

HOLY MARRIAGE PROCEDURES:

**From Knowing The
Will Of God To The
Marriage Ceremony**

PASTOR PAUL RIKA



HOLY MARRIAGE PROCEDURES: FROM KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD TO THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

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INTRODUCTION

Psalms 32:8.

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”

This book will give you divine instruction on how to get God's choice for you in marriage. It is a good guidance to a holy believer who wants to marry in the will of God in order to enjoy the Christian ministry. The book comes to the Christian church to revive true Christian marriage among the people of God at this period that people marry anyhow due to lack of commitment to Christ and spirituality among professing Christians.

Wrong choice of marriage partner has adverse effect on the believer's life, ministry and possibly, eternal life. Let this book be given to Churches, Christian Institutions, single Christians and young widows who do not want to marry wrongly. Surely the committed Christian has found a guide book to help him marry God's choice for his success in life and ministry.

Let the Church and Christian institutions of learning give much attention to the issue of marriage for growing Christians. As the Lord warned Peter, so is the Lord warning the unmarried believers that Satan is waiting for them in the time of marriage to sieve them [as



wheat]. Both the unmarried believers and the church must engage Satan in fierce battle so that our brethren will be delivered.

Luke 22:31.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Many unmarried believers and ministers today have strange wives or husbands who publicly or secretly, openly or privately, physically or spiritually oppose their peace with God, Christian ministry and journey to heaven.

Strive to enter in, for many I tell you, desire to enter in but cannot because of ungodly marriage partners.

**PASTOR PAUL RIKI
INT'L DIRECTOR HOREMOW**



CHAPTER 1

IT IS GOOD TO MARRY

Marriage was instituted by God from the beginning of the creation of man. God himself said it is not good that the man should be alone. He made a woman to be a companion to Him as a wife. Therefore when you come of age as a man you need to marry. Similarly, a woman needs to be a wife to a man when she comes to that age. Marriage is a good thing.

1.1 Marriage Is Honourable In All

Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Marriage is a good and honourable thing. That a man gets married to a woman is something God honours, angels honour, men and women on earth honour. If the saints who have departed would hear about it, they will honour it. The church and society honour it. The



parents of both spouses honour it. There is a respect the world gives to those who are married, whether they are educated or not, rich or poor, godly or not.

There is an honour your parents and relations want to give you; there is an honour the church and the society will want to come together to give you on the day of your marriage. People want to travel far and wide to come and give you honour. This will happen on your wedding day when you shall be declared *married*. Of course there is another day like that when people shall come to give you the last honour; that is the day of your burial. The world will want to pay you last homage and honour on the day of your burial. The honour you receive on the day of marriage is better than that on the day of burial because, in the day of burial, you will not be there, but gone into eternity. The honour of your marriage comes when you are still alive and may kindle several honours that will follow you. It is the day the society gives you another grade in life. All the wayward women will remove their eyes from you; all those that disdain you will say, "She has entered the seat of honour." That is on the day of your marriage.

"Marriage is honourable in all." Therefore we must think of it, plan on it and pray for it. You cannot afford to sit idle as if nothing is supposed to happen in your life when you come to marriageable age. The fruits on a fruitful and good tree are expected to be eaten.



So when the fruits are being formed, people await a day of ripening when it becomes suitable to be eaten. Thus, there is a period in your life when everybody expects that marriage should take place. It is therefore your responsibility to do something about it.

Do not sit still as if you are still a child and not a mature adult. How many hours have you spent in prayers on your marriage? How much fasting have you done on this? You should be concerned about your marriage. Your parents also, especially, your parents in the Lord, are concerned about you on this matter.

1.2 The Church's Concern For The Unmarried

The church is concerned for those who are of age and are not married. Why have you been unmarried for too long? It is our concern and I believe God also is concerned for your not having married till this time. When we know that believers are mature to marry but are not married yet, we get disturbed and ask God, when will it be? What do we do about it?

This is the cry of our hearts to God for you. What are your difficulties? We cannot take it over from you but want you to face God and get it solved. It may be beyond our power to handle as men. Your case is in God's hands. Our prayer for you is, "God, when will You do it for your child? Please do something, else You may lose some of Your children. Intervene, else,



some of Your precious children will be overtaken by the devil in immorality, masturbation, lust, pornography, and fornication.”

This is the cry of the leadership of the church to God and God is witness. If money were required for registration before God for members of a church to get married, I The International Director of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide, Pastor Paul Rika, would have paid that money long ago so that you could get married. How then do we get you married? God shall answer our prayers for His children in the church in Jesus name, Amen. We must pray for this as individuals who are still single and as those who have married, but concerned for those who have not married yet.

Should you not concern yourself with the case of your brothers and sisters who are still unmarried, but are of age? We should declare a day of prayer and fasting for the unmarried among us; that they also should partake of this honour, that they also should overcome peculiar temptations. The church should see this as a duty. Let the leaders always create time of prayer for the unmarried and for widows and widowers of marriageable age. We should also remember those who have been forsaken by their husbands or wives, that God should keep them by His sufficient grace and reunite them if His will be so.

1.3 Satisfy God's Conditions For Your



Marriage

God is not a man to be persuaded by sacrifice, if it were by sacrifice, we would have given Him sacrifice but He cannot be persuaded by sacrifices. You must meet the conditions set by God to achieve desirable results. What are these conditions?

You must be His child, righteous and godly.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

To whom is the Lord speaking here? To you who are His children. God says,

“Ask for marriage; ask for a wife, ask for a husband and I will give you.”

Ask and it shall be given you. In the natural world of unbelievers, they do not bother to ask.



They are of their father, the devil. It is the desire of their father the devil that they do. They pursue after the desires of their flesh. These ones do not ask God for a wife; they do not ask God for a husband. They just choose as they wish. Those in Christ ask everything from the Lord because the Lord is all in all concerning their lives.

For believers, the Lord has said **“ASK”**, except you want to do like others in the world that say, *“Why should I ask of the Lord when I can see ripe fruits everywhere? Why do I need to ask from the Lord which person to marry? I know the one that is fat and ripe for me”*. The people of the world do not ask or pray to God for a marriage partner. They take what their eyes show them and many times they are deceived by the effects of the sun on the fruits. The sun has burnt the fruit into yellow colour and they think it is ripe; or the greenish part seems to be attractive and their mind imagines that it is ripe. This is the deception that rules the mind of the unbeliever in the world.

In order to avoid mistakes, pray to the Lord. Ask of God, seek it from God and knock if there is a delay. Take it seriously; stand up for it, pray on it, fast for it. **“Knock and it shall be opened unto you.”** The scripture continues:

Matthew 7:8

“for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.



Everyone here, refers to everyone in the kingdom and not everyone in the world. The Muslims, pagans and societal people are not included. It means everyone in the kingdom of God only.

This scripture is a full promise. In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every matter is established. Will God lie? Why have you not married? God has told us that every one of His children should ask? Did you ask and God did not answer? Why are you passing the age? Did you comply with the three promises; **“ask, seek and knock”**? God cannot lie.

Psalm 119:89.

“Forever O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.”

You did not ask. If you have asked, then you were not serious. You did not seek; if you have sought, you were not serious. You did not knock; if you have knocked, you did not knock well and seriously. You never knocked like someone looking for money, who worked all day as a labourer digging the ground because he needed the money. You never asked Him that way. You never sought in that way and you never knocked in that way. That is why you have not yet married or else you are not God's child. If you are a sinner who have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour and are not working in righteousness and godliness, God is saying, your sins have blocked you from Him such that He cannot



hear you. Can a man bribe God? Can you bribe God with your voice because your voice is so nice? Will you appeal to Him with sacrifice? ***Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice. And to hearken to the word of God is better than the fat of rams.*** Obey the word of God, confess your sins and repent of them. Stop boy friend and girl friend relationship and the immorality that follows it. Repent from your sins, including pornography and masturbation and present a clean body and clean spirit to God so that He can give you a cleansed marriage partner.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1.4 The Case Of An Unmarried Brother

Someone expressed his desire for marriage and I was concerned. About three weeks later, the Lord revealed that he is satisfying himself elsewhere already in immorality. I wondered how some people who profess to be children of God behave. You are satisfying yourself in immorality and we are carrying your burden not knowing that you are satisfying yourself in immorality. Then how will God answer you? If you do not stop your sins now, will you bribe God that sees everything and knows your heart? He sees your ways and sees into the darkness of your life.



You deceive the church and becomes a problem to us because you make us worry of your not having married. If God did not reveal it, how would we have known? This is why revelation is important. Revelations comfort us and let us know that God is true and faithful. God does not see as men see. Man looketh after the outward and may pray, *“Lord, remember this sister. Remember this brother. He is committed.”* God sees the hearts of all and the one you say is committed may be an abomination to Him. This matter has passed our power because we can be interceding wrongly. Our intercession for him in marriage was wrong because that was not what he needed. What he needed was intercession for salvation, repentance, righteousness and deliverance. That is what we should be doing for many of you who are still in sin.

Matthew 7:9-11

⁹***“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?”***

¹⁰***“Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?”***

¹¹***“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?”***

Marriage is a good thing but it will be given to



sons and daughters of God. Are you a daughter to God? If ye being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to His children? Are you a child to God? If you are not, seek first things first. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; then marriage will come. All things shall be added unto you. Righteousness with God first, then marriage will come as additional blessing from Him. Other than this, the way of the world is over there in sin and God cannot compromise His word to answer you in sin.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the



Lord Almighty.

As a true child of God, do not seek marriage with an unbeliever. Some people may say, “God, *I have waited on you for long and cannot find anyone. You did not speak to me; neither by the urim nor by the prophets. I will go to the witch doctors or fortune tellers and get a spouse from them.*” This is what you too may be saying but let all men be liars and let God be true.

*Checkup yourself, you man of God,
Checkup yourself, you daughter of God,
Checkup yourself, you people of God
For there is something that hinders your prayers
Expect a miracle when you pray x3
For the Lord is sitting on the throne.*

If nothing hinders your prayer, then why is it not answered? Has God assured you of when He will answer you? Then you should be at peace and we also will be at peace, because the Lord has told you to wait. He is behind the delay. But if it is not the Lord telling you that He is behind your delay, check up yourself and keep on praying until He answers your prayer. Do not do as King Saul did. God did not answer Saul by the urim or by the prophets so he asked, **“Is there no witch around?”** But he had driven away all the witches! He was told that there was a witch at Endor and he went there. Saul did not receive answer from God because he had sinned and did not repent. He was looking for an alternative.



2 Corinthians 6:15

¹⁵“And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel”.

What concord is there between Jesus and Satan that you are going to marry Satan's child. What agreement will there ever be between a Christian and a sinner? How will the two of you live? Will you not be living in strife, anger and bitterness? Can Jesus pardon you for living in that way? Are you not a backsliding Christian that is desiring to marry an unbeliever? The speed of your Christian journey will be arrested. Your Christian ministry will suffer much reproach.

2 Corinthians 6:16

¹⁶“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”.

Can you see? What agreement do you have with an unbeliever? You have the Bible while your partner has charms kept in a way that you may or may not be aware. Some swallow them in. As for you, the Lord has said, do not marry a sinner because you are the temple of God. God has said He will dwell in you and walk in you



and will be your God and you shall be His people. Therefore, stop that relationship that discouragement is leading you into. Do not go that way.

¹⁷“Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”.

1.5 The Need For Importunate Prayer For God’s Choice

Luke 11:5-8

⁵ And He said unto them, which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, friend, lend me three loaves;

⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

⁸ I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

Jesus told a parable of a man who had a friend. This man was visited by a stranger at midnight and he had no food to give that visitor. He went to his friend that night and knocked at the door saying, *'Friend, I have a visitor but have nothing*



to set before him. Can you give me some food so I can place before my visitor? Will the friend say, "It is late, I am tired, I am with my children in bed? Will that friend say so? Even if the friend says so, by his importunate knocking; not giving up, he will weary him and he will rise up and give to him all he wants.

Have you given God such importunate prayer time; not given up and yet have not gotten a marriage partner? Is it not to His sons and daughters He said He will not give them a stone for a wife or a serpent for a husband? He will give good marriage partner to His sons and daughters that wait on Him. So what is your reason for not waiting on God?

1.6 God Is Planning A Good Marriage For You

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹***"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

¹²***"Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.***

¹³***"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.***

¹⁴***"And I will be found of you; saith the LORD, and I will turn away your captivity,...***
God said here that He will turn your captivity



away from you. Whatever renders you captive that you cannot marry will be taken away from you. He wants you to marry. Forget the fact that you are alone in that nation. God has said you will marry. Forget the fact that you are a young person sitting in a congregation and every other person is married and you do not see a single lady there. Forget that fact because the creator said you will marry. Forget the fact that you are a widow and many young ladies are around. You may think, "When will all the young ladies marry before they consider me for marriage?" The Creator says you will marry.

"I know the thoughts that I think towards you saith the Lord; thoughts of peace in marriage, to settle you in a home; not thoughts of evil, to make you a prostitute in the streets. That is not My mind and imagination for you; but to give you an expected end. However, go and pray to Me and I will answer you."

1.7 Mobilize Prayer Partners

If your prayer alone does not work, mobilize prayer partners; seek prayers from men of God, go for prayer retreats, add fasting, the Lord will hear you and turn away your captivity. Whatever witchcraft spell was decreed upon you to hinder you from getting married, God will destroy it. All power belongs to God. All power is given to Jesus to do and undo. Seek Him and He will turn away your captivity.



You may say, *'I am not even interested in marriage*, and you are of age. Then something is wrong. If somebody stays throughout the day without food and says, 'I do not have appetite, then a particular sickness is troubling him, it maybe malaria. When someone has malaria, does he have appetite for food? No. Tell that person that he has malaria and he should be treated for marriage malaria.

For you to be at the age of marriage and you are doing nothing about it and are saying, "In fact I am not even thinking about it." Then you have, "*Marriage malaria sickness.*" Get yourself treated. Prayer will handle it. The devil has put that sickness in your heart so that you will stay without getting married. By the time you wake up, it would be too late. Satan will then tell you that no one now at this age will be interested to marry you and the next thing is to encourage you to go into immorality and prostitution.

1.8 Let The Married In The Church Help The Unmarried

Ruth Chapter 3:1;

¹"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?"

It is my duty to exhort you to marry and to cause you to smile in gratitude to God. Should I not encourage you as a child of God? We see your commitment but we also see your age. Should we not encourage you to marry? That is



why we speak this way. However, you must be qualified to marry God's child. Ensure you are in Christ's righteousness. Woman, make sure you are in Christ and in His righteousness.

The church must give attention to your spiritual fitness. They must preach righteousness and holiness to you. The church must pray that you will be righteous and holy. The brethren must be ready to help. Let nobody stay unmarried because of lack of money. The church should be ready to help people to marry. Be ready to help your brethren to marry. In some peculiar cases where the man does not have money, there is nothing wrong if the woman supports in the payment of her dowry. It is not a sin, but a good thing.

Therefore, woman, you can assist in meeting financial obligations for your marriage, when the man to marry you has no money. Helping him with your money to pay your dowry is hastening the time for your marriage and happy life.

A godly man wants to marry you but does not have money and you want to marry him too, as led by God. If you give him money to pay the dowry and the two of you get married, staying in the home and rejoicing, will you not be happy? It is mere tradition of men that insists that the man must labour and get the money to pay the dowry himself. Why do you want to follow tradition and be affected? Is that tradition a commandment of God? Do not follow traditions and philosophies of men. Do what is right to



save yourself.

Colossians 2:6-8

⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him

⁷ Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving,

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

The man may think, *'But she will be proud.'* Who told you that? Are you not in Christ? After you have eaten the bread and it has gone to the stomach already, what difference will it make by who first was hungry and who paid for the bread? If it will be said in the future that she was the one who brought the money to buy the bread, it will not matter. Forget about who paid the bride price and move forward with your Christian life and family. The deed has been done already in love and peace.

Brethren, assist those people who do not have money to marry. Please, if you want to marry and you truly do not have money, report yourself to the marriage committee in Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide. They will manage it and you will come out well.

Do not say your marriage is not possible now. Our sisters are crossing over the flower of their



age. The sisters can marry at forty but the risk of child bearing is there. Then, why should the brothers delay them? Is it to put our sisters at risk? Sisters, go to God in prayer and request that He should make the men to marry on time and supply their needs of marriage. Your prayer will work! Amen.

1.9 The Marriage Committee

The marriage committee guiding these people in righteousness should be sincere. Do not lower the standard although we desire more marriages. Avoid unnecessary delay. The Committee must be sure that they are not responsible for the delay in the entire process. Make sure the devil does not inspire any one of you to cause delay and make the children of God leave the church to marry outside. Any member of the committee that is causing purposeful roadblock should be reported to the leadership.

The procedures of righteousness and holiness must not diminish. As much as we want marriage to be fast, we must follow the procedures to ensure righteousness is maintained. Only those who are ready to follow God's standard of righteousness should be processed. Those who are not ready for righteousness are free to go the other way. At the end we shall say to God as Jesus did: *All that You have given to us we have kept. except the children of disobedience.* Let the marriage



committee keep the standard of righteousness in the marriage procedures.

1.10 Watch Against Evil Counselors And Matchmakers.

Be warned of the devil's trap in marriage. Let us consider the counsel of Balaam.

Numbers 22:1-20; 25-38

¹***“And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.***

²***“and Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.***

³***“And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many; and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.***

⁴***“And Moab said unto the elders of Median, now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.***

⁵***“He sent messagers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt; behold they cover the face of the earth and they abide over against me.***

⁶***“Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may***



smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessed is blessed, and he whom thou curseth is cursed.

⁷*“And the elders of Moab and the elders of Median departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.*

⁸*“And he said unto them, lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princess of Moab abode with Balaam.*

⁹*“And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee?*

¹⁰*“And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying,*

¹¹*“Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.*

¹²*“And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.*

¹³*“And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.*

¹⁴*“And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam*



refuseth to come with us.

Can you see the story? The children of Israel were passing to the Promised Land and they camped in the land of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab became afraid that they would come and inherit his land. No, they were not coming for his land but moving to the Promised Land. He then wanted power to weaken them spiritually so that he could overcome them and scatter them from that place to make them not to inherit the land of promise the Lord was taking them to any more.

The people came again and Balaam went to pray. The Lord told him, "No, they are blessed people. I am with them. I am the One going with them. It is not this land that I am giving them. I am taking them to a new land – the land of Canaan." Then Balaam answered those sent by Balak, "No, I cannot come with you." They went to tell Balak that Balaam refused to come. They did not know the God behind Balaam because they did not know the living God. So Balak sent more messengers to Balaam with enticing words and promises.

¹⁵“And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

¹⁶ “And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:

¹⁷ “For I will promote thee unto very great



honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

¹⁸ “And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

The answer of Balaam in verse 18 above is how the conviction of a child of God should be: *“I cannot go beyond the word of God to marry an unbeliever. Even if she is Miss our Nation, she is the daughter of the president, she is well educated and has all the money. I can never marry an unbeliever!”*. That should be your conviction as a believer. Balaam showed this conviction but the pressure was high. The unbeliever might be the one putting pressure on you and making great but vain promises to you. Beware!

Brethren, the pressure may be high on you to marry an unbeliever directly, indirectly or by proxy. The pressure may be there for you to formulate a testimony or a revelation. Somebody might be employed to put pressure on you to marry someone God has not approved. There are marriage matchmakers among church members or leaders who pose to be prophets or prophetesses. They spoil the future of God's children through marriage matchmaking. Pray to God yourself for His will.



Some of these matchmakers are agents of the devil in witchcraft. They match ignorant children of God with those in witchcraft to ruin their Christian life and ministry. The pressure may be very high to destroy your conviction. Do not yield to it.

Balaam said to Balak,

¹⁹ “Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

Balaam, has God not told you His will? Why did you speak something with your mouth and your heart is wishing for backsliding? You said it with your mouth that you will not marry an unbeliever, but you are now crying and telling God that you know His will for you is not to marry an unbeliever, but you will convert him or her after marriage. You are now saying that you know God's grace is great upon you, and that you will never backslide, even if you marry an unbeliever.

Why do you go back and pray amiss when you know clearly that it will be a sin? Has not the Lord told you that the person is not His child? Why do you pray against God's will? God knows your heart. Can you hide your heart from Him? Can you hide anything in the secret place that the Lord will not know? Are you not cheating and harming yourself? Are you not the one using your hand to cancel your name from the book of life? Can a lady in jewelry, perming,



weave-on, attachments, painting, skin bleaching, in trousers/pants etc, be a believer, be a good thing from the Lord for His child? Prove it by giving her the true teaching of God's Word to clear her worldly clothing and adornment and see her response.

1.11 Do Not Settle For The Permissive Will Of God

²⁰“And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do”.

God knows how to allow people have their own way. The prodigal son's father allowed him not according to his will. If he did not allow him, the young man will not give him peace. Eventually his sin would affect others. God is witness that Balaam was stopped but he refused. He was chastised but he refused to listen, so he was allowed.

God allowed Balaam to go and do his will. God would still be glorified. Balaam went to hell but the virtuous words and inspiration of Balaam remained for our righteousness. God can allow you to marry a sinner to your hurt. You may end up in hell. But God would remain faithful as a God of truth and love. Our God is a wise God. The father of the prodigal son allowed his son to have his will, certainly with much



pressure on the father and rejection of the father's instruction,

Proverbs 14:12.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The prodigal son had devised a way to his own hurt. If the father did not allow him, he too will suffer from the son's continual troubling. The same thing goes for those who are solemnly warned against marrying each other because of blood group or dangerous illness, but refused to listen.

If armed robbers meet you on the way and demand the money that is in your hand at gun point, will you say, "You can do what you want. I am ready to face you. I will not give you my money?" If you say that it means you do not value your life. Remember they have not asked you to deny Jesus. If they say, "Deny Jesus," then they want you to sin. You will tell them you will not sin to your death. It is a mundane thing they are asking from you, give it to them and save your life to continue serving your God who will replenish what you have lost.

Jesus asked the Pharisees of the inscription on the coin and they said it was Caesar's. He told them to give to Caesar what belonged to Caesar. Under that force give to him and preserve your life; new blessings will come to you. The Lord



will give you much more than that. But if it is your soul that is lost, you cannot regain another one. Therefore, do not exchange your soul with anything. What shall a man exchange his soul with? You can exchange your life with money. Do not allow the armed robbers to break of your teeth or cut off your tongue or even kill you because you refuse to give them money. Note that you cannot preach the gospel again when your teeth are broken and your tongue cut off because you refuse to handover your money to the armed robbers. Let them have the money, so that you will still live to preach the gospel of Jesus.

However, let not the armed robber tell you woman to open your cloth and sleep with him; you should prefer to be killed rather than do that. If they kill you in Christ, you are dying gloriously to be received to heaven as Stephen in the Bible. Tell them they cannot kill you because your life is not in their hand. They have no power to kill you. Their gun will not work. Your God will smite them. If God does not do so for you, then it is your time to go home. That was how the three Hebrew children answered King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 3:14,16-18

¹⁴ ***Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set***



up?

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer you in this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out thine hand, O king.

¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up.

It was for mundane things that Balaam was carried away, otherwise the Lord had told him, '*Do not go with them*'. Now that his heart was bent on going with them, the Lord allowed him to go with them. In other words, the Lord gave him His **permissive will** to satisfy his carnal desire, but he later paid dearly for it. You will certainly regret it, if you insist on your will to marry someone you know clearly the Lord has not approved for you. What you think you will benefit from the person shall turn to vanity and vexation of spirit,

Psalm 106:13-15.

1 They soon forgot His works; they waited not for His counsel:

2 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.



3 And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

1.12 Beware Of The Danger Of Self-Will

²⁵ ***“And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.***

²⁶ ***And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.***

²⁷ ***And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.***

²⁸ ***And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times”?***

Balaam was so angry that he did not fear that an animal was talking to him. He replied the ass thus;

²⁹ ***“And Balaam said unto the ass, because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in my hand, for now would I kill thee.***

³⁰ ***“And the ass said unto Balaam, am not I***



thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Was I ever won't to do so unto thee? And he said, nay.

You can see the full submission of an animal to her owner. The ass yielded herself to Balaam to use her and do to her as he desired. Should not Balaam much more yield to God his creator? A conversation went on between Balaam and an animal and he did not still recover himself until the angel of the Lord spoke to him.

³¹“Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

³²“And the angel of the LORD said unto him, wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me.

Are you seeing your ways? Are your marital ways perverse before the Lord? Are you leaving the way of the Lord? You know God's mind but you want to go against it for money and pleasure of the flesh that will last for a while? What if that 'precious person' you insist to marry is an agent of Satan actually, where will you run to for help after marriage?

³⁴“And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I know not that



thou stoodest in the way against me; now therefore, if it displeases thee, I will get me back again.

God had already told Balaam what he should not do but he was still saying if it displeases the Lord for him to go, he would return. It means that up till that time, he still wanted to go forward.

³⁵“And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

³⁸“And Balaam said unto Balak, lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say anything? The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

The words that were coming out of Balaam's mouth were different from what was in his heart up till that time. Balaam spoke wonderfully and righteously but his heart did not agree with what he was saying. These people honour Me with their mouths but their hearts are far from Me. He may sing, 'Thy will be done' but his heart is inclined towards a particular girl in the village because she is his tribal girl. He will be asking God to make her His will. That is the strange way human beings behave! When Balaam met with Balak the following took place:

Numbers 23:14-26



¹⁴ *“And he brought him into the field of Zophin, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.*

¹⁵ *“And he said unto Balak, stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder.*

¹⁶ *“And the lord met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, go again unto Balak and say thus*

¹⁷ *“And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, what hath the LORD spoken?*

¹⁸ *“And he took up his parable and said, rise up Balak and hear, hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor.*

¹⁹ *“God is not a man that he should lie neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Our hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?*

²⁰ *“Behold I have recovered commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it*

²¹ *“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him and the shout of king is among them*

²² *“God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of a unicorn*

²³ *“Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it*



shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, what hath God wrought?

²⁴“Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: He shall not lie down until he eats of the prey and drink the blood of the slain.

²⁵“And Balak said unto Balaam, neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all

²⁶“But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, told not I thee, saying, all that the LORD speaketh that I must do?

1.13 Beware Of Stumbling Blocks On The Way

After all these, something happened. Balaam still wanted that money, but there was no way to curse the people of Israel. He said to Balak “Come, I will tell you what to do. I will give you counsel.’ Thus he gave Balak an evil counsel.

Revelation 2:14

¹⁴“But I have a few things against thee because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication.

Balaam took Balak aside and counseled him on what he should do to defeat Israel. Balaam told Balak that he had no power to curse Israel because the Lord was with Israel but his counsel was Israel should be made to commit



sin against God and that will make God to deal with them Himself. He should make them to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols. Beware of ungodly marriage counselors in the church or in marriage committee! See below how God judged Balaam the evil counselor:

Deuteronomy 23:4

⁴“Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when Ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Boer of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.

Numbers 31:6-9,

⁶“And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

⁷“And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses, and they slew all the males.

⁸“And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain namely Evi and Rekem, and Zur and Hur and Reba, five kings of Median: Balaam also the son of Boer they slew with the sword.

⁹“And the children of Israel took all the women of Median captive and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods.

Why did they kill Balaam? That is the question



you will wonder about. They killed Balaam because he counseled Balak to send women among the children of Israel to commit fornication and whoredom with them. Many of these marriage advisers are not Christians. They are carnal men and women who pretend to be filled with the Holy Spirit. God will judge them for their evil works of marriage matchmaking.

Numbers 31:16-17

¹⁶***“Behold, these caused the children of Israel through the counsel of Balaam to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD***

¹⁷***“Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him.***

1.14 Beware Of The Consequences Of Immorality And Idolatry

When the Lord hindered Balaam from going to Balak to curse Israel, but Balaam still wanted the money and honour Balak promised to give him, so he advised Balak how to get his desire achieved. *“I would advise you on what to do”* Many are advised to buy the hearts of those they want to marry with gifts. Some sisters are advised to give their body to brothers in the church to sleep with them in order to capture them for marriage. Some brothers are advised



to inpregnate those they desire to marry to make their parents release them easily. This is hellish! Steer clear!!

Numbers 25:1-9;

¹“And Israel abode in shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

3 And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang up before the LORD against that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

5 And Moses said unto the judges slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baal-peor.

6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a medianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin, in his hand;

8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through,



the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

9 And those that die in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Can you see in the passage above what Balaam did against Israel with his evil counsel? He told Balak, "Their God is a holy God; if you want God to forsake them, there is nothing you can do by your power or wisdom, or even by hiring assassins and physical enemies because their God will protect them.

"However, do this; allow your young and beautiful women from Midian and Moab to enter into their camp and release themselves for the men to sleep with them and marry them if possible. Their God will forsake them. Their God who will never allow me to curse them will curse them by Himself. He will disinherit them."

This was the counsel Balaam gave Balak; to take idols to them and make them freely eat the things sacrificed to idols. Their God would forsake them. That was what Balak did.

Pay more attention to the spirituality of the person you want to marry, than the facial beauty, educational attainment or family lineage,

Proverbs 31:30.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall



be praised.

The same God that protected them punished them when they went into evil and served Satan. Similarly God will forsake you if you leave His way and work by sight and follow the desires of your flesh and the counsel of evil counselors. You will miss the presence of God. Darkness of sin and Satan will take over you.

• Twenty- four thousand people died in one day because of the counsel of Balaam who wanted money. Beautiful women were sent amongst the children of Israel for immorality and idolatry. Therefore, be careful of these men and women that have tried but could not get you. Young man, they have seen your vision for Jesus. Young woman, they have seen your zeal for Jesus and a man/woman has been prepared and sent for you. Therefore, be careful, else the vision of God in your life will be destroyed. You may even end up dying and going to hell.

In your prayer for marriage, pray earnestly. You have not yet prayed until sweat starts dropping from your body, as in the case of Jesus. Ensure you do not marry somebody carelessly. Let your soul be precious to you. Pray and wait until God answers. Marriage is honourable; think about it, pray on it always, but remain righteous and holy.



CHAPTER 2

Because God knows the importance of marriage and how it helps an individual to accomplish His will on earth as was in Adam, He is interested in the marriage of the Men and Women He made. Most importantly in the marriage of His faithful children.

2.1 God Has Good Plan For Your Marriage

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

¹²***“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.***

¹³***“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.***

¹⁴***“And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.***



God said here that He will turn your captivity away from you. Whatever renders you captive that you cannot marry will be turned away from you. He wants you to marry. Forget the fact that you are alone in that nation. God has said you will marry. Forget the fact that you are a young person sitting in a congregation and every other person is married and you do not see a single lady there. Forget that fact because the Creator said you will marry. Forget the fact that you are a widow and you want to marry and in fact many young ladies are around. You may think, 'When will all the young ladies marry before they consider me for marriage; the Creator says you will marry.

“I know the thoughts that I think towards you saith the Lord; thoughts of peace in marriage, to settle you in a home; not thought of evil, to make you a prostitute in the world. I do not have evil plan in mind for you but good plan. I Am good to My children. I want to give you an expected end. However, go and pray” (Paraphrased).

If your prayer alone does not work, mobilize prayer partners, seek prayers from men of God, go for prayer retreats, add fasting, the Lord will hearken unto you and turn away your captivity. Whatever witchcraft spell decreed upon you to hinder you from getting married, God will change it. All power belongs to Jesus. All power



is given unto Christ to do and undo so seek Him and He will turn away your captivity.

You may say, '*I am not even interested in marriage*' and you are of the age? Then something is wrong. If somebody stays throughout the day without food and says, 'I do not have appetite, then a particular sickness is troubling him, maybe malaria. When someone has malaria, does he have appetite for food? No. Tell that person that he has malaria and he should be treated for malaria.

For you to be at the age of marriage and you are doing nothing and you say, "In fact I am not even thinking about it, then you have, '*Malaria marriage sickness*.' Get yourself treated and prayer will handle it. The devil has put that sickness in your heart so that you will stay without getting married. By the time you wake up, it would be too late because you would think that no one would be interested in marriage to you and then you get into the realm of immorality because of frustration.

2.2 The Promises Of God For Your Marriage

God has so many good promises for you, concerning your marriage, look for them in scripture, believe them, claim them, confess them and pray by them. Consider the following promises.



(i) **John 14:13-14**

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 if ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it.

God is telling you to ask anything from Him and that He will give you. That includes His choice for you in marriage. Can you ask God now? Start right away.

(ii) **Philippians 4:19-20**

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

God is promising to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory. What do you need for your marriage? Do you need a job? Do you need money? Do you need accommodation? Do you need favor from anybody? Do you need an open door? Be sure, believe what God has said He will supply your needs for a successful marriage.

(iii) **Isaiah 10:27**

27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed



because of the anointing.

Is there any power oppressing you? Are witches and wizards hindering your marriage? God is saying He will take the yoke of the enemy off from your neck and will destroy the power of the enemy against your marital plan. Believe this and call on God for it. Refuse to be under bondage to any force by faith in the Lord Jesus and in the promises of God.

(iv) Mathew 18:19

19 Again I say unto, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by my Father which is in heaven.

Here God is saying you can get a prayer partner to pray with you on issues of your marriage, where you feel weak or when things are getting delayed, He has promised to answer. Therefore get a prayer partner for your marriage; someone who will agree with you and pray with for your marital good.

(iv) Mark 11:22-24

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God
23 for verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed' and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall



believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, whatsoever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

The devil can raise up mountains against your way of marriage. By mountains I am talking about difficulties created by Satan against you, this include issues with the person you want to marry, your family members, the parents of the person you want to marry, the marriage committee of your church, and so on. Here God has given you authority, to eradicate these problems from your life through faith and prayer. Commit your desire to the Lord and it shall be granted.

(v) Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God.

7 and the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

God is here telling you never to worry for anything concerning your marriage. Whatever you see or hear be peaceful about it , when you have prayed about it to God. Whatever delay comes your way be peaceful about it and wait on God. Follow this principle and never be



hasty or worried concerning your marriage as a child of God. God will always fill you with peace if you yield to him.

(vi) **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Know that as a child of God, God will make everything work for your good, even if there is disappointment in your way, the person you want to marry refuses or withdraws on the way the parents of the lady persistently refuse the marriage.

Believe that God has a good plan for your life. All you need to give God is righteous and holy life and He will certainly give you a marriage partner.

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Hebrew 10:35-39

35 cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall



come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: But if any man draws back my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 but we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

1.3 Let The Married Pray For And Counsel The Unmarried

Ruth 3:1

¹“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?”

It is our duty as your leaders and lovers to exhort you to marry and to cause you to smile in gratitude to God. Should we not encourage you as a child of God? We have seen your commitment in the church, but we have also seen your age. Should we not encourage you to marry? That is why we do this. However, you must be qualified to marry in Christ and in the church. Make sure you are qualified in Christ's righteousness as a man or woman wanting to marry.

Let the church give attention to the salvation and righteousness of those who want to marry to make their marriage honorable to the Lord and to the church. The church must preach righteousness and holiness to the members to make them enter into and walk through



marriage undefiled. The church must pray that the members be righteous and holy. The married brethren in the church must be ready to help pray for and help the unmarried to marry successfully in the will of God. Let nobody stay unmarried because of lack of money. The church should be ready to help people to marry. Be ready to help your brethren to marry. In some peculiar cases where the man does not have money, there is nothing wrong if the woman supports in the payment for her dowry. It is not a sin.

When you send somebody to buy bread and the person uses the money you gave him to buy it and both of you partake in eating it, have you done wrong? He wanted to eat bread because he was hungry and you were also hungry. Now you gave him the money and he bought the bread and both of you ate happily together. You have not done wrong. Therefore, woman, you can assist in meeting financial obligations for your marriage.

A godly man wants to marry you but does not have money and you want to marry him too as led by God. If you give him money to pay the dowry and the two of you get married, staying in the home and rejoicing, will you not be happy? It is mere tradition of men that insist the man must labour to get the money for the dowry. Why do you want to follow tradition and delay your marriage or stay unmarried? Is that tradition a commandment of God? Do not



follow traditions and philosophies of men. Do what is right to save yourself.

Colossians 2:6-8

6 As ye have therefore received Christ, Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and build up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been thought, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Some may say, 'But she will be proud over the man. Others may say, 'But the man will not regard her or divorce her since he did not pay the dowry by himself.' Who told you that? Are you not in Christ? After you have eaten the bread and it has gone to your stomach already, what difference does it make who first was hungry and who paid for the bread? If it would be said in future that she was the one who brought the money to buy the bread, it would not matter. Forget about the story and move forward with your Christian life and family. The deed has been done in true Christian love and God has blessed the marriage and that marriage is recognized by God, and there is no room for divorce.

Brethren, assist those people who do not have money to marry. Please if you want to marry



and you truly do not have money, contact the church, they will help you to marry.

Let the leadership of the church be prepared to assist the unmarried in the church. Let the men be encouraged to marry because sisters can pass the flower of their age. A woman can marry at forty or more, but the risk of child bearing is there. Then, why should men delay the women by not being interested or prepared? Our sisters will be put to risk if the men refuse on time. Let the church go to God in prayer and command those men to marry.

The marriage committee guiding these people in righteousness should be sincere. Do not lower the standard, although we desire more marriages in the church. Avoid unnecessary delay. The Committee must be sure that they are not responsible for the delay of these people. Make sure the devil does not inspire any one of you to cause delay and make the children of God leave the church to marry outside. Report any member of the committee that is frustrating the marriage of God`s children to the church leadership.

The procedures of righteousness and holiness must not be altered. As much as we want marriage to be fast, we must follow godly procedures to ensure righteousness is maintained. Only those who are ready to follow the standard of righteousness can pass through. Those who are not ready for



righteousness are free to go their way. We will present our record to God as the Lord Jesus did: *All that He has given to us we have kept, except the son of perdition. Let the church keep God's standard of righteousness in the marriage of the members.*



CHAPTER 3

THINGS TO BEWARE OF IN SEEKING GOD'S WILL IN MARRIAGE

To get a marriage partner from God for your satisfaction and godliness in this life you need to beware of the following.

3.1 Beware Of Evil Counselors

Be warned of the devil's trap in marriage; the counsel of Balaam.

Numbers 22:1-14

1“And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.

2“and Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3“And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many; and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

4“And Moab said unto the elders of Median, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that



time.

⁵ *“He sent messagers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt; behold they cover the face of the earth and they abide over against me.*

⁶ *“Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessed is blessed, and he whom thou curseth is cursed.*

⁷ *“And the elders of Moab and the elders of Median departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.*

⁸ *“And he said unto them, lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princess of Moab abode with Balaam.*

⁹ *“And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee?*

¹⁰ *“And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying,*

¹¹ *“Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive*



them out.

¹² “And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.

¹³ “And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.

¹⁴ “And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

Can you see the story? The children of Israel were passing to the Promised Land and they camped in the land of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab became afraid that maybe they would come and inherit his land. No, they were not coming for his land but moving to the Promised Land. He then wanted power to weaken them spiritually so that he could overcome them and scatter them from that place so that they would not inherit the land of promise the Lord was taking them into any more.

The people came and Balaam went to pray; and the Lord said, “No, they are blessed people. I am with them. I am the One going with them. It is not this land that I am giving them. I am taking them to a new land – the land of Canaan.” Then Balaam said, “No, I cannot come with you.” They went to tell Balak that Balaam refused to come. They did not know the God behind him because they do not know God. So Balak sent



more messengers.

Numbers 22:15-18

¹⁵ ***“And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.***

¹⁶ ***“And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:***

¹⁷ ***“For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.***

¹⁸ ***“And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.***

This is how the conviction of a child of God is: 'I cannot go beyond the word of God to marry an unbeliever. Even if she is Miss Nigeria, she is the daughter of the president, she is well educated and has all the money, I can never marry an unbeliever'. That should be your conviction as a believer. Balaam showed this conviction but the pressure was high.

Brethren, the pressure may be high on you to marry an unbeliever directly or indirectly or by proxy. The pressure may be there for you to formulate a testimony or a revelation. The



pressure may be very high to destroy your conviction. Do not yield to it.

Numbers 22:19

¹⁹ “Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

Has God not told you His will? Why did you speak something with your mouth and your heart is crying for backsliding? You said it with your mouth but you are crying and saying to God that you know His will for you is not to marry an unbeliever but you will convert him or her after marriage. You are saying you know God's grace upon you and that you will never backslide.

Why do you go back and pray amiss when you know clearly that it is a sin? When the Lord has told you that the person is not His child? Why do you pray against God's will? God knows your heart. Can you hide your heart? Can you hide anything in the secret place that the Lord will not know? Are you not cheating and harming yourself? Are you not the one using your hand to cancel your name from the book of life?

3.2 Do Not Settle For The Permissive Will Of God



Numbers 22:20

²⁰“And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do”.

God knows how to allow people have their own way. The prodigal son's father allowed him not according to his will but if he did not allow him he would not have peace. Eventually his sin shall affect his life. God is witness that I have stopped him but he refused. I had chastised him but he refused to listen so I allowed him.

God allowed Balaam to go and do his will. God will still be glorified. Balaam went to hell but the virtuous words and inspiration of Balaam remained for our righteousness. God is wise to allow him. He had devised a way to his own hurt. If you do not allow him, you too will suffer.

If armed robbers meet you on the way and say bring out the money that is in your hand with a gun; and you say, “You can do anything to me. I am facing you. I will hold my money”, that means you do not value your life. Remember they have not asked you to deny Jesus. If they say, “Deny Jesus”, they want you to sin but you will not sin to your death. It is a mundane thing they are asking from you; give it to them.



Jesus asked the Pharisees of the inscription on the coin and they said it is Caesar's. Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Give it to him and preserve your life because new ones will come back to you. The Lord will give you much more than that but if it is your soul that is lost, you cannot regain another one. Therefore, do not exchange your soul with anything. What shall a man exchange his soul with? As for money, you can exchange it for your life instead of the armed robbers breaking your teeth and cutting off your tongue so that you do not preach the gospel again. Let them have the money, and you will still live to preach the gospel.

However, let not the armed robber tell you woman to open your cloth and sleep with him; you should prefer to be killed rather than do that. Thank God your end came and you are dying gloriously when you can consciously declare Jesus before you die. Tell him he cannot do it because your life is not in his hands. He has no power to do it. His bullet will not come out for your God will smite him. If God does not do so for you, then it is your time to go. That was how the three Hebrew children answered King Nebuchadnezzar.

It was for the mundane things that Balaam was carried away, otherwise the Lord had told him, '*Do not go with them*'. Now that his heart was bent on going with them, the Lord allowed him



to go with them. In other words, the Lord gave him His permissive will to satisfy his carnal desire but he later paid dearly for it.

3.3 Beware Of The Danger Of Self-Will

Numbers 22:25-28

²⁵ ***“And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.***

²⁶ ***And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.***

²⁷ ***And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.***

²⁸ ***And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times”?***

Balaam was so angry that he did not fear that the animal was talking to him. He replied the ass thus;

Numbers 22:29-30

²⁹ ***“And Balaam said unto the ass, because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a***



sword in my hand, for now would I kill thee.

³⁰“And the ass said unto Balaam, am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, nay.

You can see the full submission of an animal. The ass yielded herself to Balaam to use her and do to her as he desired and Balaam answered the ass nay. A conversation was going on between Balaam and an animal and he did not still recover himself. He did not recover until the angel of the Lord spoke to him.

Numbers 22:31-32

³¹“Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

³²“And the angel of the LORD said unto him, wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me.

Thy ways, thy marital ways are perverse before the Lord. You are leaving the way of the Lord. You know God's mind but you want to go against it for money and pleasure of the flesh that will last for a while.



Numbers 22:34

³⁴“And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I know not that thou stoodest in the way against me; now therefore, if it displeases thee, I will get me back again.

God had already told Balaam what to do but he was still putting 'if' in his statement in verse thirty four above. It means that up till that time, he still wanted to go forward.

Numbers 22:35,38

³⁵“And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

³⁸“And Balaam said unto Balak, lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say anything? The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

The words that were coming out of Balaam's mouth were different from what was in his heart; the actual state and desire of his heart up till that time. Balaam spoke wonderfully and righteously but his heart did not agree with what he was saying. These people honor Me with their mouths but their hearts are far from Me. He may sing, 'Thy will be done' but his heart is inclined towards a particular girl in the village because she is his tribal girl. He will be asking God to send His will there. That is the



strange way human beings behave.

Numbers 23:14-26

¹⁴ ***“And he brought him into the field of Zophin, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.***

¹⁵ ***“And he said unto Balak, stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder.***

And the LORD met Balak, stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder.

¹⁶ ***“And the lord met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, go again unto Balak and say thus.***

¹⁷ ***“And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, what hath the LORD spoken?***

¹⁸ ***“And he took up his parable and said, rise up Balak and hear, hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor.***

¹⁹ ***“God is not a man that he should lie neither the son of man that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?***

²⁰ ***“Behold I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it***

²¹ ***“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him and the shout***



of a king is among them

²²*“God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of a unicorn*

²³*“Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, what God hath wrought!*

²⁴*“Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion, He shall not lie down until he eats of the prey and drink the blood of the slain.*

²⁵*“And Balak said unto Balaam, neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.*

²⁶*“But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, told not I thee, saying, all that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?*

3.4 Beware Of Stumbling Blocks On The Way

After all these, something happened. Balaam still wanted that money and there was no way to curse the people of Israel. He said to Balaam, “Come, I will tell you what to do. I will give you counsel.’ Thus he gave Balak an evil counsel.

Revelation 2:14

¹⁴*“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication.*



Balaam took Balak aside and counseled him on what he should do to defeat Israel. By the Lord, it was not possible but by his counsel.

Deuteronomy 23:4

⁴“Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when Ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Boer of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.

Numbers 31:6-9,

6“And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

⁷“And they warned against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses, and they slew all the males.

⁸“And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain namely Evi and Rekem, and Zur and Hur and Reba, five kings of Median: Balaam also the son of Boer they slew with the sword.

⁹“And the children of Israel took all the women of Median captive and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods.

Why did they kill Balaam? That is the question you will wonder about. They killed Balaam because he counseled Balak to send women among the children of Israel to commit



fornication and whoredom with them.

Numbers 31:16-17

¹⁶***“Behold, these caused the children of Israel through the counsel of Balaam to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD***

¹⁷***“Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him.***

3.5 Beware Of Immorality And Idolatry

After the Lord hindered Balaam and he still wanted the money, he said to Balak *'I would advise you on what to do'.*

Numbers 25:1-9

¹***And Israel abode in shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ²And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. ³“And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.***

⁴***“And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. ⁵“And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, slay ye everyone his men***



that were joined unto Baalpeor.

⁶“And behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁷“And when Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a Javelin in his hand;

⁸“And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

⁹“And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Can you see that Balaam was minded to do this? He said their God is a holy God; if you want God to forsake them, there is nothing you can do by your power or wisdom, or even by hiring assassins and physical enemies because their God will protect them.

However, do this; allow young and beautiful girls from Midian and Moab to enter into their camp, release themselves to them, sleep with them and marry them. Their God will forsake them. Their God who will never allow me to curse them will curse them by Himself. He will disinherit them. This was the counsel Balaam



gave Balak; to take idols to them, let them freely eat the things sacrificed unto idols and their God will forsake them. That was what Balak did.

Numbers 25:3-4

³“And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

⁴“And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

This is the same God that protected them but they had gone to evil and Satan.

Numbers 25:5-9

⁵“And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, slay ye everyone his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.

⁶“And behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation

⁷“And when Phinehas the son of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest saw it he rose up from among the congregation, and took a Javelin in his hand.



⁸“And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

⁹“And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Twenty- four thousand people died in one day because of the counsel of Balaam who wanted money. Beautiful women were sent amongst the children of Israel for immorality and idolatry. Therefore, be careful of these men and women that have tried but could not get you. Young man, they have seen your vision for Jesus and a woman have been prepared to ruin you. Young woman, they have seen your zeal for Jesus and a man has been prepared to destroy your vision for righteousness and heaven. Therefore be careful else the vision of God in your life will not work. You may even end up dying and going to hell.

In your prayer for marriage, pray earnestly. You have not yet prayed until sweat was dripping from your body as Jesus' sweat (like blood). Ensure you do not marry somebody carelessly; one of the messengers of Moab according to the counsel of Balaam. Let your soul be precious to you. Pray and wait until God answers. Marriage is honourable; think about it, pray towards it and be righteous.





CHAPTER 4

SIN AND COMPROMISE KEEP MANY FROM MARRYING IN GOD'S WILL

The commandments of God are pure and holy, only those who are committed to God and are determined to obey God in their lives can observe them. The sinner cannot keep them because they are spiritual. Uncommitted Christians will want to avoid them because they are not ready to pay a price for a holy life and ministry.

Romans 8:5-8

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.



4.1 Ungodly Marriages In The Church Today

Judges 20:25

And Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeon the second, day and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand men, all these drew the sword.

Marrying in God's will depend on the believers' commitment and determination. The world is abandoned to sin and error because God is not in her way. Men do as they like. Where there is no king people do what they want. When the kingship of God is not recognized over a person's life, he does as he wants and this is so in marriage. Many people have married their own way and many more are doing so because they do not know God. Jesus is not their Lord; God is not their King so He does not control them. They control themselves or are directed by others to their hurt.

Unfortunately, this development has affected the course of Christ and has affected Christianity greatly. Marrying on your own as you want has really affected the course of Christ because since God was not involved, you picked whomsoever you wanted to pick. Who told you that you could pick the right person? Do you have the power to make the right choice? You do not have it. Good choice is the work of God's grace and He does not give it to dogs because it is a holy thing. Give not a holy thing to dogs neither cast your pearls to the



swine.

Mathew 7:6

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Many people have gone in this way. You will find the elderly ones among us who have married before they knew Jesus lamenting that if they had known the Lord early, they would not have erred in marriage. This eventually affects the church because God needs you and your spouse for his work. Now that you have picked anybody you could pick in the market, on the streets or any person around you, such person may never know God. Such person may be irrecoverably lost in the things of the gospel.

The language of God and the ways of God are strange to such person. God has called you to work for him and definitely your wife will come with you but she does not know the Lord. She is forced to speak the language of God and to do the activities of Christ, but the spirit inside is dead. Then the work of God is done in carnality because your spouse has to follow you in ministry.

Some have become in-laws to Satan and demons because of marrying without God. Praise God for His mercy for some have been able to seek Him well and His grace has impacted on their marriage and marriage partners. How many people have persevered to



this point? Yet there are still some following the old way; the way of fallen man. Up till now they do not involve God in their marriage plans. There are young people who are still bent on their way; neither considering God in their marriage, nor bringing Him into their plans.

They started processes that God is not involved in. If you were to ask God, He would say, "I am not aware or informed of his marriage. He did not come to Me for marriage. Go and check the names of people who have come to Me for marriage and see if his name is there." You may say, "God, but this person is about to get married in the next two weeks?" "I am not aware of where he got the woman from. No approval from Me. Go and check if My signature is there." This would be God's reply.

This means more troubles are on our way. More trouble on the path of the church. This means there are more battles for the church in future because we think that the young ones would do God's work tomorrow if Christ delays. We think that you shall be pastors and pastor's wives and ministers of the gospel, doing great work for Jesus in future.

Now that you are going into the same error as others, what will become of you? If others say they did not know Jesus, what would you say about yourself? If their own excuse is that they did not know Jesus (the days of ignorance God winked at). What then will you that grew up in Christ say? If they say they never knew the doctrines and teachings, what will you say



about yourself?

4.2 Adverse Consequences of Marital Compromises

Again, this marriage compromise leads to a mixed multitude of believers and unbelievers. You may recover tomorrow but your wife is not in Christ and may never come to Christ. So you are giving trouble to the church; trouble to the path of God and sorrow to God. You are now allowing demons to come in because they must come along. You are bringing demons to the church because you have their daughter or son with you. Do you not know that Bible say of some: "Ye are of your father the devil." You are carrying the children of Satan along with you. How will you even be free? How will you enjoy life again?

If these others who did it without Christ and the knowledge of the truth will complain and plead with God for their ignorance, what will you who are not in the days of ignorance say? What will you do? The world has been abandoned to its own way because of sin and evil. They have neither accepted God nor have brought God to their way. In marriage, they usually choose by sight; dwelling on beauty, body shape, skin color, education, qualification, tribe and family lineage and so on.

They choose by educational status because pride is involved; *"I am a graduate and I must marry a graduate."* They ask carnal questions



about the place of work, the money earned and what they possess. These are the things the people of the world consider; God is not in these. For some, it is by immorality. You just go to a man and entice him to immorality. That is the way some get married. Just seduce the man and when he falls, he carries you and go on with marriage. This is the way of the world. Now some church goers go about in the same fashion to provoke others into marriage through immorality. The same filthiness of the world has been brought into the church.

You plan to tell God you are sorry after you have married in this way, but I do not know if God will accept that because you are deceiving yourself; God is not mocked. You do not know God that is why you behave like that. This is an ungodly way to go about marriage; by spreading immorality. They will say, "Give me sex else I will not marry you. If you do not, how can I know that you can perform?" You become a performer to get a wife or husband. That is what they do over there in the world.

Much lies are told by some to get married. Somebody can just request for another man's house as bait to catch a woman for marriage. "Can you vacate this house for one week because I want my desired wife to come and see me living in this house?" So they make covenant for one week and he moves into that great house. He invites the lady to come over and visit him in that house. The lady comes and says, "Wonderful! This man could be a suitable



husband.” This is how they use lies to marry in the world.

He uses his own mouth to tell you the qualifications of his life; the work he does, how great he is, the greatness of his family, this and that but all are lies. Another obstacle to Christian marriage is subordination to the choice of their parents; *‘My mother chose for me, my father chose this for me, my elder sister chose this for me, in fact my parents told me I must never marry from the other tribe, we have made covenant in our village that we will not marry people from the other side.’* They are bounded by these and that is their pride.

4.3 Beware Of Complications From Unequal Yoke In Marriage

Thank God that God is not a man otherwise the complications human beings give Him are much. They carry all these along as they come to Christ. Well, He saves those He can save according to the conditions they can meet and allows others to reap the results of their wrong choices, because He did not ask them to marry in the wrong way. Whatever a man sows, he shall reap. You have to travail for yourself because you have done something bad. You have to come and plead, pray and cry, even for yourself first and then for your partner. Do so before God, perhaps he may save your partner.

Now, we have got the people to the church; they have come to Christ. Some of them are truly



converted, some are children born in the church and have grown up in the way of the Lord, but are not converted. These ones who grew up and are not committed and dedicated to God also have their own way of marrying in the church, whatever the rules of the church. They know how to manipulate it because they were born into the church. They grew up in the church; their parents are pastors and leaders so they know those church rules. They have studied them and know how to manipulate them to their advantage.

What do these people do? They seek publicity; they do not wait for God because it is not God that will make them known. The encouragement that God gave that we should seek him in secret so that He will reward us openly does not concern them because they do not know Him as a father; they are not aware of him. Thus they do advertise themselves to cause people to know that they are here. Whichever way the publicity will be done, they do it. Those are the uncommitted ones because they do not believe that God could bring David to Samuel from the wilderness. They do not believe that God will trace you where you are and reach you there and bless you.

Again, what do they do? They do boyfriend and girlfriend relationship. They seek closeness and intimacy. They draw close to the person they want to get married to and begin to play on such person in the church. They get fond of such person so that it is no more faith in God; they create the emotions of love. They create the



scene of love, not by God. They do it by themselves. The carnal man is not spiritual because he walks by sight. Some are trained on getting suitors by carnal men and women who claim to be marriage match-makers.

4.4 Be Properly Guided By The Marriage Committees

The church has set up marriage committee to check up those that have received guidance from God for a wife or a husband. Brethren are advised to see the pastor and discuss with him or where there is a marriage committee to see them for direction. These carnal ones will not want to do that. They think that if the church has to check on them before they make their intention known to the lady, they might not succeed. Hence they prefer to go and settle with the lady first.

They go to the lady and tell her that they are taking her name to the marriage committee. They would ask her, *'How do you look at it,? "Do you love me?"* They settle between themselves and then take the matter to marriage committee. They may say in their narration, *'As I was praying, a light came from heaven...'* They know the testimonies to give. Those are the uncommitted. God is not in their plans. They are in the physically present in the church, but are actually in-between the church and the world.



When the marriage committee members ask them if they had talked to the lady on marriage, they will say, 'Never! I do not even know the way to her house.' Adding lies to sin. They tell lies, all kinds of lies. Some of them make up their mind in some cases that they will even tell the committee that they have spoken to the lady. By the way, what will the committee do to them? To do so is hurting yourself. When asked to go for medical test, some would refuse because they do not want anything to affect their marriage. They may say, "I am not sure of myself, how can I go for medical test?"

They consider the things they have done in this life and feel that it is better to live in darkness than in the light. They can say ignorance is better than knowledge so they will not submit to that. In fact because of the medical test, they might not want to involve the marriage committee and the church. These are the uncommitted people in the church. They are not subordinate to church authority or control. They resist the marriage committee. They are worldly in their way and marriage; they copy the style of the world in dancing and displaying their pride, the bride on the day of wedding dresses worldly.

They will say "if this church is too holy for us, we can find our kind. There are many churches around; we can get a church that will do according to our desire. They give money to some Pastors to wed them". They are unaware of the future implications.



CHAPTER 5

COMMITMENT TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS IS REQUIRED TO MARRY IN GOD'S WILL

Most people are going off the path of Christian marriage because spirituality has reduced greatly in the church. Heaven has left the people and that is why they act that way. However, there are still some remnants; those whose knee has never bowed before Baal nor their mouth kissed him, who hold to righteousness, whose mind is made up to go to heaven. These bring glory to God in their marriage proceedings and the wedding. The choice of marriage partner plays a great role in going to heaven or hell. Here are some statements of commitment others have made. Apply it personally to your marriage.

5.1 Daniel Purposed Not To Defile Himself

Daniel 1:8.

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile



himself".

Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself. Brother, can you have this purpose of heart that no lady will defile you as far as your marital life is concerned in this world? Sister, can you have this purpose, firm determination of heart that as far as matter of marriage is concerned in your life, nobody will defile you before God?

Those who want to buy groundnut will demand to first have a taste to know its sweetness. Those who demand immorality first before marriage are sinners, do not allow anybody to taste you and defile you. That is what God hates. Have it in your heart that you will not defile yourself as a true Christian sister.

5.2. Job Refused To Speak Wickedness Or Utter Deceit

Job 27:4

"My lips shall not speak wickedness nor my tongue utter deceit".

Make up your mind that as far as you are concerned in this life, you will never speak lies on your age. As far as matters of marriage are concerned, you will never reduce your age because you want to marry nor exaggerate your age. Your lips shall not speak lies. You will never add glory to your life through lying lips because you want a man to marry you. Never! I



am speaking to those who want to go to heaven. Your lips or tongue shall not tell lies. Determine you will never tell lies before the church authority or committee when they are investigating your marriage. If you are asked, "Do you have a child already?" Tell them, "Yes I have three." if it is so. If that will hinder the man from marrying you, then he is not the will of God for you. If he is the will of God for you, he will be happy to immediately become a father of three after marrying you.

Purpose in your heart that you will never tell lies for marriage. If you are asked, do not cover the truth by saying you did restitution. Remember your covenant with God: "*My lips shall not speak guile, my tongue will not utter deceit*". Brother, never deceive any lady with information that is not true just because you love her so much. Love goes with truth. You will never want to hurt her because the Bible says a lying tongue is but for a moment. The truth shall be discovered later that you lied to her. When she discovers this it shall hurt her. Is that true Christian love?

Job 27:6;

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live".

Your heart shall not reproach you. God gave you righteousness. You are entering the marriage process with righteousness and must come out at the end successful or unsuccessful



with righteousness. Your heart shall not reproach you saying "See what you did!" Never! Your heart shall not reproach you so long as you live. In this courtship that you are into, your heart shall not condemn you that you lusted and touched the man or woman. Nothing shall happen like that, because you have made up your mind to be used by God to bring salvation to the world through your godly life and ministry.

Hold fast to your righteousness and do not let it go because of your love for Christ. How can you allow a man to sleep with you or rubb your body because you want him to marry you? Then your righteousness would be lost! Job said, "Not me!" The committed believer says "Not me!"

Philippians 1:21;

"For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain".

As long as you are alive, you are for Jesus. Let no man or woman destroy your faith in Jesus. Let no man think he will separate you from Jesus.

Is it a Muslim that is even coming to marry you? Do not say, '*In our village Muslims and Christian marry each other.*' Are they the type of Christians that live holy lives? Let no unbeliever come to claim you. No, it should never happen. Never give privilege to any man or woman to remove you from Jesus. As long as you live, you are for Jesus. Have you found a girl who is challenging Holiness Movement in



the name of marriage? Some of you think, *'I will go and marry in the world and come back to Christ.'* Do not tempt God. You may not return to true faith in Christ again.

Are you not lucky that out of the billions of people in the world you have the grace to serve the Lord? You think you can go into sin and come back? Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Let no lady or man anywhere, in any church be better than righteousness and holiness. Let nobody anywhere remove you from Christ or lower you a bit in righteousness. That is the commitment and determination you should build into your Christian life and love for Jesus.

5.3 Learn Commitment From The Three Hebrew Children

Daniel 3:16-18;

¹⁶***"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.***

¹⁷***"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and he will deliver us out of thine hand O King.***

¹⁸***"But if not, be it known unto thee, O King that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up".***



Nebuchadnezzar? No amount of threats from him will work. Suppose you went to pay dowry on your wife and they said you should bring alcohol and tobacco? Tell them it is not possible. Even if they said you should replace alcohol with money, it is the same thing. you should not do it. If they threaten that you will not marry because of that, tell them not to bother because if the woman is for you, God will handle it and give her to you. If they insist firmly and persistently, that may be a sign that she is not God's will for you or God may be saying you should give the matter some time. Give yourselves to prayers. If God is with you, the door shall open. If they compelled you and you compromise; It means that you are not a serious Christian. The three Hebrew children said, "*We will not bow*; Nebuchadnezzar." Do not bow to ungodly in-laws for a wife. That is what God wants: your commitment to go to heaven by holiness.

Someone once told me that he got a lady to marry. He wanted to test the lady to know her faithfulness to God. So he began to demand sex from her. He kept on demanding it and the lady refused continually. Eventually, the lady yielded to his demand saying, 'Okay, since I love you, I have accepted.' The person told her, he actually wanted to test her to know whether she would stand firm to the end. That was the end of the marriage proposal; because he said she was not the type of woman he should marry.



Sometimes you may think that this woman you want to marry is a spiritual woman, but this may not be so in reality. You may think this man you want to marry is a spiritual man, but this may not be so in reality. Therefore, be on guard in that courtship to ensure that the devil does not use your partner to get at you. Respect your own Christian life because you do not know his or her own. Make sure nothing defiles you before God.

1 Corinthians 9:16;

¹⁶“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me: yea woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel”.

If you defile yourself, where will the power to preach the gospel come from? Your conscience will be defiled. If you bow to Satan, where will you have the power to preach this gospel? Paul promised solemnly not to allow anything or anyone challenge him and shut him up in the gospel ministry for Jesus. Do not allow Satan to weaken you in Christ's service. Preach this gospel without condemnation and hypocrisy. Purpose in your heart that your marital testimony shall be an example in the church and among believers who love the Lord Jesus.

5.4 Ruth Refused Persuasion To Turn Back To The World

Ruth 3:10-12;

¹⁰“And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD



my daughter for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich”.

“and now my daughter fear not: I will do to thee all that thou requires: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

Believers must show commitment to holiness in marriage. Be not one of the sisters running after brothers and rocking their back in smiles and suggestive laughter. That is an inviting laughter. It is publicity of yourself. Do not play with men as men play with each other. That was never so with Ruth, *“As thou followedst not young men, neither poor nor rich.”* That you are poor, should not make you look for promising young men to attract them. Do not be-little yourself. Such canal acts announce your unworthiness.

Do not parade yourself about for marriage, woman. Keep calm and be prayerful. Upgrade your quality before God and man. Let God announce your quality. According to your quality, so shall the quality of your husband be. Make yourself cheap and you will have a cheap husband; make yourself qualitative in righteousness and you will have a qualitative husband from the Lord. A determined person who loves righteousness will be led to you by the LORD to your honor before men.



Psalms 119:33

³³“teach me O LORD the way of thy statutes: and I shall keep it unto the end”.

This is the prayer of the committed. “Teach me about marriage, and I will hold it firm. I will stick to it. Please, Church, tell me what I should do. What are the processes and steps to take? I will be obedient. I do not want to fail my God because I have gotten the vision of heaven and I want to be there. I have known so much about hell fire, and I am resolved that marriage will not take me there. Teach me Oh, Lord, the way of thy statutes and I will keep it unto the end.” This should be your prayers and determination.

5.5 Have Understanding In Relating With Marriage Committee

Psalms 119:34

³⁴“Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law: yea I shall observe it with my whole heart”.

What about you who complain that it is burdensome dealing with the marriage committee? You say, “In fact, they are delaying me.” Delay is part of it. Delay helps you to check up your matters well. Why are you hasty? Though we do not encourage delay by the committee at all, to you it ministers life. Why did God allow the delay? Frustration is part of it because it is passing you through a test. God is



organizing test for you so that you will be sure of your way. It offers enough time for you to ask God to prove whether He is with you in the marriage proposal.

Ask God if He is involved in it and commit yourself to wait in prayers to hear what God will say to you at the end. Do not say "I will turn away from the marriage committee." That will mean you are not a serious and committed Christian. If the devil is the one causing the delay, ask God and he will tell you what step to take next and he will open the door for you to move on. He will prove things for you to go forward with assurance.

Keep God's word with your whole heart. We are teaching this truth for the few righteous remnant who are bent on going to heaven. These are children that will never offend; they are not people in haste, not sinners. For he that hasteneth with his feet sinneth. They are people that will wait upon the LORD to strengthen their heart. "WAIT I say for the LORD." These are people ready for righteousness, not chaff or second class Christians. I am talking about first class Christians, ready for heaven. Daniel purposed it in his heart, never to offend God. You too purpose in your heart never to offend God.

Psalms 119:35-40;

³⁵"Make me to go in the path of thy commandment for therein do I delight".



Ask God to help you to follow His commandments. It should give you joy when your way is justified by God's word. Be happy when your obedience is fulfilled. Go the way of God's commandment that the church will not murmur against you or point at you as a stubborn child. The church should not condemn you. The church should appreciate you. Tell God that you want it so.

Psalms 119:36

³⁶“Incline my heart unto thy testimonies and not to covetousness”.

I want to love and follow God's testimony rather than the material things of this life. It is God's word and ways that I want to follow. Value the presence of God and not the material things in your suitor. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, let me see that You are with this suitor I am interested in getting married to. Not because the man has material things; cars, job or any other thing. Do not allow me pursue any carnal thing from this person I want to marry apart from the manifestation of God's truth righteousness and holiness in practical living.

Psalms 119:37

³⁷“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way”.

Sometimes, the man you want to marry is not really handsome or the lady you want may not be very beautiful. Other ladies may be more



beautiful, but that is vanity. Why do you bother on vanity? Do you know how beautiful Satan is? Do you know how beautiful these mermaid spirits are? Let one come from the water and you see her face. Is that what you are looking for? Vanity! ***“Favour is deceitful, beauty is vain but the woman that feareth the Lord she shall be praised (Proverbs 31:30).”*** Why then do you imagine vanity? Why do you seek after vanity and not after the main thing that is blessed in life. The person that fears and serves the Lord truly is whom you should seek.

5.6 Set Your Affection On Things Above

Psalms 119:38

³⁸***“Turn away my reproach which I fear; for thy judgments are good”.***

My prayer is that your eyes and interests will come back to righteousness. If you have gone off from this path, come back quickly to righteousness then I will really say as the scripture says, *‘Say unto the righteous, your marriage shall be well, Amen.’* Now then what do you need to know? Spend more time in the things of God, on things of heaven than on marriage.

Colossians 3:1-4

¹***“If ye then be raised with Christ, seeks those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”.***

²***“Set your affection on things above, not on***



things on the earth.

³“For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.

⁴“When Christ who is our life shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Let your mind be on heaven. Do not be overburdened with marriage. Widow, do not go into sorrow asking yourself if you will marry or not. Leave it to God. Seek heaven; look for heaven, study about heaven, pray to God for heaven, and pray for the righteousness of heaven. Let heaven be your delight. Let Jesus be your delight. I am married to Jesus, Satan leave me alone. This is what you should tell the devil and that voice that tells you, 'It must be marriage now; remember your age, go and see yourself in the mirror...' Tell that voice, 'Get away Satan for I am married to Jesus.

This is what you should say all the time. Do not yield to Satan to discourage you. Then, you will receive your reward from Jesus; your guidance and peace. Answers will come from Jesus. Take your marriage case to God to work it out for you. You cannot work it out by yourself. If you will work it out, then you will use the flesh and the flesh profiteth nothing.

Psalms 37:4-5

⁴“Delight thyself also in the LORD, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (including the marriage partner).

⁵“Commit thy way unto the LORD, trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass”.



Your marriage shall be conducted gloriously. You may not know how it shall be but it shall happen because God will bring it to pass. You are with Him. Your ways and thoughts are with Him.

Was Adam praying to God for marriage? When it was time, God brought it to pass and Adam found a wife. For you now you have known about marriage, just commit it to God's hand. Trust also in Him for He shall bring it to pass.

Psalms 37:6

⁶“And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday”.

God will show people clearly your righteousness throughout your marital history, that it is God that gave you this person in marriage; no struggle, no carnality or flesh. Some uncommitted carnal people in the church are busy attacking others saying, 'God had revealed that person to me and ran ahead of me. From where did he carry her? If that person was given to you by God, no one else would marry her if you yourself are willing and prepared for her. That is what you must know. You are carnal. Do you think God will satisfy your carnality? People seek marriage partner in a spiritual way but you are seeking for it in the flesh. The flesh cannot prosper where spirituality is because God will not give holy things to dogs.



God will bring forth your righteousness. In righteousness you will still find a wife to marry. In righteousness you will get your husband. Your parents are busy troubling you, saying, *“Women prepare meals to give to men to entice them to marry them but you are not doing this for anybody.”* Tell your parents that in Christ, we don't cook food to entice suitors for marriage. They do that in the world; In Christ, God says, “Gifts blind the eyes.” Do not do that so that God can do it neatly without your influence.

Psalms 37:7

⁷“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. Fret not thy self because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”

Others know how to manipulate their way. Do not bother about them. The evil implication is waiting for them in the future; for whatever a man sows that shall he reap. So allow them to manipulate and go ahead, yours will come as you wait for your God.





CHAPTER 6

THE GODLY WAY OF MARRYING IN GOD'S WILL

Believers are children of God serving Him in the church. It is His will that they should marry His choice for them because, of the assignment He has given them to accomplish for Him in this world. Satan is always close to them to make them turn away from God's way and marry in sin and disobedience in order to disconnect them from God and frustrate their life and ministry for God. However God has provided godly path for the righteous to follow in getting His choice for them in marriage. Follow this part and receive the right marriage partner from God.

Jeremiah 6:16, 17

16 Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.

17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, we will not hearken.



Those who refuse to follow the godly way to get a marriage partner, but go the way of ungodly sinners on earth, shall surely suffer the consequences.

Jeremiah 6:19

Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

6.1 Pray In Faith To God For A Marriage Partner.

Matthew 7:7-11.

⁷“Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.

⁸“For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

⁹“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread will he give him a stone?

¹⁰“Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹“If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Did God say you will go to school before you marry or that you need to save much money before marriage? No! Must you save much money before you get a wife from Him? No! Did



God say they must know you; you must join the choir or be an usher before He will give you to somebody? No! He just says 'Ask.' Are you a child of God? That's the condition required.

Then you may say, "How will I get my taste because I have my taste?" Who gives you taste? God asked Moses, "Who maketh a man's mouth?" Who put the taste in your heart? He will meet that taste. The God that gave the taste will satisfy that taste. The One that causes you to be hungry will give you food for the stomach. Be not troubled, for God will satisfy your taste.

Sometimes, your taste is not good. Your taste may be carnal. Your taste may be saying, 'God, the woman must have masters' degree in English language, because I want my wife to speak English wonderfully. The woman must be born in America because I want to live in America. Getting citizenship of America will be cheap if she is an American.

What if God is not planning America for you? Some tastes are not righteous. The secret things belong to God. He alone knows where the treasures of life are. Sometimes God will say, "My son, I understand what you are talking about. You will find it better with this one. My daughter I understand what you are talking about and you will find it better with this man." God wants you to have trust and confidence in Him. What about those who are deformed, who are physically challenged? Who have one deformity or the other; blind, lame or crippled?



God who feeds all kinds of people satisfactorily shall take good care of anyone that seeks Him for a marriage partner, whatever His or her condition.

6.2 Spectacular Provision Of Marriage Partner Through Prayers

Isaiah 42:18; 43:7

18 Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him, yea I have made him.

A particular brother from Kogi State met me some years ago and said, "Pastor, pray for me. I am looking for a wife." If you were the one what would your thoughts be because he was a lame man; a seriously lame man. Which woman would marry this lame person? Is that how you would think? I prayed for him because God says, 'Ask'. He is telling the blind to ask for a wife. He is telling the lame to ask Him for a wife, so long as the desire for marriage is there. He stirred that desire. He said "Ask Me." He is telling them to ask.

A few years after our prayer of faith, he came with his wife and two children to greet me during one of our International Conference programmes. Praise the Lord! I glorified God for this wonderful clean woman that was following this lame man with their two children. Was she ashamed that her husband was crawling on the ground? Never! God has taken away that shame



from her. It is rather a glory. Hallelujah!

6.3 Seek Counsel From Holy Believers

You may not know what is frustrating your case, so receive counsel. Sometimes it may be sin because God says He will not give holy things to dogs. You are still a dog because sin is in your life. You will need to remove that sin. God will not close His eyes at sin. The people of the world do not meet the condition of being a child of God. They just marry anyone they desire to marry. You will not do so in the church. You cannot do so among the people who are committed to God, where the Spirit of God rules and the people are subject to Him. You will not succeed in the manner of the world in a godly environment.

Therefore, it might be that you have some sin. Some people major on breaking generational curses; that is not our main concern in a holiness church. They may say, "Your father has cursed you, your great grandfather laid a curse that your father's children should not marry..." Jesus has taken away all those curses from His children. If you are in Christ, stand on your ground because Jesus Christ has taken away the curse on your life. So seek counsel. Know this truth that you are a member of a new family, the family of Jesus Christ. Seek proper counseling on your case to be free from bondage of customs and traditions.



Proverbs 15:22

²² “Without counsel purposes are disappointed but in the multitude of counselors, they are established.

Without counsel, marriage is disappointed. Without counsel, people suffer disappointment in marriage. In the multitude of counselors, they are established. Get counsel. The Bible says, with much counsel, make war. So get advice from seasoned people.

6.4 Avoid Marriage Match-Makers

There are people who will want to say by reason of their age and experiences in life, that they have the gift of prophesy and revelation, or that they have special gift of dream. They will tell you that they have seen some things about you or that God has said something concerning your marriage. In fact they can say, in their dream last week, they attended your wedding with a sister. Be very careful, they may be pointing out a witch for you. Be very careful. We don't match people, because God has not given us the power to know the heart of men. If they are righteous and sincere in their dream or revelation, go to God yourself and receive confirmation from Him.

Psalms 118:8-9

⁸ “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

⁹ “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put



confidence in princes.

Do not put your confidence in any choice any man is making for you; not even the pastor. Sometimes out of sympathy, because you have stayed for too long, they may be making a match for you to affect your heaven. It is a sin because God did not ask them to do so. They do it on their own. You too maybe going to them, asking them what they have seen for you and requesting them to pray for your marriage and whomever the Lord reveals to them as your partner should be told you.

Which God do you think can be out of course? The lady they will show you will be shown to another person. Who is that God that you cannot labor, concentrate and consecrate to hear from? You are thinking that somebody else should consecrate for you? Somebody should fast for you and when they have gotten the answer, they should come and tell you? Do not live that type of life before God. Come to your heavenly Father, if there are things to settle between you and your Father, settle them and then make your demand. Not that, others cannot help to pray with you or pray for you; they can do that but your confidence should be on God directly.

To you match-makers in the church, we did not appoint you for match-making. Do we have anything like match-making Coordinator? We do not have that provision, so stop it. They do so in some of these churches because the Holy



Ghost has left them and they do not teach their members the way of righteousness. Do not bring that practice to a Holy Church. Here, we pray to God to give people marriage partners and He always answers. Do not become their God; otherwise, God will handle you because He is a jealous God. Follow scripturally laid down church guidelines for marriage

6.5 Avoid Ungodly Methods And Immoral Relationships

Do not follow boyfriend and girlfriend method to defile yourself. Avoid undue closeness. Can one bring fire into his blossom and his clothes not be burnt? When you get closer to a woman, emotions will play and your thoughts will start changing. So, do not do that. Do not go into boyfriend and girlfriend relationship and say you are checking yourselves to know whether you will marry. That is the way of the world, not in Christ.

Again, do not entice a person for marriage. Do not use cunning ways to entice him. To do that shows you are not led by God. You have become the Holy Spirit yourself or you are employing Satan. Do not use charm to get a spouse. Do not use demonic power to get a husband or wife. No, that is wickedness and evil. You will be punished by God.

Do not consider an unbeliever for a wife or husband. You should not marry an unbeliever. He does not know Jesus and may never know



Him throughout his lifetime. You may hope to convert him; 'I will bring him to Holiness Movement and by the time Pastor Paul Rika preaches, he will confess all his sins.' God did not give Pastor Rika that power. Be not deceived, for God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that also he will reap. There are enough believers in the kingdom of God for you to concentrate and pray in faith. Even if the woman or man is not in your immediate vicinity, God has him or her somewhere and He will answer you, by bringing your marriage partner your way.

6.6 Follow The Due Process For Your Marriage

Do not approach a person before seeing the leadership or the marriage committee. Pray and receive assurance from God. This may not necessarily be through a dream. You may have seen somebody and you are interested and have prayed and told God about it. You may feel happy with that person saying in your mind; "I will be happy to have her." When you receive from God, your mind will be sure. Do not wait for dreams.

Go to marriage committee and let them investigate the person for you. Sometimes, that person you have seen may be somebody's wife. It is only that she is a young person and you may not know that she is already married. Or it may be a married man but he is still looking young and you may not know. Or he is a



divorcee and you do not know. The leadership has the privilege of knowing many things. Present your convictions to the leadership and let proper investigation be carried out for you, if the person is in another church; they will get into that church to inquire about her, but not in catholic or occultic church. Do not leave the way of the Lord because we will not follow you into darkness. Understand that we are looking for righteousness. We have not said she must be in Holiness Movement. There are people serving God elsewhere but they must show evidence of salvation, righteousness and conformity to God's truth. There must be an assurance that they are marriageable in Christ. God will not give a stone to His child that asks for bread. God will not give a serpent to His daughter who is asking for a husband.

The church will investigate things for you, thereby protecting you from embarrassments. It may be that the person is engaged to somebody already, you will not be allowed to go and cause confusion in their marriage. She may already be in courtship and you meet her and start telling stories. Afterwards, she might ask if you have not heard of her up-coming wedding. What an embarrassment! Where will you keep your face? Therefore, follow the rules; report to the church. Do not talk to her before then. Do not let her know that you have taken her name to the leaders, do not spread it. Report to the leadership to help you check it up and know whether you should withdraw or move on.



6.7 Comply With The Prescribed Medical Tests

The leadership expects you to go for medical tests to ascertain your compatibility because there are people suffering from genetic problems such as Sickle cell anemia. Two carriers are not compatible for marriage (AS x AS = AA, AS or SS). Just one child with sickle cell anemia (SS) is enough to scatter your Christian life if care is not taken. Same applies to your material resources. Wisdom is profitable to direct. That is why we insist on medical tests. What about HIV, hepatitis and other deadly communicable diseases? Why not take time to get healed and cured before going forward? However, it is not all diseases that are communicable. You cannot say marriage should not be contracted because of malaria fever or similar ailments.

It is also important sometimes to test the genitals because you may see a man or woman in the face but the genitals may not be there. The face is that of a woman, but the organ may be that of a man. These organs may have to be checked to ensure they are there. It is very important. You are a eunuch, why are you looking for a wife when you have not settled that matter? Some of these things have to be medically verified so that we do not bring problems to the sister or brother. You need to submit to medical test.



Proposal should be made after successful medical tests. After the medical test results of both parties are okay, you will now be allowed to go and communicate your mind. Thereafter, you have to wait in prayer and righteousness. Do not influence her or her parents through gifts. Do not call them your in-laws immediately. Who declared that? These are forms of ungodliness that God will be angry at because you are not following the way of righteousness, but are using human and sensual wisdom. Avoid that.

Make sure everything passes through the supervision of God. Be purposed that you will not transgress. All things must pass through God's supervision. When the answer is given to the leadership or marriage committee, it is then communicated to the individual. What if it is a woman who wants to propose to the man? If she is prepared to do that, there is no problem; we will not say no. If she is prepared and convinced, no problem; the leadership will also prepare the man for her. All these things are done in righteousness.

6.8 Let All Things Be Done Decently And In Order

1 Corinthians 14:40

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Do not rush to take the sister's name to the marriage committee, if you heard of another brother's intention, in a bid to be the first



person to be considered. God will rebuke you. Follow your course peacefully. Nothing should be done in haste or in competition. This is what is expected of you in Christ.

After proposal, the answer should be communicated to the individual, either yes or no under supervision of the marriage committee, who should first be informed of the response. If after a brother has been allowed to approach a sister, then somebody else comes to say, 'I am seeing a vision concerning that same sister', we will do as it is generally done at the airport: When a plane is about to land at the airport, and others are coming in also, the others are asked to wait in the air until the first one has landed.

When you say God has led you to the same sister (for example, Mary), you will be asked to wait and keep on praying because someone has already come for Mary and she is given a time to pray to God to confirm him. If Mary receives confirmation that the person is from God then we say God should lead you to another person because "Mary has not even been thought that you came for her according to the church practice, to keep you from shame and embarrassment. You can only be allowed to see Mary if she refuse the first person that came to her this is for the purpose of orderliness in the church. No body knew you came for her except the church leadership. See the beauty and righteousness of it. See the serenity and calmness of it. Everything is well covered so you



have no shame. That is what we teach and how it should be.

When Mary has accepted the proposal, then parental introduction comes in. Both of you will be asked to go and let your parents know that you have got someone you desire to marry. Of course, they will want to see her or him. We will allow you to take your suitor to them, but somebody should accompany you to watch over you to guard against temptation and sin.



CHAPTER 7

HOW GOD LEADS AND SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

The problem of many people is how to know that God is speaking to them. They desire to come to the point that they know without difficulty that the Lord has spoken or is speaking to them. The scripture makes us to know that the relationship the believer has with God is as the one a child has with his parents. A new born babe may not discern the voice of the mother, but it will not take long before he will become acquainted with the voice of the mother who regularly speaks with him.

7.1 Samuel Learned To Understand God's Voice

1 Samuel 3:1-11

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God



*was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;
4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.*

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the Lord called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.



In the days of Samuel, the voice of God was not common because the people were committing sin and they forsook the Lord God of Israel. When Samuel came to the temple as a child to serve the Lord in sincerity, the Lord came to speak to him. He heard the Lord calling in audible voice, "Samuel! Samuel!" He could not detect that it was the Lord calling him and thought that it was Eli calling him, so he went to him. When it happened the third time Eli perceived that the Lord was the One calling to Samuel and guided him aright.

God desires that His children and servants should easily know when He speaks. There should be Father-child and child-Father relationship between you and God. Learn it as Samuel did and become acquainted with the voice of the Lord.

John 10:27

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Get used to the study of the Bible and the art of prayer. These will help you to grow fast in hearing and knowing the voice of the Lord. You need to know God's voice in order to enjoy His leading and guidance in all aspects of life.

Psalms 23:1

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

John 10:16

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one



fold, and one shepherd.

7.2 God Speaks Audibly

Genesis 3:8-10

8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Even till today, God may choose to speak audibly to you, to communicate to you His will in marriage. This voice may not be heard by everybody around you but by you only, if God chooses to communicate His will to you by this method. Consider the following scriptures:

Isaiah 30:21

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Psalms 32:8

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.



7.3 An Inner Knowledge And Understanding.

God made Adam to know His will by an inner knowledge in his heart.

Genesis 2:18-24

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.

19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21 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;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.



Adam was not aware of the plan of God to make a woman for him neither did he see Him when He was creating the woman. But as soon as he saw the woman he knew she was his wife and how she came about. This shows an act of God by which His will is communicated to His children by an inner knowing and understanding of His will for them.

In this way, by seeing a brother or sister in Christ whom God has given as His will in marriage, a child of God can be enabled to know and understand in the inner heart without guess work and assumption. This is not a regular way that God uses but one of the ways He uses.

Genesis 9:22-24

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.

23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

Noah did not know what happened by human information but by divine information in his spirit. There can be this divine information in your heart telling you the person God has chosen for you in marriage. However, learn to



confirm with before God who can still use other ways to make you convinced.

7.4 Dreams, Visions And Revelations

In the case of Joseph, God used dreams to convince him of the blessed future He had for him.

Genesis 37:5-7, 9-10

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, what is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

These dreams showed Joseph how his future should be. Although he did not understand his



dreams, at the appropriate time the interpretation became clear. God uses dreams to guide His children in many areas of their lives.

Job 33:14-17

14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,

17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

Some of these dreams and visions may be followed by clear interpretation and message that you will know and understand what God is saying or directing; other dreams may require interpretation through servants of God.

7.5 God Leads Through Circumstances

God led Saul to Samuel to anoint him king over Israel by a circumstance that had no bearing to kingship.

1 Samuel 9:1-3, 6, 15-17

1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.



2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.

15 Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

The Lord had chosen Saul to be king over Israel and wanted Saul to be anointed for that. He occasioned a circumstance of the loss of the asses of Saul's father, Kish that took Saul to



Samuel to anoint him king over Israel. Similarly, the Lord can work out a circumstance that will make you meet with your husband in a way that you may not see marriage in it. You may just hear the voice of the Spirit brightening up your mind with marriage to your shock.

Ezekiel 40:2-4

2 In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

3 And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

4 And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

7.6 God Leads Through Inspired Counseling

The Lord provided a husband for Ruth through inspired counseling.

Ruth 3:1-5, 18

1 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?



2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

3 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.

4 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.

5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

Ruth 4:9-13

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The



Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman.

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son.

Ruth was righteous and holy and she faithfully served Naomi, her mother-in-law. God put the burden for her marriage into the heart of Naomi. She gave Ruth Spirit-directed counsel that worked and provided a good and godly husband for her. God can put the burden for your marriage as a widow on somebody who is a true and faithful servant of God. his agonizing prayers and counsel to you may work out a marriage partner in the will of God for you.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.



7.7 Take such counsel to God in prayer for His confirmation.

Exodus 18:19, 23-24

19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

If God assures you that the counsel is approved by Him, then you can put it to use.





CHAPTER 8

HOW GOD LEADS AND SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN

8.1 God Leads Through Prophecy

The Lord used Prophet Elijah to give the word of prophecy to the widow of Zarephath on what she should do and it produced a great result.

1 Kings 17:8-16

8 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.



12 And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

You may never think of marrying again but God is thinking differently and will fulfil His will in your life in the right time. Through the word of prophecy, Elijah brought life to the widow of Zarephath and her son. The Lord might have sent His true servant to give you the word of prophecy concerning your marriage; verify it to ensure that he is genuine. Believe the prophecy for your peace and assurance.

Maintain your peace, prayer and commitment to righteousness and service to the Lord. Wait on God patiently and prayerfully and it shall



come to pass.

2 Chronicles 20:14-15, 26

14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the Lord: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesying.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

8.2 God Leads Through Quickened Scripture, Narration or Testimony

God may quicken a verse, a promise or scriptural narration during your personal reading of the Bible or during a sermon. This is made to appear to be talking to you directly with confirmation of the Holy Spirit in your heart. It may be a testimony someone else is sharing



and the Holy Spirit may direct it to you, assuring you that it shall be so to you.

John 6:63

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Luke 24:31-32

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

8.3 God May Choose To Send His Angel

God may choose to send His angel to you and communicate His will to you as He did to Paul the apostle.

Acts 27:23-25

23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,
24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

The children of God enjoy the visitation of angels in various forms who come with message



to edify and direct their ways.

Hebrews 1:13-14

13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

8.4 God May Impart The Spirit Of Love And Faith

God may impart the spirit of love and faith.

1 Samuel 18:1-4

1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.



2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

The spirit of the Lord put strong love in the heart of Jonathan for David and vice versa. The two loved each other with a pure heart fervently. This kind of love is free from fleshy interference. The Lord can put in a man for a sister vice versa. And people around can see that these two love each other. This same spirit of love may also work out faith and assurance in their hearts to marry each other without fear.

Hebrews 11:1-2

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

8.5 God's Presence And Consent

God may show his presence and consent in an issue by His divine interventions in times of need and difficulties, such as answering prayers, removing the obstacles from the way, doing what is required, making provisions.



Judges 6:14-17, 36-40

14 And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.



8.6 Gentle Voice Of The Spirit In The Heart

1 kings 19:11-13

11 And the Lord said, go forth and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and break in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake;

12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice

13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And behold there came a voice unto him, and said, what doest thou, Elijah?

The gentle calm voice of God spoke to Elijah who then was expecting the word of the Lord God. Many times the Spirit of God communicates His will to his children in a still small voice that speaks to the inner hearing of the believers.

8.7 Any Other Method That Is Pure, Clean And Peaceable.

The Lord can use any other method that is pure, clean and peaceable to guide His obedient children for His will for their lives.



James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

8.8 Combination Of Two Or More Ways

By the combination of two or more ways God convinces His children to do His approved will. Hence do not stand on one way. Ask God to confirm His guidance in your life and He will use various ways to do so.

Matthew 18:16

But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Psalms 24:1

24 The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Many people miss the will of God because they give God conditions that are contrary to the word of God. They describe the kind of person they need which have no significance in the things of God. Except you pronounce a word that can be found in the Standard English Dictionary, it has no significance among



English speakers. God cannot go outside His word to give you a marriage partner. If you are a child of God indeed, submit to His choice and guidance, who may not be your tribal person, from your nation or race; who may not fit your fleshly desire or the desire of your people which are fleshly and cannot be attended to by the Holy God. God's greatest concern and responsibility is to give His child that together with you will fulfill His will on the earth.

James 4:3

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

1 John 5:13-15

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.



CHAPTER 9

SCRIPTURAL WISDOM, COUNSEL AND OBSERVATIONS FOR A GODLY MARRIAGE

Age Difference

Genesis 2:21-23

21 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;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

1 Timothy 2:12-13

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

The above scriptural passages show clearly that Adam the husband was older than his wife Eve by some period or years difference



unknown to us. God did not give a commandment in scripture that the husband must always be older than his wife. The scripture shows clearly that the man and the woman to cleave together in marriage must be mature.

Matthew 19:5-6

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

However God expects us to apply wisdom in matters of righteousness and obedience to His word.

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Beside we should learn lessons from the natural society among whom we dwell as children of God.

- Men can marry young ladies even in their old age as seen in Abraham and David.
- An old woman cannot marry a young man. The society considers this as an abuse to the young man.



- Women desire to marry faster and early to guide against expiration of time for child bearing. Generally, menopause sets in at the age of fifty (50) years.
- Men are not likewise affected by age and may still be fruitful at the age of eighty (80) years.
- Many women may suffer sexual impairment at an advanced age, from the late fifties and above. They become somehow disinterested.
- Few men have natural sexual impairment due to advanced age.

With this understanding, it is not good that a woman should be older than the husband by up to ten years. For instance, if a forty-year old woman marries a thirty-year old man, it means that at the age of seventy when she would be sexually weak, the husband would be sixty and sexually strong. This may lead to sexual conflict and may affect spirituality in Christ. Men, more especially, should be conscious of age difference in marrying an older partner to avoid sexual impairment, contempt and some adverse problems in the future.

9.1 Parental Consent Is Required

The brother and sister need to be introduced to each other's parent for their consent. Where there is resistance especially, from the parents of the woman, both must take it to God in prayer and wait for the way to be cleared. The Bible says follow peace with all men and



holiness. So if your parents say no to the man you brought to them giving flimsy reason, that he is of another tribe, which they do not want, let this be taken to God in prayers for His intervention. The heart of man is the hand of God as rivers of water, He turns it whithersoever He wills.

Thus, the hearts of your parents are in the hands of God, go to God in prayers. Even Pharaoh eventually said the Israelites can go and worship their God at the end. The Lord will work in their hearts. Do not say, "You people are wasting my time and I cannot wait." That will not be a Christian marriage. Your leaders are there to guide you, to understand situation with you, to advise you, to pray with you, to organize fasting and prayers for you.

So, wait because sometimes your journey is like the journey of Balaam. A different thing is in your heart and God is not willing. He has used every method to stop you but it did not work so He decided to use your parents to shut the door against your progress. We do not know whether the resistance your parents are giving is the language of God saying, "I am not in that marriage." So, you have to pray and if it is not God standing on your way, the door will be opened. If the resistance continues persistently, it is wisdom to withdraw. You and that woman are not Adam and Eve that you will say if I withdraw, which other women is in the world? There are women in the world and women in the church. You may say which other



man can I find? You will find a better man. If it is God that is stopping you on this one He has another one for you. If a man uses force to marry a woman against the will of her parents and her parents refuse to collect dowry, that marriage is not a true marriage. But if the man settled with the parents later and they decided to give their consent or take dowry, then the marriage will become authentic.

9.2 There Must Be Careful Enquiry On Marital History

There must also be careful enquiry as to the marital history of each one in the courtship to ensure that he or she is not lawfully married before this time. You must check well to ensure that the person you are marrying has not been lawfully married before now. This makes it difficult for you to find a woman in your country that is from another country and just go ahead to marry her. The same thing is true with the man. You need proper information about her marital history. This is required to keep you from marrying someone that left her legally marriage partner at home. Avoid fornication, adultery and hell fire.

God said, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.” Add to your faith knowledge. Is that person actually unmarried or they gave you a false information? She may even be with a child and lie to you about the whole thing. Thank God she is not the only one in her community. That statement is from one



witness. You need to hear from a minimum of three witnesses. Her words should not be taken without investigation. If you are not careful, you will find liars whose mouths are very sweet and they will carry your soul to destruction along with their own. Let not marriage destroy your soul.

9.3 Period Of Supervised Courtship

After parental introduction, the courtship can start with the guidance of the marriage committee. Courtship is a period of time given for familiarization, discussion and planning for the future home and family. It is useful to unite the vision, purpose, understanding and the desires of the two partners. This is because you are separate entities. Maybe the woman had planned to build a nursery and primary school when she was not married; that may have been her thought as a single lady. The man's plan may be different. He may be planning to leave the city to another after marriage for something he has had in mind. The one that wants to build a nursery and primary school may be planning it in that city which means that one of them might be thinking of that city while the other one is thinking of another city. During the courtship, you can now bring your ideas together and choose which one is more favourable that both of you can accept before the marriage takes place.

Thus, courtship is a time of discussion. How many children do you want to have in your



marriage? Some may think of only one while the man may say, "I am the only male child in my father's house and our family is diminishing. I want to replenish our family because the commandment is to replenish the earth." The lady may ask, "How many do you need to replenish the earth?" He may say, "You know my mother gave birth to ten of us; I have nine sisters and I am the tenth child. Since I am the only male child, I want to have many boys." "Wonderful! Woman, do you have the strength for that?"

In this present generation, women must also do something to help the house. To have large number of children; how do you feed them? How do you care for them? It will become a frustration at this time that women are also in active service. The woman can now discuss with the man if they can have only three children. Why do we desire many children? If these children are not born again, our going to heaven may become a problem in itself. Courtship time can settle these matters.

Many people have been asking if family planning is good. Family planning is appropriate to control child bearing. Medical personnel can advise you on the best way it can be done without offending God. You will not be aborting already formed fetuses (babies). No. It will only prevent giving birth to additional children out of understanding and wisdom and not out of wickedness as was the case with Onan the son of Judah.



Genesis 38:8-10.

8 And Judah said unto Onan, go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass; when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.

Family planning is an act of wisdom and understanding that preserve your strength, resources and time. Many cannot serve God well because they are occupied with many children. Also, too many children to care for frustrates the children life and ministry.

The period of courtship should be reasonable and appropriate as agreed between the parties and the leadership of the church. We make room for flexibility. This is because some marry in old age and if you ask them to stay in courtship for a longer time it may not be appropriate. Normally, it is not good for the time to be too extended because it can stir emotions and if care is not taken it can lead to defilement.

9.4 Appropriate Place Required For Courtship Fellowship And Discussion

Courtship fellowship and discussion should be done in a secure place to avoid temptation of unclean behavior. Such includes the house of a



mature married couple, the church building or any appropriate place suggested by the leadership. A supervisory eye on them is required from time to time. People in courtship should not be left to each other. Many church altars have been defiled by wedding ceremonies of immoral people, who might even have committed abortion.

They may do the abortion that week and come to marry in the church and you will be busy blessing them. You have been brought as a minister to join foolish people and to do foolish game before the Lord. This is because you are blessing people that are defiled before God. They have committed immorality, they have defiled themselves. Courtship period is very delicate.

Ensure that courtship discussion is done in an appropriate place. People may not be there to hear them but they are exposed enough that Satan himself will not know how to tempt them, because of the busy environment. But if they are behind closed doors, he can succeed on them. Thus, courtship should be supervised by a mature Christian to ensure we wed holy people in the church. The holiness of God that He has given to us should not be defiled for God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. He can never come to such a wedding.

All long journeys and visitations to relations should have the accompaniment of a brother or a sister for spiritual security. There are some



traditions that insist that the intending couple visit their uncles, aunties, brothers, sisters etc. One may be in Abuja, another in Lagos and the other in Calabar or Maiduguri. Should they just be moving round the country like that? If these two are doing this movement alone, they cannot go and come back free. Is the movement mandatory? Why not avoid it?

The marriage committee should supervise this type of movement. So everything about movement should be under the supervision of the marriage committee. If it becomes essential, a brother or a sister who is a committed believer should accompany them for their spiritual security. Such person accompanying them should not succumb to their request, "Wait for us we are coming." The accompanying brother or sister must be grounded in the Lord.

9.5 Satisfactory Settlement Of Dowry And Other Legitimate Demands

Satisfactory settlement in dowry payment and other legitimate demands of the parents should be done to obtain the release of their daughter for marriage. Ungodly demands should be politely and firmly rejected. Neither should money equivalent be given. If you are a Christian lady, start working on your parents early as long as you hope to have a husband. We do not give alcohol: beer, whisky, gin, palm wine, cigarettes, tobacco and such like.



Tell them that those abominable things will not be given. Their forefathers who did not know the gospel set those standards. They must turn away from the ungodly traditions of their fathers. Tell them the things that cannot be done, treat the items one after the other now that you have not even brought a suitor. Get them prepared so that when the time comes, they will be peaceful and there will be no further problem again.

The marriage committee should delegate people to go with the brother for the dowry payment, to ensure that all things are done biblically. My brethren, do not ever bring pollution to the holy Church of God. It is better that Pastor does not wed them at all, than that he should wed polluted persons. Everything must be checked well. There should be holiness from the beginning, holiness all through the process and holiness till the end. Then it will be as Paul said, **“That I might present you perfect unto the Lord.”** The Bible says, **“Lay hands suddenly on no man...”** If you do you will be partaker of another man's sin.

9.6 Guidelines For The Wedding Ceremony And Reception

The date of the wedding is a matter of agreement between the couple and the marriage committee. You may want to marry at the time the church has a program and that may not be appropriate. The wedding is the solemnization of the marital union by an



approved minister before a congregation. Only after this, are they considered husband and wife with the right to the marital bed. If you want a Christian wedding in the church, the church expects that it is only after the ceremony you can become husband and wife having right to sexual relation with each other.

At the church wedding the pastor would ask, "Do you accept 'Brother X' to be your husband and that you will cleave to him and to him alone?" The woman will say, 'Yes I do.' "Do you accept 'Sister Y' to be your lawfully wedded wife?" The man will say, "Yes I do." All that is goes on at the altar is a vain game, if the two were already husband and wife and guilty of having sex with each other. God is not interested in playing games. What is going on is not a mockery, but a reality. Although you have paid the dowry, marriage has not taken place until the solemnization has been done by the church, if this is your promise as a faithful Christian. Only after the marriage union by the church are you guiltless to know each other. However, if you agree that you will not do church wedding, that the traditional marriage is okay for you, and you just want to be prayed for after the traditional marriage, there is no problem with that. You can go home together as husband and wife. But inform the church authority of your intention. Let the church know the reason for your decision, for not having church wedding after dowry payment. The church and society shall recognize you as husband and wife, rightly married.



Was there an account of wedding between Abraham and Sarah? Then why is there emphasis on wedding? Some churches say, "If you do not wed with your wife you will not be a church worker. Such rules by some churches have no Biblical support. They are human traditions that go against Christ gospel. Many of the gentile converts of the New Testament who were already married did not suffer such restrictions. They served the Lord freely and fully according to His calling.

9.7 The Wedding Ceremony Must Be Devoid Of Worldliness

The wedding ceremony must be devoid of worldliness and must show the grace and glory of God. Such a time is a joyful time for all the brethren that gather to celebrate with the bride and bridegroom. Since you are one of us, and we have supervised your marriage process to the last day, we need to rejoice with you. The joy is not only for you. ***He that hast the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom standeth by rejoicing at the voice of the bridegroom.***

For our joy to be complete, everything done in that wedding must be holy. The bride must dress holy: No earring, no perming, no attachments, no lipstick, no trouser, no painting and no hired wedding garments. The world cannot design the garment that will meet the standard of God because the world does not know God. Sew the bride's wedding garment



according to her size, however costly.

Provide your own garment, suitable to your body; the way you will want to appear in the righteousness of God that will honour God in the church. The activities there must never resemble the world for we are not of the world. There must be a difference between a Christian wedding and the wedding of the sinners. There must be a difference between the wedding of someone that has been enlightened by the doctrine of holiness and the wedding of these people who do not know Jesus.

The food and drinks to be served there should be decent. It should not be a place for pride. Do not say, "My brother works in an oil company; he wants to buy suits for everybody that attends the wedding." My brother, if you calculate the money for those suits, it will do a lot for the name of Jesus, if it can be used to buy gospel materials for free distribution, it will do a lot.

All those souvenirs you will want to provide; calendars, jotters, caps and so on, please do not. Do not set a standard that will cause the brethren to be afraid of getting married. This is because, if you set up a high standard, you will be causing other people to stumble. They may run away for fear of exorbitant expenses. *'I know what happened at brother so and so's marriage. I cannot do it.'* You will be causing offence. Keep it simple.



However there might be some good ideas, such as to share Christian books and CDs to those present. That is the spirit of a Christian. Whichever good idea comes to your mind, let the committee know, it may be acceptable to carry it out to bless people, do not be afraid to express the idea of what you desire to do to the marriage committee. They will judge it and if it is good, they will allow you to carry it out because we also want you to be happy.

If your marriage is to be done by Holiness Movement, inform your relations because the church is higher than the government, much more of your family? The church represents God and God is higher than all. We will not allow your family members to take over; rather they should sit down and watch because they too have something to learn. It is a time that they should know Jesus for themselves so prepare the way that God should be glorified.

I trust God to keep bringing messages to guide our marriages. Amen.



**HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY
WORLDWIDE (A.K.A) HOLINESS REVIVAL
MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE (HOREMOW)
THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

HOREMOW is a non- denominational ministry having the following aims and objectives:

1.To hold Crusades, Conferences and Revival meetings in churches and nations of the world, so as to bring sinners to Christ's salvation and believers to His holiness. (Act 26:16-18)

2.To produce Christian literature that promotes salvation of souls, sound Bible teachings and Holiness of believers in churches and nations of the world (Luck 1:1-4).

3.To produce audio and visual taped message for the spread of Gospel truth in churches and nations of the world.

4.To bring denominational churches into Christian unity through the beliefs and practice of faith once delivered unto the saints. (Eph. 4:12-15).

5.To support believers, ministers, ministries and churches with free Christian materials for their spiritual development in holiness. (Isa. 65:1)

6.To raise members and supporters of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide from churches and Christian ministries all over the world who will submit their lives to biblical holiness and



be spiritually, materially and evangelically equipped to make others righteous and holy in their churches and in the societies around them. (2 Timothy 2:2).

7.To establish Christian bookshops in many places within and outside the nation, equipped with holiness materials for the promotion of holiness in the church of Christ all over the world. (Roman 17:17).

8.To establish a body of believers called Holiness Revival Movement in every Nation who will sponsor the production of holiness materials of the ministry and other recommended holiness materials.(Acts. 4:36, 2Cor 8:1-7).

9.To translate and interpret ministry materials into as many local, national and international languages as possible.(1 Cor. 14:9-13).

10.To place the ministry book: Escaping Hell Fire and entering Heaven made simple by Pastor Paul Rika in hotels, hospitals, prisons and in places that can attract public reading, for the salvation of sinners and holiness of believers. (1 Cor. 9:18-22).

11.To own satellite channels for the broadcasting and publication of messages of holiness, righteousness and truth to the world.



12.To establish Bible colleges where believers and ministries can receive biblical and ministerial training for sound Christian ministry. (2 Tim. 2:2).

13. To have ministry campgrounds in various quarters and nations where holiness camp meetings can be held regularly. (Heb. 10:25).

14. To hold zonal, national and international conferences regularly for the promotion and spread of Holiness in the lives of believers and in Christ's church. (Col. 1:28-29).

15. To mentor churches registered under the ministry on sound doctrines, holy living and ministerial establishment. (Titus. 1:5-14).

16. To support believers, ministers and ministries financially where required for their spiritual encouragement and establishment in holiness.

17.To have chapters of HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT in local governments, states and nations, holding regular meetings with clear goals and uniform operations which are submissive to the central administration. (Philippians 4:8-9, Heb. 13:17).

Pastor Paul Rika
Int'l Director/Founder



**HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY
WORLDWIDE (A.K.A) HOLINESS REVIVAL
MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE**, is a non-
denominational Ministry given to the
promotion of Biblical Righteousness and
Holiness in Churches and Nations of the World
through Crusades, Conferences, Revival
meetings, production and spread of Holiness
literature and materials. The membership of
the MOVEMENT is open to all that love to live
Righteous and Holy life, and to spread same in
their Churches, Christian communities and
Nations.

For Audio and Video messages, Christian
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