

ATTRACTING *The Right* **LIFE PARTNER**

FOR SINGLES

Evang. Innocent Nwawuike

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I bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PREFACE

Most young men and women do not find it difficult deciding on their course of study in the university, the city they will settle in or the type of job they would want to do. It becomes an entirely different matter when it comes to deciding who to settle down with. It is a somewhat hard task for many youths. It becomes even more so when we remember the fact that whoever you tie your life with has a significant influence in actualizing your destiny both in time and eternity.

A compatible partner makes actualization of dreams and purpose remarkably easier while frustration from an incompatible soul-mate can make your journey to the great beyond faster.

The inspired words of this book from the anointed servant of God will guide the singles who are walking on the road of search to this important point of decision-making. This book is based on life experiences from the difficulties singles face in making choices to overcoming these challenges.

I expect the reader to draw from the wealth of experiences of the writer who is also a marriage counselor par excellence, whose approach is based on realities rooted in the Word of God.

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INTRODUCTION

Often times, I hear young ladies say that husbands are scarce. I equally hear young men say wives are hard to come by. In the course of ministry, I have had more people than I care to remember, approaching me with this lament. It became a thing of concern to me. One day I went in to pray and the Lord said to me, “Do people say that husbands and wives are scarce?” I answered, “Yes, Lord”, and He said, “It’s not true. Get a pen and paper and write down what I will teach you. If people should do what they ought, if they should follow wisdom steps and principles, they will get married”. That was both interesting and exciting to me because as I have mentioned, as a minister of the Gospel, the greatest prayer request I receive to pray for people is finding a life partner, more specifically, the right partner.

I know a lot of people have written so many things on how to select the right person, whom to marry and all that. To find the right partner in life, one needs to have the ability to attract that person. You see, the Lord had me understand one thing; people at every point in time are looking for people to marry; the only problem lies in their ability or inability to connect. Right now, as we speak, there is someone looking for a wife to marry and there is someone also praying for a husband to marry.

So many people have gone past looking for a playboy or a girlfriend or boyfriend. Dating has been so distorted, a lot of things have been confused, and it’s now one kind of crazy game. This book is for those who are tired of the dating game and are ready to settle down, those who belong to the class of responsible men and women who want to settle down and start another phase of their lives.

Often times, a lot of us who are “religious” go on praying and praying as though the whole responsibility lies on God, but He is one part of the picture. You also have a part to play. Unfortunately, several times we observe or keep to the God factor

and neglect our own role. And in most cases, those who focus on the human factor succeed faster and it confuses the religious, super church goers.

In this book I am going to share godly wisdom and principles from the scriptures that will help you:

- get someone on your side and
- know the best person to settle down with.

All the chapters of this book can be put into two broad factors; the God factor and the human factor. I would briefly describe the God factor as the role God plays in your attracting a life partner and the human factor as the role you play as a human being. Let's leave it at that for now. As you turn the pages, you will get to learn more.

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CHAPTER ONE:

THE GOD FACTOR

Does God need to be involved in getting the right partner? For some people, this would be a bone of contention. You might be thinking right now, “I know of so so person who was a prostitute as a single lady (or had many boyfriends) and she met her husband in a club. Was God involved in that one?” Well, what do you honestly think? Is it of any necessity to involve God in the issue of selecting the right partner? Let me begin the answer to that question with some questions of my own.

How long have you lived on earth already? How many more years do you hope to have with your spouse as a married couple? What is marriage to you? Do you understand that marriage is a life time commitment and it is not a decision you should take carelessly because you are committing an average of thirty five to forty years of your life to spend with someone in a covenant relationship? In fact the time you are going to spend with your spouse is more than the time you spent with your parents and siblings. Because of that, you cannot treat the issue of your marriage with levity. It is something you have to approach and deal with in the best way you can and there is no better way than going to the One who started the whole issue from the beginning; the One who made you.

The first thing you must understand is that the idea and concept of marriage is completely God's. It was God who initiated marriage. In Genesis chapter one of the Holy Scriptures, the Bible says “He made them male and female”. (Gen. 1:27) I like that. He didn't make male alone. The fact that He made them male and female means there is one for you; there is a man for you, there is a lady for you. We were made in pairs! That is both interesting and very comforting. Statistics may show that there is a greater number of women but that is our own observation and conclusion. It is not God's design. The truth according to God's Word is that “God made them male and female” (Gen.1:27).

When He finished making Adam in Genesis chapter two verse eight, the Scripture says in verse eighteen that Adam was lonely and God saw the need for a help meet and decided to get a wife for him. It was God who started marriage in the beginning. He made “the first connection of marriage” in history. He was involved and He should always be involved since He is the Manufacturer. Now that we have got that settled, let’s get to know how to actually involve God in the biggest decision you would ever have to make in your life.

PRAY TO ATTRACT

It is not out of place to do this. You have got to realize that you need to talk to God concerning your settling down; you need to tell Him that you want someone in your life. Sometimes young men and ladies are afraid to tell God that they need someone in their lives. I tell you, you don’t have to keep things away from God. He already knows your heart. Just lay it out to Him. Tell Him, “I need someone”. Do you know that the Scripture is very clear about this? God already knows what you need before you ask Him so just go ahead and ask Him. He was the One who saw that Adam was lonely and said, “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen.2:18). Obviously, it’s equally not good for a woman to be lonely. As a person, you would want to enjoy love, to feel loved, to hear words of love and appreciation, and you want someone to show you what some call TLC (Tender Loving Care). As a matter of fact, you need it. Marriage is a beautiful thing. I can tell you because I am married. I know what it looks like. God is interested in it. It wasn’t Adam who told God that he was lonely; it was God who saw that Adam was lonely. God is aware that you need to move away from that loneliness, but talk to Him about it. He is a Father, He is so kindhearted. He is interested in your life. He knows where the other one is and He can connect you two. That’s what we call praying to attract.

You would not be the first person to do this. Millions of people have done it around the globe, and it did not start in our generation. The first

person who did it has his story written in the book of the beginning. Look at the interesting story in Genesis chapter twenty-four verse twelve.

“And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand [here] by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: [let the same be] she [that] thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. (Gen. 24:12-15 KJV)

This is very interesting. The first thing the man did was to pray. Let’s do an introduction of that Scriptural excerpt.

The man in the passage was a servant of Abraham, named Eleazar which is the Hebrew version of Lazarus. His name means the help of God. His name was profound. He was sent on a mission by his master Abraham to get a wife for the master’s son Isaac. Eleazar understood the implication of this errand. He knew that one wrong choice could have catastrophic consequences. He had to talk to God. He prayed and said, “Oh God, show me kindness today. Bring someone.”

You see, if you understand that settling down is a serious matter, a journey which will take an average of thirty-five to forty years of your life, sometimes more; you will pray about it. The choice of a marriage partner is not made carelessly. Nobody likes to climb a tree and asks people to “please start boiling hot water because I am going to fall down”. Getting married carelessly is like doing just that, figuratively. A

carelessly chosen partner is an ingredient for a speedy divorce and as far as marriage goes, divorce is not an option even though it is happening in our world today on a crazy frequency. It's the devil's attack on the beautiful institution of marriage just as same sex marriage is. God never intended for divorce to spiral out the way it is today.

Like Eleazar did, you have got to pray about it. You need the help of God and the Holy Spirit to attract the right person. Talk to God about it; tell him you want to meet your spouse. Eleazer knew that he needed the help of God to carry out his master's command. How do you invite God to help you if not through prayers? A close look at the Scripture above shows that Rebecca came out as though she was compelled by God to appear. By prayer God can compel your spouse to locate you. There is nothing as powerful as prayer. Remember Jesus said;

“Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you;

Math.7:7

So pray! In the issue of attracting the partner God has planned for you, remember that it's not just your will but you are working in co-operation with God to fulfill his plan and will for you. Go to God and ask Him to show you the person He made for you. He made them male and female. As a matter of fact, He made the woman from the man. What you call marriage is actually the return of the woman to the place where she left from! (Have you ever thought about it like that before? We will talk more about that in a later chapter)

So dear friend, tell God you need a person. The Scripture says before Eleazar finished speaking... Rebekah came out. Wow! I believe that your own is just right at the corner. He or she is not far from you at all. If you will just talk to God, before you finish speaking, the person will be right there. Prayer is wonderful.

You may be thinking, “Oh, man of God, the prayers I have said...! I have been praying all along. Do you know the amount of fasting I have done, the seeds I have sown? I have even been on dating sites, on Facebook”, and all that. The good thing is that you have tried to do them. But I will encourage you one more time; pray again. Talk to the One who knows where he or she is, and let Him guide you to that person. We will talk more about this in a later chapter too.

DIVINE GUIDANCE

The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. (Psalm37:23 KJV)

Sometimes, this is where we fail the test; receiving divine guidance. To attract a life partner, you will really need divine guidance. Simply put, it is God guiding you to where you will meet your spouse. This is critical because if you are not hearing from God, if you are not yielding, docile, open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you will not be able to know when God is guiding you to the right place that you will meet the right person. When God told Abraham to go to the land He would show him, He guided him and Abraham in faith was following God’s guidance without asking questions. Assuming the Lord says, “Go to the mall today”, you probably will ask, “What am I going to the mall to do?” That is to say in the first place, if you do understand and hear His voice. If you don’t hear or recognize His voice at all, well, it begs the question: how will you be guided? That’s why it is important to understand God’s voice. A lot of people are missing out because they are not being guided by the Holy Spirit. This is one of the things that happen in prayer. When you open your heart in prayer, you will find God guiding you to the right place and the right person. Allow yourself to be led by God. When you are guided, you will be led to the right person, you will be led to the right place. You will be led to meet that person that God has in mind. Believe it or not, that person is waiting for you!

CHAPTER TWO

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Life is all about wisdom. People suffer things not because they lack money but because they lack wisdom. When you are in want of wisdom on how to get things, then you suffer lack. Wisdom is the right application of knowledge for profit. If you know what to do, you will do it and get the results.

Let us look at the human factor of attracting a life partner, more importantly, the right life partner. Please pay very close attention to what you are reading now. I feel very strongly that your status is about to change from loneliness to a wonderful and sweet companionship. I can tell you, that phase of life (marriage) is exciting!

As far as the human factors go, you must learn to take certain wisdom steps. You must learn to do certain things that will help you to get settled down. Let's begin with...

You Need To Be Seen

And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. (Gen. 24:15 KJV)

Until you are seen, no proposal can take place; you can neither propose nor be proposed to. Remember, after the man Eleazar had prayed, Rebekah came out to the well. She came to the place where the man saw her. You know what the Bible said? She was fair to look upon. I'm sure there are singles who would be excited to look upon you, but *they have to see you first* to get excited. Do you understand that? Rebekah came out to where someone saw her and that's where it all

began. If she hadn't come out, she would not have been seen. On the other hand, if Eleazar had not been positioned, he would not have seen Rebekah! This principle goes both ways. Eleazer went straight to the place where he knew he would meet responsible ladies. He didn't go to the bush, hotel or inns. He went to the well. We will talk more about the well.

Sometime on Valentine's day, I posted something on my page and I asked ladies how they spent their Val. Some of them said they spent it in the prayer room. Ironically, most of them are asking God for marriage. That was an error, by my calculation. They missed it. Nobody is going to see you in the prayer room, except God and the angels. Of course they won't marry you. Oh it's good to pray, but you have got to also be in a place that you will be seen. Until you are seen, no one proposes. Sometimes we get so spiritual that we forget that there is another part of life called social.

I'd like you to remember this and keep it in mind; marriage happens in two ways. It is either someone meets you directly, gets attracted to you, begins to talk with you, starts up a relationship with you and it ends up in marriage, or someone sees you and recommends you to his/her friend, introduces you to one person or the other. However, none of this can happen until you are seen. You've got to allow yourself to be seen. You've got to create opportunities for people to see you. This is critically important if you want to get married.

There are some laws I want to share with you that will expound the principle of being seen. The first one is what I call...

The law of place

Let us shift focus for a little while to a woman called Ruth. The third chapter of the book of Ruth, verse one to four tells us something important.

Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? And now [is] not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshing floor. Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: [but] make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. (Ruth 3:1-4 KJV)

This Scripture tells us about the law of place. (It is my earnest desire among other things, that this book inspires you to read your Scriptures. The Bible is an inexhaustible source of wisdom tips and principles.) You have to be seen as we earlier discussed, and you have to be seen in a place. Ruth had to go to a place that Boaz saw her. However, their story did not start here. Let's backtrack a little to where it began.

“And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD [be] with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel [is] this? And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It [is] the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house. (Ruth 2:5-8 KJV)

Their story started when Ruth started going out to glean the ears of corn in Boaz's farm. Boaz saw her then and asked the young men working for him who she was. He was told, "That's Ruth, the Moabitess that came back with Naomi. She's been working since morning. She's such a hardworking lady". Of course Ruth was a beautiful lady; that's important too. The men were amazed at her hardworking attitude in nature. She was committed to work. That also caught the attention of Boaz and he enquired more about her. The manager of his farming business shared with him.

Boaz was able to see her because she went to a place where serious minded people go to. She went to engage herself meaningfully in a place so as to get something for herself and her mother-in-law. The bible said the Boaz was not around when she came but if she wasn't in the field he wouldn't have noticed her. If she wasn't working or if she was lolling about in the house, she wouldn't be noticed. But she was busy and in the fields and that got the attention of Boaz. Because she was there, she had the opportunity to be seen. She was seen around the farm and in chapter three as we read, her mentor cum mother-in-law told her what to do. The next morning, the lady was on her way to be married. It started with her being seen in the right place! Notice also that though Boaz only asked "who is she?", the servant set over the reapers answered not only on her identity, but on his observation of her; a woman who was just working without knowing she was being observed. We will talk extensively on that as we progress.

The law of place is very important. It is depicted as well in Genesis chapter twenty-four. The Scripture says that Rebekah came out to the well where the daughters of the men of the city come to fetch water. In those days the well served as a rallying point where young ladies gather. The well was not solely for getting water, it was also a place of relaxation where working-class ladies managing their fathers' flocks come out to sit and talk together while watering the flocks. Ladies seen there were either getting water for themselves or their flocks or relaxing

from the day's finished work. It gives us a picture of certain things. First of all, it tells us that they are industrious ladies, they are focused. They know what they are doing. This begs a question for you.

How many times have you taken yourself out to a place where the daughters or the sons of the men of the city go, a place of relaxation, a rallying point, a place where well meaning people come out to do business? Where do you go out to stay? Where do you hang out at your leisure? Is there a place you go to hang out where people can see you? It could be a shopping mall, a relaxation center. It could also be a church; you could spend some time serving in a church. Don't just sit in a place to gossip.

Where you are seen matters a lot. It also determines who proposes to you or who eventually marries you. If you are seen at a club, chances are that someone will propose to you right there. Whoever will see you there will be a clubber like you. You must understand this. If you are always among the gathering of politicians, chances are you will receive a proposal from one of them. Same applies to if you are always around government workers. When they see you often, and get attracted to you, of course they will try to make advances, initiate a relationship which will ultimately lead into settling down. Where you are seen, where you go, the place you stay may determine who you marry, the class of people you marry or the kind of family you marry into. Don't be careless about your position. As a lady, don't just sit back and say, "I'm a lady. Men need to find me". You need to ask yourself, "Where are they going to find me?" As a man, where do you go to? You have to position yourself properly; you must do your part. This is one reason why prayer and guidance is important. It doesn't end there. When you understand your purpose, your mission in life, you can begin to position yourself in the area that you will find someone that will be compatible to where to you are going. That is wisdom. Where do you go to? Now that you are looking for a wife or husband, come on; take out time to work on it.

In the case of Ruth, there were other fields in Israel she would have gone to but she chose Boaz's field. She went to where the big boys can

see her. Is that crazy? Not by my calculation. It was rather wise. You have to be wise (and prayerful) Ruth had to position herself where somebody that mattered can see her. She could have chosen to go to any other field but she chose that of Boaz. You have to know what you want and what God has in store for you. You must learn to position yourself well where the kind of people you want to meet gather. I didn't say you should introduce yourself to people in such a way that it becomes ungodly. Just bear in mind that until you are seen, no one will talk to you about settling down.

You may think, "That's ambition. Going to certain places to be among certain people so I can be seen by them sounds like ambition to me". Ambition or no, remember Esther. She contested in a beauty contest and ended up marrying an emperor, even though she was an orphan. She didn't get there and begin to think, "Asking Haggai to suggest what I will wear to see the king sounds like ambition to me. I shouldn't even be here in the first place, I am an orphan". Don't cheat or belittle yourself. Don't make yourself cheaper than the value God placed on you. You were wonderfully and fearfully made, that's what the Bible says in Psalm 139 verse 14. This goes for both men and women. Won't it be nice to marry a good and wonderful partner? Please go ahead and take your chances.

The Law of character

There is something I would like to point out. Would you care to go back to that little discussion between Boaz and his men about Ruth? Boaz asked one question, "who is she?" And he got more than what he asked. The servant not only replied but went ahead to quickly add his observation of her hardworking nature. You see, at every point in time, someone is observing you to either recommend you. You may not know it and that's why you need to be careful in the character you wear and how you behave. People are always and at all times observing you, if not for themselves, then for recommendation. Somebody may ask and

enquire after you when they see you. They may not have the time to observe at that initial stage but somebody may be able to tell them you are a wonderful person. That was the case of Ruth.

My point is this; even after the law of place takes place, character matters a lot. By character I mean godly behavior. Not what you pretend but what comes out of you naturally. A lot of ladies have lost opportunities of settling down because of bad behavior. Same goes with men. Some ladies have turned down proposals from men who never believed they would turn them down all because of their bad behavior. Character matters a lot as no one wants to marry and live in hell on earth and marriage to a person with terrible character is exactly that; hell. Nobody wants to go into a marriage that won't last or will be fraught with misery.

Let's consult Genesis chapter twenty-four again for an amazing wisdom tip. Look at what Eleazar asked God...

And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: [let the same be] she [that] thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. (Gen. 24:14 KJV)

The Bible went on to say...

And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel [was] very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her

pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw [water] for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw [water,] and drew for all his camels. And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten [shekels] weight of gold; And said, Whose daughter [art] thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room [in] thy father's house for us to lodge in? (Gen. 24:15-23 KJV)

When you get involved in the dreams of people, when you help to add value to people, when you get involved in blessing people, you finally get blessed yourself. That is what happened to Rebekah. The more you try to add value to other people, the more you add value to yourself. Every one, male or female that wants to get married has in mind the kind of person he/she would want to settle down with. Many ladies want cute, handsome, macho men and all that, especially the younger ladies. The older ones are no longer placing so much priority on those transient things. They realize that when one gets married, it's not all about the macho six pack build. The older you get down the age, the more you realize more important things that you need in a man and vice versa.

The scripture said when Eleazer prayed, he told God what he wanted and how he will know that this is the person when he sees her. Abraham was incredibly wealthy, he was blessed in all things and his son Isaac was the sole heir of all his possessions, so Eleazar knew he wouldn't want an unworthy woman in the family. He would want someone wise enough, industrious and humble to help in managing the resources he had bequeathed his son Isaac. Eleazer therefore set up

certain criteria he needed to see to choose and that bordered on the issue of character.

Character is so important. Your behavior has a lot to do with whether you marry now or in the future. Your marriage can either be hastened or postponed by your character. Rebekah had her chance. Even though she didn't know it was her marriage opportunity, yet her character established it. Her behavior nailed it that day. Most people have missed their opportunities because of how they behave or the character they wear.

I will never forget a friend of mine (who happens to be a medical doctor) who was looking for a wife and prayed for a long time. One day he went out to hang out with his friends who had secretly planned to introduce a lady to him, without the lady's awareness. While they were all chatting and talking together with some drinks, a discussion came up, a story concerning a married couple and what is going on in the banking sector; some kind of situation that ladies find themselves in which pushes them into what some people call corporate prostitution especially as a marketing strategy (I say this without being insulting). Many times these ladies are just used by their supervisors to achieve their target. The lady in the story, the subject of these men's discussion was actually rising fast in the ladder of position in the institution. A lot of money was coming in for her and her husband was getting worried about it. Her husband was worried about whether his wife had fallen into the category of corporate prostitutes. When the men got to that point in the discussion, the lady (the one they had arranged to hook up with their bachelor friend) cut in and said, "Why should the husband get worried? After all, she is bringing the money home and is helping the family." Immediately, my friend pinched himself and said, "If I marry this lady and she gets the same opportunity in that sector, maybe she will do the same thing". That was how the lady lost that opportunity. When the lady later realized that there was someone there who had interest in her but got repulsed by her opinion of the discussion, she tried to

salvage the situation, “No, I didn’t mean to say that”. That’s not true. She merely exhibited her nature when she was off guard.

One of the ways to know people’s true nature and true character is to observe them in their natural state, their ‘off guard’ state (as Ruth and Rebekah were being observed). When they have no interest pricked and when they don’t know that you have interest in them, that’s when you see the real, undiluted nature they have. That’s when they exhibit the behavior, the qualities they have inside them naturally. The ones who live by positive values display it and the ones who live by negative values also display it. The nature of their heart is also displayed. Most importantly, how they treat the people around them, those they don’t really know, will tell you how good, wonderful and noble hearted they are. We see that clearly in the life of Rebekah. A stranger asked her for a drink and she gave him. That was not enough for her. She went ahead to make an offer “let me water your camels also”. With the man’s permission, she emptied her pitcher in the trough to water the camels. If you study the Bible closely, you will see that the man must have come along with about ten camels. That number of camels would require a lot of water. You can clearly see that she was naturally kind.

Most ladies today would say, “ladies first. At least I have done my bit by giving you a drink. You are a man. Why don’t you help yourself? I was thinking you are even supposed to help me. Is that not what men should do?”. And they would simply lose an opportunity of getting married.

You see, the Scripture is very wonderful and the counsel of God is very profound. God told us to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we put ourselves in the shoe of a stranger, we will love to help them. And when you wear that kind of attitude, you may not know it initially, but you have set in motion great blessings for yourself. Rebekah drew perhaps close to three hundred liters of water for those camels. She must have spent quality time and energy. But that gives us a picture of industriousness. Then it gives us a picture of patience which is an ingredient in marriage.

It gives us a picture of humility; she was down to earth. She took care of him and his animals.

Most ladies would not want that kind of stress. They want men who will take care of not only them but also all the people around them; their parents, siblings, everybody and everything that concerns them. Rebekah passed the test. The moment she finished, the man simply concluded that she was his answered prayer; she was the beautiful, industrious woman who would manage the household very well. By her character, gold gifts came to her. Your character can do that too, get you gifts. Not gifts to entice you and lure you into sin, especially into sex, but gifts of encouragement and appreciation of the quality and nobleness of your heart.

Never forget this; at every point in time, someone is observing you either for himself or to recommend you to someone. Keeping this in mind will help you to wear a good character at all times and exhibit the best of behavior. What is the guide for the character you should wear? It's simple. The Christian values taught in the Bible; love your neighbor as yourself. Live a clean life. Somebody is observing you right now.

You may have led a wrong and wild life. You can turn around and repent. There is still an opportunity for you. Perhaps those who saw you before may not be the ones to see you again. Perhaps again, those who saw you before and had wrong opinions or bad impressions about you may have an opportunity to change their opinion or their mind when they meet and encounter the new you.

CHAPTER THREE

Wash Yourself

There are other very important wisdom tips and principles on how to attract suitors which I want to share with you. Let's look again at Ruth chapter three.

Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: [but] make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. (Ruth 3:3KJV)

God bless such mothers and mothers-in-law who give godly advice to their daughters. She said "wash thyself". It doesn't mean that she was to take care of herself only for that day. It only points out the necessity of taking care of yourself. In business it is called packaging. You must know how to package, dress, anoint and get yourself out there where you shall be seen. Wasn't that the situation with Esther? When king Xerxes drove away queen Vashti and wanted to re-marry, they gathered together beautiful maidens in the town. They spent one year in beauty treatment, in anointing themselves. Don't be careless about your looks. Don't allow yourself to grow out of proportion in size. You have to take care of yourself. Esther spent one year anointing herself, shaping and packaging herself with myrrh and other herbs.

Wash yourself. It is terrible for a young man to look dirty and crazy neither is it of any value or a young lady to be dirty. Men and women, you need to wash yourselves. Be clean. It is said that cleanliness is next to Godliness. You have got to wash yourself. You have got to clean up yourself. You have to look neat. Ladies, you need to know that men are caught with their eyes. It's terrible for a young lady to be smelling. If it demands washing for three or four times a day, do that if your body odor is strong. Wear some perfume, put some deodorant, or body spray and look good. Someone once said there are perfumes you

can wear that are inviting. I smiled when I heard that. I think she is correct but I also think it's always inviting when you look neat.

Ruth had to anoint herself properly before going out. She couldn't have gone there smelling. Boaz would simply have been repulsed. In fact, in Esther's case, the bible said any time a young lady should go to see king Xerxes, they would request for special clothes and make their hair because the king had to be attracted. Men are moved by their eyes first. However, many girls have explored this principle to the detriment of their soul because they think that by flaunting themselves and keeping all parts of their body open they will attract men. They are only attracting sexual partners not husbands!

Men must also take care of themselves because ladies also take time to look at them. You want to approach a lady that has packaged herself well and you are wearing a shoe that is bent and looking like you are on a rugged mountain. How do you think she would listen to you? Ladies also respond to what they see. You may have great qualities inside of you but if you don't package yourself well people may not see those good qualities. Someone may not have the second opportunity to get to know you properly so be at your best at every point in time.

Anoint Yourself

Naomi also said to Ruth, "Anoint yourself". Put on some cream. Get to tone up your skin. (This one is for the ladies) Hey, I didn't say bleach. I said tone. Enhance your beauty. That's not a bad thing to do. Some religious people will say that is ungodly. They think if you do that, you will go to hell. That is simply an uninformed opinion operating in ignorance of the Scriptures. They are putting things out of context and that is consequent of the fact that they have not studied the Scripture closely. You cannot be holier than Rebekah and Ruth. These two were the ancestors of our Lord Jesus. They were married into His lineage

and they became grandmothers of our Lord Jesus. He was not ashamed to be born into that lineage. So please get this wonderful truth and commit it to heart. It is important *and scriptural* to 'anoint thyself'. Put on some cream and look good and fresh.

Putting on Your Raiment

"Put thy raiment upon thee" was the next instruction (Ruth 3:3). I like this. You have got to dress up, dress cute, dress smart, dress gorgeously. We will take a little time to look at this closely because there is a whole lot involved in dressing. Dressing is an interesting thing to study. When God began to show me these things, He spoke to me about dressing and for the first time I was stunned to hear the profound wisdom in the living Word of God concerning dressing. I had never thought of it before until that day God said to me, "take up your pen and paper and write" and I am going to share with you what I wrote down directly from the throne room of God. You see, God is interested in your getting settled. He knows that a whole lot of prayer points are hitting Heaven about marriage and He wants to solve them by sharing with you the wisdom steps you should take to get married.

Naomi told Ruth to put on her raiment. Raiment is not a casual crazy cloth. It's not shabby dressing. It is a dress that is worn on purpose. As a single man or woman who is looking to get married, every time you dress, you should have the 'raiment attitude' towards your dressing. Have you ever taken time to ponder on what happened in the life of Queen Esther when she spent twelve solid months in preparation for a marriage and after twelve months, each contestant only got one night to impress the king? Let me ask an interesting question. If you have one meeting, one opportunity to meet with a lady or a man that will seal or determine your marriage, how will you appear? Think about it. King Ahasuerus wasn't looking for only beautiful girls. All of the girls in the harem were beautiful. As a king, he could have as many beautiful ladies as he wanted. The ladies would have been more than glad to have him. He was the emperor, the king. The gold, the wealth of the one hundred

and twenty-seven provinces he ruled were at his disposal. It was not just beauty alone, even though beauty was actually a premiere requirement for a lady to be in that contest in the first place. Beauty was the first qualification but it was certainly not the ultimate one. The former Queen, Vashti was beautiful. This begs the question; what do you think the king was looking for in that one meeting with each lady after twelve months of painstaking preparation, beauty treatment, anointing themselves with oil and all kinds of herbs and fruits, toning up their skin? Oh my God...

You have got to prepare for marriage! You don't just wake up and blow out of proportion and then bombard heaven with prayers. You should consciously prepare for it. There is a part you have to play to make it happen. Don't put the whole responsibility on God. These ladies took twelve months to prepare themselves only to meet the king for one night. That meeting may have lasted for only one hour, thirty or forty-five minutes, and I don't think it was about sex. Imagine the king sleeping with those different ladies night after night. That would be very crazy and unfitting for royalty. Besides that, marriage is not about sex alone. It's more than that. The king wasn't looking for a sex partner, he was looking for a wife. I am sure that Vashti was good in bed, because the Bible never said that the problem was sex related. The Bible stated clearly that the problem with Vashti was her attitude. When the king needed her to come out to greet his guests and invited her to do same, she embarrassed him before all his guests by bluntly refusing to show up. She didn't honor him. He needed someone who was smart and would honor him, someone with a noble heart and character to support him in running his empire. Every king wants his dynasty to last. The king didn't want to lose his life early. Having to fight wars, deal with politics, games and political scheming around his cabinet, he wouldn't want to come back home to fight domestic wars as well. He needed someone who would give him peace and security. This would be reflected in that one moment of meeting. One key thing that would speak of that was the ladies' dressing.

I hope this is opening your eyes to the value and importance of dressing. Your dressing carries a weighty message about you. We will take an in-depth look at this fact.

CHAPTER FOUR

WHAT IS DRESSING?

A very common saying about dressing is that you are addressed the way you dress. But have you ever heard the expression that dressing is an unspoken language? It is a form of communication. Every time you dress, you are saying something to the next person either consciously or unconsciously. When I talk of dressing, I refer to your total outlook; from your hairdo to your jewelry, the perfume you wear, your clothes, your makeup, your shoes, your nails (and beard)! All these things are regarded as dressing and they come together to say something about you. Your whole outlook matters a lot for that meeting with the 'king'. Perhaps you have never thought about it before but you are being enlightened now so that you can walk into your marital inheritance in Christ. When Esther walked in and the king beheld her, he lost his breath. She found favor in the eyes of everybody. When they looked at her, they saw her as heaven sent. The king did not wait till the following morning to put a crown on her head. Her dressing communicated, just as yours does.

Dressing is image making.

Image making means you are determining how the next person views you. When you dress, you give people opportunity to view you in a certain manner. You give them a perspective with which to look at you. It gives us an image of you. In other words, you can consciously and intentionally influence how they look at you through your dressing. Some ladies have mistakenly given other people opportunity to look at them in a wrong manner through their dressing. Sometimes they dress crazily and provocatively and they think they are doing what is in vogue or what is trending, what they saw on telly and internet. They do not know the people they see on telly and internet possibly dress on purpose, for their trade. The Bible speaks in the tenth verse of the seventh chapter of proverbs about the attire of harlots. Harlotry is a

trade and demands a certain kind of dressing. When you dress in a certain manner, you are giving the next person an opportunity to view you differently and that may turn them off from proposing or getting attracted to you for marriage. Dressing can either open doors or shut doors. Dressing can also earn you quick trust as someone may look at how smartly you are dressed and conclude that you know what you are doing and therefore relate with you positively.

Dressing communicates glory.

Glory here refers to splendor, magnificence, that distinguishing mark on you. All of your attire is put together to tell people if you are of a noble class and if you are elegant. There are some people who dress up and you just can't help looking at them again and again. You may have experienced stepping outside and people see you and smile and greet you. They're not greeting you because they know you rather they're greeting you because of the way you are dressed; they like it. Some may be bold enough to say it to you.

Dressing communicates cost which can give us an idea into the kind of society you come from, the status you are occupying. When you dress, someone who is keen enough could look at what you are putting on and tell the class you belong to. This doesn't mean that you have to go beyond your reach to hang your coat. A lady who dresses on what is in vogue or super expensive alone does not tell us that she is fashionable; it just tells us the class she is from.

All I am saying is, if you must wear a clothe, wear a good one. It may not necessarily be so costly but let it be a good one. Having good and quality clothes is more important than having a closetful of clothes. I am saying; go for quality, not quantity. It will equally communicate your level of excellence. When you put yourself together in a wonderful manner, you look like a wonderful masterpiece of God.

Your Level of Organization

The next thing you communicate by your dressing is your level of organization. The combination of shoes, bags and clothes depicts organization. If you are careless about this, it tells us that if you can't take time to put your dressing together, then you most probably will not be organized in life. If you cannot organize yourself, how will you organize things around you? If you cannot put your hair right and pack it properly, arrange your clothes well especially the color combination, how will you be able to organize things? Have you seen some people wearing what they call color riot? It's like their dressing is saying, 'to whom it may concern', meaning it doesn't concern any particular person, any Tom, Dick and Harry is okay. Such people will most likely attract someone who is just like them, coasting along and saying to everybody, 'to whom it may concern' with their dressing. What a disastrous combination that would be, a coming together of two unorganized people. Please bear in mind, your dressing communicates your articulation, your level of organization. Don't worry if you do not have expensive wears. How you arrange what you do wear tells us how smart you are and how your mind works. We can also deduce from your dressing if you are at peace with yourself. Some people tell others they are at war with themselves with their dressing. There is a lot of confusion in their mind that is reflecting in their dressing.

Let me give an instance. Have you ever seen someone hurrying off to a place maybe because someone is in danger? The shirttail will most probably hang out of their belts; the lady may wear the right leg slipper on the left foot. That has some justification because danger is involved. But some ladies and men would walk out (not run out) of their house looking disorganized and confused by their shabby dressing and that quickly communicates that something is wrong in their mind.

Let's use our imagination once again. Imagine a guy shabbily dressed and approaching a wonderfully dressed lady to talk to her. She turns

round to look at him from head to toe and observes he has no good haircut, he has not brushed his hair properly, and the beard has grown untended. He opens his mouth to speak and she can hardly breathe! She looks at his shoes and sees they are dusty; the belt is like a rope around his waist. You do not need a prophet to tell you that that man has lost his opportunity because he went looking (and smelling) like a bum. That wonderfully dressed lady knows she needs an organized person. As a matter of fact, ladies don't want disorganized men at all. Ladies are somehow wired to love comfort, good things. That may be because they are created in a sophisticated manner. Refer back to Genesis. They were not made directly from dust. They were made from the bone, from a finished product. You can't blame ladies for loving good comfort.

Learn to be organized in your dressing, that's the whole point.

Self Awareness

Another thing dressing communicates is self awareness. When we see you dress, we see how self aware you are. Dressing has a whole lot to tell us about how your mind works. Your level of awareness of yourself, your personality reflects in what you are putting on. Some people do not know what fits them. Some just wear clothes because it is in vogue and when you see them, it will totally repel you rather than attract you. They simply follow the crowd. They just add to the number. By that, they communicate that they don't really know what they want. When ladies wear what they call spaghetti hand clothes and have their stomach bulging out from under it, put on shorts that does not cover them properly, they look like a total combination of confusion. How does a man propose to such a person? He knows he will only be inviting confusion in human form into his home.

By dressing, we see how your mind works. If you don't know what fits you that means you don't have a good self awareness. On the other hand, people who are aware of themselves know what they want, what fits them and they go for it. They don't just wear things because others

are wearing it, or because it's what's in vogue. The question for you is; do you follow the crowd or are you self-aware?

Dressing communicates your sense of style. This where you have the height of enlightened minds; people who know not only what they want but they have gone further to develop a sense of style. It is their own way, their own brand of expressing their beauty. They enhance their beauty. They have a brand for themselves. They don't just move about wearing what people are wearing. They know what suits them, what enhances their beauty and appearance, what brings out their color, what brings out that marvelous art work of God in them. They know that they were fearfully and wonderfully made and they have a style, a way of presenting that which God has done. That is what God wants and intends. When you begin to do this, you are on your way to attract a life partner. Your sense of self awareness should not just stop at knowing what fits you, but you should develop an understanding of how you look, your physique and based on that, develop a sense of style, which simply means your own way of enhancing your beauty. Your dressing then, should not be solely about what is in vogue, it should be about what fits you, your own brand, your own kind of identity, your own kind of trademark. And this is the height of development of mind. Your mind is not just self aware, it has developed your brand, given you a unique way to appear. That gives you a good expression of what God has done for you and in you. This implies that if what is in vogue does not fulfill this criteria for you, then it is a no-go area!

While developing your sense of style, remember that it is important to be comfortable in what you wear, as long as it is within the limits of decency. In this age, people just go beyond limits and wear whatever they please. That's why we see some people half naked on the streets, people who are mentally okay exposing their bodies and not caring the least about it. They simply tell people how crazy they are. When you are conscious of the fact that your dressing says a lot of things about you to the next person, you will be more careful about what you put on

and how you look. Do remember, dressing encompasses your entire outlook from head to toe.

Social Awareness

Dressing communicates your level of social awareness which simply put, can be defined as knowing what every event requires. It is completely out of place to go for a dinner party dressed like you are going to a club. It is equally out of place to go to church putting on a dinner party wear. Going for a traditional marriage wearing a dinner party wear simply tells people something is wrong with your head. Sometimes, young people mix these things up because of the influence they are exposed to from what they watch on television. People go for burials or memorial services for instance, dressed as though they are on their way to the beach and communicating not just social ignorance, but coldness of heart.

This is the point I am making; dressing is basically as occasion demands. Events are dressed for. This should help to guide ladies and men. If you are seen in a church event with something that does not agree with the event, everybody already knows you are a social misfit. I tell you; most young men would never bother to propose. If you are a guy, most ladies would be skeptical about you if you come close talking about marriage. You must understand what each event you are going for requires, and what best you can put on. Remember sense of style? You must know what will give you the best expression of your beauty, your identity and your sense of style. Remember the event requires a certain kind of dressing, which means there is a way you should appear, but yet there is the best way you can appear even while going within the ambience of the event. Having your own way, your own style of appearing the way the event requires captures the fantasy of the opposite sex very fast, whether you are a man or woman.

Why are we spending so much time talking about dressing? Let me reiterate. Dressing is an unspoken language that says volumes about

you to the next person, and right now, we are not just talking about a random next person. We are talking about the person you would want to attract for a lifetime commitment that is correctly called marriage. Again, we are still considering all the 'beautiful ladies' who had only one opportunity to 'see the king', one meeting that would determine whether they would become the 'next queen' or not. We are spending time to talk about dressing because it will say a lot about you to the 'king'. Mind you, that king could be the man who will likely be interested in you, or that woman who has been trying to check you out to judge the kind of man you are. So don't get tired, let's talk about this till we exhaust the topic.

Dressing on Purpose

This is all about what you do and what it requires. I'll explain in a bit. If you are a preacher, do you dress like a musician? You dress like a preacher. If you are a footballer, of course you have to dress like a footballer. However, as a footballer, you don't play every second of the day. If you are going to attend a function, a social function for instance, you wouldn't put on your boots for football, otherwise, you are whispering, "I am crazy". What I am basically saying is, you have got to learn to dress on purpose. Dressing on purpose deals with your profession. What you do affects or influences how you dress. For instance, if you see someone working in a financial institution you will immediately tell from their dressing.

We need to be careful to learn to dress on purpose. If you are a preacher, dress in a way that reflects the fact that you are a preacher. I might add that you do not need to be going to preach at a service before you get conscious of the fact that your identity as a preacher demands decent dressing. Remember I said dressing is about image making. It could open or close doors for you. It could win people's trust for you as fast as possible; it could also offend and put people off.

Where are you going?

That is one question your dressing can answer for you. Are you surprised to hear this? Your dressing can be telltale signs that you are going somewhere. Some people by their dressing announce that they have no plans; they are going nowhere. They are just casually moving around. You must dress to communicate that you are going somewhere. Where you are going refers to your awareness or unawareness of the fact that you are on a mission. Some people communicate by their dressing that they are not satisfied with themselves and that can put people off. Many do not know this. Some others communicate by dressing that they are calling for attention, but we will get to that shortly.

There are ladies who by their dressing communicate that they are ready for marriage. Same goes for men. It would be out of place for a single woman to dress as a married woman. When your dressing causes someone to conclude that you are married when you are still very much in the singles' club, then you need to double check your sense of dressing, fast!

Dress to somewhere. In fact, dress yourself to marriage. Remember that I had mentioned this before; when a man or woman wants to marry, there is a certain picture of what they want, there is an image of the kind of person they have in their mind and when you cannot connect to that, you cannot connect with them. Eleazar had a kind of person in mind. He even gave God the criteria, "whoever meets this is the one you have sent for my master". This prayer stemmed from the image he already had in mind.

When you dress on purpose, you dress as if you are going somewhere. It has a way to connect with people who are also going somewhere. When you dress as though you are relaxed, you are not going anywhere, somebody will interpret it to be that you have achieved all and there is nothing more left for you to achieve. The idea is this; how

you dress tells us if you are married or not, if you have a sense of mission or not, if you understand what you want or not.

Sexy Dressing

This is it, the point I mentioned we would get to! It is not just for ladies; it is for men too. Many people do this and miss out on the opportunity to get someone attracted to them. I call it sex provocation; dressing to provoke. It is very important that you take note of this. I want to advise young ladies who unknowingly do what they don't understand, thinking that they are only attracting attention and as such repel suitors that would have proposed to them. Let us look at something in the Holy Scriptures...

“And behold there met him a woman with an attire of a harlot and subtle of heart”. (Prov. 7:10)

The influence of pop stars and musicians is great on our youngsters who dress based on what they see on the television. It may originate from the fact that they are part of the ‘fan club’ of these stars which usually results in a desire to imitate them. Imitating them also gives the youngsters the illusive impression that they are part of the glamorous world these stars live in. Apart from the influence of stars, many young and single people are also misguided because of what they see their peers wearing. However, when they dress thus, they have no idea that they are communicating a very wrong message to the next person. The Bible speaks of the attire of a harlot. You see, harlotry is a trade and everyone dresses according to their profession. You either dress to seek attention basically, or you dress to show that you feel frustrated inside, to reflect your pain. In this case however, most people who are not in the trade of harlotry unfortunately pass the message that that is their profession by their dressing. As a young lady doing this, you will find some funny kind of men coming after you. Rest assured, they will talk to you but the subject will not be marriage; it will be the message

you passed to them by your dressing, a message that says, “I am available to sleep with”. Some noble hearted ladies who experience this will be confused wondering why married men try to get them into clandestine friendships or affairs, wondering why virtually every man who approaches them is only after their body. It’s no state secret, the reason is simply because they act on the message you passed by your dressing. Harlotry is a trade and when you tell people that is your trade, expect to be regarded as a harlot.

Some people think, ‘it doesn’t matter, it’s my body after all, I can wear whatever I like as long as I feel comfortable in it’. It’s more than feeling comfortable my dear, you pass a message with your dressing and once what you are wearing provokes someone sexually, you are passing an undiluted message. When they look at you, they come after you for what you told them. Remember, dressing is an unspoken language that speaks volumes for you without requiring you to say a word. That nonverbal message you pass will attract the men. Bear this in mind too, men communicate with their eyes. When they connect with their eyes, what do they see? If they see you as available for sex, they will come after you.

Some godly children give a wrong picture of themselves by what they wear- shorts that can’t cover the buttocks, dresses that exposes all parts of their body, and tight clothes that outlines the contours of the body. We have so lost the culture of value and decency in our society. Our children are wearing these clothes and our mothers are right there watching them. It’s disheartening when I see young beautiful ladies that God has given great destinies wasting it. In this era of sexual immorality, the fashion industry has shown our children the wrong picture. They have systematically destroyed our values. What a woman preserved a few years back is now what they gladly market and open for everybody to see it. The fashion industry has increased the level of sexual awareness and immorality in our culture and in our time.

Dressing is one of the ploys of Satan to destroy the world. By the way you dress you have simply defined yourself either as a reasonable person or vice versa and whatever kind you announce that you are is the kind that will be attracted to you.

When Rebekah came out, the Bible said she was fair to look upon. She was fearfully and wonderfully made. What if she came along with the flock almost naked or dressed near nudity? There would be no point for Eleazar to pray further, even if she watered all his camels. He would simply conclude, "This is not the one. I have to wait for another". Besides, given the culture of that time, that would have been totally wild and unacceptable. Does that mean our own culture changed values? No. our culture went crazy and distorted things. Now it is misfiring. It has brought negative consequences on a lot of people. Many are confused about who is who.

Dear friend, dress properly, so that you will be addressed properly. It would help you to pass the right message from the onset. Tell people by your dressing that you have a sense of purpose. This is important. If you want to settle down, be careful what you put on and how you appear.

Beliefs and Values

Your dressing tells people about your philosophy of life, your beliefs and values. One can tell if you are religious by your dressing or if you have no limits at all. That will reflect how you will treat the issues of marriage. It will tell us what you value or what you don't value. It tells us how you may possibly view issues at home.

Some people's religious beliefs demand that they should not communicate their beauty to distract men which is why they cover from head to toe. A mere look at them will tell you their religious values. When on the other hand, a man sees someone who has thrown all

limits to the dogs by their dressing, he gets extra careful because he knows he is looking at a wild bull. In the same vein, gentle, well bred men will not in *any way* “sag” their trousers. In fact, to them, that is a strange concept.

The world is changing and that change is tilting towards the negative, especially in terms of values and it is not helping us. Marriages are crashing everywhere around us because people are carelessly flowing along the tide of the negative changes in values of our time.

By now, you should begin to have a rethink on how you dress. If you really want to marry and settle down, you need to rethink again and again. It could be that all along, you have been giving people a wrong signal by the way you appear. It could be that you have said things to them that they have not properly understood or perhaps understood and concluded, “This is not the right person”. It could be that you told them you are not going anywhere. It could be that when they look at you, they see a confused person, probably because you don’t know the right combination of colors to wear and you put on something that does not complement your complexion at all or (for the ladies) you wear makeup that is totally off just because other people are wearing it like that. (Purposeful men who are very passionate about their engagements and love to go out and get things done would calculate the amount of time that would be required for you to wear that kind of makeup. The answer would make them wary about you because they know you can slow them down.)

A close look at all of these will reveal that most people who want to get married have missed it because of their dressing. It’s important you take note of your appearance so that you do not do yourself a disservice. You may have lost opportunities that would have come because of how you appear. I trust you have gotten hold of something. You may want to take a studious look at your wardrobe probably take some snapshots and make some decisions.

Let me say this again for emphasis; anybody who really wants to settle down has an image of someone he or she wants in mind, and I tell you, nobody wakes up to climb a tree and requests for hot water to be boiled because he plans to fall down. Meaning, nobody wants to marry a beautiful devil. People want to marry and have peace.

CHAPTER FIVE

CULTIVATING ATTRACTABLE CHARACTER

After praying and seemingly seeing no results, some people conclude that the devil is the one withholding their testimonies. Sometimes, that is not the case. The Lord said to me that after prayers, people need wisdom steps to see their testimonies materialize. This is consistent with the Scriptures. God has never worked independent of us. It is not that He cannot, it's just that He has chosen to work with us. When we cooperate with Him, we see the results of what we had prayed for. Attracting people does not end with praying and dressing well. There is need for you to cultivate and develop attractable character that attract people; men/women.

There are certain character traits ladies should have that are irresistible to men and certain ones men should have that are irresistible to ladies. Let's begin with the ladies. (After all, it's always ladies first) What are those characters that can attract a man?

Beauty

Generally, men are attracted to beauty. We had mentioned earlier that men connect easily with their eyes; they are moved by what they see. It is Scriptural too. Consider what the Bible said in Gen.24:16

*And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And **the damsel [was] very fair to look upon.***

I'd like you to understand that the Bible does not waste space. When Rebekah came out, she was fair to look upon. This had nothing to do with her complexion; the Bible was saying that she was beautiful. Men are attracted to beauty. I believe that Eve was beautiful. Do you

remember that Adam prophesied immediately he saw Eve? “This is the bone of my bone and the flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman for she was taken out of man”. What do you think provoked him to do that? Remember that she was the first woman created by God. In the story of Esther, one of the criteria that the ladies who competed for the seat of King Xerxes’ queen had to meet was beauty. All the ladies contracted for the contest were beautiful.

Have you ever wondered what the secret about Sarah was that even kings were attracted to her; a 75 year old woman. I’m glad it was Abraham, the father of faith, a man of God that married one of the most beautiful women. They went to Egypt and before you know it senators, kings were after her. They were talking to Pharaoh about her beauty. In fact if not for God’s intervention Abraham would have lost his wife (Gen. 12:10-15). Rebekah’s beauty was equally noted in the same manner. (Gen. 26:7)

Most men are attracted to beautiful ladies and I think it has something to do with ego. They feel this manly pride when people turn around and see a beautiful lady beside them.

You may be thinking, “I am not in that class. That means there is no hope for me”. That is not true. Rachel was described as beautiful; Leah was described as tender-eyed. You may not look drop-dead gorgeous, but you can be pleasant to the eyes. Take a look around you. You will see something interesting. No lady is ugly. A good make-up, good hairdo and good dressing will change the man’s perception. The art of make-up has been so developed and rediscovered that every woman is beautiful. The ancient Egyptians were well versed in the art of make-up. In those days, they developed make-up, wigs, weave-ons. Ancient Egyptians had been wearing them thousands of years before now. It is not new. As a matter of fact, it’s not only the Egyptians who started long before now to use make-up. The Scripture says that Esther and the other girls in the harem who were competing for the seat of the next Queen spent twelve months in beauty treatment and enhancement. They anointed themselves with myrrh and ointments, all in a bid to

enhance the God-given beauty they already had. You can enhance your beauty; it is a noble, note-worthy thing. We are not talking about crazy and wild make-up (which sadly, a lot of ladies indulge in and end up looking hideous) Let your make-up be modest.

Good Behavior

Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the LORD, she shall be praised (Prov.31:30 KJV)

If by nature, God has endowed you with beauty, then already you have the potential to attract a lot of men to you. However, don't make the mistake of thinking your beauty is enough. There are men who appreciate your beauty but at the same time, they don't want to marry a beautiful devil. Beyond beauty, there are things that keep a man glued to you. A man can disregard your beauty in a short while if certain things are not in place. What counts in marriage is virtue, character and that is what many responsible and God fearing men will be looking out for.

God has given me the privilege to be a minister and I have been counseling married people for over a decade. When you get into your marriage and your behavior/character is not consistent, or lining up with positive values, the man if not kept in check either by the law or by grace, might be the one to destroy your beauty. He may resort to physical abuse out of frustration because what he thought he got is not really what he got. He may enjoy looking at your physical beauty, but in the end, it is not beauty that will give him peace. At the end of the day, it is your character that wins.

What won marriage for Rebekah was not her beauty. We have already established that she was very beautiful, but the Bible says the criteria Eleazar set was her character. Note, I did not say one of the criteria he set. Character was the *only* criteria he had by which to measure. The beauty was a divine bonus. As a matter of fact, that was the only basis

the man set. He never told God that the woman should be beautiful. His prayer was

‘And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: [let the same be] she [that] thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master’.

When Rebekah came, she fulfilled that criteria to the letter. She did all that the man prayed about, not knowing that the man was observing her for marriage to his master. Good behavior will not only attract men, it will keep them. This is very important. Remember what the Scripture says in 1Peter 3:3-6

‘Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement’.

Many people have misinterpreted this particular passage and used it as a basis for condemning make-up or beauty/appearance enhancement of any sort. That interpretation is simply out of context. This Scripture is simply underlining the importance of good character. It is saying that good character is more important than the ornaments and make-up ladies wear. You could be beautiful but by the time you get into marriage, you will realize that your character is what wins at the end of the day. Some men may not even wait for the marriage to show their displeasure in bad character. May I remind you that you are not the only beautiful lady? When your character does not give a man peace, he will

look for another beautiful lady whose character is homely and peaceful. The eyes are never tired of seeing. The Bible says

'[It is] better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house' Prov.21:9 KJV

I don't think any man was more qualified than Solomon to write this. Remember he had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines. (1Kings 11: 3) he had one thousand women to himself; from different nations, cultures, backgrounds. You must agree with me that his experience was vast as far as women were concerned. He was saying in other words that beauty will not count at the end of the day. It's about character.

As a counselor, I have had lots of cases. There are women who will never keep their mouth shut. They are always ahead in trouble making, in talking and crying. Often times, the men are going to be put off and find their way into the arms of another woman, and it may surprisingly be someone their wives are more beautiful than, all because of godly character. In the same way, many single men have walked away from many young ladies without telling them that they had a problem with nagging.

Adam called eve 'the bone of my bones and the flesh of my flesh'. You can see the flesh with your naked eyes. The bone is beneath the flesh. You don't see the bone with your naked eye. However, it is the bone you don't see that sustains the marriage; the inner character, the virtues.

The ones you see are important; the fantasies you share, the leisure activities, the hobbies, etc. they have a way to keep the flame burning. But there are things that sustain the marriage, and form the structure of the marriage which is the character and personality, positive ones.

Positive character adds value to the next person. It involves virtues; peace, honesty, humility, submission, organization. What a man needs is peace. When there is peace, he will have time to admire your beauty.

A guy who is always clubbing will not ultimately want his wife to be sleeping around. He will still prefer a faithful wife. Even the craziest want virtuous women. They want someone they can trust. They don't want to come home one day and discover that they are not the father of their children. They want faithfulness even though they live wild and have the tendency to cheat. That does not justify cheating on the part of men. Adultery/fornication is a sin regardless of who engages in it.

Industriousness

Men are attracted to industrious women. Laziness is not a qualification. It is not an added value. In fact, it is a sin. There are men who seriously react to lazy people. As a matter of fact, I don't think anybody actually likes a lazy person. Even if you have maids, you must have good brains to direct them on what to do and the diligence to supervise them. Rebekah was a shepherdess, managing her father's company. It was her father's farming business. She was in charge and taking care of the flock. Rachel (Jacob's beloved wife) also was managing her father's flock. Zipporah (Moses' wife) was also managing her father's flock.

God never said, "let the woman do nothing but sit at home and eat". There is something I usually laugh when I think of. Men from my tribe in Eastern Nigeria used to refer to their wives as 'Oriaku', which means eater or consumer of their wealth. When they discovered that their women were really consuming their wealth, being true to the name and living up to it, they changed the name to 'Odoziaku' which means keeper or manager of wealth.

Given the kind of economy in the world today, nobody would want to have someone who only consumes his wealth without making any input. Most people want to marry someone who will assist them and add value to them. In Genesis chapter two verse 18, when God spoke about marriage, He said, "it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a suitable helper". In other words, the woman is supposed to

assist the man in whatever God has assigned for him to do. This is very important.

Scripture clearly shows that Rebekah was industrious in the way she drew water for the camels. Ten camels would consume not less than three hundred litres of water. This she did for a total stranger. That gives us the picture of an industrious woman; patient, humble, kind and hardworking. Eleazar realized that if Rebekah came into Abraham's family, she would be able to manage the master's wealth, would be able to relate with and manage the servants of the household and be a resourceful person. Some men have married ladies who had no relationship at all with their world and the things they built. It leads them to arrogance because it looks like the women have no contribution whatsoever to what they have. Because of this, some reasonable ladies decide that they would be better off with the man they can have days of little beginnings with. They believe that marrying the man who is totally made simply makes them look irrelevant to him except in spending and sincerely, that is not far from the truth.

I am not justifying men who look down on their wives simply because they were not there when they were suffering to build their empire. However, whether you marry a rich, super rich, middle class or lower class man, there is always an opportunity for you as his wife to be relevant to him and his wealth. Let it be that you can contribute positively to the growth and wellbeing of whatever he is doing and the best time to prove or practise that is now you are still single. A young man once told me, "I would like to marry somebody who is smart upstairs", (pointing to his head), "somebody I can comfortably ask to represent me in board meetings if I am unable to attend and I will have no qualms". He was simply communicating the image of the kind of woman he wants, the image he carries in his mind, somebody with leadership qualities, a smart and industrious lady who can work her way around in the corporate sector.

You may be thinking, "what if the man I will marry does not want me to work?". Some ladies actually dream of that. Well, experience has taught

a lot of people who made similar decisions that when there is a turn of events, they will have nothing to fall back on. It is very important to be industrious. Even if your husband doesn't want you to work, engage yourself in meaningful activities at home at least for the future because you cannot predict the future. On the other hand, some men who are not secure in themselves will not want trouble when they marry beautiful women. They would want the women to remain indoors, not working. If you meet women in such situations, you will realize that they are happy they are married, but they are not fulfilled. They have lost meaning. They are just there to produce children and feed. Bearing children is only one role out of so many that God has assigned to women. Women have a lot of potentials given to them by God. When a woman finds herself in such a marriage, she will find out that all her aspirations have been sacrificed on the altar of marriage. They are never fulfilled. It is important that you find an opportunity to give expression to the things that God has put inside you. These holy women in Scriptures were hard working, they supported their husbands and they were industrious.

Wisdom and Understanding

Men are attracted to wise and understanding women. This is both serious and critical and I wish you would pay good attention to this. As a lady, you must understand this very well. Let us refer to 1Samuel 25, from verse three:

Now the name of the man [was] Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and [she was] a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man [was] churlish and evil in his doings; and he [was] of the house of Caleb. And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: And thus shall ye say to him that liveth [in prosperity,] Peace [be] both to

thee, and peace [be] to thine house, and peace [be] unto all that thou hast. And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who [is] David? and who [is] the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give [it] unto men, whom I know not whence they [be?] So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. But the men [were] very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he [is such] a son of Belial, that [a man] cannot speak to him. Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched [corn,] and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid [them] on asses. And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. And it was [so, as] she rode on the

ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them. Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this [fellow] hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that [pertained] unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that [pertain] to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, [upon] me [let this] iniquity [be:] and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, [even] Nabal: for as his name [is,] so [is] he; Nabal [is] his name, and folly [is] with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. Now therefore, my lord, [as] the LORD liveth, and [as] thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to [shed] blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord. I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee [all] thy days. Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, [as out] of the middle of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid. And David said to Abigail,

Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed [be] thy advice, and blessed [be] thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to [shed] blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. (1 Samuel 25:3-33 KJV)

Think about this carefully for a moment. Bandits or the beasts of the field could have attacked Nabal's men and cost them serious losses during their stay in the wilderness but none of that happened because David's men were a wall around them without taking or demanding anything as payment. They never even thought about overpowering Nabal's defenseless men for one day. David's quest for revenge for the insult Nabal gave him after all that was a just and right move. Of course, if things had gone according to David's plan, no male would have survived in Nabal's house hold and everything would have been looted by David and his men. It took a wise and understanding woman to turn the course of events.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness. (Prov. 15:1-2 KJV)

Pleasant words [are as] an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. (Prov. 16:24)

I'd like to say this; men get attracted to women who know how to handle issues. Conflict resolution often shows the depth of a woman's wisdom. In the few verses that Abigail spoke, did you notice how many times she called David 'my lord'? This is a very interesting key. When as a woman, you talk to the king in the man, you keep him in control. If you address him as a beast, of course, you will get a beastly manifestation! Abigail consistently called David, 'my lord'. Remember at this point, David was just a guy in the desert, running away from the king. He was more or less, what you may call a rebel. But Abigail did not consider that as she spoke to David. She addressed him as a king and got him under control. She knew how to use words aright. She did not stop at

words alone. Immediately she saw David, she fell to the ground. She assumed the iniquity of her husband on herself. Her manner of presentation of her plea, the way she appealed to the king in David, the future of David, turned away the wrath of David. One of the very profound things Abigail said to David was,

And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself

By her actions and words, she spared her husband death that night.

Someone may think, 'Perhaps Abigail admired David and secretly loved him. Why else would she call her husband a fool before him?' Well, if that is what you are thinking, then I have my own question for you. If Abigail really wanted David and had no interest in her husband, why would she try to stop David from killing him? If she had no interest in her husband, that would have been a perfect opportunity to be rid of him. It was no secret love for David that prompted both her words and actions, it was simply her wisdom and understanding.

There are men who get glued to women who are wise and understanding. She did not shy away or run away from the problem, she faced it head-on and protected her home. That woman was a keeper of that home. And Scripture says she was beautiful. To your beauty, add something. To your fair countenance, add a good behavior. Be wise. Learn how to communicate.

Endeavor not to be one of the ladies with a shallow mind. When a man discusses with you, let there be something that you can contribute positively to the discussion, whether in the field of politics, sports, any subject. There are ladies who never listen to the news and have no clue what is going on around them. Young men want ladies who are serious minded. When such men cannot connect with you, no matter how much you pray, it may be as though heaven is not responding.

In most marriages, one thing that causes trouble is words, the use of words. Think about it. Abigail got her way by using the right words the right way. Interestingly, Nabal eventually died. God dealt with him and judged him for treating David and his men wrongly. But David could not forget that woman, Abigail because there was something she touched in David that David longed for again. He married her and she became a queen of Israel.

Learn to talk to the king and not to the beast. There might be both in the man but the one you talk to is the one that will manifest. I tell you most solemnly, men will love to stay with the woman who talks to the king that is inside them. No one loves to be talked down, especially men. Men have ego and it is usually quite sensitive.

The Character that Attracts Women

Let's look at the other side of the coin. Let's look at how women respond to certain issues concerning men. You may have been searching for years to get a woman to settle down without success. Sometimes you could be the reason ladies turn you down. Did you notice that Ziporah was attracted to Moses? What was the thing that attracted her to Moses? Did you also notice that Portiphar's wife was terribly attracted to Joseph even though it was lustful? What were the things that endeared Joseph to her heart? Solomon married many women. What was the secret about Solomon that so many women agreed to spend the rest of their lives with him even though they knew there were hundreds of them? It's important you take time to think about it. There are wisdom steps for men to take as well in order to attract women to them. What are the things that can capture a woman's attention?

Bravery

Some women cannot put up with a timid weakling. Have you ever noticed that sometimes you see ladies go after some crazy boys who

are involved in gangs, cults or one power-driven group or the other? Let me quickly answer the 'why' question without wasting time. The reason is because every lady, one way or the other, seeks security (physical security, psychological or emotional security). They go for the crazy guys because they feel they are brave and can protect them or fight for them. Many ladies are attracted to bravery.

Ask Zipporah what attracted her to Moses. In Exodus chapter two, when Moses left Egypt in flight, he went to Midian. There he saw some men molesting the daughters of Jethro at the well. The men wouldn't allow them to get water for their father's flocks. They molested these ladies because they were ladies and they didn't have a guy to defend them. Moses fought off those guys and Zipporah got attracted to his bravery. She saw in Moses, a man that can protect them and be a covering and shield them. She found security in Moses.

No one has said you should go off fighting. All I am saying is; there has to be an expression of that manliness, an assurance that she is secure. Ladies need security; both physical and emotional. Even in marriage, what counts is for the lady to know she is secure. Once a woman knows she is secure in your heart and her position is secure, she rests her case with you.

A lady was talking to me about the kind of man she would want to marry and she said she would want a man with six pack and a macho build, who could carry her around. As the lady expressed her desires, I could see one thing she wasn't saying; she needs security. At the back of her mind, she desired to have a man that can defend her. A woman always wants a man who is man enough. I have heard a lot of ladies say, "I don't want to be the one making decisions in the house. I don't want to marry a man I will be ruling over". Many ladies have turned some men down because, "He behaves like a woman", or "he is mummy's boy". Every man should be able to display his manliness, bravery, courage, and ability to take charge of situations. It makes the women feel protected.

Success

This is another very important factor. Ladies are attracted to success. I imagine a handsome, successful man would be the darling of all ladies. In Genesis chapter thirty-nine, something interesting happened in the life of Joseph even though it was Satan's plot to destroy the purpose and the destiny of Joseph. The wife of Joseph's master was attracted to him.

And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand and he knew not aught he had save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person and well favored.

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and she said, lie with me. (Gen.39:6-7KJV)

Joseph was of good stature, handsome and successful. Everything he touched prospered until the lady of the house said, 'I can't wait to have this guy'. Sometimes, I used to think that Potiphar must have got so comfortable with his wealth and status that he became careless with his appearance, eating and getting out of proportion. Joseph was well built. He was a slave and was no doubt required to put in a lot of hours working. His muscles developed when he was not looking; that is to say, without really meaning to, he was developing a good build. Add that delectable build to his profound success in managing the house. The woman lost sight of the master of the house and got attracted to the slave.

Let's break this further down so we can understand the magnitude of impact that success can have on a woman's attraction. At the time that this was happening (in those days) a slave was like a property without any rights whatsoever. He had nothing to himself. He could be killed without anybody batting an eyelid. He was just like another property in

the house. In those days too, the Egyptians prided themselves as first class citizens. What would make a woman, a mistress of noble class stoop so low as to seek after a slave to sleep with him? It was simply his success story in managing the household even as a slave. Women are always attracted to success stories. She knew that all the beautiful changes she was seeing in the house was courtesy of Joseph and not her husband. She forgot her class and noble status to go after a slave. *She fell for a slave*. The Scripture says day after day, she was willing to give herself. Funny enough, the slave rejected her. That did not deter her. She kept on going. A successful man attracts a woman. When a man is both successful and handsome, he is the darling of many ladies.

Fame

I think this brother goes glove in glove with success. A man who is successful is also famous and it is a wonderful combination that can capture a woman's heart. We see this in the life of Solomon. The queen of Sheba came to look for Solomon and had this confession to make after her encounter with Solomon;

Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen [it:] and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. (1Kings. 10: 7 KJV)

What made her leave her own kingdom to visit Solomon? Fame. She heard about a successful king. Women are attracted to men who are famous. They simply like it and want to be associated with it.

Wealth

You know, women were created from sophisticated material. The first woman was made from a finished product; the rib of Adam. You can't fault them for loving comfort. It's just their nature. They get attracted to

wealth because wealth brings comfort. Don't get angry over the fact that women always prefer wealth to poverty. Let that truth be a motivation for you as a single man to work hard towards making legitimate wealth. Poverty is not a virtue after all. It has no value to add to your relationship. Get away from it.

Let's look at the story of Solomon. He married 1000 wives. Credit is being given to him as the man who married the highest number of women and nobody has beaten that record. But when you look at the jealousy of women, the rivalry and all of that, you wonder why these women would want to spend their lives with such a man. Perhaps they came to be a part of the money, fame and affluence.

The queen of Sheba travelled from her country to see Solomon and when she arrived and saw how wealthy, influential and organized Solomon was, the bible said she fainted (1Kings10:5). In other words she was greatly overwhelmed by the people around Solomon. He so imparted in his servants that royalty became their way of thinking. They dressed gorgeously. The wealth was even reflected in the dishes and cups used in serving her. The bible said they were all gold. The queen of Sheba could not pass up an opportunity to be associated with his success story, unequalled since the time of creation till date.

All this does not mean that you do not stand a chance if you are single and not on the same financial level with Donald Trump. Don't think that women can never marry a man who has no money. There is something called prospect. A woman has a way of telling the man who has prospects by looking at him, listening to him when he talks and expresses his views. She knows. Joseph had not accrued any wealth to his name when Portiphar's wife went after him. Jacob had no money but Rachel fell for him. Ladies sometimes have an eye to see a man that has a future. It reflects in dressing, conversation, plans and dreams. Sometimes too, they observe your passions to see if you are consistent in your actions towards the direction of your goals. This explains why some women do not mind marrying their subordinate.

Rachel was Jacob's boss, yet she married him and he later enlarged the father's coast and made it much bigger.

Good Conversationalism

There is yet another thing I would like to mention that is very important. I have met its impact severally in the place of counseling. Women get attracted to men that are good conversationalists. Look at 1Kings chapter ten:

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not [any] thing hid from the king, which he told her not. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. (1Kings 10:1-5 KJV)

Note this, the Scripture says there was nothing that she asked that was in her heart that Solomon did not answer. Let me say something to you. I don't think the queen of Sheba went home. I think she stayed behind to establish a very strong relationship with Solomon. How do I know? Women are attracted to men that are lively. They are easily attracted and emotionally "ensnared" to men who give them attention. A wise man should learn from this. If you want to get married, you must learn how to give a woman attention. It is very important and should not be taken lightly.

Solomon had the time to give to give this woman all the attention to answer all the questions she had in her heart to ask. This is mind blowing because Solomon was not an idle man; he was a king. For you who think you are too busy to give a woman that kind of attention, here is news for you; a king of a nation as big as Israel had all the time to attend to all the matters that weighed on the queen of Sheba's mind. This is a king who had a large kingdom to run, had administrative issues to attend, matters of state, a lot of consultation, he had religious duties, yet he had time to attend to all the questions the queen had to ask him, he had the time to listen to a stranger, a foreigner, until she was satisfied. He gave her attention. You may say "he was a womanizer". The point is this, this womanizer had the tact to win royal hearts. No wonder he had up to one thousand women.

Most of you guys don't even have time for the lady you want to marry. For some of you, your work has more time, for some of you, it's your family. Suppose another man comes around, giving her more time than you, more attention? I tell you most solemnly, you will lose her!

CHAPTER SIX

PARTNER SELECTION

I am sure you have no plans of becoming another Solomon; you are not planning to have multiple partners (at least I certainly hope so). As you meet many probable life partners, you will need to make a choice. I've had young men and women come to me seeking for counsel saying they have more than one suitor and don't know which one to choose. Sometimes when I ask them why they are having trouble in decision making, the response is that the suitors are all good and show promise to be good life partners which leaves them confused.

I want to share quality information and revelation that will guide you in making that choice because it is important that you marry well and have peace. I do not wish that confusion to be your story as well, and if it already is, rejoice as I do with you because this will definitely help you.

The number of years you will spend with a spouse may most probably be more than you spend with your parents. Give or take, it will be an average of thirty-five years. Marriage is the bedrock of every society; every family is a micro-society. No human being just evolved from apes. Everyone can be traced to an ancestry. Man and woman come together to beget children. That in itself is a sacred duty, a serious ministry. It is critical that you have quality information and guidelines on how to select your partner. Thirty-five years is no joke.

Don't think if you make the wrong choice, divorce will be your solace. It's a lie. Take your eyes away from the painting of liberal mindedness with which Hollywood approaches marriage. Come down to reality and ask those who have gone through divorce. If they want to be sincere about their experience, they will tell you that it is not a happy experience at all. They will tell you they would have preferred never getting married in the first place. Marriage is not something you go in and out of, it's a lifelong commitment so you need God's wisdom to

know who to settle down with. You don't want to partner with someone for the wrong reasons. You will only have pain.

So, what happens after positioning yourself and attracting prospective partners? What are you to do next? How do you know the right person? These are questions we want to address. The first piece of information here is that everyone has a partner. The Bible says He made them male and female, not male and females, neither is it males and female. The issue of statistics is a problem on the human side. People think females are more in number than males these days. They think, "Oh there aren't enough men to go round". That's the conclusion our minds have drawn. It is not the reality from God. Every woman called to the institution of marriage came from a man. God did not make many women and parade them before Adam, rather He made one woman; you can call her custom made for Adam. She was specifically made, tailored, wired for Adam alone. It was consequent of His decision to "make him a suitable helper" because He saw that "it is not good for him to be alone" (Gen. 2:18) He took action by fashioning a woman out of a rib taken from Adam's side. He fashioned her perfectly to fit back into Adam's side to replace what Adam had lost. That implies that marriage is companionship.

In our world today marriages are crumbling. Many are now redefining marriage. A man and a man or a woman and a woman **should not** be living together as husband and wife or as man and woman. Even from the basic word, it doesn't hold. Even if they live together, they will only be sex partners but never husband and wife that is expected to procreate and produce a new generation. Come to think of it, when women live with women and men live with men and they never procreate or adopt children, you will after a century see that the world will come to an end naturally because people would have died and nobody will succeed them. Even if they do adopt, what happens when such couples run out of children to adopt? This is clearly an attack by satan on the most beautiful institution that our God established on the planet earth in order to populate the earth and extend His colony.

The one who made marriage gave instructions on how we should do it. When manufacturers manufacture things, they give manuals on how to operate them in order to attain optimum satisfaction from them. When you go against the manual, the chances are you destroy the manufactured product. That simply tells us the importance of marrying as God ordained it. Let's look at Gen 2:18,

And the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him an help meet for him.

It was not man who initiated marriage, it was God. It was not man who complained that he was lonely, it was God who saw that he was lonely and that tells us how much God loves and cares for us. He saw that Adam needed a companion and He proceeded to provide one for him, and it was not just anybody.

Today we are re-making marriage, following our own instructions only to head straight to the door called divorce. Nobody goes through divorce and likes it. God hates divorce. It destroys one emotionally, mentally, financially and the children are the most vulnerable in all of it. It will open them to a wide range of terrible things- rebelliousness, misdeeds because there is no protection and care. In making a choice of a life partner, you should take all these into consideration; marry right, as ordained by God, not just for your sake but for your children's as well. It is important you select well. and don't go thinking there is no one around for you; everybody has a partner. You were designed for someone.

You may ask, "what if my own has got missing, or died?" God always has a backup plan. Whatever the case, know this; you were designed for somebody. John 4 tells us the story of the woman of Samaria and her meeting with Jesus. Verse 18 has a very interesting statement made by Jesus. When she asked Him to give her the Living Water,

Jesus asked her to go and call her husband. She replied that she had no husband and Jesus said,

Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. {John 4:19 KJV}

The woman had lived with five men and none was her own. Maybe she had chosen those ones based on certain factors, probably selfish factors. But she went in and came out each time, realizing she was not getting fulfilled in the relationship. In other words, there was one that was hers whom she had not found yet. There is one for you. The one you are experimenting with may not be yours.

Many a single person would think, “What if I live in Russia and he/she lives in China?” That’s not your headache dear. It is God’s part to play. Remember, when you pray, God gets into work to make things happen.

The question comes again; how do you the one made for you? There are practical steps that will help you and those are what I want to share.

The Bone Principle

Let’s revisit Gen.2:18. What God did was that He took from what He had already made and molded a woman. God made Eve somewhere on the other side of the Garden and took her by the hand to where Adam was. And when Adam woke up from that wonderful sleep, he thought, “wow! What beautiful sight is this?” He didn’t need anybody to tell him she was his kind. He prophesied immediately. “This is the bone of my bones, and the flesh of my flesh”. (I believe Adam was under the anointing. Sometimes, after a good time of prayer, when you meet the right person that God has destined for you, it registers in your spirit. The peace of the Lord overwhelms you. Anyway, let’s get back to Adam)

Right within that statement Adam made is a profound wisdom that could help you in decision making.

Let's break it down a bit. We will begin with the first phrase, 'bone of my bone'. What is a bone? The bone is a structure of the human frame. As a matter of fact, it is the frame itself. The flesh only covers it up. The bone is the support system; remove the bone and the flesh will collapse on the floor. The flesh cannot stand by itself. It is simply the covering. When Adam said, "the bone of my bones", he meant "Eve is a part of my support system". This means that when the bone was removed from Adam to make Eve, he became incomplete. When God brought Eve to Adam, He was bringing the bone back to its position to make a complete whole. Therefore the coming of a woman is the completing of the man. I think this is very profound.

That is why when you marry the right person that God has destined for you, your life becomes fulfilling and complete. Where you are weak, your partner is your strength. Those areas in which you are incomplete, he/she completes you. The woman is the strength where the man is weak. Where the woman is weak too, the man is the strength. When you put them together, you have a complete whole. An unmarried man is still unbalanced until he gets the right bone that fits into his. Remember, the idea of marriage is that the two shall become one. Let's apply a little imagination here. Imagine a size forty-two person, buying a pair of size forty-five shoes. The picture of the legs inside that pair of shoes is a comical sight worth beholding! It's not the right size and will certainly not work out well for the wearer. In other words, you are customized, wired and configured for someone, for a particular size and when it comes, everything will move smoothly. Getting this wrong is where the failure of marriage starts in the first place.

Let's take a look at another illustration. When Rebekah saw Isaac, and Isaac took her into his house, the Bible says he was comforted. You see, as a man or woman, you should bring comfort to the one you are marrying. There is something they are missing and it is you. Your coming should give them that fulfillment and satisfaction. They should

find completeness in you. Adam's incompleteness when the bone left him means that there are areas in Adam's life where he became weak. The meaning of the woman's come back was that she was the strength of Adam in those areas. Think of Abigail who was the strength of Nabal the fool. She knew how to turn things around by her wisdom. She complemented and covered the man's foolishness.

Compatibility

The bone principle actually is another way of describing compatibility, the idea of fitting in perfectly with your partner. God said, 'I will make him a suitable helper' (Gen.2:18). Not everyone is suitable for you. Not everyone can fellow with you or keep you company. You might like something about them but when you get to stay with them, you will realize that you just don't connect with them. They don't get you aflame for some reason, sometimes reasons you can't quite put your finger on. Their perspective and yours on things may not match. Their destination and yours may not align or tally. You may be heading in different directions, opposite directions. Such union is disastrous. If you make the mistake of coming together, the marriage will collapse because both of you were not designed to stay together in the first place. But where an Eve is strong in an Adam's weakness, their coming together will work because there is a fit. They are compatible. They can log into each other and stay there comfortably.

Spiritual compatibility

This deals with your spiritual beliefs, your values, your faith. I've seen people marrying from different religions and it breaks up because they believe differently and as such behave to each other differently. So you need to be careful unless you are ready to forfeit your religion (as with the case of most mixed marriages) and I don't pray for you as a believer to forfeit heaven because of marriage.

In some cases, there are exceptional instances where people of different faith marry and stay together in peace. However, it is an exception, not a norm. It's always important to be of the same faith. Oftentimes, one converts to the other person's faith. The reason is because beliefs govern your life, shapes your world view as well as how you respond and react to things. Even within the same religion, your belief and how committed you are to God also shapes your views, your values and the things of life.

I happened to eavesdrop on a conversation one day (I am guilty of eavesdropping but I am not sorry. I am sure you will agree with me when you realize shortly why it is important I eavesdropped.) A group of young men were conversing among themselves and I just happened to be on the scene. One of them was saying, "it won't be bad for me to get married and settle down; it's a good idea, but who will be tidying up these beautiful girls I see all around me?" I said to myself, "these people profess Christianity but they are not Godly. They are clearly not born again". From their discussion, it was already clear that even though they get married, they will cheat. Their values and beliefs are different from that of born again, God-fearing people. Their world views are different from true Christianity. Such a person getting married to a woman who is really committed to God will simply make her cry and sorrow all the days of her life because marriage will not stop him from going out there looking for other ladies to "tidy up".

Many times I ask ladies, "What kind of man do you desire to marry?" The first thing they tell me is that they want God-fearing men (macho invariably comes next). How do you know who is truly God-fearing? Therein lies the problem but here is the answer. The God-fearing man/woman is the man/woman to whom God's ways and principles are the most important, far surpassing his/her own desires, goals or even the opinion of loved ones. For instance, when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he wanted to quietly walk away (Matthew 1:18-19) He could have as well got angry and said, "Mary deserves to die" (in those days, a Jewish unmarried girl in that situation was stoned to death and definitely, if news of Mary's condition had leaked out before

marriage, except by divine intervention, she would most probably have been stoned to death. nobody would have believed her pregnancy was of the Holy Ghost. As a matter of fact, that would also have been termed blasphemy) but Joseph did not go shouting “betrayal”. He remained calm and when the angel visited him, he followed God’s direction, went ahead and married a pregnant virgin. His spiritual values controlled him more than his feelings. That is the character of a God-fearing man.

Biological Compatibility

This is about medical issues like genotype, blood group and others. It is necessary to know such information about both yourself and your intending, and on time too. There have been so many cases of sickle cell; genotypes that don’t agree with each other. These are serious issues that some people make the mistake of treating lightly. Begetting children is a divine ministry and should be prepared for. You should make sure the one you are getting married to is biologically compatible with you. It is important to run tests to check your blood groups, genotype and factors like sterility and fertility. These should be done early enough to avoid heartaches. However, if you know anyone who is already married with such challenges, it is not too late. Most of these biological issues are human factors, not godly factors. They are things that came with the fall of man. They can be remedied. There is nothing impossible with God.

The fertility test is one that some people like to do themselves instead of at the hospital. They use it to justify their life of fornication. Some actually make it a tradition to engage in premarital sex to ascertain the fertility of a woman or man before committing themselves in marriage. ***I don’t subscribe to the idea of getting pregnant first before marriage. If you are a Christian, be a Christian!*** This is one of the things we talked about earlier in spiritual compatibility. If the other person does not share the same values of true Christianity, he or she

will toe the opposite line. A born again Christian will know that if she has to get pregnant before getting married, she will be betraying God. As a result, she would hold firm to her beliefs and not put the cart before the horse. As a born again, you should be able to tell whoever is your intended or intending the Godly principles of courtship or relationship before marriage, one of which is **no premarital sex!**

Psychological Compatibility

Another name for it is emotional compatibility and it is very important. Not many people can keep you company. The Scripture tells us in Genesis chapter two, “it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a suitable companion”. The first key of a relationship is companionship. In other words, if someone cannot keep you company, he/she has lost the essence of your staying together. When a woman cannot keep her man company, she has lost relevance. This explains why most men marry their house helps or their wives’ younger sister and starts sleeping around with them. Let me give you an example.

There was a certain married man who went everyday from his office to a particular bar to drink, watch football and chat with friends. The wife kept complaining and trying to talk him out of this to no avail. One day, the wife decided to surprise him. She pleaded with him to come home earlier than usual. He didn’t quite know why. When he got home, he discovered to his pleasant surprise that she had prepared the particular pepper soup he liked to eat at that bar and bought his brand of drinks. She had done more than that. She put on the television and tuned to the channel he loved so that he could watch football while eating and drinking. He enjoyed himself! The wife was pleased with herself. She thought she had done very well; she had successfully kept him home that evening. It was to her chagrin that her husband finished eating, took his car keys and headed for the front door. She asked him, “honey, where are you going?”, to which he replied, “the bar”. “What else do you want? You’ve had pepper soup and drinks. You equally have the

television showing the very channel you love to watch. That's a football match going on right there. What is missing? What else do you need at the bar?" His answer was, "Darling, I appreciate all you have done. You really nailed everything else except one thing; there is no discussion. I miss the good natured arguments I usually have with the boys on which club will win and what chances they have. That's the main thing I enjoy there! The rest of the package is just an addition".

Right there at the bar, the man enjoyed company. He was always in the midst of people who could carry on a conversation or good natured argument with him for hours on a subject he loved; football. He never felt lonely there. Sometimes women focus all their attention pursuing their career that they practically abandon the home making business. They leave their husband to the care of the house help or nanny. When the man comes back from work, the first person he sees is the househelp. For the first two or three hours of relaxation that he has to spend at home when he returns from work, the house help is his companion. Some men don't need to go to the bar like the man in the story; their live-in house help or wife's female relative provides them with the discussion they enjoy on the topics they love, while their wives are either too uninterested, or too tired to do that. In the real sense, who is the one keeping such men company? It takes a strong man of firm principles to remain faithful in that situation.

When we talk about emotional compatibility, we are referring to the one you feel comfortable with, the one you freely gist and relax with. The one you consciously spend time with while losing count of time is a companion. As we had said earlier, women are attracted to men who can give them attention, men who are good conversationists. Both of you need to know what each other likes, the topics you both like and connect on that level. Keep it burning, enhance it, rediscover more ways that that could be done.

If you are someone who prays a lot and the man is not interested in prayer, that is already a problem in itself because when you are

praying, he will see you as a nuisance. Unless God touches him seriously, that companionship will not be effective.

Social Compatibility

There are people who are socially unexposed and unenlightened. They have little or no knowledge about social etiquettes; use of cutlery, behavior in a social gathering and in certain circles, how to talk, how to eat in public, etc. These may not be sufficient as reasons for not marrying someone, but it is important to search yourself and find out if you are weak in these areas and if you discover that you are, you should open yourself up to learning. Depending on your circle, it is also important to know if your intending/intended is weak in these areas and if knowledge in social etiquette is important to you, you can map out strategies to teach him/her.

Note, social incompatibility does not pose a major danger to marriage for one simple reason; it can be corrected with patience and teaching as well as humility to learn. It only poses a danger when you refuse to do something about it. Thank Heavens, there is something called internet and yet another called Google. You can easily search these things out on internet and learn them freely, without a single cost.

Financial Compatibility

Let me ask a question some people may consider mind blowing. Is it possible for a lady to marry her subordinate in the office? It is not just possible; we have Scriptural references for it. Rachel was Jacob's boss. In Genesis 28, when Jacob got to Haran, he had only a staff and Rachel was managing her father's business. Jacob was employed in her father's business. At the end of the day, Jacob married his boss. A lot of ladies have lost the opportunity of marrying **wonderful** husbands because they are dealing with the issue "I am bigger than him" or "I earn higher than him" or "I am his employer" then they begin praying all

over and they don't see results. These women, Rachel and Zipporah were their husbands' bosses until their husbands took over their fathers' businesses and ran them well with the grace of God upon them.

Some people tend to place much consequence on this issue, forgetting that the wind of change can blow in any direction at any time. My people say money has no permanent home and that's true. The situations of Rachel being Jacob's boss and Zipporah being Moses' boss lasted only for a while. However, that does not mean that successful ladies should become vulnerable to lazy men who suffer from lack of vision. The important thing is this; let both the man and the woman be prospective. Together, they will achieve great things. You must see yourself as a part and your intending as a part. The coming together of the two of you should result in a whole.

In a nutshell, spiritual compatibility is paramount and must be treated as such. You must carefully weigh it in the scale and it must not be found wanting! Biological compatibility is equally important for the sake of your children and for your sake too, so that you don't have a "had I known" story written about you. Emotional compatibility is also very important. Social compatibility however, is a minor because its issues are easily solved with the right attitude. I leave financial compatibility up to you to decide but I strongly advise you do so with the Biblical views given. Remember, the wind of change can blow in any direction at any time.

The Test of Character

I did say earlier that everyone who wants to get married has certain images, qualities and factors already conceived in the mind as to the kind of partner he/she would want to settle with. I am sure that is the case with you too. Once one fits into that preconceived pattern in your mind, it's almost a go. The story of Isaac and Rebekah's marriage teaches us a lot. Eleazar did not just pray for a wife to appear, he put a test and it was strictly based on character, "by this, I shall know..." Part

of the test by which you know who God has appointed for you is the test of character.

However, you may wonder, “How do I know what the next single person has in mind in order to choose right? How do I know he/she is not faking it?” Your anxieties are not unfounded.

There is always a put up deception in front of people character-wise especially when they know that there are people around who may be interested in them. People tend to put up a smokescreen character. This comes even unconsciously. So how, do you know if he/she is not putting up a fake character? There is a way to go about it in order to know the genuineness of the character of the one you are “eyeing”.

One yardstick by which to measure character is to observe your subject’s behavior towards those who have nothing to offer; people who are total strangers, or even people they see every day. You learn to observe people when there is “nothing” to award them with for noble character. The Bible says Eleazar held his peace wondering if the Lord had made his journey successful or not. He observed Rebekah at her natural state. Don’t rush into singing, “I love you”. Hold your peace and wait to observe.

While Eleazar was observing her, Rebekah was acting naturally. Sometimes when a man is in a relationship and the lady perceives in her heart that he will be good for a husband and he actually wants to settle down, she can turn out to be an angel. That is just a ploy to win his heart so that he will marry her. The man may not know her true behavior but he can take out time to observe how she responds to other people, how she treats people around her especially those who have nothing to offer her directly. Observe her in her natural state. On the other hand, when a man wants a lady, even if she cooks badly he will say her cuisine is the best ever. The reason is because he is after something. There’s a saying that when a man falls for a lady he becomes a fool for her. The lady can take out time to observe him too when he is dealing with people he has no such interest in. this thing

goes both ways. Bottom line is; take out time and observe him/her, it's important.

Do you remember the story of the lady who was to be hooked up without her knowledge? She got angry that she was not informed that the man she was to be introduced to was right there in their midst while they had that discussion about corporate prostitution in the banking sector. If you ask me, I will say she got angry that she was not "forewarned". The point is; in her natural and relaxed state of mind, she revealed her values about life. In the same way, if your intending treats people who are just passersby kindly and politely, how much more will he/she treat you when he/she has a solid relationship with you? That is one way you can tell if you are walking into a peaceful marriage.

The Principle of Prayer

"There is a way that seemeth right to a man but the end is death thereof" (Prov.16:25 KJV)

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD. (Prov.3:7 KJV)

That is for you to reflect on as we look at the principle of prayer and the importance of prayer. You see, man tends to have this streak of independence that can result in catastrophic consequences. Many want to select their partners all by themselves without putting God in the picture and they think they have everything figured out. There is no way you can predict if that loving, caring person you see today will be the same in thirty years to come. Why? The reason is because God remains the only One who knows the end from the beginning. That is why He is the Alpha and the Omega. There is need for you to pray as you go about the business of selecting a partner; pray for guidance. And you don't do that carelessly. There is a principle. To see the principle of praying to select a partner, we go back to Genesis, the beginning.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. (Gen.2:21-2 KJV)

... “And God brought Eve to Adam”. Hold it a moment. That’s a powerful scenario. In other words, God took Eve by the hand and said to her, “Come on, I am going to show you a wonderful surprise”. What was Adam doing while God was molding Eve? Adam was sleeping.

Sleep in this sense means the period you take out time to pray and to be with God. It is a period where you are not looking at the ladies but looking up to God to do something for you. When you are praying, God is busy preparing the man/woman. When you finish your prayers and the time reaches, God will cause you to meet that man/woman. The reason why many men and women miss their right spouse is because they are wide awake. They are not waiting on God. They are praying, but their eyes are wide awake. Many of our brothers and sisters do not sleep, even if they manage to sleep, they wake up early. They are busy searching and playing. In applying the “sleep” principle of prayer, you have got to learn how to be led only by God! Eve was brought to Adam by God. Rebekah came to the well at a very strategic moment of time, obviously led by God.

Take out quality time to pray so that God will direct your ways. The sleep principle can be further expounded with this Scripture;

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD. (Prov.3:5-6 KJV)

This is one thing Eleazar did to the letter. He did not in any way depend on his wisdom or intelligence. He lived out his name. He sought the help of God. He spoke to God and gave a prescription. He prayed and asked for it and as though God could not wait, God sent a response with the speed of light. God said ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you (Matthew 7:7). Every time you sincerely ask God for something with a good heart, He responds.

Is there a particular prayer you should pray? My humble opinion is that you pray with all your heart. Take out some time to fast and pray at night. Ask God fervently to send you a spouse and ask Him not to let you make a mistake or miss the one He is sending. Remember to apply the “sleep” principle. There is one that is for you and he/she will come. However, don’t let them be disappointed when they come.

Do you realize that it is possible God had already answered your prayers in the past but you failed the consequent test? Maybe your character was not good enough, maybe you communicated the wrong message with your dressing and they walked away. I have seen instances where people prayed and God answered but other factors prevailed and turned the will of God upside down. My friend (the doctor who was looking to get married) asked God for an alternative and got married shortly. The other lady who was not “forewarned” waited for a very long time.

You may belong to those whose complain is, “I have prayed and prayed but God is not speaking to me”. God is neither wicked nor deaf. If you pray fervently, God will speak to you. In one way or the other, God will confirm to you. Remember, the Scripture says the peace of God will guard your heart and mind beyond all understanding. If it is the right person, you will be assured. The day you meet the right person, you will prophesy like Adam. There will be a supernatural connection in your heart. If you seek the face of God further, He will show you. Wait on Him, and He will speak to you. Sometimes you may like someone and He will say “No, it is not this person”. It may be because the person is

not yours or there are things that will come up in the future and make you regret the marriage.

However, do not forget that prayer is not the only factor. If you only pray without working on that prayer request or working towards what you are praying for, you may frustrate your own prayer and lose your marriage. This reality does not just apply to marriage but a lot of other aspects of life.

Finally, Jesus said that on the day He will come back, people will be getting married. (Matthew 24:37-38) A bride may be dancing out of her father's house to greet her husband's people, only to vanish right before their eyes on her way to Heaven. I hope by then you would have been married already. Well at the very least, it is still okay to get enraptured on your way to the aisle. Anyway, that is just by the way; it just goes to prove that at **every** point in time, people are looking for people to marry. It is going on right now, all around you. There is definitely a partner for you. I wish you all the best as you journey from singlehood into marriage. See you at the top!