



7 QUESTIONS
WISE WOMEN
ASK?

Kingsley Okonkwo

7
QUESTIONS
WISE
WOMEN
ASK?

Kingsley Okonkwo

7 QUESTIONS WISE WOMEN ASK

ISBN:978-978-50117-7-7

All rights reserved.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means-

Electronic, mechanical, photocopy or any other without permission of the author.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the king James Version
Of the bible.

CONTENT

Preface	5
Introduction	7
Question 1	
<i>Why Me?</i>	13
Question 2	
<i>Do I know him well enough?</i>	21
Question 3	
<i>Who are his influences?</i>	29
Question 4	
<i>Are we compatible?</i>	37
Question 5	
<i>Is he responsible?</i>	43
Question 6	
<i>When?</i>	63

Question 7

Is he born-again?

69

Conclusion

79

PREFACE

Over the years, I've seen women make the same mistakes over and over again in relationships and this book is born out of a desire to help them stop making those mistakes. A lot of times especially because of the environment we live in, women feel undue pressure to get married especially when they're within a certain age bracket and it looks like time is passing by. Your friends are married, your cousins are married and even your colleagues are married. Everywhere you look or turn; someone is getting married and because you feel left out, the moment any guy proposes, you want to fast forward everything so that you can have that ring on your finger as quickly as possible.

I understand your situation but the truth is, if you've waited this long, you might as well wait and do it right so that you can get the desired result; a fruitful marriage. Don't let anything or anyone pressure you into doing anything! Don't rush anything! It doesn't matter how good looking, rich or nice he is, there are

certain things you must consider, certain things that are important to the survival of that relationship in marriage. You must ask questions. You must study his character. Take your time to not only ask the right questions but also be patient enough to get the answers before you say yes to that proposal. You will save yourself a lot of headache eventually.

INTRODUCTION

Usually when I talk about relationships I like to start by saying this: it is not about getting married, it is about being happily married. If it were about just getting married to anybody, then you could as well go to a native doctor or somebody to do something for you just to get married. In fact, you could even buy a husband or a wife. However, I believe marriage is beyond getting married but being happily married. And trust me, I have been counseling couples for a while so I can tell you it is better to be happy and single than to be married and sad. That is why my emphasis is on how to help you build the marriage of your dreams; not just to marry anybody or marry at all cost but to be happily married.

Sometimes when you are in a romantic relationship or you meet somebody you like, the rate at which the relationship progresses is so fast that you don't have time to ask the important questions. It's like driving a brand new car especially if you've been driving an old one before. You will discover that when you are

driving the old car, there is a level you will hit on the speedometer that the car begins to jerk. That's a sign that you are going beyond your limit but when it is a brand new car that is in good condition, you might be at a very high speed and not even know it. Driving fast and not knowing it is dangerous. That's how some people's relationships are! So these questions are like your speedometer; to help you know when you are over speeding or doing things wrongly.

The mistake a lot of people make especially women is that they think marriage is it, that it is the last bus-stop. No! Marriage is not an end in itself; it's just a means to an end: fulfillment! Marriage is a long trip and if you are not fulfilled, you will be discontented. There is no middle ground. It's either one or the other. That is why you must prepare well and ask the right questions before you hand over your life to that man. You have to be sure that the man you are giving the rest of your life to is worth it.

Another thing I noticed is, when the people around you are not experienced or knowledgeable, they ask the wrong questions. They ask questions like: Do you love him? Does he love you? And those things are

very vague! Many people don't even know what love is! So do you love him means do you have butterflies in your stomach? And she does! You can't hand over your destiny to some man just because you have butterflies in your stomach! You must ask the right questions!

When I say ask questions, I don't mean you should sit him down and bring out your paper and pen and say question time. No! That's not what I'm saying. Some of these questions are things you might need to ask yourself, some are things you might ask indirectly and some are things you might need to observe or watch as the relationship or friendship progresses. Don't make it so obvious otherwise he will give you a "good" answer. He will tell you exactly what he knows you want to hear.

7 questions wise women ask are basic questions that will help you make sure you are on the right track.

CHAPTER 1

Why Me?

If a man wants to marry you, one of the major questions you have to ask is why me? It will amaze you the reason why he wants to marry you. In my years of counseling, I'm always amazed at the kind of responses I get when I ask people why they want to get married. Some people say they're getting old. For someone like that, he doesn't love you, he loves marriage. For another person, the reason he is getting married is because he is the only son and his people are troubling him to give them a grandson. If you marry someone like that, you can be sure that you are just a baby making factory. He has no affection towards you. You must ask why, of all the women around him, he chose you. It will amaze you the responses you will get from some people. If out of all the 5 billion women in the world, he chose you, you must know why because that same thing is what will keep the marriage going.

There was a couple that was having problems in their marriage and the man said his wife does not clean the house, she doesn't lay the bed, she doesn't iron the clothes and she is very dirty. After laying his complaints, the Pastor asked him why he married her. He said because she is fun to be with, enjoyable and understanding. When asked if she's no longer fun to be with, he said no. Has she stopped being understanding? He said no. Has she stopped being enjoyable? He said no. The Pastor told him, "Then your wife is still good. Hire a help to do the cleaning." The 'why' is the thing that would keep that marriage till the end.

For me, some of the reasons I married my wife is because she is intelligent and understanding and till today I still tell her she is a very understanding and very intelligent woman. The things I saw that made me marry her are still very much present and that is why we are still very happy.

If you don't know why you are marrying him or why he is marrying you, you won't know the things to improve on or things to make sure are always there.

Listen, some people are marrying you for your shape, and from the moment he marries you, he should buy you a gym house or that marriage will crash. Although it is not good to marry because of a woman's shape, I am just telling you the importance of knowing WHY. Don't let him tell you sweet nothings; I like your hips, your lips and your fingers tips. It sounds romantic, it rhymes but there is no meaning to it. Sweet nothings are usually as the name implies, sweet but nothing. Know the real reason he wants to marry you. "Why me?" is an important question.

Someone once told me the reason he wanted to marry was because the lady knows how to pound yam. Another one said there is a lady that liked a guy and the guy was a preacher. When the guy asked her why she wanted to marry him, she said she likes the kind of ministry he is doing; youth ministry. That she likes the ministry does not mean she likes the man. The ministry and the man are different. The man on the pulpit might be different from the man at home. When a man of God is preaching, he is under the anointing. He is a different man from the man at home. He does

not snore on stage but he might snore at home. He does not eat and pour soup all over himself when he's on stage but he might do that at home. Because his ministry is singing and he sings very well doesn't mean he'll be singing at home. Because he preaches well on the pulpit doesn't mean he'll preach like that at home. It is important that you separate and differentiate the man from his gift.

I once heard that a pastor's wife; a senior pastor's wife came to the church with her luggage and her two children and stayed on the altar. When asked what the issue was, she said, "I want to marry this man preaching." Of course people were amazed because the man preaching was already her husband and she his wife. She said, "No. The man preaching here is very nice. The one at home is very wicked. This is the one I like and I want to marry him." It might sound funny but it's true! That he preaches and everyone falls under the anointing doesn't mean you're going to be falling under the anointing at home because he's not going to be preaching to you; at least not all the time! You must separate a man from his ministry. They

are not the same!

When one sister told me her relationship had ended, I asked why and how the relationship started in the first place. Her response was that they both sang in the choir and their voices harmonized when they sang together. I told her maybe the reason the guy left her is because the other sister's voice harmonizes more than her own.

Look, if the reasons are not tangible, you are already setting yourself up for failure. If the reason he is in that relationship is because your voice blends, the day he meets someone that her voice blends more than your own, he will leave you. He will give you a red card and send you off the field. That's why it must be tangible things that make you stand out as an individual, like purpose, meekness, intelligence. It must be about your qualities, not because you are gifted or talented in certain things or are beautiful. It must be about your character because that is what will sustain you in the long run.

CHAPTER 2

Do I Know Him Well Enough?

This is a very vital question. Do you know him well enough? I didn't say do you know him long enough, I said do you know him well enough? There is a difference! That you know someone for a long time does not mean you know the real person. There are ladies that still marry total strangers just because when they met, something just clicked inside! No! You need to know him and you need to know him well! Some times when people hang out together, they don't ask the important questions. That you sat down for three hours to gist about a football match doesn't mean you know him. You must take your time to know him and not move fast because speed kills! Moving too fast is going to end in destruction! There's no need to move so fast! There's no need to rush!

Like I always tell people, I don't care how old you are; don't walk around with the I-want-to-get-married attitude. If you are desperate, you reduce your chances of making a good decision. I am yet to see

anybody that negotiated well under desperation or pressure. When you negotiate under duress, you will make the wrong choices and end up being cheated. Instead of rushing to the altar, try to cultivate genuine friendship. Let the relationship grow out of friendship because after the wedding, after the dresses and after the flowers, what will be left at the end of the day is still that friendship. After the children and after menopause, what will be left is that friendship. Let the friendship grow! Let it blossom! Know him well enough before you begin to think of walking down the aisle.

You will notice that when you go on the first date, everybody is acting like an angel. Everybody puts on an act because they know what is at stake. You want to get married and he wants to get married so you are both posing. When he asks you how you're doing, you say you're fine even though you might not be. When he asks what you will take, you tell him nothing, just water. Everybody is faking it. On that first date, both of you are acting but some months down the line, you're both eating in each other's houses. You're

getting comfortable with each other. That's the point of friendship.

Unfortunately, many people speed up the friendship part and quickly go to the romance, love text messages and flowers part. They forget what the most important thing is: friendship is the place where you can know the person because sometimes in a romantic relationship, you are too blind to see the real person,

You see it helps when there are no strings attached hence, you must genuinely desire to make friends innocently with people. That is where true love will grow from because when there is true friendship, nobody is pretending. When it's just pure gist based on friendship, people tend to release themselves more but when there is something at stake, everybody's guard is up. You'll be trying to impress each other unnecessarily. In fact there are two men who told me they are looking for wives but the moment they start talking to a lady, she agrees to everything they say. Now these two people have told me the same thing and I don't think they planned it.

Two different people said they intentionally test the lady by saying something wrong just to find out if she will agree and she agreed. It just shows the kind of desperate ladies out there! When you tell her, "I don't like this person, he lacks the ability to make sound decisions" she won't argue with you. She automatically agrees! If in the same breath the guy says, "The guy is not so bad. He's okay." She also agrees. She suddenly doesn't have a mind of her own because she wants to get married.

Ladies, let me give you a word of advice: be yourself! Men don't want you to be hundred per cent like them. They don't want to marry another man. They want to marry you; a woman! Be yourself! Don't claim to like, football if you don't. Don't go and buy a club's jersey simply because he belongs to that club. That he is a football lover doesn't mean you have to be. Stop trying to impress him. Be yourself! Many women are pretending, trying to make it to the altar but they are not trying to make it in marriage. You can pretend to make it to the altar but you can't pretend to make it in marriage. You have to be yourself to make it in a marriage relationship because you can't pretend

forever. Your true nature will come out. He will eventually find out you don't like football and a host of other things you pretended you liked just because you wanted to marry him and when he does, there will be trouble. Nobody likes to know they've been deceived so drop the pretense and be yourself!

That was one of the qualities that attracted me to my wife! We went to the same secondary school together but I didn't exactly know her. Ten years after leaving school, I had my first real encounter with her. A couple of my classmates and I went to her house and she came out to talk to us but it was dark. There was no light so I could not see her face. All I could hear was her voice and from the few statements she made that day, I think she even spoke in pidgin English, I knew she was smart and intelligent. I liked what I heard so I decided to investigate further and today, we are married. She wasn't trying to pretend or impress me. She was just herself and it was what attracted me to her.

Don't try to fake it. When you do, you might even miss the real person. Maybe someone has been praying for somebody like you, somebody that is down to earth and real. He enters into a restaurant looking for a girl that can eat eba with her hand and you know you like to eat eba with your hand but because you feel there are important people there, you go for a fork and knife even though you don't know how to use it. So there you are, trying to cut the meat unsuccessfully and he enters and doesn't recognize you because you have changed. Be yourself! Don't pretend! Don't impress anyone just because you want to get married! Cultivate friendship and let it grow. You must know him well enough!

CHAPTER 3

Who Are His Influences?

When I say influences, I mean who are the people that talk to him, the people that he knows and the people that he relates with. The fact is people never really outgrow the circle of friends they walk with. Like it's popularly said, show me a man's friend and I will tell you who he is and birds of a feather, flock together. There is something so strong and so important about the people that surround him.

“He that walks with the wise shall be wise but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (KJV)

Proverbs 13:20

If he is not wise now and he is walking with wise men, he will be wise. Who are his influences? Who are his role models? If his role model has three wives, he might follow his role model. Who are his mentors? Mentors are the prophecy of our future. If his mentor has been divorced ten times, then he might also do the same. Who are the people that he is listening to? If

he is listening to the wrong person, he will act wrongly. You must know these things. If he has a bad mentor, role model and bad friends, it is as bad as him having no role model, no mentor and no friends.

Some people are lone rangers or what you call one man army, they don't respect anybody, when you ask who their mentor is, and they say Jesus Christ. When you see people like that, beware of them. They don't regard any man on earth. "I am a one man army, a self-made man. Nobody helped me when I was suffering in the village. I am the only one that helped myself." My dear, be afraid of those kinds of men. If he has no mentors, nobody can talk to him when he is running mad. Stay away from him now! He must have somebody that can advise him when he wants to make a decision that will sink the family. He must have someone you can run to and say, "Advice your son, advice your friend or advice your protégée. He is about to kill us. He wants to use his house to collect loan to start a business he doesn't know anything about." Who can you tell when he starts receiving strange calls and texts from strange women, when he starts attending strange meetings and has to sleep

overnight every day of the week in some hotel, when he travels and nobody knows about it in the office yet he says it was the office that sent him? Who can you call?

Everybody needs to be accountable. Don't marry a man that is not accountable. If he has no mentors, he is a dangerous man. You know why? Because you married a man that says he is the head and doesn't have a head. You must marry someone that has somebody he can report to; somebody else that can hold him accountable. There was a time when I and my wife went to see my mentor, and we were talking. Jokingly, he asked my wife how married life is and she said very fine and told him not to worry, that if I'm misbehaving, she has his number and he will be the first person she would call. Now it was a joke, but that is how life should be. If I am misbehaving, I should have people somebody can call. Many great people have been destroyed because they have no mentors: Nobody can call them and say that is not the way to do it.

When I was going to put Love, Dating & Marriage on TV for the first time, I had to ask people that had been on Television before me. There were little things they told me that helped; little things like when you are on television, you don't know who you are talking to so there are some things you don't talk about. You don't choose sides; just stay in the middle and preach your gospel. Now, it might look insignificant but it was important. Some joker will say I have no mentor and he will come on air and say rubbish. If John the Baptist had a mentor, I am sure he wouldn't have died young. Many great people have been destroyed because they had no mentors. It wasn't ministry that killed John, it was meddling in someone else's business that killed him (Luke 3:19-20). He left the people he was baptizing and gave his opinion where it was not needed and that was what killed him. If he had a mentor to advise him, he could have been saved from an early death.

Mentors are there to prevent us from tormentors. Your mentor is not your friend. Don't expect him to tell you what you want to hear. He will tell you the truth and

that is what that man needs. When he has a father, people he can submit to, you can go further but until then, stay away from him. He is a dangerous man. There must be role models, mentors, people that can influence him. You must also know his friends! Are all his friends drunk? And do they smell of alcohol? If they do, he will start drinking soon. Even if he doesn't, he might lose his life to drunk driving. I have heard of such stories where the guy is in the car and a drunken friend is the one driving when the car crashes. He wasn't drinking but he went out with his drunken friends. Many people have died like that, so watch his friends.

Another important thing, don't marry somebody that is a freelance Christian, someone that says church is in the heart and doesn't have a pastor. His excuse is that all churches are not good. Today he is winning, tomorrow he is redeemed, next day he is firing the mountain. People like that, God himself doesn't know the church he will be Sunday morning because he changes church the way he changes his shirts. Even God cannot vouch for him. If there's a blessing that he

is supposed to get, the angels can't get it to him because they don't know which church he's going to be that Sunday. He must have a church where he is known, where some people can account for him and vouch for him.

CHAPTER 4

Are We Compatible?

Like I said it is not about getting married, it is crucial to be compatible in different areas of your lives. If you are not, then it means you are divided. The word division is two words joined together. The first one is Di and the second one is Vision so basically division means when two people are going in two different directions. Now, if both of you are headed in two different directions, you are already separating even before the marriage has started. That means there is no singleness of purpose.

Amos 3:3 tells us that

“Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?”(NLT)

When God was about to make woman in Genesis 2:18, it is recorded that,

“And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helpmeet” (KJV)

The word help-meet is actually two words, not a single

word. It means help that is meet; that is suitable and adaptable. My dear, it is not everybody that is suitable and adaptable to you.

There are lots of women whose destinies closed immediately they got married. If you don't want to be a house wife then don't marry a man that wants to make his wife a house wife. Both of you are not compatible! However if you love to be a house wife, there is no problem. There are women that know they have a purpose, that are strong in their career and yet they marry a man who doesn't want them to work! He will shut down your destiny! He will render you purposeless! That is why you must find out if you are compatible or not!

You must check for those little compatibility issues. It might not look important but it is. What does he think about a husband and wife relationship? Does he think the man is the Lord of lords and the King of kings? One that can make decisions without even consulting his wife? Does he believe his word is law and is not contestable even when advised otherwise? Are you

even thinking alike spiritually? Just because both of you are born again doesn't mean both of you can cope. It is not every denomination that can blend together easily. There are churches where men wear earrings and I have preached in such churches. I have also preached in churches where women don't wear earrings. Now tell me how these two people will marry because spiritually, they are not even thinking alike! You have to know if you guys are compatible.

You can't just marry anybody for the sake of marrying. You must be suitable and adaptable to that person. That is what the word help-meet means. Don't marry anybody you see just because he's a Christian. Friend, it's not every Christian Brother and Sister that can stay together. It's not every Christian Brother and Sister that can live together successfully in marriage. There are other basic compatibility issues; social interaction, physique, intellect and purpose. That he is a Christian doesn't mean he interacts well socially. That he is a Christian doesn't mean you have the same vision. That he is a Christian doesn't mean he stimulates you mentally or makes you attracted to him

physically. These things are important and must be put into consideration. Don't manage anybody! It's crucial that you are suitable and adaptable to each other.

Are we compatible? Are we thinking alike? Are we going in the same directions? Do we have the same family values? You must ask these questions and know the answers before you take that relationship further. Many women complain that they have lost their vision because they married a man that could not accept them for who they are but I tell them, "You must have seen the signs! You knew this was going to happen, you were just ignoring all the warning signs because all your friends were getting married and you wanted to get married too. You didn't want to be the only one left!" Look, it's not about who started the race first, it's about who finishes well. And for a long distance race like marriage, you need to prepare well so that you don't faint or even pull out of the race totally. You must prepare well! You must ask the right questions! You must take heed to those little things.

CHAPTER 5

Is He Responsible?

This question is a very serious one for me because there are many irresponsible men today. The fact that someone has the physical anatomy of a man isn't what makes him a man. No! You will find out that in some homes, there are actually two women present because the man there is not a man. It might sound funny but for me, it is a serious issue because families need to be run by men. That is how God ordained it! Responsibility is what separates boys from men. Responsibility is what defines a man! There can't be two women in a home! That man must be responsible! Responsibility in marriage is defined by three things and any man that cannot do any of these three things is not a man. He is a boy and has no business proposing to you. Even if he does, it is in your interest as a wise woman to refuse; at least until he can get his acts together, if he can. The three things are:

CAN HE PRESIDE?

This means can he make sound decisions? Can he give direction to the family? There are women that got married only to realize the man is not a man but a boy. He has no dreams or vision, no plan whatsoever! He is only interested in enjoying life and buying things to look good but never in planning and investments. He doesn't care about owning a house or building a business. He cannot make sound decisions that can move the family out of the level it is to the next level. That is an irresponsible man!

Listen to me, I don't care how much that man is earning now, if he cannot do anything about his financial life, if he doesn't have the ability to make sound financial decisions, things will get worse. If he is earning a hundred and twenty thousand naira today, in the next four years, a hundred and twenty thousand will not keep him. It will not run his expenses or sustain him because his expenses will grow. He has to increase financially as well and not just increase, he has to outgrow his expenses. Otherwise, he is on the path to poverty and if you

marry him, so are you.

The truth is, everybody has expenses but a poor man is someone that has expenses that are more than his income while a rich man is a man that earns beyond his expenses. He has extra! That is why he is rich. As a matter of fact, rich people spend more than poor people but they are still richer because their income level is far higher than their expense level. That is what separates the rich from the poor!

If that man cannot make decisions that will give direction to the family and take it to another level, my dear do not marry him. Do not commit yourself to a man that will jeopardize not only your own future but the future of your children as well. He must be a man that can make sound decisions no matter what!

Another category of men you should avoid totally are men that are mummy's boy. He can't do anything except his mummy says so. He must ask his mummy first before any decision can be made, even to the kind of house he should live in. It is in this part of the world that you see a child give birth to another child in the same house. You see a full grown man living

with his father and giving birth in that house then when that child grows, he will also marry in that house and have children there as well. It's wrong!

The bible says in Genesis 2:24

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall be one flesh”(KJV)

There is need for responsibility! Don't marry a mummy's boy who can't do anything except he asks mummy! I'm not saying there's anything wrong in taking advice from your parents or regarding them but you must understand that the man is now the head of the home. He must know what to do. The responsibility lies on him! He can't run to his father's house every time because he is now someone's father too or will soon be! He must be able to make sound decisions.

CAN HE PROVIDE?

Friends I will say this directly and clearly, don't marry a man that doesn't have a job! I don't care when he finished school and how long he's been looking for a job; don't marry that kind of a man. If he tells you he

has finished school since 1982 and nobody is giving him a job, he is making excuses! He can't give you the excuse that things are not easy! Even for the man working, life is not easy for him! There is no easy way out in being a man! I was talking to a businessman and he said something very profound. He said, "Pastor there is no easy way to being a man. After you tackle one issue, another issue arises." So being a man is tackling issues till you die. There will be no day that you will be free from handling issues. If he is saying nobody employed him, then he should employ himself by creating a job! That is why he is a man.

To be a man means you are limitless. A man is what represents God in a home. He can't be speaking limitation! He should start a business or go and learn a trade. He must do something! God has empowered each of us especially as His children. He has given us the anointing to prosper. He expects us to be fruitful and multiply. How then can someone sit down and say there is no job? Not even in a country like ours. Nigeria is a place with many untapped areas. How can a man say he doesn't have a job because nobody gave him a job? He is a dangerous man because the

day he even gets the job and loses it, he will not do anything about it. He will just sit down with a stool in front of his house and collect greetings from passersby who are on their way to work. In fact, he becomes the “key collector”, one who holds everybody’s house keys when they’re going to work since he has nowhere to go to. He becomes the errand boy instead of going to look for work.

You have to be wary of such a man. He might abandon you and your kids in the future because he’s too lazy to fend for himself, not to mention you and your children. That’s why you hear of stories of women who were abandoned by their husbands when they gave birth to triplets. His line suddenly becomes unavailable and unreachable because he knows the bill involved and cannot rise to the occasion. I have seen many women complain today because they are the ones carrying the load of the family. The man is too lazy to do anything! But she saw the signs before they got married and thought he would change. That is a woman’s slogan; he will change. You don’t know men! They get tougher as they grow older. They don’t

change, things only get worse! Who he is now is what matters! If he has not changed before now, why do you think because of you he would change?

The bible says in 2Thessalonians 3:10

“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: If a man will not work, let him not eat” (NLT)

If the Bible says such a person shouldn't even eat, should that person now be getting married? If he cannot work, don't give him food; how then can you now give him a wife? When God said don't give him food, He knew what He is saying. Allow the man stand up! He is a man, allow him stand up! The issue is that most times, we allow men to stay on the ground. A child that is trying to walk will most times fall. If you have seen a baby trying to walk, you know you have to be patient and allow the baby fall. If you don't want to let the baby fall, he will never walk. It's the same way with a man. He must build his muscles. He must go out there and work! If he says he can't find any, let him keep searching until he does. Don't pity him! Don't give him food! The hunger will make him think.

That was what made the Prodigal son go back to his father's house (Luke 15: 11-20). Hunger is the only recommended antidote for a lazy man!

The first thing God gave Adam before giving him a wife was a job (Genesis 2:15). Simple! It is scriptural! Don't marry an unemployed man. Let him go and get a job first. He must look for job first before he looks for a wife. It gives confidence. Even if it is a small job, it is better than no job. When I see a full grown man who doesn't have call credit on his phone to "flash" his wife; I didn't say call her, I said "flash", I'm amazed! It is wrong! He must be able to provide. Can he provide for even himself for is he still collecting 'pocket money' from his parents? Don't marry a man that his mother is still giving him pocket money and he is using it to take you out to a restaurant. No! That is not fast food; it's slow hunger because on the long run, he won't be able to fend for you! It is because Adam had a job that God decided he needed a help meet. If he has no job what does he need a help meet for? The help is to help you do the job so get a job first before marriage.

CAN HE PROTECT?

This is another quality that defines what responsibility is in marriage. As the man in the house, that is one of the principal assignments God has given him: to protect that house. The word husband means house-band: to cover the house. The man is the covering over the house so can he protect? Can he protect the family? Can he protect the wife from in-laws? You know, when I hear things like somebody's mother-in-law slapped her or she entered the kitchen and insulted the wife, those things annoy me. They make me upset because I'm wondering, where was the man in the house when all that was going on? Where was the man? A man cannot be there and all that is going on! That is a boy, not a man! A man's job is to protect his family! He can't be there and someone is beating his wife. He can't be there and someone is insulting his wife. He must be able to protect you; even from his mother!

When I hear men say, "My mother abused my wife but I could not do anything," I'm wondering how? Why couldn't you do anything? How did it even get to the

point where your mother comes into your home and verbally and physically abuses your wife? How? That is why I am telling you now; don't marry a mummy's boy! And for the record, it is not the mother's fault! If you leave a woman, she will breast feed her boy till he is forty. That is how mothers are! They have that uncontrollable love for their children. They still want you to be tied to their apron strings but you have to cut yourself loose! I'm not saying be disrespectful to your mother but you have to put your foot down and make them realize you're an adult and no longer a baby. The truth is, no matter how old you get, you will always be a child to your parents so you must know where to draw the line.

Another way to create a balance in this kind of relationship is the man of the house intercepting and telling that woman, "Leave that boy and let him grow." He should bring discipline to that mother-child relationship. It's sad that there are married men that go to their mother's house to eat because there's no man present to create the balance. These men are married with children but they still go to their

mothers' house to ask what she cooked. What happened to your house? Why can't you eat in your house? Stop complaining about your wife's cooking and go home! If he knew he was going to go back to his mother's house every time to eat, he should not have bothered with you. He should have married his mother. He must be able to protect you from your in-laws, protect you from even your own parents, and protect you from anybody you need protection from.

I can't imagine my mother insulting my wife in any way. No! She doesn't do it. She is my wife, not our wife. My wife! If you don't like anything, I like it! Thank you for the complaints but I like it. If there's anything I don't like, I'll let her know myself, I don't need anybody to do it on my behalf. I must protect her from anything and anyone that can hurt her! I'm always amazed with women who marry a man that was already beating them in courtship. There is no way that man will protect you from anything or anyone. Instead, he is the one you will need protection from because he is the one doing the beating and assault. Unfortunately, women give stupid excuses for such actions. You hear women say, "But I'm the one that

provoked him."Listen to me; no matter the level of provocation, the man should not be beating you.

When a man beats a woman, it just shows weakness.

Why can't he go and fight his mates on the street?

Why can't he go to the ring and earn money beating somebody professionally rather than beating you for free at home? It is a sign of weakness! That same man

beating his wife at home, if you take him to a place where he can fight men his size and age, you will see

him begging and asking to be let go. He will suddenly

turn to a preacher preaching the message of peace yet he mercilessly beats his wife at home. It is a sign

of weakness. Don't marry a man who is already beating you now in courtship all in the name of discipline. As a Pastor, I hear different kinds of

excuses for this type of action. It's not his place to discipline you. You are not married and even if you

are, if he wants to correct you, he should do it in love, not with his fists. He must be able to protect you

I remember when I was growing up that my mum used

to rear chickens and I discovered that even chickens do these things before they start mating. When the

hen is ready to mate, she begins to make certain kinds

of sound that she is ready to have children. Of course in the pack, there is usually more than one cock so the bigger cock or the most responsible cock climbs on the stage and he doesn't just start sleeping with her. Men that say, "If you love me, you will sleep with me" are not interested in taking it further than just sleeping with you. They don't have your interest at heart. They're not ready to protect you! The cock doesn't just start sleeping with the hen. The first thing he does is look for accommodation first! He can't touch her until he shows her a comfortable place.

I'm not telling you something someone told me, no! I love animals so I watch the way they live. The cock will take the hen around and they will look for a corner. When they find one, the male will enter first to survey the place and bend down the way she will bend over her eggs to check whether it's comfortable or not. He will then come out and allow her enter the place to check it out for herself. She will sit down to do so and you know women, they are not easy to please. She might say, "I don't like it. It is too exposed." He will say, "No problem, let's go" and will take her to

somewhere else where he will start the same procedure all over again. He will sit down and say, "Is it okay? You can lay the eggs here. You can have children here, and this is a good home." He will come out for her to enter the place and examine it herself. She might say, "The ground is too hard. I need a more comfortable place." Off they go and he will keep taking her around without touching or kissing until they get to a place where the lady now accepts that we can lay eggs here, we can have children here. Then they start the mating.

Another thing the cock does is to also preside and protect. When they go out for food, the cock does the scratching. When he's done, he steps aside for her to pick the food and eat. I have seen a car hit a hen before and if you see the way the cock flew, chased that car and was hitting that car, I was wowed! That cock was ready to do anything to hurt the driver that hit his hen. He was ready to protect her.

Eagles also have this attitude. When a Falcon wants to start mating with the male eagle, she picks up a small stick the size of an eaglet and takes it very high then

drops it to see if the eagle can catch it. If the male eagle catches it before it lands, she knows that if her children are falling, he can catch them because they lay eggs in very high places. Next, she will look for something her size, pick it up and drop it. If the male eagle catches it before it lands, then she knows that if she is falling, he will be able to catch her. It is at this point she mates with him.

Now, if animals understand these things and are practicing scriptures, why can't you? Unfortunately, nowadays a lot of women are cheap. You just offer yourself to him like that without him paying the price. Don't just let anybody sleep with you! Let him marry you first! Your price is more than rubies! He must pay the price! He must marry you, preside over you, protect you and provide for you! If he doesn't do these things, he's not qualified! Stay away from him for your own good!

CHAPTER 6

When?

Imagine there's a knock on your door and when you go to open it, you see him standing there with a cake box in his hand. When he opens it, the first thing you see is a bouquet of flowers and after that, he brings out a small velvet box and opens it. In it is a gold and diamond engagement ring. He brings it out, goes down on one knee and after highlighting your lovely qualities asks, "Will you marry me?" My dear, as you collect the ring, in all the excitement, don't forget to ask him, "When? You must ask 'when' because you need to find out if your program lines up with his. It is important you know when!

Take for instance a lady that is thirty years old and somebody wants to marry her but wants to do so in the year 2025. It sounds funny but I have seen people who courted for 10years or 12years and I'm not talking about young people but people of marriageable age. It is risky to wait unnecessarily for a man that long.

The Bible says in Proverbs 29: 18

“When there is no vision, the people perish but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (KJV)

One version says without vision, the people cast off restraint (NIV). Another says without vision, the people grow idle. A different version says the people enter an inferior condition while another version says the people run wild (NLT). There must be a vision.

The law of life is that there must be vision for everything we do. Can you imagine gaining admission into the university and when you asked how long the course would take, the school authorities said they didn't know, that the last set that entered are still there and it has been 15 years? Just start anytime; when you finish, you finish. How many of you will go to that school? There needs to be a vision! You can't enter courtship indefinitely.

If he wants to marry you, then when? The timing might not agree with your own. You might not have the time to wait for him. In this part of the world, a man can be all over you and after two years, say, “Sister I am

being troubled in my spirit. The Holy Spirit has been dealing with me in an awesome manner.” He will give you all kinds of spiritual jargons but the base line is, “I don’t think we can continue anymore.” He has wasted two years of your life, time and chance with someone else. Many women have been messed up like that. Don’t enter an indefinite relationship. It’s not healthy.

One of my daughters in the Lord came to us and was telling us that she was on her way to go and pick her wedding cards when her fiancée just called her and told her not to go, that they needed to talk. Now, these two people have been in courtship for a while. She said she went to see him and the guy said, “You see; I need time.” She was on her way to collect the wedding invitations when he called her which means plans were already in motion and the stage was set for their wedding so of course she asked, “How much time do you need?” Guess what his response was? “I don’t really know, just give me time.” Should she be waiting for that kind of man? You want to marry me is a good proposition but when? When? Let’s see if the timing works! Can you imagine someone who wants to

host the World Cup and when you ask him when, he says he doesn't care. You have to give us time! Without vision, people perish!

Unfortunately in situations like this, it is women that usually suffer. A woman can enter courtship with someone for 5 years or 7 years and at that time, she is now 32 and the guy might be 38. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the guy says he's no longer interested and drops you. As a woman, you might not be able to find another spouse but a man can marry the next day. He can see someone else the next day and marry her. He can go to the village to line up all the women there and chose one or he can go to the market or mall and pick one woman from there and that is all. For you however, time is running out so don't waste your life. I have seen too many women that have been kept waiting and today they cannot move forward. Asking when is a good and valid question.

CHAPTER 7

Is He Born-Again?

Friend, marriage is not just a physical thing; that is the truth. As much as you don't hear people say these things, marriage originated from God.

“God is a spirit so those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”(NLT)

John 4:24

Listen friends, the way some Christians behave; you will realize that they don't even know what it means to be born-again. If it wasn't necessary for Jesus to die, He wouldn't have died. He will just give us inspirational messages or motivational messages and go back to heaven but He died. He didn't just die for fun; He died to first change our nature. When we were unbelievers, we had the nature of our biological parents alone and that is the natural man which is the nature of sin. The natural man is selfish, the natural man is wicked. Even the Word tells us that the heart of man is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). That is the

natural man. If you see all the wickedness going on in the world, you will know that man can be wicked.

Somebody said, 'Anything that is human is not alien to me.' That means if somebody has done something before, then it means you can do it too. Without the spirit of God, there is no limit to how far you can go. If somebody has killed before, you can do it too. If not for the spirit of God, you can't know how far you can go. There are people that have used their parents for ritual killings. There are people that have killed their children. You say they are wicked but that's the way they are. They have natural minds. When you are natural, you are under the god of this world. He can push you and drive you to do anything. There are people that have joined secret cults just to get money. People have done all kinds of things.

There is a story of a guy in Austria that locked up his daughter for many years and raped her. That is a natural human being for you. There are Presidents of countries that have been ruling before they gave birth to me. When I was a baby and still crying, I was

hearing their names and until a while back, they were still the President. They are very old now but they still hold on to power and say, "I will rule! I will rule!" He can't even talk but he wants to die in power. These are natural tendencies.

Imagine you marry a man like that. So when I say he should be born again, it is not just that he goes to church. There are people that go to church that are not saved. It is about letting Christ come into you and change your nature principally.

Friend, I have been a sinner and now I am saved. There is a great difference! I was not just a learning sinner, I was a mature sinner. Just name it and you can be sure I did it. I used to tell people that if you can conceive it, I can do it. I did all sorts of things and I can tell you there was no profit in it. My heart goes out to people when I see them do wrong things.

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (NIV)

Romans 5:5

The natural man doesn't care for others like that. They kill others. Our country is the way it is because the people up there don't care. You can't be in darkness for three weeks at a stretch and not have a tendency to go insane because if the television and radio are not talking to you, you will start talking to yourself. When you start talking to yourself, you're on the path to insanity. You cannot be embezzling money when people are suffering and dying and you are not moved. You cannot be assigned the contract for the road and you embezzled the money while people are having accident on that same road and not feel any remorse. Blood, human blood is being spilled as a result of your actions and yet, you are buying perfumes, travelling round the world and happy. That is not natural. That is the ungodly nature.

You can't afford to marry a man that is not born again, that is not filled with the spirit of God. When he is born again, He is no more being ruled by the lust of the flesh and the natural tendencies: he is now being ruled by the spirit of God. There is a difference. Don't say I will change him. You are not the Holy Ghost. Let

God change him. The Bible says we should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2Corinthians 6:14).

A scripture that clearly shows what it means to be saved is in Ephesians 2:1-2

“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” (KJV)

This means there is a prince of the power of the air. There is a demon power operating in the world. In other words everybody is influenced by a spirit, either positive or negative. If you are not filled by the Holy Spirit, you are filled by the evil spirit. You say he is very nice but being nice is not a fruit of the Holy Spirit. This scripture tells us there is a spirit at work in the children of disobedience.

It goes further to say in verse 3

“Among whom we also had our conversation in time past in lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind and we were by nature, the children of wrath, even as others” (KJV)

In other words, it is our nature to do negative things. It was natural to lie. It was natural to steal. It was natural to kill. However, when Jesus came, the thing He died for us was to change our nature so it is no more natural to lie; it's natural to say the truth, it's no more natural to steal; it is natural to give, it's no more natural to kill; it's natural to make alive. What He changed was our nature. The scripture above says we were by nature the children of wrath; fighting, striving, killing and murdering but now He has changed our nature. Now we have the right to cultivate righteousness and cultivate the fruit of the Spirit and live a life exemplary of Christ. Don't marry somebody that does not have the Spirit of God. I don't care how nice he is and I don't think you should either. If he is not born again, it is a dangerous affair.

CONCLUSION

Perhaps there's someone thinking, "Pastor, it's not that easy to just walk away. I already like this guy and besides, I have answers to some, not all but some." My dear, every one of those questions are important and you must know the answer to all of them. It is vital to the success of that relationship. A lot of times when women talk like this, it is because they're scared and are thinking, "Where will I find a guy that will give me all these things? Do they even exist?" Yes! Yes they do! There are such men. It is not your place to go about looking for men because the bible says it is the man that finds a wife that finds a good thing (Proverbs 18:22). Your job is to wait but while waiting, build yourself, develop your skills and gifts, walk consciously with God and that man will find you.

There's a book called "7 Qualities Wise Men Want" also written by me that you should add to your library. It's a book that talks about the qualities a wise man should look for in a woman he wants to marry. So, for you as a woman, they are qualities you should have. Grow yourself mentally and spiritually and you can be

sure that as you trust God for that man and wait on Him, he will find you and your expectation will not be cut off.

SURRENDER TO CHRIST

Marriage originated from God and if you are going to have the marriage of your dreams, you must be of God. You cannot be in the world and expect to get the results that are of God hence you must be born again. If you are not, now is the best opportunity to do so as you say this prayer after me:

Lord Jesus,

I come to you today and acknowledge I am a sinner. I believe that you came and died and rose again for me and I open my heart to you and ask that you be my Lord and Savior from today onwards.

Thank you Lord for saving me and translating me into your kingdom

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kingsley Okonkwo is the founder and Head Pastor at David's Christian Centre, a vibrant church with worship centers in Lagos. With well over a decade of full-time ministry behind him, Pastor K as he is fondly called is a profound teacher with a passion for victory through the word. A unique minister of the the gospel, his say-it-as-it-is approach to the word of God has endeared him to many especially the generation of youths.

Pastor Kingsley is the host of the popular monthly relationship seminar; Love, Dating and Marriage which currently airs weekly on television stations and aims at building strong marriages based on timeless biblical principles. He has authored numerous books, organized countless seminars and is a much sought after speaker whose humor and practical styled teachings have been a blessing to people of all ages and races.

He currently runs THE EDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL, a training ground for entrepreneurs who wish to get an edge in Business.

He is happily married to his lovely wife and best friend Mildred who pastors with him and they are blessed with a beautiful daughter.



OTHER BOOKS BY

- **PASTORS KINGSLEY AND MILDRED**

OKONKWO

- WHO SHOULD I MARRY
- 25 WRONG REASONS WHY PEOPLE ENTER INTO
RELATIONSHIPS
 - WHEN AM I READY
 - JUST US GIRLS
- I LOVE YOU BUT MY PARENTS SAY NO
 - GOD TOLD ME TO MARRY YOU
 - SHOULD LADIES PROPOSE?
 - WAITING FOR ISAAC
- 7 QUESTIONS WISE WOMEN ASK
 - A-Z OF MARRIAGE
- CHAYIL: Secrets of the Virtuous Woman
 - CHAYIL PRAYER JOURNAL
- HELP! My Husband is Acting Funny

