

WHOLE

HEARTEDLY

WHOLEHEARTEDLY
DEVOTED

A DEVOTIONAL ABOUT
SINGLENES

CE

VOTED

with
ALL MY
HEART

This devotional belongs to :

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INTRO

As a 30-year-old unmarried woman, in the South no less, I went through the frustrating times that singleness can bring. When looking for resources to guide me on this journey, I really wanted something that would actually make me feel lucky to be a single woman and get me excited about the unique opportunity that I had in front of me, but I never found it. The more

I looked around, the more I saw that single women seemed to be mostly characterized by sadness and waiting. Waiting to be married, waiting to be fulfilled, and ultimately waiting for life to start. Unfortunately, what I saw was that for some, singleness meant not truly living life, but instead being in a holding state until prince charming came along.

Because there weren't a ton of encouraging books out there, I instead found myself digging into the scriptures and to my surprise, the Lord spoke so much truth to me about the single life through it. With these truths in mind, my single years turned into some of the best years of my life so far. My prayer for you is that you would experience the same thing and not miss another minute of "the GOOD single life". It exists! I promise :)

I'm not a theologian. I didn't go to seminary. And I haven't have a perfect record in my dating relationships. I'm just a regular girl, who went from questioning God and struggling that this was the path for my life, to living a life surrendered, hopeful, joyful, and closer to the Lord than ever before. This is my prayer for you as well! This can be a sweet, sweet time for you to be devoted solely to your heavenly Father, become more like Jesus, and show the Kingdom to God's people.

You never know how long your season of singleness will last. It may be another few months, another few years, or a lifetime, but the time will pass. Will you look back and regret what you did in this season? Or will you remember it as an intimate time that you squeezed out every ounce of goodness the Lord had for you? I'm thinking since you've picked this devotional up, it will be the latter :)

my PRAYER

I COME before You now, with full faith and knowledge that You are a good God and that your plans for me are higher than my plans.

I PRAY that You would show me glimpses of your plan to encourage me when I need it most.

I PRAY that all confidence I have would come from who I am in You.

I PRAY that You would surround me with the love of friends and family when I am lonely.

I PRAY for your strength to push aside all the pressures of this world, so I can focus on what matters in your eyes.

I PRAY that I would not only accept this season, but embrace it, thrive in it, and live it to its fullest.

I GIVE you my entire life to do with as You see fit. I place it in your hands to use me and my future in a way that would most benefit Your kingdom.

I PRAY that if a husband is in my future that You would be with him & guide him in all that he does. I pray that we would both be growing daily to become more and more like You and when the time comes we would follow You together.

I PRAY most importantly that I will pursue You Lord, with my whole heart, for the rest of my life.

IN JESUS NAME, AMEN

TIPS & REMINDERS

1. **DO WORK THROUGH THE DEVO WITH A FRIEND.**

If you don't know anyone going through, come join our online group! You can ask questions or share any insight you receive as you work through the devotional! Search *Wholehearted Ladies* on facebook.

2. **DON'T SKIP THE SCRIPTURE READINGS!**

The bible verses are gold and what I've found to be the most powerful aspect of this devotional leading to life change.

3. **DO USE "THE DEVOTED LIFE" WITH THE DEVO.**

The Devoted Life is a prompted journal meant to help you live out the truths from this devo in daily life. You will find corresponding journal pages at the end of each section.

4. **DON'T THINK OF THIS AS HOMEWORK.**

This is so much more than that! It is meant to be a tool that will bring you into the presence of the Lord, if only you let it!

5. **DO SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

My hope is that we will share a fresh new voice for the single woman. And through this, create a thriving community that will change how others view singles and singleness.

6. **DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO STAY ON TRACK.**

If God is speaking, spend some time sitting with Him and listening for His voice. No hurry or pressure to keep up! This whole devo is about not living on anyone's timeline, but your own, remember ? :)

7. **DO START WITH PRAYER AND BE EXPECTANT.**

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to new truths and ask the Lord meet with you. Go into this believing that you will see Him and His truth in a new way and that your life will never be the same.

DAILY
DEVOTIONS

LET'S DIG
DEEP FOR
TRUTH

one

THE MIND

"RENEWING THE MIND IS A LITTLE LIKE REFINISHING FURNITURE. IT IS A TWO STAGE-PROCESS. IT INVOLVES TAKING OFF THE OLD AND REPLACING IT WITH THE NEW. THE OLD IS THE LIES... THE NEW IS THE TRUTH."

Charles Stanley

Forget everything you have been taught about singleness from the world's perspective. It's probably not very good stuff anyway. Let's start with a blank slate and build our views on the truth in God's Word. We have been taught by the world to give way too much control to our emotions, but let's decide not to operate strictly from how we feel. Let's live our lives based on the words from the mouth of God.

Over the last year and a half, I have been reading through the Bible and I can't begin to tell you all the difference it has made in my life. Being able to saturate my mind in the word of God is such a gift and has so much more transformative power than I sometimes realize. Through it we can learn so much about who God is. From the Old Testament, learning about His faithfulness, provision, and purpose to the New Testament where we get to see fulfillment of His promises with the birth and ministry of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. Even though the events of the Bible happened long ago, it is still so relevant to our lives, and once we really dig in, we will begin to see that.

As we read, we have to remember, that we are not alone in this transformation! As Christians, we have received the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to know the mind of Christ. Because of this we can have confidence that we WILL be transformed as we read scripture and spend time with the Lord.

Thinking like the mind of Christ has the power to...

- bring you joy, peace, and understanding during the difficult times
- strengthen your faith when you can't see his plan
- see His plan
- be more like Christ

When we think and act like Christ we have the power to really change our lives, but the mind is where it starts. We need to be intentional in seeking understanding of the mind of Christ and training ourselves to think like Him. It won't just happen automatically.

Anytime I have tried to change by my own strength, I have failed. If we simply change our actions without retraining our mind, the change will not stick. Focus on cultivating a mind like Christ and leave the results up to Him.

TRUTH :

Transforming our minds to the mind of Christ is the first place to start and where lasting change begins.

THE WORD :

Romans 12:2 (ESV)
2 Corinthians 10:5 (NLT)
Romans 8:6 (NIV)

Philippians 4:8 (CEV)
1 Corinthians 2:12 (NLT)
Matthew 16:21-23 (CEV)

QUESTIONS :

What does God promise to those whose minds have been renewed?

How am I to know the mind of Christ?

What does Jesus call those who do not think like God? And what are they doing?

What lies do I believe that need to be confronted, so I can move forward living by God's truth?

See pages 7-50 in The Devoted Life journal.

two

WORDLY

“THOSE THAT HAVE THEIR HEARTS FULL OF THIS WORLD ...
HAVE A DEAF EAR TO THE GOSPEL.”

————— *Matthew Henry Commentary* —————

If we were all in a room together right now, I'd ask you to share all the things that people have said to you about your singleness - some would probably be hilarious, but others might be hurtful. I'd share how when my twin sister was engaged I got asked probably one million times to see “my ring” or about how wedding planning was going. After she got married, it was always “Are you the married one?”, which led to me feeling like “the other one”. But I have no hate for those comments or the people who said them, cause let's be real here... the world has made us all believe that for 20-somethings, marriage is the holy grail.

There seems to be a general timeline for life that people have become accustomed to. When they meet someone who isn't on that track, it sort of makes people uncomfortable and they say things that can come off hurtful. (Side note, decide now not to be offended by every comment people make about your singlehood. It will make your life much easier and it's generally not their intention to offend anyway!) I remember telling my sister often “I'm cool with being single! I just wish everyone else was cool with me being single too!” My only solution, I thought, was to move to a big city where it was more socially acceptable to be single later in life, then I came across this little verse...

“The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned.”
Luke 16:15b (CEV)

Call me crazy, but I think this is going to be my new life verse.

In this passage, Jesus is speaking about the Pharisees and their love of money, but I think we can apply this to anything the world puts too much emphasis on. People might not say it outright, but sometimes the judge-y comments we hear tell of the underlying idea that if you are not married then you are missing out or there is something wrong with you. This can start to put a lot of pressure on you, but the

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TRUTH :

The world doesn't value the kingdom of God. Don't let it dictate how you feel about your singleness.

THE WORD :

<i>1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)</i>	<i>1 John 5:4,18 (ESV)</i>
<i>Galatians 1:10 (NIV)</i>	<i>Luke 14:15-24 (NIV)</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 10:3 (CEV)</i>	<i>Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)</i>
<i>1 John 2:15-17 (CEV)</i>	

QUESTIONS :

In what ways am I trying to win the approval of man?

Are there times that I have been like the invitees in the parable of the banquet - too full of the world to go to the Lord's table? What worldly ideas and pressures do I need to "throw off" because they have hindered me?

Are there any streams of influence (social media, tv shows, etc.) that instigate negative feelings about singleness that I need to "throw off" so I can hear truth?

See page 11 in The Devoted Life journal.

three

SEASONS

"FREEDOM COMES IN REALIZING THAT MARRIAGE AND SINGLENES ARE ROLES IN WHICH WE CARRY OUT A HIGHER CALLING OF SERVING THE LORD, AND NOT PARTICULAR CALLINGS IN AND OF THEMSELVES."

Fern Horst

I remember a friend, who was a mom, telling me she thought I had a glamorous single girl life. I was shocked. "Who me? But I'm not glamorous... Go on." She told me it was great that I got to have girls nights when I wanted to, wore makeup (This made me giggle! Surely I will continue to wear makeup even as a newlywed or mom! ;)), and had the freedom for adventure!!!

That conversation, though seemingly silly, opened up my eyes to a lot! There were opportunities that I was taking for granted, because I didn't realize that they might not always be around. My twin sister (who is married and birthed me my very best friends/nieces) and I soon started a back and forth where we would say... "I'm jealous you get to 'fill in the blank!'" It started out as a joking thing, but I think it has helped both of us to recognize some things that we should be grateful for in the season we are in.

One thing that I have learned, through the heart to hearts with my married friends is that all seasons have the good, but they also have the bad (or the cost). It's easy to see the pros of others' seasons, because that is what is put out there on display. But when we engage closely in the lives of others, you get to see the good times and the tough times, and hopefully we can learn from them. It's good to be realistic about different seasons, so that you don't become disillusioned with rose colored glasses of desire for any one thing. This is one reason why comparison is so dangerous. We usually make comparisons based on what we think, rather than what is true.

Another thing that I have learned about seasons is that they only last for as long as the Lord allows. They are each gifts from God. Whether that is being a wife, a mother, or a career woman, you are not guaranteed to always have the gift you have been

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TRUTH :

Each season has pros and cons. We should seek to be grateful for our unique season and the purpose God has for us in it, because we never know how long it will last.

THE WORD :

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (CEV)

James 4:13-15 (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

2 Timothy 4:2a (NIV)

QUESTIONS :

What aspects of singleness am I grateful for?

What unique service to God's kingdom can I fulfill now, that I may not be able to do later?

Who has God put in my path that I can learn from? A wife? A mom? Ask the Lord to guide you in those friendships and that they would be a source of learning about other seasons.

See page 11, pages 111-119 & pages 121-127 in The Devoted Life journal.

hey YOU!

YOU DID IT !

I hope you loved your free preview and I pray that you are forever changed because of the Word of God presented, that you have a fresh perspective on singleness, and are excited for the adventure ahead!

READY TO GO FURTHER ?

If you are ready for more encouragement head to the [Natalie Met Lewis shop](#) and grab the *Wholehearted Devoted* devotional, *the Devoted Life* journal, a prompted journal for singles, and *the Wholehearted Truth*, scripture cards for the truths you learned in this devotional!

WANT TO CHAT ?

If going through this topic has brought up any things that you would like some prayer for or maybe just a little advice on, please feel free to email me at natalie@nataliemetlewis.com.

WANT TO STAY CONNECTED ?

Join the [Wholehearted Ladies FB group](#).
Come hang out on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).
Hop on the [newsletter](#) on the website.

NEED MORE RESOURCES ?

If you are single and haven't been to "the Single Life" page on my website... what are you waiting for?! You will find additional resources, links to our Wholehearted Ladies facebook group, pinterest boards, and much more!
NatalieMetLewis.com/the-single-life