



CONJUGAL Speed

A GUIDE TO GET YOU MARRIED THIS YEAR.

SEUN ADEBOWALE

CONJUGAL SPEED

A GUIDE TO GET YOU MARRIED THIS YEAR.

Seun Adebowale

All rights reserved.

Published by [Heart2World Publishing](#)

© Seun Adebowale 2017

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| REASONS FOR DELAY IN MARRIAGE..... | 4 |
| Why the delay?..... | 5 |
| DON'T BE DESPERATE | 14 |
| Who is desperate?..... | 14 |
| Debunk the myths | 15 |
| BEWARE OF SEX! | 24 |
| Pre-marital Sex is Sin! | 24 |
| WAIT, OPT OUT OR GO FORWARD..... | 32 |
| Define it | 32 |
| The Three Options | 35 |
| SET GOALS..... | 43 |
| Be Wedding S.M.A.R.T..... | 43 |
| 6 SIGNS THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO THE ALTAR..... | 51 |
| VIRTUALS FOR YOUR JOURNEY | 58 |
| Just like Joshua | 58 |
| I HAVE A CHILD ALREADY, WHO WILL MARRY ME? | 68 |
| Marriage after One..... | 69 |
| THE ULTIMATE WEDDING | 77 |
| CONTACT..... | 79 |

REASONS FOR DELAY IN MARRIAGE

“I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.” –
Psalm 119:60

Ola is a successful businessman with many streams of income. He is the bread winner of his extended family and has sponsored the weddings of two of his family members but everyone is concerned that he is not showing signs of settling down soon. Oni his friend from childhood, who has three children

already, took it upon himself to ask him why he has refused to settle down despite the success he is enjoying. After much pressure Ola opened up that he has met a number of ladies he is attracted to but the moment he has sexual relations with them, the desire to marry them suddenly dies. He is afraid of committing himself to a marriage that is devoid of love.

Why the delay?

So many people are afraid of the unknown in marriage. They are not sure if they will be able to live up to expectations of marriage and the uncertainties surrounding it. Some are afraid of the roles of in-

laws, while others like in the case above are already deeply plagued by pre-marital sex to make any meaningful choice. In addition to these, some of the top reasons why people who are financially buoyant and should otherwise be married are still gracing the robe of singleness are as follows:

So many people are afraid of the unknown in marriage.

1. Fear of Dependence

I went for a course some time ago and I discovered that all but one of the female facilitators was married even though they were well advanced in age. But all of them had at least a child. In fact, we the attendees

raised a debate about it and traced the likely cause to the fact that these successful women could have an issue with submission. Marriage is not for independent people, this is a known fact. People who love to be in control find it difficult to be submissive and marriage is all about submission. Husband and wife must submit to one another to have a peaceful home. Marriage is about joint decisions and actions. People who are afraid of living their lives subject to the approval of others find it difficult to proceed to the altar knowing that it is a lifelong commitment. To overcome this fear, love is the cure. If you truly love someone you should be able to share your life with the person and submit to the person but first

you must allow yourself to trust and then be loved.

Please note that submission here applies to both partners.

2. Poor Appearance and Attitude

Your appearance can either attract or repel people from you. Sincerely, there are people you meet whose appearance and attitude are a turn-off. I've heard someone say if "so so" is the only person left in this world I will rather remain single. Everyone needs to be presentable and desirable especially the singles. I am sorry to say this but I have met some Christian sisters (and brothers) and I wonder who is going to marry them because of their "holiness mentality". What I mean is that to discuss anything

with them even makes you afraid. Some other people have attitudes that are not worth more than ten naira in the market. I have heard that your attitude determines your altitude and I believe that it can even determine the date of your wedding.

Your appearance can either attract or repel people from you.

3. Isolation

This follows through on the previous point. People meet people to get married. There are so many people that cannot remember when last they attended a programme outside their normal routine. Other things remaining equal, the fewer people you

meet the fewer the chances of you meeting your future partner particularly if that person is not in your inner circle. God did not create us to be islands, we are social beings. You are supposed to be outgoing. There are some people who always find beautiful excuses to be absent from events, such people should know that one has to make contacts to be visible. I am not saying that you should become an event freak; no I am simply saying be lively, be sociable and be visible. In this matter, **temperament is not an excuse!** Even if you are extremely quiet and reserved, still go out and show how reserved you are. If a person is not noticed he/she is not likely to be found for marriage. Let's be

frank, visibility increases your chances of connecting with your future partner.

4. Perfection Mentality

A woman told me many years ago that if it were by the standards she set she would never have married her husband. There are two things I noticed about their union, first the man was clearly older than her and secondly she was more educated. She said she wouldn't have considered his proposal if not because she felt she was getting old and that he was a godly man. But the truth be told, the couple were almost perfect. They were a good example and source of inspiration to me when I was in contact with them. Today I am thankful that she accepted his proposal.

There are many people who are still single today because they consider their suitors unfit for the list that they have set for themselves. Know this, **MARRIAGE IS NOT ABOUT PERFECT PEOPLE** but imperfect people loving each other perfectly. If you are still holding on to your perfect list, I wish you all the best but know this, **beautiful things may not come in beautiful packages.**

There are many people who are still single today because they consider their suitors unfit for the list that they have set for themselves.

5. Distance from God

Believe me, marriage is a spiritual matter. Some people are grazing in a farm that doesn't belong to them and do not even know it. Haven't you heard of courtships that lasted for as much as eight years only for one of the parties to marry another person out of the blue? In such cases, let us not be in a hurry to blame the defaulter because it is never advisable to marry the wrong person regardless of how long the courtship has lasted. When a person has a working relationship with God, HE will guide such a person into marriage and prevent unnecessary investment in an unfruitful relationship. Please don't ever join the group of people that say God has stopped giving people marriage partners because He hasn't.

DON'T BE DESPERATE

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Galatians 1:10

Who is desperate?

A desperate person can do anything to achieve his goals. This means that the person can take wrong steps in the bid to achieve his goal. In the issue of marriage, desperation will lead only to bad choices and if there is one mistake that shouldn't be made in marriage, it is making bad choices.

These two definitions of the word “Desperate” from the Merriam-Webster dictionary is enough inspiration never to be desperate:

1. Very sad and upset because of having little or no hope: feeling or showing despair.
2. Done with all of your strength or energy and with little hope of succeeding.

Don't allow anything steal your hope and confidence. The Bible calls us royalty. God took special care in putting the fabric that is called “you” together. Don't permit yourself to be anything less than what God ordained you to be.

Debunk the myths

These are some of the things that make people become desperate

1. I am not rich enough to marry

When I told my parents that I was going to get married, the first question they asked me is “where is the money?” In fact most people that had insight to the wedding plans before the date was set were concerned about money. They kept on asking me if I had stocked up a large sum of money in my savings. The truth is that, as at when I was planning marriage I didn't have half as much money as people were imagining in their hearts. My strategy was simple, **KEEP IT SIMPLE!** But do you know that eventually it was bigger in scale than I ever imagined and all I

can say is that God helped me. My conclusion is this, like every other project in life money is needed but is not the major requirement. If you can plan well and cut your coat according to your material, all will be well.

Don't permit yourself to be anything less than what God ordained you to be.

2. There is something wrong with me.

Hello!! THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU.
Stop thinking that you are jinxed because you are not! The fact that you have been disappointed several times doesn't mean that you are hapless; it

simply means you haven't found the right person. There is a time for everything. Growing up I knew I was different and it was obvious. I beat up myself for many years because I didn't do things like my peers did them but somewhere along the line I appreciated my difference and wore it proudly. Anything that makes you different is your unique experience; groom it or trim it but don't ever feel sorry for yourself.

Please note if anyone has broken up with you it is not a loss it is gain! It is better to have escaped death than to drive straight into it. Stop condemning yourself because of a relationship that broke. Even if it is clear that you made errors that led to the break

up, that is not enough reason to kill yourself. Dear friend, forgive yourself, note the mistakes, make amends and move on with your life.

3. I am getting too old.

It has been said repeatedly that age is only a number. I will rather wait for the will of God than to enter into a marriage that will lead to heart aches and eventual break up. If you have not found what you are looking for, don't settle for what you don't want. It's no doubt tough when most of your mates are married but you aren't, but you must know that **marriage is not a competition.** I have heard it said that "if you rush into marriage, you will rush out." The most important things in marriage are the

right partner and the right timing. I know someone who married late, I mean, very late by human calculation, and did not even show signs of inferiority among his colleagues who were married. Now he is married and even I am almost envious of his family.

The most important things in marriage are the right partner and the right timing.

4. I am under pressure from everywhere

The first thing I want to say here is that everyone is under pressure and we all will continue to be under pressure. Before the achievement of anything you aspire to attain, you are under pressure do it. When

you have done it, you are under pressure to keep it. When you have kept it, you are under pressure to do more. Life is full of pressures.

The fact that everyone is on your neck to get married does not mean that you should let them steal your life. Some parents and well-wishers go as far as practically forcing people to marry their own arranged suitors. Don't forget that marriage is forever and it is you who will be in the marriage. The others are at best third parties. If you are pressured into marriage how will you cope with the pressures that will follow the marriage? Don't let anyone push you into a ditch. Shine your eyes, stand your ground! Marry only on your own terms.

5. I am bored

If you are bored, being single is not the reason why you are bored. Many people are on the verge of losing their minds because they are constantly thinking about marriage (without taking positive steps). They are living in isolation even when they have people around them. **Marriage is not a solution to boredom.** There are married people who are bored; if you can't lead a sparkling life while single how will you spice up your home in marriage to be bubbly? If you feel that you need someone, talk to someone. Stop allowing your mind to play tricks on you by allowing yourself to wallow in self-pity. Stop sitting in dark corners, being single is not a

plague! If you are bored as a single it means that you are operating an unhealthy lifestyle. Being single is fun and that has not changed.

Marriage is not a solution to boredom.

BEWARE OF SEX!

“Flee from sexual immorality.” – 1 Corinthians 6:18a

Pre-marital Sex is Sin!

There is no gainsaying here; the mind of God is simple and clear on the matter of sex. Sex outside the institution of marriage is SIN! The fact that you have done an introduction ceremony is not a license to have sex or engage in touching, petting and the likes. INTRODUCTION IS NOT WEDDING! Until you are legally wedded in the presence of witnesses, you are not yet married. Any sexual act outside

marriage is a sin. As a Christian, sex is forbidden until you have been joined in the presence of God and the brethren.

I know that the moment you commit to a serious relationship, your body begins to call for sexual attention. This is perfectly normal; in fact if you are not sexually attracted to your partner something is wrong. This is one of the reasons why courtship shouldn't be unnecessarily long and done in close corners.

Forget about the decadence in the world today, the standard of God still remains the same. God will not compromise His standard on sex. The Lord detests sexual sin. If there is a doubt in your heart that

people can be sexually pure before marriage then you will most likely fall into sexual sin. If your aim is to stay sexually pure no matter the temptation, you are in a more firm position to receive God's grace.

Apart from the issue of sin against God and your body, these are some reasons why you mustn't fall into the trap of sex before marriage.

1. It breaks trust.

Without trust all is lost in marriage. Please know that marriage is not a sprint, it is a marathon. If you have gone to the bed before marriage it sends an unhealthy reminder to your spouse after you have married. Your spouse may begin to have doubts that you would not be able to withstand pressures from

outside the home when you eventually get married. If you commit to staying chaste before marriage, this issue of lack of trust when you have to work late and so on will be easier to settle for your spouse.

Marriage is not a sprint, it is a marathon.

2. It hinders mutual respect.

Staying away from sexual relations before marriage portrays you as a person of value. Do you know that there is very high tendency that all your immediate in-laws know whether you are chaste or not? You earn so much respect from your partner when you have kept yourself. There is so much joy on the

wedding night when both ‘innocent’ parties teach themselves how to make love for the very first time. This experience and exchange of love and mutual respect cannot be traded for anything.

3. It spoils your market.

If you are serious minded you will weep when you hear of how guys talk victoriously of ladies they have slept with. The shame and disgust would be unbearable if the ladies were to have a recorded tape of it. I have heard people both male and female discourage their loved ones from moving close to certain people. Know that if you lie with someone you are not married to, it is not a secret, one day it will come out and your integrity will be rubbished.

4. It condemns your testimony

I saw a movie where someone bet that he would deflower a Christian lady, he was making progress and my heart was sinking; finally God intervened and the girl's eyes were open and he lost out. I was so relieved! If you say you are a Christian and you are kissing and romancing each other outside marriage, where is your testimony? The standard that Christians in courtship should not so much as hug themselves is a good one and is recommended by me. Your testimony should be bigger than your excuse for sin.

Your testimony should be bigger than your excuse for sin.

5. It postpones the date

The next statement is controversial, look at it well. Whether you want to acknowledge it or not, the desire to have sexual relations with your spouse also drives the speed with which you proceed to the altar. If your partner knows that both of you cannot know each other until the wedding night, the distance to the altar will be subconsciously cut short. The moment both of you have had sexual relations there is nothing again to know (This is because you can know almost all things about your relationship

without personal contact except sex). If pre-marital sex is engaged in, then the altar will then be “if it comes it comes.” If you really want to get married soon, stay sexually pure.

WAIT, OPT OUT OR GO FORWARD

“Why are we sitting here until we die?” – 2 Kings 7:3b

Define it

This is the junction of decision. There are several cases of people who are in all kinds of undefined relationships. They don't know what they are actually doing together. If you are in a relationship that is not defined you are cooking a meal that you don't know who is going to eat it. The first step in every relationship is DEFINITION. You must be able

to ask “Are we just friends or there is something more?”

What is the point of being just friends with somebody for two years and everybody is thinking that both of you are going somewhere, yet you guys are not speaking to one another about it. **Excuse me; break the silence!** Some have said that if they ask they might lose the fellow; that is a lie! You cannot lose someone who will marry you by asking pertinent questions that will build your future. Sister, ask him! Brother, open up!

The first step in every relationship is DEFINITION.

Define where you are going. **Stop fasting over someone who only sees you as a friend or beloved brethren in Christ.** It is better you settle the matter once and for all. The Bible says that you cannot take fire into your bosom without your clothes getting burnt. (Proverbs 6:27). Why should you and someone speak every day on personal and emotional matters, send messages to one another and attend functions together without having a defined relationship? That is plain wickedness!

Don't just assume that everything will fall into place with time. Take the right step of talking about the matter. **Defining your relationship is a sign of maturity and seriousness.** It is better to know

where you are heading to at the start of a journey than to begin to take available routes when you have already begun.

Define where you are going. Stop fasting over someone who only sees you as a friend or beloved brethren in Christ.

The Three Options

If you are already in a defined relationship there are three options that you need to review if you must get to the wedding altar.

1. Wait

Know that it is not immediately you define your relationship as one leading to the altar that you

marry. Waiting is part of the process. Don't rush into marriage! The first time that I went to see a marriage counselor with my fiancé he told us things that made me know that we weren't ready. When we were ready, we got married. Being ready is not a function of age or time. Different relationships have different peculiarities. It might be family issues, spiritual, financial matters, academic or even emotional. You mustn't compare your relationship with that of other people, until when there is peace in your heart that you are truly ready don't go to the altar.

It is important not to mistake waiting for delay. Waiting is not delay. People can call your waiting period anything they want but if you keep the

communication lines open with your spouse, your waiting period will be your gaining period. Waiting is so important because it is a good test of love and intentions. There are three don'ts of the waiting period, they are:

I. Don't complain. It is dangerous to use your waiting time to complain over the issue you are waiting to be sorted out. Rather than complain, pray and work it out.

ii. Don't double date. The moment you begin to make (or accept) other proposals, you have already lost what you are building. If you have entered into courtship, it means that you are convinced. If you have lost your conviction make it known.

iii. Don't be idle. Idleness leads to boredom. The fact that you are waiting doesn't mean you should not be working and planning. Many marriages today started on shaky foot because enough work wasn't put into make it stand.

2. Opt Out

Bimbo Odukoya of blessed memory taught that “a broken relationship is better than a broken marriage.” The truth is that it is not every courtship that will lead to marriage. The purpose of courtship is to prepare for marriage. If in the course of the preparation a person discovers that there are irreconcilable reasons why he/she cannot continue, it is not a sin to withdraw. Remember that when

Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant he withdrew his interest until the angel of the Lord appeared to him.

The fact that you are waiting doesn't mean you should not be working and planning.

If for example a man beats his partner in courtship, there is no gainsaying that he is likely to beat her up in marriage. In such courtships, it is advisable for the woman to withdraw until she can ascertain that she would not end up a punching bag. Raise issues that are pertinent and discuss them in your relationship, don't just assume that they will go

away. Trash them out, discuss them and get to the root of the matter.

Investigation is part of courtship. The period of courtship is a time to understudy one another with utmost sincerity and love of God. Don't sweep matters under the carpet when they should be discussed openly. A major area that requires utmost care in advancing forward is the issue of medical compatibility. If there are obvious issues of medical compatibility, it is not advisable to go forward. This is not for your own sake only but also for your children. Think about it: The temporal pain of breaking an adverse relationship cannot be compared to future benefits.

3. Go Forward

Some people have been in a serious relationship for years and everybody around them cannot understand why they are not married yet. If you are in such a relationship, it is time to move forward. Call your spouse to order; whatever thing that is causing the delay should be prayerfully and purposefully dealt with. **There is no award for long preparation; what is needed is good preparation.** Once you are convinced that it is time to marry, go forward! Everything may not be in place but if you launch out you will discover that you can still arrange a successful wedding. Proverbs 13:12 says *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a*

desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” Stop staying on one spot! A large wedding is not compulsory if that is what is delaying you, what you need is a God wedding. If God is present at your wedding, all is well! Stand up from whatever is holding you down, make up your mind and go forward to the altar this year.

There is no award for long preparation; what is needed is good preparation.

SET GOALS

“And the LORD answered me: “write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.” – Habakkuk 2:2

Be Wedding S.M.A.R.T

People do not go into marriage by accident; at least those who seek to succeed in it do not. Marriage is a deliberate step taken by two consenting adults. This is because every marriage has its own peculiarities and challenges; to this end, the parties must be fully committed to standing and staying together no matter what happens.

To get to the marriage altar, goals need to be set and executed. A goal is a pre-determined desired result. Goals are intentionally crafted as a picture of where a person intends to be at an appointed time. Let us consider the use of the SMART principle in aiding one's steps to the altar.

1. Be Specific

You have to be straight forward with yourself, do you want to get married or not? If yes, the basic questions you must ask yourself relates to “who” and “when”. You must know who you want to marry. If you have not settled the issue of who you want to marry, you have not begun the journey to the altar. A major hindrance to the “who” question arises when

you have multiple dates. If you are serious about getting married, tear off every relationship that you know is not heading to the altar.

When you are convinced about your choice of partner, it is clear that you need to set the time you want to get married. Example, September 9, 2017. This however must be done in conjunction with your partner. Doing this will accomplish two things: accountability and purposeful pursuit.

People do not go into marriage by accident; at least those who seek to succeed in it do not.

2. Make it Measurable

This means that you should be able to monitor your progress. How do you know if you are getting closer to your goal? It is by measuring your performance. When you have decided to marry, there are things that must be in place before the date of the wedding and some others must be settled before the day of introduction to individual families. Take the issue of accommodation for example, if you have set goals for accommodation you must be able to measure if you have achieved the goal or not by setting a deadline by which accommodation must have been settled. Know that any goal that is not measurable is likely not to be attainable.

3. Is it Attainable?

What you are proposing is it attainable? One major reason why people plan for many years without getting married is the issue of the scale of the wedding. Please note that **A LARGE WEDDING IS NOT A POINTER TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.** You do not need to belabor family and friends because of a wedding ceremony that will last only one day. Set targets that are attainable and workable for both you and your spouse. If you want to have a successful marriage you must focus on things that actually make marriage work like sacrifice, forgiveness, accountability and not on the wedding per se. There are cases where people borrowed funds beyond what they could repay to have a fan fare

wedding only to inherit a marriage with financial burdens and woes.

A LARGE WEDDING IS NOT A POINTER TO A
SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.

4. What is the Relevance?

This can be explained with a question; why do you want to get married? You are the only one who can answer this question sincerely. If the reason why you want to get married is because of societal pressure, know that you are starting on the wrong foot. This question must be at the center of all the goals that you set as regards marriage. If you cannot convince yourself with a befitting reason why marriage is

relevant to you at this time, you probably need to hold on so that you do not make a shipwreck of this sacred institution. The truth is that if you are in a stage where you feel that self-improvement is of more value than marriage, you probably should pursue that goal rather than marriage. Please don't let anyone or anything pressure you into marriage if you are not ready.

5. Make it Timely

If you are not ready to go to the altar in the next two years at most, it is advisable not to parade yourselves as an intending couple. Setting specific marital goals, especially those that relate to the wedding, when marriage is not anywhere in sight will only lead to

troubles such as heartaches, sleepless nights and unbearable sexual temptations. It is better to be friends and then set a realistic timeline for the commencement of a courtship.

If you are in a stage where you feel that self-improvement is of more value than marriage, you probably should pursue that goal rather than marriage.

6 SIGNS THAT YOU SHOULD GO TO THE ALTAR

“Arise, Shine” Isaiah 60:1a

Let's go straight into it. If these signs are evident in your relationship, you need not delay any longer. Go straight to the altar.

1. Your relationship is steady and pleasing

Some persons have been in a serious relationship for years and they are not married. Stop confusing people with your relationship status. I met a brother

and sister some years ago and I couldn't believe they weren't married. They worshipped in the same church and even wore same attires or color combination on Sundays. Excuse me, it high time you took this 'serious relationship' of yours to the altar! Stop being afraid of marriage, marriage is actually for completeness and perfection of who you are now.

2. Your conversation is based on godliness and holiness.

If both of you agree on fundamental issues of faith and enjoy working together in the things of God, then you have a clearance to head for the altar. If you are sure of each other's spiritual stance of purity and

holiness then you can be assured that God's presence will be in your marriage. And the truth is there is nothing greater than having God's presence in your home.

3. Approval of serious minded family and friends

People have said that the voice of man is the voice of God. If your in-laws to be are already calling you "Iyawo" or "Omo wa", tell me what remains? If everyone you hold dear to your heart and respect attest to the fact that you and your partner should get married, they probably have seen something that you should be seeing as well. But this also should be approached with care, you can pull your conviction

from whatever they say but the final decision must be yours. If on the other hand, everyone is saying no then you need to pay extra attention and tread very carefully.

4. When age begins to knock

This is not a major point, but we cannot deny that it is a point. Some years ago, I heard some married PhD students admonishing some of their counterparts who were rounding of a Master's Program that they should go straight to get married before PhD. It was a heated argument that day but I reasoned with the older ladies, they argued that the men could try it but it isn't advisable for a woman to delay marriage for so long especially when there is a

willing suitor. Also marriage does not hinder accomplishment, it aids it. If you have the correct partner, such a person will encourage you to achieve your goals not discourage you. This means that marriage does not hinder pursuit of personal goals and achievement.

Also marriage does not hinder accomplishment, it aids it.

5. When God says so

I believe God still chooses for people even though we have the personal responsibility of finding that which He has chosen for us. Once you have settled the issue of choice and have made your intentions

known, I believe that God places a direction in the hearts of His children on when to get married. If the Lord has laid it in your heart to marry, just flow with the leading and work towards the accomplishment. God is committed to provide if we walk in agreement with the vision He gives. Stop making excuses. When God has asked you to go forward, please do so.

6. If your partner is weary from waiting

The truth is that it is almost impossible to want marriage to the same degree as your partner wants it. Either of the parties in a courtship may want marriage more. In a situation where your partner keeps making the question of when to marry an issue, it is a pointer that it is time. If you are sure of

your choice but you just don't feel the need yet, you may need to consider the plight of your partner. Ask yourself if your act of delay isn't a gesture of selfishness. Why should you make your partner weary for something that is in your own power and overall interest to do? Love is about sacrifices and compromise. What are you willing to give up in order to heal the 'longing sickness' from the heart of your spouse?

If you are sure of your choice but you just don't feel the need yet, you may need to consider the plight of your partner.

VIRTUALS FOR YOUR JOURNEY

“For not by might shall a man prevail.” - 1 Samuel 2:9

Just like Joshua

Joshua was largely a successful man. He was the one that led Israel into the Promised Land. The reason for his success is closely related to the fact that he was well prepared. He followed Moses closely and kept the commandments of God as he should. Even before they crossed the Jordan he had sent men into Jericho to spy the city. He was a man of preparation so there is little doubt that he succeeded.

In the journey to marriage, the following things are essential in preparation:

1. Prayer

On my wedding day, LASTMA officials held down my bride's car even though they could see that she was wearing a wedding gown. It is almost unbelievable right? When I think about it, I am grateful that God was with us in the marriage if not, worse obstacles might have been mounted on our way.

Before marriage you must pray. I am not referring to 'jelenke' prayers; I mean serious heart felt petitions to heaven. The truth is that the adversary of man is not in support of marriage. The devil will do

everything he can to ensure that people do not marry into the will of God. For this reason, if you must marry correctly you must knock down the obstacles mounted by the enemy. I jokingly say that if someone of marriageable age begins to grow lean, the person is about to marry. *This is because it is expected that a serious minded believer will engage the spiritual weapons of prayer and fasting before venturing into marriage.*

I jokingly say that if someone of marriageable age begins to grow lean, the person is about to marry.

Prayer and fasting provides a cushion against all unforeseen evil occurrences. Through prayers things

that could go wrong are revealed and are dealt with before hand. It is important also that you have prayer sessions with your partner before marriage. This will help to bond your collective spirits with the Spirit of God. Furthermore, if you pray in courtship you are preparing your future home to be a place of prayer. Don't be deceived, if you are not praying in courtship you will not pray in marriage.

2. Counseling

If your partner is skeptical about church counseling, he/she has something to hide. The purpose of counseling is to share experiences with you that will help you shape your marriage into the perfect will of God. When I went through counseling, the

counselors covered every issue you could think of in marriage; finance, health, in-laws, spirituality and even sex was treated in details. It was a blessed time. I believe that we will be able to see farther if we sit on the shoulders of great men.

If your partner is skeptical about church counseling,
he/she has something to hide.

The reason why many people are avoiding church marriage is because they are afraid of their lives been screened. It is easy for example to ask yourself why you want to get married but if you cannot explain it to your counselors convincingly, do you think you should marry? Counseling is for your good. If you

want to be sure that your marriage will stand, counseling is a good fore test. As Christians before you solidify anything about your marital life, your spiritual parents (pastors or Christian leaders) must be involved. Anybody you cannot present to your pastor should not be married!

It is dangerous to go into marriage without knowledge.

3. Read Books

It is dangerous to go into marriage without knowledge. If you cannot commit time into reading and gathering information that will make your home a success, how can you say you love your partner?

The word of God tells us that lack of knowledge destroys. People have heard experiences and insights that they have captured in books so that they can guide us a right. If you cannot be patient to read a book that will help your future home, how will you be patient to stay when storms arise? Don't allow yourself to be deceived until you invest in books and tapes of experienced people you are yet to be knowledgeable about marriage. Don't go into marriage based on residual knowledge; build a solid and confident resource base of marriage.

Don't go into marriage based on residual knowledge;
build a solid and confident resource base of marriage.

4. Settle Money Matters

The Bible says “money answers all things”. In marriage love cannot be a substitute for money. In fact the place of money cannot be filled by anything else. Money must be used where money is needed. As you prepare to head for the altar, don't take the issue of money to be shabby. Any marriage where money is not given its rightful place is likely to be broken up by money. Take note of the following

- Settle the source of income. Is your joint income level able to sustain a family?
- Reveal your income to one another. If you cannot trust someone with money should you marry the person?

- Agree on standard of living. Are you in agreement with your spouse on issues bothering on social class? E.g. location, type of accommodation, estimated monthly expenditure etc.
- Cost of the wedding. How much do intend to spend on the wedding and who sponsors (caters) for what?

5. Be Resolute

The most important preparation is the preparation of the mind. If you are not ready within you, no matter what things you put in place the wedding will still be delayed. You have to be steadily convinced

that regardless of what it takes you are prepared to get married and you will.

I HAVE A CHILD ALREADY, WHO WILL MARRY ME?

“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.” – Matthew 1:24

Sidi met a man when she was in SS2. The man promised to help her with her studies and to be her friend. Sidi knew it was wise to keep a distance from this man who is years older than her but she couldn't. She loved the way he talked to her and she could feel love that she never felt with her parents. Her parents were always complaining about things she did, she was never up to their standard unlike BJ

her brother who was in her own words “their well-beloved”. One Friday after school, she went to his house for the first time and the result of that visit led to a child. He did not deny ownership of the child but her family wouldn’t allow her marry a man who has two wives already. Thankfully after many troubles her parents got custody of the child and she was able to further her education. She has since graduated from the university but every one of her suitors has run away the moment they discover that she has a child. Now Sidi is fed up and has thought of suicide a few times.

Marriage after One

If we will be truthful to ourselves it is a little bit easier for a single person to get a marital partner than for someone who has a child already to do so. This is because there is natural tendency for the spouse to have some kind of apprehension towards the child. Our focus here is not to debate the reason for this anxiety towards the child but to give counsel on things that can help people in such situations to have a marital partner that will love and cherish them sincerely.

1. Make Restitution.

There are some single parents that need not look for another person to marry them. In this generation, divorce is painfully rampant. I say painfully because

divorce or separation is not the plan of God. I heard a woman say on national television recently that she divorced her husband because she was earning more than him. Ask yourself if the will of God is to leave your first love. Dear friend, if you left your home unjustly please return home. But if your case is similar to that of Sidi in the story above, your major reconciliation is with God. The first thing you must do before thinking of marriage is repentance and then holy living. Any attempt to marry without the consent of God will likely lead to a worse fate than your previous experience.

2. Speak the truth

A lot of people erroneously counsel that people with a child hide the fact from prospective partners. That is wickedness! Marriage is a union of trust and love. If you have to hide your true nature and experiences from a person because you want to marry, I doubt if you have truly found your future partner. The person who will marry you will marry you for who you are and not for what you claim to be. **The truth that you refuse to reveal today will turn into the lie that will break your home tomorrow.** Marriage is about openness. Before I got married I confessed terrible things that I had done to my wife, she felt hurt but she married me all the same. If a person loves you, the person will carry you with all

your burdens. Don't bow to the pressure of lies; **a house built on lies will never stand.**

3. Your location matters

I must be frank with you, there are times and situations that if you must experience a new thing you have to move. Abraham would never have become a father of many nations if he had not moved. If you are living in a place where everyone knows your story, people are likely to continue to speak of you in the old light. This is likely to affect your relationship with people in that environment because even subconsciously you also try not to behave in a way that will call attention to yourself. If

you are feeling pressured where you are, you may need to move.

4. Submit to Somebody

I advise that you shouldn't live alone, if it is possible, because this can portray you in a negative light. Don't think that you are now an expert in relationship matters and cannot make mistakes. The experience that you have had no doubt has taught you a thing or two about relationships, but it is safer for you to place yourself under guidance. It is good to have a confidant with whom you can share ideas and issues about your relationship with. In the story of Ruth in the Bible, Ruth probably would never have gotten remarried without the counsel and

guidance of Naomi. You need counselors around you now more than ever before.

5. Move on with life

A child is not a disease! Don't put on a countenance that makes people pity you. The fact that you have a child does not mean that the world around you should crumble. Even in cases where you made a very drastic mistake, count it all joy. Life is not defined by what happens to us but what we make of what happens to us. Be alive. Further your studies, get your dream job, live the life you have always wanted to live and give your possible best to the child(ren) God has blessed you with. Don't forget that marriage is spiritual and God is the Umpire. If

you continue to live well and please God, I am confident that He will connect you with that person that is yours. Your responsibility is to be alive and well so that when the person comes in contact with you; your life won't put the person off.

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING

Thank you for taking time to read this book. I join my faith with yours that every hindrance to your successful marriage is removed now in Jesus' name. Amen. Go ahead to make your plans, make your moves and enjoy a blissful home. I would love to hear from you, please write me at your convenience.

You are reminded that there will be a wedding in heaven. Christ is the groom and the church is the bride. Only those at that wedding can inherit eternal life. I encourage you this day to give your life to

Christ now if you haven't done so already or have backslidden.

Pray this prayer:

“Lord Jesus I acknowledge your love and Lordship. I admit my sins and I am sorry for them. I repent of all my sins and ask that you please forgive me. Father please make me one of your sons today and register my name in the Book of Life. I receive grace never to go back to the world, I receive grace to serve You and reign with You in heaven.

Thank You Father,

In Jesus name. Amen.”

CONTACT



Seun Adebowale is passionate about raising and training champions in life to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. He writes, he preaches, he teaches and he believes that a few can make a remarkable positive impact. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria.

You can connect with him through any of the following links below



