

Today is a new day. Today is what we have been fighting for.

Sixteen months ago, I began praying that God would bring me a best friend because I was so lonely. I was not patient enough to wait for him to restore our marriage and friendship. So, I filled that void by giving a piece of my heart to someone else. Two months later began the most difficult year of our lives, when you discovered the relationship.

This past year, I've had to accept that I can't fix everything by myself. It was the first time in my life that I needed Christ. I needed him to fix me. I needed him to fix us. It was the first time that there was no good outcome...without Him. Not only was it the first time that I realized that I need Christ, but it was the first time that I realized that I need you in my life. That was hard for me to swallow after trying for so long to be the independent woman of today's world who doesn't need anyone but herself.

Never in my life has it been so apparent what a wretched and disgusting sinner I am. I am so grateful that I have been washed clean and forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ. And words can't express how grateful I am for your forgiveness.

After all of our hard work, I am excited to tell you that you are who I want to spend the rest of my life with. You are my best friend. You are the answer to my prayer. Everyday I look forward to eating lunch with you at work. Everyday I become more excited for our future together. I am so grateful that we fought hard to win the biggest marriage battle of our life. And now, we are well-armed to fight the battles of the future.

Today, in front of all of these people, in front of Pastor Mark Driscoll, and in front of God (who sparked my interest in you at age 16, who brought us together at age 19 to begin dating, and who blessed our marriage at age 22), I make these promises to you:

- I promise to be true to you.
- I promise to give you my whole heart for the rest of our lives.
- I will not put myself in situations that could compromise our relationship.
- I will honor you and respect you as the spiritual leader of our marriage and our family.
- I will be your helper, as God designed.
- I will hold you accountable for your actions and I expect you to do the same for me.
- I will pray for you, for our marriage, and for our family.
- I will tell our girls what an amazing husband and father you are. I will teach them that when they are old enough to look for a husband, they should look for someone just like their Daddy...who is a man of God.
- I will be your best friend.
- When life gets hard, I promise to run to you rather than run away.
- And I promise to fight for you...for the rest of my life.