

WHAT GOD TOLD ME

A JOURNEY TO HOLY MATRIMONY

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Understanding My Journey

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light
unto my path. ~ Psalm 119:105



A Woman's Desire

God said in Genesis 3:16 that a woman's desire will be for her husband. I was 12 years old when I began thinking about my husband, ironically the same age when I had my first personal experience with God. I didn't know what my husband would look or be like, but I knew I wanted one and would have one.

This was at a time when I knew very little about marriage and hadn't even seen one. Regardless, I thought about my honeymoon with my husband, and I envisioned us on a beach in a hammock. I don't know where that type of imagination came from at age 12, but my thoughts were so pure and sweet.



Embracing Singleness

It was April 2011, and I was 26 years old and single with one son. At this time, I repented, surrendered to God, and didn't look back. At 27 years old, I began to get frustrated about my sexual desire, and I prayed to God to either "take this feeling away or have my husband knock on my door tomorrow".

The next morning, I woke up to a message on my phone. It said, "Be patient, I will bring you someone honest and loyal". I don't remember where the message came from, but I was so excited that I completely ignored the "Be patient" part. I thought I was going to meet my husband that day because I asked God to "have my husband knock on my door tomorrow" but the day ended, and I hadn't met anyone.

I woke up with expectancy every day until so much time passed that I forgot I was even expecting anything. About a year later, I still hadn't met anyone, but I noticed that I hadn't thought about sex either. God answered my prayer, but instead of answering "have my husband knock on my door tomorrow", God answered "take this feeling away". I was so



focused on my work and my son that I didn't realize that I had not thought about sex the entire year after receiving my message.



My Dream

So here I was at 28 years old, no desire for sex, and no potential husband in sight. One time I joked with God as I said, “You know I’ll need that feeling back when I get married, right?” It reminded me and made me question, when was I getting married? I thought, “Lord, you said to be patient and that you will bring me someone honest and loyal”.

I decided to ask God about my husband again and God gave me a dream. In the dream, there were five letters that made up a name, floating around in pitch black “nothingness”. God had given me many dreams before, and by this time, I realized my dreams meant something. I didn’t understand it though, so I tried to ignore it, but it popped into my mind continuously. The name began to take over my thoughts and annoy me, so I began to pray that God would align my thoughts to His will.

When I pray, God responds, so I had no doubt that God would remove the name from my mind. I became accustomed to God answering me clearly and immediately too. The next day, I began driving to work when the name popped in my



mind again. This time I became upset because I prayed about it and I was used to God answering and delivering immediately.

I began to pray to God in an upset tone, “God, I asked You to align my thoughts to Your will, but You...” I couldn’t even finish. I felt God press upon my heart, “I did align your thoughts to My will”. I paused in thought, I even paused driving and asked God, “That’s Your will?” Then, I asked God what the name was for. God pressed again, “husband”. I said to myself, “Wow, now I know I’m tripping!”



God's Confirmations

Every time God speaks to me in this manner, I get excited, although I question my imagination. I wonder, is it me? Is it the enemy? Or is it God? I prayed that God would confirm who it was that was provoking these thoughts. The next day, I woke up with a Bible verse on my phone. I received Bible verses every morning, that was usual, but my settings were for the King James Version (KJV).

This particular morning, the Bible verse came in the International Standard Version (ISV). I had never read the Bible in this version before. It was Matthew 14:27 and it said, "Have courage!" Jesus immediately told them. "It's me. Stop being afraid!" I got so excited again. I just asked God to confirm who was provoking these thoughts, and I received a message saying it was Him! God was showing me so much at that time about my gifts, friendships, and more, so I wanted more confirmation.

A few days later, I went to my Mom's house for a family dinner. My older sister was there, who I hadn't spoken to in years. The last time I heard from her, she gave an ultimatum to our family, to



choose a relationship with her and not me, or she wouldn't be in their lives. My sister showed complete disdain toward me since we were little kids, and this is important to remember to understand the magnitude of God's next confirmation.

When I saw my sister, I thought she would start an argument, but to my surprise, she stood up and hugged me. She told me she had wanted to call me and we sat and talked for hours. Toward the end of our conversation she asked me what dress size I wore. I told her a size 6. She said, "God told me to give you a dress and the dress I have is a size 6!" She didn't tell me what type of dress it was, but next she asked if I was getting married. I told her no. She asked if I was sure. I replied, "I'm sure I'm getting married one day, but I don't know when".

We agreed to meet at the library the next day. We spent hours trying to find grants for her nonprofit. As we left, she said, "I almost forgot the dress! Hold on, I'll be back". She returned with a huge wedding dress with the price tag still intact. I accepted it with humor.



Not only was she giving me this huge wedding dress in a library, but I asked God to confirm what I heard, and He did. He sent my older sister, who had complete contempt for me, to give me a wedding dress that was my perfect size. I went home and thanked God for confirming His promise to me. Every time I began to doubt what God said, I would think about the amazing way He gave me that wedding dress.

Over the years, I continued to focus on God and my son. One day at church, the prerecorded announcements came on, and the person making the announcements said, “Hi my name is...” Imagine my shock as I sat in the middle of a congregation of hundreds of people looking at the screen, then around at the crowd, like “where is he”? This guy had the name in my dream!

As I became more involved in the church, we began to run into each other and speak to each other. I started observing him and noticed that he was unfiltered with conversation and seemingly loved the attention of women. I wondered, “Lord, is this really my husband?” I preferred intellectually stimulating men and wanted a man that wouldn’t dishonor me with other women.



Without really getting to know him, I thought, let me go back to God about this.



My Next Dreams

I asked God about my husband again and God gave me another dream. There was a different man, one I already knew, and he also had a child. In the dream, we took family photos together with our children, and we looked very happy. This was pleasing because I knew this guy was intellectually stimulating, but I was perplexed. With all the confirmations I was given about the name, does this mean there are other options?

Four more years passed. I was 32 years old and still single. I was okay with being single; I had purpose and was productive. I had my son and a home to care for. I had new and old friendships to maintain. I had restored relationships with my parents to nurture. I had plenty to think about and do, but I remembered God's promise about my husband and decided to pray again.

I received another dream. My son and I were completing an obstacle course together, and we ended up in a sheltered area at a park. The last part of the obstacle course was to get through a maze on the ceiling, while harnessed to a pole that was connected to the ceiling. Each person's pole completed the maze differently, and although



everyone's maze was more complicated than mine, I was far behind.

My maze simply went straight forward then left to the middle of the room. I looked around for my competition and saw one guy left. He was at the other side of the room, and his maze went straight forward then right to the middle of the room. I tried to beat him to the end, but no matter how hard I tried we stayed equal in the race. We ended at the same time, in the same place, and just laughed as we were unhooked from the harnesses. His face was blurry, but he said to me, "I think it will please my family if we danced". I shyly agreed, and we danced, and later we married.

I thought about the obstacle dream, the photography dream, and the dream with the name, and I asked God what they meant. Does this mean I can choose my husband?



This is the thing which the Lord doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry. ~ Numbers 36:6



God's Next Confirmation

One of my close friends were having a party. I showed up a little late, but just in time for the first game and won the first gift. I was handed a bag with a bowl inside. Guest crowded around asking, “what did you get?” I answered, “a bowl”, trying to hide my unenthusiastic and confused tone. I didn’t know what the bowl was and already made up my mind that I would regift it at some point.

When I got home, I looked up the name of the bowl. I was curious what it was because it wasn’t a normal looking bowl; it had a cross standing in the middle of it. The search result said “ring bowl” and the purpose is to have a place to put your ring when you’re cleaning, washing your hands, and doing other things where you don’t want to get your ring dirty. I just smiled as I pulled the bowl from the bag. Look at God again. Although it had been seven years, I thanked God for yet another confirmation of His promise.



Standing Firm on God's Promises

Periodically, I would think about God's promise and His confirmations. God makes promises to His children all the time and although there are times when promises are delayed, God always follows through. In Joshua 5:6, Joshua and other Israelites had to wander in a wilderness for forty years before receiving their promise because of the fear and disbelief of others. In Deuteronomy 32:51–52, Moses was allowed to see the promise but was not allowed to partake of it because of his own disobedience.

It had been seven years since God confirmed His promise to me. I asked myself, is it just not time or is it delayed because of me? Every time I would think that my dream was wrong, that I misunderstood, or that it meant something else, God would bring to remembrance His confirmation. God may have given you a promise and may have given you confirmations as well. Stand firm on God's promises until you see them manifest.



Be Aligned With God

First and foremost, if you want the things of God, you must be in alignment with God and in alignment to receive it. There are certain provisions God will give regardless because it promotes life, but some of God's promises aren't all-inclusive or overarching. Some are special and specific, and they require obedience as we see with Moses. God knows we will be tempted, but our strength to be in alignment with God comes through the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is gifted to us through the acceptance of Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins.



There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:13



Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. ~ Jude 1:24



Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. ~ Daniel 6:16

Trust God's Love

We hear all the time that God loves us, but what is love? Love is not a feeling; love is a choice. When you choose to marry your wife or husband, the choice itself is love, not the fact that you had feelings toward them. God chose us. This choice does not shift with emotions. We may disobey God one minute, but God still chose us. We may displease God with our thoughts, but God still chose us. The fact that God chose us brings to remembrance God's promises and that He fulfills them. Trust God's choice. Trust God's love.



Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb. ~ Genesis 30:22




Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. ~ Isaiah 49:15-16




But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ~ 1 Peter 2:9

Ask for Forgiveness

God knows that we will make mistakes, so He corrects us and is merciful toward us. But God will not allow us to have a promise that He knows we're not ready to be good stewards over. So, if you make a mistake while you're preparing for God's promise, be quick to repent and ask for forgiveness. Repent means to change. A change of heart should always precede a plea of forgiveness. If you have not truly repented, and therefore will likely repeat the same mistake, you should ask God to cleanse your heart first.

 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ~ Psalm 51:10

 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ~ Matthew 26:28



Trust God's Faithfulness

Sometimes, when we're waiting for a long time for something, doubt can creep in. We start to question whether we heard God correctly. However, the question isn't *if* God will, but *when* God will. God is faithful. Throughout Scripture God commits Himself to His Word and supplying our needs and even our wants/desires. This includes food, clothing, shelter, companionship, and salvation through Christ Jesus.



But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:19



If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. ~ 2 Timothy 2:13



Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. ~ Psalm 36:5



Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ~ Psalm 37:4



Trust God's Word

All power to carry out the will of God comes from God. God orchestrates everything and can cause things that were meant for bad to be used for our good. When the Jews sought to have Jesus killed, they took Jesus to the king. When the king told Jesus, "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?" Jesus told him, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above." Only God has the power to delay a promise that God spoke, and even God Himself will not go back on His promise.



My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. ~ Psalm 89:34



For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ~ Jeremiah 29:11



...Yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it. ~ Isaiah 46:11



Our own actions or the actions of others may affect us, but it won't prevent God from fulfilling what He spoke into our lives. God cannot deny Himself, and if God speaks it, it is a promise, and it will be done.



For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. ~ 2 Corinthians 1:20



Understanding Unity

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity! ~ Psalm
133:1



Encouraging Unity

I can't speak for anyone else, but I want unity. I want it with my husband, children, parents, friends, church family, and most importantly I want it with God. But to be honest, unity is not easy. This is why people say marriage is hard. Unity is difficult because we are all individuals coming together.

We bring our individual experiences, individual opinions, individual reasoning, individual feelings, etc. and then we expect others to have the same or to be able to relate. We know this is unrealistic because even siblings growing up in the same household, with the same conditions, will have different outlooks. Yet, we maintain this expectation and respond in frustration when people just don't seem to understand. However, there are several ways to encourage an environment of unity.

Agreement

When we agree with someone, we are operating in unity. When we disagree or argue with someone, we are not united. Your goal, to be in unity, is to find agreement with your spouse, children,



parents, church, friends, co-workers, etc. and if you can't find agreement, seek peace.



Can two walk together, except they be agreed? ~ Amos 3:3

Acceptance

I remember a time during a Bible study when the facilitators brought up "belonging" in the church. I was the newest member, and I had my own experience of feeling out of place and unwelcomed in the first few years, but I decided to listen to the others. I was surprised that every single person that spoke said they felt like they didn't belong. It made me question, "what makes a person feel like they belong then?" If growing up in the church, having friends, parents, a voice, and position in the church doesn't do it, then what does? Acceptance does. They had all these things, but the common thread in what they were saying was that they didn't feel accepted or comfortable just being themselves.

Unity is possible when you accept that people are individuals and that they think differently, process information differently, feel differently, and are different. There is nothing wrong with



being different. We live in a world where conformity is the norm. People try to fit in by dressing the same, wearing their hair the same, talking the same, etc. Being the same is not unity, but accepting differences is.

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ~ Titus 3:2-7





Giving

Giving facilitates an environment of unity because it is about serving others. Whether you're using the gifts God gave you to encourage others, sharing resources with others, or sharing information with others to help them be informed or grow. True gifts are selfless, they do not require anything in return, and they are not requested back. Even our spiritual gifts from God are not earned and not revoked (Romans 11:29). Gifts are a way of saying, I want us to be united. This is one reason why a man gives a woman a gift when he proposes. This is one reason why someone may give a gift after they've hurt someone.



I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. ~ Acts 20:35

Forgiveness

Everyone makes mistakes. Some people acknowledge their mistakes and apologize, and some don't. Regardless of how the other person chooses to respond, we are called to forgive.



Forgiveness releases feelings of bitterness, and instead of operating out of distrust, we can operate out of love. Without forgiving you cannot truly love, and you cannot truly accept the love of others. This hampers unity. You know you've truly forgiven when you pray for the person that offended you. Pray for their success in the Lord, pray for their health, pray for their family, pray for their finances, pray for their peace of mind, and pray for their joy.



Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. ~ Luke 6:28

Humility

When my son was four years old, he asked me what humble means. I was driving and didn't have an immediate answer. I looked up the definition of humble and saw words like "low dignity", "low importance", and "degrade". I thought, "Lord, I can't tell him this. How should I explain humility to a four-year-old, so he understands?" God said, "tell him teachable". Just like all the moments when God gives me a clear and wise answer, I was excited and in awe. Of course, a four-year-old understands



"teachable", they're in preschool, they understand teaching, learning, and correction, and I relayed God's answer. To have humility means that we recognize that we don't know everything, that there are things we still need to learn, and we are willing to be taught and corrected. When we approach relationships with a humble mindset, it makes unity easier.



Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ~ 1 Peter 5:5



Understanding Courtship

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ~ Genesis 2:22-23



Soulmates

We hear a lot about “soulmates” in movies and on tv shows. Two people meet in a serendipity fashion and find each other extremely intriguing. They “fall in love” and believe they were meant to meet because they are “soulmates”. But what is a soulmate, and do they really exist?

What is a Soul?

A Journey to Ultimate Marriage discusses in more detail what we are, in regards to us being a spirit, soul, and body. We are a soul in a body that was given life through God's spirit. Our soul is what gives us thought and free will. It's our thinking, reasoning, and emotions. Everything that has to do with the mind (logic) and the "heart" (feelings).

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of



soul, and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ~ Hebrews 4:12



Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. ~ Ecclesiastes 12:7

What is a Mate?

This is easy. When someone says that an animal is mating, there's a common thought that comes to mind. They found another one of their species to procreate with. So, a mate is someone you decide to be with and have children with.



There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate. ~ Isaiah 34:15

What is a Soul Mate?

Putting together "soul" and "mate", a soulmate is someone whose thinking patterns, emotional maturity, style of reasoning, etc. is similar to yours. Basically, someone you have a lot in



common with and you choose to be with, hopefully in marriage, and procreate with.



And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him. ~ Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

Choosing a Soulmate

Multiple people could be a comparable mate for your soul, so it's important to recognize that this is a choice. Yes, it's a limited choice. You probably won't have a smorgasbord of options, but you'll have options none the less.



This is the thing which the Lord doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry. ~ Numbers 36:6

But God Told Me Who My Mate Is

I believe God tells people about a mate, especially if you pray about it because He is faithful in answering prayers. However, God is likely telling



you about one possible mate. If that person doesn't become a choice of yours or theirs, God is faithful to tell you about another possible mate in due time. The key to meeting a soulmate is to make sure that you have commonalities. Opposites do not attract. You can force opposing magnets together, but eventually, they go in opposite directions.

You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind.



You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you. ~ Leviticus 19:19 (NKJV)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ~ 2 Corinthians 6:14

There may be some people that feel they missed an opportunity with their soulmate. You may have genuinely missed *a* soulmate, but there will be another.



There may be some people who feel they had children with or married someone that is not their soulmate. They may not be comparable with your soul, and the relationship may be struggling. If you didn't marry, you may find yourself dating again. If you married, you may find yourself divorced or sticking in there according to 1 Corinthians 7:14. However, a soulmate is still possible, either through God's redeeming grace for singles or God's power of reconciliation for married couples.

There may be some people that feel that they just don't have anything in common with who they chose anymore. They changed so much that they're a mate, but the soul connection is missing. However, change is good when it leads you closer to God. God can rectify temporary imbalances between people with time, patience, and love.

There may be some people who lost their soulmate. However, trust that God will comfort your soul through the loss and, at the right time, urge you to open your heart to another soulmate in the future. Pray that their soul was right with God so they will meet their everlasting soulmate when Jesus returns.



Overall, soulmates exist. The concept just isn't as boxed in as we may believe. There are different people that we may be able to have a blissful union with, and it's our choice who it will be. We should simply know what we're expecting and how to court with people to see if they meet those expectations.



Courtship Process

It's interesting that we are taught that we should date and sometimes even "test it out" before committing. These days, it's common to live with a companion, have sex with them, and other things before marriage. I learned to go after what God calls good, as I've found it to be peaceful and successful. I've learned to be patient with God's will and timing because when I do, I am never disappointed with the outcome. When I try to force things, I end up frustrated, drained, hurt, or embarrassed. It just doesn't work any other way for the children of God. As usual, I searched the Scriptures to see what I would find about dating and courtship.

God Brings a Woman to the Man

Looking at couples in the Bible like Isaac and Rebekah, Boaz and Ruth, the King and Esther, and Adam and Eve, you can see a trend. For each of these men, God brought a woman into their presence. The man didn't have to find her, and the woman didn't have to find him. A moment was created for them to meet, and the man seized that moment.



And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. ~ Genesis 24:14-15



Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in...~ Ruth 3:3-4



And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead,





took for his own daughter. So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. ~ Esther 2:7-8



And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ~ Genesis 2:22

Getting to Know One Another

Courting is a process where you are getting to know someone. It's nothing more than a brother or sister in Christ talking to one another. Although there may be hope in your mind at this point that there could be more, there isn't an expressed expectation. At most, they are your friend, and although there may be some natural light flirting, there isn't intimacy. This is a time for doing something very simple, having conversations.



Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with



them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ~ 2 Timothy 2:22



But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. ~ 1 Peter 1:15



Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ~ Ephesians 4:29



Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. ~ Colossians 4:6

Doing A Light Background Check

Way back in the day, parents were significantly involved in the courtship process, more so than those doing the courting. Just through conversation, they researched the person's family history, mannerisms, character, and financial stability, and they reported the information back so their child could make an informed decision. Sometimes, the parent would try to influence the decision if they thought a particular person was



most suitable. Today, people do something similar but typically without their parent's input. It's called "Facebook, internet, or social media stalking", and as common as it is, people feel like it's abnormal. It is not abnormal to try to figure out on some level what you may be getting yourself into and whether you may be wasting your time or energy. However, personally, I would prefer an old-fashioned conversation. Anyone can display what they want online, but carefully learning from their friends and family tends to be more accurate.



And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well. ~ Judges 14:1-3



My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. ~ Proverbs 5:1-5



And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. ~ Genesis 24:3-4





Maintaining Purity During Courtship


Courtship is primarily learning about each other. You're only having conversations at this point. If you're in college, you may stop to have a quick conversation between classes. If you're at work, you may decide to talk while you're on break. If you're at church, you may chat before or after the service. You may speak on the phone or via text. The only action happening is with your words, not



your body. It is not an opportunity to be intimate or “claim” anyone. There isn’t kissing, hand holding, or cuddling.

 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. ~ 1 Timothy 5:1-2

 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.
~ 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her



not. ~ 1 King 1:2-4 (*To "know" someone meant you had sex with someone. This speaks to the fact that the king courted with the woman but he did not have sex with her).



Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:33

Deciding About the Courtship

At some point, you will know how you feel about the person you're courting with, whether they are good for you, and whether you have romantic feelings. And at this point, you should make your intentions known. Now, popular belief says that a man should do this, but Scripture shows examples of women doing this. A man may make an initial approach to begin the courtship, but a woman decides on the outcome. If a man is still courting a woman it is safe to say that he is still interested; otherwise he would stop calling, texting, and or seeking opportunities for conversation. He might even avoid her.

It must be nerve-racking for men to make a move, then simply wait to see if their advances will be




welcomed or rejected. On the other hand, a woman may decide the outcome, but the man decides the timing. It must try a woman's patience to simply wait for a man to show interest at the beginning and then wait for him to propose once she decides the outcome. Both parties have a stake in the courtship process.


And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as






the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning.
~ Ruth 3:9-13

 This is the thing which the Lord doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry. ~ Numbers 36:6

 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: ~ Genesis 24:5

 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. ~ 1 Corinthians 7:39

Courtship is important. It helps you get to know someone on a deeper level, to make sure you're choosing the right person, and to give a higher chance of success in marriage. Our new normal of skipping courtship and diving right into intimacy, leaves us with people that we would not have even thought about building a life with or



having children with had we taken the time to truly get to know the person.



Choosing A Spouse

I was talking to an older married man who was giving me advice on various things like finances and traveling. He willingly shares the wisdom he's gained over the years, and I willingly listen to anyone willing to share. One piece of advice stood out and showed me how challenging it could be to come into agreement with your spouse.

He told me that I should pay my bills in a lump sum for the whole year. His logic was that this frees up monthly income so you can do more with it. He mentioned that his wife wanted to pay monthly. Her logic was to spread the cost over a more extended period and have more in savings.

As I listened to the man's logic, I wanted to argue the wife's point. I didn't say anything, but I agreed with paying monthly. I also realized that if I had this conversation with my husband with the mindset I was in at that moment, we would have potentially argued over something so minor. In these types of situations, where no one is right, and no one is wrong, and where the overall outcome is similar, it's important for a wife to yield to restore unity. God shows us in Scripture essential aspects in choosing a spouse.



Respectable

Choose someone that you trust to follow the Word of God and has a listening ear. If a woman trusts that her husband is considering her and makes wise choices, she will feel more secure in yielding to her husband when they disagree. If a man has a track record of making poor decisions, it makes it harder for a woman to feel safe and secure, trusting that his decision will have a good outcome.




The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. ~ Proverbs 1:7

Amicable


Be willing to yield when you don't agree. Women are tasked with yielding, submitting, or otherwise coming into agreement with their husbands. God has given men the final authority in a marriage, below our Heavenly Father, and then below the Son. There is only one person who has final authority in any leadership position, whether a king, president, captain, CEO, etc. and in those positions, others follow their lead.



 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ~ Ephesians 5:22

Led By God

Both men and women need to choose someone whose inner compass is directed by God. If they are directed by God, they will lead you to God. Men should be especially careful. Men want respect and women want love. Love is considered unconditional. So, no matter how a woman acts, it is generally understood that the man should still love his wife, therefore a woman may not adjust her actions. Respect is considered conditional. So, when the man acts in a way that displeases his wife, he usually adjusts his actions. In this way, women are usually a compass for men. A woman can make a man adjust the right way or the wrong way. There are countless scriptures in the Bible where God warned men against marrying particular women because they would throw them off track.

 Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which



leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. ~ Isaiah 48:17



For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. ~ 1 Kings 11:4




But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. ~ 1 Kings 21:25


Responsible


Responsible may sound calm, predictable, and maybe even boring to some people, but being responsible shows maturity. A spouse should be responsible financially, emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. They should know priorities like paying bills before buying shoes and putting God first. Anything placed before God is an idol. The accompanying verse may sound harsh, but you have to consider what love means (this is discussed further in the section Understanding Holy Matrimony).



Love is a choice; it means you prefer something over something else. Hate is the opposite; it means that you do not prefer something over something else. We should prefer and choose God first (like He prefers and chooses us first). This is perfect, reciprocated love. God has been known throughout history to remove idols, so it is integral that your spouse does not make you an idol, and you don't make them an idol.

 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ~ Luke 14:26

 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. ~ Proverbs 25:28



Communicative

Our words are so powerful and when our words are negative, hurtful, misinformed, or accusatory it drains the unity of marriage. Marriages are designed to be united, to be one, to be in agreement. Our assignment every day is to ensure we communicate and are in agreement with our spouse. About the kids, work, cleanliness, finances, church, friends, siblings, parents, schedules, commitment, sex, food and health habits, household chores, etc. A spouse should be able to communicate effectively for a peaceful and successful marriage. They should be able to have serious or deep conversations sometimes and be able to express themselves without being harsh.



Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
~ Proverbs 16:24



It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. ~ Proverbs 21:9

Husbands and wives must find a way to stay united. If both listen to each other and the woman



can trust that the man is led by God and makes wise choices, it makes it easier for the wife to yield when it's necessary. Yielding or submitting is not about weakness, it's about strength. If someone doesn't yield or submit, then both will continue in opposition. You are no longer acting as friends and as partners, but enemies. If both are already compatible and see eye to eye on many issues, that makes it easier. Marriage is only as strong as the bond of unity.

Some people don't feel led to get married, and Scripture even states that it is good to get married and even better to stay single. Singleness vs. marriage is a decision everyone will have to consider with God. If the answer is marriage, you should still relish in your singleness, using that time wisely until you meet the right person. Don't rush, and don't feel like you're up against the clock. When you're on God's timing and in God's will, you will have the best results. Just know what to expect in the right person as you're meeting people along the way.



Determining Compatibility

The spouse you choose is so important. It is not something you do just to have companionship, or a ring/wedding, or "legal" sex, or because they make you feel good, or because they have money or are attractive. A spouse is someone that will help you grow into the person you were created to be. They should help you accomplish your goals and move you closer to God. You should compare their soul, temperament, and goals with yours. Be honest with yourself about whether they are truly compatible long term. The more you have in common, the less there is to disagree about. You absolutely don't want to disagree about important aspects of life, like children, religion, finances, and intimacy.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ~ 2 Corinthians 6:14

Take some time to reflect on the areas below and write down your thoughts on the reality and your expectations. If there is someone you're seriously



considering, discuss this with them, and write their thoughts and expectations also.



God

You should have already established that you both believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But you should also discuss things like, what church you would want to go to, will you leave yours or will they leave theirs? Also, do either of you have strong beliefs? Is it a must that you keep the Sabbath? Do they not believe in speaking in tongues? Do you have a preferred way for prayer?



Finances

You both should be discussing everything from debt, income, spending habits, financial goals, and whether you expect to have joint bank accounts.



Outside Relationships

You should discuss your expectations for friends and whether there are friends that either of you dislikes or distrusts. This (and all other discussions) aren't meant to make, break, or determine whether a union will occur, but it prevents future disagreements and misunderstandings. Discuss how you feel about friends of the opposite sex and how you will blend your parents and other extended family members into the marriage. Discuss appropriate boundaries.



Dreams and Aspirations

Discuss the type of dreams and aspirations you both have. Maybe you both work, but your dream is to go back to school and change your career path. Maybe it's to travel and blog about your experiences or become a rock or movie star. This is important because you want to discuss whether you both are willing to support each other's dreams.



Children

Do you want children or want more children?
Would you be willing to take some form of birth control or undergo surgery? How do you plan to discipline the children? Do you believe in spanking? Do they believe in the same discipline methods as you?



Sex

What do you expect during sex and intimacy?
How often do you expect it, how important is it to you? Do you have fantasies that are important to discuss, and that could creep into your marriage?



It's important for a man trying to follow God's plan for his life to link with the appropriate woman. This woman will help him on that journey. All it takes is the wrong woman to bring a good godly man down to his knees, and I'm not talking about in prayer. There are some women that men should run from, and Jezebel was a prime example. She was controlling, greedy, but very persuasive; she managed to influence her husband, the king, to stop worshiping God, which trickled down to the whole country.

Women should be careful too. A lot of times women think it's okay to be yoked with someone who is an unbeliever, but the Bible explicitly advises against it. A lot of times, women use the reason that they feel called to help that person. We are called to help people who are lost, but not necessarily to make them our spouse. We should be wise while we determine if someone can be a good spouse for us.

All these discussions can lead to marital issues, and some can lead to divorce if couples are not open and upfront about them. The goal is to determine your true compatibility. Although knowing these things about each other doesn't guarantee you won't disagree at some point, it



does help with the success of your marriage, and this is an awesome way to glorify God.



Understanding Holy Matrimony

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father
and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and
they twain shall be one flesh? ~ Matthew 19:5



Listening to Your Thoughts

One weekend, I decided that I will begin fasting. I knew what I would fast from, but I didn't know what I should fast for. That evening, I decided to turn off the television, put down my phone, and leave the music off. I focused on God and began to pray. I felt led to write down the words that came to my mind. My words were:

Thought	Details
Peace	Positive Thought
Blessings	Positive Thought
Love	Positive Thought
Hope	Positive Thought
Challenge	Negative Thought
Grace	Positive Thought
Favor	Positive Thought
Love	Positive Thought
Jesus	Positive Thought
Greatness	Prideful Thought
Place	Prideful Thought
Title	Prideful Thought
Method	Prideful Thought
Truce	Repentance
Blue	Sadness
Hear	Sadness
Me	Sadness



Cry	Sadness
Favor	Positive Thought
Jesus	Positive Thought
Peace	Positive Thought
Hope	Positive Thought
Love	Positive Thought
Never	Negative Thought
Favor	Positive Thought
Jesus	Positive Thought
Peace	Positive Thought
Grace	Positive Thought
Felt	Negative Thought
Fear	Negative Thought
Sad	Sadness
No	Repentance
Hope	Repentance
Mistakes	Repentance
Peaceful	Positive Thought
Love	Positive Thought
Never	Negative Thought
Yes	Positive Thought
Change	Repentance
Open	Answer
Yes	Positive Thought
Don't Be Scared	Positive Thought
Just Trust	Positive Thought
In Jesus	Positive Thought



Yes God	Positive Thought
Open Your Heart	Answer
Open Your Love	Answer

I only did this for approximately 30-40 seconds, but it's evident that my subconscious thoughts were all over the place. I was joyful and thinking about God at one point, then a negative thought would come. Then, I would correct it, think about God, when another negative thought would come. After reviewing my thoughts, I noticed, "Love".

Both times when I thought "love", I immediately thought "never". The second time I corrected my thoughts because I was more aware but imagine how many subconscious thoughts we have all day that oppose what we say we want. These are the thoughts that we act out, without even meaning to. I realized that this is what I needed to fast about, opening my heart to giving and receiving love.

Take a separate piece of paper and do this exercise. Set an alarm for one minute, close your eyes, and just type the words that come to mind. Don't try to make logical sense of the words, don't try to force words, and just let them come naturally. Then see if you notice any thought



patterns and ask God to help you with them.
These could be blocking what you really want.



Different Types of Love

It's popular for people to mention four Roman words when they're speaking about love: storge, eros, phileo, and agape. What does Scripture say about love though and what these words actually mean?

Philo(storgoi): Aheb (Hebrew)

Some people say "philo" or "storge", as separate words. However, in Scripture "storge" is not a separate word that means love. "Philo" is the word that means love and there are words placed at the end as a suffix, including "philei", "philadelphos", and "philostorgoi". Storge is a suffix, it does not mean love by itself. Philo love refers to an instinctual love we would have toward a family member. It's described as brotherly love or fond natural affections.



Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. ~ Romans 12:10





And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.
~ Genesis 25:28



Eros (Greek); Agabah (Hebrew)

Some people say "eros" love is romantic love. However, in Scripture "eros" only appears in Scripture as ponEros, and it is translated as "wicked" or evil. We should also consider that this word comes from a language known to Rome, hence the word "romance". Rome was known for what God calls, "inordinate affections". Eros, or erotic love, is not righteous love, it is not the type of love experienced in marriage, and it is not the type of love a Christian should aspire to have. To God, "eros" or erotic love is immoral, or as Scripture defines it "wicked" or evil.

 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. ~ Mark 7:22-23

 And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms. ~ Ezekiel 23:11



Agape (Greek): Rachamim (Hebrew)

Some people say "agape" is unconditional love. Agape love refers to having fondness of someone, without needing justification for it. When we agape someone, it's not because they are family, they are a diplomat, they are famous, or they are rich in money. They haven't necessarily done anything deserving of favor, but we show it anyway. Agape love is what we all should aspire to with everyone.



By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. ~
John 13:35




Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. ~ Daniel 1:9

ThelontOn (Greek)

Most people are not familiar with "thelo" love. In Scripture, "thelo" love refers to inanimate things. Things we prefer that are not alive, like clothing, food, and objects. I've heard "storge" used in this way, but again storge is a suffix that is used for other words, it does not mean love when used by



itself. A comparable word is not found in Hebrew or the Old Testament, which leads me to believe that Hebrews did not value "things" as highly to express love toward them as they did during Roman's reign.

And he said unto them in his doctrine,
 Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces. ~ Mark 12:38

Humans have a way of complicating very simple concepts. I remember when I was in grade school, if a problem (math, chemistry, physics, calculus) seemed too easy to solve, I thought I was doing it wrong. I thought "it couldn't be this easy, right?" I don't think I'm alone in that either. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says that we can be corrupted by the simplicity of Christ. Sometimes we just complicate simple things and we complicate the simplicity of love. Love is not about "romance", it's not about passion, it's not about desire, and it's not a feeling.

Love is a choice, to choose to care about others, regardless of how they act. This is how God loves us. Our actions do not change how much God cares for us. And just because we choose to



continue to care for someone doesn't mean we have to accept their "abuse". We can choose to care for someone, love someone, and place appropriate boundaries and expectations. Again, this is what God does with us. Love is not complicated. We simply need to choose to care.



My little children, let us not love in word,
neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
~ 1 John 3:18



Agape Love


As discussed in *A Journey to Learning God's Word*, God's Word has "layers", including commandments, statutes, and precepts. Precepts are specific directions God gives to carry out His commandments. One precept Jesus gave is in Mark 12:30-31, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength" and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." These are specific directions to carry out God's commandments, such as not taking God's name in vain, not having idols, keeping the Sabbath, not killing, not stealing, and not coveting. These two precepts summarize God's commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).


So what is love? And how are we supposed to love? 1 John 4:8 says God is love, so we must look at God to get the answer to the second question.

Loving God

Scripture says to love God, and if asked, most of us are quick to say we do. But God says if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.




 If ye love me, keep my commandments. ~
John 14:15


 And shewing mercy unto thousands of
them that love me and keep my
commandments. ~ Deuteronomy 5:10


Loving Others


Jesus said we should love God with all our mind and love our neighbor as ourselves. One thing that people often gloss over when they read this is "as yourself". You must love yourself properly to love others properly, as the love you show to others reflects your love for you. You love yourself by taking care of yourself, by not hurting yourself, by not causing harm to yourself. You love your neighbor by not causing or seeking their harm. A good way to think about this is to show honor to everyone you encounter. Some small but not insignificant examples are opening a door, holding the elevator, simply smiling at someone.

 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge
against the children of thy people, but thou
shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am
the Lord. ~ Leviticus 19:18



 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ~ Deuteronomy 11:13

 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. ~ Matthew 22:37-40

 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ~ 1 John 5:2

Guidance on Love

We can see through Scripture that if we truly love God, we will keep His commandments. The ten commandments are broken into two categories. The first four are how we love God, and the last six are how we love people. Now don't just read them and think, I haven't done any of these



things. You probably did most, if not all. We all fall short and we all miss the mark.

Whether that was putting a child, spouse, parent, job, sex, etc. before God. Or not resting Friday at sunset until Saturday at sunset. Or getting an abortion or supporting one in some way. Or taking something from the office, a family member, or friend that they didn't give, and we didn't buy. Desiring someone's job, spouse, or lifestyle. The list goes on. But glory to God for His grace, mercy, and strength.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honour thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet any thing that is thy neighbour's.
~ Exodus 20





Clarification on Love

Love is such a vague word these days and so far removed from us. We say we love chocolate and basketball, but that has nothing to do with agape. Ironically, a word that can help clarify love is hate. *A Journey to Learning Love* discusses this in further detail, but let's quickly consider Isaac and his wife, Leah. Scripture says that Isaac hated Leah because he didn't prefer her or want her, at least not more than he wanted her sister, Rachel.

Someone might say they hate squash because they don't prefer it or want it. Someone may hate a person, and this may sound harsh, but it may be true that they don't prefer them or want them. Many of us "religious people" hate God. We don't prefer Him or want Him, at least not more than whatever we're idolizing/putting before Him.

When we truly love, we put what we love first. God knows the treasures of people's heart by what they prioritize. People who love someone simply don't do things that will hurt them. That goes against the very definition of love. Cheating, lying, or incessantly thinking about something else can make someone jealous or upset. It shows them that they're not preferred, that they're not first,



that they're not loved. This is how God feels when we don't love Him.



And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, He opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. ~ Genesis 29:31



For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: ~ Exodus 34:14



Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. ~ Zechariah 8:2




And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. ~ Jeremiah 3:8


Benefit of Love


God is love, and love is the foundation of God's Kingdom. God's Word says that those that keep



His commandments will have the right to the tree of life.

 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. ~ Revelation 22:14

 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. ~ Revelation 14:12

 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. ~ Revelation 12:17

I don't want to imagine the pain of loving someone so much that you will die for them, continually putting them first just so they can put you last or maybe second. Some of you know how that feels. This is how God feels. He loves us, He put us first every day, and He wants us to put Him first also. Is this an illogical request? An unrealistic expectation? Isn't this what we request and expect when we commit to someone? God is committed to us until the very end. Have you ever



wondered why the heartbreaking love stories are included in Scripture like Hosea and the Song of Solomon? Both are about people that chased after someone that didn't love them back. Perhaps because they didn't know how to love back. But now we do.



Sexual Purity

Sexual desire is natural and another way for us to show love for our spouse, child(ren), and God. God doesn't have a problem with sex, He told us to be fruitful and multiply. God has an issue with immoral sex. 1 Corinthians 6:9 lists five sexual sins: fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, and "abusers of themselves with mankind".

Fornicators

This is mentioned in both verses. The original word being translated as fornicator is paramour, which was translated from pornoi. You can see the root word is "porn". This is speaking of someone that has an "illegal" lover, whether of mind or body. Whether a girlfriend or boyfriend (someone who is not your legal wife or husband). Marriage is a holy union where two people come together, commit to one another for a lifetime, and bind their commitment in the witness of others with vows and the witness of God with consummation. An "illegal lover" is someone you enjoy sexually in reality or in your imagination through fantasies, masturbation, or pornography.



For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. ~ 1 Thessalonian 4:3



But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. ~ Matthew 5:28

Idolaters

Most people think idolaters are people that have idols, and most people believe idols are carved images that people worship. *A Journey to Learning God's Word* goes into further detail about idols, but in short, idols are anything you want more than God. For many people, sex is an idol. They'd rather experience their fantasies and continue with their girlfriend or boyfriend than experience God. God speaks about idolaters as though they are cheating on Him in an intimate relationship and as if they are committing adultery.



And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah



feared not, but went and played the harlot also. ~ Jeremiah 3:8

Adulterers

Speaking of adultery, adulterers are well known and frequently discussed, at least in the church. These are people that have a wife or husband and still have a girlfriend, boyfriend, mistress, fantasy, or pornography that they enjoy sexually.




Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. ~ Hebrews 13:4

Effeminates


Speaking of marriage, effeminates is a word translated from catamites. A catamite is a boy that is kept for homosexual relations. Although some countries acknowledge a union between the same sex as legitimate, God does not, and God considers it sexually immoral. Although I personally know people who prefer same-sex partners and love them, as a child of God, we have to acknowledge that it is displeasing to God.



 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. ~ Leviticus 18:22

Abusers of Themselves With Mankind

This is a lengthy translation, "Abusers of themselves with mankind". It's translated from the word sodomites, which comes from the word sodomy. This may be hard to accept, even for married, heterosexual men and women that do not cheat, have fantasies, view porn, etc. Sodomy is engaging in oral or anal sex or basically any non-procreative sex. God is a God of life, so any sexual activity that does not procreate life is immoral to God. It is self-pleasing, self-satisfying, and is not being used for the purposes of which God made it.

 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ~ Jude 7:7 (Notice the name of the city that was destroyed - Sodom).



God is a God of life, and anything in opposition to life is in opposition to God. Some sexual acts do not support life, and therefore, it is a sin to God. Some may read this and feel like all “fun” has just been stripped from them. However, God simply desires to strip all uncleanness from us. If people insist on not having self-control, God will leave them to their desires. Romans 1:24 says, “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves”.

As God corrected me about a holy image of sex, He instructed me to write what the world says about sex. He then instructed me to write what His Word says about sex.

World: Freaky

Word: Cherished



Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. ~ Proverbs 5:18-19



World: Hard/Rough

Word: Gentle



And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ~ Galatians 5:24

World: Dirty

Word: Clean



Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ~ Colossians 3:5

World: Fast/Wild

Word: Controlled



For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God. ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5



World: Every Hole

Word: As Designed



Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. ~ Hebrews 13:4

World: Multiple People

Word: One Person



Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. ~ 1 Corinthians 7:2

World: Frivolous

Word: Purposeful



And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. ~ Genesis 4:1

Some unmarried people may feel that they can't go without sex. Some married people may feel that they can't have a pure sexual desire toward their spouse. Some people may feel that they can't have sexual desire toward the opposite sex. If you struggle with immoral sexual desires and want to



change, then God's Holy Spirit is powerful enough to do it.

As all *What God Told Me*™® books express, God is a God of order. God is a God of justice. God has standards and expectations for His Kingdom. And at the same time, God is full of love. God continuously extends grace. God continuously shows us mercy. Let's not take God's gentleness toward us for granted. Let's not take advantage of the fact that God loves us. Let's love God in return by presenting ourselves to God, ready for cleansing, renewing, and preparation for His Kingdom. By honoring our bodies. By honoring Him in our marriage. By honoring Him in how we love our spouse.



Breaking Soul Ties

I've heard people say that soul ties are giving "a piece of your soul to someone else". Scripture doesn't support this but it does mention souls being "knit" together or being "one". A soul tie is when our soul is deeply connected to someone else and to know how to break soul ties we first must know how they're formed.



And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. ~ Acts 4:32

Sexual Intimacy

Sexual intimacy, including kissing, forms soul ties. Every single person that someone has had sexual intimacy with has a soul tie with that person, whether intercourse was involved or not. This includes married couples, although a holy marriage forms a holy soul tie and this type of soul tie is good. Sexual intimacy is a very common way of forming soul ties but sometimes we form them without even realizing it.



And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her. And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel. ~ Genesis 34:1-3

Vows/Promises

Whenever we make vows or promises to or with people, it forms a soul tie. I say "to or with" because we can form soul ties by making a vow or promise to someone who doesn't make one back. They actually don't even have to be present or aware. Simply saying to ourselves "I promise she will be my wife one day" is a vow or promise that forms a soul tie.

Not necessarily for the other person, but for the one that made the vow or promise. For a soul tie to form, the vow or promise would have to be "to or with" someone who has a soul. For example, saying "I promise I love chocolate" doesn't form a soul tie because chocolate doesn't have a soul. However, saying "I promise I will be there for you



if xxxx happens", does form a soul tie, because it is a vow or promise to someone with a soul.



But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. ~ James 5:12



And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: ~ Genesis 28:20-21

Covenant Words

The most common words that can form soul ties are "always", "never", and "forever". These (and others like it) are "covenant words". These are words that are spoken in marriage "til death do us part". These are words that God speaks to us "I will never destroy the earth by flood again". When covenant words are spoken it forms a soul tie and similar to vows and promises, covenant words can also be one-sided. Simply saying "they will always be my friend" or "he will always be like



a brother to me" or "I will never let go of my sister" or "you will always have my heart" are covenant words and they form soul ties.

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ~ 1 Samuel 18:1,3

Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. ~ Galatians 3:15

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ~ Genesis 9:11

Breaking Soul Ties

Breaking soul ties is similar to casting out spirits. One reason why, is because when we form a soul tie there's also a spirit involved. It's either God's



spirit if it's a holy soul tie, or a demonic spirit if it's an unholy soul tie. Similar to casting out spirits, we need to rebuke the soul tie and I would challenge everyone to say this out loud. Simply saying "I rebuke the soul tie between myself and..." is usually enough. However, similar to casting out spirits, sometimes a soul tie is so strong that it requires prayer and fasting. For more information on overcoming spiritual warfare, consider reading *A Journey to the Ultimate Marriage*. For more information on fasting, consider reading *A Journey to Health and Healing*.



And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ~ Matthew 17:18



And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. ~ Mark 9:29

No soul tie is a "good" soul tie unless it is made with God. Even if the soul tie seems positive, it can be unhealthy and unholy. An example of a holy soul tie are vows made in a marriage that God brought together and consummation of that




marriage. Otherwise, just as James 5:12 states, soul ties should be avoided whether through sexual intimacy, vow or promises, or covenant words. I tell my son not to ever say "never" or "always" unless it's regarding God. One reason is because of soul ties and another reason is simply because "always" and "never" is automatically inaccurate unless it's in the context of God.

If an unholy soul tie was formed or you have a soul tie that was holy but you no longer want it (e.g. divorce), you can break it. We don't break soul ties by forming more unholy soul ties though. For example, some people break up with someone and decide to be with someone else to "get that person out of their system" or to try to break the bond. The soul tie will still be there, it's just that adding another soul tie appears to "dilute" the previous one. It compiles the spiritual issues, it doesn't get rid of them or make them better.

Also, all unholy soul ties should be broken before someone enters into marriage and this is between each individual and God. We don't need the other person who we have a soul tie with to be present and we don't need our future spouse to be present. Ultimately, our goal should be holy soul



ties, with our brothers and sisters in Christ and God, that are bonded through God's Holy Spirit.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them;  that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. ~ John 17:21-23



Becoming One

The word wife or husband was not used when God created Adam and Eve. Instead, they were referred to as “one” or “your woman or your man”. They also referred to each other as “the one You gave me” when speaking to God. Adam and Eve belonged to each other, God gave Eve to Adam, and they were companions.

But we can see with Adam and Eve that from the very beginning, marriage was a challenge. They didn’t communicate when Eve was being deceived (and Adam was right there with her). They weren’t putting God first. They were also out of order when it came to the family structure.

I completely understand the Women’s Movement, just as clearly as I understand the Civil Rights Movement. Women (and brown people) were treated as property before these movements took place. They were treated poorly without much protection from the laws and leaders that were supposed to protect them.

In regards to women, there were blatant ads that showed men spanking women, showed women lying at the feet of men with the words “keep her



where she belongs”, giving advice on how to train women with a picture of a woman bringing a man food, and more. These movements were needed, but when it comes to the women’s movement, we have to keep God’s Word in mind because God has a specific message about the order of family. This order aids in keeping the marriage and family united.


The Husband’s Role in the Family


God has tasked husbands with ensuring order in the home. Part of ensuring order is honoring his wife, making wise decisions, providing for his family, nurturing and teaching his children, and submitting to God first and foremost. At one point in society, the man had little involvement with the children because he was always working, now men may not work and instead be stay-at-home dads. According to Scripture, both are out of order. A man should be doing both, in addition to seeking God when making decisions that affect the family.





He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live. ~
Proverbs 15:27




 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. ~ Proverbs 11:29

 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. ~ Joshua 24:15

 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ~ 1 Timothy 3:5

 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. ~ 1 Timothy 5:8

 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. ~ Ephesians 6:4



One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. ~
1 Timothy 3:4

The Wife's Role in the Family

I really like the example of the Proverbs 31 woman. I love how she was said to be strong on more than one occasion, and although she may have been beautiful, she was a diligent worker. She was a “do it all” kind of woman; she bought and sold property, she had several streams of income, she helped the poor, she made sure her family was clothed in the best, she made sure she was well put together, and she was wise so even though her husband made decisions, he knew to consider her recommendations. Yes, she guided her home too, very well, and cooked nutritious meals for her family, but it's important to realize that God does not discount His daughters in Scripture. A wife has a very honorable role, and God also instructs husbands to honor their wives.



She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her



loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. ~ Proverbs 31:15-27



Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands. ~ Proverbs 14:1



I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give



none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. ~ 1 Timothy 5:14

The Husband and the Wife as One

Marriage can be challenging because marriage requires agreement between two people (which is one reason why God instructs us not to be unequally yoked). A husband and a wife must find a way every day to agree with one another. Men and women alike are responsible for praying about decisions and coming into agreement. A husband's responsibility is to love his wife, prefer her, and therefore in every decision, he should consider her. If the husband has done this and there is still a disagreement, it is then the wife's responsibility to come into agreement with her husband.

Consider a king, a captain, or a president. If you have two presidents in a country, there would be chaos. If there were two captains on a team, it would be unproductive. That's why there is a queen, co-captain, and vice president. You cannot have two people leading with equal authority and expect there to be peace and unity. If the president and vice president disagree, guess who makes the final decision? The president. Do



you think the president thought long about what the vice president said? Sure! After all, they did choose them. Does this make the vice president, co-captain, or queen any less valuable? Of course not. Likewise, a wife is not less valuable because the man has been given final authority in the marriage by God.

This is one reason why it's important not to rush into marriage and ensure that you're marrying someone wise, who can make good decisions, and that is agreeable. If a wife already made the decision to marry what Scripture calls a foolish man, or the husband already married an argumentative woman, they can win them over by trusting and relying on God. Pray, fast, and ask God to lead your husband or your wife and even your own words and actions.





Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. ~ Ephesians 5:25





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





 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ~ Ephesians 5:21


 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. ~ Ephesians 5:33

 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath. ~ Ephesians 4:26


 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ~ Ephesians 5:28


 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ~ Ephesians 5:22


 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. ~ Colossians 3:18

 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives. ~ 1 Peter 3:1



 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. ~ Proverbs 12:4


 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. ~ Proverbs 21:9


 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ~ Matthew 18:19-22


The Child(ren)'s Role in the Family


Children are a blessing from God, and if God makes the husband and wife fruitful, it is like a gift. Children will eventually grow into adults though, and they will get married, and when they do, they will have the same role that you or your spouse has. Until then, the children's primary duty is to learn from their parents, listen to their parent's instructions, and follow their parent's directions. For this reason, it is imperative that both parents take an active role in teaching and correcting the children.





 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. ~ Psalm 128:3

 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ~ Psalm 127:3

 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. ~ Colossians 3:20

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

 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. ~ Proverbs 1:8

 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest



down, and when thou risest up. ~
Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for
this is right. ~ Ephesians 6:1-3

I've heard people say that the Bible diminishes women. However, God loves His daughters, God gives purpose to His daughters, and God gives gifts and substantial parts in history to His daughters. With everything that God gives, God also gives order, and this includes the family. The authority for the family begins with our Heavenly Father, then Jesus, then the husband, then the wife, and then the children. I've even heard men say that their children come before their wife (and vice versa). Everyone has the choice to order their family how they like, God gave us free will. However, God's order is clear, and if you know God, you also know that His order is good.



But I would have you know, that the head
of every man is Christ; and the head of the
woman is the man; and the head of Christ
is God. ~ 1 Corinthians 11:3



Our Five Senses

Most of us know that we have five senses: taste, smell, hearing, sight, and touch. One day as I prayed, I thanked God for the sense of taste. Although I consistently thanked God for my sight and hearing, I realized I hadn't thanked Him for my sense of smell, touch, or taste until that evening.

However, each of our senses brightens our lives whether it's the smell of clean home, tasting our favorite meal, seeing our favorite person, or listening to our favorite song. I started thinking about what I'd be missing if I didn't have the sense of touch.

- The sun on my skin during but especially after winter
- Hot showers to unwind or wake up
- Someone scratching my scalp (particularly while washing it)
- A nice strong hug that says 'I love you'
- The texture of my hair as I twist it or play with it
- Touching my son, niece's, or nephew's little round noses



I thought, why does these touches move me so much? It's because touch is one of my most sensitive senses when it comes to perceiving love and each of us have one or two dominant senses for perceiving love as well.

Taste

My Mom doesn't even have to tell me that her most sensitive sense is taste, I already know. She will cry about her subpar food, while I on the hand could bear with it. I remember while I was in college I didn't like to cook and felt my food turned out bad every time. My Mom told me I have to "love my food" and sometimes even say loving words while I cook like "this is going to taste so good". When my son comes over, she doesn't let him leave without giving him something to eat. People with taste as one of their most sensitive senses may love to cook, love to eat great tasting food, and love to feed people. This is how they show and feel love. They cannot stand their food to be wrong, or cold, or too spicy, or bland, and if it is, they will be highly disappointed. And unlike others, they can't "just deal with it", they'd rather not eat it at all. Eating perfected food is one of the best feelings for them because to them it shows love and care.



Smell

People with high sensitivity to smell love getting things like fresh flowers, candles, colognes, and perfumes. They love when their laundry is freshly washed and even if they get a gift that is for another sense, they tend to smell it first (they'll smell chocolate or comment on the smell before the taste). If they walk into a place that smells bad, especially a restaurant, they likely won't tolerate it. Smelling good (whether it's a place or person) shows them how much someone cares. They are intentional with how they smell, from their shampoo, to their soap, to their breath. They have a keen sense of smell and perceive love through it. If someone else has a smelly house, breath, car, body, etc. it would make them wonder how they love and care for themselves and how they would love and care for them.

Hearing

People with high sensitivity to hearing have “amplified hearing”. They hear positive words amplified and they hear the negative words amplified. They have a gift of picking up the most subtle differences in people's tone and can gauge people's feelings by their tone very well. This



person likes to hear positive words liberally and find it hard to forget hurtful words even if someone says “sorry” or “they didn’t mean it”. They hear a frustrated “huff” just as loud as “I love you” and perceives love from someone’s tone, to words, to volume.

Sight

People with high sensitivity to sight perceive through love through what they see. Do they *see* you? Are you actually present at the graduation, birthday party, anniversary, etc.? It’s not enough to send them a gift, money, or take them out to eat later; they want to see your face. If they want to see you because they miss you, a phone call, a text, or the most beautiful letter would not be an equal replacement. Possibly a video call will suffice so they can see your expressions; when you raise your eyebrows, roll your eyes, or smile (depending on their sensitivity to touch). But overall, to them, if you love or care about them, you would be with them in person. If you can’t be, they may accept your alternative gifts of hearing, smell, or taste, but there’s only so many times that they will accept it before they start to believe that you just don’t care. They think that presence is more important than presents.




Touch


People with high sensitivity to touch prefers closeness with the people they love. They may appreciate hugs, kisses, playing in their hair, and cuddling. And similar to hearing they are highly sensitive to positive and hurtful touches. Whether conscious or subconscious, they do not want to be touched by someone that offended them or hurt them and if they do touch them they cringe inside. Just like the right touch can show this person that you care, misusing yours or their touch will show them that you don't. They often touch other people through hugs, a pat on the back, or a light touch on someone's arm or shoulder while they talk. They may not want to be touched by just “anyone” though, but when the people they care about touches them, they feel love.



That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.
~ 1 John 1:1



 O taste and see that the Lord is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him. ~
Psalm 34:8

 But I have all, and abound: I am full,
having received of Epaphroditus the things
which were sent from you, an odour of a
sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable,
wellpleasing to God. ~ Philippians 4:18

God gave us all senses, and although not all of us have all five, we all have a sense that is more sensitive than all the others that speaks love to us. And by paying attention to the senses, we can more accurately determine how to ignite others to show them we love and value them too.

If you're not sure what your loved ones most sensitive sense is, you could give them a "five senses gift". A five senses gift will engage all five senses and could include their favorite drink or food, a really nice candle (not a cheap one that smells like wax), a song that makes you think about them, a picture of you two together, and a soft blanket or pillow.

Don't tell them why you gave it before they open it, make it a surprise. Observe how they open all



the gifts. What were their reactions? Did they hug you before they did anything with their gifts (touch)? Did they tell you how awesome you are while they opened it (hearing)? Which sense gift did they go for first? Which sense gift did they seem most excited about? What did they do when they picked up each sense gift (cry, dance, say thank you and put it down)? Then ask them which one is their favorite.

What are your two most sensitive senses?

What is your husband or wife's two most sensitive senses?



What to Remember

Psalm 37:23 says, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way”. God delights in every detail of our lives, including who is in our lives. God speaks about choosing the right man to lead a family, and the right woman to help a man.

At some point, we should stop consulting our family and friends and stop trying people on like clothes and throwing them away and just reference what God says. God gave us the knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and counsel needed to ensure we are making a good decision.

We must trust and value what God says. I pray you receive the blissful union you are seeking. First, with God, second, with your spouse, and with every other relationship in your life that impacts you.



About the Author

Sheena Crawford is a writer after God's own heart. She writes blogs, books, and music. Her blog typically consists of "Top 5" tips about life from a biblical perspective and misunderstood truths pertaining to Scripture. The book series *What God Told Me* has multiple books that focus on God's truth and teaching and encouraging others. Her music consists of poetical lyrics, infused with her love for God, and is typically paired with contemporary instrumentals. Her calling is to teach believers and encourage them to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. ~ Jeremiah 33:3

Inspire • Enlighten • Awaken

IF YOU EVER

Wondered

If you ever wondered “Are there truly soulmates?”, “Does God have someone specific for me?”, “How will I know when I’ve met the right person?”, “How can I encourage peace with my spouse” then this book is a must-read. “What God Told Me” is a book series that sheds light, understanding, and truth on some of the most pressing questions concerning the Bible and the Kingdom of God.