

What I Learned From A Past Friendship Or Relationship: By Erica Jermanus

There has been a person that the Lord confirmed was a potential spouse at one time. I talked to this person through Facebook. This person lives in another country. I started talking to this person for about a month and have gotten to know him through regular communication. The Lord confirmed with both of us that we were potential spouses. But the person who was a potential spouse may not have been in agreement with the will of God for his life. He was not ready to accept the truth and the reality of the truth. God was showing him that he wanted us to be in a relationship and marriage at the time. However, we both had unhealed wounds and trauma from our past that needed to be addressed. So, God had us separate from each other and move on. So, now I am just waiting on Him for the right person at the right time. God is still working on me and preparing me to meet the right spouse and to get married after I have received healing from my past.

After I had moved on from this person, I learned to embrace my relationship with Christ and singleness. I have learned to focus on Christ and fulfilling my purpose and calling. I have learned to use my gifts and talents more. But when I was in a relationship with this person, I felt like I could not be my true and genuine

self. I felt like I was not accepted and instead was rejected. God used that friendship or relationship to teach me some things that I would like to share with you in this book.

I would like to share what I learned from this friendship or relationship in hopes that it will help and bless others who are considering friendships, dating, and relationships. If you are single right now, I want to encourage you to not rush into dating and relationships because you are alone or lonely. Be willing to wait on God to send you your spouse in His right timing. Allow God to work on you and heal any unresolved trauma or childhood wounds from your past or even hurt from past relationships.

Allow God to heal those inner parts of you and to deliver you from bondage or strongholds that have a grip on you. Some people need deliverance from rejection or fear of man because of their past rejections and fears. Some people need deliverance from abandonment because they were abandoned by their parents as children, or they may have lost their mother or father as a child. People may need healing in their hearts and souls from trauma or abuse.

That is only something that God can do and not ourselves. We cannot heal our own hearts and souls. Only the one who made and created us can do it. So, we need to address these issues with God and sit with Him in His presence. Allow Him to touch those areas of our hearts that need to be touched. Allow Him to do His transforming work on the inside of us. This may take time and may not happen all at one time. It may take patience.

So, I am going to share with you some friendship and relationship advice that I have learned from being in a friendship or relationship with a previous spouse. But this relationship did not work out because it was not the will of God for us to be together or to get married. We were both carrying baggage from our past that needed to be attended to. That is why we were both not able to come together as a couple, because there were some things that both of us needed to work on with God. God was showing me this person's heart towards me and this person did not want to commit to a relationship with me. That is what God wanted for both of us. So, I had to move on and move forward.

One of the things I learned from being in communication with this person and developing a friendship with this person is to be thankful and grateful. I learned to be more content with what I have. This person lives in a poor country where there is a famine. I live in the USA where food is richly supplied. So, I learned not to be greedy and to not always be in want, but to appreciate what I have. I also learned to be more generous, not only with money, but with time. Because in a relationship with a spouse, you devote your time to that person. You want to spend time getting to know that person and loving and serving them.

I also learned to have a closer relationship with God. I learned to pray more and to worship more even though I don't always do it all the time. This person would always have their worship music on all day long. It taught me to worship more and to keep my focus on Christ, but also to stay humble. I am not one to worship all day long with music. I enjoy being in a quiet setting so that I can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and get guidance and instruction from Him to follow and obey. That is something I look for in a spouse.

I want my spouse to hear from the Holy Spirit on a regular basis and get instruction and direction on what to do and where to go. I need my spouse to be in tune and to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit so that they can follow and obey Him. That is very important to me. Also, I want my spouse to be able to accept correction from the Holy Spirit and from others so that he can learn and grow from his mistakes.

I have developed a strong prayer life being a friendship with a potential spouse, because I learned to pray for him more and for his country as well as others. This person would always study the word of God every day. I did not study every day unless the Holy Spirit would tell me to. So, I have learned to desire the word of God more and to read it and study it more. But I don't always study every day like I should, so I still have learning and growing to do.

I also learned how to communicate more effectively in a relationship. I learned that communication is important when two people come together in a relationship or marriage. The enemy wants to try to stop two people from talking to each other and developing a close bond or relationship with each other, because that is how the

relationship is going to thrive and work. The enemy wants to try to cause division and separation between two people in a friendship, relationship, or marriage. So, it is important to not only spend time with God in communion with Him, but also spend time with each other in communication so that the two of you can grow together in your relationship and form a strong bond.

I also learned trust from this relationship or friendship, because with any friendship you need to be able to trust the other person and the other person needs to be able to trust you. When you are in a relationship with a potential spouse, you need to be able to be honest, open, real, and vulnerable with that person. You need to be able to share your feelings with that person and that person needs to be willing to listen and take into consideration what you have to say. Also, that person should not project fear or intimidation upon you. You should be able to be yourself and that person should be able to love, accept, value, and respect you for the person you are and vice versa. So, that is important in a potential relationship with a spouse.

In addition, I learned that two people in a friendship or relationship must be equally yoked. They must be able

to share the same beliefs and the same faith with each other. They also must be in agreement with each other. That means that for a relationship to work, the two people need to be believers and both work together for the same purpose. Also, the two people need to be in unity and harmony with each other. The enemy loves to cause division and strife in friendships and relationships. The enemy would love for two people to get into an argument.

Both people in a friendship or relationship need to be able to work together as one with God. They need to be willing to compromise with each other and work out each other's differences. The couple should value each other's opinions and take into consideration what that the other person has to say and vice versa. When the two people are willing to settle disputes and not argue with each other, that is when they can keep the peace with each other and with God. The two people are willing to pray together in their relationship and with God. That is when the relationship will work out for the good and the better when two people are in unison with God and each other. Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Ephesians 4:2-3 says, "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering,

forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

I also learned that in a relationship with a potential spouse there needs to be respect at both ends of the relationship. That means that both people need to be willing to respect each other and value each other regardless of the other person's flaws, weaknesses, and imperfections. The two people love and accept each other the way Christ loves them. The two people are willing to work together to get healed, delivered, and set free. They will both include God in their relationship when it comes to needs. The two people are also willing to hold each other accountable and to forgive each other for any wrongs. Ephesians 4:32 says, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

Furthermore, I learned that with any relationship there needs to be a love that is unconditional, which comes from the Holy Spirit. When you continue in a relationship with Christ, you learn to love others because you have received the love of God. So, you then are able to better love your spouse because of the

love of Christ in both of you. You can love each other through prayer, love, support, encouragement, and service. You can love each other by ministering your gifts and talents to each other. If you have the gift of encouragement or the gift of helps, you can encourage or help your spouse with those needs. John 13:34 says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

Furthermore, I have learned to have patience with this person because we are both not in a place to get married or start a relationship with each other. We both needed God to do work on the inside of us and change our hearts to become godly spouses. I have learned patience by not settling for just any person, but to wait for the one that God has ordained for me. God showed me that this man is not from God, so He will replace him with someone better at His right timing. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."