

Foreword by Paul Ojomu

THE DIGNITY
OF
VIRGINITY

WHY TO SAY NO WHEN
MY HORMONES SAY YES



**BY SOLOMON
CHUKWUEMEKA UGBAJA**

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When God Wants To Drill A Man



When God wants to drill a man,
And thrill a man,
And skill a man
When God wants to mold a man
To play the noblest part;

When He yearns with all His heart
To create so great and bold a man
That all the world shall be amazed,
Watch His methods, watch His ways!

How He ruthlessly perfects
Whom He royally elects!
How He hammers him and hurts him,
And with mighty blows converts him

Into trial shapes of clay which
Only God understands;
While his tortured heart is crying
And he lifts beseeching hands!

How He bends but never breaks
When his good He undertakes;
How He uses whom He chooses,
And which every purpose fuses him;
By every act induces him
To try His splendor out-
God knows what He's about.

– Anonymous

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to the Almighty God, my Creator, my Lord, my Father, my Friend and the source of my inspiration in life.

I also dedicate this book to my younger sister (Grace Ifunanyi Ugbaja), and to all virgins in Christ Jesus.

PREFACE

The primary purpose of this book is to encourage young adults and teenagers that are still virgins to value and guard their virginity jealously. From my observations and experiences during school visitations and interactions with young adults and teenagers both locally and internationally, I have discovered that virginity is no longer valued and even those who are still virgins don't understand the value of what they are carrying. The world has made it seem as if to be a virgin in our time shows a lack of maturity.

This book will help us to see the need to value and guard our virginity for the purpose of God in this perverse generation. This book explores the reasons why we should say no when our hormones are saying yes.

FOREWORD

In this world of moral decadence and promiscuity, it is possible for young people, especially singles, to have contacts without contamination! The fact that everyone is doing it does not make it right! Premarital sex is a killer and a destroyer of destiny. No wonder the Bible says "Flee fornication." But the truth is that there are still countless numbers of young people who are still keeping their V-Cards, so if you are a virgin, you are not alone.

Solomon Ugbaja has done an excellent job in compiling this truth that can liberate anyone from the shackles of immorality! The purpose is not to condemn anyone, but to help you fulfill God's purpose for your life! If you are still a virgin, congratulations, this book will help you further, and if per chance you have lost yours before reading this book, don't feel condemned, Jesus loves you, you can still be a virgin of Grace by stopping further acts of fornication and immorality, develop an intimate fellowship with Jesus. Enjoy your reading!

God bless you,

Paul Ojomu

(President, Youth & Singles International)

INTRODUCTION



FACTS ABOUT SEX!

1. Those who abstain from sexual intercourse before marriage report the highest levels of sexual satisfaction in marriage. (Independent Research, Bethesda Research Group –Washington Post 1994)
2. Those who cohabitate (live together) before marriage have a 50% higher divorce rate than those who do not.
3. Those who abstain from sexual intercourse before marriage have the highest rates of fidelity in marriage and those who cohabitate have a much higher percentage of infidelity in marriage.(Research by the University of Carolina)
4. The introduction of sex in a dating relationship almost always ushers in the “break-up” of that relationship.(Dr. Les & Leslie Parrott)
5. Sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS) can remain dormant for up to a decade or more; but be passed on to others during that time.

It was as if I physically felt a loss. Throughout our years together, he had taken my self-respect, my self-esteem, my pride, my womanhood, my virginity, my capacity for love, and my future and discarded it as “unwanted”. Looking back, I didn’t realize it then, but when I begged him to come back to me, I lost the last drop of myself. After our final break up, I went on to a Christian college and he went

his own way... Two years later, I met and married my husband. My husband is the world to me. He is everything I thought my former boyfriend was or was going to be. He is wonderful to me. We have a lovely home, stable income and beautiful young son who is our joy. However, there is a part of me, I cannot share with him, because I gave it to my boyfriend back in high school...to me that is the very private, very painful, very tormenting consequence I cannot change. So the point is – there is a price. You may or may not pay with pregnancy or STV/VD, but you will certainly pay... I know God's forgiveness, and I continually pray that He will restore the years the locusts have eaten... Writing this letter has been on my heart for a long time. Please convey the message to teens and college students... The consequences you pay most severely and most personally are paid emotionally.¹

Virginity is the state when a boy/girl or man/woman has never engaged in sexual intercourse with the opposite sex. A virgin is a boy/girl or a man/woman who has never engaged in sexual intercourse with the opposite sex.

According to a 2001 UNICEF survey, in 10 out of 12 developed nations with the available data, more than two thirds of young people have had sexual intercourse while still in their teenage years.²

I wish I had known that the past never remain in the past. In today's sexually open culture, many couples have been sexually active before marriage. The commonly held idea is that sexual experience before marriage better prepares you for marriage. All of the research indicates otherwise. In fact, the divorce rate among those who have had previous sexual experience is twice as high as those who have had no sexual experience before marriage.³ The reality is that previous sexual experience often becomes a psychological barrier in achieving sexual unity in marriage. Our culture

has taught that sex before marriage is recreational and that once you get married, you can simply wipe the slate clean, commit yourself to be sexually faithful to your spouse, and all will go well. However, it is not that easy to wipe the psychological slate clean. Couples often struggle with the desire to know their spouse's sexual history, and when they know, it sometimes becomes a memory that is difficult to erase. When it comes to marriage, something deep within the human psyche cries out for an exclusive relationship. And we are pained by the thought that our spouse has been sexually intimate with other (Gary Chapman).⁴

According to a recent study by a major university, the average college student pursues “sex without strings and marriage without rings.” Physical intimacy is commonplace, considered just another way to have fun. And many young people aren’t interested in marital commitment.⁵

“...I cannot reiterate this warning enough. And I must speak especially to young men, and please forgive me for being so blunt. Over the years as I have spoken both on scores of secular university campuses and at Christian institutions, I have found that the differences in actual practice are not very great. That is an alarming fact. Some go to a theological institution thinking they will be in a “temptation-free” zone with halos around their heads. They soon find out that lives are wrecked there, too, in the area of sexual temptation.” (Ravi Zacharias)⁶

If we are to carry out research in most of our primary schools, high schools and tertiary institutions to find out the percentage of virgins, you will agree with me that it is no longer news to find very few of the population from all these citadels of learning are still virgins. Oh! How immorality has taken over our generation! Virginity has become a scarce commodity in our days. These are the days when virgins are seen as outcasts. In fact, it has almost become a sign of immaturity to boldly say

that you a virgin. Young people will look at you as if something is wrong with your hormones. This virtue that was valued by men and women of old has become an abnormality in our day. Virginity used to be celebrated by all in those days; if you were not a virgin, you were just like an outcast. Now the reverse is the case. So, join me on this journey as we explore the dignity of virginity.

CHAPTER ONE



JUST ONE DAY

“One day Dinah, Leah’s daughter, went out to visit some of the neighborhood girls, but when Shechem, son of king Hamor the Hivite, saw her, he took her and raped her. He fell deeply in love with her, and tried to win her affection.”
(Genesis 34:1-3, LB)

“And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, Prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.

And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel”.
(Genesis 34:1-3, KJV)

Dinah was the daughter of a man who had a covenant with God. Among all Jacob’s children, she was privileged to be the only girl in the family. She was actually the princess of the house, a pride both to her parents and brothers. She was deeply loved by her brothers, so much so that they

even destroyed a whole city just because of her. I wonder what was in the heart of God to have added her among the twelve sons of Jacob. Indeed, there was a great and glorious purpose in the heart of God concerning Dinah as the only daughter of Jacob.

Just one day, God's purpose for Dinah was terminated. Just one day! Not even two, but just one day, Dinah became a shadow of what she was born to be. It doesn't take a year to destroy God's purpose for your life. It is just one day. Just a few minutes in a day and the story will change. Dinah did not plan to meet Shechem, that day. Her only mistake was that she left the walls that were covering her from dangers. She left the house, her parents and brothers just to visit the daughters of the land (neighborhood girls). Dinah was no longer satisfied with the companionship of her parents and beloved brothers. She must have admired the girls she saw in the neighborhood. The freedom they seemed to enjoy without restriction. She must have been tired of playing with her brothers alone and she longed to play with her fellow girls.

Dinah must have said to herself, "Why this caging? Don't they know that I am a big girl now? Don't they know that I need to be with my fellow girls? I can take care of myself. At least, I have come of age." Dinah was no longer comfortable or satisfied with the fellowship of believers. She was beginning to ask, "What is wrong if I am yoked with unbelievers? Nothing would happen. They cannot harm me. They are good girls. I can't continue this way. I can't just continue this way of life. I am tired of all this caging." Dinah might have first met these girls at the well where they usually fetched water. They must have made jest of her by calling her all kinds of names. They must have said to her, "Girl! Come out and enjoy life. You are suffering and missing out on the enjoyment outside here. You are a beautiful girl. Just come out and become a mature girl like we are. We don't listen to our parents. They

are old-fashioned and old school. We are the jet age girls. We are the new school. Just come out one day and play with us, just a visit so that you will have a taste of what we are telling you. Come out and you will not remain the same.”

These words must have sunk deeply into the heart of Dinah. They must have been echoing in her heart on a daily basis. She must have said to herself, “Enough is enough! Why must I be caged? Why? Why must my parents say that I must not go out without my brothers accompanying me like escorts? No! Enough is enough. This must stop today. Today will be the end of all this caging. I will break out and break loose from this parental bondage. Isn’t it just meeting my fellow girls? What is wrong with it? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! I will put an end to this madness of my parents and brothers today. They are not thinking like civilized people. Their thinking is always backward, archaic in nature; in fact, they are old school. What these girls said is true. I must go out and have a taste of their freedom. Today is the day of freedom. Today is the day of proving to my parents and brothers that I am grown up enough to make decisions for myself. Just this day, today I will put an end to this madness.”

Dinah went out of her comfort zone, out of her shield, out of the guidance and guard of her parents. Don’t forget that those “daughters of the land” were Hivites, the enemies of Israel. Dinah went out to meet the enemy of her soul thinking she was just proving a point. The devil will never show you the dangers ahead of you when following him. Dinah was thinking she would only meet with the daughters of the land, play with them and come back home. But the devil will never set bait without a hook secretly attached to it. Dinah went out and never came back the same. She left home full of glorious, divine destiny and purpose, but

came back home emptied and without divine purpose. She became a curse instead of a blessing to her family and generation.

The devil is always looking for an opportunity. Just an opportunity and he will utilize it to its fullness. The devil will make sure that he causes damage that you can never recover from. Shechem the son of the enemy of Israel saw Dinah that day from his father's (the devil's) point of view. He saw an object to satisfy his lustful desires. He took her, slept with her, and defiled her. Don't forget that the devil comes to steal, to kill and to destroy. Shechem fell deeply in "love" (lust) with her. Anyone who has no standing with God will always fall deeply into sin. Shechem was not like Elijah who would always say, "Before God whom I stand." Shechem fell to the command of the devil his master. He tried to win Dinah's affection. The Bible said that he spoke kindly to her. Shechem must have called her all kinds of names that boys and girls of our day call themselves. "My Sweetheart, My Darling, My Damsel, My Babe, My Guy, My Girl, My Chick, Beauty, Crème de la crème" Imagine yourself, a person that is full of glorious purpose, being called "My Chick" and you are smiling sheepishly. Imagine yourself being reduced to a small chicken and you are smiling. They know that you are actually behaving like a chick that doesn't think properly, that is why they use sweet words to win your affection

Anyone that lacks right standing with God will always fall victim to the devil. Amnon was another young man that fell like Dinah and became a victim of the devil. Amnon fell in lust with his step sister Tamar and finally raped her. The Bible says in 2 Samuel 13:2, 4-5, 8, 14-15;

"And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do anything to her... And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? Wilt

thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. And Jonadad said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand... So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes... Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone." (KJV)

What kind of love will make you fall sick and even desire to sleep with your sister? The same love after it has satisfied its desire, hated the same person with greater hatred. This is not love but lust. Amnon also had a bad friend that encouraged him in his evil desire. Please, be very careful.

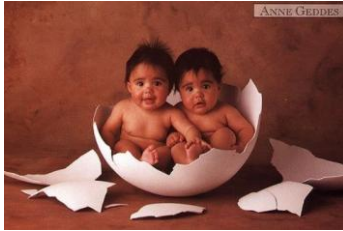
Shechem did not have a right standing with God. Shechem was of the fallen nature. This is why he fell deeply in lust with Dinah. He didn't have any spiritual stamina to resist the devil. He was always falling to the commands of the devil and never standing against the devil. Shechem fell deeply in lust, not love. Love is not what you fall into but a lifestyle you live. Don't forget that God is love. Shechem did not know God, but he knew the devil very well. Shechem's love was actually not of God, but of the devil; that is lust. This is because the characteristics of true love are the opposite of lust. In 1 Corthinas 13:4-8, it is written that Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily

angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. The actual difference between love and lust is that, love is of God while lust is of the devil. Love can wait, but lust must have it now. Love is selfless while lust is selfish.

Indeed, Shechem had no love for Dinah because he dishonoured her and love does not dishonour others. It is only lust that dishonours others. Love does not delight in evil but Shechem delighted in the evil of sleeping with Dinah. When a boy or girl tells you, “I love you,” you need to check whether he/she is actually saying, “I lust you.” This is because love cannot harm you but lust will harm and destroy your life.

Dinah foolishly fell to Shechem’s words because she had also fallen from her standing before God. She lost her standing before God immediately when she left the house to meet the daughters of the land, who were the enemies of Israel. She lost her standing before God and became prey to the devil. If Dinah had known that this particular step she was taking would render her useless in life, she would have stayed back at home. She only saw a pleasure to be satisfied and never saw the devil’s hook waiting to destroy her destiny. She lost the value of her virginity and she lost it for life. Among the children of Jacob, this is the only story about Dinah. This story was all the Bible could tell us about Dinah. What story will be written about you? Dinah’s life ended as a warning to us. Don’t end up as a warning to others. Be a good example to generations unborn. Don’t be careless with your life and virginity. Once you lose your virginity, you have lost it for life. No miracle can bring your virginity back. Even bitter tears of repentance cannot bring it back. Guard your virginity jealously. Remember that the devil is not looking for a week to destroy you but just one day. Be wise, friend.

CHAPTER TWO



HAD I KNOWN (A True Life Story)

There was a young teenage girl that everyone would love to associate with. At the age of seventeen she was already on fire for God. Her dedication to Jesus was like the first love of a newly married couple. She was given to prayers and deep meditation of God's word. She was the pride of her family and of many people. People found it difficult to believe that she was just a teenager because she had a command of herself through God's grace upon her life. She was matured beyond her age. She was a role model to both young and old people. She was an example that parents could confidently point to for their children to emulate.

Then, this sister was admitted into the university. God used elderly believers to encourage and instruct her on how to stand for Jesus on campus. She was encouraged to stamp her identity as a child of God as soon as she set foot on campus. As this young, promising sister landed on campus, the storms and waves of campus lifestyle blew heavily on her. She lost her ground and began to feel as if she was swimming against the tide. This young sister who was on fire for God met with the daughters of the land on campus, who made jest of her breasts being very small. This they said was because she was still a virgin. They

advised her to go and have sex so that she could develop big breasts like a big girl on campus. They organized for her to have sex on the ground of developing big breasts. But the truth was that those ladies who wrongly counseled her did so because they felt condemned and offended by the fact that she was still a virgin while they were not. So, they wanted to reduce her to their level. They wanted to make sure that this young star became like them.

They went to the extent of organizing a quack medical practitioner who told her that she needed to have sex once in a while for her breasts to grow bigger. The man ended up sleeping with her. She lost her virginity and even became pregnant. These same “daughters of the land” advised her that abortion had always been the only and the usual way to solve her kind of problem. They encouraged her that there was no danger in having an abortion, after all many people had done it and were still alive. They refused to tell her of the danger and damage to many who have aborted, even though they were still alive.

When she finally agreed to abort the pregnancy, the doctor carried out a test and discovered that she was pregnant with triplet babies. It was also noticed that she was having an ectopic pregnancy. (Ectopic pregnancy is the development of a fertilized egg somewhere other than in the uterus, such as in a Fallopian tube or peritoneal cavity). In her case, the babies were in her Fallopian tube. Nevertheless, she went ahead with the abortion since they could not bear the shame of giving birth to these babies. Sadly, the abortion became so complicated that they had to operate on her. The babies died and she lost her womb in the end. She had to spend six months in hospital.

It was at this point that our young, promising sister came back to Jesus. At this junction, the devil had already given her a permanent scar for life. Why must we choose to learn the hard way?

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothe not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? (Proverbs 6:27-28, KJV)

Many who have lost their virginity became drop outs from schools because of unwanted pregnancies. Some became drop outs from life. They tried to save their future by having abortions, but they ended up killing themselves, while others kept licking the wound of regrets and a guilty conscience.

Jesus does not wish for us to give Him a ‘leftover’ life. It is His desire that now that we are young, we should bear the yoke of His life and purpose with our youthful strength. What you don’t value now, you will never guard. You may not know the value of your virginity until you lose it.

I wonder why this sister desired to have big breasts when she had not even gotten married. It is only when you have a child in marriage that you need to be concerned about breasts. Even then, God in His infinite wisdom ensures that the breasts are formed and matured for child bearing. Just the desire for big breasts destroyed her future. The devil will always use lies to deceive us as if it is the truth. The devil is the father of all lies. The devil uses human desires to deceive and destroy people. What lies has the devil been feeding you with through the sons and daughters of the world? Many will tell you that if you don’t have sex, you will have problems performing sex in marriage and even in child bearing. It is a capital lie from the pit of hell. Some will tell you that as a young girl if you do not do it, you will develop fibroids. Who told you that? It is neither the truth medically or spiritually. In fact, it has been scientifically proven by medical practitioners that virgins give birth to healthier babies than those who have had sex before marriage. Medically speaking also, those that have had early sex and those who

have undergone abortions have a higher chance of having fibroids compared to those who do not have sex until marriage.

Some will tell you that you are actually missing out on this enjoyment. Tell them that they should not worry because you will enjoy sex when you are married to the point you might even become tired of it. The devil will always fabricate lies to send you to an early grave. Don't fall for these lies. Don't forget that many have gone just because they followed these lies that landed them into premature death. How my heart bleeds for these unfortunate ones. Friends, don't fall for the devil's lies. Don't be a prey for the devil. You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. Now that you know the truth, accept and walk in the truth so that you will be set free from the trap of the devil, the enemy of your soul. Don't live in a lie, live in the truth that sets free.

CHAPTER THREE



PREMARITAL SEX IN COURTSHIP

In giving oneself in marriage, there are few gifts a single, unwedded person can give his or her partner that are more sacred than a gift of purity. I am keenly aware that with the ways our cultures have moved globally and the liberties we now take in sexual relations, many appreciate this lesson only after mistakes have already been made. Not only that, there is a growing tendency to see sexual purity as some kind of archaic imposition thrust upon consciences by religion to manipulate people's guilt feelings and hence, control individual morality through organized religion (Ravi Zacharias).⁶

Premarital sex is sexual intercourse engaged in by people who may have marriage in view, but are not yet married. This occurs among young people, who are presumed to be of marriageable age, but who engage in sexual practices before paying of bride price or having a wedding.

The practice of premarital sex is increasing on a daily basis. According to a UNICEF survey, in 10 out of 12 developed nations with available data, more than two thirds of young people have indulged in premarital sex. It has become more common and even more socially acceptable in our day for young people who are in courtship to live together before

marriage. The factors contributing to the prevalence of premarital sex among people in courtship are as follows:

The first reason why some young people indulge in premarital sex during courtship is actually as a result of concealed lust (strong desire to enjoy sexual pleasure). While some get themselves entangled in this out of curiosity to explore or experience sexual intercourse, some just want to test the sexual potency and the virginity of the man or woman respectively. This can be seen among young people in courtship who indulge in romantic kissing, romantic hugging and caressing each other just to satisfy their sexual desires whenever they meet together. This actually leads many of them into premarital sex.

The second reason for the prevalence of premarital sex among young people in courtship is the quest by men to test the fertility of the woman. There is a growing curiosity in the hearts of men and even their parents to ascertain the fertility of the women that would be their wives or their sons' wives. For instance, in most of our universities, there is what they call "Campus Marriage": opposite sexes live together under one room and they indulge in premarital sex with the mindset that they will eventually marry each other. Some of these young people that are living together are supported by their parents. The parents of some even encourage the men to indulge in premarital sex with the lady in order to ascertain the fertility of the woman. This curiosity has contributed to the high level of premarital sex among young people in courtship.

The third reason is that some traditions support, premarital sex. These traditions see premarital sex as a kind of trial marriage. The woman lives with the man for a period of time. Some of them may even bear children before marriage, depending on the length of courtship. Some young men are usually happy to marry these young mothers. Among traditions who

accept premarital sex, no stigma is attached to the young woman who bears a child before marriage, let alone indulges in premarital sex.

Looking at the Biblical stand regarding premarital sex, God sees premarital sex as fornication. So, renaming fornication does not change the act or remove the consequences. For anyone that indulges in premarital sex during courtship just to test the sexual potency and virginity of the man or the woman, God sees this act as fornication which is a sin against God and our body. The fact that you have agreed to marry each other is not an excuse to indulge in fornication. Even when your hormones are saying, “Just do it. After all, God understands that you people are engaged”, it is still a sin of fornication. It is not even right to engage in a romantic kiss, or to caress whomever you are engaged to, because these are triggers that lead to fornication. In 1 Cor. 6:28, God commanded us to flee from fornication, and in 2 Tim. 2:22, we are encouraged to flee also from youthful lusts. This is because indulging in premarital sex (fornication) puts you at risk of not inheriting the kingdom of God, as it is written in 1Cor. 6:9-10:

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”. (KJV)

However, sex is not wrong when enjoyed in marriage; it is only wrong outside marriage, as it is written in Hebrews 13:4:

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”. (KJV)

Sex is honourable in marriage, but outside marriage, it is dishonourable. When there is a practice of sex outside marriage, the bed becomes defiled—which is not a good foundation for any marriage.

On the issue of the traditions that support, premarital sex (fornication) among young people in courtship, it is not Biblical. The Bible recognizes the payment of a bride price or wedding as a seal of agreement between families before a man and a woman could be considered as husband and wife. This may differ from some cultures that demand something else from the groom as bride price. Anything outside of this is not right; it is a sin and God frowns at it. In Genesis 2:24-25, the Bible says:

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife in such a way that the two become one person. Now, although the man and his wife were both naked, neither of them was embarrassed or ashamed”. (Living Bible)

Premarital sex (fornication) brings embarrassment and shame. It gives room for lack of trust for one another in marriage which is dangerous to the foundation of any marriage. It robs one of the dignities of marriage.

Also, when we come to the issue of checking the fertility of the woman and the man respectively, there is an honourable way of doing it. It is expected that every responsible young man or woman that wants to marry should go for a fertility test at the hospital if they want to know about their fertility, and not to indulge in fornication on the ground of courtship.

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled. But whoremongers, and adulterers God will judge, irrespective of traditions or customs that support it. Start your marriage on a solid foundation of righteousness and in an honourable way like Isaac and Rebekah. Purity and virginity were two of the qualities that God required from Isaac and his wife as children of the covenant, who He would use to fulfill His purpose on earth.

“And it came to pass, before he (Abraham’s servant) had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink...

***And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”**
(Genesis 24:15-18, 67 KJV)*

Both Isaac and Rebekah kept themselves for the Lord’s use. Rebekah was very fair to look upon, and for all her beauty she was a virgin that no man had known. Her pitcher was not broken. Her pitcher was intact.

Her pitcher could hold water. She was a virgin. Her life could hold water that would satisfy the thirst of lives around her and bring comfort to her husband. She guarded the pitcher of her purity on her shoulder until she met her husband.

Friends, how is the pitcher of your purity and virginity? Is it still intact? Can your pitcher hold water? Can it be filled with comfort from the stream of the Almighty God? Or is your pitcher broken? Rebekah was very beautiful yet she kept herself. Isaac was very handsome and rich and yet he did not defile himself with the daughters of the land. They both kept themselves, and God brought them together for His divine purpose.

Don't allow your pitcher of purity and virginity to be broken even in courtship. Guard your virginity and don't allow anyone to trample on it. Don't be reduced to chaff because you want to keep your courtship. Anyone that sleeps with you while in courtship can sleep with any other person while in your marriage. Don't allow anyone to use breaking of courtship as a threat for you to lose your virginity. Remember, a broken courtship is far better than a broken marriage.

CHAPTER FOUR



I VALUE GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand...And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. (Genesis 39:1-3; 6, KJV)

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was brought down to Egypt. He did not choose to go down to Egypt himself; he was brought down against his own will. Despite his pleading and weeping before his brothers, they forcefully sold him to the Ishmaelites who were going down to Egypt. Egypt was actually the domain of unbelievers where all kinds of sins and iniquities were permitted and committed. Egypt could be the worst place in this world that you could ever think of where sin was allowed and practiced as a custom.

Joseph was not only brought down to Egypt, but he was sold again by the first buyers, the Ishmaelites, to Potiphar. Joseph was treated as an object, not even a human being. He was sold as a commodity. It means that the value of his life was equivalent to money, according to his brothers and the Ishmaelites. Joseph was bought as a slave in Potiphar's house. Even though men did not see anything useful in Joseph's life, the LORD, whom Joseph had made the Ruler and Friend of his life, saw something great in him. The Bible says;

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian (Genesis 39:2, KJV).”

The LORD, whom Joseph had identified with decided to identify Himself with Joseph despite the circumstances that befell him. The LORD chose to be with Joseph, a slave in Potiphar's house; rather than to be with Potiphar, Joseph's master. The LORD is ever ready to be with anyone that identifies with Him. Joseph was prosperous in Potiphar's house, even as a slave because the LORD was with him. It was crystal clear to everyone that the LORD was with Joseph in Egypt. Potiphar also saw it and put Joseph in charge of all that he had.

What situation have you found yourself in presently? What is your story? What level of suffering and hardship are you passing through? Is the LORD with you? Have you made Him the LORD, and Friend of your life? It doesn't matter what you are passing through: if the LORD is with you, you will be prosperous—even in the midst of the suffering and hardship. These are just stepping stones to your greatness. This is because the LORD will not abandon you just as He did not abandon Joseph, even as a slave in the land of Egypt.

“...And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. And it came to pass after these things, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.”
(Genesis 39:6-9, KJV)

The LORD was with Joseph, he was a goodly person and well favoured. The Message version says, **“Joseph was a strikingly handsome man...”** Oh Joseph! How greatly favoured you are! Joseph was a handsome young man of seventeen, well favoured and the LORD was with him, yet he was a slave in the land of Egypt. How blessed are you, Joseph! A slave, but well loved by the LORD. This was simply because he made the LORD the Ruler and Friend of his life. Joseph was a child of God in the land of Egypt (in the midst of sinners), yet Joseph did not sin. He was a charming and handsome young man, though a slave. He was carrying the presence of the LORD of all the earth, yet a slave in Potiphar’s house. Not even a servant, but a slave. He prospered more than everyone in that house, including Potiphar and his wife, even though he was a slave in the house. What a God we serve!

Then, the enemy of his soul rose up furiously against Joseph. The devil that thought he had destroyed this young saviour full of glorious purpose rose against him. The Bible says;

“... As time went on, his master’s wife became infatuated with Joseph and one day she said, Sleep with me.” (Genesis 39:6-7, Message) In fact, the King James Version said: *“And it came to pass after these things, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.”*

Remember Reuben, Dinah and Amnon: the devil rose against them in just one day. This is another ‘one day’ for this young, charming, handsome and well-favoured-by-God boy. Joseph’s one day came. The devil could not endure the threat Joseph was posing to his kingdom. Even in Egypt, where the devil had his throne, Joseph’s life (light) was shining into the devil’s territory, causing more harm to the devil, and making the slaves of the devil to begin to remember their Creator whom they had rejected. Joseph’s life was becoming an attraction to the children of the devil, such that they were beginning to get more attracted to the God of Joseph than their father the devil. Potiphar’s wife could not hide her feelings again. She kept admiring this; “the LORD is with this fellow, Joseph”. Joseph was becoming a great light to the children of the devil even in the midst of thick darkness. Darkness could not comprehend the light in Joseph’s life. The LORD of Joseph was shining even in the land of Egypt.

Then, the devil prepared his weapon of war (fornication) which he had used to destroy so many young promising lives like Reuben, Dinah, Amnon and Samson. He must have tried lust, but Joseph did not fall to it. Potiphar’s wife must have been dressing seductively in order to entice Joseph. His hormones as a young boy of seventeen must have risen like a flood, but the words of the Lord and Friend of his life always checked this overwhelming flood of lust by putting it under subjection to the obedience of Christ. Hallelujah! The devil having failed through lust

must have looked around for an alternative weapon. Potiphar's wife was a captive of the devil, so don't blame her. She was only obeying the instructions of her master who is a taskmaster. Her sincere desire for the light she saw in Joseph, which would have drawn her closer to God, was hijacked by the devil. The Bible says;

“And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.”(Genesis 39:7 KJV)

What must have made the wife of a Chief Security Officer of Egypt to begin to eye a slave in her house? Not even a servant, but a slave. What must have brought her so low? Well, sin is no respecter of persons. There must be something fishy.

She cast her eyes upon Joseph. It was so glaring that this woman focused all her time, attention and life upon Joseph. It means that her eyes were carefully, deliberately and meticulously set on Joseph. She could not hide her feelings for him. The lust in her was growing daily, but this Joseph of a boy did not understand at all. Despite all the eye-moves and seductive dressing of this beautiful and charming wife of Commander Potiphar, Joseph was blind to all these. What was wrong with this seventeen years old boy? Was he not a human being like us? Were his hormones not functioning normally? As it is often said, “My body is not of wood.”

Joseph was not showing any sign that he understood her enticing moves. It was so frustrating that when she saw that Joseph was not picking up the signals, she quickly opened up and said to him, “Sleep with me. All this while I have been sending signals to you, but you were blind to them. Now, come and sleep with me. Since you refused to read all the non-verbal messages that I have been sending to you, get the verbal

message clear now. Sleep with me and enjoy yourself. My husband is no longer worthy of me. He is always travelling from one state to another, from one country to another, from one meeting to another conference both locally and internationally, attending to issues concerning security. Please come and quench this hunger in me. You know, you are the second-in-command in this house, the chief slave, the head slave of the house. Come, my love. I have been admiring you for a long time. My husband is not as charming as you are. Come, my lover. I cannot hold these feelings anymore. Please come and satisfy this thirst or I die. I will die, oh, if you don't do it. Just this once and I will not ask again. Just this one day and that would be all. Both your inner and outer beauty is irresistible. I have never set my eyes on a young boy as charming as you are. Come, my son. Please don't say no. Come and sleep with me."

Eh! Joseph's soul was inflamed. There was a swelling of his soul by these charming, but poisonous and highly acidic words. Joseph saw the viper's venom. So poisonous that he saw that he would never recover from the damage even though his hormones were aroused. He said, "No! No! No, madam! It is never done like this, that a slave would sleep with his master's wife. Never! In my land, such is an abomination." Potiphar's wife must have said, "Well, that is in your land, this is Egypt. It is an honour for a slave to sleep with his master's wife and go stock free. In fact, you are a hero if you do it." But Joseph refused and said, "In this land it may be allowed as a custom, but in my father's land it is never done. It is an abomination both to God and man."

The Bible says that he told her, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Joseph was simply saying "How can I, madam? How can I, a slave, do this great sin against both my earthly master and my heavenly Father, God? No! It is a sin against the God of all the earth. Him, whom nothing is hidden from, even if your husband will permit it

or you people don't hate it, God hates it with great anger. In fact, it is written in his words that it is a sin against both our body and God." When she left him, Joseph must have sighed in relief, saying, "Oh LORD! Thank you for this final victory. At last I am free from this woman." He must have been singing, "I am victorious! Yes, I am victorious—glory be to God who has given me victory."

Remember how the lords of the Philistines met to find out how to defeat Samson. There might have been a global conference organized by the devil and his cabinet members (demons) for Joseph. Joseph must have been the matter arising in this global conference because local and national delegates had failed. A report was given about Joseph's resistance to their entire attempt to destroy him. The devil must have kept asking what must be done to kill this glorious destiny that Joseph was carrying. He was more interested in destroying God's purpose in Joseph's life than killing him. The devil must have said, "We don't need to kill him because the LORD is with him. All we need is to destroy this glorious purpose and leave him purposeless on earth." One demon must have suggested to them that fornication was a powerful weapon they had used to destroy so many young lives like Joseph's. "Can't you remember Reuben Jacob, his elder brother? That was what we used against him. He was actually the strength of Jacob, but we reduced him to chaff before his brethren. Even his sister, Dinah Jacob was our victim. Fornication has been and will always be the only solution to this problem."

Another demon must have objected, saying, "May I remind us that he has resisted our every attempt to seduce him. Let's look for another alternative rather than fornication." The first demon must have also responded saying, "May I also remind us that if this damage must be great and come with a lifelong scar, it is only fornication that is a sin which destroys both physical body and soul at once. If we must silence

this young boy who is causing harm to our territory on a daily basis, fornication is the only time-tested weapon.” Then another demon must have said, “Comrades, we know that what my fellow comrade said is the truth. Fornication is our only weapon to finish this young boy. Even though it is not working on him, let us persist; and if he refuses, then the only option is to force him.” All the demons and the devil their father must have unanimously agreed that even though he was resisting, they must not give up on him.

Friend, the devil has not given up on you, no matter the victory you are enjoying now. He tried it on Samson and it worked on him. Despite Samson’s strength and anointing, he fell into the devil’s trap. Delilah was the human tool that he used to finish Samson. A mighty man whose eyes were plucked out and he died with the Philistines. Remember the lords of the Philistines had a meeting of which Samson was the subject. At the end, fornication was the only weapon to pull this mighty anointed young man down. Fornication has been a classic weapon that the devil has used to silence many young lives that rose to challenge his kingdom. This weapon of the devil has been tried and proven to be very effective.

The Bible says that it came to pass that Potiphar’s wife spoke to Joseph and asked him to sleep with her day after day. The ‘one day’ that the devil thought would have silenced Joseph did not fulfill its purpose this time around. So, they decided to keep trying day after day until they succeeded. Don’t even begin to rejoice over a day’s victory. There is a day-to-day strategy of the devil. Yet this strategy of day-after-day did not work on Joseph because he did not listen to her. He was always listening to the LORD of his life and he kept following God’s instructions. The Message version says in Genesis 39:10:

***“She pestered him day after day, but he stood his ground.
He refused to go to bed with her.”***

The “day after day” pleading did not work out for Potiphar’s wife this time. Joseph was standing before the presence of God and he was able to stand his ground against the “day after day” pestering of Potiphar’s wife to sleep with her. She had to work with the last option of forcing him to sleep with her. The devil will try anything to force you, in order to destroy you. Don’t give him a chance.

“One day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the household servants were there. She grabbed him by his clothes and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he ran outside and left his clothe in her hand”
(Genesis 39:10 -12, GW)

“And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”
(Genesis 39:10-12, KJV)

The devil will never give up on any believer. Since he did not give up on Jesus then, he will not give up on us now. The Bible says that the devil, after he failed in tempting Jesus in the wilderness, left him for an opportune time. He left looking for another opportune time and day. Joseph went to do his usual duty in his master’s room one day, as an obedient and humble slave (even though all had been put under his charge, except for Potiphar’s wife). He was still doing his morning chores, even though Potiphar’s wife might have told him, “If you sleep with me, you will stop doing this work.” He chose to suffer rather than to enjoy the pleasure of sin, which is just for a little while. He innocently came to do his usual chores and Potiphar’s wife grabbed him, seeing that there was nobody in the house. She must have been saying to him, “Lie

with me. Look, I am naked already. My prince, please, I cannot hold this anymore. I am dying. Just a kiss and I will leave you. Joe, please just a kiss for a start!” Joseph’s hormones must have said, “Oh boy, we can’t control this. Just do it.” So helpless Joseph seemed to be! He turned left and right and there was no help. Then, he looked up to his LORD, and Friend for help. He quickly remembered God’s purpose for his life. How God had appeared to him so many times in dreams and revelation, saying, “I will use you to save the whole world.” He quickly asked his LORD and Friend what to do. The LORD said, “Flee from fornication! Flee from youthful lust my son, flee!” Joseph received grace and quickly pulled himself from his clothes and ran away, saying, “You can hold my garment but not my life. You can hold my garment, but not my virginity. I value virginity. You can hold my garment, but not my body. You can hold my garment, but not my destiny. I give you my garment, but not my life, body, purpose and vision.”

Joseph ran away without worrying about the consequences of his action. He must have said to himself, “I know that this will land me in the prison of a human being, but not the prison of the devil. I am ready for it. I will not sell my heavenly birthright or sacrifice God’s purpose on the altar of today’s pleasure. I will not mortgage my future on the altar of a day’s pleasure. No! I must not do it. Others who don’t see their glorious purpose can do it, but not I. God has always reminded me that He will use me to save the whole world. No! I cannot do this great wickedness and sin against God.”

Joseph, a slave, was saying that he must not do this great wickedness and sin against God. He refused to sin against the God who allowed him to be sold by his brothers as a slave in Egypt, the land of unbelievers. What a God! Yet Joseph must have heard God saying, “This is the process to your greatness. Endure it. This process might not look

reasonable, why I must allow you to pass through it; but just allow it and pass this test. It will land you in prison, but just trust and obey; for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” Praise the LORD! Joseph prevailed over this time-tested weapon of the devil. Even though he was badly beaten and abused by everyone, even though it landed him in prison instead of Potiphar’s praise, the truth is that he prevailed over the devil’s time-tested weapon.

Imagine the devil forcing Joseph to sin and yet he refused. In our day, some of us are the ones forcing the devil to make us sin. Potiphar’s wife was running and forcing Joseph to sleep with her and he ran away, but some of us are the ones running after the opposite sex to sleep with them.

When I get to heaven, I will first greet God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Then I will go to Joseph and tell him, “Thank you for setting this glorious record for me. Thank you for being a model to me. Thank you for helping me to know that I have no excuse not to stand for God in my day.” Friends, if Joseph (who was of the Old Testament, which was the shadow of things to come in the New Testament) can stand against the wiles of the devil, then we that are of the New Testament have no excuse not to stand for God.

We have no excuse. Jesus had not yet died and yet Joseph did not give in to the trap of the enemy. What excuse are we still considering even when Jesus died to set us free from the law and sin? We are in the time of grace, which is far greater and better than the law. The Grace of God that is in Christ Jesus has appeared to all. I mean all, including you. We are inexcusable. We have no excuse to give in to the wiles of the devil. Joseph was an example for us: a young boy of seventeen, handsome, well-favoured, yet a slave in an unbelieving land, under the law and without the Bible, standing against the wiles of the devil. Joseph was

able to stand against the wiles of the devil because he had a right standing before the LORD. He was able to overcome because he stood his ground through the strength he gathered from waiting on the LORD, who was always with him. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint. Can you wait upon the Lord and say with Elijah, “As God lives, before whom I stand”? Before whom have you been standing? Is it before a boy/girl or before God? Your standing determines your impact in life and on your generation. Men who have no standing before God will always fall into sin just like Reuben, Dinah, Shechem, Amnon and Samson. Your decision today, defines and designs your future. Be wise in your decision, friends.

CHAPTER FIVE



GOD IN SEARCH OF A VIRGIN

Have you ever taken a careful observation of an egg? An egg contains the potentials of becoming a live chick and, at the same time, it has the potential of giving protein to men when eaten (that is, if it doesn't pass through the process of incubation). I will place eggs into two categories by reason of their end-product. The first category has the potential of becoming a chick, achieving this potential through the process of incubation. The second category also has the potential of becoming a chick, but they are not incubated and end up being eaten by men as a protein consumable.

Virgins are like the first category of eggs: they have the potential of becoming chicks that eventually become mother hens, and as such they willingly submit to God for incubation, not allowing anyone to defile them. However, those who have lost their virginity are like those eggs that were taken away from incubation and eaten by men as protein consumable.

You may be asking in your heart, "Does it mean that those who have lost their virginity and later repented cannot be used by God? After all, our God is a merciful God." The truth is that our God is a merciful God and at the same time a consuming fire. He is the Lamb and at the same time, the Lion. Let's consider some characters in the Bible as examples. Mary and Rahab will be our examples. You might have simply said, "Yes, Rahab was a prostitute—yet God used her". Truly, God allowed Rahab to be in the lineage of Jesus, but have you ever asked yourself whether God would have used someone like Rahab instead of Mary when a virgin was needed to bear the Saviour?

God is a merciful God and at the same time a consuming fire. Indeed, God is described both as the Lamb of God and the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Please know that God's mercy does not destroy God's standard. Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid! If the foundation is destroyed, what can the righteous do? Rahab was forgiven and was used by God, but her usage was limited. This is because the Bible says;

“Behold, a virgin shall be with a child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matthew 1:23, KJV)

According to this Scripture, the requirement for anyone that must carry the Saviour was that the person must be a virgin. Rahab had been forgiven and saved, but God needed a virgin for this mission and people like Rahab must have been automatically shortlisted. God cannot be mocked; a man will reap whatever he has sown. There are two categories of virginity—just as there are two categories of eggs. We have physical virginity and spiritual virginity. Rahab became a spiritual virgin when she was saved (just as anyone who gets saved becomes the bride of Christ); nevertheless, she had lost the physical virginity while Mary was both a physical and spiritual virgin. The problem in Christianity these days is that we have taken the mercies of God for granted. We do whatever we feel like doing with the mindset that we have a merciful God. Indeed, we should not forget that we have a merciful God who will never bend His standard of holiness. Don't forget 2 Timothy 2:19 that says:

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” KJV

The Bible says, “A virgin”, yet nobody's name was mentioned. Many other women like Rahab could have been that virgin that would bear the Saviour of the world—yet they became unqualified. But Mary was

available to be the bearer of the Saviour of the world. Rahab allowed men to eat up her virginity, though she later repented. God's mercy only permitted her to be in the lineage that the Saviour would come through. She couldn't bear the Seed of the Holy Spirit (The Saviour), because she was not a virgin, even though she was saved.

Mary guarded her virginity till the point that when God looked down from heaven, searching for a virgin that would bear the Saviour without corruption, God spotted this woman who was both a physical and spiritual virgin. There were so many women like Rahab in Mary's time that had lost their virginity; they might have repented, yet God could not pass His Seed (Jesus Christ) through them. Note that both Mary and Joseph were virgins. The Bible says in Matthew 1:19; ***"Then Joseph, her fiancé, being a man of stern principle..."*** The New King James Version says, ***"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man..."***

Virgins were needed for this task, and both Mary and Joseph were available for their Master's use. Mary, who had submitted her life under the incubation of the Holy Spirit, came up at last and became the mother of the Saviour of the world. What an honour for preserving her virginity.

Mary knew that God could still forgive her even if she had lost her virginity, but she kept herself for the Master's use. She didn't want to become like those women that, though they've been saved, they would be used as a warning to the upcoming generations. Remember that both women were used, but what they were used for, are actually the matter we are considering here. Let's again look at 2 Timothy 2:19-21 from another translation for the sake of emphasis;

"But God's truth stands firm like a great rock, and nothing can shake it. It is a foundation stone with these words written on it: 'The Lord knows those who are really his,'

and ‘A person who calls himself a Christian should not be doing things that are wrong.’

In a wealthy house there are dishes made of gold and silver as well as some made from wood and clay. The expensive dishes are used for guests, and the cheap ones are used in the kitchen or to put garbage in. If you stay away from sin you will be like one of these dishes made of purest gold-the very best in the house- so that Christ himself can use you for His highest purposes”(Living Bible).

Mary preferred to be among those women who would be used as an example to others, as women who had kept themselves for the Master’s highest purpose. It is only they that stay away from sin who will be used for the Master’s highest purpose. This means that in God’s house, there are degrees of usage based on the degree of personal consecration. We have the degrees of low purpose with low consecration, high purpose with high consecration, higher purpose with higher consecration, and the highest purpose with the highest consecration. All these degrees of usage are simply based on our personal submission to the dealings of God upon our lives and personal consecration.

Maybe you have been living your life however you want to, believing that Jesus will wash your sins away. And sincerely, you are correct. But remember that not all stains are washable. I know this is a bitter truth to swallow. Some stains remain with you for life as scars. Just like every wound after being healed will always leave a scar. While some scars disappear over time, others remain for life. An example of a lifelong scar is the loss of physical virginity. Forgiveness of sin does not produce a new virginity (physical) in you. This scar remains forever in your life time. You can only be used as a warning for the upcoming generations to guard their virginity jealously.

Don't be like Reuben the son of Jacob. He slept with his father's concubine, and became a victim at his youthful age (foundational stage). When the time of blessing came, Reuben was cursed instead of being blessed. He was expecting his father's blessing only to be told;

“Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch...

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be” (Gen. 49:3, 10 KJV)

Reuben lost his blessing as the first son. He lost the scepter of authority over his brethren, and was forced to bow down to his younger brother Judah. Reuben, a mighty man, the beginning of Jacob's strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power was reduced to unstable water that cannot excel. This is how much immorality can reduce a man.

Dare to be different. Others may fail, but you must not be like these others, who have no concern for fulfilling God's purpose. You are created for a purpose and that purpose must be fulfilled. Why not stand out as Mary stood in her generation? Don't forget, God cannot be mocked; a man shall surely reap what he sows. Don't you know that life is all about fulfilling purpose, not satisfying pleasures? You are created for a purpose and not for the pleasures of this world. Remember that God's mercy does not destroy God's standard. It pays to be a virgin. There is dignity in virginity.

It is written in Hebrews 12:16 -17;

“Watch out that no one becomes involved in sexual sin or becomes careless about God as Esau did: he traded his rights as the oldest son for a single meal. And afterwards, when he wanted those rights back again, it was too late, even though he wept bitter tears of repentance. So remember, and be careful.” (Living Bible)

Be careful to hold your birthright of virginity very tightly, lest you, like Esau, seek for it with bitter tears of repentance though it can never be recovered. Be wise like Mary and Joseph.

It is also written in 1 Thessalonians 4:2-8;

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.” (English Standard Version)

CHAPTER SIX



ARE YOU A WALL OR A DOOR?

(The Testimony of a Virgin on the day of Her Marriage)

“[Gathered with her family and the wedding guests in her mother’s cottage, the bride said to her stepbrothers, When I was a little girl, you said] We have a little sister and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for in marriage?

If she is a wall [discreet and womanly], we will build upon her a turret [a dowry] of silver; but if she is a door [bold and flirtatious], we will enclose her with boards of cedar.

[Well] I am a wall [with battlements], and my breasts are like the towers of it. Then was I in [the King’s] eyes as one [to be respected and to be allowed] to find peace...

Joyfully the radiant bride turned to him, the one altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand to her soul, and with unconcealed eagerness to begin her life of sweet companionship with him, she answered, my beloved, and come quickly, like a gazelle or a young hart [and take me to our waiting home] upon the mountain of spices!” (Song of Solomon 8:8-10; 14, Amplified Version)

“My brothers used to worry about me. ‘Our little sister has no breasts. What shall we do with our little sister when men come asking for her?

She’s a virgin and vulnerable, and we’ll protect her. If they think a door, we’ll barricade it.’

Dear brothers, I’m a walled-in virgin still, but my breasts are full and when my lover sees me, he knows he’ll soon be satisfied...

Run to me, dear lover, come like a gazelle. Leap like a wild stag on the Spice Mountains”
(Song of Solomon 8:8-10; 14, Message Version)

We have a little sister too young to have breasts, what will we do for our sister if someone ask to marry her?

If she is a virgin, like a wall, we will protect her with a silver tower. But if she is promiscuous, like a swinging door, we will block her door with s cedar bar.

I was a virgin. Like a wall; now my breasts are like towers. When my lover looks at me, he is delighted with what he sees...

Come away, my love! Be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”
(Song of Solomon 8:8-10; 14, New Living Translation)

There is joy, peace and excitement in following the Lord Jesus. There is peace in keeping ourselves for the Lord. There is dignity in virginity.

There is integrity in being a virgin for the Lord. What a testimony to share in the joy of the bride on the day of her marriage. I thank God for her brothers who were worried about her life. They gave her a charge that kept her going strong in life. Their question formed a burden and conviction in her heart that there is dignity in being a virgin. Their words kept her in check even when her hormones were saying “Yes”. She kept saying, “No!” The question kept ringing in her heart whenever she saw her friends giving in to sexual desires. The question;

“We have a little sister and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for in marriage?”

This kept her going in life with her conviction of the dignity of virginity even in a perverse generation. The bride, at a young age, must have been saying to herself, “How can I be a woman without breasts? Others can be women without breasts, but I must develop into a full grown woman who has not defiled herself. I must marry as a virgin. How can I be a mother without breasts to nurse the unborn generation? How can I be like a woman without testimony and example to lead both her generation and the unborn generation in the way of God? How can I be like a woman without breasts to nurse her babies? Just like a mother hen with life to incubate her eggs into becoming chicks. No, I must keep my virginity. I must marry as a virgin.”

May God raise up brothers and sisters who will give us a godly charge to keep us on the highway of holiness, deeper consecration and purity. The bride’s brothers told her when she was young that if she was a wall (virgin), they would protect her with barbed wires, but if she was a swinging door that opens to whoever knocks (that is, if she was promiscuous or flirtatious), they would block her with cedar bar and barricade her. This advice never left the heart of this young girl till she

was grown up enough for marriage, even until the day of her marriage. Her brothers must have forgotten these words, but she stored those words in her heart for years and they became a light to her path.

Finally, on the day of her marriage, she gathered her family and the marriage guests in her mother's house to share her testimony. She reminded her brothers about the question they asked her when she was young. "Are you a wall or a door?" Here is her answer, "Dear brothers, I'm a walled-in virgin still, my breasts are full... and when my lover sees me, he knows he'll soon be satisfied." What a testimony to share on the day of her marriage. She was actually saying that, "I am not a swinging door that opens to every young man that comes my way. I am a wall, a virgin that resisted everyone and everything that wanted to defile me." She was actually saying that she had kept herself and her lover would find satisfaction in her. He would not feel as if he was eating a leftover piece of food. She was in the king's eye as one to be respected and allowed to find peace.

Dear friend, there is dignity in virginity. It pays to be a wall rather than a door. It pays to be a virgin rather than to be a swinging door that opens at any little wind of sexual pleasure. There is testimony in being a virgin. There is a song of victory to sing to your God and your lover on the day of your marriage. There is a story to tell and a hymn to sing to the coming generation. There is a honeymoon to enjoy, not a bitter moment to remember on the day of your marriage and for the rest of your married life.

The mystery of virginity is that heaven and earth will bear witness that your marriage is built on the foundation of purity. Even your matrimonial bed on your marriage night is an evidence of purity to your children and the generations that will hear your testimony. So many marriages have turned sour on the wedding night because of lack of

purity. The excitement and fulfillment of what God has kept for them has been stolen. So many marriages have been broken and many are about to face shipwreck because of lack of trust for one another. The bride said that her lover would be satisfied and delighted with her. She would be respected and allowed to find peace. Do you want to enjoy peace, to be respected and find satisfaction in your marriage? Keep yourself pure. It brings trust for both partners. Do you want a home and not a house in marriage? Keep yourself holy. Keep your body undefiled.

This is why Song of Solomon 8:14 says:

“Joyfully the radiant bride turned to him, the one altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand to her soul, and with unconcealed eagerness to begin her life of sweet companionship with him, she answered, my beloved, and come quickly, like a gazelle or a young hart [and take me to our waiting home] upon the mountains of spices!”

Do you want to have a home and not a house? Do you want a home that is built upon the mountains with spices of peace, and not a house in a valley of suspicion with a lack of peace? Keep yourself pure. Guard your virginity jealously.

CHAPTER SEVEN



FINAL CHARGE

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that they profiting may appear to all.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”
(I Timothy 4:12-16 KJV)

The youthful age is the age of strength, which is the glory of every youth. The question is, what are we using this strength to do? While you are young, it is good to use this strength to bear the yoke of the dealings and purposes of God upon your life rather than bearing the yoke of lust,

fornication, rebelliousness and lack of visions. When it is written that in the last days, young men shall see visions, young women shall prophecy, and old men will dream dreams, it is unfortunate to say that many youths are busy dreaming dreams like old men instead of seeing visions and prophesying.

Here is a charge from the word of God for us to keep and run with in life: 1Timothy 4: 12-16:

(1) “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example...*”

This was a charge God gave to a young Timothy through Brother Paul, who recognized the youthful age as the age of strength. We are charged to let no man despise our youth or look down on our strength. We must use this strength that God has given to us to be an example for believers in word and conduct, in love, in faith, spirit, in purity and in life. Any youth that would go far in life must use God’s strength properly. It is only when this strength is properly used for the glory of God that men will not despise or look down on us. Any youth who has been despised by men must have, in a way, misused the strength of God. God’s strength in our lives is meant to set an example to all. It is not meant for satisfying sexual urges and pursuing earthly things that have no value before the throne of God. Have you been despised by men? Check where you have misused the strength God has given you for His purpose. What yoke are you bearing with this God-given strength? It is only a youth that has strength that can bear godly yokes. Vision is for young men that have strength. Vision is not for old men who have used up their strength.

It is God’s heart cry that we use this youthful strength to be an example to all in words, conduct, love, faith and purity. It is God’s desire to be able to point at any one of us as an example of how to speak, live, love,

demonstrate faith and live in purity—not as youths that cannot manage closeness to a sister without ending up sleeping with her instead of showing her the genuine love of God. God is seeking for a youth who will relate with the opposite sex with absolute purity of heart. Why many youths fall victim to the sin of lust, fornication, and rebelliousness, is because we don't use the strength God has given to us to bear His purpose for our lives in our generation.

(2) *“Till I come, give attendance to readings, to exhortation, to doctrine”*

Another charge in which most of us are lacking as Christian youths is the reading and study of the Scripture, giving counsel and the teaching of the doctrine of the life of Christ. Many youths spend most of their time reading romantic novels, pornographic newspapers and magazines, watching pornographic movies, chatting with friends on Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter etc. on issues that add no value to their lives.

We are charged to give attendance to reading Scripture and other materials that will deepen our knowledge about God and life. The word “attendance” here means to be diligent in reading and studying the scripture. This is the only way we are able to be an example to others, and exhort, and counsel anybody in the way of God. Do men rarely come to you for counsel? Check your study and prayer life. You can only comfort others with the comfort you have received. You cannot give what you don't have. The strength of our youthful age must be used for devotion to the reading and study of the Scripture, exhortation of the body of Christ, and teaching the life of Christ (doctrine). This is what our youthful strength is meant for.

(3) *“Neglect not the gift that is in thee...”*

For every youth in this world, there is a purpose for existing. No youth came into this world as a mistake. **“Before I formed you in your**

mother's womb, I knew you. I ordained you a prophet unto the nations", was God's word to Jeremiah. This simply means that before each one of us was formed in our mother's womb, God called and ordained us for His work on earth. We are simply messengers on assignment, ambassadors of Christ to the world. God has given every youth a purpose for living. He has called and given gifts to every youth. We are charged to use God's strength to pursue God's calling and ministry upon our lives. We must not neglect the gifts of God in our lives. These gifts must be discovered under the guiding light and help of the Holy Spirit. And upon discovery of our calling and gifts, we must put them to work for the edification of the body of Christ and for the glory of God. We must practice, cultivate, mediate and throw ourselves wholly to God's work so that our progress may be evident to both God and men. Don't forget that there is an expiry date for our lives as youths and even to our existence on earth. This is the right time to make an impact on the world while we are still strong.

(4) *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them:"*

So many youths have run with the gifts of God upon their lives without taking heed to their lives. They ended up on the laps of Delilah like Samson. They ran with the gifts and anointing of God without taking heed to their characters and God's teachings, only to end as causalities on the highway of life. Here is a charge to take heed to our inner lives, characters, and even what we teach to others. Do you teach what you don't do? Do you display charisma without the character of Christ? Do you display knowledge without life? Take heed lest you end up as causality. Check yourself whether you are still in the faith.

We are to take heed to our characters and teachings, so that by so doing we will save both ourselves and those that hears us. Many young men and women are swimming in the ocean of fornication and yet are in the church, preaching, teaching, singing, serving and ministering. The fact that you have a gift does not ensure a right standing with God. Remember that God shows His acts to those who seek His hand (gifts

and miracles), but He shows His ways (life) to those who seek His face. **‘Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them’** is a charge to keep and run with in life.

Finally, you may be wondering how to take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine of the life of Christ and continue in them in this present generation, in this jet and digital age. Here is good news for you.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. (Titus 2:11-14 KJV)

God’s grace has appeared to all men, including you. The grace of God teaches us to say, “NO!” to ungodliness and worldly lusts. Grace helps us to live soberly, righteously, and in a godly way in this present world, as we look forward to the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself to purify us as a peculiar people, zealous for good works.

We have no excuse not to be an example in our generation. God has given us His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who died at Calvary to redeem us. This same God has made His grace (God’s strength) available to all of us to say no to sin, self, and the world system. We have no excuse not to be an example to the world in words, conversation, love, spirit, faith, and in purity as youths. Don’t forget, it pays to be a virgin serving Jesus in this perverse generation.

Endnotes

1. Quoted in *Family News from Dr. James Dobson*, August 1992, 5.
2. UNICEF survey on *Premarital Sex* 2001
http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premarital_sex
3. William G. axinn and Ariand Thorton, “The Relationship between Cohabitation and Divorce: Selectivity or casual influence?” *Demography* 29 (1992):357-74; and Zheng Wu, “Premarital Cohabitation and Postmarital Cohabitation Union Formation.” *Journal of Family Issues* 16 (1995):212-32.
4. Dr. Gary Chapman, “Things I Wish I’d Known before We Got Married” 2010, published by Moody Publisher.
5. Dr. David Popenoe and Dr. Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, “Sex without Strings, Relationship without Rings” from *The State of our Unions, 2001*, paper published by The National Marriage Project, <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/publications/pubsexwostrings.htm>.
6. Ravi Zacharias, “I, Isaac, take Thee, Rebekah- Moving from Romance to lasting Love” 2004, published by W Publishing Group.
7. The story that I titled “ Had I Know” was a story I heard from a message delivered by a preacher, which I cannot remember the name. Also, some of the input from the story of Joseph in this book was influenced by Brother Gbile Akanni’s interpretation of the life of Joseph in Egypt in a message.

About the Book

This book is to encourage young adults and teenagers that are still virgins to value and guard their virginity jealously. From my observations and experiences during school visitations and interactions with young adults and teenagers both locally and internationally, I have discovered that virginity is no longer valued and even those who are still virgins don't understand the value of what they are carrying. The world system has made it seem as if to be a virgin in our time shows a lack of maturity.

This book will help you to see the need to value and guard your virginity for the purpose of God in this perverse generation. This book also explores the reasons why you should say no when your hormones are saying yes.

About the Author

Solomon Chukwuemeka Ugbaja is a desperate seeker of God. He desires to become more like Jesus and represent Him on earth by fulfilling the Kingdom mandate. He also desires to see young adults and teenagers becoming more like Jesus and fulfilling their kingdom mandate on earth. He served as the Aid for Life and Family Life Development Coordinator of Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) in Nassarawa State University, Keffi. Also, he served as the State Publicity Secretary of Nigeria Christian Corper's Fellowship, Katsina State. He is currently serving the Lord as a Tentmaker.