

Time-travel... I wish it were possible to travel back in time, for so many reasons. I have no desire to travel forward. I will leave my future up to my dear Creator. For me, trying to see into the future is like trying to be God, and that doesn't settle well with me. I would love to visit my favorite historical places before they became modernized, and to meet the amazing people I have read and studied about, simply for my own personal interest and curiosity. Perhaps I might also have an opportunity to right some wrongs.

I don't think I would want to go back 'as myself' but rather as a friend to my younger self. The only catch is that I would want to be able to go back still holding the knowledge I have now, so I could share it with the former me. I believe she would be receptive to the wisdom and guidance of a close and true friend. Who else would know this better than 'me'? As long as I'm having fun with the idea of time travel, I think being able to retain my knowledge is a fair rule for this imaginary game.

First and foremost, I would tell my dear friend to love herself just as she is, because God created her just how He wanted her to be. I would walk with her in the hallways at school and help her keep her mind on her studies so she could have more life choices once she graduated high school. I would tell her that the boy she adores from afar is not likely to be her life-mate, so she shouldn't waste so much time thinking about him. But we could still giggle when we walked past him in the hall.

I would have helped her find more positive outlets for her youthful energy. I would have encouraged her to go to school no matter what, just so she could have that monumental accomplishment behind her. I would have encouraged her to work hard and travel, to see all that she could while she was young. When she was making a decision to marry, and then got cold feet, I would have sat with her and shared what I know now, so she could take time to decide if she were ready to tie her life to this one man forever. Perhaps she would have changed her mind, and perhaps all would be just as it was because that was God's plan.

Had I been able to influence her decision at all, I would have told her to wait. I would have told her to make sure he was the one, and that he would be the person God intended. There are a lot of mundane days in a lifetime, a lot of hurtful words thrown around, a lot of sickness, and a lot of frustration. I would remind her that we all need to feel loved and appreciated as we go through our lifetime, and we must be unselfish and willing to give of ourselves to the other person, for better or for worse. I would ask her if she could love him enough to be the wife he needed to be, in every way.

If allowed, I would share some of the heartaches she would face as a wife and a mother, but I would show her some of the joyful times to come as well. It would only be fair. And probably most importantly, I would show her the faith that she would require to get through it all. I would show her how these events in her life will draw her closer to God in ways she could never imagine. As I write that last line, I am forced to come back to the now and see my past as the very road that led me to where I am today, and to the faith I hold in my dear Savior. Had it not been for the various and sometimes heartbreaking events that I wanted to shield my younger self from experiencing, my faith may not be the anchor that holds me steady. No, looking back, I think it was as it was meant to be.

Time travel...Would I want to go back and walk with Jesus on this earth as he did over 2000 years ago, or would I want to go forward, and see him in Heaven? Forward...definitely forward.