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HOW TO Believe GOD for A MATE

How to Believe God For a Mate *by Dr. Frederick K. C. Price*

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Introduction

Marriage is a divine institution established by God.

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

According to the scriptures, Adam did not complain about the woman God made for him. We have no indication that he was unhappy or dissatisfied with God's creation.

If Adam could have confidence in God for a mate, I believe that Christians today can do likewise. If a Christian desires to marry, I believe God will bring the right person into his or her life who is best suited for them.

When people are united with the man or woman God knows is best for them, things work out better.

However, I ***do not*** believe that God has a chart in heaven where He has already matched the men with the women. I do not believe that at all. God has not indiscriminately picked out a mate for everyone.

But, I believe God knows who is best for each person. He knows which qualities are compatible. And when you leave the matter to God, He will bring the right person into your life. The relationship will be blessed and thus produce a happy marriage.

1

"Claiming" a Mate

Oftentimes Christians do not trust God to bring them the right person.

Instead of using their faith, many operate in foolishness and, even worse, presumption. Then they use scripture to support their foolish or presumptuous position!

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24

To many people, that scripture means that they can "claim" a particular man or woman as their spouse. I have even heard 9

some say: "The Bible says 'what things soever'

I desire, and I desire that this man be my husband," or, "I desire that this woman be my wife." That is not what Mark 11:24 means.

When Jesus said, What things soever ye desire ..., He was not talking about overriding another person's will. God will not force something just because you

desire it.

Nowhere in the Bible does God give anyone authority over another individual's will. You may want a particular man or woman, but he or she may not want you!

At our church, Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles, a woman walked up to a man and said, "I claim you as my husband. You are going to be my husband and there is nothing you can do about it." That kind of action is not *faith,* but *presumption.*

As a pastor, I have encountered more women than men who "claim" a specific individual as a mate. I do not mean to imply that only women do this. Perhaps the reason I have heard about it more from women than men is because the women give me the most feedback.

But both ladies and men should know that claiming a particular mate is not faith. It is presumption, and it is foolish. God will not honor such a stand. Furthermore, someone who "claims" a particular person may come up with the short end of the stick. To interpret Mark 11:24 as a way to "claim a mate" is to operate in foolishness, not faith. Besides, you may get something you do not want.

Some people who read this book may remember that they said of their spouse: "I cannot live without him," or, "I cannot live without her." But after years of marriage, and in some cases only months or weeks, many wished they had never even seen the man or woman. If some of them had it to do over again, they would not even marry their current spouse.

Now most women want a husband and, quiet as it is kept, most men want a wife. God 11

instituted marriage and there is nothing wrong with it. But there is a right way and a wrong way, based on God's Word, to go about finding a mate.

2

Trust God to Bring the Right Mate

In selecting a mate, sometimes we humans just look at the exterior. God knows what is in the heart, and He knows what is inside of you. The natural is all that

we can see but, as the saying goes, "All that glitters is not gold."

You might see women who are very beautiful physically who you might think are fabulous wives. But if you spoke to their husbands, you might find out that living with those women is an entirely different story from what you would think it would be. They cannot cook. They are not supportive of their husbands. They nag. They argue constantly.

There are other women who do not look beautiful to some people, but are fabulous wives. Beauty is only skin deep. The real beauty is that which comes from within. It radiates. You are in for a rude awakening if you base everything on what you see.

Let me clarify something: I am not saying that you should not have a pretty wife or a handsome husband. If that is what you desire, you can have it. But let God bring the person into your life. He knows who is best suited for you.

If you are going to "claim" a husband or wife, I would advise you to just pray this simple prayer:

"Lord, I want a husband (or wife) who will fulfill my spiritual and physical needs. I believe that I have received my request according to Mark 11:24."

Then simply thank the Lord daily for your mate. Trust Him to bring the person into your life. You will know who the person is when he or she comes, because the Holy Spirit will tell you—if you ask Him.

When you leave the matter in God's hands, you do not have to worry about playing Russian Roulette with your life. God will see that the right person crosses your path. Trust God! He heard you when you prayed.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:14,15

God never sleeps nor slumbers. (Ps. 121:3,4.) When you pray, He hears you. You can trust Him to answer your prayer.

3

Wait on the Lord

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 2 Corinthians 6:14,15

As a Christian, you are a member of God's family. Do not marry an unbeliever out of loneliness or desperation. The Lord knows your desire. He will answer your prayer! You need to exercise patience.

. . . the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:3,4

There are many people who try to help God out. Even though they do not have a mate, they prepare to have wedding invitations printed or they purchase a wedding gown. That is not faith—that is foolishness. And trying to help God out like that does not speed up the answer to your prayer. Wait on the Lord.

Have you considered that you may not be ready for that man or woman of your dreams?

There may be some improvement God still needs to bring about within you. Maybe God has to prepare you for the mate.

There are many people who have the wrong attitude about marriage. For example, it seems that men invariably want to marry a virgin. They want the untouched virgin. Yet, they do not stop to think that maybe the virgin wants a virgin too. She may not want a used model. She may desire a brand new, just-off-the-showroom-floor model.

It is not fair for men to expect women to be virgins if the men are not virgins. If you are not a virgin man, what makes you think you have the right to expect the woman to be a virgin?

In another vein, I have seen men and women of one race who think their spouse has to be of another race in order for them to be happy. This is plain foolishness.

You will not have a happy marriage because the person's skin is white, and you will not have a bad marriage because the skin is black. Skin color has nothing in the world to do with a happy marriage.

I have seen some miserable black folks, and I have seen some miserable white folks.

There have been miserable Asians and miserable Latinos. The color of one's skin does not guarantee happiness. It is plain foolishness to say, "I am going to have him or her because they are white, or black, or Asian or Latino."

4

The Right Motive

There is another aspect to this business of "claiming" a husband or wife that I want to address. You may have been believing God for a mate for a long time. If you have not received your desire, you may be beginning to wonder why. The Bible gives us a bit of insight into this.

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. James 4:1-3

From these scriptures we can see that people ask for things, but with the wrong motive. To claim a husband or wife for the wrong motive will not work. Men who say they are believing God for a wife, but specify that she must have certain physical proportions are not operating in faith but in lust.

What does a woman's physical proportions have to do with happiness in the marriage relationship? Ideas like that are born of lust. Women are just as guilty. They state the exact physical proportions they expect their husbands to have.

I have been married for over 33 years, and I can say with a certain degree of authority that a husband's and wife's physical proportions do not determine the happiness of a marriage. The marriage relationship, to be successful, must be based on more than sex. In fact, our society has made sex to seem much more

important than it actually is. We mistakenly think it is a determining factor in marriage, but it is not.

If a woman thinks she is going to be happy just because of a man's physical proportions; or a man, because of a woman's proportions, both are grossly in error. That sort of attitude is lust, not faith, and it will not yield the fruit of righteousness.

And if these physical proportions are really important to a person, I would seriously question their motive for a mate. It seems they really want a physical play toy. A marriage based on such foolishness is doomed to destruction because the motive is not holy from the outset.

Furthermore, what guarantee is there that the other person will stay the same size after marriage? I know a woman who was slim and trim when we were in high school together.

She is still beautiful to me, but over the years she has gained a considerable amount of weight.

The same thing happens to some men.

Over the years they let themselves go and develop pot bellies, or are noticeably overweight.

Ladies, just because a man is a certain size when you meet is no guarantee that he will stay that way after years of marriage. Men, just because a woman is trim does not mean that she will stay that size. After a few babies, her shape may change.

This subject may be offensive to some people, but if somebody had talked these things over with many couples having trouble today before they married, maybe they would not be facing the problems they are. This is life. It is reality, and we need to deal with it head on. Happiness is not guaranteed because of what a person looks like physically. To think that way is foolishness, not faith.

Trusting God requires that we get our mind off the physical. The Bible tells us where our focus should be.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these

things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

Remember: You are a result of a certain set of circumstances. You have your own peculiar psychological make-up. You are the product of a particular environment, history, tradition, and family relationship. You may think that you want a certain person, but in reality that individual may not be compatible with you.

In addition, he or she has something to say about whether you two should be together. Maybe you are not his version of a queen if you are a woman, or her version of a king if you are a man.

So many times the people "claiming" spouses think only about what they want.

What about the other person? Maybe the people "claiming spouses" do not measure up to the other person's standards.

This could be another reason why some people have not received a mate, even though they have asked God for one and have been standing in faith since praying. Their prayer may have been a foolish one.

I once had a foolish attitude about marriage. Before I knew anything about faith and claiming a spouse, I did have a few remote thoughts about marriage and the kind of woman I wanted. At the time, I was in my late teens, and marriage was the farthest thing from my mind. I was dating several girls and my attitude was: why marry when I can play?

I was footloose and fancy-free.

Still, in the back of my mind, I did have certain criteria for a mate. She would have a certain skin color and hair texture. In retrospect that even sounds dumb. Skin color and hair texture do not make a person happy.

And I certainly would not trade my wife, Betty, for anything. The Lord worked it out for us to be together, and I would not change the situation for a million dollars! Betty is beautiful! She is understanding and patient with me and, besides that, she can cook!

But, more importantly, we are compatible.

We have four beautiful children and have shared over 33 years of happiness. Sure, we have had our challenges, but we love one another. That love has seen us through everything. God's love conquers all.

5

Be About Your Father's Business

God will bring your mate to you. And you do not have to constantly wonder about when it will happen. You do not have to go looking for him or her. Be about your Father's Business. Tend to the things of God. Matthew 6:33 says as you seek Him first, .. all these things shall be added unto you.

Simply pray:

Father God, I want a husband (or wife). You know that I want someone who looks nice, but I am going to trust You to bring the right person into my life. I believe that I will know it when he (or she) crosses my path. I believe I receive my desire, which is for a mate, according to Mark 11:24.

After you make the confession, leave the situation to God. I cannot stress this point enough: Once you have prayed and asked God for a mate, trust Him to bring the person into your life. He will see that it is the right person, if you trust Him.

You trusted God to save you and to write your name in the Lamb's Book of Life. Are you willing to trust him for a husband or wife?

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Thank God For Everything?

Dr. Frederick K. C. Price is the founder and pastor of Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles, California, which has a rapidly growing membership of over 14,000.

Dr. Price is in great demand as a seminar teacher. He travels throughout the world teaching the Word simply and in the power of the Holy Spirit. His ministry includes radio programs throughout the country and a weekly one-hour television broadcast, "Ever Increasing Faith," which airs throughout the United States, Haiti, Australia, the Bahamas, and the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Price's God-given ability as a teacher enables him to simply and understandably transmit to others how faith works.

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