

# *Get Ready to Inhale Matrimony and Exhale Singleness!*

## **1 Corinthians 7:7 (NLT)**

*7But I wish everyone was single, just as I am. But God gives to some the gift of marriage, and to others the gift of singleness.*

Being single doesn't mean you're alone and unhappy, it simply means that you are in a better position to focus on the Kingdom of God. When you're single, most of the time you only have to think about You! You have complete autonomy over your life, and if you have chosen to continue that lifestyle...that's ok too. As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul said he wish everyone were single, just as he was. He felt that way because it's the perfect time to worship and spend time building an even stronger relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The Apostle Paul dedicated his life to the Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and he was indeed single. Our purpose as single people is one of preparation to live, breathe, and walk the Word. God knew that if we play our cards right, as single Christian folk we will have the least amount of distractions. We can glean an even sharper vision of how we fit into His plan.

Developing and prioritizing your time with God will inevitably prepare you for marriage, because you should have already taken the necessary steps to build a solid foundation for what true commitment is. Think of it this way, if you haven't cultivated the necessary skills to make time for God, then more than likely your devotion to your partner will take a back seat as well.

God knows when you are ready to inhale matrimony and exhale singleness, so embrace this time, because as a married person a great deal of energy and focus will be on your mate.

Let's face it, marriage...its no joke, but if your union is blessed by God - it can be a bed of roses---it just takes work. We have to ask ourselves some hard questions sometimes and the answers may not necessarily be what we like. Questions like, what steps have I taken to prepare for a successful marriage? What are some of the habit patterns that I've developed to foster spiritual growth?

Spiritual growth is necessary in order to allow the Love of God in any committed relationship. Walking down the aisle is an easy thing to do but staying in a committed, loving marriage is where the works comes in.

Commitment takes courage and a great deal of patience. Patience to love your partner through the pain, endurance to stick it out when times get tough, and most importantly, how to love each other through the storms of life. Togetherness requires letting go of what you think love and marriage is and embrace the truth of who you can be 'together'.

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Whatever and whoever you were before you got married will sometimes remain the same. What will change will be your capacity to love bigger and greater through the obstacles and triumphs you face as a couple. The union you share with each other will be a ministry on its own.

Please pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for preparing me while I'm single to be everything I should be in You. So that when you bless me with a mate I will be well prepared in every area of my life. Amen ●

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