

*Pastor Faith Oyedepo*



Living Sermons

# **COURTSHIP: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?**

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**Title: Courtship: Whose Responsibility?**

**Preacher: Pastor Faith Oyedepo**

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All inquiries and permissions:

[info.livingsermons@gmail.com](mailto:info.livingsermons@gmail.com)

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# Foreword

*Marriage and courtship remain one of the most sensitive and consequential areas of human life. Decisions made here often shape destinies, families, and spiritual direction for years to come. It is therefore no surprise that questions around initiation, responsibility, and timing continue to arise across generations.*

*In this sermon, Pastor (Mrs) Faith Oyedepo brings clarity to a subject that has become increasingly debated in contemporary Christian circles: who should initiate courtship? Rather than leaning on cultural trends or emotional reasoning, she grounds her teaching in Scripture, carefully tracing biblical language such as “find,” “give,” and “take,” and drawing from both Old and New Testament patterns of marriage.*

*What emerges is not merely a rule, but a framework of divine order—one that emphasises responsibility, leadership, agreement, and wisdom in relational decisions. The preacher also addresses modern complexities with balance, acknowledging situations that may appear to deviate from the norm, while still directing attention back to biblical principle and the importance of spiritual discernment.*

*May this manuscript serve as a guide for single believers seeking wisdom, and a reminder to all that when God’s order is honoured, relationships are strengthened, and destinies are preserved.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**

**Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com**

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# Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Pastor Faith Oyedepo](#)

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*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

# ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## Introduction

Welcome you specially today to *Times of Refreshing*. Our subject today's caption is: **Initiating Courtship: Whose Responsibility?**

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 18:22:

“Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”

The question of who should initiate courtship has become a huge one, especially among matured singles—even within Christendom today.

To initiate means to cause a process or action to begin. Courtship is a period between when two people of opposite sex, who are fully convinced and agreed to get married to each other, and when they actually get married.

Biblically and from history, the process of courtship begins when a man or his family approaches the woman he desires to be married to, or her family, with the intent of marriage, and consent is given. Even in cultures where matchmaking is practiced, the intended groom still has to visit the proposed bride's family, and agreement must be reached before courtship can begin.

Let us do a little Bible research today.

# Biblical Language Of Marriage: Find, Give, Take

The Bible uses terms such as *find*, *give*, and *take* to describe the process of marriage.

For instance:

Proverbs 18:22 says, “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing...”

Proverbs 31:10 also says, “Who can find a virtuous woman?”

What do we deduce from these scriptures? Very clearly, the emphasis is on the word *find*. The man is to find, and the woman is to be found.

First Corinthians 7:38 also states that “he that giveth her in marriage doeth well.” The emphasis here is on *give*. The woman is given in marriage.

Even normal wedding proceedings validate this fact when it is asked, “*Who giveth this woman to be married?*”

There are also several instances in the Bible where the man is said to *take* a wife.

For example:

- Genesis 24:4 — Abraham sent his servant to take a wife for his son Isaac.
- Hosea 1:2 — God told Hosea to take a wife.

# **Biblical Examples Of Initiation**

## **Adam and Eve**

Adam spoke first: “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...” (Genesis 2:23)

He recognised her and expressed it—showing initiation from the man.

## **Jacob and Rachel**

Jacob approached Laban with a proposal to marry Rachel and even served fourteen years for her.

Genesis 29:18 — “Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel...”

The man is therefore supposed to initiate courtship by making clear marriage intentions, while the woman responds. Let it be stated clearly that parents can also be instrumental in finding a wife for their son or a husband for their daughter. Recommendations or suggestions may come through trusted third parties. However, even in all this, the man is still expected to take responsibility in the marriage process.

Isaac is a clear example. Though Abraham arranged it, Isaac personally received Rebecca: Genesis 24:67 — “And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her.”

Boaz also took responsibility in ensuring the marriage process with Ruth was formalised:

Ruth 4:13 — “So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife...”

From these scriptures, God’s design is clear: the man carries the leadership responsibility in initiating marital processes, while the woman responds.

# Spiritual Responsibility In Courtship

Single men, listen very carefully—you must learn how to lead.

Single ladies, listen carefully—you need to understand what it means for a man to assume spiritual responsibility in a romantic relationship.

This is very crucial.

The question then arises: Is it wrong for a woman to initiate courtship, especially in today's world where women are strong and independent?

## Three Possibilities If A Woman Initiates Courtship

In actual fact, some situations might warrant it. However, if a woman proposes to a man and initiates courtship, there are three possibilities:

### 1. Rejection and Pressure

The man may feel pressured, step back, and reject the proposal. The woman is left to face the consequences.

### 2. Acceptance Without Leadership

The man may accept, but because she initiated, he may allow her to take the lead in the relationship. Later in marriage, she may regret that her husband does not show leadership.

### 3. Healthy Acceptance

The man may appreciate the initiation, accept the relationship, and eventually rise to take up his leadership role, leading to a stable marriage.

However, research shows that many men discover and develop responsibility as they rise to meet challenges. When a woman initiates courtship, that challenge may be absent. Women, on the other hand, are generally more relational.

A man who fails to take responsibility in courtship may likely fail in marriage. And a woman who initiates courtship may unintentionally undermine the structure of leadership God designed.

Ladies, hear this clearly: even when you are convinced about someone, wisdom demands that you allow him also to be convinced. Marriage is not by force—it is by agreement. It is not wisdom to force a romantic relationship.

I pray for you that your relationship and marital destiny will not end in regret, in Jesus' name.

## **Personal Testimony**

Before my husband approached me with the intent of marriage, God had already revealed it to me. However, I did not tell anyone, neither did I tell him.

I waited for him to make his intentions known.

When he did, I also waited for the right timing before giving my response.

Today, almost 40 years after, my testimony is that I married someone who makes me fall in love with God every single day of my life. I cannot be more grateful to God than that.

# Final Counsel

Before you initiate courtship, think deeply. Matured men and women must look before they leap. Ladies, remember—just because society is confused about roles does not mean believers should be.

Courtship is a commitment, not a game. Do not rush into accepting proposals. Take time to pray, think, and seek godly counsel before giving your response.

# Closing Prayer And Salvation Call

As you lay your bed, so shall you lie on it.

I pray for you that the wisdom of God that guided my steps will be available to you, and your testimony shall be greater, in Jesus' name.

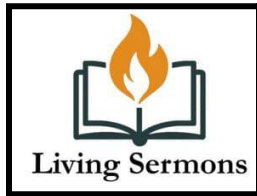
If you are not born again, pray this prayer:

“O God, I come to You today. I am a sinner. Jesus, save me. Wash me. From today I am Your child, in Jesus' name. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer sincerely, congratulations—you are now born again. Connect with godly fellowship and grow in your faith.

God is too faithful to fail.

See you next time.



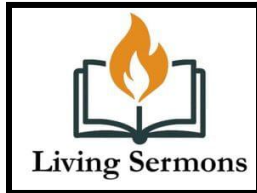
## About the Speaker

**Pastor (Mrs.) Faith Oyedepo** is a Nigerian Christian author, teacher, and preacher widely known for her consistent ministry alongside her husband, David Oyedepo, the founder of Living Faith Church Worldwide (Winners' Chapel).

She has served for decades in the Christian ministry, with a strong emphasis on marriage, family life, womanhood, and godly character. Her teachings are marked by simplicity, practical wisdom, and a focus on building stable Christian homes rooted in scriptural principles.

Beyond her public teaching role, she is also recognized for her consistent support in church leadership development and humanitarian efforts connected to the ministry she co-labors in. Over the years, her voice has remained steady in reinforcing values of faith, order, and responsibility in Christian family structures.

Her contribution to contemporary Nigerian Christianity is largely seen through the lens of discipleship in the home, where she continues to influence both younger and older generations of believers through teaching, example, and structured mentorship within the church community.



## About Living Sermons

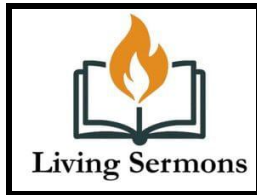
**Living Sermons** is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

Through our work, messages that might otherwise be heard once are preserved as lasting resources for teaching, devotion, discipleship, and evangelism. These books are designed not just for reading but for equipping believers, strengthening families, and advancing the Kingdom of God.

**Living Sermons—*the preached Word in lasting form.***



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At **Livingsermons.com**, our mission is to ensure that sermons inspired by the Holy Spirit are accessible in written form for study, meditation, and reference by believers around the world. This work is growing, and we can't do it alone.

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- **Prayer Intercessors** - Coordinate and hold weekly and monthly prayers.
- **Editors** – Refine transcripts into polished, readable eBooks.
- **Bloggers** – Create SEO-friendly posts to share new books.
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- **Language Translators**
- **Graphics Designers**

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