

Fix It Jesus!

For Single Women Only

The Straightforward No-Nonsense Guide To
Dating, Relationships, and Self Improvement

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*Fix It Jesus! For Single Women Only: The
Straightforward No-Nonsense Guide To Dating,
Relationships, and Self Improvement*
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Introduction

Hello, fellow single women, and thank you so much for buying my book. My name is Dr. Reed, or you can just call me Sophia. I am the author of this book and I want to tell you that I have some AMAZING reading in store for you. You may or may not know me from my blog, Sophie-sticated Mom, (www.sophie-sticatedmom.com). No matter if you do or don't, I am still going to take the time to share some things about myself and the purpose of this book.

I started this whole journey of inspiring women because I was once in a place where you may be today. I used to hate being single. I used to cry about being single and I used to put myself in bad situations and relationships with men so that I would not be single. All that lead to is a bunch of me hurting myself and causing myself more pain.

That is when God told me to GET A GRIP, that He had so much in store for me and that here I

was rolling around on the ground “literally” throwing a temper tantrum all because I was single. The truth of the matter was that I had so much to offer the world and I was not willing to live up to my full potential because I could not get over the fact that I was not married. In retrospect, it was ridiculous, but yet these are the same struggles that so many Christian single women go through today.

So take this journey with me through this book. Allow God to transform your thoughts, your mind, and pull you up out of your current state of mind into a more positive place. A place in which you become the woman God wants you to be and where God wants to give you the life you deserve.

Be sure to visit my blog www.sophie-sticatedmom.com, for my other books, more inspiration, free ebooks, and to stay regularly connected with me.

I almost forgot. For those of you who care, I can spout my credentials to show you I have some depth and to demonstrate what God did for me. I have a master's degree in marriage and family therapy, I am a National Certified

Counselor (NCC), and I have PhD in human behavior. Oh yes, and I am a single mom. Tell me God is not good. Enjoy!

1

*You Are Complete on Your Own,
Or At Least, You Should Be*

How many times have you said as a single woman that you just wanted your life to be complete, you want your family to be complete, or you just want someone to complete you? This is the biggest lie about love that the world has ever sold us. You should not rely on anyone to be the other half of you. You should be complete on your own.

If you are a single woman sitting here, waiting for someone to come, rescue you, and attach himself to the other half of your body so that he can “complete” you, then you are setting yourself up for disappointment.

Let me give you a few reasons why that is so.

Reason #1: People are Imperfect

The downside to wanting someone to complete you is that you are literally resting your entire happiness in that other person. That other person will have bad day, he may snap at you, and not be in the mood to give you what you need in that moment. It happens. It does not make him a bad person, it just makes him a person and people are imperfect. Therefore, if you are banking on an imperfect person to complete you, then one day you are going to catch him on an off-day and he is going to let you down. He is not going to feel like being your other half. He is not going to be able to be who you need him to be in that moment because he has his own stuff to deal with. And when that happens, what are you going to do? Go back to feeling incomplete.

Reason #2: People Come and Go

It does not matter if it is a friend, a boyfriend, and in some cases it can be your husband. They can leave, they can pass away, anything can happen. You cannot control if someone is in your life or someone is out of your life. For example, if you break up, you go back to feeling incomplete but then when he comes back, you start feeling complete again?

Do you see what I am getting at? You are putting too much weight on the other person if you want him to complete you. That is too much of a responsibility for one person. And the same can go if another person is asking you to complete him. Do you really want the sole responsibility of making someone else whole? If that is the case, then you are being co-dependent. And that is not healthy.

You would literally have to pour into that person day in and day out and the moment that you do not have anything else to give or you need some time for yourself, then everything is going to hit the fan because he NEEDS you and you NEED him and no one has any sort of self-regulation.

As a mental health person, I may have used a word you are not familiar with so let me define self-regulation. In short, self-regulation means that YOU and only YOU have the ability to control yourself, your behavior, and your actions without the influence of other people. Depending on someone else to complete you is the opposite of having good self-regulation.

Remember how I said that no one is perfect but that you want to rely on an imperfect person to complete you? I do believe that our hearts are yearning for a sense of completion, but I do not believe that it can come from a man because people are imperfect. But guess what? God isn't.

I am convinced that the longing most people feel for wanting to be complete is actually a longing for God (Psalm 63:1). But instead of single women realizing this longing for God, they want to use an actual man to fill that void.

Take for example, the Samaritan woman.

He [Jesus] told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

John 4:16-18 (NIV)

The Samaritan woman was at the well by herself more than likely because other women did not want to be around her. This woman has had FIVE husbands! AND the man she was

living with now, she was not married to. What was she looking for?

Why would she put herself through the pain of so many marriages and all for them not to work out? AND why would she be with yet another man?

The Samaritan woman was looking for someone to complete her because she felt incomplete and she thought that jumping from man to man would do it for her. It started with her being married and now she just settled for shacking up. After all, whoever she was with was a man and a man was better than nothing? Right? WRONG! You have not been listening. Let's take the next verse.

If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

John 4:10-11 (NIV)

The poor woman was probably taking Jesus literally at this point. He, however, was not talking about regular water. Jesus was comparing the well water to everything that the

woman had been thirsting for in life. Jesus was telling her that He is the water that she have been looking for, He is the One that can complete her, and she did not need to go from man to man trying to look for something that cannot be found in man.

In case all of this is going over your head, there is a point here I promise. You need to be complete on your own. You do not need for any MAN or PERSON to be that one for you. As long as you have God, then you have all that you need. I am not telling you to be single forever. But understand that relationships should add to who you are and what you already have and NOT be the sole source for your happiness.

So, remember what you need. Something we call self-regulation. You need to practice being happy on your own, completing yourself on your own, and not allowing your happiness to be dictated by who is or is not in your life.

An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But

a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:34 (NIV)

So many women think that when they get married all of their troubles will go away marriage is the end-all and be-all to end their singleness suffering. But that is simply not true. Being married is hard and it brings its own unique set of problems. And if you go into a marriage feeling incomplete, then the marriage will just intensify those emotions. Do yourself a favor — be complete on your own and look for someone to add on to what you already have (Colossians 2:10).

2

Being Equally Yoked. Are You Bringing Something to the Table?

When we talk about being equally yoked, I am going to refer to the very basic definition as it states in the Bible:

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
For what partnership has righteousness with
lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with
darkness?*

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

Being equally yoked is not JUST about being with another believer; it goes well beyond that. I am going to break this section into two parts. Being equally yoked with a man in life in general, being equally yoked in spiritual life, and why you need to have BOTH of these.

Being Equally Yoked in General

Being equally yoked means there is a relationship between two people that have similar things to offer each other and balance each other out. One person should not be leeching off the other. One person should not be bringing everything to the table while the other person brings nothing. This balance can come in all different types of ways, but essentially the relationship should NOT be unbalanced.

Let me tell you a story. I was talking to a girlfriend who was dating a rich man and had been on a few dates with him. She told me that she had been laid off and that she hinted on a date that she could not pay her bills and that she expected the man to give money to her.

I was very much against this because, in a sense, she was using the man. Here he was trying to get to know her. They, had only been on a handful of dates, and already she had her hand out. She did not have her life together, she could not offer him emotional support; all she did was complain and ask him for money.

Out of all the women in the sea, WHY would he choose that type of woman to be with? He was

not getting anything positive from the relationship. She didn't have to have the same amount of money he did, but he should at least feel like she was bringing value to the relationship. But she didn't. She just brought complaining, asking him for money, and talking about how life sucked. Who wants to listen to that? Being equally yoked means that each person is bringing the same thing to the table. And that does not mean money, but rather value. For example, in the situation I just mentioned instead of being Debbie Downer and sucking the life out of him with all of her problems, she could at least have brought a positive attitude to the table, be someone he wanted to be around, or show him a side of herself worth getting to know instead of coming to a date with her hand out. No one wants to feel used.

Other Examples of Being Unequally Yoked

These types of relationships, are relationships in which one person is giving more, being more, or has different beliefs than the other person. Leaving the relationship unbalanced.

Example of an unequally yoked relationship include:

- He does not like children (and you have children).
- He does not have a job, car, and no motivation to do anything whatsoever, while you are a productive member of society.

Being Equally Yoked in Spiritual Life

"For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

This poses a good question. What does the darkness have to do with the light? What business does a good woman have being with a bad man? Why should a faithful person be with a cheater? Why should someone who works hard be with a lazy person?

If you are a Christian, then yes you should seek out another Christian but that is a given. More than anything what are you bringing to the table? And are you looking for someone

who can bring something similar? There is no reason for your whole life to be a hot mess where there is nothing good about you and you have absolutely nothing going for yourself.

Do you think that it would be fair for a man who works hard, has a good job, and has everything going for himself to want to be with you? How would that be fair to him? How could you be equally yoked if you bring nothing to the table and you bring him down?

I know that what I am saying it harsh, but it should also have you take a look at yourself and really evaluate who you are and what you have going on. You must be what you want in a mate. Coming into a relationship, BOTH people need to feel like they are winning by being with one another.

That goes for you too. As a woman if you have it going on, then why would you go with a loser who is not doing anything with himself?

NOW,

I know it can be tempting to go for the really fine guy, with an eight-pack, and who is finer than a glass of wine. The only downside is that he does not believe in God. Don't do it, girl! What does the darkness have to do with the light? If a man does not believe in God, then who does he listen to?

For myself and for many Christian women, God guides your steps always (Proverbs 16:9). If the really fine guy is not listening to God, then who is guiding his steps? And if no one is guiding his steps, then where are you two going? You should want to be with a man that pushes you closer to God and not away from God. He could be the finest man that you ever did see, but if he is not a believer like you, then let go and let God. Do not try to "save his soul" to make him a good fit and do not throw Jesus out of the window because you want to be with him. You cannot change people; only God can.

As you mature in the relationship you know that looks fade; they are not everlasting (Proverbs 31:30). Who someone is on the inside is what is really going to make the relationship work. Take it from someone who

knows. A six-pack will only get you so far. He may look good, the sex may be great, and you might love rubbing baby oil on his chest. BUT in the end what is he doing for your soul? How is he pushing you to grow as a person in God and what is he doing with his own soul.

As you grow in God, you begin to see what is important versus what is not. And finding man that is equally yoked with you when it comes to your belief in the Lord is something to be valued over a man that just draws you in with his looks.

3

Preparing For a Future Husband

Now

How many times have you told yourself, “I want to get married?” How many times have you imagined that when you get married, it would be the perfection that you have always longed for? You think that all the depression and sadness you felt as a single person will magically disappear because now you can call yourself “Mrs.” and that you will be made whole again once you and your betrothed walked down the aisle. Don’t play yourself. And so many of you are playing yourself because this is what you think and this is how you walk around acting. You want a husband, but you may not even be ready for a husband.

Sometimes it can be so easy to think that because you want to get married that you are ready for marriage. I could want a million dollars, but am I ready for a million dollars?

What I mean is I could get a million dollars but if I have a spending problem within a year all that money may be gone. So yes, I got what I wanted but it did not help me because I was not responsible with it. It is the same thing with marriage. The last thing you want to do is be a dysfunctional person and bring all of your crazy baggage into a marriage, which will not help you or the person you want to be married to. That is a sure way to end up in a divorce.

Marriage is hard work and so many women are always thinking about what they can GET from the relationship as oppose what they can give. One of my favorite sayings is if two people in a relationship are so busy giving to one another, they will have a lot less problems. But most people don't think like that. In relationships, most people are selfish they don't want to compromise and they want everything to be around them, what they want, and what they need. For a successful marriage, you literally must be able to die to yourself, your flesh, and what you want to be a better wife. Don't misunderstand me. I am not telling you that a wife equals a doormat (which we will get into in another chapter), but being married is a very unselfish act.

Now I am going to ask you a couple of questions that will help you determine for yourself if you are even ready to be married and this information will help you prepare for your future husband now.

What is Your Expectation of Marriage?

You really need to be for real with yourself on this. If all you see when getting into a marriage is a bunch of wedding bells, table decorations, and a honeymoon, then you are going to be in for a very rude awakening. The wedding ceremony is literally one night of your life. A marriage is spending the rest of your life with this person.

Case in Point: The Six-Month Couple

I used to counsel a young married couple who wanted to get a divorce after only six months of marriage. In fact, I do not think they really even loved each other. They met each other online through a dating app, within a few months they became engaged (because they wanted to be married so bad), a few months after that they spent thousand of dollars on a

wedding and then six months later the wanted a divorce.

Some of their main presenting issues in counseling were:

- The wife mismanaged her money and did not know how to save.
- The husband was unmotivated did not want to work and did not want a promotion.
- The wife wanted a life that included travel and a big house.
- The husband was fine where he was which was being broke.

Neither of them wanted to GIVE to the other person. Instead it was all about them, what they wanted, and the sad thing is that they did not even want the same things.

Want to know where this went wrong?

They just wanted a big wedding, a big honeymoon, and a big engagement ring. Once all of that was over then they were left with just themselves and they realized that they did not know each other, they did not have anything in

common, and most of all they did not want to be married to each other.

Further, neither of them was actually prepared for marriage. The wife did not want to work, the husband did not have the type of job that could support two people, the wife was bad with money, and they both were selfish. Imagine how much of a difference this could have been if they had prepared themselves for a REAL marriage instead of being so infatuated with the idea of marriage that they jumped into a situation that they are now ready to get out of 6 months after a marriage.

Be Financially Stable

Being financially stable can mean a lot things. You do not have to be rich or have a million dollars in your account, but what you should have is a way to support yourself. You should not be looking to get into marriage because you have no money and you are looking for someone to take care of you.

If you do not have a penny to your name, you will just be bringing a lot of stresses into the marriage. Marriages often break up over

finances, so make sure that your finances are in order and make sure that the person you are looking to marry is financially stable as well.

What Can You Do Now?

So you may be thinking that I have given you an entire list of things that you should NOT be doing but you want to know what you should be doing.

- Do things to improve your credit. Try *Credit Karma* for tips and tricks.
- Have a savings account, perhaps even a 401k.
- Have a regular checking account and savings account.
- Know what your budget is and stick to it.
- Save some money each month.
- Pay your bills, rent, and credit cards on time.

Suppose when you get married, you want to be a stay-at-home mom or not work. I get it. But don't be like the woman in the couple I just mentioned. Since she poorly handled her money in her single life now that she was

married, she also poorly handled HIS money. You wanting to be a stay-at-home mom is no excuse to act poorly with your money. And until you get married you are not a stay-at-home mom so you need to manage your own life in a productive and stable manner now.

Have a Realistic Expectation of Marriage

Once you are married, there is no more excitement and celebratory events surrounding your day-to-day marriage. People will not ask to see your engagement ring anymore, there is no wedding to plan and being married is your new normal. And you need to have a realistic expectation of what that your new normal looks like. One of the things that helped me understand marriage was counseling married couples and then, of course, I have a marriage and family therapy degree, which helped me learn a lot about the REALNESS of marriage.

I am not suggesting you get a degree, but I am suggesting that you study about marriage. There are some awesome books you can read. If you feel comfortable, you can talk to your married friends about your expectations for marriage. Ask your friends to tell you some of

the struggles and if their marriage is what they thought it would be. There are some couples in churches that provide some type of marital mentoring. However you get it the information, you really need to gather a realistic expectation of marriage so that you can know if you are ready and how to prepare yourself.

Case in Point: My Experience

I remember when I really started counseling couples AND I really started listening to my girlfriends who were married I would think to myself, "WOW! This is a lot harder than I thought." I heard them dealing with money issues, job lost, working on their marriage after an affair, gambling addictions, sex addictions, porn addictions, in-laws, mother-in-laws, exes and just everything in between. There is so much unseen that goes into marriage that you would not even think about. And marriage is not like a boyfriend and girlfriend situation where you can just up and walk away when he or she gets on your nerves. If you want to leave, then you have to go through legal process called divorce. So it is best to be sure that you want to be married to someone and

that you know ALL of what marriage entails before jumping into one.

Know Yourself and What You Need

I remember back in my early 20's I was dating a man for a long time. I do not think we would have ever broken up if I did not sit back one day and say to myself, "You annoy me and you are NOT the type of man I need." At first the relationship was great, but then the "real" him came out. The real him complained, the real him whined, and the real him blamed everyone else for his problems. And anyone who knows me knows that this type of behavior is the complete and total opposite of what I am about.

My point is that it is going to be hard to know what you need if you do not even really know yourself and what type of person you are. When you think about the type of husband you need, you probably should know what type of person will balance you out. Don't expect a man to come and FIX you.

Therefore, get to know yourself, what you need, and know the difference between a

NEED and a WANT. I remember when I felt I needed a man who was six feet tall with a six-pack. But did I really need that or did I want that? What I needed was a man to compliment my personality. I needed a man that was going to love my son. So if a man captures everything I NEED but is 5 feet 10 inches, then I should not turn him away for such a superficial reason

It takes a good woman to really step back and say to herself, "What type of man do I need that will go well with me and my life?" Being able to answer that question takes a lot of self-reflection, self-awareness, knowing God, and being able to see yourself through God's eyes. It is much easier to jump into a marriage when you know that you are marrying the right type of man. Don't be like the couple above — jumping into a marriage because it is the fun thing to do. Neither of them knew themselves, what they wanted, and neither of them was prepared for married life.

Instead, focus on preparing to make yourself a good wife. Already live like you are a wife without a husband. However you see your household, your bank account, how you want

to travel, how you want save, spend money, decorate your home ALL of that is preparation. Practice being unselfish, giving to other people. Practice not getting upset, or arguing with people for no reason. All these things will serve you well when it comes to getting married in the future (Galatians 5:22-23).

4

*Who Did You Let Into Your
Heart & What Damage Has He
Done?*

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for
everything you do flows from it."*

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

The reason why I wanted to start off with this Bible verse is because there is so much significance on who and what you let into your heart. According to the Bible, EVERYTHING flows from your heart so have you really sat down and thought about who you have allowed

in your heart and how have you allowed him to change who you are and how you see things?

We interact with people all day everyday. We get close to people, break up, get betrayed by friends, get hurt by family members and guess what? All of those things have the potential to leave bad deposits on your heart. I can almost bet that people have left deposits in your heart and most of them you are not even aware of. When you were with a cheating boyfriend, deposits were left in your heart in the form of insecurity and being distrustful of men. Everytime someone called you ugly, fat, stupid, or said that you were not good enough, deposits were left in your heart in the form of low self-esteem.

I am distrustful in relationships, I do not easily open up, and I am naturally weary of people and their intentions. This stemmed from the past relationships I was in because they abused my trust. They left little deposits in my heart shaping the way that I view other people, and how I act in relationships.

Now it is your turn. Who have you let in your heart? What relationships have you gone

through that changed the way you look at life and changed the way you look at love? How do you think that you can get over these things?

I know what you may be saying by this point because you have to interact with people both good and bad. You cannot just hide yourself away and never expect to deal with a bad person or relationship. How can you really guard your heart from unknown, bad people? Well of course I am going to tell you.

First, Watch the Company You Keep.

This can go for friendships, relationships, or anyone. You do not have to be friends or hang out with everyone especially if they are negative and toxic to your heart. I remember once I was hanging out with a group of girlfriends and one was talking about cheating on her husband, the other was talking about going to swinger parties, another was talking about having sex with the man at the next table. They were laughing and drinking too much and since I was with them, I started to sit, laugh, and drink too much along with them because that was how they were. What they were talking about and what they were doing

normalized this trifling behavior and I was actively engaging in this. They could do what they want, but I should have gotten up and left knowing that you just have to watch the company you keep.

And that even goes for other Christians. Always determine if you should hang out with someone based on the type of fruit he or she produces.

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
Matthew 7:16-20 (NIV)

That means to look at his or her behavior. Someone can say she is Christian all day everyday, but if she likes to have threesomes and orgies and the next time she goes out, she wants you to join in, she is not producing good fruit. Someone saying she is a Christian does

not automatically qualify them “as people you should hang out with.”

Second, Remember, you were called to be in the world but not of it. (John 15:19)

This means that you are going to have to deal with some worldly people that you may not agree with. But just because you are in the world does not mean that you cannot protect yourself from the world. Often times there are men that you to date or toxic coworkers that you have to be around. You still have to learn how to guard your heart even if you have to be exposed to their negativity.

Instead of them leaving negative deposits on your heart, how about you leave positive deposits on theirs? No matter what they are doing and what they think of you, you have to stop allowing everyone to bother you. Just because someone says something to you does not mean that you have to believe it.

Here is a true story. I was out with a friend who was Christian by the way. And she told me that being celibate was dumb and that I needed to go out, have fun, and sleep with men.

The sad thing about this situation is that I do not think she meant any harm by it. I think she actually felt that in some way she was helping me. After hearing wordly words like this time and time again, if you are weak-minded then you will easily fall into the trap thinking that what she said is true.

As you get stronger in guarding your heart you will not let the words of the world drown out the voice of God. If God told me to stop having sex, I don't care what you have to say about it. For me, as soon as the words came from her mouth, they went onto the floor and not into my heart. That is because I knew myself and what God wanted me to do and that mattered to me more than anything else. But I learned by becoming strong and learning my own identity in God so that I do not have to believe what everyone else says about me.

As to my friend, I spoke to her about the importance of celibacy for me, why I chose to do it, and I am sure my words fell right onto the floor with her and she did not care. But not only did I reject her words in my heart, but I also at

least tried to offer up some encouragement to her in return.

If you know that you know that you are doing the right thing according to God, then do not allow anyone to talk you out of it and do not let anyone make you think that what you are doing is dumb. That is how you guard your heart. Be strong about who you are, be strong in your conviction, and do not believe everything that everyone says about you. Be in the world but not of the world.

Third, stop getting so infatuated.

When you date men do not just be open and willing to give them your heart right away. As a single woman so many times when a man simply looks at you, you start imagining this is your future husband. Then you take a trip to David's Bridal to try on dresses. When you start dating him, he is nothing like you thought. But instead of seeing that, you try to make him "the one." You change yourself and ignore all the red flags about him because you have already fell into infatuation.

You need to be strong-minded once again. Have discernment about people and do not invite people into your world until you find out what they are about. Do not just openly trust everyone and then when they do you wrong, you are stuck wondering what happened and why.

When people taint your heart, they're tainting your wisdom, your thoughts, and how you feel about yourself. Be selective in who you let into your life and into your heart. When a man tries to talk to you, I do not care if he says he wants to marry you on the first date, test the spirit (1 John 4:1). In other words, before you fall head over heels for a man you do not even know, figure out what he is about and what is his intentions for you.

Remember ladies, guard your heart; EVERYTHING flows out of it. Find out what is already in your heart that other people or other men have left there. Examine yourself and who you are as a person. Even though I am telling you to guard your heart it is very likely that some of you reading this book are the person that someone else needs to guard their heart against. Just saying.

*What Praying For a Future
Husband is And What it is Not*

There is nothing wrong with praying for your future husband, as long as it does not sound something like this:

“God please bring me my man, I do not know if I can last another day without him, I am so lonely! And if you do not bring me my future husband now, then I won’t believe in you!”

God does not appreciate this type of prayer nor will it make God answer your prayer any sooner. As a matter of fact, this prayer is showing God how much you worship marriage. You should not want anything or anyone more than God so threatening God in this way is not hurting anyone but yourself.

I am going to tell you the right way to pray for a husband verses the wrong way. The last thing

you want is to agitate God through your prayer by trying to dictate to Him what He should and should not be doing or else!

Some of the WRONG ways to pray for your husband that I see so many times are:

1. Praying for a man to stop ignoring you and to become your husband

Why this prayer will not be answered: God is not going to impose on someone’s free will and make him marry you if that is not what he want to do.

2. Praying for someone to leave his wife or girlfriend

Why this prayer will not be answered: Do you really think that breaking up someone else’s relationships is something that God is going to honor? Once again people still have free will and you cannot just say a prayer and impede on what people want to do in their own lives. God may have ordained for them to be together and here you are in the mix trying to tear their situation apart.

3. Praying for your current boyfriend to be the one when it is so obvious that he is not and God has already told you to let Him go.

Why this prayer will not be answered: You can pray for someone but he has to want to change on his own. No amount of prayer is going to make a man who does not want to marry you, marry you if he does not want to. And no amount of prayer is going to MAKE someone the one after God has already told you he is NOT the one.

You want the prayers for your future husband to be effective and praying about the wrong things can take your focus off what you should be praying for.

A true story: I was a prime example of this. I remember dating this guy who was a complete and utter JERK. I mean really, but I was so convinced that I loved him, that he was going to marry me, and that he was my future husband. So prayed about it. All the time, night and day — “God, please open up his eyes and make him see me. Make him see that I am his wife. Make him see how wonderful I am. PLEASE, GOD, PLEASE!”

Fast forward to six years later and he is now happily married to someone else after all that time praying and wondering why God could not make this one man love me. It was because he was not my man and it was not meant for him to love me. So these prayers for your future husband are coming from a place of selfishness, desperation, and just plain being blind to the fact that the man does not love you, is not into you, or does not want you. You NEED to stop! Instead focus your prayers for your future husband on things that actually matter.

Below are some tips for praying for a future husband.

- *I pray that he prospers as his soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)*
- *I pray that he knows God and grows in his spiritual walk.*
- *I pray for his career and that he would make a good provider.*
- *I pray that he is keeping himself out of trouble and that he is waiting for me just like I am waiting for him.*

Do you see how these prayers are not only different, but are also prayers that would make him a better person, a better man, and a better husband for you? You can feel free to come up with your own type of prayers but they should really go along the lines of praying for his wellbeing, for God to watch over him, and for him to be a godly man, that he knows and honors God. God will honor prayers that are not selfish prayers and prayers that seek to uplift the other person.

Marriage is not just for you, it is for you two. It is also to push you both toward God. So if you cannot be unselfish and pray for others when you are single, then how are you going to convince God that you can do it when you are married? There is nothing wrong with wanting to be married, but wanting and obsessing are two totally different things.

It is okay to pray for your future husband. In fact you can pray for any and everything when it comes to God, but understand God is not some genie who is going to grant all your wishes the moment you pray something when God knows that answering your prayer may not

be the BEST thing for you. He cannot make someone be your husband when he doesn't want to be. He cannot make someone leave his wife so that he can become your husband. None of those things are of God. So when you pray for your future husband, make sure your prayers are not selfish and they fall in line of godly prayers in that they are uplifting and encouraging to the other person.

*Making God First and Making Him
Your Husband*

As a single Christian woman, you should NEVER ever hear yourself say that you are alone. You have God with you. I know that sounds corny and I know that it sounds cliché, but hear me out.

If you are a Christian and you do not feel that God is with you, if you do not feel His presence, then you really need to build your relationship with God. The entire point of being a Christian is that the Holy Spirit, who is God, comes to live in you. Thus you are not alone. Not ever.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
John 14:26 (NKJV)

The reason I am explaining this to you first, is that you really need to understand the magnitude of the Holy Spirit and therefore grow an actual relationship with God. Not something phony and fake, but a relationship where you can talk to God and He can talk back to you.

This leads me to the main point of this chapter: while you are saying that you have no husband, God can be your husband. However, it can be very hard for God to be your husband if you do not even have a relationship with God. You need to cultivate that relationship so that you can feel that you are actually in a relationship with God just like any other human relationship and even more so.

Now that I have told you that you need to make God your husband, you may be very confused on what that looks like and how on earth you are suppose to do that. Lucky you! I am going to go over a few scriptures that will give you a better understanding of how God can be your husband.

Scripture #1

“For your Maker is your husband — the Lord Almighty is his name — the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit — a wife who married young, only to be rejected,” says your God.

Isaiah 54:5-6 (NIV)

What This Means for You

God has called you out to be His wife. As the above scripture says, if you are an unmarried woman that feels rejected DON'T. God does not reject you and He wants to call you out from your past bad relationships, divorce, or situations with men that left you feeling used and abused; relationships that just did not work out. He wants to bring you from a place of desperation and feeling unwanted to being His wife. Now imagine how privileged you should feel by becoming the WIFE of God. Why would you sit and worry about the men who did not want you or the men that left you feeling rejected. A better Husband has called you out to be His own. So get rid of that low self-esteem, rejection, and feeling of being unwanted. As a wife of God you are a queen.

Scripture #2

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NIV)

What This Means for You

This does not mean that God is so jealous for you that He always wants you to be single and that you can only be married to God and not anyone else. You are not a nun for goodness sake. This verse also does not mean that you have to be a virgin in order to be seen worthy by God.

The word “virgin” in this verse means that when you are joined to God, God sees you as a being brand new and all your past transgressions are washed away (2 Corinthians 5:17). And while God is your husband as the above verse says, He is washing you and making you clean. He is turning you into a new woman and preparing

you so that you can be presented as a real bride.

God being jealous for you means that He is not going to just give you to anyone and allow anyone in your life. Think of it this way. God is like the father who gives you away at your wedding. The bride is presented to her future husband and the father must approve of the husband. I know this sounds so backwards in the fact that God can be both husband and father, but just like a father cares about who his daughter ends up with and does not want her to be with any man that is not good for her, God is jealous for you in that way. When He is ready to give you away on your wedding day, He wants it to be to a good man deserving of you and a man that is not going to take you away from Him, *i.e.* God.

Scripture #3

"I will betroth you to me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in loving kindness and in compassion."

Hosea 2:19 (NJKV)

What This Means for You

As a single woman, God will love all up on you and give you the natural love and compassion that you want to feel from a husband. All the love that you feel you are lacking from men, God can give you and God can teach you how you deserved to be love. From God, you will learn what to look for in a man so that you will find someone to love you in the same way that God loves you. The only way you can figure out how God loves you is by being married to God and developing a relationship with Him. When I say married to God, I want you to understand that you will have to figure that out based on your relationship with God. Just as no human marriage is the same your marriage with God is uniquely yours based on the individual relationship He has with you.

Scripture #4

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of

the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” Revelation 19:7-9 (NIV)

What This Means for You

When you accept Jesus, you have an invitation to be his bride and as his bride God will transform you into the woman that you need to be. I know that as a single woman, when I decided to become a bride of Christ, He made me into a different person because I belong to Him. In case you are confused about what in the world I am talking about, let’s look at my next scripture.

Scripture #5

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.
Ephesians 5:25-26 (NIV)

What This Means for You

A husband’s job is to love His wife, give Himself up for her, and wash her through the word. As you go through a marriage with God,

you will know that He is never going to let you sit in your foolishness and allow you to be the same jacked-up person as before. He is always going to wash you, prepare you, and prune you to be the best version of yourself. Can you imagine being married to God and being a hot mess? God would never allow his bride to be a hot mess so becoming married to Him means a transformation for you (Romans 12:2).

God can be the husband to the husbandless so never feel like you are alone or that you have no one. You are in a relationship that will continue even after you get married here on earth. You are always in a relationship with God. And being in a relationship with God comes great responsibility. God will be responsible for you. He will be your husband in the sense that He will love you, provide for you, and He will always push you. He will push you to be a better person and what He called you to be so that you can truly call yourself a bride of Christ.

*God Can Choose a King for You;
He Has Done It Before*

Did you know that the very hairs on your head are numbered? That you are THAT important to God so much so that God knows how many hairs fall out of your head while you are brushing it?

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
Luke 12:6-7 (NIV)

You were made in God's image (see Genesis 1:26-27) so, of course, you are more important than a bird. I want to tell you another fact about birds.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than

food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?
Matthew 6:25-27 (NIV)

I am making two points here. The first is that everything that concerns you concerns God. He knows how many hairs are on your head so I think that shows how involved He is in your life and wellbeing and your relationship status.

The second point I am making is that if you know you are more important than a bird then why not be like a bird and choose not to worry about your man, when your man is coming, if he is your man, bugging God about your man and then getting all bent up and out of shape about things when your man does not come fast enough because you think God has forgotten about you and does not care?

Everything that concerns you concerns God including your relationship status.

Case in Point: Rebekah and Isaac

I want you to read Genesis 24, the story of Isaac and Rebekah. In verse 3, Isaac's father prayed to God for Isaac to have a wife. To make a long story short, Isaac's father sent a servant off to find this wife for Isaac, but he was unsure if he was going to even be able to get someone. But instead of getting all upset about it, he did the only thing that he knew how to do and he chose to pray. A very specific prayer in which he asked for a sign from God about Isaac's wife.

"May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels to'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac."

v.14

Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.

v.15

The servant of God was afraid that he would not find anyone or that the woman would not come with him. But then he did the only thing he knew how to do and that was to pray and, lo and behold, Rebekah came. If God could

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orchestrate such a wonderful meeting when it came to Rebekah then why can't He do it for you? If God could show the servant Isaac's future wife, then why could He not arrange for you to meet your future husband? Instead of worrying about it, PRAY about it and trust that God will send you the right one, in the right time, and like Rebekah, you will recognize him when he comes.

Case in Point: Esther

The thing I love about Esther is that everything in her life just seemed so ordained. And her life was not always pretty. She was an orphan.

But if she was never an orphan living with her uncle, then she may have not been in the position to be queen (Esther 1:7). If Vashti had never disobeyed the king and got sent away, then he would have never found Esther (Esther 1 and 2). There are too many coincidences from the book of Esther for me to believe that they are just coincidences. I believe everything that happened to Esther was all God-ordained not only so that Esther could be queen, but also so that she can save the Jews. And so Esther was made for a time such as this.

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“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:14 (NIV)

I am completely and utterly convinced that Esther was destined to be queen. But once again like I mentioned in the previous chapter, marriage in God’s eyes is more than just fulfilling your sexual desires. God gave Esther a king and made her a queen which was all fine and dandy, but, more importantly, Esther saved the Jews from annihilation. What you need to learn from Esther as a single woman is pray for a purpose and before you join yourself to a man or get married determine if he fits into that life purpose or not, whatever it may be.

Case in Point: Ruth

Let’s get into the story of Ruth. She was a widow as her husband died and now she was following her mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem. It seemed like Ruth was going there under such bad circumstances. She had no husband and not even a hope to get married again. She was going to go to a foreign land and, more than likely, thought that

she would not be on a top pick to get married. Ruth was a widow who was about forty years old. If you think that a 40-something unmarried woman holds a stigma today imagine what they probably thought of a woman in her situation back then.

Before we get into how Boaz was picked for Ruth I want you to read the following Bible verses:

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?”

Ruth 1:8-11 (NIV)

I tell you this verse so that you can see that Ruth was not given the highest prospects when she followed Naomi. Nowhere in the conversation that Naomi had with Ruth did she say, “Come with me I am sure you can find a

better man in Bethlehem.” I am certain that it was LESS likely she would find a husband in Bethlehem. Ruth was not born Jewish; she was an outsider.

Naomi told her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, there were no hope and begged them to return home because their only option was to either wait until Naomi got pregnant again, hope that child to be a boy, and then wait for that child to grow up to marry either Orpah or Ruth. Naomi was saying that if you follow me, you will be single for the rest of your life. And so Orpah turned around and left. We never hear from her again. She could have walked a mile and fell out in the desert for all we know. She could have lived a happy life, she still could have been single for the rest of her life. We don’t know. What we do know of Ruth, the one who grab ahold of God and declared that she did not know who, what, where, when, or why but she did know she needed to stick to Naomi and stick to God.

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

When Ruth got to Bethlehem, she was ready to go to work. That was really the only choice she had. Naomi was too old to work and there was no man of the house who was going to chip in and help out; it was just Ruth. But I want you to pay attention very closely to what Ruth said:

*And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind **anyone in whose eyes I find favor.**” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.”*

Ruth 2:2 (NIV) [emphasis added]

Who was she talking about? I am not even sure that Ruth knew. All she knew was that she was going to work, find food, and somewhere somehow she was going to find favor with someone. And shortly after she did. She found favor with Boaz. He feed her lunch, told his servants to drop extra food in the field for her

to pick up, and then he packed more wheat on top of what she was already carrying (Ruth 2:4-16). Let's look at what happened when Ruth got home.

*She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the **man** who took notice of you!"*

Ruth 2:18-19 (NIV) [emphasis added]

There was no doubt in Naomi's mind who took notice of Ruth; it was a man and he was looking out for her. So let's recap. Ruth went from being a 40-something widow going into a strange land with no real prospect of even getting married again. She shortly after she landed in the field of Boaz and ended up marrying him. Tell me that was not God ordained.

If there is any lesson that you could get from the above Bible stories, it is that God has someone for you. Never think that God is not aware of where you are right now. God knows where you are, God knows where you future

husband is, and He knows exactly how to get you two to meet. Therefore, sit back and relax. Meeting a man should never cause you anxiety. Keep doing you, going about your everyday life, and keep getting closer to God. Know that God can set you up with your king. As you can see, He has done it before.

Are You Willing to Date God's Way?

If you are a single Christian woman asking God to send you a man then you need to go about this whole dating thing God's way. I am going to be so real with you for a minute and possibly even piss a few of you off when I say this: so many Christian women want to be halfway in and halfway out. You say you want God and what God has to offer, but then when God requires that you do something even if it means not have sex, you act like you can't do it. Now either you want God in your relationship status situation or you don't. Pick and choose a side because you cannot have it both ways.

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV)

God refuses to get down with wishy-washy people. So many people take grace for granted and just do what they want to do and that type of thing gets under God's skin. None of us are perfect I know that. But it is just the lack of trying. The excuses you make when God has told you to do something and you don't want to are numerous. I am telling you this because I want you to date God's way. Some of the stuff I am going to tell you, you are not going to like. But like I said, if you want God's best, then doing it God's way.

No Sex Before Marriage

I have had sex before marriage and I have child for goodness sake. So if you have had sex before I am not trying to say that you need to go and physically be a virgin again. You cannot take back what is already done. But in God's eyes you can. Once you repent of something and seek to sin no more, then God removes all your transgressions as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). If you commit to stop having sex right now and waiting until marriage that you are pure in God's eyes. He is so forgiving right?

To back up my no sex before marriage point I give you this verse:

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)

That hurts doesn't it? Deep down inside so many of us want to have sex. We can blame the man for manipulating us to have sex, but often times that is not true. You want to have sex and you do not want to wait until marriage to do it. I know it can be hard to not have sex, but who are you committing yourself to God or the world? The way you chose to go on this sex issue defines your answer. You read the Bible verse above It is self-explanatory so you know what God says. I am not just saying this on my own because I want to ruin all your fun. I am celibate and at first it was not something that I wanted to do. But I had to do it. Not only because God says so, but also because I wanted to reclaim something that was supposed to be special that should not be given to everyone.

How You Dress

I believe in being cute and I also believe in being classy, but let me be real with you. This whole "*I can wear my breast out, my butt out, and have my camel toe out and no man better say anything to me and yes I am still a Christian woman*" attitude has to stop so stop slut-shaming me. Girl stop playing! Of course, men are going to look at you as just sex because you look like a big ball of sex. And no one is slut-shaming you. You have put out the certain perception of yourself that you want the world to see. The same effort it took you to walk around half naked is the same effort it could have taken you to put some clothes on. I am not telling you to dress like a nun because I don't dress like a nun. What I am telling you is to respect yourself and that is reflected in the way that you present yourself. If you would not wear it in front of God, do not wear it in front of the man you are dating.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God

will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

If your body is the temple of God and the Holy Spirit dwells there, then why do you want to walk around with everything the good Lord gave you hanging out for the world to see? Never make the mistake of thinking that showing it all and bearing it all is a quick way to catch a man. That is a misconception. It is a quick way to get attention, but it's the wrong type of attention from the wrong type of man.

And, of course, I need to backup my assertions with straight facts. Check out the following Bible verse:

I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes."

1 Timothy 2:9 (NLT)

A godly man will understand and respect a woman who is not letting everything that the good Lord gave her hang out. A godly man will

also respect a woman that is not out here trying to look overly sexy for attention. If you are a woman flaunting for Instagram half-naked on the Internet, spending all her money on Birkin bags and expensive clothes, a godly man will detest that. He would rather have his woman put some clothes on and not try to draw the attention of other men by the way that she dresses.

Be Who You Say You Are

If you are looking for a godly man, then you need to be a godly woman. A lot of times what throws men off about women is that they proclaim to be so godly, but the way they dress, the way they act in public, the way they curse, and the way they act when they get behind closed doors screams the devil.

If you want to know what a godly man is looking for then know this: he is not looking for a liar, he is not looking for a woman that makes plans with him and then changes her mind, he is not looking for a woman who says she is going to do something and then doesn't, he is not looking for a woman who is full of curse words, he is not looking for a woman who is

always nasty and/or angry, or who always has bad things to say to be people. None of this is of God. Not only is it not of God, these are just bad characteristics for anyone to have. Be who you say you are. Do not praise Jesus on the altar at church on Sunday or be a Bible study teacher on Wednesday, but every other day of the week you are someone else.

If you proclaim to be a woman of God while you are dating then be just that. Do not sit around and “fake the funk” pretending to be something that you are not. So many women think they can just trick a man into loving them. A man can say that he is a vegetarian and overnight she becomes one too. But then after a while, she cannot stop those meat cravings and in the middle of the night she is going out to KFC ordering a bucket of chicken and coming back to him with the smell of meat on her breathe like he is not going to notice. This is all a metaphor. I am just telling you to be who you say you are in all things. Be a woman of God and, most importantly, do not pretend to be what you think he wants you to be just to keep him. Be that way for real. You can only keep up fake for so long and who you really

are will come out. You want a godly man, then be a godly woman.

How Works of the Flesh Are Ruining Your Relationships

Before I talk about how works of the flesh are ruining your relationship, you need to know what they are. Works of the flesh are:

The wrong things the sinful self does are clear: committing sexual sin, being morally bad, doing all kinds of shameful things, worshiping false gods, taking part in witchcraft, hating people, causing trouble, being jealous, angry or selfish, causing people to argue and divide into separate groups, being filled with envy, getting drunk, having wild parties, and doing other things like this. I warn you now as I warned you before: The people who do these things will not have a part in God's kingdom.
Galatians 5:19-21 (ERV)

Now I am going to go through the works of the flesh bit by bit and point out how they may be

ruining your relationships and perhaps maybe even the way you date men.

Works of the Flesh ~ Sexual sin

Committing adultery is wrong and having sex outside of marriage is wrong. We talked about in the last chapter so I think you get it. I do not need to beat your brow. But more than anything, having sex too soon can be messing up how you feel men. It can make you think that you are in love with a man when, in reality, he can just turn a lot of different tricks in the bedroom and he has you thinking you are in love when really you just are in love with having sex with him. That is not love. That is another L word called lust.

The key to understanding lust is that physical attraction and sex changes things. Hormones are released when women have sex with men which causes them to attach to the man and make the woman think there is a love connection when there is none. For the man it could be just sex. He could be a complete loser, but you are too blind to see it because of the sex. That is why even though sex feels good, it is important to try to abstain from sex

before marriage because you will get so much more out of the relationship if you do so. Including understanding how you really feel about a man and not be blinded by their skills between the sheets.

Works of the Flesh ~ Being morally bad, doing all kinds of shameful things, causing trouble, causing people to argue, dividing people into separate groups, and hating people

You know that saying people always use when they want to cover up something they did: "God knows my heart"? God does know your heart and better than you may think. God knows if you were trying to be nice and He knows if you are trying to start trouble. He knows when you are putting on a nice front and when you are really trying to be trifling. He knows when you are pretending to be nice to someone so that you can gossip about that person later. You cannot fake your intentions with God (Psalm 44:21). You may be one person to the world, but you cannot fool God. God knows what you are really trying to do behind closed doors and if your intentions are good and if they are bad. And he will judge you accordingly for it.

Stop trying to cause division, stop trying to talk behind people's back, stop trying to gossip and backstab. Stop thinking that a man who has a girlfriend is your man and then you make it your mission to tear them apart. Stop trying to steal another woman's husband, stop gossiping and stop with the drama. Do you think that a man is going to want to marry you or even bring you around his family if you do not know how to act? No, he is not.

Works of the Flesh ~ Being angry or selfish

No one is going to want to be with you, be by you, be your friend, or even help you out if you are always angry and if you are always concerned about yourself. Who has time to deal with someone that is a big ball of negative emotions? I am a big fan of learning how to have self-control.

Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.

Proverbs 21:19 (NIV)

I am not telling you to be a doormat or a woman that just allows her husband to walk all

over her or has no opinion. But I am telling you to **NOT** be that woman that just nags, argues, and fights about anything and everything. No one has time for that. If this is how you act, then go audition to be on an episode of the Bad Girls Club. You don't want a husband. You want to be the star of a reality TV show. Work on your anger. Work on your self-control. Work on not telling people off and work on not putting your hands on people when they make you angry.

Works of the Flesh ~ Getting drunk and having wild parties

Notice this does not say drinking and going to a party. At the end of the day, Jesus performed His first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding which was a party. And wine is alcohol. So no wants you to sit in the house all day and not enjoy life. God does not want you to go around living a boring life and not being able to do anything. But having a drink at a friend's party is one thing. Getting so drunk that you black out and go to a sex party to have an orgy is another thing.

Do you really think your future husband is going to want to approach you at a party if you are insanely drunk, throwing up, and making out with every person you see? I will leave it up to you to answer that question. (Hint: *the answer is no by the way*).

Works of the Flesh ~ Being jealous and being filled with envy

When you choose to be jealous, you are choosing to tell God that you are not satisfied with the portion He has given you. If you are always jealous, then you are always going to be looking for the next or something better. I want a better man because my friend has a better man. I want my sister's husband because I want the same type of relationship she has. With jealousy, the grass will always look greener on the other side and as a result you will always be chasing someone else's grass never being content or never wanting to nurture your own so that it can be green or even greener. Once again, this is another metaphor. Jealousy leads to discontentment in your own life. Instead of trying to improve what

you have going on, you will always be envious and trying to chase what is for someone else.

These are the works of the flesh and I hope you see why it is important for you not to engage in them. I know that being a Christian sometimes can be daunting because you may see a long list of things that you have to stop and cannot do. But understand that it is a benefit not to be controlled by your flesh and what your flesh is telling you to do. The more you grow, learn, and the more you mature in God, the more you will start to see why God wants to rid you of these things as opposed to seeing them as fun things you no longer can do.

Celibacy 101: What is the Point?

When I tell people that I am celibate and have been for the past few years they look at my side-eyed thinking that I am absolutely insane. They don't understand the point. They say, "Why would you not want to have sex?", "Do you not like sex?", "Maybe the men you had sex with did not put it on your right."

Those are not the reasons why I chose to stop having sex. In case you are confused on why I am celibate and why I am going to encourage you to be celibate as well then you need to go back to the last chapter and re-read works of the flesh. I have already gave you an introduction to what I am about to say. The first main point of celibacy is because God tells us not to have sex before marriage.

If you are like me and you have had sex before, then just repent and start again. The fact that you have had sex before should not

stop you from being celibate now if that is really what you want to do. And when you repent, God removes your sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).

The world may not understand why you are celibate. People may even laugh at you, but God is not thinking about all of that. To Him, it is just like you are a virgin again and you never had sex if you are truly repentant and intend to not keep going down the same path time and time again.

Now that we have gotten that out of the way, I want to get into some benefits of celibacy. Being celibate is not just because God wants you to suffer and not have sex.

Reason #1 To control your flesh

We talked about works of the flesh in the previous chapter and, therefore, you should know just from the last chapter alone how much your flesh can control you and allow you to make bad decisions if you let it. Choosing to not have sex is learning to control your flesh and not give into every fine man that blinks an eye at you.

Controlling your flesh gives you a lot of power, control, and makes you more self-aware of the decisions you make. Not just in the area of sex, but also in other areas of your life. It is your mind that should control your body and not the other way around. If you are always following what your body, or your flesh, wants then you may be jumping into bed with every Tom, Dick and Harry thinking that you love him, when really it is your flesh that is tricking you into feeling that way. Your flesh will control your mind and what you do. Not the other way around.

When you allow your flesh to control you, it is hard to hear God because your flesh is going to do what it wants. It is not going to want to hear that you want to take sex away from it. It is like your flesh is saying, "I want sex" and God is saying, "No, don't have sex with that guy" but the flesh is so loud that it drowns out God's voice telling you not to do it. And so you listen to your flesh as opposed to listening to God. You are not controlling your flesh and you are allowing for it to rule you.

Reason #2 Because God Wants You To

Don't expect a cookie from God just because you are not giving up your cookie. But when you choose to follow God and not have sex outside of marriage, God recognizes that this is hard and the harder you fight to follow God, the more He will reward you. God is not some genie, but he does recognize your willingness to please Him. So if you become celibate because you are trying to please God and you know that it is something that God wants you do to, your efforts will not go unnoticed. God loves to reward His children for working hard at something that is not easy, just like any other parent.

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:13 (NJKV)

Imagine how much you would reward your children for doing something that makes you proud and doing the right thing even when it is hard. Then how much more will God reward you for the same thing.

Reason #3 Clears Your Mind

How many times after you have sex outside of marriage is the thought continuing to haunt you and come back in your head time and time again? Even after you finish having sex, you think about it the next day, and then you think about when you are going to get it again. And then your thoughts are focused on getting laid and not focused on God. The Holy Spirit is the one that speaks to you through your consciousness. But if your brain is so clouded with the sex you just had last night, then there is no room for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has to fight His way through the rest of your thoughts of lust in order to get to you. When you are celibate, your mind is not clouded with such thoughts and the Holy Spirit is not fighting through your lust in order to have one-on-one communication with you.

Reason #4 Help Point Out Your God-Ordained Relationship

For many single women, we often wonder if celibacy is going to get in the way of us finding a meaningful relationship. The fear is that once we tell a guy that we are not having sex, they

are going to walk away. At the end of the day your goal for a relationship is to also find someone that equally yoked with you. When you tell a man that you are not having sex for spiritual reasons and the man dismisses you, then he is not the man for you. No man should make you choose between his and God's will for you.

A good God-fearing man is not going to refuse to be with you for something that God has told you to do. Instead, he will understand it and want to encourage and support you along the way. In this way, celibacy has a way of weeding out the bad men who are not as serious or do not care what God has told you. If God wants you to be celibate, then he is going to give you a man that supports you being celibate, not punish you for it.

Now that I have told you the reasons why you should do celibacy, I know that you are shaking your head at me right now telling me that it is not as easy as it looks. I *know* it isn't. Just because I am celibate, don't make the mistake in thinking that I do not enjoy sex. But you have to choose to be strong and even watch the type of positions you put yourself in that will

compromise your celibacy. In the next chapter, I am going to cover how to actually implement celibacy.

11

Celibacy 102: How To Actually Do

It

As impossible as it may seem, becoming celibate after being sexually active is possible. And it is possible to do it with grace and without feeling like your body is going to explode from the wanting to have sex with someone.

Despite what you may believe about becoming celibate after being sexually active, I have to clear up a few myths that many people may think about those of us who choose to become celibate so that if you are thinking about becoming celibate after being sexually active, you understand that there is nothing wrong

with you or your sex drive because you want to withdraw from sex.

Becoming Celibate After Being Sexually Active Myths

- MYTH: You must not like to have sex.
 - TRUTH: You do enjoy sex.
- MYTH: You must not be a very sexual person or comfortable in bed.
- TRUTH: You are very comfortable with myself and your sex life when you had it. Celibacy is not about being uncomfortable with having sex; it is about something deeper.
- MYTH: If you fail with becoming celibate, that means you cannot do it and you might as well give up.
- TRUTH: I tried to become celibate many times (for a couple of years) before actually succeeding. God does give an A for effort. If you fall down, just get back up and try again.

- MYTH: You are celibate by accident. If you had a boyfriend, you would be having sex.

•

TRUTH: Celibacy is an *intentional choice*. It is not something that you do because you do not have any options around. It is something that you choose to do because it is the right thing for you and your body no matter who is around and who you are dating.

How To Make Celibacy Work

At first, yes it was hard. Remember when I told you that I tried a celibacy several times and failed several times? That, however, was nothing to be ashamed about. Eventually, it did work out. When I finally did succeed at becoming celibate, there were things that I did that finally made me successful.

I stop putting myself in bad situations!

This whole idea that you are going over to a man's house at 2 a.m. in the morning, shave your bikini line, and wear some cute underwear just in case, but say to yourself that you are *not* going to have sex is a *joke*.

If you do not want to have sex, then do not put yourself in a position to have sex. Do not lay in the bed with a man at his house with no clothes on. It will make it harder and harder to say no in these types of situations. If you want to be celibate, then be celibate. Be serious about it. Stop kidding God and stop kidding yourself. You can pretend that you are celibate all you want to and you can even say it. But if you continue to put yourself around the same men and the situations that caused you to have sex, then you are not fooling anyone.

Other things you need to stop doing

- *Do not watch porn, read nude magazines, and stay away from lustful images.*
- *Do not get drunk and/or use drugs.*

I drink so I do not expect you to never drink if you are of drinking age. But getting drunk to the point that your inhibitions are compromised will make you more likely to have sex. And remember the earlier chapter when I told you to guard your heart. When you are watching porn and people have sex, you are putting the

thoughts of sex in your heart and then sooner or later you may try to act on them.

Don't care what anyone else thinks

Many men may try to tell you that because you have already had sex that you do not have the right to be celibate. Then you will give in to having sex because you do not want to lose him. You do what he tells you to do even though your celibacy is important to you. Remember this: no one has the right to tell you what you should and should not be doing with your body.

Or better yet, tell him to empty out his bank account and give the money to you. He will probably tell you that you do not have the right to his money because you are not his wife and he has no obligation to you. This will prove your point. You have no right to tell him what to do with his money, just like he does not have the right to tell you what to do with your body because you have no obligation to him.

I have had girlfriends tell me that I need to get me some sex and I have had men tell me I need to get me some sex. All that boils down to

other people telling me what they think I should be doing with my body but what they are telling me to do is going against what God is telling me to do. If I had to choose between following the world and following God, I am going to follow God.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

This scripture means is don't allow other people to dictate to you what you should be doing with yourself and even your body. Seek approval in God's eyes, not man's.

12

Are You a Leaky Faucet?

One habit that we women seem to have is that we talk too much and we never shut up. I am even guilty of it too. We talk, we scream, we nag, we keep on running on at the mouth trying anything and everything to get our point and across. We are a leaky faucet. Or better yet, our voice is like a constant drip that is just drilling a hole in someone's head.

A quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping on a rainy day.
Proverbs 27:15 (NLT)

The arguing of a wife is like water falling drop by drop all the time.
Proverbs 19:13 (NLV)

All these verses means that, as women, sometimes we need to sit down, be quiet, not make a mountain out of a molehill, and know

how to talk to people. Let me break each of these down so you can see what I mean.

Sit Down and Be Quiet

I do not expect you to be a slave to anyone sitting around not saying anything. You can talk, but sometimes you really have to ask yourself, “Is what I am about to say contributing to the conversation or is it going to take away?”

This is something that I had to master in a relationship, with friends, and in a job. You could be right and the other person could be wrong. You could be wanting to say something so bad. But sometimes you just need to be quiet because you saying something will only make things worse.

I used to be the type of person who, if anyone said anything to me, would jump so crazy at the mouth that one may would think the devil himself had possessed my mouth. But I learned this was not a strength, it was a weakness. Sometimes it is best to just sit down, be quiet, and say nothing. And that is the best way to keep the peace.

Do Not Make a Mountain Out of a Molehill

We women are so very guilty of doing this. I was once watching the show *Married at First Sight*. The couple, Tres and Vanessa, was one of the couples I was rooting for. She had a dog that was sick, and she wanted to take the dog to the vet. Fine, right? Except for she wanted Tres to take off from work and also take the dog to the vet with her. When he said that he was not going with her to take the dog to the vet, Vanessa yelled at him. She screamed, “What if this was our child?” She left and spend the night somewhere else. Now really, was it *that* serious? News flash: even when you have children, both parents may not be able to take off work to take a child to the doctor. It is just not realistic.

This was something she did that their marriage would not recover from. Why did she feel the need to have a big fight and a screaming match over a dog needing to go to the vet? And most importantly, why did she choose to leave the house in anger and spend the night somewhere else over a dog? I’m sorry what? Tres and Vanessa did get a divorce because Tres had abandonment issues from his mother

leaving him when he was young. And seeing Vanessa walk out on him over a dog triggered his abandonment issues. In fact, he felt he could not trust that she would not leave again. You see what I mean about making a mountain out of a molehill?

What is the Point of Me Telling You This?

When you get married you are going to be with someone who is not always going to agree with you. In fact, he is not going to agree with you a whole lot. If you sit around, arguing, and acting silly over something that is really not that serious, your relationship is not going to survive.

Know How to Talk to People

Like I said before, I am not a woman who likes to hold her tongue and I used to be very explosive. But I learned that there is a right way to talk to people and a wrong way to talk to people. You can tell someone the same thing in a different tone and have a positive interaction. Or you can yell, nag, and beat someone's brow and have a negative interaction.

If by chance your ultimate goal is to communicate a point to someone else, then you need to watch how you come across. Do not name call. Keep a calm demeanor as oppose to yelling and getting in someone's face. Changing your message delivery can make or break whether your conversation is going to go anywhere or not. If you yell and get in someone's face, then you are a leaky faucet. If you learn how to articulate properly, then the conversation may actually go well and the person is more likely to receive what you are saying.

You may be wondering how this applies to you as a single woman. If as a single woman you find yourself always being unable to communicate and having trouble getting along with people, then what makes you think that is going to change when you married? When you get married, it will be worse because you will be living together and be in each other's face all the time. So you need to recognize if you are a leaky faucet and start to change your behavior now before you get married.

*Preparation for the King: Talking
about Queen Esther*

The book of Esther is such a short book. But there are so many lessons from Esther that come in such a short book. I think we all imagine that Esther chose some items came into the king's chamber, they slept together, and he chose her to be queen. But I like to think that it was more than that. Since when can sex win over a man? What happened before that, was preparation that Queen Esther had to go through to make her suitable to become queen.

Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's

eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them.

Esther 2:2-3 (NIV)

The young women in the empire knew that the king was searching for a queen. But it was not like *poof!* — the royal men went out one day, plucked a woman out of obscurity and the next day she was queen. It may seemed like that, but it was not the case. First, the woman had to be found. I am not sure how long that took, but it certainly did not take a day or so. They had to gather all the young women in Susa. And by the time Esther had been taken to the castle who knows who many women had come before her. Who knows how much time had passed.

Before a young woman's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics. And this is how she would go to the king.

Esther 2:12-13 (NIV)

Before Esther became queen, she had to go through beauty treatments. For a whole year to

be exact. She may have seen the king walking around, knew that she was meant to be queen, or she may have been hidden from the king the whole time. We don't know. What we do know is that she was at the palace for twelve months before she even had a chance to go before the king. She was getting beauty treatments and I am sure that the young ladies had classes on how to act and according to royal protocol. Becoming a queen was not an overnight process. Being queen was not something that she could just step into off the street and do. It took preparation. It took training, and it took learning how to look and behave like queen.

The reason why I bring this up is because so many of you think that you are ready to be queen and meet your king and really, like Esther, you are still an orphan on the street. You do not know how to act like a queen, dress like a queen, or even speak like a queen. But yet you want to go before the king when you are not even ready.

Like Esther, your preparation may be a year. It may even be longer or it may even be shorter. Therefore, don't resent the things that you are going through because it may be preparation

for your king. You don't want to go before your king and not be ready because you may miss your chance to be queen.

Case in Point

I remember when I had a friend and her aunt and uncle were trying to hook her up with a college-educated man who dressed nice and smelled nice. He was a good-looking guy who worked in the same building as her aunt and uncle. My friend and I went to visit the office. She had on an oversized t-shirt that was dirty and had holes. Her hair was not done, and her underarm hair was hanging out when she raised her hand. She looked like she really did not care her appearance at all. She stopped to speak to him and you could tell he was not interested in her.

Now here was a man who was professional, shaved, and groomed. He did care about his appearance and she didn't. He took pride in looking nice and coming to work and my friend did not even look like she had a job.

Once she saw he was not interested, she stormed off becoming angry at him. That would

have been Esther if she did not go through the proper preparation for the king. It is possible that my friend and this guy could have made a great match but they never got around to speaking. He was a king. She did not look like a queen and she did not know the proper protocol to being with a man like him. If Esther had walked off the street in her orphan clothing and came before the king expecting to be queen, he would have dismissed her. She had to step into her own first and be willing to trust that process.

Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them.

Esther 2:3 (NIV)

Imagine if Esther came up to Hegai and said, "Forget you. I am going to do what I want" and rejected his instruction. Then where would she be?

When the turn came for Esther . . . to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested.

Esther 2:15 (NIV)

There is something I want to point out here. Esther was entrusted with Hegai. She won the favor of Hegai over the course of going through preparation for an entire year and when it came time for Esther to go in front of the king, it was Hegai who told her what to bring to appear in front of the king.

Do you see what I am getting at here? Yes it did take some time for Esther to become queen, but things needed to happen first. She needed to learn, be groomed, and meet the right people. All of those things combined made her ready to be queen. Preparation is everything. While you waiting, you must be preparing.

I know this is something a lot of women do not want to hear. But just like you want a king, the man also wants a queen. It is not fair that he is "all that and a bag of chips" and you are just a "half of a dorito" not even the name-brand dorito but the knock off kind. You get what I am saying.

*Being the Woman Who is Admired
from Afar: Talking about Ruth*

Ruth and Boaz is a story that most people recognize. But with taking Boaz out of the equation, you will still see that Ruth as a hard working woman on her own right. A woman that even when no one was looking was out doing her thing. A woman that I like to say was admired from afar. Even as a widow in a foreign land with no way to fend for herself. Ruth chose not to cower because she did not have a man. Instead, she rose to the occasion. And the things that attracted Boaz to Ruth were more than just the superficial stuff. I am sure she was not flossing around town with half of her body hanging out trying to catch her next mister. Ruth was an honorable woman and, therefore she, caught an honorable man.

If you have not read the book of Ruth then you need to. For now, I am going to give you some

general background as it relates to this chapter. First, Ruth left her home town of Moab to follow her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth was a widow with no children and she had to be around forty years old. To top it all off, she was headed to Bethlehem to a land in which she was not going to be number one of the list to marry. She was not Jewish. She was a foreigner, she was a widow, she was over forty and she had no children. If this is your situation, then don't feel bad, I feel more than anything this story should give you hope that God has not forgotten about you and no matter how single you are, there is still a Boaz before you yet.

I already spoke about when Ruth left Naomi to go to work.

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Ruth 2:2 (NIV)

I often ponder why Ruth said this. I am not sure she knew who, what, where or what she was going to find, but she knew that she was going to go work her butt off and find favor from

somewhere and something was going to happen.

But Ruth did not let her situation get the best of her. Instead, she got up when it was early and she went out and worked for the entire day. She did this because she needed food and she knew that working was the only way to get it. She wandered into the field of Boaz. When Boaz saw her, he saw a hard working woman and admired her. He asked his servant about her. The following was said about Ruth:

The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

Ruth 2:6-7 (NIV)

That is what drew Boaz to Ruth — she was working from early morning up until now and she was doing it for her family. I am sure Ruth was a good looking woman, but she was working in the field and I am sure that it was not her Glamour-shot moment. Although there was some attraction there, the attraction came

from Ruth's reputation. Hence, that he was admiring her from afar. Boaz approached Ruth.

Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you didn't know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth 2:11-12 (NIV)

After he found out who Ruth was, Boaz invited her out of the hot sun and fed her lunch. And if that was not enough, he gave her more grain by telling his servants to drop more food for her and give her extra.

At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them

for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

Ruth 2:14-18 (NIV)

The biggest kicker to this whole story is that despite all of this I am not even sure Ruth notice of what was really going on. It was Naomi that noticed the significance of her coming in with all this good food.

Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"

Ruth 2:19 (NIV)

It was obvious that Boaz like Ruth, but getting into her pants was not the first thing that he tried to do. In fact, he was about the complete opposite. Naomi explained to Ruth that Boaz was a close relative, that she should seek security from him and told her how to do so according to their traditions. Ruth went to Boaz and did as instructed to ask him to be guardian redeemer or just someone who would marry

her. She came to the threshing floor and Boaz told her to leave before the sun rose so that no one would think badly of her. He didn't want her to do the walk of shame in front of other men and bragging about the possibility that he had gotten some. Not only did Ruth spend the night with him and not have sex, but he made her leave at a respectable time. What was on Boaz's mind was that he wanted to marry her not to hurry up and get between her legs.

When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."

"The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied.

"This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our

family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you.

But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."

So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor."

Ruth 3:9-14 (NIV)

The reason why I am telling you all of this is because I want you to look at Ruth, respect Ruth, and try to imitate Ruth in some of the areas of her life. It is so hard in the world today with people being naked and doing a lot of stupid things for likes on social media. Being the hardworking woman that demands a respect of a hardworking man who is doing well for himself is starting not to be the norm. You can be a good and godly woman and trust that God has a Boaz waiting for you. I do not know who Ruth thought she would find favor from, but she knew God was with her and somehow somehow somebody was going to take notice of her and her and Naomi's life was going to change. Her job was to keep being the woman that God created her to be and one

who God is proud of and one who would be admired from afar. Notice Ruth did not stand at the corner batting her eyes at every man that walked by in hopes that someone would put a ring on it. No, she worked hard. Even if Boaz did not notice her that day, at least she was going to have some food to take home with her because she never stopped working and always kept her eyes on the prize of doing the right thing and providing for herself and her mother-in-law. Getting Boaz was just an added bonus.

Trusting God's Timing

Waiting for God to come through on what He said He would do for you can be daunting and it takes a lot of trust. There was time when I was mad at God because He was not doing what I wanted Him to do in the time that I wanted Him to do it in. This can be so true for women and waiting for a relationship or your future husband. We want to be married before we are thirty or we want to find a man before Valentine's Day so that we would not have to spend it alone. And then we do not get what we want, we become so angry at God and start to look at God like He is taking too long. We start to feel that God is a liar because He said that He would give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4) and our desires is to get married. We wait and wait and wait, but yet we are still not married. Therefore, we feel like God is lying to us!

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
Numbers 23:19 (NIV)

If God told you that He was going to bring you a husband, then why can't you just believe that? He is not lying to you. The main issue is that you want to know who, what, when, where and all the details surrounding the person you will marry right now!

Trusting God is something that God wants you to do, but it is easier said than done. It can be so hard to learn how to trust God when everything around you is going wrong or when it looks like nothing is happening. As humans, we have senses and it is easy to believe in things that we can see, feel, or touch. It can be hard to trust in the Lord when you really don't know what He is doing or where He is leading you or when you pray about your husband and that you meet him tomorrow and as tomorrow come and goes you meet no one. The key to learning how to trust that God will fulfill his promises is that you are choosing to have faith.

No matter how long things are taking, no matter what your situation looks like with the bare eye, no matter if it looks like something is never going to happen in a thousand years, choose to believe that God will do what He told you He will do and know it will happen solely because God said it would.

When God tells you something, it is exciting. At first you go full speed ahead all happy waiting for the promise that God told you will come to pass. But then days go by, weeks, months, and then years and you start to think, "Did I hear God right? When the heck am I going to get married and where is my man?"

As humans, we start to get mad at God wondering when the promise will start to pass or even doubting that it would come to pass at all. I have come to learn that God's top priority is not curing your singleness. So while you are begging for Him to bring you a man, He is probably looking at you, thinking that there are so many other things in your life that you need to fix before that happens.

It is not that God does not care about your desire to be married. It's just that He is more

concerned with the salvation of your soul first. He wants to make sure that you are in the right place with Him so that when you get married, your eyes never leave Him.

So many women are doing their singleness journey the wrong way. They are waiting for Mr. Right to come knocking on their door, be a prince charming, and rescue them from their present situation, the curse of being single. As a result, they end up wasting their singleness. Not doing anything much, not achieving anything much, not becoming anything much, and not thinking about anything much. Instead, their single life is spent wondering when they are going to get married.

Marriage is hard work and even though you may think you are ready, you may not be ready. Before God gives you a marriage, He needs to form you into the type of wife He wants you to be. It would not be fair to bring you a man, you drive him crazy or vice versa and sixty days later you are going to divorce court ready to end the marriage. Since you never became the woman that God wanted you to be and were so busy worried about getting married to any man, you never got a

mirror and took a cold hard look at yourself and make godly changes.

I always tell anyone who has me that I thank God I did not get married five or even ten years ago. I was not the same woman then and I made some really bad decisions in relationships and with the men I chose to be in relationship with. I would have married a nightmare. As I grew, the type of men I was interested in grew, how I saw relationships grew and the type of wife I will be in the future will be better than the woman I was a few years ago. In this single time, you can start your preparation to be a good wife and trust the reason for your wait is because God wants to make you better.

If this is your waiting type of season, then do something in your waiting season. Be purposeful. Be intentional about your single life. This means that you are working on yourself, your personal development, your relationship with God, and you are becoming a better woman for God, yourself, and your future partner.

Season of Waiting And What To Do

Now that you understand that you are in a season of waiting, you may be asking what you can do to either get out of it or so that it is not so miserable.

First, trust God. If God is all-knowing then trust that His timing is right and true, and stop trying to control every little aspect about your life.

Second, get closer to God. When you are in a season of waiting and you know that there is nothing that you can do to get out of the season on your own, you *have* to rely on God. You have to talk to Him, pray harder, and grow your relationship. God has put you at a standstill because you have forgotten there is no way for you to do anything without Him. Therefore you must learn to acknowledge Him in all your ways and that is when you will be ready to move forward. If you are confused about what He is doing and about your relationships status, grow to be so close to God that you can just ask God what He wants you to do. That way, you can take the guesswork out of it and just do what God tells

you to do while you are in the season for waiting.

And last but not least, and still most important about your season of waiting for God's timing. .

Waiting on the Lord but and waiting with expectancy. As you wait, you should believe with all of you heart that at any given time the Lord is going to come in with a breakthrough. It will not be a surprise to you because it is something that you expected to happen. Just like you know your birthday is going to come every year, or Christmas, or even the vacation you have been planning to take. You do not just sit and wait on these things feeling depressed as you think about them. You wait with expectancy.

You wait with the anticipation that these things are coming. Not because you doubt that they are coming, but because you *know* that they are coming. And as the holidays grow near, you become more and more excited because you expected them. This is what should happen when you wait on the Lord with expectancy. Of course, waiting on the Lord is

different than waiting on a specific day because at least you know when that day will happen. But when you wait on the Lord with expectancy, the concept is the same. It will require a degree of faith on your part. Choose to believe things that you have not seen yet nor do you know when they are going to happen, but you still expect them to happen.

"Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

If you want to get married, then believe that. Do not talk down to your destiny moping around telling yourself and the world that no one will ever want you and you are going to die an old maid. Why are you even speaking that into existence? Instead, believe in your heart of hearts that it will happen and that God will bring you exactly the type of man that you have been looking for in the right time.

Remove doubt and negativity, thinking that God is just going to give you whatever

unattractive left-over bum that you will have to settle for. God is not like that. He wants to give you the desires of your heart. So while you are waiting desire something wonderful and great and believe in your heart of hearts that, in God's timing, He will bring you what you need in a man.

*Are You The Reason For Your
Wait?*

Are you in a season of waiting and wondering what you can do to get out of it? I addressed a season of waiting last chapter. But I did not address if your season of waiting is God-ordained or self-inflicted. There is a season of waiting that is God-ordained and there is just a season of waiting because you refuse to move on to your next phase of life.

The fact of the matter is that I can sit and wait for a leprechaun to come knocking on my front door with a pot of gold. But just because I am waiting for that to happen, does not make it true, it does not mean that it is going to happen, nor does it mean that what I am waiting for is of God.

You remember the story of Moses and how the Israelites were supposed to get to the Promise

Land but they roamed around in the desert for forty years for a trip that was only supposed to take them a few weeks? The generation that left Egypt *never* saw the Promised Land because they were too busy complaining and going against what God was telling them to do.

The LORD's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone. Numbers 32:13 (NIV)

The reason I brought up the story is because sometimes it is trusting God's timing and sometimes you are the one that is holding up God's timing because you refuse to move forward. You keep staying in one spot and, therefore, you are not going anywhere. God may be waiting for you to grow, be a new person, learn something new, take a new job, or even move to another location before He brings you a relationship. But you won't do your part.

God knows exactly what you need before you even know what you need. You just have to stop fighting and trying to do things your own way and trust God. It may be hard because

what God wants and what you want may be two different things. But either you trust that God knows what is best for you and He has better plans for you than you have for yourself or you do it your way. You will never see His plans because you don't trust God and you sit still instead of moving forward.

Oftentimes, when we are in a season of waiting, God is waiting on you. There may have been something that He told you to do, something that He told you to work on, or even somewhere that He asked you to go, but yet you still have not done it yet. Therefore, your season of waiting is because of you. You have not done what you needed to do in order to move forward and your wait to be over.

I want to tell you a story. Before I got my master's degree, before I started a blog, and before I got into this whole purpose and doing something with my life thing, I literally used to sit and watch air praying to God everyday that today would be the day I would find my man.

Then one day God spoke very clearly to me and told me that I needed to get up and go about my life, that I was wasting time not doing

anything and staying in the same spot when the man may be on the other side of me doing what I need to do; I was really prolonging everything by staying still instead of moving forward.

Albert Einstein that said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

If you are the type of person that jumps in bed with a man too soon and have sex time and time again and wonder why your relationships are not going anywhere....then you may be insane. If you are the type of person that does not financially plan and you are going broke again and again and again, then you may be insane. If you are the type of person that keeps going around the same mountain again and again and again, then you may be insane. In in this instances you cannot really blame other people or God for that matter for your hard time. You really need to blame yourself.

Why revisit the same path, the same person, or type of person, and do the same things over and over and expect a different outcome?

When it comes to you still being single, you have to really examine if you are going around the same mountain, making the same mistakes, doing the same tired things, and making the same wrong decisions and sitting there looking at God wondering why you are still single. You are stagnant because you refuse to move forward and you'd rather wander in the desert in the hot sun making the same mistake, not getting anywhere and wondering why you are getting more the same. It is because you are doing more of the same.

The best way I can illustrate this is with a story about two women who have the same exact destiny. One gets married at twenty-eight and the other at forty-two. What went wrong since they have the same destiny? Often times it goes like this: the one who gets married younger meets someone she knows is no good for her. She recognizes within weeks that this person is not for her and moves on. Within the same year, she meets man A, B, and C and, within that year, she is able to recognize that none of these men are good for her. Not only did she move on, but she took something out of each and every relationship and made a change on the inside depending on the

experience of the relationship. Eventually, she came to know herself, and she knew what she wanted out of life, as well as what she wanted out of a partner, and at the age of 28 she knew that she knew that she knew, she found that person for her.

Now let's take the 42-year-old. Instead of learning and growing she held on to man A, knowing that he was not the one, knowing that his type of love hurt, but still hoping it would change. She held on for five years all for the sake of wanting to get married, not wanting to be alone, or not understanding that the purpose was not for man A to be in her life for five years. However, she continued this pattern, did not learn from her experiences and added man D, E, F, and G into the mix. Instead of going through the men like the 28-year-old did and learning from each experience, she held onto the men each for year, keeping men that God was trying to pull away.

She slowed down her own destiny because she was not moving assuredly through life and not fulfilling or trying to understand her purpose. Instead, she stumbled and stumbled,

and stumbled. When she did meet the right man, although grateful, it could have been happened sooner had she been willing to let go of the others, learn what she needed to learn, and move on. Sometimes we will settle and force ourselves to marry man E when it was never intended to be so, and we miss the mark completely.

Do you see what I mean? You could be causing yourself more harm than good by going around the same mountain and the only person that you have to blame for that is yourself. You cannot blame God for your decisions to be in bad relationships or bad decisions that ruined your life. God gave you the common sense to not make those bad decisions, but you seemed bent on doing them anyway. And then want to blame God when stuff doesn't work out for you.

Learn from your mistakes. Let go of the things that are not working, the men that are not working, and stop getting into situations with bad men just because you do not want to be alone. Do not wander around in the wilderness for years wondering why you are not reaching the Promised Land when you are the reason

for your own dely. Everyone makes mistakes, but learn from them and grow. Do not let them keep you from the promises of God.

17

He is Not Your Buyer

A Proverbs 31 woman is known as a virtuous woman and the Bible explains her as being this:

*A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman—
who is he who can find her? She is far more
precious than jewels and her value is far above
rubies.*

Proverbs 31:10 (AMPC)

One of the best aspects about the Proverbs 31 woman is that she is worth more than rubies. An interesting fact about rubies is that they are, in fact, more rare than diamonds. Therefore, imagine what esteem you should hold yourself when dealing with a man who does not want you! That is like dealing with a man who is willing to throw a diamond away. If you were standing in front of a man right now and he had a huge diamond in his hand, and he decided to

throw it into the sewer just cause, what would you think about him? You would probably think that he was an idiot who is just going around throwing gems away.

In essence, you are a gem and you should be waiting for the right buyer to find you. Let me give you a metaphor so that I can better illustrate my point. There are twenty gems in a display case. Only one of them is real and the others are all knock-offs. Some knock-offs are better than others, but there is only one real gem in the batch and it belongs to you. Along come some buyers. As the buyers come through, they pick up the knock-offs because they are not trained to know what a real gem looks like. They just pick up whatever they think is the real thing and take it home. As the knock-offs get taken, the real one sits there wondering why all the buyers keep choosing the fakes over it.

As a gem you may be wondering, *"I am the gem. Why on Earth are all these men choosing these cheap cubic zirconia over me?"*

BUT. . .

Then in comes a buyer in a nice suit and he comes directly over to the real gem, picks it up, and buys it right away. He does not need to look at the other gems, he does not need to browse, he does not need to look at the price and then come back at a better time. He does not have to do any of that because he is a real buyer and he is trained in knowing what a real gem looks like. And he knows that he does not want to risk allowing the gem to get away from him. So he views this beautiful gem (aka, you) and buys it right on the spot.

Being a Godly Woman You Should Know This

First. If there are men coming around choosing other women and wanting them over you, then who cares; they are not your buyer. You are a better gem than the knock-off, but if a man cannot tell the difference between a real gem and a fake gem why would you want him anyway? You want a man that is going to value you and know how much you are worth. You want a man that knows exactly who he looking for and when he sees you he will want to pay the price to have you. *That is the type of man*

you want. Don't worry about a man who does not want you, treats you badly, and instead goes after the lesser gems.

Second. Think about your buyer. Would anyone in his right mind who has worked hard to afford one of the most luxurious gems in the world turn around and throw the same gem against the wall, harm it, or ruin it? No person who knows the true value of a gem would do that because they know how much it is worth and they have worked hard for it. Therefore, any man who is not willing to treat you like a gem is not it. If he doesn't want you, he is not it. If he doesn't want a relationship with you, he is not it. If he doesn't care about you, he is not it. Why cry tears over someone if he doesn't see your worth? And why try to *make* him see your worth when he obviously doesn't have the trained eye to see how awesome you are?

Third. If a man wants to choose the knock-off over you, then let him. There is no reason to get all bent up out of shape about it, chase a man, or trying to convince him that you are the real thing. Why would you want to? He is not a real buyer. Instead, wait for the real buyer, the

one who is able to recognize a godly woman from a mile away. The one who sees her value, and is willing to do anything to get her. You are the gem. You are the ruby. And what gem chases its owner down? It is the owner that looks everywhere for the perfect gem. You should not have to convince a man how pretty you are, how shiny and nice you are or how much you would look good on him. He should just know that for himself and if he doesn't see it, then good riddance.

Do not be the woman who allows this cheap, no-gem-recognizing man to play with her emotions and pick her up when he wants and put her down when he wants. Some women have to get over the fear of being an old maid. Some Christian women want to let go of their Christian values and stop being a godly woman because it may be easier to catch a man by just doing whatever. Don't do that and do not allow yourself to sink so low, below what you are really worth for a man. You are the gem. Wait for your buyer; he will come. He will not be like these counterfeit men that you have been dealing with who do not know your worth. Have faith in that.

*Stop Trying to Hold on to What God
is Trying to Tear Away*

I have learned that God removes people from your life for a reason. But it is human nature for us to try to hang on to someone even though it is apparent that God is trying to remove him or her from our lives. As Christians, we should always forgive, but forgiveness does mean hanging on to people that we know we should not be dealing with. Sometimes it is better to forgive from a distance

I recently read an interesting quote on Instagram that said that God brings your ex back into your life to see if your still stupid. That means that sometimes we want to hang on to exes knowing that they are not it and that they are bad for us, but then wonder why we keep breaking up and our lives are still miserable. That is because God is trying to

pull these people out of your life, but yet and still you are bent on hanging onto them. One thing about hanging on to relationships that are not meant to be there is that God cannot bring you the right one because you are so busy hanging on to the wrong one.

You may be asking yourself if he is not it, then why does he keep coming back. That is because God wants you to get some discernment and learn how to cut people out on your own. God may be speaking to you and sending you plenty of red flags just waiting to see if you will be obedient and listen to Him and keep the bad seed from our life. You always have free will and you can choose to do whatever it is you want to do. But that does not mean that hanging on to people just because you can hang on to them is something you should be doing.

Have you been in a relationship, or even a friendship, in which the other person let you down time and time again? You keep giving

the person a chance, hoping that things will change. Or oftentimes you make excuses for the person's shortcomings and keep letting him back into your life anyway. It is important to pay attention to the people that God is trying to tear out of your life. Do not be resentful that they left, but be glad. Be glad that you see their true colors now. A huge sign that God is trying to remove someone from your life is that the relationship between you two will get worse and worse and worse. All the while God is just sitting there screaming at you telling you to run, telling you that the man He has for you will love you like He loves you. But yet and still, you keep hanging on. Then, because you cannot cut off toxic people on your own, it gets to a point that that God will just do it for you.

This is why it is important that we let go of the people that He wants us to let go of. He can send all the signs and the world and even move the person across country, but if you are not willing to let go of someone He wants you to let go of, then you will just be in an endless cycle of foolishness with someone that you should not be in a relationship with anyway.

At some point when there have been clear signs that you need to get rid of a person and you keep bringing him back into your life, then it is your fault. You have to wonder, what in the world is wrong with you. Why do you tolerate being abused by someone else? Why you are unable to let go of a destructive person? Sometimes we have to let go and when we get to a point where we can truly let go, that is when healing begins. But when you choose to hang on to someone, then you are really just actively keeping yourself in the state of sadness and depression. This can go on for so long that God can intervene and say, "Enough is enough. Since you do not have the strength to cut this off, I will remove the person." You cannot be resentful of this because what God is doing is for your own good. God never removes someone you need. He only removes people who are holding you back.

As Christian women, so many of us want to think that because we are Christian we have to keep letting someone back in because we must forgive and that is God's way. God's way is to forgive, but God's way does not include you, as His child, being in a position to be used

and abuse by another person or past relationship. Letting go does not have to include malice. It does not mean that you have to hate someone and treat the person badly. It just means that you do not have to have the person in your life and that you are choosing to do what is best for you and listening to what God is saying is best for you.

Just because you chose to leave an ex behind does not mean that you are a bad person and are not willing to help him. So many women fall into the trap of wanting to save a man thinking that once she does, he would then be transformed into the perfect man for her. If only she can make him see the light of God. In reality, a person's transformation is up to God and not up to you.

I remember when I was with an ex, I used to read the Bible to him and try to make him into a better man and a better Christian so that he would be a suitable husband for me. I stayed with him for years hoping that one day he would be the man God called him to be. That never happened. It was not up to me to make a him into a man. It was not up to me to make a him believe in God if he did not want to. All the

while, God was showing me exactly who he was, but I refused to walk away until one day after our billionth fight, God just told me to let him go; there was nothing that I could do change him. Several years have passed and he has a family and attends church regularly. But he does that because of the work that God did in him and he was ready to do that, not because I beat him over the brow with the Bible. I was trying to make him be what God called him to be when really the battle was between him and God, not me, him and God.

I say that to say whatever transformation a man needs to go through may have nothing to do with you and it may takes years to complete. But let him complete that on his own. It is his test to pass, not yours. Your test is to allow God to remove that person and go on with your life. The last thing you want to do is wait years or maybe even never for someone to appreciate you.

No matter how you have tried to help him or wanted things to work out with you and him, pray for him. You just let go and walk into a better future without him. It may hurt, but you also have to realize that it is the best thing you

can do. God has a great future planned for you and He can't give it to you with dysfunctional people around you messing it up (Jeremiah 29:11). So instead of thinking that you know best and ignoring God while allowing a man you know you should not be with mess up your life, choose to let him go and allow God to bring you a better man and a better life.

Put God First

Learn to have a relationship with God and learn how to put God first. When you put God first, then nothing else will matter because you start to trust Him in *all* circumstances in your life. I know for some of you single women out there you do not think that it is impossible to be okay with not being in a relationship. Not only is it possible, but dare I say, you can be happy doing it and you should be happy doing it.

I have been single and celibate for a long time now and I am happy. I do not feel unloved, I do not feel depressed, I do not feel like I need sex, I do not feel anything, but happy. And I feel happier now than I was when I was in a relationship. I can hear you gasping now, "How can that be? You are happier now than when you were in a relationship? What?" These comments are your worldly-view thinking showing.

I learned to put God first. I learned to put God's plans for me first and I learned to talk and have one-on-one conversations with God. When you learn to talk to God, you will learn not to worry so much. God will reassure you that you are on the right path and that He will bring you the right man in the right time. God will also tell you, instead of focusing on everything else, how about you focus on the relationship between you and Him? If you are always thinking that you need something else, it can be very distracting when forming a relationship with God. Thinking that you need a man that you need to be married and that you need a man to love you.

But when you get to a place where you really trust God, you see yourself as His daughter and all the worldly stuff will not matter. You will not see things through the eyes of a single woman that has no man. You will see things through the eyes of God. God can make you feel complete by simply knowing and trusting that God has a plan for you that includes bringing you a man. You do not need to worry or feel any type of way about it. You learn to rest in God and you learn to rest in the promises of God because you trust His plan for

you no matter what. You do not sit and get all upset about what you do not currently have.

Think of it this way. Do you get all bent out of shape about the sun coming out tomorrow? If you are normal, then you probably don't. We know the sun will come out, it has always come out, and we trust that it will come out another day. We do not need to worry about the sun rising since we trust that when night is over then the sun will rise. We do not get depressed or experience thinking about the sun not rising.

It is the same with your relationship status. Know that the sun (or your man) will come. You do not need to sit up all night, watching the moon and stars to make sure the sun rises. You just know it will rise. So go to sleep, relax and go to bed; trust that the sun (aka, your man) will rise. You do not need to monitor the situation.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) states: *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

This scripture means that you need not worry about when your wedding will be or if it will

even happen. I am saying you need to focus more on God and not on finding and/ or chasing a man. I am saying that one you master the art of trusting and focusing on God, then you will learn that all the things concerning your relationship status will not bother you as much. And you will learn that once you get into a good place with God where you seek Him first and trust Him unconditionally, the exact thing you wanted will be added onto your life.

Discover Purpose

Whatever you do in life, you should be intentional about it, meaning that your life needs to be lived on purpose. If you do not feel that you have a purpose, then you need to go out and find one. God did not just form you in your mother's womb to make you someone's wife and that is all the meaning that your life is meant to have. Yes, being a wife and even a mother is wonderful, but, more than anything, do not minimize yourself and your creation thinking that God has nothing else in store for your life other than you having a man and getting married.

I know that when God created you, He created some unique sets and talents in you that He is just waiting for you to utilize. I remember when I used to be so upset about being alone and not being in a relationship that I really had to sit and ask myself, "What do you want and what type of life do you want to have?" I realized that

no one was standing in my way and that I now had the time to go after the exact type of life I wanted.

If I was still stuck on an ex or on not being married or still being single, I would not be where I am today. I would not be encouraging women such as yourself and you would not be reading this book. In the times when I felt that I had nothing because I had no man is when I learned to find everything. I learned to shift my focus from a man to really thinking about what I wanted and realized that no one and nothing was holding me back and I could just do it.

And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 (ESV)

I know being single does not seem like a gift, but once you get going at your life discovering your purpose and going full fledged on why you feel God has put you here, then that is when

you will get the full extent of what this verse really means.

I didn't just wake up one day and lo and behold — I was a college graduate with a PhD. I was very intentional about it. I planned my classes, my major, and when I would graduate. I just did not walk across the stage as a college graduate and wonder how I got there. It is the same thing with your life and learning to pursue purpose while you are single.

And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital status, defines your life.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (MSG)

And so I repeat again — you were not placed on this Earth to JUST be someone's wife. God gave you a purpose and He gave you a mission in life. Do not give that mission up just because you were wishing that you were married; your marital status does not define you.

He is the one that created you and He is the one that gives you purpose. With that being said, it is important to turn to Him to find out what you need to do be doing in your state of singleness. As the above Bible verse said:

An Unmarried Woman or Virgin is Concerned about the Lord's Affairs

I am not asking you to be a nun, but the "Lord's affairs" can vary depending on who you are. What God wants me to do is not the same thing that God wants you do, and it is not the same thing He wants the neighbor down the street to do. So there is no handbook that says "(put your name here) you were meant to have the same purpose as everyone else". God is your handbook and that is what spending time with God is for so that he will tell you these things. While in your single season, God may have called you to do something great that you may not have time to do if you were married. Therefore, it is important that you discover God, discover your purpose and discover your calling. And who knows? On the path God has designed for you may lead you to a great man in the process.

I am Queen and I Reign Supreme

As a child of God, you are queen and it is about time that many of you start acting like a queen. The problem, as I see it, is that so many of you are a queen but, for whatever reason, you have forgotten your royal position. You go and act like a beggar on the street forgetting that you come from a royal bloodline. I want to take you to the story of the Prodigal Son.

There was a man who had two sons. So he divided his property between them . . . The younger son set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine, and he began to be in need. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:11-16 (NIV)

Now what type of nonsense is this? At home, he had wealth and he had an inheritance but he took his wealth, wasted it, and was soon eating out of the same pod as a pig.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’”

Luke 15:17 (NIV)

All of a sudden, he remembered who he was. *He came to his senses.* He remembered that he did not have to sit here, starve to death, eating and picking up behind pigs. He remembered his position and he remembered that he could go back home to a place in which he did not have to suffer like he was doing and where he had an inheritance. And that is exactly what he did. His father welcomed him back with open arms.

When you read this account of the Prodigal Son, so many of us think that it sounds unrealistic. If you had a rich family, why on Earth would you CHOOSE to be poor. But yet and still, there are so many of you women sitting around acting like you are a peasant, allowing men to treat you like a peasant, and

forgetting you are queen. How many of us daughters of the King have gone and wasted all of our wealth, our bodies, our time, our energy, out here living like peasants forgetting that we are a queens? We give everything that we have to men who do not deserve our time or our bodies. We forget that we have a wealthy Father at home waiting for us to come to our senses and come back in the palace and reign with Him.

Did you know that oftentimes within royal family circles, children were betrothed to kings and queens of other nations? The parents (the king and the queen) wanted to ensure the royal bloodline of their prince or princess and betrothed them only to the people whom they knew were worthy of giving their children the royal life they deserved. They betrothed them to people who were worthy of financial success, and capable of being a good spouse and making the family legacy bigger than it already was.

It is like that with God, our King, and our Father. Here you are as His little queen and He has betrothed you to a king who is worthy to take you as his queen. Earthly kings and

queens sometimes betrothed their princes and princess at very young ages. Then they would prepare them for their future spouse in how they were raised. Once they were of marrying age that is when they were married to their betrothed.

It is like that with God. Not only does He have a king for you that he deems worthy, but also He is trying to train you up, preparing and teaching you the right way to be a wife to him. But if you choose to abandon all of that, then you will not be his queen. If you choose to sneak out of the backdoor of the palace giving yourself away to every man who winks an eye at you, then you are diminishing your worth as a queen. What royalty would do that?

Remember who you are and who you belong to. You do not have to go out here and give yourself to every man, get use to a life of struggling, let people tear you down, treat you like crap, or beat down you. Who would do that to royalty and as someone in the royal family why would you allow it?

Remember yourself. Come back to the King. Take your place as a queen and don't care

what anyone else has to say about it. When the lost son returned, his father was not mad. In fact, he celebrated the fact that his son has returned to him. The other son became angry with his father because he was so willing to allow the lost son to take back his position. And guess what? The father did not care! This was his house and it was his wealth and he was going to celebrate his lost child (see Luke 15:20-32).

In the same way, God wants to celebrate you when you come back to Him. He is not going to care what you did or what other people have to say about you. You are still royalty in His eyes. For a brief moment, you forgot yourself and sought to live like a slave, but now that you have returned, God keeps no grudges. You can be all that you were meant to be.

So I ask you, why daughters of the King have you forgotten your royal position? Why do you set out and live below what God has intended for you? Why have you allowed other people to take what belongs to you? Why have you ripped off your royal robes? Just like the lost son, you need to come to your senses and remember yourself. Know what you deserve

and know that you have a King as a Father and an inheritance waiting for you. Do not go away like some servant living in obscurity and eating after pigs. You are a queen! Fix your crown! Be high on your throne! Reign with the dynasty God intended for you!

God Can't Bring Someone Else In
~ It's Too Crowded

Have you ever heard that song by Eryka Baydu called “Bag Lady”? Whether you have or you not, you should listen to it so you can get the full point of what I am about to say. When you listen to the song, it talks about a woman having so many bags that she gets weighed down by them and she cannot do anything or go anywhere.

In case you cannot tell by both the song title and the title of this chapter, if you are holding on to too much stuff and have too much baggage, then there is no room for anyone else to come in.

You may be asking, “What is too much stuff?” and “I am just going to give you some?” Here are common examples of baggage or stuff that

many single women suffer from when they are a “bag lady”.

Hanging on to an ex for too long and going back to him time and time again makes you a “bag lady”. You know that he is the *wrong* one, but you still put him as a priority in your life. How can you make room for a new man in your life if you have an ex taking up all the space?

Being hurt is a big one. Some women are so hurt by past relationships that every man they get with is always paying for the mistakes of someone else. God cannot bring someone new into your life because as soon as He does, you are chasing him away like he did something to you when really all those other people in your life did something to you.

Your life is a hot mess. How can God bring someone in to enrich your life when you would just bring down their life because you have too much unhandled drama going on in your life?

Being a nasty person. I do not know why women think that it is cute to walk around and be a jerk to everyone and think that somehow

this type of behavior is attractive to a man? It isn't.

Having too many men. You have a revolving door of men, sleep with a slew of men, and always have men in and out of your bed. You may be thinking that you are playing them and that you have the upper hand. NOT TRUE. They are playing you and taking a part of you with them so much so that you do not have anything to give anyone else.

All of this is baggage. That is what being a bag lady refers to. If you have too much baggage, then there is no room for anyone else. And, no man wants to sit around and take on all your issues on top of their issues; it is not fair to him. It is not fair for you pile all of your junk on top of him and give him the sole responsibility for making you happy and fixing all of your nonsense. Instead, you need to sort your nonsense out on your own.

There is something that I like to call self-awareness. It is so valuable, but yet so many people lack it. Self-awareness is being aware of yourself, how you come across to other people, and the stuff you have going on in your

life. If there is a bunch of crazy and/or negativity going on with you, then *you* should have enough sense to recognize it and change it.

If you are a bag lady, then you need to pray and ask God to bring all of your baggage to your forefront so you can deal with. There is nothing more pathetic than a woman walking around with 100 tons of baggage on her back and not even realizing it and wondering why no man wants to pick her up or even give her a ride. There is no room! There is no room for anyone else because your junk is taking up ALL the space.

Case in Point

I had a girlfriend who really wanted a good relationship and she wondered why she could not get one. That was because she had a child by her ex and every other weekend her ex would come over and spend the night. On top of that, her ex had a fiancée that did not even know about them messing around. On top of that, my friend was dating a few other men whom she was sleeping with on the side. God could not bring her anyone. Where in the world

would he fit? Between the weekend ex, the men she was dating, her child's father, and her ex's fiancée, she cannot hurry up because she has way to much stuff weighing her down.

If you want to get married and be in a relationship, get rid of the baggage. Make some extra room for your man and for your life. Do not have him come into a stuffy crowded area where he cannot even breathe because it is too crowded with too many negative things.

In closing Eryka Badu warns the bag lady telling her that if she does not get it together then she is going to miss her bus.

Your bus can be your man or it can be your future husband. You will surely miss him because you have way too much stuff. It is too crowded in your life to make room for someone that can be a proper husband to you. So, remember get rid of all that extra baggage.

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*Maybe it is not Them, But it is
You*

Have you ever heard of the word "issues"? I am sure you have, but what if I change the word from issues to ITS YOU. There are a lot of women in this world who lack self-awareness. Remember we talked about that word in the previous chapter. They wonder why they don't have a man and why they are not in a relationship. It is because they are the own reason for their problem.

I want to tell you about an old supervisor I had. This woman was a whole new level being mentally unstable. Every time a new woman got hired and the men at the workplace paid more attention to them than they did her, she would either fire the woman or make her life a living nightmare on the job until she quit. Then she would try to get with the man and wonder

why he ran away from her. She was nuts. In everything she did she was insane.

But yet and still every day, she would complain how she was not married and how no man wanted her. Then she would beg people around the office to pray with her. Once a person did pray with her the next day, she was back to her scheming ways making that person's life terrible all over again.

The point that I am getting at is that my supervisor used to cry and be upset because no man wanted to be in a relationship with her and no one wanted to be her friend. When everyone turned their back on her at work, she turned it into everyone else having the problem. She victimized herself not knowing why people treated her like this. It was not that other people had the issue; she had the issue.

So reflect on issues or its you! It was her, being mean and nasty to people all day everyday. Instead of her trying to change, she blamed the problems of her life on other people when in fact she was creating the problems in her life.

What's My Point?

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You need to know how you come across and you need to know yourself as a person. I do not care how you *try* to portray yourself to the world. You can appear to be the perfect Christian, volunteer, and be the most fun loving person all the while you are a jealous woman who takes delight and stabbing people in the back. You may or may not be able to fool other people. Even with my old supervisor, I think she liked to believe that other people saw her as kind. But really she was just fooling herself. Even if you are able to "fake the funk" around other people, there is no fooling God. God knows who you are and He knows what is in your heart.

Let's get into a story. The story of David in fact.

Samuel came to anoint a new king and then looked at all of David's better-looking and more masculine brothers. Samuel thought to himself that surely one of these men was going to be king; look at how great they look. And then God said this:

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I

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have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

You can "fake the funk" with everyone else, but you cannot "fake the funk" with God. You can be the most attractive and beautiful person in the world, but if you have a jacked-up attitude, then that will show through with God. You cannot blame other people for not wanting to be around you if you are the problem. No one should be subjected to your erratic behavior just because it is your sense of normalcy. If everyone keeps telling you the same thing about yourself and about how many issues you have, then this is a clear indicator that IT'S YOU.

If you are still in denial, then you need to be honest with yourself. Do you gossip? Talk about people behind their back? Try to get people fired? Stab people in the back? Try to steal a woman's boyfriend? Sleep with a married man? Curse out any and everybody you see for any and every reason? Do people want to be around you? Do you create problems in

your life and then blame other people? If any of the above is true then IT'S you.

The reason why a man does not want to get with you is because it's you. The reason you have no friends is because it's you. The reason why no one wants to be in a relationship with you because it's you. You need to own whatever part you play in your behavior and stop blaming other people for the reason you are (fill in the blank). Reflect on yourself and determine how *you* are playing a part in the downhill spiral of your life and your relationships.

What To Look For In A Godly Man

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

Matthew 7:15-17 (NIV)

The reason why I started off with this Bible verse is because there are a whole lot of men out there who like to pretend they are godly men when really they are just men trying to get into your pants. They would not recognize the Lord if He was standing right in front of them with holes in the middle of His hands and crown of thorns on His head.

These men are what I like to refer to as wolves. They are just pretending to be sheep so that

they can get at you. But like the Bible verse says, you can also tell what a person is by the type of fruit that he bears. A wolf can pretend to be a sheep all day long. But one day, that wolf is going to get hungry and will need to eat meat and not grass like the rest of the sheep. One day, the wolf's teeth are going to show. And one day, the wolf will not be able to maintain his composure and will come out and gobble up one of the sheep.

What's My Point?

My point is that a wolf can only pretend for so long. Eventually his true colors are going to show. This is why I am going to give you some characteristics to look for in godly man so that you can avoid being an appetizer for a wolf who just wants to chew you up and spit you out.

A Godly Man Cares For Your Soul

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

A godly man will strengthen the relationship you have with God, but a wolf man will just take you away from God. He is not on the path to God himself so how in the world will he direct you to God?

Remember that ex that I told you about in one of the above chapters? When I tried to read the Bible to him, he hated it. It lasted only but so long before he wanted me to put the Bible away to try to have sex with me. He wanted me to stop talking about God because it made him feel guilty. Then he tried to convince me that the Bible was out-dated because our all-knowing God could not have possibly predicted what was going on in this day and age. These type of things were an attempt to move me away from God and not toward God.

A Godly Man Will Understand That Your Body Is Not His, Not Yet

I once had a conversation with someone regarding me being celibate. She thought it was a foolish expectation of me because no man was going to wait until marriage to have sex especially since I was a single mom. How

could I practice celibacy? She thought no man was going to give me the time of day. But see that is a worldly type of thinking.

A worldly man, aka a wolf, overvalues sex and feels that he cannot fall in love with a woman without it. A godly man seeks God first and knows that God does not want him to fornicate. Instead of pressuring the woman to have sex, a godly man is willing to wait until after marriage to have sex with her because his desire to please God is more significant than the desire to please himself.

I once saw an interview with Russell Wilson, now the husband of Ciara. He said that as he was sitting with Ciara, God spoke to him and told him that he needed to lead her and that he need to not have sex with her until they were married. And that is what they both chose to do. A godly man chooses to value a woman's body.

A Godly Man Knows What He Wants and Will Not Waste Your Time

A godly man is not fearful of marriage because he knows, that “[h]e who finds a wife finds a good thing.” Proverbs 18:22 (ESV).

You will know where you stand with a godly man, and it is not a lot of back and forth, indecisiveness, and a lot of wasting your time. A worldly man will promise to marry you, and at the same time, he knows that he is straight up lying to your face. The worldly man will have no intentions of marrying you and will waste your time years and years on end if you allow him to pretending like he wants to move forward with you when really he is just weighing his options with other women.

A worldly man will say things like “why do we have to be married to have sex?” and try to convince you that your godly ways are outdated to get what he wants out of you. A worldly man may not want to date you, he just wants you to come into his house and, possibly have sex, have no real meaningful conversation, and try to develop a relationship off of superficial stuff.

A godly man is very intentional about his relationships. If he wants to court you or if he

wants to get married then he is willing to say and do just that. He will not play games with your head and your heart, and his intentions for you will be made clear. He also is looking for something deeper and tries to determine if you will make a good help meet for him or not.

A Godly Man Will Respect You as His Woman

A worldly man will have the mentality that he needs to show his woman off. We are living in a social media driven world where it is okay to be naked. Look at Kim K and Kanye West. He has no issue whatsoever letting all his wife’s charms hang out on Instagram and everywhere else. That is a worldly man’s type of thinking. He wants to share his woman’s body with the world so that other men can be envious of him. With a godly man, he looks toward the Bible on how to treat his wife.

And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes.

1 Timothy 2:9 (NLT)

A Godly Man Will Love You

A godly man knows the meaning of love. As Ephesians 5:25 directs, he will love you like Christ loves the church and be willing to give himself up for you. The type of love that a godly man displays is patient and kind like it says in 1 Corinthians 13:4-13.

A worldly man's love is very shallow and very fickle. After he marries you when he is tired of you or wants to trade you in for a newer model, he will. He says that he loves you, but his love is just a superficial type of love contingent upon himself and how you make him feel. As soon as things go south in a relationship, he is ready to break up with you or cheat on you. Getting into a marriage with this man is very dangerous because instead of working through the tough times in marriage as soon as things get tough, he is ready to divorce you and move on to the next woman.

A Godly Man Has a Relationship with God

A worldly man will be able to put up a front. Sometimes he mask himself as a godly man because he know that is what you want; he pretends to be what you want to get you. But as I said, before a wolf can only "fake the funk" for so long. A worldly man is like a wolf in sheep's clothing. He may try to dress up like a sheep, but he is a wolf. And like any wolf that is dressed like a sheep, if you look at him from afar the worldly man will look like a sheep. But the closer you get to him, you can tell that he is, in fact, a wolf dressed like a sheep. He is a wolf that does not want any good for you. He does not want to marry you, but only to have sex with you, he does not have a relationship with God but just pretends that he does so that he can have sex with you. When you really get up close and personal with him, you will see there is nothing godly about him. He does not pray, he does not know anything in the Bible, he is a liar, he does drugs, he tries to get you to do drugs, he is a cheater or he engages in any of the works of the flesh that you can think about.

These are all things that are not of God. He can say that he is a godly man all he wants to, but the proof is in the pudding. A wolf can only

hide for so long, but eventually, his true colors will shine through. On the other hand, a godly man actually has a relationship with God. You can tell by the way he acts, the way he treats you, and the way he values you. A godly man is who he says he is. You do not have to push a godly man toward God because he is already there.

True story: I went out on a date with a guy. He said he was Christian, talked about Joel Osteen, and put up a good front for the first few minutes of a date. The second half of the date consisted of him molesting me and trying to get me to go back to his hot tub in his hotel room. See, a wolf always reveals himself.

*What Is A Marriage Supposed To
Be Really*

In the last chapter I talked about recognizing a godly man based on comparing the way that he loves you with the type of love explained in the Bible. But that can be really hard for you to do if you do not know what is in the Bible. I want to talk about how husbands should love their wives particularly focused on some chapters in Ephesians. A marriage between a husband and wife means that each has their role in order to make their marriage, or in your case your future marriage, more functional and the way that God intended it.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the **two shall become one flesh.**" This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*
Ephesians 5:22-33 (NKJV) [emphasis added]

First, Husband Love Your Wives

It is easy for a man to say that he love his wife like it says above, but when an argument gets heated or when the man gets mad, you will quickly see that he will not treat the woman like

his own flesh. Loving someone like you love your own flesh means that you love that person just as much as yourself and you need that person just as much as you need the flesh that you are in. If a man would not hurt his own flesh, curse out his own flesh, or leave his own flesh, hurt his own flesh's feelings, then he should *not* do these things to a woman. This is just the foundation of a Christ centered relationship, but it get so much deeper than that.

When a man really loves his wife likes his flesh, to do harm to his wife would be the same as someone coming and ripping his skin off and leaving him walking around with no skin. That is what a marriage really is in God's eyes.

Therefore, when you think of the type of husband you want to have or man that you are dating, ask yourself, "Is he willing to take the hard road with me and not leave when things get hard? Is he willing to share in consequences and responsibilities? Is he willing to give up his life just as Christ gave his life for the Church?"

That is the true meaning of husbands love your wives. That is how God intended it. Not love your wife until a younger model comes around and then you trade her in. Not love your wife until you get tired of her and you do not want to be bothered anymore. But like the very flesh a man walks around in every day. That is the type of love that you should strive for in your marriage when you do get married.

Second Wives Submit To Your Husband

When husband and wives hear “wives submit to your husbands” everyone gets stuck on what that means. A husband and wife relationship is one of the most fulfilling relationships if done properly. The Bible does mention submission as something that should be done in a Christian marriage. But submission does not mean house servant.

I would like to explain what “wives submit to your husbands” is and is not.

- wives submit to your husbands does not mean that you are going to be a maid, answering every little call of your husband.

- wives submit to your husbands does not mean that you are going to be his share cropper, indentured servant, sex slave, or any other form of slavery.
- wives submit to your husbands does not even mean that you have to agree with every little thing that comes out of his mouth.

Wives submit to your husbands does not mean that you lose your personal identity and turn into a scene from the movie *Coming To America*, the one in the beginning where the prince was about to get married to his betrothed and the answer to all the prince’s questions were “Whatever it is that you like.” The prince did not like this about his betrothed in the movie and men won’t like it about you. No one wants a bobblehead to say “yes dear” to everything. So get that whole idea out of your head. A great example of a wife is Esther. As a wife, she was instrumental in her purpose, not some slave who sat around waiting for her husband to tell her what to do. You are a unique person. God made you this way.

I already spoke to you about how husbands are to love their wives like their own flesh. This means your husband, or future husband, should not ignore your opinion and do whatever he wants to do even if it is bad for the family. You should be comfortable submitting to him as a wife because you know you are like his second set of skin and there is *nothing* that he would do to hurt you. If a man loves you like he loves himself, he will not abuse your submissiveness and use it for his own personal gain. No good God-fearing man will do that.

If you want God to bring you your husband, then you must learn how to do it God's way. Knowing how God intended marriage to be can help you learn how to do it God's way and make sure that you end up in a situation with a man that is supposed to love you the way that God loves you.

Are You Really Ready for Marriage?

I mean, are you? Marriage is really hard work. You may be thinking, "What do I know because I have never been married?" No, I have not been married but I have had a chance to counsel a few married couples; they let me into the deepest and darkest secrets of their marriage. I remember the first married couple I counseled. I sat and thought to myself, "Wow! This marriage thing is really hard!"

People tell you that it is hard, but unless you are in it or are in a place where you see what really goes on in people's marriage, you really cannot grasp how hard it is and how so many people jump into marriage unprepared thinking that being married is going to solve all of their problems and be one big lollipop and gumdrop as they prance through the glistening sun.

Being married can be a wonderful thing, but a solution to all your problems . . . **no** it is not. In fact, getting married may add on to your problems. It may add on your debt, your stress levels, and how long you are able to even tolerate another person. This is why I want you to ask yourself, “Am I really ready to get married?” If you are not or you don’t know, I have compiled a list of things that will help you determine if you are ready to get married and help you know what you need to do to get married.

Are You Financially Stable?

Did you know that money problems are a large reason for marriage breaking up. Therefore, it is important to know your own financial situation, your income and debt, if you are stable, and if you are able to provide for yourself. You do not have to be rich or have a million dollars in your account, but you should have a way to support yourself. You should not be looking to get into marriage because you have no money and you are looking for someone to take care of you.

Money is not everything, but it can surely make a marriage a lot harder if you don’t have any and are struggling to pay for your basic needs. Marriage is hard enough without having to worry about being evicted, having your utilities cut off, or not eating because you do not have any money. Therefore, while you are waiting to get married, work on your money. Understand your money, save your money, and decrease your debt.

Have You Gotten Everything Out of Your System?

As a single person, you can go where you want, do what you want, and work as long you want, without having to answer to anyone. In marriage, you can’t do that. You are held accountable to your spouse. You cannot just take off for a three-day weekend without letting your spouse know. You cannot go out with your girlfriends without letting your spouse know. Your life is really not your own; you are sharing it with someone else. Your marriage comes first and foremost and you have to be responsible for keeping it together. I know a

few girlfriends who got married and dropped out of college to do so. They always thought there would be more time to go back. But then they had children, their husband got advanced degrees, and their dreams of going back to school were lost in the shuffle. If you want to climb the career ladder, start a business, go back to school, travel around the world in eighty days, whatever you want to do, do it now because you may not get another chance.

Are Your Expectations of Marriage Unrealistic?

This is a big one. Some people want to get engaged, plan the wedding, and never really knows what comes after that. Being engaged is fun and planning a wedding is fun, but that does not last forever. Once you are married, there is no more excitement and events surrounding your marriage. Marriage is your new normal and you need to know what that looks like.

Despite what you think, marriage not some fairytale where you are going to be on vacation rolling around in the bed all the time having sex. There are real issues and real things that need to be dealt with. You each will have your

own opinions and want to do things your own way and one person will have to die to what he or she wants in order to keep the peace in the home. There is a lot of *not* being selfish, a lot of compromising and giving to the other person even when you do not feel like it. So if you are not ready to do any of that then you are not ready to be married.

Know Yourself and Know What You Need

It is going to be hard to know what you need if you do not really know yourself and what type of person you are. For example, I am a Christian. I need my future husband to be a Christian because that plays an important role in my life. I can also have a very dominant personality. I am going to need a husband who is leader, able to appreciate my dominant personality. I need a husband who is not going to want a more passive woman because that is not me. I also like to read and I appreciate intellectual conversation. These are must-haves in my future husband because that is what is going to make me happy. The reason I know these are the things I need in a man is because I came to terms with who I am as a

person and I came to realize the things that would compliment my personality.

I cannot tell you how many couples I have counseled after they are married who say to themselves, "This is not the type of person that I needed in my life" or "He is not the type of man that I thought he was" or "She is not the type of woman I need her to be." They are in this position because they did not know themselves and so they just partnered with someone without even knowing if that person was a good fit for them or not.

I know what you may be thinking that you are a grown woman and, therefore, you know yourself. I do not feel like I *really* knew who I was and what I needed until after thirty. I am not telling you that you have to wait until you're thirty to get married, but I am saying that knowing yourself and what you need takes maturity, takes time for you to explore and gain some self-awareness about the type of man who will make a good husband for you and fit into your life.

Consider all these things. Are you really ready for marriage? And if you are not then I hope

you have an indicator on what you can start doing now to be ready for marriage.

*Being A Godly Woman Over A
Worldly Woman*

Just like you want a godly man, there is some man out there that is looking for a godly woman. It would not fair for a godly man to be out here praising the Lord and having a wonderful relationship with God and you do not even know who God is. If you want a godly man to seek you out, then you need to have your own relationship with the Lord and not expect him to do or be that for you. Just because he has a relationship with God, his salvation cannot be passed down to you. You need your own relationship with God and you need to lift him up and bring him closer to God in the same way that you need that from him.

Thou Shalt Love God

I once heard a very interesting question when I was in church: "If you were on trial for being a

Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" meaning what would people see if they saw you out and about? Would they see you being nice to people or would they see you cursing out the cashier for moving too slow? If people stalked your social media would they see a woman of God or would they see a woman posting any and everything no matter if it is bad or good in order to be accepted by the world's standards?

For worldly people, the Bible is some outdated document that they do not want to follow. There are some Christians who agree with this statement so they conform to the world, doing what the world says is good even though the Bible says it is wrong. If you want to be a godly woman who attracts a godly man, then how you be someone who is trying to hide their God in the closet?

You cannot love God just because you want to give the appearance of being religious so that you can catch a good man. You want to love God because you love God. You want to be a godly woman because that is what God requires you to be. Don't try to "fake the funk" and be Christian when you are not. Don't try to

tuck God away in the back of the corner because you met a fine man and he is not trying to hear all that God stuff. Either you are a woman of God or you are not.

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
Mark 8:38 (NIV)

In other words, if you are wish-washy with God, sometimes being a Christian, sometimes claiming God, and sometimes being ashamed of God, then when you get ready to walk through the white pearly gates when you die, God is going to be ashamed of you.

Thou Shalt Watch Her Mouth

I have learned to try not to say things that are not true and I try not to promise people things that I have no intention of fulfilling. In God's eyes, your word is your bond. What comes out of your mouth means a lot, therefore, you need to watch what comes out of it.

You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:23 (ESV)

In short, whatever you say God is listening at you and your words are your promises. If you say that you are going to do something then do it. If you say one thing then mean it. Do not sit around and lie about yourself and lie about who you are just to impress a man. Remember what I said, the man who is for you will be for you. You are not going to have to sit around and lie about who you are so that he will be more attracted to you.

True story: I once dated a guy and he kept asking all these questions expecting to catch me in a lie. He asked me how many kids I had. Then when I told him one, he would wait and ask me again and again just trying to catch me lying. When I finally asked him what in the world all this was about he said that he had dated a woman who first said that she had no kids and after dating for a while she said she had one kid. The relationship went on and she decided to move in with him and she showed

up with **three** kids. I am sorry what? She told him that she thought he would not want to be with her because she had three kids. If someone does not want to be with you because you have three kids, then they are not the one for you. You cannot tuck your kids away in some closet or lie about the important parts of your life because you are scared to turn a man off. Be a woman of your word.

Thou Shalt Be Who You Say You Are.

If you are portraying yourself as a good godly woman, but on the first date you are leaning over to a man, making all types of sexual innuendos, and you are ready to get bent over in the bathroom of the restaurant ... that is not saying that you are a godly woman. That is saying that you are a worldly woman.

Therefore I urge you on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1 (BSB)

Since your body needs to be offered up as a living sacrifice, take care of it, both the outside

and the inside. Show the godly man and the world that your body is a living sacrifice to God that you take pride in it. I already spoke to you about celibacy and the importance of not just sharing your body with anyone and everyone.

For many people, I know that being a godly woman can seem so boring as if you cannot do anything fun. But it really is not. Just think of some of the women whom you admire the most and think about their demeanor, and their capabilities. These women who I mention below may or may not be Christian, but I want you to just reflect on what you think about when you hear their name or even when you see them. I hope that what you think is that they are women of class, they have achieved something, and they did not go around being barely dressed and always having a foul mouth. We respect these women for who they are and that is the type of woman I want you to become.

- Oprah Winfrey
- Michelle Obama
- Victoria Osteen
- Joyce Meyer
- Meghan Markle

- Kate Middleton

The reason I bring up these names is because when you picture them in your mind, there are some things that you expect to see from them and there are some things that would be way out-of-character for them. Think about the way they dress, the way they act in public, and all the positive things they have going on for themselves. And that all of them are married! It not only says something to be a godly woman (as I gave you by the tips above), but to also portray yourself in a way that a man will want to make you his wife. A real wife he can bring before God, his family, and other people and know that you are a certain type of woman who he can put above the rest.

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

Proverbs 31:10-11 (NIV)

That is the type of woman you need to be.

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If He Likes It Then He'll Put A Ring On It

Do you remember that Beyoncé song lyric “if you like it then he should have put a ring on it?”

You need to say that to yourself and apply it to your life. If he wants you, your body, and the wifely benefits, then he needs to bring on being your husband.

If you are saying that since you are his girlfriend, have his child, and have been together for X amount of years, it is the same thing as he being husband, then my answer to you is a big, “So what.” None of that means that you are his wife. I do not care how many of his children you have.

Even though your man may be committed to you, on any given day he could really get up and leave without any real repercussions. As a wife, you have a contract, also known as a marriage certificate, that is legally binding document that tells the world and whatever country you live in that you are committed to this person. If one person decides he or she wants to leave, then he or she must go through a legal process to get a divorce. With a girlfriend or a live-in girlfriend, not so much.

When people get married there is typically a wedding or they go to the Justice of the Peace. Even if you elope there is witnesses who needs to be present that you acknowledge your love in front of and who can testify that a marriage Vows may vary, but they typically say

I take you to be my wife, for sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer 'til death do us part.....

For many people when this process happens the couple is surrounded by family, friends, and the people they love the most. They are acknowledging each other in public letting the

world know what they have is permanent and not just a girlfriend-boyfriend relationship.

As a girlfriend, you do not have that. But, you should want that. You should not want pretend to be the wife if you are not officially the wife. You do not want to play the wife without getting the benefits of being the wife. As a wife, you are eligible to be put on your husband's health insurance, be the beneficiary of his life insurance policy at work. If he dies, you get that life insurance policy and you get to collect his social security as well. As a girlfriend you get none of that. If a husband gets hit by a car, a wife makes all the important decisions regarding his medical care.

Never allow a man to convince you that a girlfriend and a wife are the same thing. Do not let a man convince you that he calls you his wifey and, therefore, he does not really need to marry you. If you are in a serious relationship, then you need to start making plans to be a wife. Do not believe the hype in thinking that the title of girlfriend is good enough. I have seen a girlfriend put her ring on her finger and call her man her husband. I have seen women do this for years. But they are *not* married.

Unless it is written down and on records with the court, you are not a wife. You are a girlfriend. You are easily replaceable. If a man loves you that much and wants to play make-believe and pretend you are his wife, then he can put action behind his words and make you his wife. That is what real men do, not try to be fancy with their words and trick you into believing something that is a lie. Unless you are legally married, then you are really not married.

If you are sitting here telling me that you somehow cannot make your man marry you, you are so right. You cannot make a man marry you. You cannot make someone do anything he is not willing to do. A man should want to do marry you on his own. So if he is not committing to you or not wanting to get married to you after a reasonable amount of time in a relationship, then you need to examine a few of these things.

"It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have

sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 (NIV)

Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Corinthians 7-8-9 (NIV)

I do not want to hear that you just need to date forever. You can date forever, but if that is the case, then, according to God, you should not be having sex. If you really want to have sex, then get married that kind of sums up that.

As a person who has had sex, I get it. No one wants to just stop having sex just because a man does not want to marry you. But this is when you must. Remember, you are going to do it the world's way or you are going to do it God's way. So not only will a ring make you a wife, it will get you sex, sex that you do not have to feel guilty about and know is not wrong in the eyes of God.

Don't Chase He Who Finds

Some women think they are waiting for a man when in fact they are chasing a man and then they cry themselves to sleep every night wondering what went wrong. Sometimes she chases a man so much only to find that she is in the chase all alone. As someone who has been there before, I can confidently say that waiting for a man is much more peaceful then chasing one down. I know it may not seem like it. But really when you think about it, where has chasing a man really gotten you? There is an exception to every rule but, more than likely, chasing a man has gotten your feeling hurt.

A man who wants you will pursue you. If you are always doing the chasing, then that should tell you exactly how a man feels about you. The world's biggest lie is that a woman needs to be a ride or die in the sense that she needs to ride with a man through his nonsense,

dogging her out, chase him and try to MAKE him see what a great catch she is. And then and only then when she has passed the test he will finally want her. *Stop playing!*

Stop chasing and start waiting. Waiting does not mean that you are just sitting there watching the sunrise and watching the sunset waiting for everyday to be the day that Mr. Right comes on a big white horse and rescues you from your life. That is not waiting; that is called borderline depression because that is exactly how you feel just wait around for Mr. Right and that is ALL you do all day. Each day when he does not come, you just sink deeper and deeper down into depression because he is all you have to look forward to.

Not waiting is not stopping your life. Waiting is how you act. It is refusing to chase and go above and beyond for a man just so that he will "see you".

Some of Examples of Chasing and Waiting

Chasing a man: This woman tries to make a husband out of any man she sees everywhere she goes. It does not matter that she does not

know him and is not sure if she will even like him. She is going to make the man notice her one way or the next, even if it is apparent that he is not interested in her.

Waiting for a man: The waiting woman knows there is no point of creating a fictitious wedding in your head if you have not even said hello. If it ever gets to the point that the man speaks, the waiting woman analyzes him and the situation to determine if the man is worth her time, not the other way around.

Chasing a man: She gives him much more time than he deserves, laughs at all of his jokes, and transforms herself to make herself into what he wants her to be. If he wants her to weigh ten pounds, she develops an eating disorder to get to that weight. If he doesn't eat meat, she does not eat meat. If he wants to convert to the religion of worshiping the devil, so does she.

Waiting for a man: She sees the man for who he really is. If he is corny, crazy, or on some severe mind-altering drugs, the waiting woman is going to notice and leave if need be.

Chasing a man: The chasing woman goes to the singles Bible Study, the Jewish singles club, the interracial dating Meet-up, as well as three other speed dating events a week. Everywhere she goes, she makes an effort to at least speak to one man at each place because she wants to maximize her efforts of meeting the one.

Waiting for a man: The waiting woman lives her life and does what she wants to do. She is too busy traveling, getting educated, and living her life out to the fullest. If she meets a man on the way, then great; if not, oh well. She does not do activities to find a man; she does them to make herself happy.

Chasing a man: She thinks that once she finds a man, her life will get better. If she has children, she does not do anything with them because she wants them to have a "male" role model at home before she takes them somewhere. She does not educate herself or move up in her career because she is waiting for her rich Prince Charming to come and rescue her from the everyday stresses of life.

Waiting for a man: She has gotten at three degrees, bought a house, and is moving up the career chain. She understands that a man is not going to rescue her, but only *add* to the awesome life that she already has. She understand that the more that she moves up, the more likely it is that she will find a man who is on the same level that she is.

Chasing a man: The chasing-the-man women meets a loser. Deep down she knows he is a loser, but yet she stays in this “relationship” (which is code for sex partner) with him. Every day she prays to God that he will leave his wife and make an honest woman of her. She prays that God will open his eyes and make the loser the one.

Waiting for a man: The loser is not even a factor. Once she find out that he is married and has no job, the waiting woman leaves the loser alone. The loser does not get past the first date with this woman.

Chasing a man: When going on the first date. This woman goes to his house and all the conversation is focused on sex. She finally

has sex with him so that he can see what a wonderful and talented woman she is.

Waiting for a man: She demands that the man take her on an actual date, one in which wait staff come to take your order and bring your food to you. Not the buffet and not a drive through, but an actual restaurant. The conversation is not focused on sex, but rather the waiting woman listens to the man and what he is saying. She determines if they have anything in common and she listens for any red flags which will allow her to determine if there will be a second date or not.

The waiting woman is not a lonely woman. Rather, she is a smart woman. She is not a woman that is pressed to be noticed by a man. She is willing to take all of her “wanting to get married” emotions out of a situation to determine if the man who is trying to talk to her is a good fit for her, not the other way around. The waiting woman, when not dating, is constantly improving herself and becoming that woman that all men want to be with. That way, she does not have to settle for anyone, but has a choice of men that are good for her just like she is good for him.

He who finds a wife, finds a good thing.
Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV)

He Cannot Chase You if You Are Doing the Chasing

I know the world tries to make you believe that men are in short supply and that you need to, by any means necessary, trap your man and pin him down. But that is not truth. And if single women keep throwing themselves at a man, then men will never see your value. A man who is ready to get married will be looking for a wife, and if you are the woman he is looking for, then he is going to find you. You should not have to chase him down and convince him of your worth. You should not be calling his mother dropping by her house and telling her that you are her future daughter-in-law. You should not be the only one calling, texting, and planning dates because he won't do it. He should want to do that on his own. How you can really know that I am telling the truth? Think of it like this. For most of us, we have had a guy try to talk to us, but we had no interest whatsoever in being with the guy. Did the guy just give up? No. Like the Energizer

Bunny, he kept going and going and going and going, trying to be with you and get your attention because even though you do not like him, he likes you. He is playing such an active role in pursuing you. So if this is the case with a man you don't like, then when a man you do like is not putting forth the same effort, he really does not like you back.

- Point #1 Recap: Drop the desperate woman act; it is a turn off. When you first meet a man and within the first week, he's told you that he's ready to get married, impregnate you with his five kids, meet your family, and pulled out a wedding ring, you would, more than likely, bolt to the nearest police station to get a restraining order. You do not need to chase a man, sleep with a man, or become attached at the hip in order for him to like you.
- Point #2 Recap: If you are with a man and you are doing all the work and he is not chasing you,

then get rid of him. He is not that into you.

Point #3 Recap: I am not lying to you because I am some bitter woman who does not have a man. I am telling you the truth because every man who has liked you that you have not liked in return has, more than likely, tried to go above and beyond to get your attention. My point is proven.

- Point #4 Recap: If you stop pursuing him, then you will start to get a good understanding of how he feels about you

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The New You

I know you heard some hard-to-hear things in this book and right now you may be calling me all types of colorful names saying that I do not know what I am talking about. But I do. Not only do I have a lot of degrees that tell me I know what I am talking about but also I promise you that I have been where so many of you single women have been. People used to try to talk me out of my foolishness and try to talk me closer to God and I just did not want to hear it.

I wanted to be married, I did not want to give up this man. I did not want to give up sex. I wanted, I wanted, I wanted ALL the wrong things. And I continue to drive myself into a downward spiral and away from God. Doing what God wants you to do and giving up some of old habits and behaviors is not as hard as you think. It sounds like God just wants us to

live a sucky life where we do can do nothing,
but pray and wait until God calls us home.

But that is not the case (Psalm 84:11). Doing it
God's way is the best way and as you mature
as a Christian you will come to see that. You
will see that in your relationship, your marriage,
you future husband, and your children or even
your future children. God is not looking to have
you be lonely all the time, but if you really learn
to listen to God and embed yourself in Him and
what He wants you to do, you will begin to see
and understand the wonderful life that God has
planned for you.

Remember, even if you are not married and
you feel jealous of married people I can say for
a fact that just as many married women are
jealous of you. I have seen it and I have heard
it through my counseling sessions. Jealous that
they did not make the most of their singleness.
Jealous that they did not wait on God and
jealous that they did not make the right
decision in choosing a husband. I know that for
a fact.

By reading this book I want you to become the
new you and the new woman of God that He

wants you to be. Yes, I want you to take my
advice to heart, but this book is just pages.
Once you finish reading it, it is over. If you want
advice for your life regarding your relationship
24/7 then God is ALWAYS on call. In the
middle of the night when you want to talk to
Him, He is there. When a man is trying to talk
to you and you are wondering if you should
give him the time of day or move on, then God
is there to advise you. When you are dating
someone and you do not know if God wants
you to move forward with this person, guess
what? Just ask God. He is there.

I do hope my book helped you and that you
take the advice that I have given to you heart.
Make some changes, be different, became a
new woman one step at a time and one day at
a time. God knows that you cannot make every
change He is requiring of you overnight. Just
try, try to be better, do better, and try each day
to make God proud and see where it will get
you. Continue to pray for yourself, your future
relationships, a direction, and your future
husband. And trust with all of your heart that
these things are in store for you.

In Jesus name, AMEN SISTER!

Closing Thoughts

I really do hope that you received encouragement from this book as a single woman. But just because the book is over, who says the party has to be? In case you could not tell, I really love encouraging women, and I am so honored that God called me into this purpose to encourage each and every one of you.

With that being said, I write regularly on my blog, so please pay it a visit. Even though this book is over, you can head over to www.sophie-sticatedmom.com and become a regular part of my crew, Sophie-stication Nation my awesome email list. You will get more personal tidbits, newsletters, and other free stuff that I do not post on the blog.

Don't forget to stay in touch. Feel free to follow me on

My website: www.sophie-sticatedmom.com

Instagram: @sophie_sticatedmom

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SophiaReedMFT/>

Twitter: @SophiaReedmft

or YouTube: Sophia Reed Sophie-sticatedmom

Whatever your social media fancy, I have it
because I love keeping in touch and
connecting with you.

Until we meet again, stay blessed.



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