

# What I Learned From a Past Friendship: By Erica Jermanus

In this book, I share my story about what I learned from a friendship/relationship with a man. I pray this helps someone with deciding on friendships and relationships according to the will, plan, and purpose of God.

I wrote this short ebook to share what I have learned from a friendship that I have been in for years. I hope and pray this book helps someone to determine whether a friend may be a potential spouse in the future. May this book help others who are in friendships with potential spouses. May this book help a person decide whether they should continue to be friends with a certain person in Jesus Christ's mighty name, amen.

I have been in a friendship with a man through social media for years. But I did not talk to him all the time and neither was I close to him. He would always leave me encouraging texts on my messenger app. Sometimes, I would read them and other times I would not go on to check my messages. This man lives in another country. So, I started to take an interest in him and talked to him more often through Facebook Messenger. We were both Christians and believers. We had a lot in common because we both loved Jesus Christ. But I did not know if this person was a potential spouse in the future. But right now, I just want to be friends with him. I did not know if I was going to stay friends with this person and continue to talk to him if the Lord wills for it.

I would like to share some things I learned from this friendship that may help other women or men decide if a person is their potential spouse or if it is time for them to get married or to stay single and just be friends. The first thing I learned from this friendship is that iron sharpens iron. So, both of us were able to sharpen each other and strengthen and encourage each other in our faith. We were both able to pray for each other as well. This is something to look for in a potential spouse or in a friendship. It may not have been God's will for us to be in a relationship, or it may not have been the right time. So, I am just trusting God and waiting on Him. I am being patient with His timing on whether this man is a potential spouse or not. Only God knows if this person is for me, and I am for him. But right now, I have just learned to be friends with him and talk to him as a friend and brother in the Lord.

I also learned that I did not want to put this friendship before God. Especially, if I were married, I would not want to put my spouse before God. I would want both of us to put Jesus Christ first in our lives and in our relationship with each other. I would want both of us to serve God together and serve one another. That goes

with any man that I end up being with in the future, if it is not this man.

So, I have learned to not talk to this man all the time because I do not want to grow attached to him if we are not meant to be more than friends and if we are not meant to stay as friends. I have learned not to grow too attached to certain people because God can remove them at any time. What matters most is being attached to the Lord the most and growing close to Him rather than just a friend or a spouse. It is also important to keep God at the center of a friendship, a relationship, and a marriage.

So, I have learned to consult God on who I am friends with and how long I am friends with them. Every friendship or relationship has an expiration date, unless it is for life. Some friendships come into your life for a season and others are for a lifetime. So, I needed to check with God and see if this friend was meant to stay in my life for good or meant to leave for good. Some friends leave your life for a season, and then come back again in a different season. That is because God was doing work on the inside of them and preparing them to come into your life even better than before.

Maybe that person had to learn some things before they could come back into your life. That person may have needed to learn and grow more before they could become your spouse.

Also, I have learned that if a friend is meant to be a spouse or a marriage partner, then there are some things I would need to work on myself and the same with the other person. I needed to learn to love and accept myself more and not just go to men for love and acceptance. I needed to get love and acceptance from God first before going to another person. I also needed to heal and recover from certain things in my past. The Lord was still working on my heart and growing and maturing me into the woman of God I needed to be for my spouse and for marriage. That is the same with my spouse. God was still doing work on the inside of them too and preparing them to be together with me at His right time.

Song of Solomon 2:7 says, "I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please." Jeremiah 30:17 says, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the

LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.”

I have learned to allow God to choose who your friends are. Many of us want to choose our own friends. But not every person who comes into our lives is meant to stay in our lives. Some friends have ill motives and intentions towards us. Some friends are jealous of us because of what we have or because of our gifts and talents. But God has given all of us unique gifts and talents of our own, so we do not have to be jealous of others. We can learn to accept and appreciate who we are and what God has given us without wanting what someone else has. Proverbs 12:26 says, “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

We can learn to be content with ourselves and where we are at in life. God may still have other plans for us, but we need to be willing to wait on Him and His perfect timing. We do not want to settle outside of God’s will for friends or a spouse that may not be what God has in mind for us. Not only that, but it may just be the wrong friend or relationships or the wrong time to

be in that friendship or relationship. So, we just need to trust God and know that He knows what is best for us and when it is best. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

I have also learned that sometimes we lose friends, and then we gain better friends. The friends that we had in our lives may not have been the best fit for us. These friends may not have been equally yoked with us. The friends in our lives may have one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom of heaven. If we are friends with unbelievers and have fellowship with them, we are going to be like them. So, we need to be careful who we surround ourselves with as friends and family. Light does not mix with darkness. 2 Corinthians 6:14 says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

So, if a person is your potential spouse, you will both be equally yoked together. That means that both of you will be believers and will share the same beliefs and common interests, goals, dreams, morals, and values. You will both work together as one with God and on one accord. So, if you are both believers, you will both agree together on the same things. This does not mean that you will not have disagreements at times, but you will be able to work out each other's differences in a friendship or a relationship.

That relationship or marriage is worth the wait rather than settling for the wrong person who may be outside of God's perfect will for you. So, it is good to trust God with a spouse and allow Him to choose who you date and marry as well as who you are friends with and the timing of that friendship and relationship.

I pray this short eBook has helped someone in their walk with Christ to make decisions on who to be friends with or who to be in relationships with and if it is the will and timing of God. Thank you for reading this book and supporting this ministry. May God bless you in Jesus Christ's mighty name, amen.



But there are some things that you and your spouse can get healed together by praying for each other in the relationship or marriage. There are marriage couples that have gotten free from certain things because of their marriage partner praying over them and for them. But a lot of the healing should come before the person enters a new relationship or marriage. We may need to ask God to heal and restore us before entering into a new relationship or marriage. Jeremiah 30:17 says, "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an

Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.”

Another thing that I learned about healing is that when you get out of a relationship, you want to make sure you are healed from your past relationship before you enter into a new relationship or even a marriage. You do not want to still have feelings for your ex while you are married to your spouse. You want to be completely over your past relationships. You want to completely move on from those past relationships. So, we need to ask God to heal our hearts and mend the brokenness. We may need to ask God to help us to get over those past feelings we have for the past people or relationships in our lives. He will do it for us if we have faith and believe that it is possible.

Psalm 147:3 says, “He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”

The next thing that I learned from a breakup is continuing to work on my purpose. I have learned that when I was in this relationship with this person, I started to let go of the call of God on my life. I was not serving God as much as would if I was single. I was allowing this person or relationship to become a

distraction in my life. I was putting my relationship with God and my purpose on the back burner. I loved this man so much and would want to be with him because I had no other friends in my life besides Jesus Christ. I got lonely at times and loved having someone to talk to.

But Jesus Christ needed to be enough for me. I needed to be able to go to God and not a man for comfort and satisfaction. I was looking to a man for love, acceptance, and validation. I needed to find that in myself and in Christ alone. I needed to know who I am in Christ and not look for it in a relationship or a friendship. Whether I have one friend or no friends, Jesus Christ was always my best friend and the number one friend that I can always talk to and trust.

I know that all other relationships stem from my relationship with Christ. So, If I have Christ in my life, I know that He will provide the right people at the right time. So, God was still working on me and on that person I was with too. He wanted me to focus my attention on Him and doing His will. He did not want me to put a man before him or even friends before him.

This is one of the reasons why God has shown me that I am not ready for a marriage yet because I would idolize it and put it before Him.

I have also learned that it is okay to be single and to not rush into dating and relationships. I have learned that it is okay to work on yourself and your relationship with God. It is okay to not settle for the wrong people or the wrong relationships. God may remove people from your life because He has better people He wants to send at the right time. We just need to trust in Him and His timing. He knows best for us. Are we willing to stick to His will, plan, and purpose or our own? Are we going to settle for something that was not meant to last or to be? Are we going to trust that God knows what He is doing? It may not make sense in the moment, when God removes a person from our lives, but it is for a reason and purpose.





