

## ***Three VERY Important Questions***

If you're a single Christian seeking to get married and are not getting what you desire, it's time to do some evaluating to find out why. 2Corinthians 13:5-6 (The Message) says *"Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it."* This verse lets us know very succinctly that while we're thinking that we've got it going on, we can unknowingly fall off the mark. We can assume that we're doing all the right things when quite the opposite is true. Proverbs 14:12(The Message) gets straight to the point. It says *"There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell."* As a single person who is allowing Jesus Christ to spearhead your efforts to partner, you must always ask yourself the tough questions to ensure that your motives, intentions, and aspirations are within God's Will for your life. Here are three VERY important questions to consider.

### **Are you too comfortable?**

I happen to know a few dynamite Christian brothers who are single. They are attractive, well-dressed, well-mannered, accomplished, and desiring a Godly woman. These men are considered to be the crème de la crème...beautifully appointed, but after listening to each of them express their wish-list of qualities they'd like to find in a woman, I'm convinced that they will be single for a very, very long time.

Their desire is for a woman who will make them comfortable with where they are right now. She can't have any characteristics or flaws that might cause a disruption in the nice, comfy lives they have carved out for themselves. Their minds are made up and they are convinced that they're on the right track. It's almost useless to try and tell them that God might have a plan that is quite different from what they've envisioned.

These men believe that God's best means something entirely different from what the Word declares. They ought to be looking for a virtuous woman who has the kind of firsthand evidence

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that Christ is real and present in her life, like it says in 2Corinthians 13:5. But they seem to be more interested in what she can do for THEM than what she will do for the Kingdom.

One thing that God **will not** do-- is make a sinful situation comfortable for you. If the desires of your flesh are overshadowing the desire of God's heart to see you grow more in Christ, then you will not see any movement in your situation. You won't get the rewards, and you won't have the kind of relationship you need, because you are allowing your flesh to run the show. As a single person you have to wake up and come to grips with the reality of how far or how close you are to what it means to truly extend God's love. You have to check out your own wish-list and recognize that when it comes to His plan for your life, that list might need some tweaking.

Back in the Garden of Eden, Adam was going along, minding his own business and doing just fine, but he was lonely. It was never God's intention that he should be alone, so the Father gave him a woman. The dynamics that transpired between the two of them is notorious. Eve caused quite a stir in Adam's life. In many respects she made his life easier, but she certainly did some things that made his life a whole lot more complicated. The bottom line is that when it comes to the pursuit of a marital union, God didn't promise that we would be comfortable . As a matter of fact, two people coming together is one of the most uncomfortable things in the world. Realize that if your own desires to stay in your comfort zone are keeping you from moving forward in matrimony, odds are that they are keeping you stuck spiritually as well. Open your heart more and let the Lord help you work this out.

## Are you following your inner compass?

All good things in life flow from a good healthy place. It's healthy to want to be in a loving and committed relationship with someone who honors you, but if you forfeit the nurturing of your own spiritual growth for the sake of desiring a spouse, you still have much soul work to do. Your desire to partner is healthy, but it has to be matched by the type of spiritual strength needed to bring it to pass.

Your soul houses all of your desires, emotions, and feelings. This is the place where most of our past and current pain or hurt resides. God holds us responsible for doing the work on our own souls as it states in Philippians 2:12 (NLT), "*Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.*"

It's critical for you to do the work on your own soul before you expect someone else to know how to love you. As an unmarried person, your goal should be to make sure that you are allowing the love of Jesus Christ to saturate those torn up places inside, but you have to be honest about where those places are, and why they are still holding you back. Then you can

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demonstrate God's love with real zest, allowing the indwelling Holy Spirit to continue to guide you in the right direction.

As a Christian, your mind and heart is the engine and your indwelling spirit is the guide. Together they can take you wherever the Father desires you to go. You should have every confidence that the gift inside your inner being will guide you to the treasure of a marital partner, but your mind and heart HAVE to be on the same page. The spirit guides. That is what he does. That's his job, and he is masterful at it. John 16:13 says that he won't speak on his own, but will only speak what he hears from God. This is God's guarantee that if you follow His lead you'll never go wrong.

You can't do the leading; that's not your job. Your job is to follow where the spirit leads—to follow your inner compass. But you can't hear clearly if you are too busy responding to stuff that has nothing to do with God's plan for your life. If you're hanging around the wrong folks, spending all of your time following after worldliness, how can you expect God to give you a Godly spouse? You've got to address the desires that cause you to want to expend your energies in the wrong places.

Listen, the world is crazy and there are some really sick people out there. Even some of us Christians are dysfunctional beyond anything many folks have ever seen. You think you've met the right person just because he or she is saved, but that's not necessarily the case. So you can't do this by yourself. You must have God's help. You have to make a conscious effort to move beyond your issues to be obedient and steadfast, so that you can hear God's directives through spiritual ears and then move as He leads, ONLY as He leads. Make sure that hearing God clearly is your main objective.

### Is what YOU think is best in alignment with God's best?

Knowing the difference between what God deems is best for you and what you think is best is a process within itself. You've been around long enough to know what you desire in a marital partner, but sometimes what you desire isn't optimal for your continued spiritual journey in Christ. This is one of the most difficult areas for many single folks to face, particularly when it comes to a person's physical attributes.

Having a spouse with financial security, manicured nails, and a well crafted resume is great, but God is more concerned with you marrying someone who is going to continually push you to produce for the Kingdom. Your capacity to love with the love of God is really what's at stake here.

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You can no longer camouflage the truth just so you can stay comfortable where you are. God is more concerned that you grow spiritually than He is about your level of comfort. The walls that you've constructed, those that keep your mind and heart closed, they have to come tumbling down. That's what it all boils down to. Your growth in the Lord is what's best, and He is going to do everything possible to make sure you know more and grow more. It's never about another person and what that human being can add to your life – it's always about your personal, intimate standing on the Word of God, because that's the best. ●

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