

# FAITH FOR

# *Marriage*



EMEKA ANSLEM

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Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural reference are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. Bold and Italicized scriptures are for emphasis only.



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## *Just Before You Begin...*

I wasn't sure of how to title this book until God inspired the name "***Faith for Marriage***". The moment I heard that, a certain energy began to emerge within my heart and I knew that the book will truly answer to its name. If you've been trusting God to get married or have a successful marriage, then God has answered your prayer through this book. Besides the knowledge you'd receive from this book, a grace would also be released as you read, and the assignment of that grace is to ensure that you never fail in marriage. Have a good read!

## *Now Let's Begin...*

I remember when I was set to get married. I took my wife to the marriage committee of the church to declare our intention - hoping that they'd give us the marriage forms to commence the process. I was already a popular figure in church, so I hoped a lot of protocols would be skipped for my sake.

To our amazement, they gave us a reference letter to the church hospital - which contained an instruction to run a blood test on both of us.

Prior to that time, my wife and I had validated our feelings for each other. That connection was there and so our minds were made up to get married. But the moment they gave us that letter, we suddenly realized that there was something greater than emotions.



Despite the feelings we had for each other, if our genotypes were incompatible, the church would not join us in holy matrimony.

For the record, I've always known that it's not advisable to marry someone whose genotype isn't compatible with yours. I've heard stories of people who ignored the warnings and went ahead with marriage, not knowing that they were signing up for stress in marriage. Yet, I couldn't tell why I never considered a genotype compatibility test even before we approached the marriage committee.

You see, purpose and genotype aren't really different in the way they influence a marriage. And that's because anybody who is purpose-driven would have set values by which he runs his life, and trying to make him endure a lifestyle that isn't backed up by his values may end up frustrating him.

For instance, a pastor is not expected to marry a lingerie model. If he does, his pastoral ministry will be short lived. Her motives for

being a lingerie model may be right, but a pastor doesn't need a wife that exposes sensitive parts of her body. No matter how much you try to align it, you'd always have clashes. While the pastor is promoting spirituality, the model is promoting carnality. So even if she dresses decently to church during service days, it won't change the picture that members have in their head about her.

If you're a social media influencer, don't marry someone who isn't interested in social media. And that's because she won't see the level of work you do. If you're not careful, she may even think you're lazy - especially if she asked you to do something you couldn't do, probably because you were exhausted from work.

During the early days of my social media ministry, I had a relationship with a lady I hoped to get married to. But guess what? She wasn't a social media person. She didn't even have a social media account. She had her own plans for a career. And believe me, you don't want to

know how it feels when everybody else sees your work except your fiancé.

The wife is supposed to be one who helps or covers her husband's weaknesses. That's what God meant when He said He'd make a helpmeet for man. So that the woman would help the man do those things he can't do by himself. If the woman isn't helping the man, won't the man's weakness be exposed? This is why many husbands have committed all kinds of error, because their wives didn't pay attention to their weaknesses.

One of the dangers of marrying someone who isn't interested in your work is that they'd always take decisions that disfavour's what you do. Most men who engage in extramarital affairs only got into it because they met someone who shows interest in what they do, and men naturally flow or enjoy the company of women who value what they do.

Let a model marry a photographer. Their partnership would not only be in marriage; it

would establish a business. A tailor can marry a teacher. A pastor can marry an administrator, teacher, marketer, banker, doctor, lawyer, or any woman who engages in a decent business.

Marry someone whom your values can easily meet somewhere. Imagine how effective a pastor will be if he marries a teacher or even an administrator. Imagine how well he'd be able to manage church funds if he marries a banker. They'd certainly do well.

Don't over-spiritualize the subject of marriage. Don't marry someone just because she can pray and fast well, take a step further by ensuring that your values are compatible. Prayer and fasting may not be able to save you if your values do not match. If you don't believe me, ask pastors who lost their marriages, not because they betrayed their wife, but because of some ideas that didn't match.

Let me talk to men for a moment (If you're a lady, I'd come to you):

Guys, don't marry a woman just because she has feelings for you, but because she understands your values.

If she understands your values, you won't have to start pleading with her every time you need to travel for a business trip. If she understands your values, she won't ask you to take her out on Saturdays because she knows you have to prepare a sermon for Sunday.

Most pastors make this mistake when it comes to choosing who to marry. Just because a lady is a good prayer warrior and an ardent student of God's word doesn't mean she'd make a good wife.

Likewise, just because a lady can warm your bed, cook your food, wash your cloths and do the dishes does not mean she'd make a good wife. She may be able to do all that, but if she consistently opposes your values, you're going to be frustrated in marriage.

Making a good wife or even husband begins by understanding the values of your spouse. Imagine that Abraham told Sarah about the plan to sacrifice Isaac, I'm sure Sarah would have poisoned Abraham before morning.

That's right, Sarah didn't strike me as someone who understood the values or priorities of Abraham her husband. As far as God was concerned, there is nothing that Abraham could not give just to maintain his relationship with God. He placed great value on God.

Abraham was ready to wait for God's time. On the other hand, Sarah was in a hurry to have a child, so she compelled him to lay with her maid - which eventually became a bad idea. I humorously say that if Abraham knew God before he married Sarah, he probably wouldn't have married her.

Don't marry a person that will kill your dreams with feelings; marry someone that will support your values despite their feelings. Imagine that

Jesus was married, then imagine that he told his wife that he was going to die for the world.

The kind of wife that will agree to that is scarce in this life. Who wants to marry a man that will soon die? This is why I don't blame some visionaries who are still single, they probably haven't found a lady who would make sacrifices for the values they represent.

Bishop Oyedepo would often say that his wife singlehandedly raised their children. In other words, he was hardly available for the children.

Ladies should learn from this, don't marry a man of God if you can't raise the children and man the house independent of your husband. Because most of the time, he'd be with God.

I'm not saying that he won't take care of his family, of course he will, but his priority is the assignment that God gave to him. And that means you have to handle situations that may distract him from that assignment.

Please don't marry a man of God because you have feelings for him, or because he's good looking and commands respect; marry him because you want to help him raise a family while he serves God.

Every man who has found purpose in life would definitely have values that he lives by, and it is these values that guide his decisions.

I'm a teacher of the gospel, and I communicate my teachings mostly through writing. I value anything that grants me access to more knowledge, and I easily lose interest in anything that isn't inspiring or challenging me.

My wife knows this, so each time we have an outing, she'd tell me how long it will take so I can decide whether to go or not to. I may not be able to spend one hour in parties, but I can spend a whole day in a conference.

I remember the last time we went to a beach to celebrate my sister in-law's birthday. The environment was good, the meal was great, the



scene was beautiful, but I became bored after an hour and wanted to go home.

Now this doesn't mean I don't have fun or that I'm not a fun person to be with, of course I have fun, but I do it within my creative space.

As I conclude with the men, if you're a purpose-driven person, then beware of marrying someone who is feelings-driven. Because as far as emotions is concerned, personal values may not make sense. They'd always make decisions based on their feelings, and if you don't respond, they'd begin to react. It's only a matter of time before the marriage is destroyed.

Sarah reacted to her feelings and made decisions based on her feelings. At some point, God didn't speak to Abraham because he did what his wife compelled him to do. He stabbed his values for feelings.

Be careful though, some ladies also have their own values, they are purpose-driven. So ensure that your values agree at every point.

Now, let me talk to the ladies...

Just because a man buys you gifts and sweet talks you doesn't mean he loves you. 1 Corinthians 13:1 already hinted us about this possibility. It says, ***"If I make use of the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am like sounding brass, or a loud-tongued bell"***. So there's a possibility that a man can speak to you like an angel yet, it's not love.

I really like the next two verses of that chapter. Let's read what it says:

1 Corinthians 13:

***2 And if I have a prophet's power, and have knowledge of all secret things; and if I have all faith, by which mountains may be moved from their place, but have not love, I am nothing.***

***3 And if I give all my goods to the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it is of no profit to me.***

So just because he's a pastor or a man of God does not automatically mean he loves you.

There are many pastors who are saints in church but demons at home.

I heard the story of a woman who went to sit at the church altar after her husband had just finished preaching. She wept loudly, telling the congregation that she'd like to marry the man on the pulpit, because he's far different from the man at home.

I know that giving is one way to prove you love someone, but according to verse 3 of that chapter, it's not the only way. Just because he buys you great gifts doesn't necessarily mean he loves you. Many ladies have jumped into marriage because the man bought them gifts. Proverbs 23:7 further shows us that a man can give you a gift in pretence.

That scripture says, ***"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee"***. Yes, he can give you gifts, yet his heart is not with you. Why should any woman fall for this kind of deceit?

So, let me show you 13 infallible proofs of true love:

1 Corinthians 13:

***4 Love is never tired of waiting; love is kind; love has no envy; love has no high opinion of itself, love has no pride.***

***5 Love's ways are ever fair, it takes no thought for itself; it is not quickly made angry, it takes no account of evil.***

***6 It takes no pleasure in wrongdoing, but has joy in what is true.***

***7 Love has the power of undergoing all things, having faith in all things, hoping all things.***

***8 Though the prophet's word may come to an end, tongues come to nothing, and knowledge have no more value, love has no end.***

Do I still need to list them out? No need, right? They're all properly spelt out across those verses.

Love is never tired of waiting. Imagine how long God had to wait for you to finally give your life to Jesus. How did your man feel when you

arrived late to your first or later dates? If he complained, that's a red flag.

Love is not tired of waiting. If he's impatient about your delay in responding to his requests, that's a red flag. As crucial as salvation is, God hasn't gotten tired of waiting.

Is he kind? Is he envious of you or other people? Does he have a high opinion of himself? If he does, then being prideful is inevitable. Is he fair or selfish? Is he short tempered?

Does he take account of evil? I remember two women I had the opportunity to counsel sometimes back, they had similar situations, their husbands kept referring and capitalizing on something wrong they did from the first year of their marriage. If your man does this in courtship, that's a red flag.

Does he take pleasure in wrongdoing? How did he react each time you mentioned something wrong that he did? And even if you don't

mention it, does he feel guilty anytime he goes wrong? If he doesn't, then his conscience is either dead or he was raised like that. If you marry that kind of man, then be ready for domestic violence. He'd beat you and find nothing wrong with it.

Verse 8 really caught my attention. It says, ***"though a prophets word may come to an end, but love never fails..."***. One of the women that called me sometimes back mentioned that a prophet said some things to her husband, and since that time, their marriage has been in a mess. Thank God for scriptures like this, even prophecies can fail, but true love never fails.

Now this is to all singles, male or female:

Marriage is an institution. And just as you won't go into any institution unprepared, don't go into marriage unprepared. Sometimes you feel counsellors are too hard when certain demands are made on you, but it's better to go through the hard processes than to suffer hardship in marriage.

Courtship should be a period of fact finding, not fun having. This is why those who have marriage crisis today cherished their relationship before marriage than within marriage. One of the women I counselled said all through the 8 years she dated her husband, that he was so sweet. But from the first year of marriage, he became a demon.

There are obligations that comes with marriage that 20 years of courtship or dating will never have. So chances are that you'd still enjoy your 20 years of dating more than your marital life. For instance, you don't have any business with in-laws outside marriage, you don't have any business having kids, no financial commitment to in-laws, and lots more. These are things that arise in marriage that changes the unprepared man or even woman.

This is why courtship is powerful. It would help you discern what your man or woman would be like in marriage. So while you visit the best eateries and fun spots, also have conversations

that proves love as unveiled in the scriptures above.

## **LET ME SHOW YOU 3 SPICES THAT MAKES MARRIAGE WORK**

### **1. AGREEMENT**

Amos 3:

***3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?***

That's right! Do both of you agree? Do you share the same values? One of the things I've discovered about relationships is that something that may be considered important by one may not be considered important by the other.

For instance, if your husband doesn't like church, you may have several disagreements when issues about going to church is raised. As important as saving money is, not all men consider savings important; not necessarily because they are spendthrifts, but because they feel limited when they save.



Surprisingly, men like that hardly spend money. No matter how you try to present your case to convince them about savings, you're never going to win. If you persist, you may gradually begin to experience a decline in emotional connections between the both of you.

That's right! That's what disagreement does; it hardens your heart against whoever is trying to change something that is deep seated within you. Once your heart is hardened, meeting emotional needs would become a difficult task. And once meeting emotional needs becomes a difficult task, meaningless challenges would begin to arise in the marriage.

From experience, disagreement destroys marriages faster than anything else. In fact, record shows that married people who got involved in extra marital affairs had disagreements in their homes. The surprising thing is, the disagreement may be something very little and almost insignificant, yet it's

capable of destroying a marriage. Indeed, little foxes do spoil the vine.

So, if you're having issues in your marriage, think back a little, what do you and your spouse argue about often? What was the root cause of that argument? How has his reaction been since the last argument? The funny thing is that most women don't think back, they'd often blame it on an extramarital affair.

A woman's default reaction when she doesn't get attention from her husband is that he's seeing someone else. She'd begin to check his phone and doing all sorts. This isn't always the case. He may just be withdrawn because your values are not aligning in some areas. Nothing kills a man's emotion like disalignment.

Another thing is, a man would hardly tell you why he's distant, because sometimes, he can't even place words to it. But believe me, the simple explanation is disalignment. You're probably doing something that is making him lose his masculinity.

It's true that men love sex, but a man who feels disaligned because of you would hardly get intimate with you. People who said that men don't need their emotions before they can have sex don't understand the depth of what they are saying.

## 2. GROWTH

This is another problem on its own, even though it still leads us back to the first point. You're definitely going to have disagreements in your marriage if only one party is growing.

As a man, if you're furthering your education, ensure your wife is also doing something that engages her mind productively, not necessarily education, but something she can gain experience from. The danger of one sided growth is that it would come to a time when both parties would no longer be able to support each other.

If I buy a spiritual book to read, even if I can't get my wife to read the book, I should be able to share the things I read with her in a conversation. Likewise, if I listen to a sermon that changed something within me, I must communicate that change to her so that she'd be aware that an old character is no longer within me. If possible, I can share the sermon with her. This would help her know how best to communicate with me. This is also applicable to the women.

### 3. SPIRITUALITY

Marriage is spiritual, and it will take submission to the laws of God to both enjoy and stay in marriage. Pray together, worship the Lord together, study and meditate on the word of God together. Doing this would keep God in your midst, and as long as God is in your midst, the possibility of failing in marriage will be slim.

## CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER...

Guys, when you pray about a life partner and God shows you the picture of a lady, don't just jump into conclusion that she's your wife. God probably showed the same lady to many other guys.

God shows us pictures for many reasons, but mostly because He wants us to model our choice based on the picture He showed us, not necessarily because He wants us to go for it.

As long as He didn't specifically say the person He showed you is your wife, then consider that person a model in finding a wife. Yes, you have to find your wife.

I've heard experiences of how God showed a guy a lady who eventually got married to another man. This guy waited and kept troubling that lady - even in her married state. Please, was he praying for her husband to die? Me I don't understand some guys o.

Since the time of Adam, you'd discover that there are very few people that God picked a wife for. I've come to discover that, as a man, you'd need a deep level of intimacy with God before He can recommend a wife for you. And that's because He knows you'd not push the blame on Him when crisis arise.

Never forget that it's "he that finds a wife", not "he that God finds a wife for". God may guide you into choosing a wife that would help you fulfil destiny, but don't expect Him to do the choosing.

Apostle Joshua Selman pointed this to be one of the reasons for late marriage in Christianity. Everybody is looking for God's choice for them; "God show me my wife", "God show me my husband". While that may be a plausible idea, that's a possibility that only comes through maturity and intimacy with God.

Some people have never heard God speak to them. But when it's time to marry, they'd claim

they're waiting for God's direction. Seriously? Some of them even go to their pastors with names and pictures of "prospective" spouses - so that their pastor would pray and choose for them. Like seriously?

So, God guides us into choosing a spouse that would support and help us fulfil destiny, but we still need maturity to manage the various crisis that arise in marriage. Haven't you seen those who married God's choice for them suffer pain? Of course, they do. God's will or not, marriage would be in disarray without spiritual maturity.

Spiritual maturity is a measure of spiritual intelligence. So learn, learn how to keep a home together, learn how to be a father or a mother, learn how to respond to crisis. Don't just pray to have the kind of peace the Oyedepo's and Adeboye's enjoy in their marriage, learn the things they did to enjoy peace.

## GO AND MARRY...

Marriage is a desirable thing, but the process scares many eligible singles. And that's why most of them have resolved to getting all the money in the world before they get married.

Money might pay the bills, but it doesn't guarantee a good marriage. If care is not taken, one may lose all the money saved for marriage in the first year of marriage. Enough money is never enough for marriage.

Marriage is God's business; no man can create or make marriage work more than the Owner Himself. Ps 68:6 particularly tells us that "God setteth the solitary in families... ". In other words, it is God that does the settings. Enough counsel or even money can't do the settings, only God can. Waiting for money before you get married may cause you to wait forever. But that will not be your portion!



I have good news for you! Within the next six months, God will visit you with marital laughter! If you're a man trusting God for favour to get married, enter into that level of favour within these six months! Without delay, your marital destiny will be settled! If you're a lady trusting God for your own man, he'd find you within these six months! He will not only find you, he'd propose to you! And without delay, your marital destiny will be settled! So shall it be! In Jesus precious name!

I'm really glad that you read this book. As your testimonies begin to arrive, please do not hesitate to share your testimonies with me.

Remain ever blessed!



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emeka Anslem is a critically acclaimed inspirational writer, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. His strong social media presence has served as a medium that satisfies the spiritual hunger of many Christians and brought even many more to Christ. He received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By God's grace, he has committed his life to that assignment, and he's always willing to add value to lives.

Through his passion for his assignment, he's been privileged to author over 50 e-books which are mostly downloadable for free at the E-BOOKS section of his website ([www.emekaanslem.com.ng](http://www.emekaanslem.com.ng)). His rare teaching gift has attracted several public speaking engagements in seminars, conferences and the likes. Considering his track record in writing, God inspired him to convene a yearly writers conference, which has been a medium of transformation for many writers.

He also runs a business where he operates as a content developer. He has written for great men within and outside his country of residence, and the testimonies have been phenomenal.

Emeka Anslem is accessible. So do not hesitate to contact him through any of his social media platforms.

