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Kim's Kaleidoscope for Singles

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On Loan from God

What can you say about the year that has passed? Have you gotten closer to your dreams – Did you show enough love – Are you single and waiting? More to the point, where do you stand in your relationship with Heavenly Father? All throughout the year, day by day, we are faced with harsh realities about who we are right down to the marrow. Some truths we're able to face with honesty and courage; others we'd rather not think about at all. When you consider the progress you've made this past year, I would venture to say that the things you would rather NOT think about at all may have the greatest bearing on your success or lack of it.

When it comes to life and living, there are two words that clarify our state of being at any given time in our existence. Those two words are love and fear. Love comes from Heavenly Father, and fear comes from His archenemy, the devil. 1John 4:18(NKJV) is the verse that illuminates the difference between the two words, love and fear, more clearly than perhaps any other. It says *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."* God's love is pure and unadulterated. Fear is corrupt and destructive. 1John 4:18 is letting us know that fear and love cannot abide in the same place.

You and I are to be perfected in God's love. This means that we are works in progress. We are here upon this earth to learn lessons of love; to get rid of our old nature—to get rid of the fear—and take on the nature of Christ. We don't do this in one fell swoop. It takes time...a lifetime to be exact. We are born into a sinful world, and as we grow into adults the vestiges of fear becomes heavy baggage that weighs down our souls. This baggage will either cripple our progress as we move through life, or it will destroy us all together. Often we see the lives of people devastated and ravaged by fear, and they don't even realize that they are harboring this dangerous poison inside. They are self-sabotaging because they choose to live in fear rather than to live in love. God doesn't want anyone to make this choice. He has told us that we don't have any business being destroyed by darkness. He speaks to us through the Apostle Paul in 1John 4:4 (NKJV). You are of God, the Apostle writes *"and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"*

The Father says that you and I have overcome them. Who is the *"THEM"* in 1John 4:4? The *"them"* in this verse is demonic spirits. These spirits abide in those who do not know or have not accepted the love of Christ, and they will abide in us if we do not resist them.

Jealousy, envy, strife, rage, insecurity, impatience, arrogance, phobias, addictions, vengefulness, procrastination, unforgiving, idleness, resentment...these are just a few remnants of fear. Wherever these spirits exist within, the love of God cannot abide in that place.

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Think of it like this, you have a suitcase packed to capacity with clothes and other things that you'll need for traveling. It can only hold but so much, 50lbs to be exact. Any more than that and you'll get a nice little charge at the ticket counter, right? I digress, but anyway, the suitcase can't hold a ounce more than the 50lbs or else it will come apart at the seams and will not be useful any more. What if you discover at the last moment that you need to pack a nice suit? The only way you can fit the nice suit in the suitcase is to remove something else; this is your only alternative.

To the extent that we refuse to open up the suitcase and take a look at what needs to go, we will not make room for something else to fit. By the same token, if we refuse to confront the stuff that holds us back so that we can get rid of it, we will not make room for the love of God to come into that place and heal it. If we do not make a conscious effort to take authority over our minds and hearts, we will lose the opportunity to see what God is showing us. We can't see the forest for the trees; we can't see His love because the fear is blocking our vision.

It isn't enough to make a blanket statement of *"God, come into my being and heal me."* Your mind must be engaged or else you cannot exercise the *overcoming* authority that God has given you through Christ. You cannot be truly thankful for God's healing if you haven't yet identified the ailment. You have to stand toe to toe with your fear...toe to toe with the addiction, jealousy, insecurity, and arrogance...and understand with every fiber of your being that it does not have any power over you. This is a requirement of faith.

Romans 12:1 (NKJV) says *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."* God requires all of us, not just a fraction. He deserves your whole mind, heart, and body, because your whole mind, heart, and body is the only thing that you can present as reasonable service. So you owe it to God to work things out, to take stock, to examine what parts of yourself are still operating in fear.

So before we make any resolutions for the future, we owe it to ourselves to reflect upon the year that has past, and to do so circumspectly, having the courage to account for both our achievements and failures; to look honestly at the ways in which we've grown or not grown as loving representations of Christ. Remembering always that we are on loan from God. We do not belong to ourselves, but to Him. Therefore, let us resolve to rid ourselves of the negativity that caused us to stumble in 2011 and acquire something more wonderful in its place, because the more room we make to flourish in His goodness, the greater 2012 will be. ●

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