

A photograph of a church interior during a wedding ceremony. Rows of wooden pews are visible on either side of a central aisle. In the foreground, a couple's hands are shown exchanging wedding rings. The bride's hand is on the left, wearing a ring, and the groom's hand is on the right, wearing a watch. The background shows the church's architecture, including arches and a altar area.

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO

GOSPEL ORJI

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I DO**

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

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TESTIMONIAL

FEEDBACK FROM OUR ESTEEMED READERS
GLOBALLY:

How are you man of God? My name is Leonard Mugodhi from Zimbabwe. I want to testify that your books have positively impacted on my life. My mentality have changed after reading the following books: Maximizing Your Time; You Are Not Empty and What To Do To Make Every New Year Count.

Leonard Mugodhi,
Zimbabwe.

Your book, YOU ARE NOT MISTAKE!

I was born out of marriage and always been told I am nobody, etc. It affected my life in one way or the other but reading your book it made a lot of difference. I am completely a new person and feeling alive now.

Happy,
Tanzania.

My life is a product of your mentorship. Through your different books, I have realized my dreams and potentials,

and adding value to my world. Thank you so much your Excellency for divine insight and wisdom to equip my world.

Aubrey Lumwira,
Malawi.

I learned a lot from your books. One of them is that NO ONE IS EMPTY. You also said that God specializes in hiding great things in small things in order to protect what He has concealed... Yeah, your books are so powerful and there are deep insight in them. May you continue to do more and help generations.

Duncan,
Zimbabwe.

I have learnt so much from What's Wrong With Valentine's Day, Rise To The Top, Maximizing Your Time, and Straight Talk On Pornography. They have changed my thinking and perspectives so much about life. Thank you so much for such motivation on teaching the Word to change our mindset. It is a pleasure having you in our lives.

Esther R. Kamumvuri,
Zimbabwe.

Greetings Great God's General.

Your book YOU ARE NOT EMPTY was your first literature I stumbled on and read. It was an amazing piece that blessed my life and stirred up the desire to read more of your

publications, develop my self, and become more intentional about living a purpose driven life.

I could say that you were part of the miracles/blessings that happened to us in the last year.

God increase you enormously sir and make you a great blessing to this generation and the generations to come.

Omiogie Princess E.,
Abuja, Nigeria.

I thought there's more time for me and am not yet grown to start doing something. Until one day I came across a book written by GOSPEL ORJI titled THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU.

I was inspired and challenged, and that year I formed a mission group and we started witnessing the Gospel to remote areas. In one year through the help of mission team, we planted two churches for a particular ministry.

Hope to read more from you man of God.

Jacob Ayiilaka A.,
Ghana.

Greetings Sir.

I am writing to appreciate God for your life. You are a gift to this current generation. I came across one of your books UNDERSTANDING YOUR PURPOSE, PASSION & POTENTIAL. I read it on the spot. The book was so detailed and impactful. But what touched me the most in the

book is that you said you don't sell your books, you write them and release them for free.

I took this personal decision that since you write the books for free, I asked God for the grace to translate the books in French for free too.

Now, in the book MAXIMIZING YOUR TIME, you taught on the value of time. A time squandered or mismanaged cannot be recovered. We all have 24hours. So we have to use our time well and wisely.

Thank you very much sir.

Pastor Charles ZINSOU,
Winners Chapel Benin Republic (Glazoue branch).

Blessed morning, Pastor Gospel Orji. Wow! It is really a privilege to be connected to the gifted, graced and the great. I celebrate the grace on you Sir and I will forever remain grateful to God for bringing you into my life because it has never remained the same.

I never knew you until I encountered you through the first book I read THE

WORLD IS WAITING FOR YOU, & YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE. Indeed, your gift can take you far. Sir, these two books made me share them to almost all my friends and relatives.

Your books by Gods grace carry the grace to transform lives, impart them and release them to impact their generation leading to destiny fulfilment in their lives.

Through those two books my ministry has never been the same.

What made me remain following you the most is that I knew I won't be lost when I saw the content of your books and your light. When I read your book I realized you are a hard follower of my father in the Lord Dr. David O. Oyedepo. Sir keep blessing our generation, never give up, the world is still waiting for you!

Pst. Stanley Kabwe Hantananga,
Winners Chapel Int'l, Zambia.

Greetings Pastor Gospel Orji. I am Bishop Cosmas Grevazio Liwewe of Malawi Assemblies of God and ministering at Grace Cathedral International Church. I am writing you to testify on how your books has contributed to the growth of my ministry as a pastor. I believe in reading books and I have read several books by several authors. But honestly speaking you are a timely blessing to the body of Christ. You speak wisdom to the church of God through your books. I am graced to read all your books and you have mentored me and my church because I have been sharing with the church through preaching what I have learned from your books. I can confidently testify that our mindset has completely been overhauled because of your books. Of late I have realized that you have been close to the great teacher of the word of God Dr. Paul Eneche who happened to visit us in Malawi just last year. You flow in the same spirit of wisdom. May God continue using you to the ministry of sharpening leaders, laymen and all people who are within the circle of your influence.

Bishop Cosmas,
Assemblies of God Church Malawi,
Grace Cathedral Int'l Church.

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO

“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?”

(Luke 14:28 NLT).

Marriage is a journey, and every successful journey requires adequate preparation. It’s a journey you have never embarked on before, so there is a need for you to sit down and count the cost to ensure you are fully armed for the journey. A major dream of many singles especially ladies is indeed their wedding day (the day they will walk down the aisles to say I Do).

There is absolutely nothing wrong with such an expectation. However, such expectations must be met with adequate preparation. But, in a situation where that expectation meets inadequate preparation, confusion, frustration and separation are the outcome.

When we say Before You Say I Do, what do we imply? It implies that, before the time you get married; before you walk down the aisle. Now, there are things you need to both KNOW and DO before you say I do! What are those things?

#1

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, ARE YOU READY TO DO IT?

Brother, getting ready to marry is more than looking out for a fine girl to marry and thinking only about how you will get her pregnant during your honeymoon.

I don't want you to answer this question in a hurry, take your time to answer it sincerely: Are you truly ready to do it?

This is referring to **PREPARATION!** Are you ready, prepared for marriage? Mind you, I didn't ask you if you are of marriageable age, and I am also not asking you if you are ready for the wedding, I am referring to marriage.

There is a huge difference between a wedding and a marriage.

A wedding is just the event that leads to marriage; it is temporal, while marriage is permanent. A successful wedding does not guarantee a successful marriage. A flamboyant, expensive wedding is not the guarantee for a blissful home.

Most people prepare for the wedding, but only very few prepare for marriage. Most people spend everything preparing for a one-day occasion but fail to prepare for the marital journey they are embarking on. No wonder the multiplied marital crisis we are seeing everywhere these days.

A wedding is a one-day thing; it is a few hours event. Wedding is the occasion. The end of the wedding is the beginning of a marriage. Weddings could be seen as admission and matriculation, but they are not a guarantee for a colourful and successful graduation and convocation.

Friend, marriage is the main thing, not the wedding. Between a successful wedding and a successful marriage, which one do you prefer?

Your level of preparation will confirm your priority: wedding or marriage. And what does it mean to prepare? It simply means to get ready.

WHY IS PREPARATION NECESSARY?

What you don't prepare for, you can't succeed in it. Proper and adequate preparation prevents poor performance. When people are ill-prepared, it will show in every relationship they enter into.

A major reason many marriages are failing today, homes breaking, is that many people step into marriage unprepared expecting to succeed. That is not possible.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF PREPARATION?

You must be Physically, Emotionally, Socially, Mentally, Financially (especially the man), and Spiritually prepared for marriage. Many singles are not yet ready for marriage; they lack the physical maturity, social maturity, emotional maturity, financial maturity, spiritual maturity, and mental maturity required in marriage. There is more to marriage than I love you, I miss you syndrome. I will talk more about this in our next point.

I ask you again, Are You Ready To Do it?

#2

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, ARE YOU READY AND WILLING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY?

For instance, one of the major responsibilities of the man is to cater to his family. Young Man reading this book, are you ready and willing to spend and pay family bills? Now, do not think I am here to scare you, not so. I am here to tell you what you need to know.

I have seen some irresponsible young men who don't want to pay bills, they want it to be 50/50 with their wives. There is nothing wrong if a woman assists her husband, but the responsibility of providing is primarily the man.

Before you say I do, you must be ready and willing to accept responsibility. As a man, you have responsibilities, and

as a woman, you have responsibilities too. This is because there are responsibilities that come with marriage.

Let me ask you, are you prepared for the responsibilities that with marriage? Before you say **'I DO'**, ask yourself if you are truly ready **TO DO**. Because, immediately you have said 'I Do' on the altar, you have no option but to start Doing!

What confirms that you are man enough is acceptance of responsibility, not muscles. It is not muscles that will put on your family's table, and pay bills here and there, except if you are a wrestler. You don't use your muscles on your wife or children, that is abuse. Rather, use your muscles to defend your family, and use it to provide for your family.

Those who dodge responsibility end as a liability. Marriage is for the responsible. And you know, responsibility is proof of maturity, not age. You can have aged without change. It is the acceptance of responsibility that confirms maturity.

So, before you say I do, mature. Many people my age are ready for marriage, but by responsibility are not yet ready and matured for it. And the weight of responsibility you are willing to carry confirms how you are.

For instance, you fall in love to get married, but you walk in love to stay married. That is, falling in love may lead you into marriage, but walking in love is required for you to remain married. And walking in love is a responsibility. Are you ready?

#3

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, SHINE YOUR EYES!

It was Dr. Myles Munroe that said, “Eyes that look are many, but eyes that are few.” Do not just look, see. I ask you, What do you see about your husband or wife-to-be? Do you like what you see? Can you cope with it?

This is important because, if you fail to see now, marriage will force you to open your eyes. If you say love is blind, marriage will heal that blindness.

When I say you should shine your eyes, it means looking beyond the container in search of content. The container and content are both good, but, the content is better. So, do not be carried away by things that don’t matter, open your eyes now.

Take time to study your partner before marriage because leading us not into temptation is better than delivering us from evil.

#4

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, ENSURE YOU ARE COMPATIBLE

(especially those already in a relationship)!

Compatibility is key to the sustainability of your marriage. Are you heading in the same direction? You should not board the same vehicle with someone going in a different direction or destination. Anybody whose destination is not your direction is not worthy of your association.

Do you enjoy the same things?

Would you be friends if you weren't dating?

Now, these 3 questions above are more important than "Does your heart skip a beat when you see him/her?"

#5

**BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT MARRIAGE IS
NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR ANYTHING!**

This is one truth many people may not tell you.
Marriage is not a requirement for:

A happy life;

A good career;

Great relationships;

Fun;

Peace of mind, etc.

Marriage is a great and beautiful adventure. However, men and women can have a fulfilled life with or without it. Please note that this point does not in any way give you license to leave your marriage, except where your life is threatened!

#6

**BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, LOOK OUT FOR CHARACTER, AND ALSO
ENSURE YOU ARE A PERSON OF QUALITY CHARACTER!**

Marry someone who fears not and also be a person who fears God. Mind you, I didn't say a person that is religious or goes to church, but a person who genuinely fears God. Young Man, do not just marry a beautiful woman, marry a virtuous woman. The charming woman can harm you if she has no character. So, remove the letter C (character) from the charm, you are left with harm.

Young lady, do not just marry a handsome man, marry a faithful man. No matter how much you pray and fast, without quality character, your marriage will have issues.

Prayer and prophecy may bring a life partner, but without quality principles, you stand to lose that partner. Cultivate quality character before you say I do.

#7

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, FIND OUT WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO DO!

Discover your purpose in life before choosing your life partner. Discover where you are going in life before choosing who will go with you.

Your purpose for life determines who you marry.

#8

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE?

Young lady, get a life before you become a wife.
Young man, get a life before you begin to find a wife.
Get a job before you begin to look for romance.
Even in the Bible, the book of Job is before the book of Romans.

God gave Adam work before He gave him a wife. There can be no romance without finance; no honey without money. Ensure you are doing something with your hands no matter how small.

Young man, do you have a job or business that is bringing in money? Or do you want to marry and God will feed your family by faith? Reciting love poems and speaking in tongues only cannot put food on the table, buy pampers or even

sustain your marriage. Go and work, so you don't become a concern or burden to your would-be wife.

#9

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, ARE YOU CONVINCED ABOUT THAT PERSON?

Do you have conviction or confusion? Do you have peace of mind or you are under pressure, tension, and anxiety?

Ensure your decision of a life partner is not influenced by money, sentiments, or another person's vision/dream!

Also, beware of undue influences (money, gift, sex, sentiment), and look for qualities that can sustain a home. Refuse to be begged into marriage.

#10

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO, DON'T DO IT!

Don't do what? Premarital sex! Do not do it until you say I do. You are not licensed to eat that fruit called sex outside marriage: God frowns at it.

Why shouldn't you do it just as others are doing? No, don't, because God said so. It's not because He hates you, or because He does not want you to enjoy yourself, but because He loves you and wants nothing but the best for you.

Fornication is the foundation for destruction. Never lay the bed of destruction as a foundation for your marital destiny.

Singles, not until you are married, he or she has no license to your body. Most people joined themselves before going to

God to join them. That is, they married before they came to be married. What a disaster!

Many times (if not all the time), those who sow premarital sex during courtship end up reaping extramarital sex in marriage.

My dear single lady, do not let sex make you a mother when love has not made you a wife! And for you young man reading this book, do not allow sex to make you a father when love has not made you a husband.

TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING 4 KEY THOUGHTS:

First, do not manage any relationship; any relationship you manage today can damage you tomorrow.

Secondly, do not force yourself into any marriage where you lost your peace, because, if you do, it may turn you into a piece of rag.

Thirdly, do not marry anybody out of pity, else, you may end up as an object of pity in a pit. Fourthly, it is better to be single and believe God to be married than to be married wishing you were single.

#11

IN CONCLUSION

Friend, you must get it right in marriage. One of the reasons why you must get it right in marriage is that if you marry **WRONG**, you may die **YOUNG**. How? If that wrong partner does not kill you physically he or she may kill you emotionally.

Who you marry will affect the rest of your life. Among many relatives we have, we don't choose the majority of them (your parents, siblings, etc.). The only one God permitted you to choose is your life partner. So, ensure you choose correctly.

#12

IF YOU ARE NOT SAVED, YOU ARE NOT SAFE!

Success on earth and failure in eternity is a useless successes. Eternity is real. There is life after death, and it's you who will choose where you will spend your eternity: Heaven or hell. The one you live for and how you live determines where you will end in eternity. Those who miss Heaven won't miss hell. The choice is yours.

At this moment, if you have not given your life to Jesus Christ or you did it before but returned to your vomit, you are encouraged to do so NOW. Pray this prayer meaning every word of it in your heart:

“Lord Jesus Christ, I know I am a sinner and I cannot help myself. I have lived independently of You. Come into my heart and change my life and destiny. I receive the grace to live for You by faith, serve You all the days of my life, and say NO to sin. Thank You, Lord, for saving me. Amen.

Now that you are born again, I would like you to be planted in a Bible-believing Church near you, where you can be properly fed and nurtured in the Word of God. Congratulations and God bless you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



GOSPEL ORJI is a full-time Minister of the GOSPEL with Dunamis International GOSPEL Centre, Abuja, under the leadership of Dr. Pastor Paul & Dr. Mrs. Becky Enenche (the Senior Pastors).

He also runs an Online Mentorship Program known as Personal Development Academy, a coaching program aimed at Awakening the Giant/Leader in You, Pushing You out of Your Comfort Zone, and Empowering You for Global Relevance and Impact! For details of this online program, kindly use the contact in this book.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR ARE:

Making The Most Of Your Life,
The World Is Waiting For You,
Maximizing Your Time,
Causes & Cure For Delay In Getting Married,
You Are Not Empty,
You Are Not a Mistake,
Understanding Your Purpose, Passion & Potential,
Why Am i Not Yet Married?
What To Do While Waiting To Be Married,
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