

Don't Forget the Love!

Marriage is one of the greatest opportunities to love, minister, and be a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, so it stands to reason that with such a huge responsibility there comes great preparation. Now before you get all "*here we go again*" on me, I urge you to take a minute, reflect, and carefully consider Galatians 5:6 (NIV). It says "*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*" hmmm....faith expressing itself through love...what a concept!

It's true that finding a compatible mate is not always an easy task, but although it requires a lot of endurance and patience, if you will allow your faith to shift into high gear the waiting part may not be nearly as weighty as you think. Life as a single woman is not meant to be grueling. It's meant to condition your relationship with Jesus Christ until your husband arrives on the scene. Your time alone is purposeful; therefore there is nothing about your singleness that is a mistake. Yes, you may become tired of waiting for your mate, but look at it as a time to build your womanhood.

Right now, that's exactly what's going on. You are being prepared! God is helping you to build your womanhood to such a degree that your faith is unwavering, so that you are strong enough to maintain your walk in Christ and assist the spiritual walk of your future husband as well.

This is so monumentally important for you to grasp, because today's modern society is complex and people come with some built-in stuff that will throw you for a loop if you're not prepared. You might meet a gentleman who seems pretty neat on the upshot, but after a few weeks of conversations you're like "*Whoaa, is he from out of space or something?*" It's not impossible that Mr. Space Cadet is your future husband, but if you haven't built up enough compassion, patience, and faith within your heart, you might just kick him to the curb and dismiss your blessing.

People are under the disillusion that just because it doesn't look, feel, and behave the way we expect it to that it can't be a blessing. We think that we couldn't possibly miss out on God's goodies, but that simply isn't true. We miss them all the time because

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we're not paying attention as we ought to be. Our minds are focused on everything other than demonstrating the love of God.

Some of us have no problem meeting attractive men. The problem we DO have, though, is wading through the wrong ones to get to Mr. Right. Very often times single women attract the kind of man that is more interested in their physical beauty than their "godly wife" potential. When this happens, you have to take a deeper look at what is really going on. Yes, God gave us curves for the purpose of being physically appealing to a man, but you want to be appealing to the RIGHT man. You want to attract the man who is really ready to partner. To do that you have to broadcast at a frequency that reels him in. This is accomplished when you set your dial at the highest "love" setting there is, and that's the love of Christ.

You can't forget that love, not lust, is the central component to any long-lasting relationship. If you've got all kinda' other disturbances like selfishness, arrogance, and conceit causing interference in your love frequency, then you've got to do the work to clear up your signal.

Colossians 3:9-10 NLT says "Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you." As imperfect as we are, we are made perfect because of the love of Jesus Christ dwelling within us. This brand new nature within you will attract your husband if you'll have faith that the Lord is guiding you and helping you to get prepared.

But let's be clear, you can't expect to obtain something new without letting go some of your old ways. It's time to get busy proving that you are capable of taking care of not only yourself, but another one of God's treasures too. God has a supreme order to everything that He does; He says so in His Word, so there must be an *order* for you to get married as well. That order dictates that you prioritize His love first.

Ephesians 3:16-17 (NKJV) says "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." This is the place that God is leading you to, the place where your inner-woman is strengthened with might through His Spirit. Only when you are strong in God's love can Christ dwell in your heart through faith.

The Father isn't keeping your husband from you, quite the contrary. He's preparing you in such a way that you don't forget the love—that love is the weapon you reach for

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when things get tough. Growing in love is really what this season in your life is all about, and one day, as you're sitting together on the couch with your honey, hand in hand, you'll remember these days of singleness and think "*Father, the preparation was so worth the wait.*"

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