

A Prayer of Surrender for Singleness

Dear LORD,

God, You know how much I want to get married. You know how much I just want to feel close with someone & spend my life with someone & adventure with someone. You see my tears at night when I'm alone with my thoughts. You know how much I want it. How much it torments me when I find myself in a quiet, empty house. And yet... here I am... still single. I don't get it. Did I do something wrong? Am I not good enough? Sometimes these worries haunt me. I honestly sometimes feel like You must not hear me or care how much I want it... that it doesn't matter to You. Please forgive me for thinking like that. Please forgive me for wanting it so badly that I doubt You. I know deep down that You have a plan. I know deep down that You can use singleness for my good. And I know I am sometimes too blinded by coveting this desire to appreciate any of that. Please forgive me for that... for doubting You... for thinking I know what I need better than You do or that maybe You don't care about what I want or need. Please forgive me. I need Your help in even WANTING to surrender this desire to You. I want to cling to it. I don't want to feel like I am giving up on it. I don't want to numb over it just to get through each day, either. And I don't want to grow bitter & cold against You either. But, God, I want this SO BADLY. Please quiet my heart. Change my perspective. HELP ME trust You. I believe, Lord, help my unbelief! Please help me. If it's Your will for me to get married & it's just not the right time, give me the trust in You to wait on You & Your timing, knowing if I rush in out of desperation, I may end up in a lifelong unhappy marriage because I rushed ahead of You... a marriage You can always redeem, but one that will be much harder & much more painful than it needed to be. Help me to trust Your perfect timing & perfect plan. Fill me with peace & show me Your sufficiency really IS enough for me in the especially lonely nights.... If Your will is a lifetime of singleness... oh, God... please help me learn how to entrust that to You, too & not grow bitter & cold against You! Help me to learn to see Your desired blessings for me in it somehow. Help me to see how You could possibly ever mean it for my good rather than a punishment. Help me to trust You with it. Help me to be willing to surrender even this to You. Help me understand the depth of Your love in its place. Help me not turn my back on You. Help me to lean on You, even in this. Help me to see that You really ARE enough, even in this... even in this. Oh LORD, please help me... even in this. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

A Note from the Author:

Living in singleness is hard. I've been there. I was almost 30 when I got married, & while I know you maybe have waited much longer than I, I had no foreseeable end in sight. I didn't KNOW that would ever happen. And in a culture where girls grow up on princess movies of dreamy love stories & move into romantic comedies about quirky love stories where the happy ending always equals a wedding or a supposed lead up to one... where it seems the circle of life includes graduating, college maybe, getting married, having babies, etc.... when that doesn't happen, we can feel an empty hole that never seems fillable. But in that singleness, I found the blessedness of surrender. And once I realized a grand ADVENTURE awaited me even in singleness, unrestrained by a family budget or family schedule, just me & God, able to go on a whim & go as He leads without anyone "holding me back," I realized that while marriage is a beautiful thing, marriage is marriage to another human being, prone to err just like me, where we don't always see eye to eye & we're not always on the same page. It requires sacrifice. It requires compromise. It requires giving up of certain things for the better of the TWO versus ONE. It's worth it 100%, but that doesn't make it easy 100%. Rushing into marriage may feel satisfying for a while, but when inevitable disagreements or bad days arise, you will be left questioning why you rushed in, wondering if you should have waited... wishing you had waited... rather than the assurance that you saw God work it together so you KNOW He'll help you KEEP it together, & grow you both through it, even the hard bits... because it will get hard sometimes. Two imperfect people make up an imperfect marriage. But luckily, we have a perfect God, perfect in love, grace, & faithfulness. So, my prayer for you is a heart WILLING to SURRENDER even this, even if it begins in reluctant disbelief, with a heart asking to believe & trust Him. God knows what He is doing & while you may feel very strongly that you know what you need... He knows better. So, learn to trust Him & to surrender areas of unwillingness to Him. Love you lots & I hope the above prayer is an encouragement to your heart to look to Him as the One who loves you infinitely more than any man (or anyone) ever could.

~Michelle Hyde

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