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Kim's Kaleidoscope for Singles

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We Reflect the Love

Following the life of Jesus Christ is not only a responsibility, it's the highest privilege and honor. Becoming a Christian, accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, is our first real act of love. It is an honest demonstration of surrendering and accepting pure love into our lives. Once we've made this transformative choice, life takes on purpose and direction, because God's love adds new meaning to our existence. 2Corinthians 5:17(NKJV) reads, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* Our born again reality extends an opportunity to transform our thoughts and put on new emotions of joy, peace, and thankfulness. God tells us in Ephesians 4:23(NIV) *"to be made new in the attitude of your minds"*. We reflect the love in our hearts by renewing our minds to line up with God's Word, then we begin to live accordingly. A lot of us still struggle with this process.

Why do we struggle with renewing our minds? One of the reasons why some of us struggle with renewing our minds is because many of us are not quite sure what renewing the mind is all about. It's not a difficult concept. It requires that we understand three facts: #1) Every single person that was born after Adam and Eve has been born into sin. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about this. If you are walking this earth, you have a sinful nature. #2) Once you become born again, you can then receive the Holy Spirit and he will reside deep inside your soul. Your new birth reality makes this possible. You become a new creation because you have a new reality on the inside that totally changes you to a spirit-filled individual. You have the capacity to become stronger than you have ever been before—stronger than you could ever imagine. #3) Even though you have this power on the inside, your body still has the same nature. This nature, known as a *flesh and blood nature*, is very different from the nature of your new spiritual reality. The nature of your flesh can cause you to desire things that are very harmful to your spirit.

Romans 8:5-8 tells us, ⁵ *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.* ⁶ *The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.* ⁷ *The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.* ⁸ *Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.* "

As a single woman, it is vitally important that you understand the huge impact that renewing your mind will have on your life and your quest to partner. The degree to which you renew your mind will determine the type of man you ultimately marry, because your heart and mind do the

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drawing. You must know concretely that you, as a spirit-filled individual, cannot be defined by the desires of your flesh. God has charged us with the responsibility of taking authority over our flesh. This means that we are not to let our decisions and choices be ruled by what our flesh wants. Our decisions and choices are to be governed by God's love.

In order for this to happen, we have to know a little something about God's love. We have to know what it looks like, what it feels like, what it does....we can learn all of this by studying His Word and learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Once you receive salvation, God doesn't open up your mind and pour His Word into it. He doesn't feed your brain cells with a healthy diet of scriptures. No! That's your job. You have to take the initiative to study to show yourself approved before God.(2Timothy 2:15)

God will not overstep your free-will. He will never change your thoughts. If God would change our thoughts, I will venture to say that we would be living in a very different world today. God's Will for all Christians is to think the same thoughts. How do I know that? Well, this is what His Word tells us. Look at 1Corinthians 1:10. It says "*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*" This is the Father's heart. He wants us all to be perfectly united in mind and thought. Have you ever counted the number of different religions within the Christian faith alone? There are a lot of them—enough of them for us to know that we haven't even put a dent in the unity the Father desires for His church. We're more divided today than ever. So no, God will not change our thoughts; this is our responsibility.

To renew is the act of making something new again. Our minds were once new, almost like a blank slate. But as we grew into adults that slate was crammed with information and much of it is not good for our souls. A lot of the thoughts and attitudes that we have developed over the years cause us to reflect fear instead of love. Renewing the mind is the process of first confronting those old thoughts, known as our *old man nature*. We must then get rid of them and put on new thoughts in their place. Of course the new thoughts are those that are in alignment with God's Will and Word.

Renewing our minds is a crucial part of accepting God's love into our hearts. Once we accept our new reality in Christ, our thoughts and actions must line up with who we are through his love. As a Christian you have to know that the enemy does not want you to engage this process. There isn't a day that goes by that your walk as a born-again believer will not be challenged by the devil or put under a spotlight. You must be ready! You must be diligent that your dealings with people on a daily basis do not indicate that you are anything less than the embodiment of Christ. These interactions will speak volumes about who you are and the degree to which you have renewed your mind.

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Consider your job performance as an example. Your ability to deal effectively under pressure, the way you communicate with coworkers, and how you handle crisis or problematic situations; all of these are scrutinized daily and you may not even realize it. But when it's time for a promotion, I guarantee that all of these factors will weigh heavy in determining whether or not you receive the promotion you desire. In the same way, sometimes we wonder why it is that we are not further along in our quest to partner, and very often it's because we haven't taken the initiative to renew our minds properly. We don't study God's Word. We spend week after week committing to the same rituals. We fail to inject the newness of light, love, and life that we can only get from receiving and comprehending exciting, new revelations from the scriptures.

Our relationships with loved ones, spouses, our children and others should be a reflection of God's love. They are very good indicators of how strong or weak our relationship is with Him. This is why it is so essential to have Godly knowledge anchored in our minds and hearts. You have to make sure that you thoroughly understand what God is saying to you through His Word, so that you are rooted and grounded in that knowledge. Then you will make choices that truly reflect your new reality in Christ.

Take a look at Luke 6:44;

For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 45; For every tree is known by its own fruit. For [men] do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.

You and I are the trees that Jesus Christ is talking about in this verse. What we do in our lifetime—the legacy of love that we leave—is the fruit that we produce. So you see, we don't have time to get down trodden when things don't go our way in life. We don't have time to get stuck in condemnation and feel bad about ourselves. When the fellow you thought was the bomb doesn't call you back, kick that *wondering why* to the curb. Your primary focus is to shine the light of Christ—to affect the lives of people around you, and to reflect the love that you have so graciously received from Heavenly Father. He has given you the distinct honor of reflecting His love, because He knows that when you change your thoughts and transform inside, your outside reality will change as well.●

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