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Kim's Kaleidoscope for Singles

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Don't Ignore the Warnings

Just like a loving father would do for his children, our Heavenly Father gives instruction on how to live and how to avoid certain pitfalls in life. He provides divine intervention through the Holy Spirit within, but it's up to us to recognize the warning signs. I want to emphasize how very important it is for Christian women, particularly those who are single, to pay close attention to spiritual indicators when involved in new relationships.

When we become involved in a new relationship with a man, we feel exhilarated—no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Our hormones race, the chemicals in our brains change, and we operate at a heightened level of excitement. This irresistible cocktail of chemicals, emotions, and hormones will cause us to believe that we've found Mr. Right, when that might not necessarily be the case. Very often times we will give in and become love-struck, because we've been waiting for the fruition of the promise for so long.

Because the beginning of something new is such a crucial time for any woman, as daughters of the Most High, it behooves us to be extremely aware and cautious. I'm not hating, but keepin' it real...most new beaus are very attentive in the beginning of a relationship. This is the time when usually, they're on their best behavior. We gotta' give'em an "A" for the gesture, but by the same token, as women of God we can't let a little attention by a man cause us to lose sight of our priorities and standards of Godliness.

One way that we lose our perspective is by idealizing the new man. We'll magnify his virtues and explain away his flaws. Often those flaws are incompatibilities that we should be recognizing as warning signs, but we're so enamored with the idea of finally having someone that we dismiss what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us.

Another telltale warning that a whole bunch of us overlook is this big, humongous word called EFFORT. Brotherman needs to bring his A-game. You cannot ignore it when, right off the bat, he doesn't value your worth. I'm not talking about your financial status; I'm talking strictly spiritual here. If he doesn't thoroughly respect your stand as a Christian woman, it's either because you are not carrying yourself that way or he could care less. As a woman expecting a man who equals her capacity to love, you absolutely must have concrete evidence that the man—no matter how fine he may be—is putting serious effort into building something of quality with you. Follow his lead! If you don't see the effort from him, then don't you make a move.

Now here's the big whammy, "*moving too fast!*" The Holy Spirit will tell us "*Slow ya' roll, partner! You're moving too fast!*" A true and lasting love deepens and develops over time. It requires

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patience and self-examination. You should be cautious about welcoming the idea of doing everything with a new guy. You can't afford to shift your focus off of God in this way, and if you are being pressured to do this, a red flag ought to be going up in your mind. Maintaining quality fellowship and communion with Heavenly Father is the only way that you can be confident you are making the right decisions.

Also, if you are receiving constant interruptions whenever you're around this person, you can't seem to find the time to meet and chat, or if you're getting those uneasy feelings of discomfort, these are warnings as well. Don't ignore them!

Scripture is so instructional, and it lets us see that God warns His people when they are in the midst of danger. In the Old Testament, God's people didn't have the wealth of spiritual goodies that have been made available to you and me. They were not equipped with the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit, so they didn't have internal warnings to let them know when to avoid certain dangerous situations. In many instances God's people had to literally see the danger before they would believe it. Then, when they were informed about the eminence of a threat and how to avoid it, it was left up to them to take action. Look at Ezekiel 33:3-5

3 When the watchman sees the enemy coming, he sounds the alarm to warn the people. 4 Then if those who hear the alarm refuse to take action, it is their own fault if they die. 5 They heard the alarm but ignored it, so the responsibility is theirs. If they had listened to the warning, they could have saved their lives.

There are Christian women who continue to put themselves in situations that are not conducive to a long and healthy, Godly marriage. But rest assured that this is what Heavenly Father desires for you. He hasn't left you defenseless. You have everything you need on the inside to lead and guide you down the path that leads to victory. Don't overlook His divine instruction. Try your best to recognize and heed His signs and warnings, so that you are not knocked out of focus by the wrong person or thing. Warnings can come through dreams, they can come through people, and they can come through the most unsuspecting sources; but one thing is for sure, they DO come. Pay attention!●

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