**Those Prayers That He Didn’t Seem to Answer**

Have you ever been attracted to someone and prayed for God to let them share the same feelings for you, only to have it never happen? I remember being in high school and college and thinking that if a particular guy liked me and we started dating, everything would be good; I would have a boyfriend and someone to care about me and want to spend time with me. Even when I was not too far from my final divorce, I began developing strong feelings for someone. We had mutual friends and often did things together in groups. Based on how I read his actions and responses to me in a group activity, I was sure he was starting to like me. I looked for “signs” anywhere I could get that would confirm that he, indeed, was going to ask me out for a date. In relationships, I have learned that these “signs” can be dangerous because you can read into them anything you want.  As Christians, when feelings and emotions are involved, our hearts can be sorely hurt by misinterpreting and following these “signs,” thinking that the sign is confirmation from God that this person is the right one for us! Well, this man never asked me out on a date, and in an odd set of circumstances, he learned of my feelings for him and gently shared that he saw us as never more than friends. I was hurt but got over it and eventually moved on. I had prayed for God to develop the feelings in him for me that I had for him, but it never happened. Fast forward years later, I can understand now why he wouldn’t have been God’s best for me, even though I tried to argue otherwise with God at the time.

As I look back over relationships I thought I wanted, I realize God was protecting me! By not giving me what I thought I wanted, He is saving me for something or someone better!  I am enjoying my singleness and have been blessed with good friends, both male and female, and God is presenting me with opportunities to grow in my journey with Him, so I am thrilled and content in my life now. I would like to enter into the ministry of marriage again one day, as I believe it is a calling, but I will wait for His timing and His “best” for me-however that looks!

As I was writing tonight, I found a verse that touches the heart of this topic: John 13:7, and is a response from Jesus: “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” This aptly applies to our relationships, especially those that don’t go as we would like. Jesus promises that one day we will understand, and if He leads us to marriage with His best choice of a partner, as we walk down the aisle, won’t we be grateful for all those prayers that He didn’t seem to answer…!!!

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