



GOD  
TOLD ME TO  
MARRY  
*You*

KINGSLEY  
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# **GOD TOLD ME TO MARRY YOU**

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## **GOD TOLD ME TO MARRY YOU**

**IN CHRISTIAN CIRCLES** today, this issue of ‘**God said...**’ or ‘**God told me...**’ has brought a lot of confusion and caused a lot of problems especially for unassuming young ladies today. You find that when it comes to marriage, a lot of people, especially ladies make the mistake of falling prey to manipulation and intimidation under the guise of a marriage proposal. A man comes to a young lady and says to her, “Thus saith the Lord: you are my wife” or another very common one you’ll hear is, “I had a dream and the Lord revealed to me that you are my husband”. You know, I hear this a lot and it really bothers me that young people will allow themselves to be held captive or manipulated by such lies. So I decided to address the issue once and for all.

I have **NEVER** seen it anywhere in the Bible where God **commanded** that someone **MUST** marry a particular person. The closest I have ever come across is the Adam and Eve story or the story of how Isaac's wife was picked. Now, I don't know about you but I think that almost, if not every child of God has missed their direction one time or the other. Sometimes when we claim God said something to us, we either heard ourselves, (that is, our flesh or our minds) or misinterpreted what God said or out-rightly even heard the devil. The funny thing is at such times, we are usually so convinced that we know what we are doing, until something happens that proves to us that it was not God speaking. The next few chapters will clear out any doubt from your heart about; **'God said...'** or **'God told me...'**

## **CAN GOD CHOOSE MY SPOUSE?**

**AS I SAID** earlier, I have never seen this in the Bible which is our manual when it comes to life issues especially marriage. So let us take a look at the two instances of Adam and Isaac I mentioned earlier. Let's start from the very beginning, in the book of Genesis:

*19. Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature that was its name.*

*20. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

*21. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of*

*his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.*

*22. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman and He brought her to the man.*

*23. 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."*

*Gen 2:19-23 NKJV*

You can see from the above scripture that God made the animals and BROUGHT them to Adam. Adam was the one that decided what they were to be called. If he had called the monkey his wife; that is what it would have been. It was in the same manner that God brought Eve to Adam. If Adam had called her anything but the bone of his bones and the flesh of his flesh; if he had not chosen her as his wife, God would probably have made someone else for him. God never forced her on

Adam, He simply brought her and before He could even make the introductions, Adam had made the choice. God only presents or leads but you make the choice.

One of the reasons God doesn't make the choice of a partner for you is that it would make people totally irresponsible. They won't check out the person very well, they would say since God said this is my husband then he must be good. When they now have issues in the marriage they would say like Adam, **"It is the wife you gave me"**. God expects you to be responsible when choosing a spouse. You must make your own informed choice even if you feel God is leading you.

Let's take a look at how a wife was chosen for Isaac.

**12. Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.**



**13. Behold, I stand here by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.**

**14. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'--let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."**

**15. And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.**

**16. Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.**

**17. And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."**

**18. So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she**

quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

19. And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

20. Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

21. And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

22. So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold,

23. and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"

24. So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor."

25. Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

**26. Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.**

**27. And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."**

**28. So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things**

**Gen 24:12-28 NKJV**

If you follow this story closely you will see that there are some steps that the servant took in finding a wife for Isaac. These things helped him make the right choice.

First of all, the servant had an idea of what he wanted; someone not from the wrong tribe (same faith), hospitable, respectful, hard working and caring [v.14].

Secondly, he prayed about the qualities he was looking for and asked God to lead him [v.12].

Then he went where he could meet eligible ladies. He didn't stay at home waiting for God to speak [vs.10-11]

Then finally and most importantly, God led him but he made the choice [vs.26-27].

It was not compulsory for him to have taken Rebekah. It was just that she fit into all the qualities he was looking for. He still had a choice. And if you continue reading that chapter you'll find that much later when they asked the girl (Rebekah), she chose to go with the servant. It was still her choice. God may lead you but he definitely does not force anyone on you.

**58. Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go." Gen 24:58 NKJV**

Ladies especially must take note of this. **Do not marry anyone based on their own conviction; marry on your own conviction.**

You must be sure. Some ladies can't make up their minds so they want to lean on someone else's conviction. They ask, "Are you sure God told you?" and then take on a 'what-else-can-I-do attitude'. As if they don't have a choice in the matter. This has become an excuse for many Christian ladies to settle for less than they deserve or desire. They say, "But what can I do? God said I am his wife. I don't want to miss God." Like my wife always says, "Sister, **you do** have a choice!" Don't marry an unbeliever or a Christian with poor character all in the name of '**God said...**' Take note that God can't ask you to be unequally yoked [II Corinthians 6:14]. Remember that no matter what kind of prophecy anyone brings your way, the word of God cannot lie. It is a MORE SURE word of prophecy [II Peter 1:19]; so confirm from the Word.

When someone says, “God revealed to me that you are my wife” or they say, “God said you are my wife”, the truth is they can’t prove to us whether it is true or not because it is a personal experience. No one was there when God told them (even if he did tell them). Some use it to intimidate baby Christians into agreeing to marry them. They make them believe if they don’t marry them they would have missed God’s perfect will for them and they will never find happiness with anyone else. Friend, don’t be intimidated, stand on the word.

**TWO**  
**IS THERE ONE PARTICULAR**  
***PERSON FOR ME?***

I hear people ask this question all the time and the truth is, I think that people who say that there is only one person out there for you or there is one perfect will for you in marriage, are simply being emotional. There are two major reasons why this theory of only one person for you cannot be true.

First and foremost, with the level of divorce and marriage mistakes people make, if there was only one person for you then we would all be in big trouble. Why? Because chances are, someone could have married “your spouse” and that would mean if one person misses it by marrying someone which is not their own husband then they would have

automatically put the person whose husband they married in error and with the level of marriage mistakes we have, chances are, we would probably never get it right . The whole system will be messed up by now.

Secondly, it is not possible to have only one perfect person for you since that means if something unfortunate like death, (which is no fault of yours) were to take the person even before you meet, you would never be fulfilled in marriage and we don't serve a God who is wicked or confused. He does all things well. God has a lot of godly options for you but it is still up to you to make a choice and to be responsible for that choice.

Even when God commanded Hosea the prophet to marry a prostitute, God still allowed him choose the prostitute to marry. He didn't make the choice for him (Hosea 1:2-3). Besides, we all know that there



are some people that if God were to appear to you and ask you to marry them you would say, “God forbid!” so let’s stop making excuses for making sentimental decisions when we know clearly that it makes no sense.

**THREE**  
**CAN GOD FORCE HIS WILL ON**  
**ME?**

To a large extent, finding a spouse is like finding a car or a house. You have to meet people the way you would go out and inspect a house or check out a car. You must have an idea of the basic things you want in the car; the height, you look at what kind of routes you will be plying, whether you like the comfort of the drive, or in the case of a house; basic specifications for a house like how many rooms, the area you want to live, size of rooms, compound space, etc. You must have a basic idea of what you want and the price you are willing to pay for it. It is the same thing when looking for a spouse. You must feel the person out by first being friends. There are some people that after you've spent time with them, you don't even need to pray about it.

In some cases, you may even think that God is leading you to someone but when you feel the person out, you'll know that it can't be God. I remember when my wife and I were searching for a house; we heard about some houses, the specifications and the deal was incredible. We actually almost believed that because it sounded too good to be true, that it was God but when we got there, it was obviously not what we wanted or needed for that matter. For some other houses, we saw they had potential but the estate agents in charge were unwilling to pay the price to improve them. That's how some people are; when you meet them, you find that they even have the potential or the basic qualities you are looking for but they are unwilling to make changes to improve themselves and God is not going to force you to marry those kind of people just because you think you have a leading in that direction. You have a right to change your mind.

God will never impose His will on you no matter how crucial it is. I think it is immaturity, ignorance and cowardice that make people say things like that. Stop hiding behind God, he can speak for Himself. For instance, with Adam, God presented all the animals then he presented Eve. Adam chose her. He named her the way he had named other animals then he chose her. Adam made the decision not God. God did not impose her on him. Even when it came to the fruit of good and evil in the garden, God left it to their discretion, He gave them the choice of either obeying him or disobeying Him but he never forced them.

Even in the case of His Son Jesus and something as crucial as saving the world, God still did not force Him. He said, ***“I lay it down of myself” (John 10:18).***

Also, when dealing with the children of Israel, God had promised them the land of Canaan; He showed them the land but they had to decide to take it.

Besides, God didn't force us to love Him or to accept His love He said choose ye this day whom you will serve (Joshua 24:15). You must choose who you love. If God forces you to love Him or someone else that won't be true love and love is the foundation of relationships. If God forces us to love Him, it would also be violating our freewill, even with the most important of all things: your salvation, God still gives you the opportunity to make a choice of your own freewill.

**FOUR**

**I THINK GOD IS LEADING ME**

**WHAT DO I DO?**

I am sure that even after everything I have said some of you may still be feeling like

*“Yes pastor, I understand everything you’ve said but I still believe God is leading me to marry him or her so what do I do? I don’t want to come across as building my relationship on prophecy but I have a knowing in my heart that he or she is my spouse”*. I know some of you may be caught in that predicament so here are a few things you can do:

**1. Keep the “God said...” to yourself.**

The truth is it is your personal leading and to be honest with you, you can be wrong. You know, the source of a thing is usually its sustenance. Whatever you start a marriage on is what that marriage will be sustained by. It is love that should

run a marriage not prophecy (God said) so be careful how you use the 'God said...' One of the major problems I have with 'God said...' is that later if there are problems, some will say I didn't love you it was God that said I should marry you; it was a sacrifice for me (they will act like they were doing you a favour). So keep the leading to yourself .

## **2. Develop Friendship.**

Take your time to get to know that person well. Don't be clouded by what you think you heard God say. You must feel out that person; their character, their values, their visions. Who are they really? Not what you think they are but who they really are and you can only discover this in friendship. Basically, you must get to know them very well as friends:

***Can two walk together unless they agree?  
[Amos 3:3]***

When you get to know some people you will either confirm or cancel what you think God told you.

### **3. If You Are Still Satisfied Then Ask Her To Marry You.**

However, be sure to tell her what you like about her not “God said...” Tell her the reasons you want to spend the rest of your life with her and why you think she is the one that can help you fulfil your life’s vision. Tell her why of all the ladies you have met she is the one you chose to be your wife.

However, before you take any of these steps, be sure to discuss with your pastor or other sound and mature Christians. The Bible says

***29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.***

***1 Cor. 14:29-30 NKJV***

In other words people can check what you think God is saying.

In closing, let me talk to the ladies. I find that



oftentimes; ladies get the rough end of the deal and are constantly being deceived by men telling them that God said they are their wives. Honey, if anyone tells you 'God said...' tell him that God can speak for himself and God has not said anything to you. Tell him he should tell God to tell you. Then, ask the brother what does he want? What is he saying? You can't hold a man on the promise made by another. You can only hold him by his own words so ask him what he wants or what he is saying.

I've seen many situations where "God" has changed His mind after a few months into the relationship and since you were not there when God told him as he claims; you won't also be there to verify when God changes His mind, and the truth is that you shouldn't marry someone just because he said God said so. Do you like the person? Are you going the same way? Do you fit into each other's life visions? You can't base decisions that affect your life on

another person's convictions.

I remember once when a young man came to the office. He had just resigned his job because according to him, God had told him that he should come and work with us as a pastor. Even while he was speaking I knew like I know my name that it was not God he had heard. Why? First of all, we don't employ pastors from outside. We train our pastors in-house. Secondly, at the time we couldn't even afford to employ a cleaner talk less of a pastor. After that I met him not quite long ago in another ministry and he had found where God wanted him to be and he was happy there.

Even in a case where you feel God has spoken to you let the man commit with his own words first. So that he can be responsible. If both of you build your marriage on what you think God said, none of you will take responsibility for your actions. You

must take time to get to know each other as friends and be sure that you like things about each other so that you won't stay together just because you think God is imposing someone on you whom ordinarily you would not like. Don't forget that marriage is to be **ENJOYED** and not **ENDURED**.

Finally, let me say this. I have noticed that a lot of people claim God spoke to them when it comes to the marriage issue but God has never spoken to them concerning any other issue before that. God doesn't work like that. He would usually lead you in small things before leading you in something that important. So first build your relationship with God and let him lead you in simple things and in your relationship with Him.

**REMEMBER, YOU CAN HAVE THE MARRIAGE OF YOUR DREAMS!**

## About the author

**Kingsley Okonkwo** is the Senior Pastor of David's Christian Centre in Lagos. A profound teacher with a passion for building strong marriages based on timeless biblical principles.

He is the host of the popular monthly relationship seminar, ***Love, Dating and Marriage*** which currently airs weekly on television stations. He is a much sought after speaker whose humour and practical styled teachings have been a blessing to people of all ages and races.

He is happily married to his lovely wife and best friend Mildred who pastors with him and they have 3 lovely children.

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