

Triumphing over Singleness

© Copyright 2005 Toni L. Worthery

When people ask me to describe my book, *Pray While You're Prey*, I say it is a testimony about my triumph over the trials of singleness. Though it may sound like it is simply a catch phrase, you must understand that for years, I was in the midst of all-out warfare. Some days, I escaped without a scratch. Other days, I was battered, beaten and broken. But at the end of the battle, I emerged victorious. Never again would I wave my white flag of surrender at my loneliness and frustration. And though I had battle scars, I won. In order to be triumphant, I had to enlist, equip, and educate.

First, I had to enlist the best possible allies. For years, I faced the battle alone because I felt that I shouldn't bother God by whining about being lonely. I thought that He had better things to do than to help me find a husband. So, I found one on my own and I ended up divorced in less than two years. From that defeat, I learned that I need to seek God's face in everything I do. Not only do I need Him as an ally, I need him on the frontline. I don't have to be a martyr and fight by myself. God will guide me in the right direction. And even though He is strong and mighty enough to fight my battles on His own, He has also provided me with a close-knit family and friends who are tuned into Him. When a person has a strong network of support it is very hard to feel alone.

Once I let others in on my battle, I had to equip myself with the right weapons. Well, there was really only one weapon. It was the Word of God. I immersed myself in Scripture. I soon found out what God expected from me as a woman of God, what I could expect from Him as a child of God and how God would have me deal with relationships. I realized that I was selling myself short by focusing on having a relationship with a man when I should have focused on a relationship with the Son of Man. I realized that if I delight myself in the Lord, he would give me the desires of my heart, even when it comes to what I desire in a mate. I realized that I did not have to sacrifice my sanctification for the sake of keeping a man in my life.

Before I faced my enemy again, I had to educate myself about my enemy. Why was singleness such a burden to me? I found out from God's Word that singleness was giving me an excellent opportunity to serve and praise Him, so why was I so opposed to it? It gave me the chance to fix things about me that He and I are not fond of, so why was I so resistant? Through prayer and meditation, I realized that singleness was not my enemy at all. My enemy was loneliness. My enemy was frustration about having what I want when I want it. I had been tricked into thinking that loneliness and frustration were synonymous with singleness. They are not. Rather than just fight these negative byproducts of being single, I had been fighting singleness altogether.

With my allies, my weapons and my new revelation, I was able to rise up and defeat the trials associated with being single. I reached out my hand to God and sought a more intimate friendship with Him. I learned that according to Proverbs 18:22, I had no business seeking a husband in the first place because **he** who finds a **wife** finds a good thing. I stopped settling for Mr. Right Now, and started waiting on God to send me what I desired. I am living a celibate life, which eliminates the possibilities of a lot of emotional, mental and physical issues. God is on the frontline, my family and friends are on my side, the Word of God is in my heart and the tricks of the enemy are ever present in my mind, so I will live in triumph!