



Some *Bitter*,  
Some *Sweet*

Becoming a Single Woman

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God Can Use

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# Dedication



To everyone who has ever laughed,  
talked, commiserated and cried with me.

To those special ones who held me,  
remembered me and prayed for me.

To Jesus Christ who healed me,  
and most graciously  
to the Holy Spirit who  
danced with me.

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# In the Beginning

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*Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up.*

*But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls,  
because no one is there to help*

*(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).*

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On the same day an attractive woman in my Sunday School class announced her recent marriage, I had a long distance conversation with my father who told me that a cousin of mine was going to be married soon. “Well, good,” I replied. “At least Honey (his mother) will get to do somebody’s wedding before this century is out.” Although this went unsaid, my dad and I both secretly wondered when it was going to be my turn and why I was not attracting any prospects. After my 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, he reminded me that even dogs and hobos ran in two’s and announced that he was going to buy another dog to serve as a surrogate grandchild.

As I assured my mother that I was indeed trying to keep the hope of meeting someone to marry alive, I jokingly told her, “Jesus is my boyfriend right now. I should get that printed on a T-shirt, so when people ask why I am still single, I can just point to it.” “Hey,” she giggled, “I like that. Jesus is my boyfriend, and he should be. He should be like a husband or someone personal to you.” My mother and I laughed a bit more, but days later, I was still turning that amusing thought over in my mind. “Jesus is my boyfriend.” This almost sounded defeatist, as if I had given up hope of ever snagging a mortal man and was settling into being an old maid (at 28) whom only Jesus could love.

❁❁❁ That is how my journey to greater intimacy with God began. I am now well past 28 and my grandmother, Honey, died last year at the age of 89. I am still single. When I first published this book as *Set Your Affections On Things Above* (2002), I was younger and hopeful that my romantic life would match the upswings of my professional academic career. Since then, life has dealt me some unexpected blows. At the present moment, I am now, once again, reconsidering my *still single* status, and the purpose God wants me to fulfill - for such a time as this.

*After all of my spiritual development, faithfulness to purity and attempts to serve in churches that did not appreciate my gifts, why, God, am I still single? What magic key did I miss along the way?* My first attempt at ministering to women through books garnered some attention, but not much. Some women and some church groups read *Set Your Affections On Things Above* and were blessed by it, and I very much appreciated their positive feedback. But, here I am again. Still.

*Set Your Affections On Things Above* is now out of print, but when I flipped through it recently, I realized that much of the information is still relevant. In mild frustration, I asked the Lord why I felt compelled to return to this work that did not make much of an impact 14 years ago. Additionally, I have not engaged in successful, marriage-bound, romantic relationships since then, so my take on being saved, single and eventually married reeks of cynicism. I said all of this to God. Seconds later, I heard these three simple, powerful words: “Do it again.”

I am doing it again, revising this book and adding fresh passages for women like me who lost their passion for love and romance through life’s trials, disappointments and setbacks. I am also writing for the young Christian woman who has tired of reading

secular *get-a-man* books and listening to ‘*transformational thought leaders*’ who do not revere the scriptures as the uncompromised word of God.

*Some Bitter, Some Sweet* is not the typical goody-two-shoes, ‘*just wait on God*’ kind of Christian singles book. *Some Bitter, Some Sweet* is for experienced women who have tried dating and mating according to all the popular self-help gurus with no success; women who denied themselves earthly pleasure, waiting for God to reward them with shiny new husbands—just like the pastor said would happen—to their bitter frustration, disappointment and confusion—well past their good child-bearing years. *Some Bitter, Some Sweet* speaks to women who honestly thought they were following God’s plans for their romantic lives only to now question their efforts.

What happened? What did we miss? Now is the time for us to regroup, recover and reconsider our thoughts, actions, intentions and true desires toward God, the men in our lives currently, as well as the future prospects we hope to meet and connect with in a loving, soulful, spiritual relationship—a true spiritual partnership. To this end, we need new information—or old information told from a fresh perspective that resonates with us as modern Christian women. We need a new vision for this season of our lives and a renewed sense of purpose and service in a world of rampant moral, ethical and economic corruption. Love is the answer. Jesus revolutionized the entire world through unimaginably, powerful unconditional love – the Passion of Christ.

What would happen if we as single women stood in our divine, feminine power, glorious and unafraid, filled with ecstatic, burden-breaking love, fully awakened to our heavenly and earthly passions, with all of the knowledge and wisdom necessary to change the world for the good of all humanity, until Christ’s return? No enemy could stand against us! This is exactly why God needs to renew our minds

and put us in right relationship with Him and our spiritual partners. Instead of burying ourselves in work, the church or parenting – living a sad, disillusioned shell of an existence – we must answer God’s call to *do it again* – give love another try. Trust God one more time to fulfill the desires of your heart.

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*The Lord says, “Forget what happened before,  
and do not think about the past. Look at the new  
thing I am going to do. It is already happening.  
Don’t you see it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

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*Some Bitter, Some Sweet* will cause you to rethink your affections, release old hurts, revise negative thought patterns, reignite your passion for God, renew your mind and revitalize your soul mate journey with knowledge and wisdom gained through scripture, prayer and personal revelations from the Holy Spirit. At the end of it all, you will experience God’s love, grace and mercy like never before!

# Chapter 1



## FUTURE HUSBANDS

*The God who made you is like your husband.  
His name is the Lord All-Powerful. The Holy One of Israel  
is the one who saves you. He is called the God  
of all the earth (Isaiah 54:5).*

Many women have had boyfriends they thought would morph into fiancées. He is usually that funny, smart guy they feel some powerful connection to. The world calls this person a soul mate. In most cases, however, the longer the relationship progresses, the more difficult it becomes to break off, because the woman has allowed her soul (mind, will and emotions) to become tied to the man she desires. Fortunately, these carnal relationships with ‘good’ guys will always end, especially if God did not ordain the relationship. Sometimes the break ups are abrupt and emotionally ugly, because many times, women choose to ignore the red flags along the way that indicate whether or not the relationship is truly of God’s will or selfish desires.

As a result, some women have experienced extended periods of heartache because they were unwilling to release the relationship when God impressed them to do so. In these cases, the relationship will violently fall apart; the man will stop calling or fall in love with another woman. Regardless of the tactics used, God will force that unhealthy soul tie to break in efforts to save and heal both parties. It seems that I was always meeting *‘the guy’* when I participated in the world’s dating scene. One particular time, I met a young engineer that I was convinced