

Marriage is a Gift and a Favor from God

“7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7 KJV)

“22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22 KJV)

Paul said about marriage, ***“But every man hath his proper gift of God.” (1 Corinthians 7:7 KJV)*** Paul described marriage as a gift from God and that is true; marriage is a gift and reward from God to those who are doing good in their preparation for Godly marriage. * Marriage in the Scripture is a reward for those who prepare themselves for what is due for them to do. * Marriage is a gift that is earned and man should be prepared and do his part toward God and toward God's Word and toward the family that God is going to give him.

Marriage cannot be initiated based on good wishes or emotions. Simply you cannot rash and eat in restaurant without paying for your food. You cannot ride an airplane without paying in advance for your ticket. You cannot stay in a hotel without paying for your room.

The following are good examples to grasp this concept of marriage that the Scriptures portray:

I. Adam: ***“19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:19-20 KJV)*** The Lord before He made and brought the woman to the man, asked Adam to give names to all the animals and the birds. That was not an easy task. So many types and species of animals and birds; it would probably took months or years for the man to do that. Sure, he needed to be organized and systematic in giving names for all of them. And when he was done and achieved that, the Lord made the woman and brought her to the man. ***“21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” (Genesis 2:21-22 KJV)*** So there was a period of preparation and testing for the man and he needed to achieve certain things before he will be rewarded with his gift, a wife. When Adam obeyed God and did the task that was assigned to him and proved his diligence, maturity and being responsible person, the Lord brought to him his wife as a reward and to fulfill His promise: ***“18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18 KJV)*** You need to do your assignments and responsibilities well before you expect God shall reward you with a help meet for you from the Lord to start your family.

II. Jacob: ***“15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? 16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man:***

abide with me. 20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.” (Genesis 29:15-21 KJV) Jacob served seven years for his wife, Leah. He was not rewarded with a wife unless he finished the seven years of service. ***“22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. 23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. 24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.” (Genesis 29:22-24 KJV)*** Jacob was rewarded by God in giving him Leah as his wife not only because he worked for her seven years, but because he listened to his father's instruction and was willing to travel even alone from Beersheba to Haran in Padanaram in order to go to find a wife from the daughters of his uncle Laban and not to marry from the people of the land, ***“1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. 2 Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. 3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; 4 And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham. 5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother. 6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram; 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife. 10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.” (Genesis 28:1-10 KJV)*** Jacob was willing to go through the way that God had ordained for him to pass through, and he persevered in it and that is why the Lord rewarded him. In the same way God is there to guide you and to lead you in what you need to go, and as you obey God, and be willing to suffer for Him and abide in His will then He will give you help meet for you, the life's partner that He promised you. But that will not be the end but the beginning of what God wants you to do and achieve for Him. So marriage is a gift but there are more things ahead of you to do for God.

III. Joseph: ***“45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:45 KJV)*** Joseph was rewarded with a wife after he showed his prudence and wisdom in giving a good plan to make a reserve of food to save the country of Egypt from the coming seven years of famine. But not only because of that, for Joseph before he was rewarded with that marriage he had suffered 13 years which started from the time that he was sold by his brothers when he was seventeen years old and became slave and was brought and sold in Egypt. Then he worked in a house as slave and continued until he was put in prison for false accusation. But even there he served God and the prisoners, and he persevered, and used his gifts to interpret dreams. Therefore God finally rewarded him by taking him out from prison, putting him second after Pharaoh and giving him a wife and children. In the same way God shall look into all the toils that you passed through and how you served Him and persevered in the narrow way that He ordained for you to pass through and the day will come that He will reward you for all that.

IV. Moses: “16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.” (Exodus 2:16-21 KJV) Moses was content to stay with the priest of Midian and to work as a shepherd for him, and Moses was rewarded with a wife when the man gave Moses, Zipporah his daughter. Moses was rewarded with a wife not only after he defended the daughters of the priest of Midian from the shepherds who drove them away, but after he stood his ground against the injustice that Pharaoh and the Egyptians executed against the people of God, the Israelites and was willing to leave Egypt and all the worldly things and the temporal pleasures of sins in order to follow God and do His work and will. **Therefore and in the same way, when you are willing to leave the worldly things and the temporal pleasures of sins and start to follow God and willing to do His works that He prepared for you to do then He will reward you as He rewarded Moses with a wife and a family.**

V. Othniel: “12 And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. 13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. 14 And it came to pass, when she came to him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted from off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wilt thou? 15 And she said unto him, Give me a blessing: for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the nether springs.” (Judges 1:12-15 LKV) Othniel was rewarded with a wife when he responded to the call of God and smote Kirjathsepher and took it as an inheritance for the tribe of Judah, and later on he became a judge for Israel, “9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. 11 And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.” (Judges 3:9-11 KJV) **In the same way when you are willing to do the ministry of God and the great task that He prepared for you to do then God shall reward you with a wife and a family and prosper you.**

VI. Boaz: “10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.” (Ruth 4:10 KJV) Boaz was rewarded by a wife when he was willing to buy the land and pay for it and in that, he deserved to possess Ruth as a wife in paying the price of the parcel of the land to buy what was Elimelech's, Chilion's and Mahlon's, “9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.” (Ruth 4:9 KJV) Boaz persevered and stayed in Bethlehem during the years of the famine, therefore the Lord rewarded him for his perseverance and faithfulness and gave him a wife and family that

the Messiah will sprang from. **In the same way when you persevere and remain faithful to God inspite of all the famine and the hard situations that God will allow you to pass through, then the Lord shall reward you with a wife and a family that through them you will raise Godly children and disciples to God.**

VII. David: “22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:22-27 KJV) David was a poor man and has not so much money, but was rewarded with a wife after he slew two hundred Philistines men. Not only that but David was a faithful shepherd in caring for the sheep of his father. He obeyed his father and was willing to go and visit his brethren who went to the battle. David when he reached there he was willing to go and fight the battle with Goliath, “24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. 26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. 28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. 29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? 30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. 31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:24-32 KJV) God finally enabled David to win over Goliath and killed him, and later on God rewarded David with a marriage with the daughter of Saul. *** God will give a wife and bestow His favor on an obedient man who is willing to listen to His Word, to abide in His instruction, and persevere in doing His will. * In the same way as you persevere with the assignments that God had given to you He shall reward you with a marriage and will have a family.**

In Acts 20:28 Paul said, that Jesus Christ purchased the Church of God with His own blood, “28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with

his own blood.” (Acts 20:28 KJV) Jesus paid the price for His wife, His church, who we are when He purchased us as He shed His blood on the cross for our sins.

My Dear and Beloved: Wife is a precious thing that belongs to the Lord, and He gives her as a gift to the man who prepared himself in a Godly way for marriage. “22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22 KJV) God will give a wife and bestow His favor on an obedient man who is willing to listen to His Word, to abide in His instruction, and persevere in doing His will.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your teaching that gave me understanding about the gift of marriage that you bestowed on men. Lord thank you for my spouse and for my family that you gave to me.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of faith in God and your lack of your trust on Him. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God and to persevere in the task that He entrusted to you to do. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Confess your lack of reading God’s Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins
_____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live my life according to your plan and will for me, Lord I will continue to persevere in doing the works that you entrusted me to do and I will wait upon you until you come and bless me. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, meekness, faith, perseverance, self-control and long-suffering so people will see Christ in my life; Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves willing to follow your will and plan for them, to be content and accept you to lead them into your whole will. Lord bless them and reward them according to what we had received in this message of yours to us. Lord let everyone see the difference between those who serve God and those who are not.

Lord, bless us as your church and help us to continue to teach in accordance to your will. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages and more Godly families to be formed. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Marriage is a Gift and a favor from God. Proverbs 18:22. 1 Corinthians 7:7. Genesis 2:18-22. Genesis 29:15-21. Genesis 29:22-24. Genesis 28:1-10. Genesis 41:45. Exodus 2:16-21. Judges 1:12-15. Judges 3:9-11. Ruth 4:9-10. 1 Samuel 18:22-27. 1 Samuel 17:24-32. Acts 20:28.

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