

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY QUESTION 22

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## What is the greatest blessing as a single Christian woman?

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### Time, especially to serve

Time. It is a limited resource, and I am given a lot of latitude as a single to steward it toward helping others.

The time and freedom to help others. I can take a phone call or run an errand in the middle of the night and it doesn't affect anyone but me.

Time

Having more time to serve the Lord.

Having the free time to do God's work

Being able to serve any time

So much time to serve the Lord.

Time

Time, and the blessing ANY Christian women has - walking with Jesus!

This means more time to be with those I love.

Being able to leave any time or day of the night to go to those in need.

I have time and energy to serve others without constraints on time. I have met some amazing women through Bible studies.

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## Freedom

Being able to be free and content with the life I have now and being closer to God.

The freedom, time and energy to devote to ministry, other people, and what God calls me to do in the moment. I consider my singleness as a gift - just like any other life situation - that can be used to glorify God.

Like 1 Cor 7, being able to focus more on ministry/serving others, more time with God. Becoming more independent and finding your own voice.

Free to make my own decisions regarding travel, finances, job/mission work abroad

Being free to follow God's leading without having to compromise with another person's calling or goals.

Being free to make choices about where and how to serve.

More freedom to fulfill what God calls me to do without approval/permission from a husband.

Freedom

The freedom to do what you'd like. Serve, travel, work, be social.

I have more freedom

The freedom to take on any and all tasks that need to be done.

Free from problems involved in my marriage & able to live my life as a Christian and focus on positive things & to be a help to others

Freedom

Having freedom again to live without constant criticism of both spoken and unspoken nature.

Freedom

I can serve however God asks

I can do whatever I want.

Only having God to answer to.

Freedom. I think being single has given me the opportunity to build stronger relationships with people than I might have been able to if I was part of a couple.

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## **Travel**

Travel in my own time and my own way

Freedom to travel

Freedom to travel and hang out with friends often.

I've been able to travel with no strings attached and live in another country for years because all I had to worry about was me and where God called me to be

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## **Relationship with God**

Prayer, the word and YouTube videos of praise and sermons

I have learned how to hear God and grown in my relationship with Him.

Coming to know God in a more intimate way. Genuinely having to rely on him, because there aren't other crutches to fall on.

You have no choice but to make God your companion. Read "The Unseen Companion."

I have more time to spend in Bible study and I'm more dependent on God than I've ever been before.

Although days can be lonely, you never are because God got your back and he is with me always so you are able to have a closer relationship with God as this is who you talk with daily.

A greater, more intimate relationship with God. He and I have had a great time together in the last 3 years since my husband passed.

Realizing that God is your partner and will meet your every need

Ability to be devoted to Christ and be close to my daughter

Knowing God sees the other side of the mountain I'm having to cross, & He created the mountain, so He can move it!

Being able to focus on my relationship with Jesus, having very little drama and heartache in my life, and living with a lot of peace inside.

Knowing God has a plan

I can be more focused on my relationship with Christ. A dependence on Him is obvious to my children.

Growing stronger with my relationship with God. The small problems that I would probably have brought to a spouse I instead give it all to God. It's refreshing actually to know he is there always. Learning that was hard but now that I have embraced it, it's definitely a blessing.

Learning to depend on God for strength and acceptance

The greatest blessing as a single Christian woman is the time I get to spend with God and how much more time I have with Him now than when I was married.

Lots of time for Bible study

I've learned so much about God and how he meets us and interacts with us in singleness. Namely, I've grown in learning that expectations (met or not) absolutely cannot be my litmus test for God's love for me, investment in me, and involvement in my life.

Being a Christian

That the Lord loves me beyond any humanly love

Turn to the Bible for support

That I'm God's girl

Lean on God. Prayer.

My reliance on God

Having lots of time with God.

Having more time to focus on God

God is STILL with me.

Focusing on my relationship with God and with others around me

The ability to serve, study, and be with God in a more pointed and extensive manner than some married women.

## **Relationships with Others**

Having the blessing to reach others by showing them how God provides all my needs even when it looks desperate.

The love and support of fellow Christians

I can give wonderful advice from outside perspective

Growing relationships with both single men and all kinds of women in the church.

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## **Serving God and others**

Not having to worry about anyone to take care of like a spouse so you can up and go if you need to. An example would be like babysit at a moment's notice, go sit in the hospital with someone without worrying about taking care of anyone back at home, etc.)

I have the freedom of flexibility, which comes in handy with organizing events and such (In my region people often forget the little things and I often catch them and can figure something out when I'm there).

I have been able to do so much more for God because the time I have saved from worrying about guys. Even my future, I am so excited to see what God has planned for me because I don't have anything keeping me in one place like I would with a husband and my own family.

Lots of avenues to serve outside of the church.

Opportunities to serve children

Serving other single women

God uses me every day to do His work.

I am able to serve the Lord in a greater capacity than many in a marriage with children.

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## **Independence**

I get to do whatever I want. I get to go wherever I feel God is calling me to serve. I get to help other women who struggle more with being single.

I am not tied to anyone, I do not have to report or take care of someone else and their feelings.

I live how I want to live.

Making my own decisions

You don't have to ask anyone if you can be involved in something due to family time constraints.

Getting to make more choices about my life.

Be able to accomplish your goals without having to consult with a husband.

Don't have to ask permission about spiritual matters

Not being negatively influenced by family

Being available and the focus I can give to friends and my community.

I can choose what I want to be involved in and how I do that.

I can go and serve however I choose without worrying about leaving a spouse at home alone.

Don't need a "committee meeting" to determine what you do with your time and money

I'm free to just do me, and do random spontaneous things I feel spurred by the Lord to do. It's also made me be a more independent person and learn to not place my values in others. I have more time to just grow and develop in who I am and my relationship with the Lord.

The ability to base an action solely on your decision; the ability to go on mission trips and not have to worry about a family

I actually enjoy being a single mom. I know my situation is a bit unique since I planned for parenthood on my own but knowing that I can focus my energies on my kids and raise them without having to build, maintain & consult another relationship is great. I have seen so many couples not be on the same page about fostering/adopting & it can be a weight on both of them. I also love that I can spend my extra time/energy on things I choose: Bible study, friendships, fun, hobbies & truly live the way I want to.

The ministry of availability - it's easy for me to be present because I don't have many daily familial obligations

Don't have to worry about decisions that affect only me

Being able to be more flexible

## **Personal Growth**

I've had the opportunity to grow in ways that I don't think that I would have if I had married early. My experience as a single Christian woman has caused me to challenge a lot of ideas that I don't think I would have questioned otherwise. While painful, my difficulties in finding a place within church culture have made me more aware of and compassionate towards others who may be on the margins for different reasons.

Finding self

You have time to develop your life, to learn, to get more prepared, to mature.

Seeing people for who they really are

Getting an education and free time to do what I find is important

As my kids are getting older I have more time to read and study and am trying to find what my next thing will be.

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### **Unsure**

I can't think of any

Honestly...I haven't figured that out yet.

Not sure yet

I'm told it's because I can travel and do what I want with my free time but I honestly don't know.

I don't know of one. Many women say it's the ability to make decisions themselves, but since I've learned now to submit to the Lord in everything, I don't get to do that either, nor do I want to.

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### **Other**

Not risking having abusive husband or difficult family.

No drama

Less drama! I've really had time to focus on what I want!

Not seeking approval