
Am I Really
PREPARED
for
MARRIAGE?
Obadimu Olushola Elijah


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>>>>>>>>>>AM I REALLY PREPARED FOR MARRIAGE<<<<<<<<<

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## DEDICATION.

*This book is dedicated to all youths and singles, who are continuously confronted with the inevitable challenge of navigating their way into the marital life and world .*

*Of all the issues in the mind of an average youth, the choice of a life partner and the desire to have a happy home seems prevalent. And in the course of actualizing this, many promising youth have gone off track, for no youth can get it right except he or she is guided aright.*

*This is one of the major inspirations behind this book; to see youths and singles get it right in their lifetime journey of the God ordained institution of marriage .....I love you all.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

*Ultimate thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who saved, called and stands by me, even all through the times I didn't believe in His plans for my life till now. Indeed He is God and not a man!*

*No one can succeed alone, simply because life was designed by God to thrive in relationships. I'm incurably indebted to my beloved parents, MR & MRS OBADIMU , who paid the price of my emergence to where I am today in life. Most especially my mum who was used by the Lord to nurture and train me in the way of the Lord right from my childhood. Surely your days are blessed Mrs Elizabeth Obadimu.*

*My appreciation also goes to all those in whose hands I grew up in the Lord, those who fed me with spiritual balanced diets{Discipleship books} in the persons of Pastor Samson Davids, who also sacrificed his time to edit this book and pastor Solomon Davids to mention but a few. A special thanks also goes to pastor Toyin Oluwagbeyide, under whose ministry I discovered my teaching gift, and calling into the youth ministry, giving me the platform to minister for years (thank you sir). Gratitude also to Pastor Paul Adeoloye, who was instrumental in my exposure to many youth activities and programs, which gave me an expansive view of the ministry for a betterment.*

*Unprecedented thanks to my most senior father in the Lord, PASTOR J.O.A ADEOLOYE (Immediate C.A.C General Superintendent- Supreme Council} under whom I had a six year ministerial training while living with him. Of course his ministerial touch will remain indelible in my life.*

*To all the Lagos State Youth Fellowship Executives, most especially Pastor Ariyo who strongly motivated and encouraged me to publish this book after reading the electronic copy, I say a big thanks to you sir!*

*To my best man, friend and a brother, Mr Sunday Salami, thanks for the push and confidence in me.*

*Sincerely recognizing a friend and a brother like no other, sharing all kinds of life experiences together with one another, Pastor Opeyemi Davids without whom the making of this book would have been delayed , thanks for the information that orchestrated my transformation. Our common goal of greatness cannot be broken.*

*I can't forget Pastor Mathew shokunbi, whose humility, assistance and advise has played a sensitive role in my life, ministry and in the making of this book, may you continue to bask in the lord's grace.*

*Equally and sincerely appreciating all Mount Salvation Youth members, for cooperation and unflinching supports over the years, thanks for bringing out the teacher and leader in me. And never will l here forget my unrelenting and professional graphics designer, Mr ADEWALE ADEGBOLA, you have been a great channel of connection between my ministry and the world.*

*To all my family members, friends and well wishers who financially supported the making of this book, you're all blessed beyond measures in Jesus'name.*

*Most of all, my inestimable wife, partner and friend, " ANUOLUWAPOSIMI" whose spiritual insights and sensitivity have been a tremendous support to my calling and ministry, her love, understanding, humility and piece of advice have kept me going in the divine track of destiny. You are really treasured.*

# FOREWORD.

*Pounded yam with a very good vegetable and melon soup is the most preferred and sought after in parties, in part of our world. However, the preparation takes a lot of time, hard work and patience.*

*There is also a popular parlance that says, " whatever is worth doing is worth doing well". This is the more reason why well prepared persons, almost at all times, enjoy their marriages better than those who jumped into marriage without proper and adequate preparations. Such preparations include character development, maturity in dealing with pressure etc.*

*Some of the things discussed in this book will help every reader, especially the singles, to know which areas they need much preparation before saying 'I do'.*

*It is my prayer that God, who instituted marriage and has good thoughts for you, shall give you revelation, as touching those core areas you need to work on, as you read this book, in Jesus' Name.*

*PASTOR PAUL ADEOLOYE.*

*DEPUTY NATIONAL YOUTH CORDINATOR, CAC WORLDWIDE*

*& CORDINATOR OF CAC THEOLOGICAL*

*SEMINARY, LAGOS STATE CHAPTER, ( NIGERIA) .*

## INTRODUCTION.

*The success or failure of a man can be easily traced or linked to his preparation days. Ignorant people take delight in haste , while the wise understand and value process. Studying God's life through the scriptures will make us see that God does not answer a man who has not been incubated through preparation. The reason for this is because our longivity in the spotlights of success is determined by our days of preparation. Many a youth are yet to understand that preparation is to life what foundation is to a building. Jesus succeeded because God programmed an adequate preparation plan for Him to leverage on. God knows that abuse and regrets are inevitable once preparation is missing. God has delibrately withheld the requests of many believers, especially singles and youths because they only desire without preparing.*

*Great men are products of preparation. Abraham Lincoln once said if I have eight hours to cut a tree. I'll spend six hours to sharpen my cutlass (which is preparation on my part) and surely less than the remaining two hours to cut the tree..*

*Preparation motivates God to act on our course and activates results. Show me a man of unprecedented results and I will show you a man who is a product of the school of preparation. All the old time prophets strongly desired to see the Christ they prosphesied about but could not because a PREPARER was not available.*

*Behold I send my messenger, and he will "PREPARE" the way before me, and THE LORD, whom YOU SEEK will "SUDDENLY COME" to his temple even the messenger of the covenant , in whom you DELIGHT . Behold he is coming says the Lord of host. { Malachi 3:1}.*

*The above scripture is the answer to the problems of many believers . God told the Isrealites in a paraphrasal manner, "I know you are desirous to see the Lord, you are really seeking Him but I won't release Him until the way is PREPARED, until I see preparation.*

*Prayer releases my power but it may not take the place of preparation. I wouldn't mind If it takes 400 years to get you ready to receieve the preparer; its okay by me, but until the preparer is sent, until he is on the scene, the Lord whom you seek, THE MARRIAGE WHICH YOU DESIRE , the position which you long for will not COME. But when the way is PREPARED, through the acquisitions of the right knowledge, THEN THE LORD WILL COME, THE SINGLE STATUS WILL BE 'TIMELY' CHANGED TO A MARRIED STATUS WITHIN FEW MONTHS, AND THE MIRACLE WILL 'TIMELY COME' ". Because once preparation is assured then receieving our godly desires becomes authomatic. This is a kingdom secret l have learnt. PREPARATION IS GOD'S SYSTEM OF OPERATION .*

*OLUSHOLA OBADIMU.*

## ENDORSEMENT.

*Preparation is the major key factor to have a marriage with distinction. If you don't prepare well, to live well in marriage maybe difficult. To prepare for marriage means to get well equipped spiritually, physically, financially, domestically, emotionally etc.*

*To prepare means to put in proper condition or readiness and this shows that you need preparation in every area you desire success but if you don't prepare, you will have many things to repair.*

*Lack of preparation for marriage is one of the major reasons marriages are crashing daily around the world. The focus of young ones is the glamour of wedding, forgetting that much more lies ahead after the wedding ceremony.*

*We have many books written on relationship and marriage but fewer books on the aspect of preparation. The book is more detailed and practical as touching preparation, reasons for delay and individuals roles in marriage.*

*I hereby recommend this book to all youths, singles, pastors and parents, read and apply it, send a copy to a friend. God bless you as your marital life begins to experience a better tomorrow.*

*PASTOR DARE OLUYI.*
*(Author of 22 Types of Relationship*
*& Getting the best out of Marriage).*

*God showed interest in marriage by instituting it between our first parents Adam and Eve. He therefore gave laws that must be followed to avoid his wrath. (Mat 19:6).*

*To enjoy a marriage, both parties need to be fools. If a party shows technocracy, then the relationship becomes dangling. But unfortunately this is not understood by many .*
*the limits of in -laws, adults interference, social and spiritual qualities of a prospective spouse has been a major cause of concerns in today's marriage.*

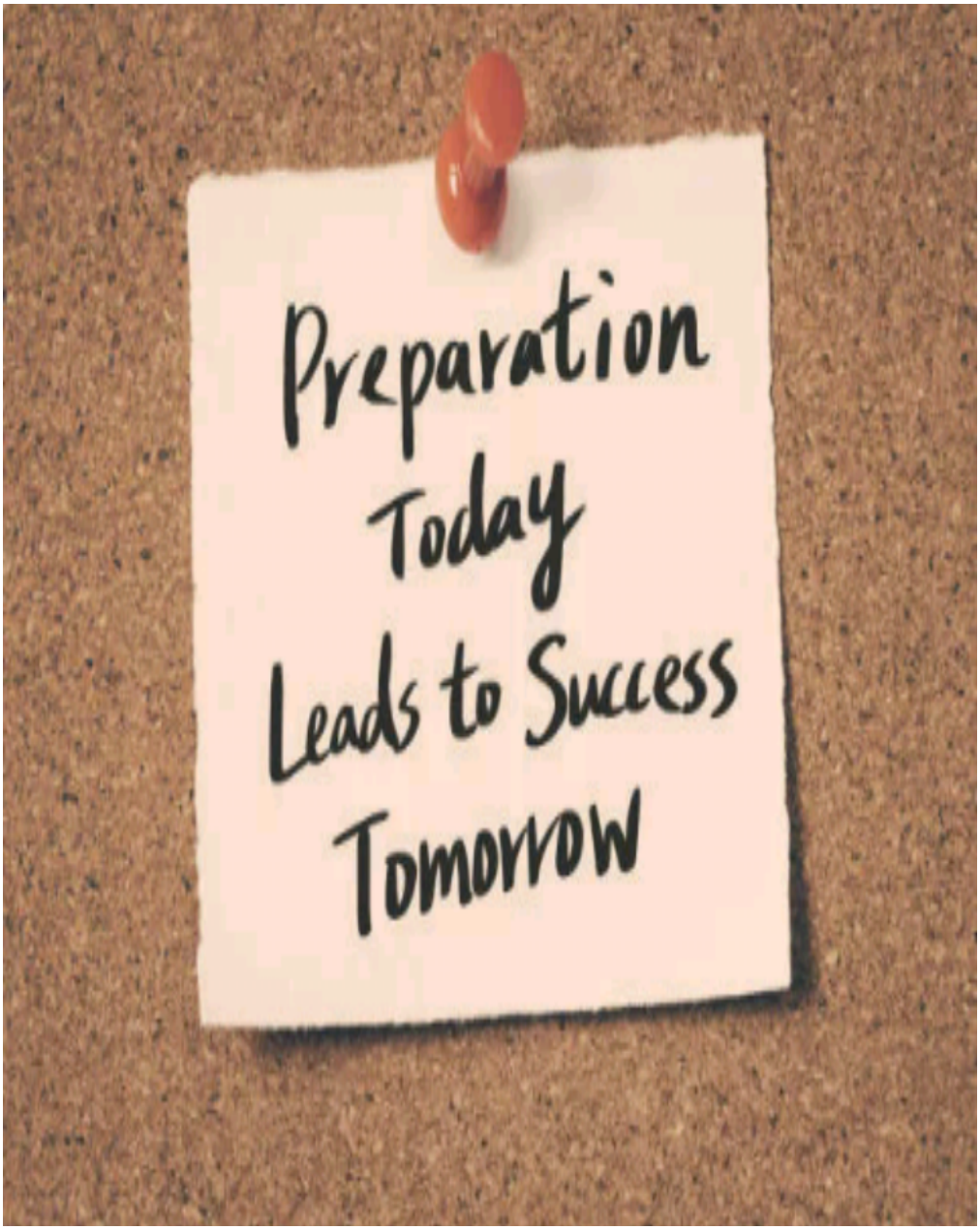
*Two people from different background and life experiences merge in marriage to live together for the rest of their life  Do you think there will be similarities in their characters, beliefs and ways of life? The answer is in this book." written by Pastor Shola Obadimu.  May God increase his wisdom and anointing in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Having gone through this book,  I deem it necessary for every single and married to have a copy. This will enable readers to solve and correct every marital anomalies. I strongly advice that this  book be given out as Birthday gift to  friends and love ones. As you read may almighty God give you more understanding and  intervene in your situation for greater testimonies in Jesus Mighty name, (AMEN) .*

*PASTOR ARIYO I.SAMSON { D/S }.*

## CHAPTER ONE.

### *AM I REALLY PREPARED FOR MARRIAGE?*



*The prodigal son demanded for what he was not PREPARED FOR, and he made a MESS of it.*

*[Put first things first.] Prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house and establish a home...prov 24:27 [Amp]*

The topic before us is actually a pertinent question that every single in today's world needs to answer with all sincerity. We would be painstakingly examining the four major words that constitute the topic of our discussion, which are:

1.I

2.REALLY !

3.PREPARED...AND

4.MARRIAGE.....

We will be exploring each of the words critically, incisively, linguistically and more importantly biblically, in order for us to maximise this topic and be efficaciously transmogrified.

The first letter under consideration is the letter "I". What is it about ?

Both linguistically and grammatically, the letter "I" is one of the pronouns we have, alongside me, he, she, herself, you, it, that, they, each, few, many, who, whoever, whose etc and as we all know, they are all used in the place of a noun. Of course, we have different types of pronouns e.g reflexive, personal, demonstrative, distributive, relative, possessive etc as they are ten in numbers, and each of them is placed in positions based on its functions..for example:

*On Saturday, I will meet Joe at 3:00pm. The letter "I" here represents the speaker in the first person pronouns.*

*Which sweater do you want to wear? Second person pronoun, the one spoken to, the recipient.*

*The experience left them no choice, third person pronoun, the subject of discussion, something or someone spoken about.*

So with the above illustrations, we could deduce that the ways pronouns are used in any given sentence is of great importance and significance even in the Scriptures. So, if we are to get the picture the Spirit of God is trying to paint in any given passage ,then there is a need for us to pay attention to both the positioning, roles and functions of some particular figures of speech that are used in a sentence. Let us consider the passage below.

1 Cor. 9:26-27

*So "I" run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. **I** fight to win.I'm not just shadow boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to, otherwise I fear that after enlisting others for the race, I myself{ the real me, my inner man, the soulish part of my being, not my body} might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside....LBT {emphasis added }.*

The "I" stands for the spiritual nature of our soul {the inner man or real man that never dies, but is only being transited at death}, and our spirit itself , while the "it" second in importance stands for our body. Virtually every teenager and youth is bodily, physically, and sometimes emotionally ready for marriage, that's why many of us have been into one relationship or the other, experiencing different soul ties, heartbreaks, one ,two , three and still counting, falling into romances, kisses, huges, and even for some sex; trying to experience and explore the marriage life and world.

Having sexual urges and impulses in your membranes might be a prove that your body and organs are ready, but can I tell you this... Your body is just one out of the three parts that make you up, and to separate your body from your soul and spirit is to experience death, either in the short run or long run.

One of the reasons why I married this young was because I started preparing my spirit nine years ago at my conversion alongside my soul, in order for me to have all it takes and requires to face the marital life, before my body and hormones would be too ripe for expressions. I put this to you as a challenge, I know you desire to have the opposite sex in your life, to kiss, romance and even have the experience of sex. These desires are proves that you are biologically alright, but that is all about your body*. Is your spirit and soul really ready for marriage and it's consequences,* or you just want to enjoy sex, be horny and then rise to play like the Israelites. Remember, the most authentic prove of readiness is PREPARATION....

## CHAPTER TWO.

### WHY THIS DELAY..?..... ..... .... . .  .....



D.....= Develop

E.....= Enough

L.....=Laudable

A.....=Ability

Y.....= Year- round.{continuously}.

*WHEN ABRAM was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, I am the Almighty God; walk and live HABITUALLY before Me and be PERFECT (blameless, wholehearted, complete)....Gen 17:1...Amp.*

*Often God allows delays in the lives of his children until he sees a developed laudable virtues ( maturity) in an expected area.*

Many who are of age and are seemingly due for marriage have been divinely delayed by God, in order to get them prepared for the marital life they so much desire, most especially in the areas of their spirit and soul. The preparation of our spirit and soul is not so important but too important to God, because our human nature does not contain the capacity to appreciate and enjoy things for a long time, it has a *diminishing problem.* It's only our renewed soul and recreated spirit that can enjoy a particular thing for a long time, and a very good example of this is our relationship with the Godhead. It lasts for a lifetime, and the Father(God) through His Spirit renews our intimacy daily, for they are new every morning, great are his faithfulness,{ Lam 3:23 & Gen 5:22 } .

The sixth chapter of the gospel of John and verse 63 tells us that our flesh { human nature, body} profits us nothing, save our spirit.. So God would prefer to have us base our reasons for getting married on spiritual principles, that is strongly affiliated with our *purposes* rather than on physical beauties, figures etc, that is in reality deceitful, most especially in this present time of make ups {the act of making something up, which is believed to be substandard} . The reasons why young people make up can be traced to their belief and state of mind, for our actions reflects our thoughts which speaks louder than our words.

For you to be making up, it means you agree and believe that you are not either beautiful or as beautiful as you think you should, meanwhile God said you are fearfully and beautifully made. { PS 139:13-14} . The first woman that used make up in the Bible was Jezebel { a top level witch, whose spirit is still in operation in the world today} and she did that to seduce the annointed king of the Lord, Jehu. And we all know that seduction is strongly associated with prostitution and lust which is of the devil. However, she failed in her pursuit and that was the day she died shamefully (See 2 Kings 9:30-37). Anytime you use make ups, then you become unnatural, you look unreal and attract nothing but fake things into your life, Godliness and contentment, the Bible says is great gain {1Tim 6:6}.

God had created you in the best way you could ever be, don't be deluded by anyone. This is not a church doctrine, but the Bible doctrine. It is the settled word of God which has been magnified above God Himself {ps 138:2}. One of the reasons for the high rate of divorce today is that people have gone into marriages without preparations and with the wrong foundations { mindsets, expectations and beliefs } and they suddenly discovered that the burning {lust} they called love for their spouses began to dwindle, because the Bible says, "love never fails" {1cor 13:8} and when this happens, the pressure to look for pleasure else where sets in, leading to unlawful sexual exploration such as, polygamy, bigamy, polyandry and adultery. An epigram says.....

*If a man loves a woman's soul, he will end up loving one woman, but if he just loves a woman's body { which includes the face, breasts, curves, hips, stature, etc} all the women in the world cannot satisfy him.*

If you ask me, an example of a mordern day litmus test for what God would have our marriages look like is the scenario that transpired between " *Turia Pit and Micheal Hoskin*" their relationship was a proof that it is only marriages whose love were based on the spirit and soul cohesion rather than that of the body that would stand the test of time....

Dear single ladies and gentlemen, would you marry the man or woman who posseses the characteristics, attributes and abilities to help you fulfil your destiny, dreams, and purposes, even though she is not voluptuous, rich or as educated as you desired ?  Or would you go for the golds and silver of ungodly men with big cars and connections, ladies with beauty but empty brains and zero morals, who can't guarantee security for your future, who can't nurture up the children the Lord will give you? Are you super sure that that brother or sister will be able to handle the level of your success, fame and influence in the next ten, twenty years?

Hmmmm *...Please think twice for the journey of marriage is too long for you  to be wrong....* , never forget there is no lifeline, if you miss it once, then you miss it for life. So, please, marry with your future and vision in view, and not for beauty, shapes, curves, heights, or handsomeness alone which passes away with time, for the journey is very far...

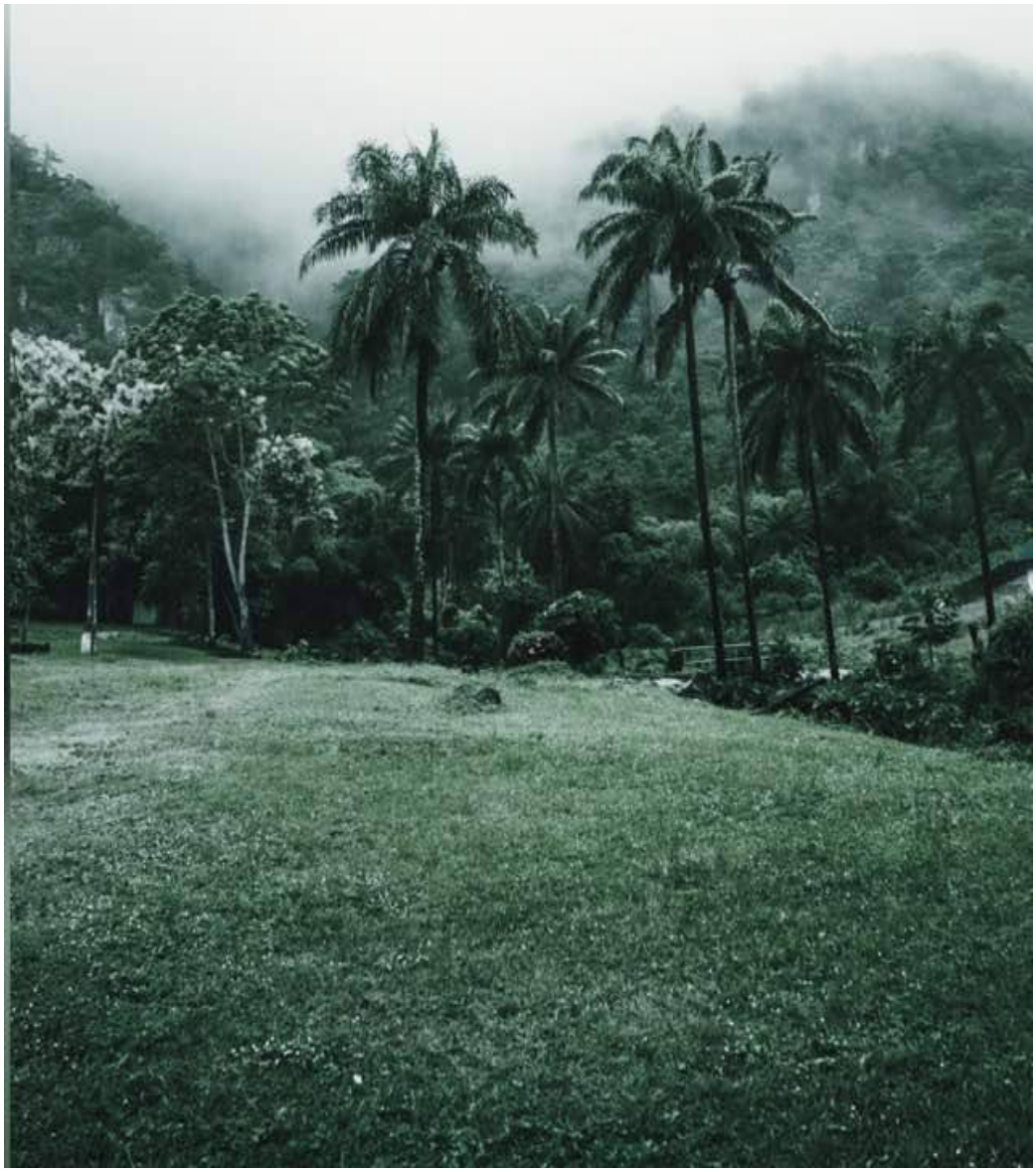
Still asking the same question:

Are you really prepared for marriage?

Don't play games with your life, God does not play dies!

## CHAPTER THREE.

### .....REALLY..... . ..... ..... ..



*In the end your life won't be REALLY judged by the words you say, but by the ACTIONS you displayed...Anonymous.*

The word really means, in reality, indeed, truly, based on provided facts and the approval of God first {2 Cor.10:18} and that of men.

When I wanted to get married, men didn't approve me at first, but God and heaven did. It means something that needs the confirmation or approval of some new information. I tell you the truth, if your marital journey did not start from the place of prayer ,then God might not attend your wedding and if he doesn't attend your wedding, he might never show up all through your marriage, because God only accomplishes that which he started in the first place...{phil 1:6}.

In the Bible days, the prove that God is present in a place is the display of his glory. Jesus did the glorious and miraculous at the wedding of Cana in Galilee, because he was invited in the first place. Unlike today, we start our plans alone, look for a particular opposite sex to whom we are attracted, start a date, get married and then when problem arises, we begin to look for Jesus to come and rectify the problem he never instituted.

As humans, you will agree with me that we are not always eager to go to ceremonies we are not invited, even if the celebrant is a close friend or relative because we believe that, not being invited is a sure sign that we are not needed in the ceremony. That means we are not so important and if by any means we attended the ceremony, we might not be allowed in by the security personnel or not even recognized, simply because we were not invited in the first place. If this is so with we men, then how much more our God. The begining of every major event in our lives must start with and from God; for the Bible says.. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..*

The following questions will help you determine if you really have the approval of God and some indispensable people in whatever relationship you find yourself:

1. What or who pioneered my present relationship, or who will when it's time? Gen. 2:18

2. What has God said so far about the relationship { either directly or indirectly} Ps. 85:8; 2 Cor 13:1 Isa. 30:21

3. Are your spiritual parents or leaders aware and in support? If not why? Amos 3:7; 1 Sam. 17:34-37; Heb.13:17. A shepherd sees evil ahead,even when you least notice.

4. Are your parents aware and are they in support? If not, why and what are you planning to do ? Gen. 24:50-60.

5. What are the predominant happenings or occurrences in the relationship? Are they canal, edifying or spiritual? Eccl. 4:9-10;Matt.18:19

6. Since you started the relationship, have you been experiencing the peace of God? Phil.4:7;1 John 4:18.

7. What motivated you into that relationship? Are you there for what you'll gain or give? Are you there to serve or to be served? Are you there to satisfy your will or God's will for your life? Mark 10:45 ,Luke 22:42.

8. What kind or type of future do you see with the brother or sister ? 1 Sam. 25:30-35,39-42

In addition to the above, one of the easiest way to determine if your relationship will stand the test of time is to remove sexuality from your relationship and see what is left or next, if after doing this you notice the relationship has no more basis or value then it is advisable for you to walk away...also, never consider the possibilities of a life time journey with anyone who is not

1. Born again
2. Baptised in the holy ghost { being led by the holy- spirit }.
3. going through sanctification of the holy spirit { living out the fruit of the spirit }.
4. Can't tell you all he has gone through in life { his or her full pasts }
5. Has not discovered his purpose or vision in life ....most especially as a man.

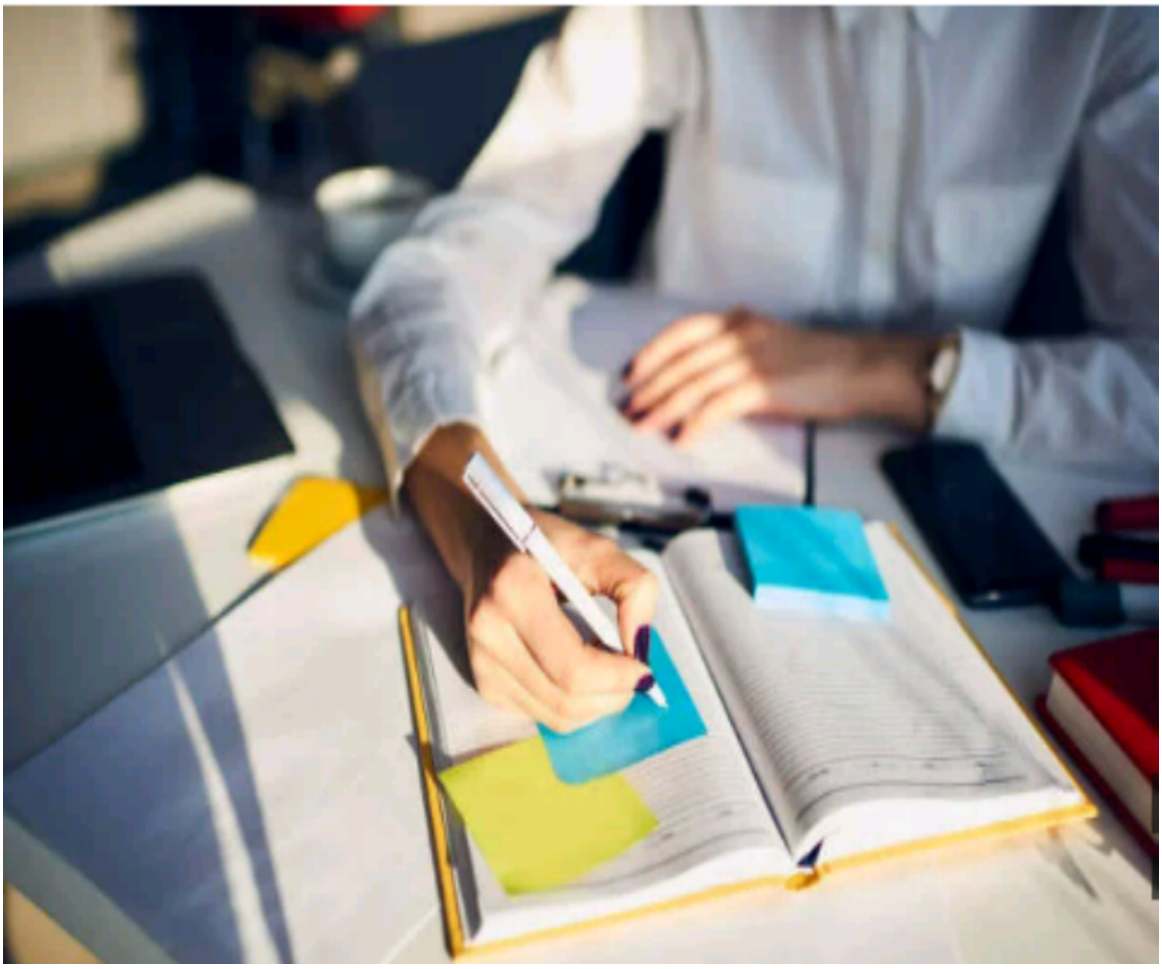
Ask yourself, what is the connecting socket between you and your supposed partner , is it sex or purpose ? Of course you know the answer..because In marriage sex evaporates with time and all that would be left is purpose and commitment.

My wife (then my fiance) and I told ourselves what we saw in our future and in each other. We even expressed it in compositions of love songs. This is essential because the Lord our God is futuristic in all he does, God never does anything without considering the future and generational outcome.

> He says ... *For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope..{Jer 29:11}.*
>
> Again, what kind of future do you see in that relationship? Is it a future that is hopeful, life giving, destiny changing, fulfilling purposes or otherwise? Remember, a broken courtship or relationship is better than a broken marriage because if that happpens you will remain broken and unrepairable for the rest of your life.

## CHAPER FOUR.

## .....PREPARED FOR.....



*prepare to meet your God, O Israel!..Amos 4:12b*

God doesn't expect to meet with you in any area of your life, with marriage inclusive until you're adequately prepared. In marriage, the acquisition of right and godly knowledge are the prove of preparation.

Preparation has been relegated and marginalized in today's world; when anticipating a great feat, adequate preparation is sometimes the last thing in our minds, most especially as young people, due to the quick fix syndrome mode  of operation, with courtesy, civilization and tectechnology; these put together have amounted to crumbling our execellence in an unimaginable way.

However, in Bible days, God did not take preparations lightly, because it is a great determinant of what the outcome of our pursuit will be in the end. Jesus prepared thirty years for a ministry of just three and half years. In fact the Bible says this about John the Baptist:

> *So the child grew and became strong in the spirit and was in the deserts  till the day of his manifestation to isreal (Luke 1:80)*
>
> *The LBT says,"He lived out in the lonely wilderness until he began his public ministry to Isreal"(Luke 1:80).*

Wow, That's good to know !

John was just six months older than Jesus, he lived virtually all his life preparing for his purpose and yet, he still somehow missed it. Marriage is a ministry that lasts for the rest of the days of our lives, and yet many of us can't show the proves of our preparations and we expect to succeed, that is nothing but deception, because  he who fails to plan, is unarguably planing to fail. Let's consider our main text as we dig deeper into the heart of the discussion.

PROV. 24:27

*{ put first things first} PREPARE your work outside and get it READY for YOURSELF in the FIELD,and afterward buid your HOUSE and establish A HOME (Amplified).*

DEFINING THE KEY WORDS:

1) OUTSIDE:- Meaning in the presence of others, e.g schools, workshops, institutions, centres etc

2) READY FOR YOURSELF:- Firstly, you're responsible for the fulfilment or destruction of your destiny in life. Secondly, you enjoy or suffer the consequences of who you become the most.

3) THE FIELD:- Is this world and its ever changing systems (Matt 13:38).

4) HOUSE:- A physical structure that can primarily provide all the basic forms of shelter, but note-according to your financial capacity.

lastly

5) ESTABLISH A HOME {MARRIAGE}

*Develop your business first, BEFORE building your house . {Prov 24;27 NLT}. see also {1 Thess. 4:11}*

So, below is the order of our businesses as singles; every single has a business to mind.

i. YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (HOS. 6:6). That is, your salvation first, your spiritual growth which only comes from God's presence, either personally or generally. THE FIRST THING THAT MAKES YOU A MAN/WOMAN IS YOUR ABILITY TO ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE { EDEN} from here you learn the following ;

- How to speak to God
- How to hear from God
- How to live by Faith
- Importance of serving God. { God doesn't give the best to those who don't serve him {PS 25:12-14}
- Principles of kingdom's wealth and prosperity
- How to do warfare... etc

NOTE. There will be times in your marriage that it is only your ability to speak to God, to hear from Him, to live by faith and to do warfare that will save your marriage. During these times, money and educational qualifications will fail. Remember, no soldier learns how to shoot at the battle field, and no warrior ever learns warfare at the warfront, for then it would be too late. Remember the saying, "Make hay while the sun shines".

ii. KNOWING YOUR STUDIES AND SKILLS (2 TIM. 2:15). Being a christain is not a reason to be dullard, backward or laggard. Daniel was a prodigy and a man of excellence. Any Christian, most especially a youth who's not at his best in whatever he does, does not glorify God {Rom 12:11}. However to enhance this, you need to have the temperamental knowledge of yourself first, this affects how good you will perform either in accademics or apprehenticeship. For example, most melancholies are naturally intelligent, they are the type that can cope with sciences or technical works that have to do with high level of creativity, inventions or productivity. Many have studied and learned what they can't do excellently because they don't know their temperamental strength and weaknesses with regards to their divine purpose. I recommend the boo*k, "Why You Act the Way You Do"and " The Spirit Controlled Temperament " both by Dr.Tim Lahaye, for a more comprehensive knowledge on temperaments.*

This knowledge is very essential for temperaments affect all you do in life. So, the knowledge of your studies and skills make you go after the rightful job which will provide a RELIABLE means of income for you because to be married and to maintain marriage is *pricey,* as a man your financial budget would be TRIPLED NOT EVEN DOUBLED once you get married.

Your wife could get pregnant in just a month after your wedding, should this be! You'll be responsible for the financial upkeep of yourself, wife and the baby and if you are fortunate she might be carrying a twin or triplet, should this happen her diet will be more financially demanding, she will need to register for antenatal, concerning which she would have to run some medical tests and check ups weekly, your residental bills are also unavoidable coupled with some UNFORSEEN MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES .

MONEY is a major factor in any marraige, *no marriage can work without it*, also as a single lady you should be able to properly fend for yourself and have some savings, you were created to be a HELPER and not a DRAIN OR LIABILITY, as a female you have a demanding{ receiving } nature and that should inform and prepare you to be ready to bring some things to the table aside from your body, because your husband might loose his Job not too long after your wedding or he might experience reduction in income due to one economic reason or the other meanwhile you could be pregnant and due for delivery, anything can happen in marriage but it is only those who are prepared that survives the storms, don't be deceived by saying we are in love, we'll work things out through love, as good as that sounds, it won't pay your rent neither will it put food on your table, love has it's place in marriage and financial stability also has it's own place, *never consider marriage if you and your partner is not financially stable, count the cost before venturing into it* { luke 14:27-30 }.

So in view of this, *it's advisable for you to have at least two streams of income* and one easy way to do this is to have a good business mind frame which means being an entrepreneur and the reason for this is because, to attract money you must show a good passion to get it, to multiply it and to use it to bless yourself and others and all these qualities are encapsulated in entrepreneurship. Do all you can to learn about finance, get financial wisdom, know the rules of money and business. For it has been proven that if you truly want to be financially buoyant and free, then you must be an entrepreneur { business owner }. Salaries can never make you rich. For instance, there is nobody in Nigeria that is paid a million dollars, not even the bank C.E.Os, nobody. *So if you must be rich you must set out to create something to create wealth*, that's being an entrepreneur or master a SKILL inline with your gift(s) aside from your daily job the reason for this is because in the Nigeria of today and even in most part of the world less than ten percent graduates are absorbed in the labour market yearly and over seventy five percent of Jobs cannot guaranty security, many marriages have crashed due to lack of finance so you really need to sit yourself down and prepare well financially however the job, business or skills that would give you financial security should be in line with your purpose and its fulfilment { your purpose is the main reason why you were fashioned and created the way you are and on which would be the basis of your judgement before God on the last day}.

iii. DISCOVER AND DEVELOP YOUR WORK ( JOHN 17:4). The second thing that makes you a man or a woman is work, { which is the manifestation of what God has placed in you as your purpose. Purpose is the original intent and reason for your creation, which is found and embedded only in the Godhead and it is the only key to fulfilment in life. Work is not something we do, it is something we become. After an encounter with God was when Jeremiah grew to become a prophet to the nations (Jer 1:5). One of the reasons why many struggle for a long time in life is because they have found jobs and not work, for job is designed to only pay bills and not to prosper man that is, job is not the goal itself but a means ( of livelihood or survival) to achieving your purpose.

Let's consider the following facts and differences between Jobs and works according to Dr.Myles Munroe

| JOBS | WORKS |
|---|---|
| • Job gives salaries. | While work gives fees. |
| • What you're paid to do. | What you're born to do. |
| • Is your skill(s) | is your Gift(s) |
| • You'll retire from it . | it's permanent |
| • It's what you learned. | It's what you were born with. |
| • You can get fired. | You can't get fired. |

Now you know the difference, but does that mean you should not have a job? No, it only means that you need to be aware that your job was meant to lead to the fulfilment of your work, that's why all the world Influencer's are those who left their jobs to give their work greater expression and space.

So, a man or woman qualified and prepared for marriage is someone who has discovered who he is and what he is to become, for which his generation is to be made better with and benefit from (Matt 5:16).

Therefore, when this two people come together, having discovered their God given works, then you could have something like this:

| *MAN.* | *WOMAN.* |
|---|---|
| *1.Speaker/leader/preacher.* | *Counselor/Educationist/singer* |
| *2.Cultivates{ bringing out the best from the woman that comes your way in life,because the best state any woman can be is in a good state (Prov. 18:22).So, it's your duty to bring her to the "Better" state and then to the "Best" destination.* | *Helps and assists in all spheres of man's life* |
| *3.Teaches.* | *Advises....* |
| *4.Exposes{ exposure is the most effective way of changing lives and mindset}.* | *Encourages:women are naturally endowed with verbal prowess.* |
| *5.Protects{ including her virginity ,it must not be abused. until her wedding night(Gen.34:31).* | *Respects( woman's unnoticed motivation to any man .* |
| *6.Provides* | *Praises* |
| *7Preserves { everything about her,including her beauty)* | *Defends his weakness,goals etc* |

Therefore, you need to enter marriage with a vision mentality, which is seeing your purpose and vision in your future, though it is accomplished in God, because it is finished in Him (Jer 1:5,12).

*When a man finds his work {purpose }, then a woman finds her mission and assignment.*

To discver your purpose, you must ask yourself the following questions:

i. What is my deepest desire?

ii. What is my reoccurring dream that doesn't go away?

iii. What do I desire to change in this world?

iv. What makes you angry? Whenever you see what you're born to change it makes you angry.

v. What is my deepest passion, that is, what you can do for the rest of your life, even if you were never paid;you could even volunteer to pay someone just to see it done.

vi. What are you willing to die for?

vii. What do you do joyfully?

NEVER FORGET YOUR WORK IS WHAT YOU ARE....

Before we come to the last point which is BUILDING YOUR HOME/MARRIAGE.Let's consider some other general factors which must be put to mind when preparing for a glorious marital journey (note, this applies to both sexes):

1. DOMESTICATION, HARDWORK & ADAPTABILITY (2 kings 21:13). Please be aware that no lazy person can cope in marriage, not even in today's world. And the first challenge of any marriage is the challenge of adaptation. Many have and are still failing this test because they were never prepared for it. Watch the way you treat and relate to every opposite sex you come across, this will tell you how prepared you're at least to some extent.

2. BUILDING A GOOD REPUTATION (Eccl. 7:1). What crosses people's mind at the sound of your name? You are best remembered for what you believe and stand for, but more importantly- your character.

3. BEING HUMBLE, SUPPORTIVE AND CELEBRATING PEOPLE HEARTILY ( Ps.138:6; Rom. 12:14-16). It takes humility to apologise when you are not wrong, and you will need to do this endlessly in marriage. The inability to say "I'm sorry" has destroyed many homes. God brings tough people our way to teach us humility but we continuously react instead of being transformed.

The way you celebrate others determines how you will be celebrated by others; it is called the LAW OF HONOUR {Heb. 7:7}. For life is all about sowing and reaping. Are you truly happy when your friends prosper?

4. GOING FOR JESUS' PRESCRIPTION - READING (Matt.19:4). To be successful in marriage, you will have to read insightfully platonic books on marriage, its demands and consequences. How many books have you read on parenting? According to marriage experts, to succeed in marriage, you should attend a marriage school, undergo premarital training, then you must read at least fifteen books on marriage and five on parenting, spending a minimum of five hours with each, taking notes of points as you ask yourself pertinent questions, so a minimum of hundred hours is required of you to invest in your marriage which is a journey of a lifetime however the primary aim of all these is to acquire the right knowledge { Hose 4:6}. An average person who sleeps for seven and a half hours per day as opposed to eight hours prescribed by some doctors would have slept for hundred hours at the end of two weeks (14 days) . Have you ever calculated the total hours you spend on social media per week? Yet you believe you don't have the time to read and get the needed knowledge for your marriage, you do have the time what you probably lack is DISCIPLINE, meanwhile you're convincing yourself that you are old, ripe and ready for marriage.

I never knew the Lord was preparing me for an early marriage when he told me to give serious attention to reading {1 Tim 4:13}, and this got me prepared. Few of the books I read are: The Fatherhood Principles , Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men, Understanding the Purpose and Power of Women. All three books by DR.MYLES MUNROE. I read so many other books as well and listened to different messages on marriage.

Getting married in my early twenties with pastoring a church at the same time is not a luck, but the results of long time preparation. I WAS NOT LUCKY, I WAS RATHER PREPARED .

The greatest expectation of God on any marriage is on nurturing God's heritage { Malachi 2:15; Ps.127:3-5}. For children replicates whatever they see in their parents and environments, they are born to imitate. The world's status quo is regretable because years back, different young people entered marriage with little or no knowledge on what it takes to be a husband, a wife and a parent, so they ended up having children they couldn't bring up psychologically and spiritually, leaving the children to find a wrong bearing in life, and this is not strange because the so-called parents themselves don't understand their positions, roles and responsibilities in the family.

Have you ever thought that all cultists, rapists, gay men, lesbians and prostitutes came from a family? What were they taught by their parents? In some few years to this time, you would aslo be a parent if you are still single now. What is the probability that you would raise godly offsprings? This is the greatest benefit of God in any marriage, FOR THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB IS HIS REWARD (Ps.127:3b). You need to start your preparation now by attending seminars, getting informative messages and reading illuminating books, all these will give you the picture of the future, for nobody succeeds in marriage by chance.

5. GETTING BUSY WITH GOD'S WORK (1 Sam.2:30;John 12:26). If you are a youth and you have no time for God's work, you don't attend weekly services, and you belong to no group in the church, or you are an inactive member of a group, I'm sorry to say that you have a dull and a regretable future. I've seen this happen to many, if you don't remember your Creator now in the days of your youth (Eccl.12:1), when you're still single with few responsibilities, what gives you the assurance that you would have time for Him when married, with all pressing demands both from your spouse and children ? Our primary objective in life is to serve God. Let my people go,that they may serve me. {Exodus 5:1 & 12:31}.

6. PRAY, PRAY AND PRAY. Against curses, wicked men, bad foundations, future challenges, etc (Luke 18:1-9; Jam 5:13), because having a godly marriage is a war as far as the kingdom of darkness is concerned.

7. BEING AN INCURABLE AND CONSISTENT GIVER. From offerings, tithes, alms to the poor, God's work, seed sowing, first fruits, then to giving to people having occasions ( Luke 6:38) for you don't have the right to be given, until you give CONSISTENTLY to both God and man. The best way to have is to give what you have. Today's world economy is very unreliable, you need to transact with the heavenly bank there is no financial disappointment with God who is its General Manager. He did it for me!

Also, make sure you do not get into debt for whatever reason most especially in your endeavor to get married, it is dangerous for you to start your marital journey on debt, if you do, you might struggle with debts throughout your marriage, the circumstances that surrounds the beginning of a thing really matters, for every building is as strong as its foundation. Let your wedding ceremony be as moderate as possible, don't try to impress people publicly and later regret secretly save for the *raining days.*

8. CULTIVATING THE HABIT OF FREE FORGIVENESS. ( Col. 3:12-14) For your spouse is likely to get you exasperated more than you could imagine, but the key is love, which covereth multitudes of sin { 1Pet 4:8} . You'll understand better when you get married. A happy marriage always *consist of two great forgivers.*

9. DRESSING GODLY AND MODESTLY; NOT SEDUCTIVE AND LUSTFUL. (1 Sam.16:12;Prov. 7:10). You'll only attract men who are ready for sex if you dress sexy. Your dressing is one of your greatest means of identification; it says alot about your reputation.

10. DEVELOPING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP. First to your family, friends and others, most especially as a lady (1Sam. 30:26-31), for marriage brings in-laws to your life and equally makes you one in marriage, you will have alot of people to relate with, it won't be your spouse alone and believe me it takes wisdom and a lot of patience to relate peacefully with in-laws.

# CHAPATER FIVE.

## DELAYED FOR DECORATION



*You know how we call those blessed (happy) who were steadfast [WHO ENDURED]. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the Lord's [purpose and how He richly blessed him in the] END, inasmuch as the Lord is full of pity and compassion and tenderness and mercy. James 5:11 (Amplified)*

A'2= There was a story of two families, once upon a time, the family of Abijah and Aaron became in-laws to each other via the wedding of their son and daughter. This couple were raised up in godly ways in their childhood and they continued in righteousness even in their marriage for many years, yet they had no child, but instead of growing cold in their love towards God and His house, the opposite was the case. They were never found missing or wanting in their duty posts before the Lord, not even knowing that that was where they would receive their long desired baby. While the husband was ministering before the Lord in church one day, an angel visited him with the news that he would soon be a father . This to him was unbelievable, because he was already advanced in years, but the Lord's messenger gave him a sign and it happened just as he said.

They had an unusual baby, who grew to be a general and a pathfinder in his field. Dignitaries sought for him the more unavailabe he was, his delicacies were medicinal and proteinous, and the baby's name is still being remembered today. This is a true life story.{see Luke1:5-25}.

GOD COMES LATE WHENEVER HE WANTS TO COME BIGGER. This is for every brother and sister out there who has been living by every known principles of the kingdom that guarantees marital fortune and engagement, but yet are still single. Please, don't loose heart and never you compromise. Delays are inevitable in life, we will all experience it in one way or the other, but all we need to do is to be faithful with the Lord, most especially in our arrears of duties before Him. Imagine if Zechariah was absent that very day, imagine he said he was fed up, then he would have missed the opportunity of fathering a glorious baby. Never forget you're not under a curse, neither are you unfortunate, you're just being prepared for something greater. Remember Christ in you is the only hope of glory, no more, no less. God only fulfils His promises when we give up our might, when He'll receive all the glory and when it is his divine time. ( Gen 18: 10, 14 ).

John's birth would be useless without the coming of Jesus in view, because his mission {purpose and destiny} was tied to that of Jesus, so there was a need for delay, and that was why Gabriel immediately went to Mary in order to deliver to her the message of birthing the Messiah, because as far as God was concerned, it was not just about having babies but about giving birth to eternal systems in human bodies ( Luke 1 vs 15-17 & 31-33). The same is what you're experiencing, God is preparing something worthwhile for you and I tell you the truth, it is really worth waiting. Trust me, you shall be celebrated soonest, even in the most colourful way.

*Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, And he shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord (Ps.27:14)*

*Don't be impatient. Wait for the Lord and he will come and save you! Be brave, stouthearted and courageous, yes; wait and he will help You...Ps 27:14 (TLB).*

4. BUILDING YOUR HOME/MARRIAGE

I decided to bring this last because it is going to be pivotal to my next book." YOUNG BUT MARRIED ". However , I want you to know that building your marital home is one of the easiest things to do, only if your purpose and work discoveries have been achieved. I believe that knowing one's partner is difficult today because young people in the first place have not discovered themselves and are trying to discover someone else, and without purpose discovery, we will never know the reasons for the occurrences of things in our lives {2 Sam. 5:12;Acts 13:36}.

YOU CAN BUILD A HOUSE BY YOURSELF, BUT YOU CAN NEVER BUILD A HOME WITHOUT BEING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A MAN OR WOMAN.

God desires the best for you, which includes giving you a good life partner, but God is careful that you have not prepared enough to handle being married. He doesn't want you to hurt yourself and others and that's why he's probably delaying you from getting married. Marriage is not for babies but for the matured minded in all spheres of human life.

This perverse world has taught many to look into marriage through the lens of sex only, so that the reality is hidden, neglecting the real essence of it which is to further God's course on earth. God is tired of seeing marriages that would start at the altar but end in the gutters. He wants to see marriages raising godly offsprings that would champion His course, and not the opposite.

Every entrepreneur establishes a business for profit, the same is true with God, He established marriage to advance His kingdom while we, being partners in His business share in its bliss.

God is saying, "Pay attention to PREPARATION and you will have the marriage of your DREAMS".

Remain blessed...

I strongly believe this booklet has blessed you in one way or the other," AM I REALLY READY FOR MARRIAGE ?", is a question every single out there needs to really ponder upon, for marriage comes with many unforseen issues. I therefore, dare you to see this booklet as a personal guide , study the Bible passages and create some time to pray.

Start preparing your soul and spirit for the lifetime journey of marriage and not only your body, don't be deluded by all you have seen and watched on the social media and internet. We live in a real world, start the preparation today, and you will be glad you did ...

*MARRIAGE MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR.*

## ABOUT THE BOOK

AM I REALLY PREPARED FOR MARRIAGE? is an enlightening master piece that opens the eyes of every youth and single to the God ordained systematic processes of marital preparation as opposed to today's media and worldly approaches.

In the book, the author stresses the fact that most young people believe they are ready for marriage just because they are of age and are sexually active, neglecting the preparation of their soul and spirit, which also have their own special place in marriage. Experiencing bliss in marriage has never been achieved by chance, but by delibrate preparations and choice, and the youth of this age cannot be an exception to this rule. This booklet has been put together to show you the inevitable consequences of marriage and how to adequately prepare for it...

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Olushola Obadimu glided into the ministry as a Sunday School teacher in 2012, and has since being a promising teacher of the Word. His God given anointing in the teaching office has made him speak at different youth seminars ,conferences ,programs and even in a book launched within the metropolitan city of Lagos State, Nigeria where he resides.

He currently teaches music under a music firm called FAITH MUSIC CONSULT, which services have been enjoyed by different private institutions across Lagos State. He is a member of the Christ Apostolic Church Lagos State Youth Fellowship Executives, and currently serves as an assembly pastor in Christ Apostolic Church.

As a young pastor, he has been an inspiration to youths as touching the things of God and His kingdom. He's presently the Coordinator of Mount Salvation Youth Movement (M.S.Y.M), one of the youth arms of the Salvation Preachers Ministry which is also one of the evangelical arms of the Christ Apostolic Church {with the superintendence/supervision of Pastor T. B. Oluwagbeyide, D.S for Adeyiga, Oworoshoki District: under the founding leadership of Pastor J. O. A. Adeoloye, Retired General Superintendent of Christ Apostolic Church, Supreme Council (2014 -2018)}. A youth movement with the mandate to restore and refill youths for Christ. He got married to his darling wife, ANUOLUWAPO barely a year before publishing this booklet. His zeal, love and passion for God is second to none among his equals. Getting youths saved, restored, equipped and prepared are his obsessions.



*Whatchout for the sequel of this book " YOUNG BUT MARRIED ".*

*Remain blessed.*

THE END