



Winter has finally loosened its grip. Now, spring reveals God’s handiwork as creation stirs to life — flowers unfurl, animals pair and nest, and new unions flourish. Even as we celebrate the weddings of loved ones during this season, these new unions remind us of the beautiful relationship between Christ and His Bride, the church.

This spring, we are reflecting on the wisdom Elisabeth gleaned from the three great loves of her life. She shared this wisdom with her daughter, Valerie, in *Let Me Be a Woman*, the book Elisabeth wrote as a wedding gift to Valerie upon her 1976 marriage to Walt Shepard. We’re delighted to share an excerpt from that

treasured book offering Elisabeth's timeless insight on love, union, and the goodness of God's design.

Chapter 29: A Union

Marriage is a union. It takes two to make a union. One cannot do it. When God created man, He saw that it was not good for him to be alone, and He created a woman from and for him, specifically designed to help him, to be suitable for him, to be his mate. The woman is totally other, totally different, totally God's gift to man, and each stands in relation to the other, responsible to the other in obedience to the command of God, responsible to be a man or a woman, and, in marriage, to unite as one flesh. It is for this reason that a man leaves his parents. He forsakes all other ties in the flesh in order to establish this most intimate one of all, the only one which is a perfect union of one flesh.

There is no competition in a union. There is no playing off of one against the other, no keeping score, no making of comparisons or insistence on a fifty-fifty division of anything. Each is for the other, pulling with and not against him.

But we are human. You, being my daughter, know very well that I am human and full of flaws and make no claim that things always work flawlessly. Once, before your father and I were married, I learned that he felt we were competing and this was a hard thing for him to take. We were both studying Spanish under an Ecuadorian lady, and she had to correct his pronunciation more often than she had to correct mine. He was not upset because he thought she was being partial. He was upset because he thought she was right. I knew nothing about it until once when we were walking together and he spoke of it. It was not that he was asking me to slow down, to "act dumb," to be an inferior student. Nothing was further from his mind. He only wanted to confess his difficulty with this competition. I recognized that I had been enjoying it, and had probably studied harder than I would have if I had not had it. He recognized that the difference of gifts is one of the facts of life and he was eventually able to accept this. It was a question of feelings, not reason, and he saw it as such. Both of us began to learn— and this is a lesson which we never stop learning- that whatever gifts either of us had were not that we might flaunt them but that we might use them for the sake of other people. After we were married we discovered how our various gifts fit together astonishingly well, and thus we began to learn the lesson of 1 Corinthians 12:17-18: "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he

chose."

There is union in the physical body-all the members joined together in harmony and for the good of the whole, all subject to the head. So there is union in marriage, two separate persons made one in the flesh, and, if they are Christians, one in Christ, subject to His leadership. If they are one in Christ, they have not only union but communion, and this is a priceless thing.

News & Updates

For those who missed Museum of the Bible's exhibit highlighting Elisabeth's life and ministry, *Through Gates of Splendor: The Elisabeth Elliot Story*, we are pleased to announce that it has moved to Colorado Springs opening on May 17th, where **Focus on the Family** will host the exhibit for the summer months! Plan a family trip to see this inspiring story of Elisabeth's life journey through her own personal photo albums, artifacts, journals and books.

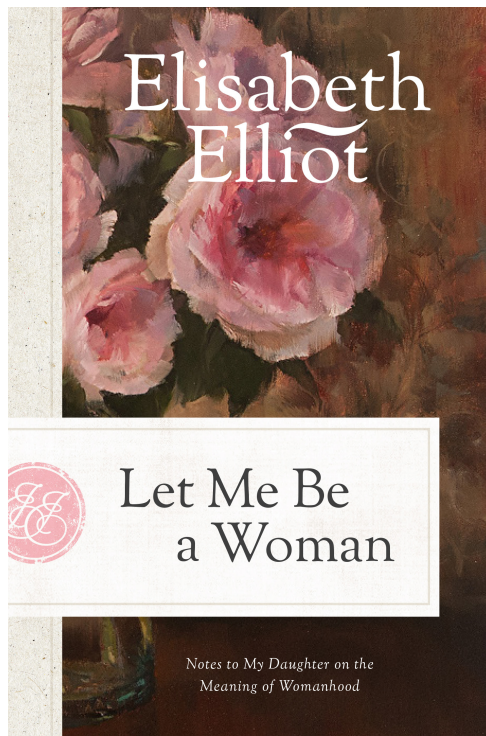
[Museum of the Bible Exhibit Information](#)

Let Me Be a Woman has been beautifully repackaged with a fresh bouquet of roses. See this new cover pictured below. You will want to share Elisabeth's wisdom and faith with all of the women in your life!

We are thrilled to share with you that Elisabeth's cherished book *The Liberty of Obedience*, which has been out of print for decades, is now available in audiobook format. The best part is, Elisabeth herself narrates it! We hope you will be encouraged and refreshed as you listen to her humbly share how God worked in her heart while living among the Waodoni.

[Find all Elisabeth's Audiobooks Here](#)

Coming Soon! DaySpring has created lovely images, scripture, prayers and Elisabeth's quotes in their line of *Prayers to Share: 100 Pass-Along Notes to Bless Hearts*. We pray these will encourage you as you share with your friends, family and even complete strangers you meet in the course of your day!



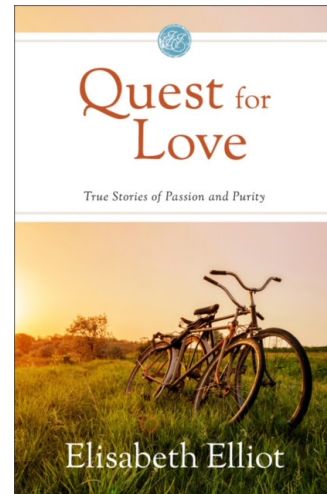
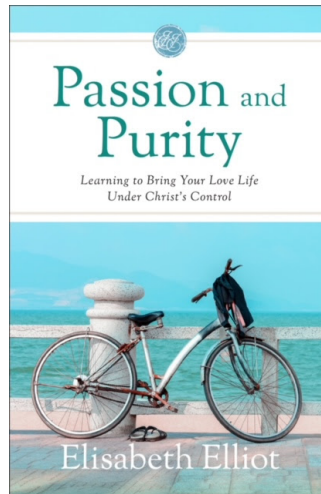
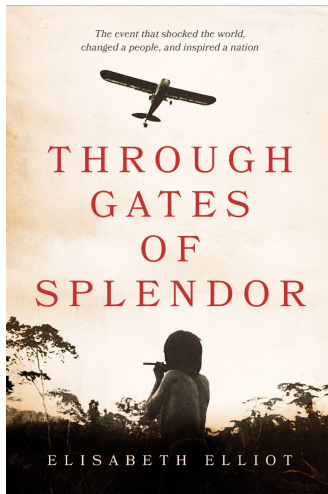
Word from the Board

We have been remiss this season combining the Winter and Spring Newsletter — not for lack of news. Bittersweetly the Winter months were filled with care for Elisabeth’s widower Lars in his final days on this earth. As a steward of Elisabeth’s legacy and caregiver for Lars as he suffered from dementia, it has been a poignant chapter of my husband’s and my life. Dementia is a journey that touches countless lives, with so many of you lovingly watching over and caring for those succumbing to its effects.

I have been reminded of Elisabeth’s booklet “Forget Me Not” written with her own Mother’s dementia on her heart which was published before Elisabeth was diagnosed with the same disease. Her words are a precious reminder that only God knows what lies ahead for each of us. Elisabeth’s Jim died by a spear, her Add in the throws of cancer. And her third husband Lars experienced dementia during the last decade – this after Elisabeth’s own battle with Alzheimer’s came to an end in 2015.

Although I am filled with tears of sadness for our loss, I’m joyful for their gain, For each one of these precious ones are now perfect, pure, forgiven, loved and embraced in the arms of Jesus! What a day of rejoicing that will be for us too one day...

With Love,
Kathy



Elisabeth's classics, now with beautiful updated covers — find them all here:

[The Elisabeth Elliot Website](#)

From the Scrapbook

Elisabeth and Her Three Loves...





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