Loss	113
Day 41	Stuck and Lost	115
Day 42	A Season of Loss	119
Day 43	I Don't Want to Lose You	121
Day 44	Tragic Loss	125
Day 45	The Place of Loss	127
Day 46	A Game of Lost and Found	129
Day 47	The Unique Pursuit of the Lost	131
Day 48	The Suffering Loser	135
Day 49	The Value of the Lost Coin	139
Day 50	When the Lost Are Found	141
Book 2		143
About the Author		144
A Final Word from the Author		

Foreword

Have you ever had a time in your life where it felt like things kept going in the wrong direction? You're not alone. What Do I Have to Lose? takes a candid look at how our own personal times of despair can be used by God to make us more Christlike and less "us-like." This book draws from a combination of the life of the author along with the lives of people from the Bible, showing us that we are not the first to wrestle with life going off course. Life's detours may seem negative, but have you ever considered that they may serve a beautiful purpose?

We tend to think of losing as an automatically negative event, but Janice Wolfe demonstrates how Christ reframes losing into the miraculous discovery of an abundant life in Him. Losing is culturally scorned, but it is biblically desirable. Janice demonstrates the parallels between our lives and the lives of those who have lived before us, showing us how gain was found through loss.

To find our lives, we must first lose them in Christ. This is a painful yet strength-building journey designed by God, but not actively pursued by many. Let's face it: by nature, we like life to be predictable, comfortable, and enjoyable. How could losing have anything to do with our life goals?

In God's plan, losing our lives and setting aside our personal agendas allows us to experience the abundant life in Christ. This devotional will challenge your thinking, leading you to new discoveries and biblically sound conclusions firmly established in Scripture. Like many people, Janice is familiar with loss, which makes her insights both credible and practical. You are holding a tool in your hands that will help you to rethink your strategy for living a vibrant Christian life. Read this and then give yourself time to consider how God would like you to see your losses as gains in disguise.

Francie Taylor Keep the Heart

Introduction

The year 2020 will go down in history as a year of loss for many. In January of 2021, I chose a word for the year—and my word was *lose*. Now, I can't tell you exactly what prompted me to choose that particular word except that the losses of 2020 had created in me a deep despair that involved a feeling of perpetual loss. And thus began my study of losing.

As I typed this introduction, I literally laughed out loud because who in their right mind puts so much focus on losing? All I know is that choosing the word *lose* set me on a joyous journey of allowing God to teach me through His Word what it means to lose my life and then find it in Christ.

After choosing *lose* from Mark 8:35, I looked it up in *Strong's Concordance* on my phone app and learned this.

The Greek word for lose is apollymi, which means to destroy fully.

Apollymi is used 100 times in 86 verses in the King James Version of the Bible. I immediately knew that I could learn a lesson from each use of this Greek word in the Word of God. The Bible is an amazing book in that way. So, I began studying verse by verse and sharing what I was learning—first on social media and then on the *eleven2one* blog. I even

named it "The Loser Bible Study Series" and began to tag it as #100daysofbeingaloser. This first book contains the first 50 of those 100 days.

Like most people, I love to win, but I am horrible at losing—yet my journey of losing continued for three years. And along the way, I found that I have a lot to lose.

My goal for this devotional is that you will be inspired to do exactly what God has called each of us to do—lose. But God does not call us to lose without purpose. Oh, no, not at all. We are losing on purpose and for a purpose. We are losing our lives for the sake of Christ and the gospel. It is my prayer that you will ask yourself the honest question, "What do I have to lose?" and begin today to lose your life so that you can find it in Christ.

Love, Janice