# Relationship Nuggets (vol. 1)

Discover and apply Godly wisdom for marital excellence.

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Grace and peace be multiplied to you.

I am Victor Ojo, a child of God and servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ called to shine forth the wisdom and power of God, through teaching, evangelism and discipleship.

I write these nuggets with all humility and prayerfulness trusting God to by His Spirit in us empower us to understand and apply these biblical truths in our daily lives without fail.

I pray that these nuggets will bless you and transform your life as you read through.

Enjoy!

#### NUGGET ONE: Understand God's Love

- Loving your partner means being patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, not dishonoring, not self-seeking, not easily angered, and not keeping record of wrongs. God's love is to be these things to your partner when you do & don't feel like they deserve it. (1Corinthians 13)
- 2. God's love, as described in 1Cor. 13, is impossible to express through mental and fleshly prowess. That love can only be expressed by walking in the spirit, for it's our regenerated spirit, born of God, that possesses God's love nature. This is why you must date and marry a child of God!
- Even if you're dating or are married to a child of God, you both have a responsibility to always choose to walk in love for your relationship to flourish. Fellowshipping with God's word and prioritizing His word over motivational talks and people's experiences causes us to walk in love.

# NUGGET TWO: Practice God's Love

After you end up in a relationship that's God's perfect will for you, you both have a responsibility to make it work. You both must treat one another according to God's wisdom and love that is at work in you and not primarily based on how they treat you.

- Treating your partner with God's kind of love will always eventually bring out the best attitude in them. God's love doesn't pay evil for evil, it doesn't pay back offence. God's love causes you to not be easily offended. It's wise to always forgive your partner when they wrong you.
- God's love is a matter of the heart! You have to be willing to be vulnerable and love your partner without ulterior motives for there's is a blessing attached to such love, it is the blessing of joy, peace, and longevity in sound health. God's love is wisdom indeed!

## NUGGET THREE: Learn from Jesus

- One of the most inspiring stories from which to learn how to have a successful marriage is the story of Jesus's death, burial and resurrection. Ephesians 5:2 tells us to walk in love as Christ also loved us and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to take away our sins.
- Therefore, to love as Christ loves is to be selfless, sacrificial, and generous. Jesus didn't need salvation but gave up His privileges and ego to sacrifice his life to give us eternal life. Hence, Eph. 5:25 tells the husband to love his wife as Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it.
- The same redemption story teaches wives to receive their husband's love by submitting to him as the church submits to Jesus; the head of the church. To submit is a matter of laying aside your will to obey your husband's because he himself is submitted to Jesus's will.(Eph. 5:22-24)

# NUGGET FOUR: Trust God's Wisdom

- We can learn from the creation story that our heavenly Father only endorses marriage between one man and one woman. Also the language of the epistles often refers to Jesus as the head of the "church" (not churches) as His body (not bodies). Monogamy is God's wisdom!
- To double-date or practice polygamy is not Godly wisdom as seen in Christ Jesus who is the perfect image of God. However, God is not a tyrant & He won't force His wisdom on you but you rob yourself of the blessing of trusting His wisdom for marriage when you choose to have it your way.
- There's a way which seems right to a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; And the end of mirth is heaviness(Prov. 14:12-13). Don't trade you & your future family's long-term peace and longevity for the temporal pleasure of double dating & polygamy.

### NUGGET FIVE: Christ's the sure foundation

- The foundation on which you build your relationship is important since it determines its outcome and longevity. So, it's best you choose your foundation while you're single. Don't make yourself, sin, or people's ideologies be your foundation but Jesus Christ, the surest foundation.
- 2. Let Christ be the foundation of your marital choices, how you relate with your partner and your relationship's purpose. For Christ is the solid rock that will keep your marriage intact when the storm of life hits. Then you can hand over a good legacy to your kids and have a successful marriage.
- To make Christ the foundation of your relationship is to make Him the inspiration behind your decisions, to seek His will and follow it. To trust His plan for your life and follow it. To trust His power and live by it. To trust His love and find your identity in Him. It is to live and breathe in Him.

# NUGGET SIX: Your Identity's in Christ

- 1. It's important to understand your identity in Christ Jesus so you don't go into dating and marriage with a low self esteem. This will make you a more suitable partner because it purges you from self-doubt, insecurity, envy, bitterness and every other sinfulness. (Galatians 5:16-25)
- Similarly, it is important to see your partner in the light of who they are in Christ Jesus. This will help you relate with them better by honoring Christ in them and inspiring them to let Christ live through them. However, is Christ in your partner? Because they can't give what they don't have!

## NUGGET SEVEN: Shun Insecurities & Fear

- 1. Stop joining others to say "fear women" or "fear men" due to yours or other people's bad relationship experiences. Having such negative prejudice about the opposite gender can cause you to choose the wrong partner or treat the right partner wrongly which leads to bad relationships.
- The way to avoid ending up in a bad marriage/relationship is not to dread it but to arm yourself with God's wisdom! What then is God's wisdom concerning having a successful marriage?
- 1)Trust, discover and follow God's plan for your life.2)Think positive thoughts and avoid speaking negative confessions about your present and future.
  - 3) Renew your mind with God's word and walk in love.

## NUGGET EIGHT: Know When (not) to Break-up

- 1. When's the best time to break-up? Firstly, it's best that you get into the right relationship and have it lead to a successful marriage. It's also "okay but not the best" to break-up before marriage than divorce after marriage. It's "not the best to divorce after marriage".
- 2. Recent studies show that people who get involved in multiple break-ups have high risk of getting divorced in marriage mostly because they become psychologically used to exiting when the going gets tough. Hence, it's important to patiently priritize courting the right person over doing trial & error.
- Dating the right person makes it less harder to put in the work towards having a successful courtship/marriage when the going gets tough. So I'd say, it's best to break up if you already know of a surety that you're currently with the wrong partner. What then defines a wrong person?
  - A wrong partner will be one who doesn't love you genuinely or one who is abusive, doesn't honor you, isn't a child of God, unteachable, one whose visions, principle and pursuits do not align with yours, isn't medically compatible, insincere, and hard to be vulnerable with e.t.c. Make wise choices!

## NUGGET NINE: Embrace Heavenly Wisdom

- 1. Sensual/earthly wisdom will hinder you from having a successful relationship because it's selfish, manipulative, demonic, envious and will always ignite disorder and evil practice(James 3:15-16). So watch out for your self and your partner to ensure none of you are living life based on such wisdom. There's abundance of such wisdom on the internet today.
- 2 Examples of sensual wisdom include treating others how they treat you instead of how Jesus would treat them, repaying evil for evil instead of repaying evil with good, feeling entitled to people's favor or worrying about the future or doing trial & error instead of trusting God's plan for your life, and love of money.
- However, heavenly wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. People who practice such wisdom are peace makers and will eventually reap a harvest of their partner treating them right(James 3:17-18). Such wisdom is only found in knowing and doing God's word. Have you read your bible today?

# NUGGET TEN: No One is Perfect

- There will always be times when it feels like other guys or ladies are better than your partner. But you must never forget that the closer you get to people, the more you discover their flaws. Other guys or ladies are simply putting their best foot forward so it will be wrong of you to compare their strength with your partner's weakness since you're not as deeply acquainted with them as with your partner.
- You can resist the urge to compare your partner with others by intentionally calling out and appreciating their strength and lovingly talking to them about their weakness in an healthy atmosphere. Also, don't forget to seek timely feedback from your partner about your strength and weakness. You should also be a better person for you and your partner.
- However, there are exceptional cases when your partner is continuously not treating you right. Such cases include sexual, emotional, or physical abuse where you will need to involve a higher authority for counseling. This is why it is important that you get into a relationship with someone who has people in their life who can call them to order. In fact, you both should have such people in your lives.

#### Conclusion

The Godly principles mentioned this book can only be acted upon by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. You need to be saved or born again to be indwelt by God's spirit lest you become only a reader and not a doer of God's word. What you need to do to be saved is believe that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose up on the third day for your justification. This is the gospel! If you believe, confess these words: "Lord Jesus, I believe that you died for my sins and resurrected the third day for my justification; I repent from my sins and confess you as my Lord; therefore, all my sins have been blotted out, and the Holy Spirit now dwells in my heart. Amen". Congratulations! You are now a child of God and on your way to having an excellent marital relationship.

The next step is to grow more intimate in your relationship with God through having a Spirit-filled prayer life. If you are saved and desire to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, I want you to know that the requirements for you to experience this is to first be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which makes you a child of God, and second, to desire this experience. Now, prayerfully say these words: "Father, I thank you for the redemptive work of Jesus; I thank you for saving me and making me your child; right now, I believe that the Holy Spirit is in and upon me; I am filled with the Holy Spirit; therefore, I can pray to God in tongues, and I will pray to God with tongues now. Amen". Now, go ahead and begin to pray to God in tongues. There you go! Keep praying to God in tongues. Keep praying!

## **EXERCISE**

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List 5 things you learnt after reading this book			
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#### Let's Connect!

#### Do you have questions or prayer requests?

Send your email to victor.ojo@charisfolks.org

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