**Anticipation by Lisa Jackson**

Anticipation strengthens relationships over time, builds excitement and leaves the desire to know more--that’s why a good writer knows how to build anticipation to keep readers glued to each page until they get to the book’s end. It wouldn’t make sense to put the ending of the novel in the opening pages and then have people read backwards to the beginning of the story!! Yet this is something we have probably all done at one time or another in our dating relationships (I know I have made this mistake)--figuratively speaking--we have gone straight to the book’s ending (jumping headfirst into relationships driven by feelings or emotions) and then the interest wanes! When this happens, we short-circuit the development of friendship in the relationship, of allowing it to grow and deepen over time, of becoming the cornerstone of a healthy, Christ-centered marriage.

God created us, He made us with relational natures, with an anticipation of connecting with others. Stories of relationships forged over time are woven throughout the Bible: Boaz and Ruth, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha, Solomon and Shulamith, not to mention the close relationship Jesus shared with His disciples that was such a critical component of the early Christian faith. Jesus spent time with these men, allowing them to get to know Him, to watch and learn as He went about His Father’s business. So enjoy your relationships, let them develop over time, without rushing things along. Remember the old adage, “all good things take time.” Time spent with God creates a craving for more of Him, anticipating what He will reveal to us and how we can grow more like Christ in building strong relationships, especially in the one that could lead to marriage.

Lamentations: 3:25:

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.