

# MCW Living *Single*



Bible Readings for  
Modern Christian Women

*Ashar R. Hampton*

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*Single*

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# Introduction

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*I tell you these things in the dark, but I want you to tell them in the light. What you hear whispered in your ear you should shout from the housetops.*

*Matthew 10:27*

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Once upon a time, I thought I was being groomed to be a minister. I taught Sunday School, new member's classes, and Bible study at large churches. I kept meeting other ministers who prophesied big things for me. That was about fifteen years ago. After attending several mismanaged singles' meetings and conferences over those years, I felt compelled to write, particularly for single women. (Perhaps this is my ministry?)

So many secular books flooded the market telling women how to catch a man and keep him satisfied. Even 'Christian' books for single women espoused similar messages. I was disappointed and frustrated after reading those books, because no writers seemed to get to the core, the real-life issues of the single life; the raw emotion of feeling unchosen in churches that idealize marriage as the ultimate earthly love relationship.

As a result, I felt directed to write a book that spoke to the heart and souls of today's single Christian women. In 2002, I self-published, "*Set Your Affections on Things Above*" after a solid year of early morning sessions with the Holy Spirit, and writing what I believe I heard. Surprisingly,

people found the book with little marketing on my part. Men and women found my Yahoo weekly newsletter group and rudimentary website dedicated to the single soul. (Single Soul seemed catchy back then.)

I did not make a lot of money off of that book, but I appreciated every personal email and comment readers left about the impact my writing had on their spiritual growth. Oh, I felt like a new emerging author in the Christian community. Then...life happened. A series of setbacks and disappointments resulted in me leaving the church for several years. I eventually closed the newsletter group. Outside of church, I had no platform to teach the word of God.

For several years, I wandered in the wilderness of hurt and confusion. The assaults to the vision I held for my life just kept coming. No husband. No kids. No house. No job. No church. No ministry. No happiness. No life. Year after year, the emotional oppression got more and more severe. Somehow, I managed to get up and function, but I had no joy. No social life. No dates. Nothing to look forward to except work and school, until I became unemployed for five years, and burdened with student loan debt.

I forgot all about the prophecies. Even now as I write, I am unclear about God's purpose for my life, but I have finally returned to the work I abandoned years ago. So, *MCW Living Single: Bible Readings for Modern Christian Women* is a compilation of messages I wrote that very few eyes beheld. The pages of this book represent more than

mere words for me. They are indeed pieces of my soul formed from many tears and sleepless nights spent wrestling with issues I couldn't talk about with most 'saved' people. These pages reflect hard lessons learned during some of the most painful periods of my life.

Out of obedience to the burden I have felt for many years to publish these messages, I offer these readings to my single sisters in Christ who are struggling to grow in deeper relationship with God during one of the strangest eras of American history. Besides being single, these messages address the struggle between our soul's desire to live free in Christ, and the weight of our present circumstances.

God is calling his women to the forefront of spiritual leadership for such a time as this. However, we must examine some things, get over some issues, and release everything that causes us to lose focus of the divine assignment that God has purposed for us to complete. With humor, a bit of urban flavor, and plenty of scriptures, these readings will inspire you to apply biblical principles to the heady realities of living single as a modern Christian woman.

Be inspired. Be loved. Be blessed!

#1

Am I Ever  
Gonna Be  
*Right?*

Bible Readings for Modern  
Christian Women



# Am I Ever Gonna Be Right?

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*“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1 NKJV).*

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In this life, we will never be perfect in the sense that nothing bad will ever happen to us, or that we will never do anything wrong. Over time, we will mature spiritually, and overcome wrong thinking and unrighteous behavior to achieve victory in our daily life with Christ. In the meantime, we must remember the difference between being perfect and being overcomers. Christians cannot be expected to become instantly perfect, in the natural sense of the word, where they never do anything wrong once they have accepted Christ. Given our sinful natures, this is an unreasonable request.

However, once we accept Christ, we are expected to mature in the scriptures and in relationship with the Holy Spirit, so that we indeed become the new creatures with renewed minds that is spoken of in Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. During this process, our behavior will change and catch up with our new Christ-like character. In the Bible, especially in the New Testament, the word “*perfect*” is rarely used in relation to

being without fault, error or sin. In verses such as Matthew 5:48 that command us to be perfect, the Greek word “*teleios*” is used, which means, “complete or mature.”

In other cases when the scriptures speak of God making something perfect, the Greek word, “*teleioo*” is used, which means “to perfect” or “to make complete.” There are only two instances where the Hebrew word for perfect, “*tam*” is used, which means “morally pious, gentle or dear”— in discussions of Job’s character in the book of Job, and Psalm 37:37.

As a result of our faulty perceptions of ‘*living right*,’ many people struggle with the perceived (often man-made) ‘rules’ of Christianity or of righteousness and holiness. Unfortunately, several denominations teach that holiness refers to outward appearance or behavior. In this context, Christians who refuse to dance, wear short skirts, smoke, drink or listen to secular music are holy. This was the problem of the Pharisees and those of a religious spirit in New Testament times.

The Pharisees was that sect of Jews who prided themselves on knowing the Mosaic Law, and adopting the appearance of holiness. When they fasted, they made sure everyone knew it, and they made a show of bringing their tithes to the temple. They pretended to be holy in public through their outward behavior and appearance, but in their hearts, minds and behind closed doors, they were living foul. Jesus spoke strongly against these