How to "Find" a Spouse



Introduction: Proverbs 18:22 *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

How not to find a spouse:
Going to the wrong places (display Ads; internet; dens of wickedness)
Looking at the flesh only (don't be led astray by appearances)

1. **Be Completely <u>Surrendered</u> to God and to His will** (Romans 12:1-2)

2. **<u>Trust</u> God's Will and His Timing and Seek Him in Prayer** (Prov.3:5-6)

3. **Be Doing God's <u>General Will</u> so that He can Guide you into His <u>Specific Will</u>** (Acts 13:2)

4. **Be <u>Content</u> with your present state of Singleness and <u>Patient</u> as you wait on God's Timing** (*1 Corinthians 7:27; Psalms 27:14; Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

5. **Be <u>Prepared</u> for the <u>Roles & Responsibilities</u> of Marriage** (*Ephes. 5:22-25; Genesis 2:18; 1 Cor. 11:8-9)*

6. **<u>Pray</u> for your future Spouse** (Matthew 7:7-f)

- Pray that God would <u>guide you</u> to His choice for your life's partner
  - Pray that your future spouse would be <u>Saved</u>, <u>Surrendered</u>, <u>Sanctified</u>, & <u>Serving</u> Jesus Christ

7. **Concentrate more on <u>Becoming</u> the Right Person, than on <u>Finding</u> the Right Person**

   - Be all that you can be
   - Make sure you have something to offer your spouse
   - "Keep thyself Pure" (Keep your relationships with the opposite sex out of the "Romantic Zone" – *Joshua Harris "I Kissed Dating Goodbye"*)

8. **Make a "mental" list of the Biblical Qualifications that the Lord would expect of a godly mate, and make sure they are true of your own life**

   a. **Assurance of Salvation** (*2 Corinthians 6:14)*
   b. **A Surrendered Heart to God's Will**
   c. **A Godly Attitude & Lifestyle**
      1) A Genuine Humility
      2) A Gracious Spirit
      3) Servant's Heart
      4) A Daily Worship (Daily Devotional Life)
      5) An Unselfish Character (Joy = Jesus, Others, You)

6) A Respect for others
   a) Respect for authority
   b) Respect for Parents
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   d) Respect for friends

7) Personal Discipline
   a) How does this person use his/her Time?
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* Question to ask: Will this person enhance my spiritual life and service for Jesus Christ?

Men: Look for True Beauty

Inner Virtue: A Meek & Quiet Spirit

1 Peter 3:3-4

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A man of Wisdom & Godly Character

A man who serves the Lord in his local church

9. Trust God to work through the wisdom & oversight of your <u>parents</u> or <u>guardian</u>, or <u>Christian mentor</u>

1 Cor. 7:38

So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well;

*A Wife for Isaac **(Genesis 24)***

**** Observe some Biblical principles for spouse finding in the example of Isaac & Rebekah***

A. ISAAC WAS <u>PATIENT</u> IN WAITING FOR GOD'S CHOICE FOR HIS SPOUSE
(He didn't marry until he was 40 years old – Genesis 25:20)

B. ISAAC WAS <u>NOT</u> TO MARRY AN <u>UNBELIEVING CANAANITE</u> (V.3)
(No child of God should unequally yoke up with an unbeliever – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

C. ISAAC WAS TO TRUST THE <u>DISCRETION</u> AND <u>INFLUENCE</u> OF HIS <u>FATHER</u> IN THE SELECTION OF HIS SPOUSE. (V.4-61)
NOTE: The father's selection of a bride for his son is a Biblical Concept. For example God the Father is busy selecting the bride for his Son-Jesus Christ right now (John 6:37, 39, 44, 65)

D. ISAAC EVIDENTLY HAD A <u>PERSONAL</u>, <u>CLOSE</u>, <u>FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD</u> PRIOR TO MEETING GOD'S CHOICE FOR HIS LIFE (V.62-63)
(He spent time in quiet "meditation" with God)

E. REBEKAH WAS IMMEDIATELY <u>ATTRACTED</u> TO ISAAC, YET PRACTICED <u>MODESTY</u> IN HIS PRESENCE (V.64-65)

F. ISAAC <u>LOVED</u> THE ONE HE MARRIED AND FOUND <u>COMFORT</u> IN HER COMPANIONSHIP (V.66-67)

Conclusion: The clear emphasis of Gen.24 centers on <u>God</u>. Trust Him to sovereignly work in the selection of your life's mate! He gives the best to those who leave the choice with Him!

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4. **Be _____ with your present state of Singleness and _____ _____ as you wait on God's Timing** (*1 Corinthians 7:27; Psalms 27:14; Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

5. **Be _____ for the _____&_____ of Marriage** (*Ephes. 5:22-25; Genesis 2:18; 1 Cor. 11:8-9)*

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- Pray that God would _____you to His choice for your life's partner
  - Pray that your future spouse would be _____, _____, _____, & _____ Jesus Christ

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How to "Find" a Spouse

Introduction: God made us in His image. He is a social being. He made us to crave relationships with others. Particularly with a life's partner (a life-long spouse).

Marriage is God's plan. (Genesis 1-2)

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2. <u>Trust</u> God's Will and His Timing and Seek Him in Prayer (Prov.3:5-6)
Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

3. Be Doing God's <u>General Will</u> so that He can Guide you into His <u>Specific Will</u> (Acts 13:2)

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

4. Be <u>Content</u> with your present state of Singleness and <u>Patient</u> as you wait on God's Timing

1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:

5. Be <u>Prepared</u> for the <u>Roles & Responsibilities</u> of Marriage
Ephes. 5:22-25
Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. [24] Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. [25] Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Men: Are you ready to be a loving Leader for your wife?
Provider; Protector; Servant-leader; etc.
Women: Are you ready to be a Submissive Supporter for your Husband?
A "Helpmeet" (Suitable counterpart)
Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

1 Cor. 11:8-9
For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. [9] Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

6. <u>Pray</u> for your future Spouse (Matthew 7:7-f)

- Pray that God would <u>guide you</u> to His choice for your life's partner
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a. Assurance of Salvation
2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

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Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; [4] But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Outer Virtue: Unselfish, Untiring, Service for others (Proverbs 31)

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*A Wife for Isaac **(Genesis 24)***

Introduction: v.1-2: The marriage of our child is an extremely important matter; take it seriously! How should a young person know who to marry? How does he/she find God's will for a mate?
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(Abraham via his trusted servant Eliezer would arrange for Isaac's marriage- v.4-11)
How do you look for a spouse for your children?

1. **Look to God in <u>prayer;</u> (Ask for His kind blessing) (v.12,15)**
2. **Look for <u>godly initiative</u> and <u>a servant's heart</u> in the potential spouse (v.13-14)**
3. **Look for one who would be physically <u>attractive</u> and <u>morally pure</u> (v.16)**
4. **Look for one who shows the virtues of <u>kindness</u>, <u>respect</u>, and <u>diligence</u> (v.17-27)**
5. **Meet the <u>parents</u>, whose authority the young person is under until given away in marriage (v.28-61)**
   a. Seek the <u>parental blessing</u> on the relationship (v.50-56; 60)
   b. Allow the single person's <u>right to agree to the relationship</u> or not (v.57-59)

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