

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

But wait a minute, you might be thinking, wasn't that lady's name Lucy MacLeod the last time we heard the program? That's right. It was. As of today, I've been married to Dr. Paul McCain for 105 days. Yea! God is so good and I am so grateful!

Paul was a widower, I, a widow. A church friend asked if I'd go on a date. I said "no," but I'd go on a walk. We've been walking ever since. I'm sure over the coming weeks you'll learn more of our incredible God gift of a love story.

Now, let's get to the meat of the matter, this program's reason for being - encouragement. Ah, Pilgrim, listen to these words for today. They minister to my soul, just like that song by D. J. Butler does. I pray the Holy Spirit pours His healing wholeness power over you through these mighty verses. They are Isaiah 62:1-5 and 10-12.

You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My delight is in her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of

stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes, behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." And they shall be called The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called Sought out, a city not forsaken.

Ah, Pilgrim, did any of those words light up your heart? I love the proclamation, "You shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God." "Yes! Yea! Amen." Talk about being a king or a queen for the day!

And then it goes on about some hard terms - "You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight is in her."

"Forsaken" -- "desolate" -- wow, did those words bring up some poignantly painful memories when first heard - did they also do that to you, Pilgrim? I am, by God's grace - healed, whole and healthy - but living in this broken world can leave scars, don't you think? But scars can be OK - healed scars that is. They can be the very place where the light of Jesus shines through us most brightly.

I've personally experienced a fire, a divorce after 29 years of marriage. I've personally experienced widowhood after 623 days of marriage. "Forsaken?" "Desolate?" - those words caught me for a moment, but then did you hear the rest of the story? "You shall no more be termed forsaken and your land shall no more be termed desolate. Let's give an even bigger "Yes! Yea! Amen!" cheer.

And even sweeter - the proclamation "You shall be called My delight is in her." How's that for a name, Pilgrim? A name given to you, given to me - personally - by our living, loving Lord God - talk about a blessing! Imagine Jesus Himself placing His hand on your head right this minute and naming you "delight" - His delight! Doesn't that send chills up and down your spine?

Then it continues and makes another wonderful proclamation. It says, "God rejoices over you." The dictionary says rejoice means "gives more joy" - gives more delight. You and I individually, personally bring more joy and more delight to our Father God. Can you imagine?

So, Pilgrim, hold those shoulders back this day. You are precious. You are special. You are uniquely made. You are one of a kind. Your uniqueness brings delight and joy to our creator God. You probably possess some scars in your wardrobe. It's part of our human garb. But by God's grace, ask Him to heal, make whole, make healthy these wounds. He can. He does. He will. I know. Let His light shine through you. -- And then, and then, as His beloved, we have work to do - it says "prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones" - and then it goes on to say we have another name - "And they shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called Sought out, a city not forsaken."

Pilgrim, hold those shoulders up - be humbly proud this day. Yes, my name has changed to Lucy McCain - but goodness, so many of my other names have not - and neither have yours - be

"delightful" this day - full of God's light - be a holy people. I guess we've got our marching orders, don't you think?

God's peace and love

Your sister in Christ,

Lucy

P.S. Pilgrim, if that word "married" which is mentioned four times in these verses carries with it some very personal, painful memories - let them go - leave them at the foot of the cross.

Ask the Lord Jesus to heal, to make whole, to make healthy. And then claim, claim your brideship to the only true Bridegroom with a capital B, our Lord and Savior. And remember, "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." And remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

"Yes! Yea! Amen!" Precious Pilgrim, love to you and our Lord.

I am your sister in Christ,

Lucy