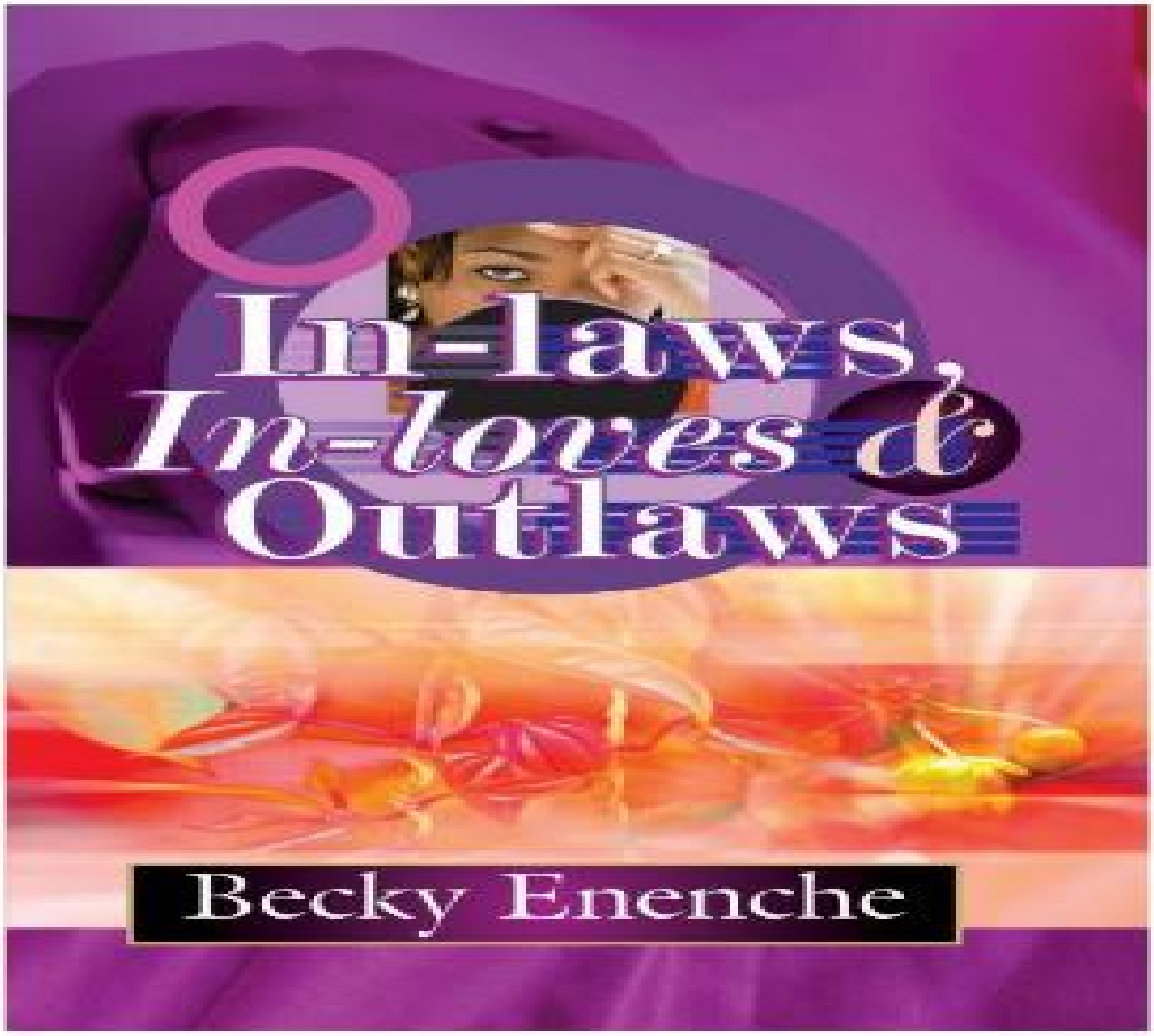
In-laws,
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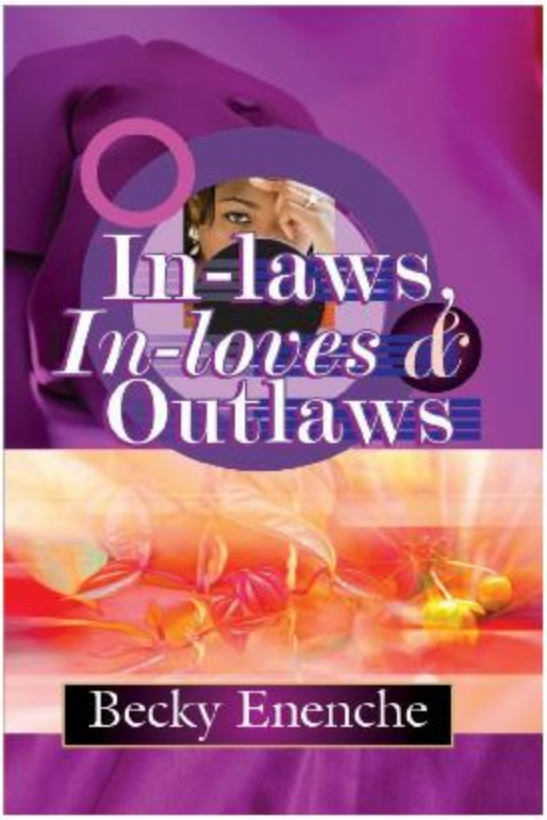
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IN-LAWS, IN LOVES AND OUTLAWS

By
Becky Enenche
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INTRODUCTION

This is the second edition of this book. The first was printed in honour of my Beloved Mother 'in-love' Mama Hannah Titi Enenche and given out as souvenir. This edition has had a little more additional content and I believe it will be a blessing to you in Jesus Name.

Many marriages have failed in the past not because the man and his wife did not love each other and not because of anything other than, a breakdown in relationships with their in-laws. You can choose to either be in love with your in-laws or be outlaws with each other. Read and practice these few points, they work, they will work for you.

When I got married, I felt highly privileged to have had the opportunity of being parented, mothered, mentored, tutored and loved by a great icon for over twenty years. I remember vividly the first day I met my mother 'in love'- Mama Titi Hannah Enenche; it was when I was to be introduced to her before my husband and I got married.

I remember praying and wondering how the meeting was going to turn out. I had already heard so much about her but then, hearing about somebody, is a different ball game from actually meeting the person.

We left Jos on the day of the proposed visit and arrived in Otukpo in Benue state towards evening. I remember pondering in my heart and praying silently, "Oh God, I ask for a

favourable meeting this evening'.

The sun was gradually setting, it was getting close to dusk, as I looked through the car window of the vehicle in which we rode and observed the amber shades of the evening sun as it cast its shadows on the typically red roofs of Otukpo town .

As we turned off the highway and headed towards number 40 Sule'ja street where Mama abode, I remember muttering a silent prayer to myself again, asking for a favourable meeting and then a question busted out of my lips and I asked my husband (to be then),

"How am I going to be able to communicate with your mother since I don't speak your dialect?

"Oh! That would not be a problem," he reassured me.

The car finally came to a halt and we stepped out into a very homely compound. The entrance approach, displayed a very warm and inviting kitchen, bothered on the right side by a block of about five rooms.

Outside the building, sat a group of women engaged in a lively chatter. As we approached them, there were shouts of rejoicing and I actually lagged slightly behind; my husband was a few steps ahead of me as he strode faster in the direction of his mother as she gave him a warm embrace of welcome. Turning to me, they spoke in their dialect, which I didn't

understand. Mama looked in my direction with the broadest grin you could ever have seen and called my name severally.

Then, I went on my knees in greeting and I found myself wrapped in a great hug, the warmest embrace you could imagine.

"Wow!" I thought to myself, "what a loving reception. Nothing like I have ever imagined and nothing compared to the warmest welcome I had ever imagined."

Mama promptly invited me to join her in her meal. I hesitated for a second but looking into her eyes, the smile was warm and encouraging. I normally would not have imagined receiving the spoon at her hand and taking a spoon full of the meal she ate but the invitation could not be rejected.

"Thank you," I muttered as I savoured the mouthful of the meal and returning the spoon in kind appreciation.

That was our first meeting and remained the characteristics of our time together. Every other time was warm, loving, exciting and impactful.

I later discovered it was not a strange thing for Mama to welcome people, receive people and feed strangers without batting her eyelids.

Her kindness, the warmth of her reception and her acceptance of my person, left me dazed. We took our leave to attend to other programs that brought us to town: we returned in the night and I was given a place to sleep in her house

with other young ladies and a few children, all of whom she housed .

I was awakened some minutes after 5:00a.m, by one of the young ladies that occupied the room with me, it was time for devotion. As I stepped out into the compound, the praise and worship had already begun.

Mama led the entire event. It was warm, it was lively, it was exciting and you could feel the presence of God. She led the prayer session and equally preached a message, which of course, I didn't fully understand. We closed with yet some more prayer, then the devotion for that morning ended and everybody walked around, each other warmly greeting and sharing wishes of a pleasant day with each other.

I picked up a broom and swept the entire compound and as I proceeded to tackle some of the rooms, Mama stopped me, assuring me that it would not be necessary. She seemed to be blessing me and when she was through, I knew it was time to say, amen, as she concluded with, 'in Jesus name.'

We returned to Jos that same day. It was an encounter that left an indelible mark on my memory, on my life and destiny and I felt so blessed.

The second most memorable encounter that I had with my precious Mama, was several months after my husband and I got married.

When I was pregnant for our first child, I had a mysterious cough, which actually lacked a

proper diagnosis. I would cough and nearly lose consciousness. It defied all medications at that time.

It was an amazement because, when the cough became so severe, the baby in my womb, turned and laid transverse, it refused to be pushed out because the spasms were sufficient to have caused a miscarriage.

When Mama got to know, she left Otukpo and travelled all the way to Jos. Mama, the Lioness, arrived. She prayerfully helped in the situation for one day and a night and by the second day, she told me she had seen a vision; something to do with cobwebs that had been cast on me and that was responsible for the cough. Though It didn't sound scientific, I didn't allow my 'medical mind' to come in the way nor prevent my faith, (Mama was a major prophet and seer, but we never gave her a title).

But that day, following a spasm of cough, Mama held me, laid hands on me and she prayed passionately, aggressively and violently in her dialect. There was so much power in that prayer and she seemed to be casting off whatever was responsible for the cough. I don't know how long she prayed, but by the time she was through praying, the last spasm of cough, was the last major spasm.

Within two days, the cough that had lasted for six months and had defied all medical treatment, came to a grinding halt.

I realized that I had just received an apostolic visitation by an elderly woman. Not a renown apostle, not a renown pastor or preacher, but a loving compassionate mother. A prayer warrior, an aggressive, violent Lioness who had fought for her biological children over the years and had travelled all that distance to come and fight for her son's wife.

Mama, I salute you and I appreciate you for your nights of prayers, nights of worship, intercession, your prophetic eyes that would see into the realm of the spirit, pulling down strongholds, principalities and powers.

Mama Titi Hannah Enenche, I salute you, I salute your dedication and your commitment to your children's upbringing of which I became a partaker.

I salute you,

I salute your courage,

I salute your dedication.

I salute your visionary leadership,

I salute your teachings.

You have raised generals, spiritually and physically, you have raised leaders, you have raised children; grand children and great grandchildren that are making a mark in their generation.

Mama 'Enu-ugbo.' You fondly called us 'ugbo,' that is, a train- massive and gigantic entity, that's what you prophesied on each of us, just like a title that you used to address all your

loved ones and your children.

Can there be an 'ugbo' without an 'Enu-ugbo'? Can there be a train without the mother of the train? Definitely not.

I salute you, a woman of courage and boldness, a compassionate woman, aggressive, tender hearted, spiritually violent and physically loving.

Mama cared for all manner of people; the destitute, orphans, widows, prisoners, the sick, the afflicted, the drunkards and the insane.

Mama had a place in her heart for everybody. Mama pastored pastors, she led leaders, she gave direction to direction givers. Mama sowed seeds of greatness into the lives of her children and into the lives of countless others. As many as followed her, had the opportunity to learn greatness and as many as listened to her, had the opportunity to be led in the way of greatness.

Hers, was a cradle that rocked leaders of leaders and rulers of rulers .

I salute you Mama and I thank God for the privilege.

A WORK OF FICTION

Adam woke up and drowsily looked around him. He wondered for how long he had really slept. He reached out his hand and touched his chest, running his fingers down from his armpit to his hip bone. He seemed to vaguely remember some procedure that took place but felt no sign of what he subconsciously remembered.

The last he remembered was, naming all the animals as the Lord God Almighty presented them to him. He really enjoyed his adventure, especially while he named the fishes in the sea and the birds of the air. He remembered naming each animal; whatever name he called them was in full agreement with God and that was their name. But Adam noticed that the animals were in pairs, male and female, and had wondered why he was alone.

Now fully wake, he stretched himself wondering which fruit he would eat. As the cool of the day approached, he was looking forward to his visit with God as was the Almighty's habit, when his gaze fell upon a beautiful creature standing no. far from him. Suddenly, as he looked in the direction of this creature, he realized that she came from him. God had seen his aloneness and had pulled out from his very bone and flesh and fashioned him a partner! How suited and adequate she appeared! Something resonated deep within him that this was

indeed the bone of his bones and the flesh of his flesh.

He wasn't confused, he wasn't afraid; he wasn't ashamed as he reached out to take her by the hand, he spoke her name; he called her "Woman." She was his female version. She was his form differing in certain respects from his original form. Her skin was softer, she appeared more refined. She was so appropriately matching to him.

As he called out her name, she responded without hesitation. She understood his speech; she seemed to almost read his mind. They understood each other in the strangest way. He realized that God had indeed been mindful of him as he led her through the garden, showing her the sights and the beauties; he acknowledged that this was indeed a beautiful gift from the Lord for his journey of life.

In this book, I shall be sharing with you, how to turn your in-laws into 'in-loves', that is, people that you are in love with and not out-laws—people that you fight and antagonize. An outlaw is actually a person who has broken the law and especially one who remains at large or is a fugitive. Many times, women enter into marriages and end up being considered as outlaws or she considers her husband's relations as outlaws because they both do not understand each other nor the laws that operate fundamentally in the family.

It is my earnest prayer that as you read through these tested and practiced principles: you shall embrace the truths, practice them and avoid the many mistakes that befall so many newly-weds.

I see a new dawn coming for your marriage if you are already married and for the singles, I trust God to change your mentality about the negative things you might have heard or seen about in-laws and help you to imbibe these godly principles so that you can have a very healthy relationship with your in-laws.

Do have a most motivating reading!

Dr. Mrs. Becky Enenche.

[redacted]

CHAPTER ONE

THE MAN'S COMPANION

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
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.
Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."
Genesis 2:21-25 (KJV)

After Adam was created, God saw that Adam needed a companion. He realized that Adam needed a wife, so He brought all the animals He had created to Adam "to see what he would call them." God needed Adam to have a revelation of his need for a help meet and that was why after Adam completed the assignment of naming the animals, the conclusion was "but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him." Adam had realised that God had made every creature, male and female according to their kind, but for him, there was no suitable help meet, there was none or nothing like him amongst the animals he saw. Therefore, God put Adam to sleep and took out a rib from

Adam's side; made a woman and brought her back to Adam.

When Adam woke up from his sleep and saw the woman for the first time, he was not afraid, startled or perplexed, because he had seen previously that each creature was created male and female; and so, he was able to rightly identify and say (name)

"this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

SPIRITUAL BIRTHING OF THE FEMALE

I would like to create a graphic image in your mind, it is hypothetical and explanatory but it will help you grasp my explanation. When a man and his wife deliver a male child, this child would eventually be in need of a wife. So, after the boy is delivered, in the realm of the spirit, God takes a rib out of his side and carries it to the second couple as He did in Genesis 2: 21-23.

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

Genesis 2:22 (KJV)

This second couple's home becomes the breeding ground where God took the rib from the male to make the woman and then, they deliver a female child. Technically speaking therefore, out of the rib that God took from the male child, He formed a woman and the second

couple delivers a female child (the rib of the male child of the first couple).

The second couple has then been given the responsibility to raise their daughter to be marriageable by teaching her and equipping her with everything she needs to know to be a complete woman. Therefore, the beginning of the female child's moulding was in the family of her biological parents. Then in the process of time, the man on the course of his assignment, realizes that for him there is no suitable help meet, and as we read in this passage in the book of Genesis, God takes the woman whom he had made in her biological family and brings her to the male (Adam) and then Adam says, "surely this is bone of my bones." The Adam (male) recognizes her as part of himself and a relationship starts, with the resultant introduction to each other's parents. A marriage proceeding then begins by the male, taking his parents to the house of the woman and they say, "we have found a wife in your house that we want to marry. Can our son marry your daughter?" After the negotiations and traditional rites, they go to the Pastor and a wedding date is fixed, after which they become man and wife.

From this illustration, the origin of the woman before her father and mother brought her forth physically (biologically) was actually the parents of her husband. Her biological parents might

have brought her forth and carefully nurtured her, but she originally belongs to the family of the first couple who had the male child, because, the rib that she was created from, came from him.

As a woman you must understand that the day you get married and enter into your husband's house, God has finally completed His creation work that He began on you and has finally brought you back to your origin. The same also applies to the man, when he marries, his creation process is completed.

So, your husband's father and mother are much more than your in-laws, they are your "in-loves" and should be seen also as your 'actual parents' because your biological parents were simply Gods preparatory ground for your life and destiny. If you understand this, then the love that you have for your biological parents should also be the same measure of love that you show to your husband's father and mother who are technically or spiritually speaking, your "original parents."

"Your husband's father and mother are much more than your in-laws, they are your "in-loves" and should be seen also as your 'actual parents' because your biological parents were simply God's preparatory ground for your life and destiny."

PRAYER

"Lord, I receive the Grace to understand and take



my place as my man's companion, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER TWO

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FAMILY RELATIVES

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

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.

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."

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

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

Genesis 2:18-22 (KJV)

To understand your husband's family, go along with them and win them over to yourself, you must consider the following basics:

Life is governed by relationships. A common adage says, 'no man is an island.' Human lives are incapable of thriving in isolation, that is the reason why punishments such as solitary confinement in high security prisons record a high incidence of psychiatric disorders. Many young men run mental when they encounter very

heart breaking relationships breakdown.

Couples who are not in talking terms are miserable irrespective of who was at fault or what the unresolved challenges were. In line with this, it is apparent that most people are a part of a family network. Even orphans most times, have uncles, aunties and other relations. Thus, when a couple gets married, they step into a family network on either side.

"24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."
Genesis 2:24 (KJV)

Every new couple was once an individual member of a nuclear family. After marriage, they then constitute a new nuclear family and both their individual families (fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters) now become their extended families.

One of the greatest errors of our generation, which majorly stems from selfishness is the attempt by one or both of the individuals to attempt to disconnect his or her spouse from his extended family members.

The passage; "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24 (KJV), refers to the requisite emotional detachment from parental attachments and also the financial independence from your parents and brethren. It is also required that you leave in

order to cleave.

Your major counselor and confidant ought to be your husband or your wife. Though, it could have been your parents and siblings before you got married, but after then, they cease to be the major determinants of your decisions, expenditure or company.

A young man should not get married with the intention of living in his parents' house, his elder brother's house or in the house of any other relation with his new wife. It is better to live in a one room apartment in the cheapest part of your city than in a mansion under the same roof with your extended family. Occasionally, conditions may not be ideal, a temporary measure may be required but never as a long term option.

Having established this very important point, we can proceed to look at a few vital relational wisdom that will help you live in a well-rounded and favourable interaction with not just your spouse's extended family members but automatically and indirectly with your spouse as well.

The fact of the matter is that, you cannot be in enmity with your husband's mother and expect your relationship with your husband to function normally. It therefore behoves us to understudy some basic mindsets that will help us to relate better with each other.

IN-LAWS

An in-law is a terminology that is used to describe somebody that you are related to by marriage.

The definition of an in-law is a relationship, via marriage. It has been misconstrued many times to mean a person you should fight or antagonize. It is simply somebody who you enter into a relationship with by the virtue of marriage. Thus, you have a mother in-law, who is the mother of the person you are married to or a father in-law, a brother in-law and sister in-law. Also, for us in Africa, we seem to have 'cousins in-law,' 'nephews in-law' and so on.

The basic thing is this, as a woman, when you get married, every relationship that you have is transferred to the person that you married and every relationship he has is also transferred to you in relationship.

RELATIVES AND RELATIONSHIP

You must understand that, the way you want to relate with the people that are your relations and the way that you want them to relate with you should also be the way that you should relate with the people that are the relations of your husband .

If you want to be loved, accepted and celebrated, then, you should do the same to them. Show love to your husband's people. As you get into that marriage, begin to identify the people whose lives you are getting into, as your primary relationship center .

It is your own responsibility to adapt to that new family that you have entered into. Many of us as women, want our husbands to love our relatives, take up all their financial responsibilities, know all our cousins and nephews but, when it comes to his family, many women tend not to be interested in knowing any of them. Many women tend not to be interested in associating with many of the people that have constituted a part of their husbands' lives.

HIS RELATIVES KNOW HIM MORE THAN YOU DO.

You must understand that your husband has known his relations for a longer period of time than he has known you and it will still take several years for you to know him for as long as they have known him before you got married to him in the first place.

Assuming that your husband marries you when you are age 25 and he is 35 and you both have been married for abou. two years, it means that you and your husband have been in relationship for two years but he and his relatives have been in relationship for about 37 years.

Thus, he has known his relatives longer than he has known you. You must understand that their influence on his life is still very strong compared to whatever influence you might have on his life. You must understand that his cultural predisposition, the way he does things,

the way he looks at things, the way he responds to issues, have been affected and coloured by this group of people that he has known for the first 35 years of his life before he married you.

If he is an Ekiti or Idoma man, whose staple diet is pounded yam and he has not yet eaten pounded yam for a day or more , he would consider it as starvation of some sort. In his mind, he imagines that, 'This woman has not fed him yet.' Even though you have been giving him spaghetti, indomie , pizza and you have other delicacies, they wouldn't mean much to him. Then, the day he mentions it to his father or his mother and says, "all through last week, I didn't eat 'ona (swallow)." His father may then ask him, "what have you been eating?" To which he replies, "I have been eating spaghetti and so on." The comment or one statement that comes from his father or that relation, could whip up all the emotions that he grew up with, in understanding that food means, pounded yam.

You must never think of taking a man and 'pocketing' him and have him stop talking to his father or mother on the phone and then, you come up with a whole list of evil that his people have done. I'm not saying that there are no families where the relations don't do evil, there could be a long list of evil that many of them could do. You however could be such a blessed woman to be married into a family that

all the in-laws are well trained and well mannered. But in whatever state you meet your in-laws, you must understand that you are there to stay and that you are indivisibly connected to them.

So, the sooner you accept it, the sooner you adjust to them, the better your acceleration in that marriage.

"As you get into a marriage, begin to identify the people whose lives you are getting into, as your primary relationship centre .

It is your own responsibility to adapt to that new family that you have entered into."

PRAYER

"I receive the Grace Lord to have a better understanding of my in-laws so that I can relate better with them, in Jesus Name"

[redacted]

CHAPTER THREE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HUSBAND'S FAMILY

To make that relationship successful, you must understand the type of family that you got married into and the best person to teach you about his people is your husband . As a young lady, yet to be married, that's the best time to get to know who they are.

It is at that time that your spouse will be able to tell you, 'this my sister is a very wonderful person and she is the person that you should stay close to in this family, if you want to gain access to the rest of my family members.'

Sometimes, he might talk less because men don't talk much, but you can observe how he relates with them; the way he relates with them can give you a clue on how you should relate with them.

Understand where you are marrying into, understand their personalities. One of the greatest places that you need to practice your love languages is in your in-law relationships.

I read a story in a book some time ago about a young lady who got married. Her mother in-law was quite wealthy. The young lady grew up in a somewhat missionary or Christian set up and what was important to them in her family as far as financial expenditures were concerned was, giving it to missions, giving to charity organizations and sowing seeds into Church. But whenever her mother in-law came visiting

every month, what she did was to take the young lady out to have some time together, and then, go shopping .

Her mother in-law would buy her a dress, buy her something new and she would be so excited in doing it but the lady always felt that they were wasting money due to the fact that her love language was not giving and receiving of gifts and thus, she came to the verge of rebuking the mother in-law, 'why are you wasting money?'

But before she could 'explode', she decided to ask, "Mama, what is your motivating factor for taking me out like this and spending all this money?" The old woman promptly told her that when she got married many years back, she and her husband were very poor and she had wished that her mother in-law would have bought some things for her to assist her. So, she made up her mind that when her son got married, she would make sure that she takes care of her daughter in-law by buying all the necessities for her.

A very genuine and sincere act from the mother in-law was about to become an issue of great contention. So, the young lady had to come to the point of understanding the angle from which her mother in-law was coming and then, followed that angle.

When I first got married, the first time my mother in-law visited us was when I was

pregnant with our first daughter. I remember vividly that when she came, she brought egusi, palm oil, ogbonno and other things. When it was time to unravel the packages she brought, Mama would expect me to sit with her and then she would open up every one of the gift items that she brought, explain them to me and tell me who also sent any additional item to me. I noticed it the first time she came, so, I thought, ' if she brought me something while coming, it means that when she is leaving, if I give her something too, she would appreciate it.'

I didn't give her much but I can remember that even up till five years later, Mama still had that first gift that I gave to her. It was a head gear, which I had used that I gave to her and I saw her wearing it for a very long time. So, I quickly picked that up.

I also recall that at every time we saw each other, there was an exchange of gifts between us. When I noticed that telling her not to bother about giving me gifts could be like an insult to her, I held my peace. I kept quiet and really got to enjoy her generosity.

You need to settle down and understand the family you are getting married into.

You need to understand how different individuals appreciate and respond to love.

This will help in your relationships with not only your husband but also your in-laws.

If your father-in-law for instance appreciates people who run errands for him or his favourite child amongst your husband's siblings is the one who runs errands for him the most, then you'll know that that is the way he responds to love and affection.

Or if your mother-in-law brings you gifts every time she comes to visit or you go to visit her, then you need to learn to always send her gifts or go with gifts whenever you go to visit with her. This was the case with my Sweet Mama, my dear mother-in-law. I observed it the very first time she came to visit us after we got married and so I never allowed an opportunity to give her a gift pass me by either.

There are also some people who respond to love or show love by making bodily contact with others. You can easily detect this category of people by the way they communicate with others. They are the people who keep tapping you when they are talking to you or they try to hold hands with you when you are walking side by side.

If you detect this in any of your relatives or in-laws, then giving them warm hugs and other decent forms of bodily contact often will adequately communicate your affection to them.

If you're yet to be married and in courtship and you fall within this category of people who respond to affection this way, then I counsel that you should avoid all forms of bodily contact

with your spouse to be in order not to tempt yourselves into defiling your marital bed.

We also have the group of people who respond to love when they are given compliments or hear kind words from others. This set of people may not be easily tripped by gifts, no matter how expensive the gifts may be. I once heard a story of a man whose wife was very unhappy in their marriage and kept complaining that her husband did not love her.

When her husband was asked about it, he was perplexed because he had just bought her a brand new car in the latest model of Mazda as at that time. However, the wife said that gift didn't matter as much as him simply telling her, "I love you."

This is a woman who is moved by words and so, if you have in-laws who fall within this category, it will be necessary for you to compliment them as often as possible. Tell them how nicely dressed they are, how beautiful or handsome they look. How proud you are to be associated with them, how excited you are by their successes and great performances, how much you love them, etc.

Finally, there are people who just love nothing more than to spend time in the company of their loved ones. You'll easily recognize such people by the fact that they always have people milling around them or they always want to hang around other people.

This set of people just want to spend reasonable lengths of time in your company, even if you are doing nothing but just in the same room or same vicinity. As long as you're there with each other, they feel loved and are very satisfied to just be there together.

If you have such relatives, don't complain when they ask you to accompany them to the supermarket or ask you to come spend the weekend with them or any of such things; even if they have several other friends or relatives accompanying them to the same supermarket at the same time or they spent the previous weekend in your own house. You just ensure you make out sufficient time to be with them and then give them the treat of their lives by spending a great deal of time with them.

"Understand where you are marrying into, understand their personalities. One of the greatest places that you need to practice your love languages is in your in-law relationships."

PRAYER

"Henceforth, I shall understand my husband's family without any difficulties, in Jesus Name"

[redacted]

CHAPTER FOUR

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

ASK QUESTIONS

Only fools refuse to ask questions.

You must make requests. Learn to ask questions,' mama, what would you like me to do for you?' Ask your spouse to tell you about his family, their likes and their dislikes amongst other things.

Some women live in the same town with their in-laws and such in-laws just seem to visit them at anytime they choose or want and it's not convenient for them. Simply find out what kind of time they would wish to visit and make the necessary adjustment in your timing to suit theirs or vice versa. Give them the reassurance that it will help you to prepare adequately to give them the sort of royal reception they deserve. You also need to employ wisdom when communicating with your in-laws.

In my family for instance, when we need to communicate something that is not pleasan. to my siblings, I would be the one to do it and not my husband. But when we want to communicate something pleasant, I am permitted by my husband to communicate the pleasant thing to his own people and when we are to communicate something pleasant to my people, he has the mandate to do it to my people.

Supposing there is a sister of mine that is always 'over visiting.' it's not my husband that will call her attention and say, "call me on

phone before you come next time." It will be my responsibility to tell that to my sister. She could pick offence but the good thing is that, in no distant time, both of us get to settle the issue. The reason is because we have known each other for such a long time. Avoid confrontation with your in-laws at all costs.

SHOW RESPECT

For you to have a successful in-law relationship, you must show respect. The tone of voice that you can use to speak to your younger ones, should not be the same tone of voice that you use when speaking to your husband's younger ones.

It doesn't matter the age of his younger ones, show them respect. As we in Africa say, "you didn't marry the man alone." Many ladies think that the day they got married to their husband, that day, every other human being would be locked out of his life. It's not so.

You must learn to accommodate them and treat them with respect. The starting point of respect is with your father-in-law and your mother in-law. One of the places that men miss it a lot is lack of respect for their wives' parents. It doesn't matter who your in-laws are, male or female. It doesn't matter their lifestyle. It doesn't matter their financial status or educational qualifications or their position or lack of it in the society, nothing should make you reduce the respect that should be accorded to

your in-laws.

As a woman, The respect that you accord to your in-laws is an indirect respect to your husband and if you disrespect your in-laws, you indirectly disrespect your husband. If your in-laws are favourably disposed towards you, they will ordinarily take it up as their responsibility to ensure that they fight for you with your husband. That is, if there is an issue between you and your husband, they will defend you in your husband's presence.

A mother-in-law that speaks well of her daughter-in-law, is indirectly enforcing the love that her son should have for that wife. It is your responsibility that you relate amicably with your in-laws.

Even if your relatives are witches, the anointing of God upon your life, is enough to deal with that spirit of witchcraft. Have the understanding that if your mother in-law is a witch, the witchcraft that she could not pass across to your husband before you got married to him as a normal human being who is not a wizard, is a witchcraft that cannot affect you.

Someone asked me some time ago, 'why is it that, every time I give money to my mother in-law, my money 'dries up?' Then I said, 'did you pray and sanctify the money before you gave it to her? ' Better still, you can give somebody the money to give to her, thus, there is no direct transfer. Witches can't harm you. It depends

on what you believe. Cultivate the mentality that:

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper: and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn."

Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)

Carry out what your responsibilities are and stand on the Word. Respect them, honour them and do what needs to be done. Encourage them and when you don't need to mingle with them, it's not necessary. But, you don't run away from them.

"The respect that you accord to your in-laws, is an indirect respect to your husband and if you disrespect your in-laws, you indirectly disrespect your husband."

PRAYER

"I receive the Grace to communicate correctly with my in-laws, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER FIVE

CONTINUE AND IMPROVE ON YOUR HUSBAND'S PRACTICES

When you are getting into a marriage, understand your husband's practice with his people. As a single man before he married you, did he have the habit of giving money to them? If he used to send money home, how much did he often send and if he used to send this amount, how frequently did he send it? This is important to know when you are going into the marriage. This knowledge will help you to continue the practice after the marriage. Some in-laws become antagonistic because the arrival of the marriage seemed to deprive them of the benefits they used to enjoy prior to the marriage.

When you are entering into a marriage, negotiate, discuss, 'how much were you sending to your parents?' Maybe you and your husband are currently expecting a child, so, with that current state, 'how much can we now send?' Based on your financial availability, can you still send the amount that you used to send before?' If the amount of money he sends to them, has to reduce, then he has to communicate with them because of his current financial responsibilities. When this is done on a platform of negotiation between him, you and his parents, it falls into an agreement and then, tension is eliminated.

You can also institute some things that your

husband wasn't doing before you got into that marriage with him. If he never sent money to his parents or took care of them, then encourage him from the Bible scripture which says,

"Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."
Ephesians 6:2-3 (KJV)

Negotiate with him, arrive at an agreement and reach out to them.

BE REAL

I heard of a woman who would send someone to the market to buy bony meat for her every time her mother-in-law was coming to visit with her family. For as long as her mother-in-law stayed with them, she would serve them only that kind of meat to eat.

Her logic was that, she wouldn't want her mother in-law to see them eating sumptuous meals because she hadn't been sending money to the old woman. I think that it is some level of wickedness. Some couples take themselves out to five star hotels, eat good meals worth about 5,000 Naira or $100, spend money with their friends but their husband's father and mother, are living in a house with a leaking roof.

Such a woman doesn't care what they eat but she is in the city eating sumptuous meals. It is such a woman that would change the normal

meals in her home to something worse when her mother-in-law visits in order for her not to have any idea of what they eat normally. That is wickedness and deception.

Ensure that these issues are sorted out. Reach out to these people, do to them that which you would want your own children's husbands or wives to do to you when you get to their age.

One of the prayers my mother-in-law prays for me all the time is that, she says, "Your children will take care of you the way you are taking care of me, and your children will buy you an aeroplane." Then I would say, 'Amen.' Such prayers from my mother-in-law did not just emanate from the blues but were deep, heartfelt, sincere prayers born out of a vibrant love relationship.

"When you are getting into a marriage, understand your husband's practice with his people. This knowledge will help you to continue the practice in marriage."

PRAYER

"My every action shall be the right ones without any errors, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER SIX

WHAT ABOUT DIFFICULT IN-LAWS?

This may be the biggest chapter, but it is important that you read through it all. Do endeavour to drop any pre-conceived notions that, your difficult in-laws (outlaws) can never be changed or that your sour relationship with them can never be mended. You will need to also determine to forgive them and forgive yourself over every past offences as you conclude reading and I believe God for Divine intervention on your behalf.

Many times, the question arises, especially among born again Christians as to how to handle people you consider to be difficult, such as in-laws. I believe that, the Bible has answers to every question.

What are the kind of case scenarios or people that are considered as difficult in-laws?

1. People who have very bossy personalities like a mother in-law, a father in-law, brothers in-law who want to dive into the personal issues of their son or their daughter's home and insisting that their own decisions be the final decisions in their son's or their daughter's home .

2. People who probably had somebody else in mind; that is, another choice of person or partner for their son or daughter to marry, but the son or daughter married who they desired. So, they feel that their in-law is not their choice. Many times, the general kind of reaction to

such a people, is a reaction of antagonism and obvious rejection.

3. The third kind of category which we frequently hear about is, in-laws that are considered to be witches or wizards, either real or perceived or people who are believed to be into occult practices. Such persons are either real or perceived because, sometimes, there might be no obvious evidence for such an accusation .

4. Agitated or worried in-laws. These are in-laws who are agitated or worried because of conditions in the family of their son or daughter in-law, which they consider to be non favourable. Such conditions may include, delayed fruitfulness or inability to conceive or financial difficulties, being experienced by one or both partners.

What are the common manifestations of any one of those categories of people?

Where one or more of any of such conditions mentioned above is present in a marriage, the in-laws might appear a bit concerned, frequently asking questions and may appear as though, they are being nosy in the affairs of their child and their in-law. Such reactions, as natural as they may be, can be exaggerated either by those who are reacting or by the couple that the reaction is being mated against.

Below are just a few suggestions as to the way forward.

1. Understand that anybody would be

concerned about their loved ones, therefore, you must be able to put yourself in their shoes, see from their perspective, be able to understand and bear with them, thereby giving you a greater capacity to accommodate their exaggerated reactions.

2. You must understand from the unset of your marriage, the Biblical admonition in Genesis 2:24

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

Jesus emphasizing this same passage in Matthew 19:5, says,

"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." KJV

At the unset of marriage, a couple ought to agree concerning this scripture which is repeated four times in; Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7 and in Ephesians 5 :31.

Leaving the father and the mother in order to cleave to wife or husband is one of the greatest antidotes to a large extent to combating the influence of difficult in-laws.

By leaving to cleave, the couple decides to seize from emotional and to a large extent, physical connection to father and mother. This is why it

is a disaster for a young man to marry and still be living in his father and mother's house or a young man to marry and be dependent on his elder brother or some relation to feed, sponsor and care for him and his wife.

The word 'leave' in the original Greek refers to, leaving behind, as used of one who on being called away, cannot take another with him. It is like a person who sails past a place on the ocean without stopping at a port. From the original Hebrew, it is 'Azab,' while in the Greek, it is the word, 'Kataleipo.' The word in the original Hebrew which is 'Azab,' means, to relinquish, it means to depart from, it means to leave behind, it means, to let alone. So, This essentially means that, challenges, non-pleasant things rising up amongst a couple are not things that should be taken to the extended family members; a disagreement between a husband and a wife, is not an information for the extended family members.

This is only logical because, everyone loves their own first and foremost before the other person and so the tendency to take sides is normally very high and this predisposes a couple to receive a high level of negative contrary inputs from their relations towards their spouse. This simply means that, issues should be attempted to be resolved between the couple, rather than taking the issues out to their family members.

The second thing to note here is that, a couple is expected to cleave; the man and his wife are to cleave to each other. Cleaving is from the root word 'Dabaq' and it means to cling. It means to adhere to, to catch by pursuit, to follow hard after, to be joined together and to stick to each other.

When an issue goes wrong in a home for instance, reporting to your own relations or to your spouse's relations is not the solution because even in cases where the other party is obviously wrong, it's amazing the way the direct relation easily take sides with his own. At such times of conflicts, the comments made by the extended family members have the capacity of drastically affecting the mind set and the general outlook of the individuals in the marriage. So, to cleave means, to stay together through thick and thin. Irrespective of what it is happening, the best person to talk to in any situation is your partner rather than external persons.

With regards to the case of a perceived or actual witch or wizard, or a person of negative character, or perhaps, a very bossy in-law that wishes to control your family, I believe that the following scriptures gives us answers. A certain Lawyer in the book of Matthew 22:36 asked Jesus:

"36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Matthew 22:36 KJV

"37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37 KJV

I believe that this is one of such areas where that scripture strongly comes to operation. Another scripture also tells us:

"44 But I say unto you. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5:44 KJV

These passages brings out the fact that, it doesn't matter who they are, you owe them the responsibility of love. You might not necessarily have to attempt to draw them unduly close, but then, you must carry out your required obligation "of loving every human being," towards them. Whether they are your in-laws or any other person, how would you treat a person who treats you the way they are treating you? You should relate with them without offence, without quarrels, without anger, without malice and bitterness; this should be your aim. As you do this, I believe that God will grant you victory in Jesus precious name.

Note that, it is a foolhardy and unwise to publicly accuse them of witchcraft, occultism, or manipulation. It is equally unwise for you to even suggest it to your spouse, except of course he or she is the one who first observes it and points it out to you that, his or her relation is a

witch or wicked person.

Also, in whatever way your spouse had related with this person perceived to be or actually is an evil person shall to a large extent, be the way you too should relate with them. If your husband's mother for instance is a witch and she didn't eat him up or kill him before you got married to him, it is not likely that she will be able to eat you or him up now. Therefore, drop the fear and prayerfully live your life to the glory of God.

To go around suspecting your in-laws is also a great error. Don't forget that the offspring of a goat is a goat and that of a lion is also a lion. In the same manner, the child of a witch is a witch or wizard. If you erroneously claim your in-law is a witch, you are also insinuating that your spouse is equally one. Do not stir up unnecessary tension in your marriage.

If however your suspicions are true, you have the responsibility of praying through till your victory is manifests. Collect from the word of God the necessary scriptures and use it in prayers.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 John 4:4 KJV

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their

righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."---Isaiah 54:17 KJV

"37 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?" Lamentations 3:37 KJV

"25 That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;" Isaiah 44:25 KJV

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Psalm 16:8 KJV

"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" 1Peter 3:13 KJV

I see you rising in victory in Jesus name. You shall not fail. You shall not be a victim, you are a victor, in Jesus name.

Trusting God for Children

I use this medium to pray for you that, God will grant you the expectations of your heart in Jesus name.

Considering the fact that this can be another major cause of tension between in-laws, I desire to give you the following scriptures. They are confirmed barrenness blasting and fruitlessness destroying missiles that will always hit their target and not return back to God void or unable to accomplish their mission.

I declare that the yoke of barrenness is hereby terminated in Jesus name.

If you are trusting God for the fruit of the

womb, meditate on these scriptures and prayerfully declare them.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 1:28 KJV

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.
There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil."
Exodus 23:25-26 KJV

"Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle." Deuteronomy 7:14 KJV

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be fat and flourishing;"
Psalm 92:12-14 KJV

"He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so".
Matthew 19:8 KJV

"He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Will thou then that we go and gather them up?" Matthew 13:28 KJV

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."
Galatians 3:13-14 KJV
"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."
Collosians 2:12-14 KJV

Pray them daily, read them aloud to yourself daily and begin to see yourself carrying your children to the alter for dedication, dancing and celebrating with your beloved 'in-loves' and not outlaws in Jesus name.

I declare to you today, that you shall take in, carry your children successfully to term and deliver in nine completed months; healthy children, male and female in Jesus name.

"Understand that anybody would be concerned about their loved ones, therefore, you must be able to put yourself in their shoes, see from

their perspective, be able to understand and bear with them, thereby giving you a greater capacity to accommodate their exaggerated reactions."

PRAYER

"Father, Grant me the Grace to handle my difficult in-laws and live at peace with them, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER SEVEN

A WORD TO PARENTS IN-LAW

As you have read this book and you have also been a son or a daughter in-law yourself, it's important that you endeavour to go the extra mile to help your children and their spouses.

It is likely that, there are situations you might have encountered in your earlier years or at some points while married, or wisdom that you have gleaned from your relationship with your own parents in-law which you can use beneficially to help your children and their spouses.

My husband says that, "the world is a university," everything we experience, is a lecture, a training, a tutelage, and from every experience, you should glean some wisdom, if not it was a wasted experience. So, if you are able to look back on your journey in life, as relating with your own in-laws, it will help you in relating with your own children and their spouses.

A classic example of a very prudent and a very successful mother in-law is found in the book of Ruth, with reference to Naomi. I encourage you to read the whole of that book which is very short and has only four chapters.

Naomi obviously had a very cordial relationship with her daughters in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to the extent that when Naomi was to return to her own country, both daughters in-law were ready to go with her. Both of them were ready to leave their parents, their homeland and relocate with their mother in-law to a

strange land that they knew nothing about.

If Naomi had not been good to them, they would never have thought of doing that. However, as it is with human beings, the two daughters in-law differed, in the sense that, Orpah eventually yielded to her mother in-law's persuasion to return to her people in the land of Moab. While Ruth persisted in continuing with her mother in-law.

" And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:" Ruth 1:16 KJV

From that story in the scripture above, we have gotten a very popularly used toast on many wedding cards. You cannot make such a commitment to somebody who has been nasty to you or to somebody who you do not trust or to somebody who has not shown you the kind of love that a biological mother would have shown to her own daughter.

The Parental Acts Of Naomi

1. Naomi shared her faith with her daughters in-law.

It was obvious that by the time Naomi was returning to her homeland- Bethlehem, she must have shared about her God and her people with her daughters in-law. Ruth was emphatic in declaring that she wanted to accompany Naomi back, to lodge with Naomi's people, that is, the

people of the God of Israel. She desired to worship the God of Israel. Coming from a heathen nation, the country of Moab, Ruth had probably abandoned the worship of her idol gods when she came in contact with a Godly mother in-law and had grown to worship that God, so, going back with her mother in-law to the land of Israel was naturally, going to reside in the land of the God that her mother in-law served. It is therefore important as a mother in-law, to encourage your in-laws to worship God. Their worship of God is even better if it supersedes yours. Your children should be an improvement of yourself anyway and so, encouraging them to be people who love God, who serve God will help you in raising grand children who are God fearing .

2. Naomi never imposed herself on her daughters in-law.

It is an unhealthy habit as a mother in-law to be unduly overbearing and insisting on your own ways all the time. In chapter one of the book of Ruth, when the daughters in-law rose up to return to Bethlehem with her, she emphatically made them to have a rethink on their decision. She didn't want it to appear as though she was forcing them to go back with her to the land of Judah and she didn't want it to look like, they had no choice in the matter.

"Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had

heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her: and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house.... The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept." Ruth 1:6-9 KJV

She spelt out the options before them and I believe that, this is very important in your relationship with your in-law. You might make your own suggestions, you might let them know what your own plans are but, let them take the final decision with regards to whatever it is that is the matter at that time.

3. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Naomi's greater concern, was for Ruth her daughter in-law. She was concerned about her well being and asked after her daily activity. It is important to be genuinely concerned and to ask after the welfare of your in-laws.

"And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned today? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee." Ruth 2:19 KJV

In as much as Ruth was very concerned as to the well being of her mother in-law, she went out to look for a means of livelihood, in order to

take care of her mother in-law and herself. Her mother in-law then reciprocated appropriately by being concerned as to her well being and her welfare at her place of work and assignment.

It is not out of place to encourage your in-laws in their endeavours, business, and careers. Be enthusiastic in your in-laws progress at work. Don't be jealous of their achievements when compared to any of your children or other in-laws. The progress of your children, and their spouses is your progress.

4. Naomi was not overbearing and over-demanding on her daughter in-law.

"And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left." Ruth 2:14 KJV

"And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed."

Ruth 2:18 KJV

Ruth was given food to eat where she had worked but she didn't consume everything that she was given, she remained out of it and brought some to her mother in-law. She deprived herself of the benefit of eating all of it and came willingly to share what she had been given with her mother in law, and her mother

in-law, did not complain about the quality of food that had been brought to her or the quantity of it or any other thing. She understood that, this was what her daughter in-law had at that time and she was happy that the daughter in-law shared with her.

As a mother in-law, it is very important, that you do not make undue demands on your sons in-law or daughters in-law. What they have available, that they share with you or give to you, should be highly appreciated, highly celebrated and well received. Such, motivates for further acts of love and acts of giving. A parent that is constantly complaining, grumbling and looking down on what the children in-law give to them, will end up discouraging those children in-laws from considering further acts of love and acts of giving. Enthusiastically appreciate their little efforts, and keep on showing gratitude like Naomi as the blessings increase.

5. Naomi, taught her the family tradition and genealogy.

It is important that as a parent in-law, you are able to teach your in-laws what your family lineage stands for and what is obtainable in your family lineage.

"And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:"

Genesis 24:3 KJV

If your young in-law knows what your family stands for, it is easier to quickly adjust to appropriately fit into the culture, norms and tradition of your family. Abraham insisted on a wife that understands the family tradition because he didn't want anybody that would make his son deviate from what God had in store for his generational lineage.

6. Naomi was concerned about the settlement and the fruitfulness of her daughter in-law.

"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?" Ruth 3:1 KJV

After the statement in the scripture above, Naomi then went further to give her direction, which eventually led to Ruth getting married to Boaz. The same Ruth who had been counted barren, became fruitful and gave birth to Obed, who became the father of Jesse who became the father of David.

What benefits do we see in the life of Naomi?

When you are a good, considerate, loving and kind parent in-law, you set the stage for yourself to be a beneficiary of the blessings of God in the lives of your children.

"They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them." Isaiah 65:23 KJV

Being the parent to a son or daughter who is married to the wrong person, can easily deprive

a parent of any benefits that could fall to him or her from the child and being married to the wrong person or being married to a person you have failed to treat well and hence you are deprived of the benefits that should fall to you can also be very detrimental. So, your kindness towards your children and your children in-laws, is a foundation for you benefiting maximally from them.

The second thing that we see from the life of Naomi as a benefit of being a good parent in-law is that, the fame of your child, becomes your fame, the success of your child, becomes your success, the growth of your child and your in-law, becomes your growth. Eventually, Naomi was the same person who nursed Obed, raising him as a mighty man in Israel. Additionally, Naomi never lived in poverty, for she was comfortable because she was taken care of by her son in-law.

Your older age and your retirement age ceases to be a burden unlike for most people who have no one to care for them at such a later age. If you are at loggerheads consistently with your in-laws, you might probably be deprived of a lot of beneficial care from them.

Thirdly, you sow the seed for the outcome of your own biological children in their own homes. Life is essentially a product of seed time and harvest.

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest,

and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Genesis 8:22 KJV

What you sow, is what you will eventually reap. If you sow the seed of kindness, love, gentleness, care and gratitude into the life of your daughter in-law, your own biological daughter will receive same from her parents in-law and same applies to your son in-law with resultant effect in your own biological son.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."
Proverbs 31:28 KJV

Like the Proverbs 31 woman, let your children and in-laws rise to call you blessed, in Jesus Name.

In conclusion, I do believe that the parents in-law actually set the pace for the in-law relationship. Be a good in-law, become a good 'in love' and never be an outlaw, in Jesus Name.

"If you are able to look back on your journey in life, as to relating with your own in-laws, it will help you in relating with your own children and their spouses."

PRAYER

"As a parent in-law, I shall live in peace with my in-laws, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER EIGHT

SUCCESSFUL IN-LAW RELATIONSHIP AMONGST MEN

"When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt; Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back."

Exodus 18:1-2 KJV

"And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her. And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent. And Moses told his father in law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the Lord delivered them. And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians."

Exodus 18:5-9 KJV

"Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them. And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God. And it came to

pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. 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:" Exodus 18:11-19 KJV

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

Ex 18:24 KJV

Successful in-law relationships are not only between women; between mother in-law and daughter in-law but it is also important that men have successful in-law relationships. That is, between the father in-law and the son in-law and also, the father in-law and his daughter in-law. There might not be much of an intricate

relationship there but this is very important and this also includes, a successful relationship between a son in-law and his mother in-law.

In analysing the story of Moses, it is clear to see that, Moses actually had a very successful relationship between his father in-law and himself. Moses had had a very serious issue with his wife Zipporah. Zipporah seemed to be a strong willed choleric kind of person. You would see that with evidence in the fact that, she led her sisters in taking care of her father's flock and animal. She was an independent kind of woman and could stand up to the men that came to bully them when they went up to the well to fetch water. Zipporah was probably a bit commandeering in her relationship with Moses and this was evident in the fact that when Moses wanted to circumcise his children, she refused and their children were uncircumcised. As a result of that, on their way to Egypt after Moses had encountered God at the burning bush, God was about to kill him because, Moses had no authority to go back to represent Him in his state of disobedience.

"And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me." So he let him go: then she said. A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision." Exodus 4:24-26 KJV

The law which God had for the children of Israel was that all their males should be circumcised but Moses was attempting to go back to Egypt to execute judgement and to command the obedience of a heathen nation when his own obedience was not complete.

We can only subdue all disobedience when our obedience is complete.

"And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

2 Corinthians 10:6 KJV

After the encounter of Moses with God and Moses was about to die, Zipporah reluctantly in obedience to her husband's original intentions for their children, then took up a sharp stone and circumcised their sons, still in an attitude of a quarrel. She went ahead and circumcised their children and after they had been circumcised, the angel of death that came for Moses, was arrested and Moses was okay to continue his journey. But then, instead of taking his family on the journey to Egypt, he decided to send Zipporah back home to her father. It was after that incident that all the other things that transpired took place, these included Moses going back to Egypt, confronting the Pharaoh, the events that took place in Egypt when and how God brought them out of Egypt, crossing the red sea, all took place while his wife Zipporah had been sent back to her father's house. At this point in the story, was when the father

in-law of Moses, took Zipporah his daughter and returned her to Moses.

"And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her."

Exodus 18:5-6 KJV

Let's take a look at the kind of relationship that existed between Moses and his father in-law, Jethro.

Moses had a very flourishing relationship with his father in-law. Thus, what are the lessons that we have to learn from them?

"When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt; Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back."

Exodus 18:1-2 KJV

"And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her. And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent." Exodus 18:5-7 KJV

Responsibilities Of A Son In-law

1. Respect for the father in-law

Moses had great respect for his father in-law. It didn't matter that he had become a renown man or attained greatness, a Pastor and leader of over 3 million people and it didn't matter that he had attained so much fame and popularity before pharaoh and amongst the Egyptians, because, before they left Egypt, he had almost become like a god, they feared and revered him. But that didn't matter and it didn't reduce his respect and regard for his father in-law.

"And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent." Exodus 18:7 KJV

When his father in-law came to see him, he did obeisance, that is, he prostrated. He paid him homage, the way you pay homage to royalty. He bowed himself down, he was humble and he showed him respect not just in his heart but physically too.

Some young men, come to a point where they think that they have become pally with their father in-law. Maybe when they have grown a little, God blesses them and they have become more prosperous than their father in-law, then they feel that they have become too big for him. What you must understand is that, you must give regard and respect to the gateway that

brought your wife into your life. If her father hadn't birthed, nurtured and groomed her, you wouldn't have had a wife that you would have married. It is very important to ensure that, you recognise him as your superior and that, he is older than you are. It is not a common thing to have a father in-law that is younger than you, I don't think it is possible. Acknowledge that he is your senior, acknowledge that he birthed the woman that is your wife and also acknowledge that he gave you his daughter to marry.

2. Accept and receive him with excitement

"And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him;

Exodus 18:7 KJV

Moses didn't just show respect or bowed down to his father in-law, he kissed him. He touched him. In our African culture, such signs could be in form of a hand shake or a hug. In the middle- eastern culture, they give each other a kiss on the side of the cheek as a sign of acceptance and welcome. That was what Moses did.

3. Be hospitable:

After the greeting , Moses invited him into his tent. You need to be welcoming to your father in-law or in-laws. Many men are hostile to their wife's relations, they are unable to receive or welcome them into their house. There are men who come back home, find the relations of their wife in the house and it could be a cause

of quarrel. Your wife's relations are your relations. You migh. be the head of your home, but, it is not just a house, it became a home because you have a wife in it and your ability to receive and be cordial with your in-laws is very important. They should feel welcomed into your home or abode.

4. Be concerned about your father in-law's welfare:

Moses and his father in-law asked each other about their welfare. As a son in-law, you must be concerned with the welfare of your father in-law and with the welfare of your in-laws in general. Being concerned with their welfare includes, knowing how they are faring, knowing about their health, their prosperity and knowing how they are able to feed themselves. These are vital things that must be attended to, in order for you to maintain an adequate and proper in-law relationship.

Be concerned about the soundness of their health, the soundness of their home and everything that pertains to them. Be concerned about their peace and tranquillity, about their mobility and even their spiritual relationship with God, these things go a long way in helping to create a cordial relationship in your home between you and your wife.

When your wife sees that you love her people, you are concerned about their welfare and you are interested in what they are doing, it gives

room for more dedication on the part of your wife towards you and it makes for a better marital relationship.

5. Effective communication and openness:

"And Moses told his father in law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the Lord delivered them." Exodus 18:8 KJV

Moses was open to his father in-law and was able to communicate effectively with him. He told his father in-law the things that happened to them in Egypt and how God saw them through. He told him about the plagues, what happened between them and the Egyptians and also told him about the trouble they had encountered on the way.

Sometimes, if you are able to communicate with your father in-law effectively, he can serve as your mentor because of his age advantage. There are things which you might be passing through now which he had already passed through and conquered. So, being able to communicate with your father in-law sincerely, might be able to elicit for you, ways forward. By the time he opens up to you and says, "oh, in my days, we had an experience like that," such things encourage you and gives you direction.

6. Humility and a teachable spirit:

"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: And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee."

Exodus 18:19-22 KJV

Moses was humble enough to learn from his father in-law. Due to the fact that, he respected his father in-law and valued him, he was able to appreciate him and received instructions from him. When his father in-law saw the way he had been running his affairs, his ministry and how he sat from morning until evening every day, attending to people one at a time, the father in-law gave him a reasonable advice and counsel and Moses did not feel too big to receive the counsel.

A few young men sometimes, feel that they have arrived and their father in-law is not in any capacity to give them any counsel or advice. You would agree with me as you read this book, that the counsel that Jethro gave to

Moses didn't just work for Moses in his time but has worked for many big churches as of today. My father in the Lord, Bishop David Oyedepo said, "if you stand on the shoulders of them that have gone ahead, you will be able to see further." He also said that, "what an old man sees while standing on the ground, a young man, even if he climbs to the top of a palm tree might never be able to see it." There is wisdom in age, make the most of it from your parents.

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Isaiah 46:4 KJV

7. Submission to spiritual authority:

Moses surrendered to the spiritual leadership of his father in-law. If you have a father in-law who is as spiritual as you are or who is more spiritual than you are, submitting to his spiritual instruction and guidance is an asset, it helps you as it did for Moses.

"Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them. And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God." Exodus 18:11-12 KJV

Responsibilities of the father in-law to the son in-law

1. Having genuine love for your son in-law:

Jethro genuinely loved Moses and took him as his son. You will remember from record and history, that Jethro did not have many sons and when Moses came into his life and married his daughter, he took Moses as his son. He related to him in that regard. It is believed that one of those who led the children of Israel through the wilderness might have been his son.

You might have sons but each son in-law that comes into your home should be taken as one of your sons. There should be no difference between your biological children and your children in-law. Many of the fracas that take place in the homes of 'daughters' sometimes, stems from the fact that, there is a division. The young man that married their daughter is seen as a stranger, he is not considered as one of their children. It is necessary for you to receive your son in-law, not as a son in-law but as a son. Treat him as if he came out of your own loins.

2. Be cautious to interfere in the affairs of your son in-law:

As a father in-law, you should never over assert yourself. You should never interfere and intermeddle in the affairs of your son in-law and your daughter or your son and daughter in-law. When Zipporah misbehaved towards her husband Moses and Moses sent her back home, there is no account whatsoever that a

misunderstanding ensued between, Moses and Jethro and when he did come to return Zipporah to Moses her husband, he was very cautious in the process.

"And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her." Exodus 18:5-6 KJV

When Jethro came to his son in-law Moses, he didn't just barge into Moses' house. He sent a message to let him know that he (his father in-law) had come with his wife and two sons. The courtesy that Jethro applied in his communication with Moses was evident, by his choice of words. As a father in-law, it doesn't matter that you are older than your son in-law, you must respect the fact that, his home is his own and sufficient regards should be accorded to him in his own home.

3. Be happy at the success of your son in-law:

The father in-law of Moses was genuinely happy at the successes and progress of Moses. When Moses told him the story of how God delivered them from Egypt, he was very glad.

"And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians." Exodus 18:9 KJV

It is important that you are glad and happy at

the success of your son in-law because indirectly, it is also your own success and progress and also that of your daughter who is in his house. So, there should be no tendency for jealousy which results in thoughts like, "who does this little boy think he is?" "Does he think he has arrived?" Or "he has a car now that is bigger than mine." There should be no room for such. Remember that, it is the joy of every father to see his son doing better than himself or to see his son progressing where he was unable to make progress in the past.

4. Be interested in the welfare of your son:
Jethro was interested in the welfare of his son in-law.

"And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent." Exodus 18:7 KJV

They asked each other of their welfare: how they were doing and how things were with them and you could notice that more disclosure was made by Moses, he had more to tell, probably because Jethro asked him more questions. So, it seemed like Jethro was even more interested in the welfare of Moses than Moses was in he's because we see how the story transpired and how he rejoiced at the success that his son in-law had enjoyed. As a father in-law, learn to be interested in the welfare of your son in-law and his family.

5. Share your wealth of wisdom and knowledge: As a father in-law, be ready to share your wealth of wisdom and knowledge with your son in-law.

"And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone." Exodus 18:13-18 KJV

Jethro was interested in the success, the longevity, the prosperity, the productivity and the success of his son in-law. As a father in-law, this is very important for you to embrace. Learn to be interested in what your son in-law is doing. Where you have wise counsel, you can communicate it to him and not in an overbearing, domineering, commandeering attitude but as pieces of wisdom that are given and

communicated to him and this will go a long way in helping the young man's establishment in life.

"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:" Exodus 18:19 KJV

From the above scripture, in all humility, Jethro inferred that, 'his counsel wasn't what would make Moses to succeed, but he only communicated to him that wisdom and it was God that would bless what it was that he had told him.' That frame of mind is important in a successful in-law relationship.

6. Spiritual support:

As a father in-law, assist your son in-law in his spirituality, especially if your state of spirituality is higher than that of your son in-law.

"Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them. And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God." Exodus 18:11-12 KJV

It is important that you share your faith and your love for God with your son in-law.

In conclusion, I wish to point out the fact that, success in in-law relationships is not restricted to just women but also to the men and my firm believe is that, you will be a mighty man of

valour as you help your son in-law to rise up in life and as a son in-law, you will walk hand in hand with your father in-law to ensure that you experience success as you progress in life.

Congratulation sirs, it's a new day!

"Successful in-law relationships are not only between women; between mother in-law and daughter in-law but it is also important that men have successful in-law relationships."

PRAYER

"Lord, I receive grace for a good in-law relationship, in Jesus Name"

[redacted]

CHAPTER NINE

YOU OWE YOUR PARENTS

"And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them." Mark 1:29-31 KJV

The purpose for being healed is for you to rise up and minister to the Lord. That also means that your prosperity is to enable you minister to the Lord. 3John 2 says,

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

That is, your body and health prosperity, your financial prosperity is for the purpose of serving the Lord.

Also as a point of note, Peter was a good son in-law. He accommodated his wife's mother, some of these little acts of kindness are a very potent secret of success in life and ministry.

Mark 1: 29 says, And forthwith, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, James and John. The mother in-law too was good to her son in-law because as soon as they saw her sick of the fever, they didn't hesitate to tell Jesus. It is not every mother in-law that people can be bothered about because of their nasty, nonchalant, or highly unpleasant attitude. But this one

was valuable, they needed her. If you have the privilege as a mother or a father in-law to live in the house of your son and daughter in-law or daughter and son in-law, be useful, be an asset and not a liability. Be involved in children care, home care and anything else you are trained to do, make your presence valuable. Don't stay in the house of your in-laws and be a 'confusionist,' or a trouble maker. Do not engage in gossips. If you have any impute, let it be constructive, productive and destiny impacting.

"Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work." 1 Timothy 5:10 KJV

The words of God through Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:1, becomes highly relevant and applicable in the in-law relationships.

"Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity."

1 Timothy 5:1-2 KJV

Your mode of communication with your father or mother in-law is to be with utmost respect and honour. The word 'intreat' stems from the Greek word 'Iketevo' and it means, 'to address,' or 'to speak,' or 'to call upon,' which may be done by way of an exhortation entreaty or instruction. It means, to beseech or to appease by

entreaty or to entreat, consol, to encourage or to strengthen by consolation. There is no word describing the original word that gives you the allowance to speak hastily, with arrogance, or disrespectfully to your in-laws.

People wonder many times why things are not working for them in life. Those were just a few hidden keys or secrets to success in life.

Another point you will find very interesting and beneficial from this passage is,

"Honour widows that are widows indeed." 1 *Timothy 5:3 KJV*

Now, you must understand that, contrary to our notions or understanding, when we read through that passage, the word 'widow' there, is the word 'chera' in Greek, and it is derived from the word 'chasma,' a Greek word which means, vacancy. A 'chasma' is a gape or gulf, the concept is that of a deficiency. A widow here refers to one who is lacking a husband literarily or figuratively. It also metaphorically refers to a city that is stripped of its inhabitants and riches.

An in-law, particularly a mother in-law who is lacking in a husband as in the case of an abandonment, divorce or separation can comfortably fall into this category to her children and in-laws.

The second point of note here is in verse 4 which says that, if any widow have children or nephews, let THEM learn FIRST to show piety

at home and to requite their parents for that is good and acceptable before God.

Verse 8 of 1 Timothy 5:8 states this,

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Verse 16 states that,

"If any man or woman that believeth have widows (a vacant parent), let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."

I believe that this is an admonition to each of us as far as parental care is concerned.

Remember that, as most people age, they also loose grip on their earning capacity. they retire from regular white collar jobs (as civil servants etc), or become too feeble to carry out their hand works, or menial labour jobs as they had earlier done. They have become 'chasma' in a sense, they are vacant, or devoid of the initial source of riches, like a city stripped.

At this point, it becomes the responsibility of their sons and daughters, to take up the responsibility of their care.

"...let them (sons and daughters) relieve them (parents) 1 Timothy 5:16

This means, to give them the necessary assistance. It is also implying that, the strength you have acquired relative to theirs is needed, being strong to ward off or drive away negative things, to defend, to give assistance, to relieve

and to aid from your own resources.

Responsibilities to parents.

In verse 4 of 1 Timothy 5, the scripture inferred that, - 'let us learn to show piety at home and to requite our parents for that is good and acceptable.

i. You are to act reverently towards your parents-(show Piety)

ii. You are to requite, recompense, repay, make return, make conferring benefaction; return for something and that thing as far as your parents are concerned is, birthing you into the world.

Like my husband would say, "they are your gateway into the world.' The way you treat, handle and repay the channel that ushered you into this world determines your success in the world they ushered you into. The way you treat your access road into this world determines the access you have to the treasures this world has in store for you. If you will take up this highly profitable and beneficial role and assignment of care for your parents, your success and rise in life will be an ever increasing rise in Jesus Name.

In the book of Matthew 15:4, the Lord Jesus said,

"For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death."

In verse 5, He said, "But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift,

by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;"

Verse 6 says, "And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

In those passages, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and scribes very vehemently for failing to take care of their parents and for equally teaching the people not to do so either. It seems to me that they were trying to erroneously teach the people that, anything that they didn't purchase or didn't spend money on was to be used, consumed and devoured by only themselves as individuals. They thereby were quick to identify just about anything as a gift they had received and thereby it didn't qualify to be shared with their parents.

Jesus condemned such a teaching and such a practice in no small way. Till today, people still separate and categorize what items their parents and in-laws should qualify to have. Anything too expensive or too big is considered by many as being too much to give to their parents. What an error. I consider it as wickedness, just as Jesus considered it too. These people deserve the best of what we have. They should be given sufficient care to nurture their aging bodies and I believe you should be proud when people see your aged parents still well dressed and well fed.

Jesus was referring to one of the 10 commandments that God gave Moses on the mountain, personally engraving the words on the tablets of stone.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12 KJV

".....that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Deuteronomy 5:16 KJV

Beloved, the honour, care, love, affection, recompense, repay, returns that you bestow on your parents,is the determinant of not just your long life on earth, but it is a determinant of things going well with you.

You can step out of that struggle by practically beginning to take care of your mother and father or the father figure or the mother figure you now have.

HOW TO HONOUR YOUR PARENTS

Your honour is meaningful and impactful when it is in the following ways:

i. Regular- if you earn a salary monthly, your parents should feel its impact monthly. If you earn as a business person, then after sales, the percentage for your parents should also come out of every income.

ii. Consistent- No need should make you stop or relent in your giving to your parents.

iii. Give with love.

iv. Your giving, should be commensurate with

your level. You can't give above what you have, you start with what you have, establish a percentage to give from what you have and increase it as your own income increases. As God blesses you, your parents too must feel the increase in the blessing of God upon your life.

v. Covet their blessings declared upon you and be careful to take note of the specific blessings, record them and pray them into enforcement.

"Beloved, the honour, care, love, affection, recompense, repay, returns that you bestow on your parents, is the determinant of not just your long life on earth, but it is a determinant of things going well with you."

PRAYER

"I shall adequately live up to my duties and responsibilities to my parents, by the grace of God, in Jesus Name."

[redacted]

CHAPTER TEN

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. WHEN YOU SEND GIFTS TO YOUR IN-LAWS AND THEY DON'T APPRECIATE THEM, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

ANS: You are only doing it as a covenant obligation and not doing it to gain their favour. You are not doing it for their thanks. When you give to them and they don't appreciate you, but they want more, endeavour to do the best you can, the God that knows your heart will vindicate you at the end. So, do your best.

Q. WHAT IF YOU PERCEIVE OR GET TO KNOW THAT YOUR IN-LAWS ARE WITCHES OR WIZARDS, WHAT DO YOU DO?

ANS. I refer you to see chapter six of this book for detailed answers.

Q. FOR THOSE THAT ARE FROM HEAVY POLYGAMOUS HOMES, DO YOU ADVISE US TO CARRY OUR CHILDREN HOME WHERE THE COMPETITION AMONGST THE MOTHERS AND THE CHILDREN IS VERY HIGH?

ANS. Undue interaction, is not necessary. Your children should know their father's house but it's not every occasion that you have to attend.

My children, know their grand father's home and they have been to the interiors of the village. It is important that they know it but I don't need to take them there every Easter or Christmas.

If it is your family tradition to visit your home

often and you feel you cannot break out of it, there are some things that are not necessary to subject your family to. Polygamy is one of the worst evils that our society has come up with and any possible thing that you can do to avoid the undue challenges of it, should be done.

Q. HOW DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR IN-LAWS?

ANS. I refer you to see chapters two, three and six of this book for detailed answers.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IN A SITUATION WHERE THE MARRIAGE WAS SPONSORED BY THE WOMAN'S FAMILY? HOW CAN THE WOMAN ADAPT TO HER HUSBAND'S FAMILY IN SUCH A SITUATION?

ANS. Very comfortably. It's about your mindset, it depends on what you and your husband have agreed to do. If you cannot respect your husband and respect his family, then you are in for a big challenge. You can't afford to look down on your husband's family, it doesn't matter how poor they are compared to you.

When a woman enters a man's life, she has entered that life to upgrade it. For instance, you see a man who has a job and he is just managing and maybe squatting with a friend but after his wedding, things tend to change. You could see him probably moving to a one bedroom apartment, within a year or two everything changes. Soon, he is living in a two bedroom flat and then he gets a car.

It is one of the mysteries of marriage. When a marriage takes place, favour follows it. It doesn't matter how unsuccessful a man is, as long as you see that he is working, he is hard working, he loves God and he is ready to obey God's instructions, it doesn't matter what he doesn't have, he will turn out better in no distant time.

My husband had said it severally that, before we got married, it was only a pair of trousers that he had but I didn't know this. He was always smart and neat. But he has loads of trousers today.

There is a place to start, it doesn't matter how much money your family spent on your wedding day, which is only one day in your life time but you have a life time with your husband. Forget about the expenses and the cost that was put in, face the marriage with a determination that it will work; respect your in-laws and celebrate your husband into greatness.

Q. DO YOU REALLY OWE YOUR IN-LAWS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOVE?

ANS. I refer you to see chapter six of this book for detailed answers.

Q. IF YOUR HUSBAND SENDS MONEY TO HIS PARENTS WITHOUT TELLING YOU WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

ANS. When you enter into a marriage, you and your husband should arrive at an agreement on

how that marriage should be run. It is very important that you agree on how to conduct your relationship .

What was your reaction when you found out that he sent money to his people without telling you?

Did you react violently or did you start sulking?

All these will determine whether or not he will open up to you in the future. I don't think he would want to do all that from the beginning of the marriage. If you have found yourself in this situation, prayer and a positive change in your attitude will help.

When you have some money, you can tell him that you have such an amount and that if he has some, he could add, so that you can send to his people. When you have done that over and over, he will understand that you don't hate his family but you want to help and he will most likely begin to involve you and inform you of his intentions towards them.

Q. IF I AM FACED WITH THE CHALLENGE OR ISSUE OF CHILD BEARING, WHAT DO I DO?

ANS. I refer you to see chapter six of this book for detailed answers.

PRAYER

"I shall always have and give the right answers in every situation, in Jesus Name"

[redacted]

A EULOGY FOR MAMA HANNAH TITI ENENCHE

My sweet Mama
A modern day saint
A compendium of graces
A discretely packaged vessel
A humble tool in the hands of a Mighty God.

My sweet Mama
Lioness
Mother hen
Prayer warrior

My sweet Mama
You made God smile always
Now, you live in His smile for always

My sweet Mama
How often you worshipped with songs
How often you worshipped with words
How often you worshipped with charts of praise

My sweet Mama
The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 only describes you
How often you considereth a field and you bought it
How often you taught your children to do the same
How often you planted vineyards. You were a woman of industry

My sweet Mama
Mother eagle

Entrepreneur
Mentor
Role Model

My sweet Mama
Others preach love,
You lived love.
Others preach soul winning,
you lived as a witness.

My sweet Mama
The prison evangelist and caregiver
The parent to the orphans
The helper of the widows
The foster mother to hundreds of adopted children

My sweet Mama
You fought the course of the fatherless
You were eyes to the blind
You were ears to the deaf
You were legs to the lame

My sweet Mama
No one met you and left without a gift
No one met you and left without food
No one met you naked and left without clothing
No one met you crying and left without smiling

My sweet Mama
You went deep into God
You saw His glory

You spoke with Him as friend with friend
You worshipped your way into His very presence.

My sweet Mama
10 days in the Holy land on earth
10 days of sweet fellowship with the Holy spirit in the Holy land
10 days of intense prayers in the earthly Jerusalem
10 days of worshipful weeping in the earthly Jerusalem to conclude your earthly pilgrimage

My sweet Mama
Now you have eternity in the eternal Holy land
Now you have endless fellowship in the heavenly Holy land
Now you are among the great cloud of witnesses interceding
Now you can continue to worship God for endless eternity in heaven.

My sweet Mama
Even in death, you were considerate
You waited till it was 12 minutes to landing at the airport
You desired to transit from Jerusalem to the Heavenly Jerusalem
And you did just that with a deep breath. You gently sat back in your seat and you were gone.

My sweet Mama
You deserved such a glorious departure

You were still warm when we touched you
You had a glorious smile on your face
You stepped out gallantly, just as you wished.

My sweet Mama
What a wonderful reception you received in the earthly Jerusalem
What a more surpassing and a more indescribable reception you received in the Heavenly Jerusalem
There you arrived to depart no more from the glorious presence of your Lifelong Friend, Saviour, Master and Companion.
There, you will continue your life long worship, bowing down before the throne, but this time, for all eternity.

My sweet Mama,
We resolve to see you again,
Sometime when the trumpet of the rapture sounds, we trust God to be ready,
Engulfed in a lifestyle of worship, of purity, of holiness, of love,
Of forgiveness and of genuine love for God.
As you look down to see us from among the great cloud of witnesses,
We pray to make Heaven too.

My sweet Mama,
An Apostle such as you were
A nurturer of seeds, seeds of greatness and seeds of destiny

[redacted]

An eagle who has raised many eagles
A lioness who has raised many lions and lionesses
Your legacy lives on
We salute you, great woman
Great mother
Great intercessor
Great worshipper.

[redacted]

PRAYERS

SALVATION PRAYER

One sure pathway to victory in every sphere of life is, the pathway of righteousness. If you have not given your Life to the Lord Jesus Christ, doing so, is very important.

With total conviction, lift your voice and say the following prayer:

"Father, I am sorry for all my sins and all that I have done wrong, please forgive me for erring all these while. I Come to You now for mercy. Let the Blood of Jesus purge me from every form of sin. By Your grace Lord, I will live a life of righteousness and integrity, a life that will be pleasing to You. I receive You now into my life in Jesus name."

RE-DEDICATION PRAYER

If you have given your life to Christ before but you had backslidden, then pray this prayer:

"I rededicate my life to You today, Lord. I am sorry for 'putting my hand in the plough and looking back.' I Am sorry for going back on my words and vows that I made to You initially. I am sorry for every way that I might have abused the privileges of relationships that You gave me. Henceforth, I promise to live a life of purity, integrity and commitment to You. I make a determination to live for You today and always, in Jesus Name.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism of the Holy Ghost, is one sure experience that will serve as a permanent

catalyst to boost and sustain your everyday walk with God.

The more spiritual you are, the more loving and respectful you become and the more of right decisions you take daily.

In Acts 1:8, the Bible says:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Say the following prayer aloud:

"I thank You Lord because I am now born again. Thank You for washing away my sins and making me a new and better person.

Holy Spirit, I ask that You baptize me with Yourself, with evidence of speaking in tongues. Take over my total being, take over my life, my mind, my heart, my mentality, my intellect and my emotions. Fill me with Your presence.

I ask that You take over my tongue now and speak through my lips. I receive Your overwhelming presence. I receive You now, in Jesus Name."

Now, speak aloud in that unknown language as the Spirit of God gives you utterance, in Jesus Name.

A PRAYER FOR YOU

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6 KJV

Lord, according to the scripture above, let your overwhelming Grace come upon Your child in

Jesus name. I pray that, you will be endued with the wisdom to relate prudently and in peace with your in-laws, and you shall always have a blessed family with a healthy in-law relationship, in Jesus Name.

CONTACT US

Beloved, I'll like you to share your testimonies with us at mailto:info@dunamisgospel.org

Or write us a letter addressed to:

Dr. (Mrs) Becky Enenche

Dunamis International Gospel Centre

Beside Old Federal Secretariat

Area1, Garki

FCT Abuja

Can also follow me on Facebook and twitter on

http://www.facebook/drmrsbeckyenenche

http://www.twitter/drmrsbeckyenenche

You can visit our website for recent info: http://www.dunamisgosepl.org

God bless you!