

HOW TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL IN MARRIAGE

Prepared by
Evans AYENI, GCIA,
The integrity of God Global Ministry

To discover God's will in marriage, the first thing we need to do as children of God is to build an intimate relationship with Him (God), for direction. The reason is simple, He is the author of marriage- He is the one that instituted the first marriage (Genesis 2:22-23).

To have an intimate relationship with God is to be *born again child of God* and to do His will, which includes marrying **God's perfect will** for your life. Note that you cannot be a born-again child of God, except you give your life to Christ. The reason why we must give our life to Christ is that he is the only medium through which we can relate with God. Jesus says:

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father, except through me (John 14:6).

Therefore, we cannot access God or have an intimate relationship with God, let alone ask God to choose for us or reveal to us who His perfect will for us is, without passing through his only begotten Son (Jesus Christ). The scripture says that:

And a voice from heaven said, this is my Son, whom I love; with him, I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).

The above record was when a voice came from heaven in the course of baptizing Jesus in the River Jordan. God affirm that our Lord Jesus Christ is the only channel through which we can access Him. What the above simply means is that, if we want to have a relationship with the author of marriage, we must be the follower of Jesus Christ (the one who took away the sin of the whole world).

Because Jesus took away the sin of the whole world, there is therefore the need for us to forsake our sins and be followers of Christ, just as He is the follower of God. The scripture says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The old things that are being referred to here are sins of diverse nature that we must have engaged ourselves before we come into the knowledge of Christ, our saviour and the redeemer of our soul. As Christian singles that are in Christ, we are supposed to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our paths in taking decisions, whether major or minor.

The reason why we must ask for the leading of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ before taking a vital decision like who to marry is that; God wants the best for us. It is written:

For I know the plans, I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)

Even though God created everybody, including the universe, God always reserve the best for His children, who are called by his name. Consequently, God wants those who are called by his name to depart from iniquity (sin). So that the best that He has reserved for them will be theirs, hence God's perfect will is for His children to marry *His perfect will*.

Consequently, the failure of Christian singles to ask for **God's perfect will** for their lives means that they will automatically settle for less, which can be either **good will** or **acceptable will**. The choice of good will or acceptable will by Christian singles is a result of sin. We talk about different types of will in marriage because these are the various typologies of marriages we see in our society today. Over time, people (especially born-again children of God) choose **God's perfect will** from these various kinds of will in marriages, while others choose either **goodwill** or **acceptable will** for their lives. The above is simply because we are in the world, though not of the world. Hear this,

Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom 12:2).

The mind of God is that we should not just do things because the people of the world are doing it, hence we should do that which will give glory to His name. God expect us to leave the beginning of Christ and move to perfection (Hebrew 6:1). Moving to perfection entails that, we as Christian singles should do his perfect will that will give glory to His name and put the devil to shame. The best thing for Christian singles to do is for them to choose **God's perfect will** in choosing their life partner, and this will require them to have a good relationship with God. In choosing God's perfect will, Christian singles must seek the face of God in prayers on who they think is good for them, in addition to general prayer on who God want them to marry. At this level, Christian singles must strive to live a life without sin; this is because sin hinders answers to prayer.

Different types of will in marriage

The perfect will of God: born again getting married to a virtuous woman after seeking the face of God and having been convinced that he or she is the Mr. or Miss Right for his or her life. Perfect will answer to the word of God. Hear this:

Ask and It shall be given unto you, seek and you shall find
(Matthew 7:7).

Asking God for **His perfect will** requires talking to Him in prayers, without any idol in your heart. Idol in one's heart means that you have concluded in your heart who to marry, even before praying to God.

Acceptable will: A situation where a Christian single choose a perceived born-again brother or sister for marriage without the leading of God, this method of choice for one's life is the **acceptable will** of God. The reason why it is acceptable is that they are both children of God, even though they might not be made for each other.

Good will: A situation where a Christian single goes ahead to choose a partner who is an unbeliever as his or her life partner, this method of choosing a life partner is known as the **good will** of God. The reason why it

is goodwill is that God created both males and females to procreate and replenish the earth. Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever, for what relationship hath light with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Consequently, asking for **God's perfect will** means that you have not concluded on who to marry, but are willing and ready to accept God's will for your life. This **God's perfect will** might not have the best container (the physical physique), but has the best content that can sustain a marriage. God's perfect will is somebody that can tolerate the other partner to a great extent. It is through God that we can know the content in a sealed container, whether the container is attractive or not. Thus, we can say that choosing a life partner is like buying a sealed container containing goods that are not known to the buyer. Therefore, to make a profit in such dealings and transactions will require the help of the Supreme Being to unveil what is inside such a container.

Many times, what we see is a container (beauty of a lady, the physique of a lady or the handsomeness of a young man) without knowing what is inside the container (content). To know what is inside the container of the lady you are desperately looking forward to getting married to or the young man you are desperately praying to get married to, Christian singles must seek the face of God to know what is inside the container, with the view to knowing whether the container is a good one or an empty one, without the required goods that can sustain your thirst in marriage. A good example of a good container without the required goods that could sustain marriage is typically revealed in the marriage of Nabal and Abigail in the scripture. Nabal was a very good container that every single lady might want to have a husband, but the content (character and behaviour) of his container is not a good one that can sustain a marriage. He was not a considerate man to his neighbour, who has even at one point or the other offered a helping hand to him in the time past. He exhibited this attitude by not giving anything to David (that later became king of Israel), a man that has been securing his animals whenever his workers go to feed them in the forest (I Samuel 25:1-27).

However, the wife of the man (Nabal) has a good container in addition to having good content (behaviour), this informs why she averted the danger that was to come upon her husband (Nabal) when he answered the servants of David in an unbecoming manner. The above observation revealed that the husband is a good container (being a rich man) without good content (behaviour or character) that can sustain a marriage. On the other hand, the wife (Abigail) was a good container with good content. Hear this:

There is a way that looks good in the sight of a man, but the end thereof is destruction (Proverb 14:12)

Knowing **God's perfect will**, with a good container and good content like Abigail requires the leading of God for Christian singles. The simple reason is that it is only God that sees the content (character and behaviour) inside a container (physique or physical body).

However, because many churchgoers do not have a personal relationship with God, they end up missing **God's perfect will** for their lives. Consequently, this makes many churchgoers chase shadow, a development that makes divorce to be a common phenomenon in society today. To know God's perfect will entails that you must have developed a good relationship with God before time and must have been knowing His will in other issues of life.

Mistakes that Christian singles make in choosing a life partner

One of the greatest mistakes that Christian singles (sisters and brothers) often make is sleeping around with somebody that they are not married. The reason why it is an error or a mistake is that you cannot receive revelation about the person you are already sleeping or fornicating with, all in the name of a relationship or courtship. The foregoing has been alluded to as why Christian singles missed **God's perfect will** for their lives while settling for good or acceptable will. Brother Joseph in the scripture had this understanding; hence he refused to sleep with the wife of his master. Joseph maintained a very good relationship with God when he was a single brother

and this allowed him to fulfil God's purpose for his life, he became the Prime Minister in Egypt (a foreign country) even without an election.

The second mistake that Christian singles make is trying to force themselves on men or even beg ladies to marry them. In essence, when you beg a sister to marry you, you will also need to sustain the relationship when both of you eventually marry. Getting married goes beyond begging a partner to marry you, to include seeking the face of God to know who is that partner that can support you in the journey of life? Having known the person that you want to marry does not still require begging that person to marry you, let alone somebody that God has not approved for you.

Thus, there was a brother to that God revealed the sister he was to marry to during youth corps. This brother approached the lady and asked her to pray about it, but the sister told the brother that she was not going to pray about it. The excuse of the lady was that, she does not like the guy in question and that God cannot give her what she does not like. To summarize the story, God gave the brother a younger sister in Christ from the same state that the lady that turns the guy down came from. Accepting the will of God at times is not that easy, especially for people who have high expectations of what the person they want to marry must possess.

The third mistake Christian singles make is lavishing their money or spending on ladies or guys in their quest to convince and persuade the other parties to marry them at all cost. The truth is that it is not every relationship that will lead to marriage. God can send you into a relationship to keep you busy for a while; to avoid some ugly things that might happen had you not been in a relationship. To further explain the above, God can ask you to enter a relationship with a sister or a brother to prepare that lady or brother for **God's perfect will** that will marry that person. That implies that you are the John the Baptist to that particular sister or brother to prepare the mind of the sister or brother on what is expected in marriage, before the coming of the **perfect will of God**. John the Baptist was not the way but came to prepare the way. Therefore, spending or lavishing your money on somebody

that will lead to regret if the relationship did not lead to marriage is a fallacy that must be avoided at all costs.

Conclusion

As a child of God, God expects you to consult Him before marrying that sister or brother you are about to enter a relationship with or have entered a relationship with. As Christian singles, God does not expect you to fornicate with your partner, as this will make Him not to make His mind known to you. Before you get more serious in any relationship, make sure that you are sure that it is God that is leading you to marry that person. Consequently, if you both commit fornication after you must have known that the other party is **God's perfect will** for your life, before the wedding, you should not try to commit more sin through abortion or engaging in a church wedding, however, on thanksgiving service can be done in the church after traditional and court wedding as the case may be. Hear this:

Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer about all the sexually immoral (Hebrew 13:4).

Christian singles that desire to get married must not have committed fornication or slept with each other before their wedding.

Thank you for listening.