

*Godly
Wisdom
for a
Pastor's
Wife*

OYENIKE AREOGUN

GODLY WISDOM
FOR A PASTOR'S WIFE

Oyenike Areogun

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INTRODUCTION

There are four basic types of wives a man of God can have. Each wife must know the category she falls into and stay there. The worst damage will be done if a wife in category A copies the wife in category B. Before you take after a pattern, be sure of three things:

1. It is in the same category as where God has placed you.
2. God is leading you into it.
3. It will strengthen the pattern and structure God has called your husband to build in the kingdom.

Listed below are the categories based on divine distributions:

And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.
(Hebrews 5:4)

You cannot choose what type you like, you cannot aspire to anyone, you've just got to discover your

place in God and stay there and do His will.

There is no ambition in the things of God; things will only work for you when you stay in your place.

Four Basic Categories of a Pastor's Wife

1. Pastor's Wife with a Direct Calling from Jesus

This is a woman who God calls just like He calls the husband. Most times, she will see traces of the call from childhood. Before marriage, it will be clear and evident.

Those in this group need a lot of grace to be able to blend with their husband as one team and a single entity. They cannot afford to marry wrong, or else they may get frustrated.

They must marry whosoever God (not man or their desire) gives them to, who will be able to manage and harness that call.

They will give account to God for the calling. They may or may not be married to pastors. Most times, such a calling spans across the body of Christ outside of the husbands' zone of operation.

2. Pastor's Wife Who Shares in the Calling of the Husband

By being faithful in supporting the man, a portion of his spirit rests on her (by God) to stand with him in the pulpit ministry. She must remain humble and not take over. It is a privilege to share in the anointing. Allow no competition, always take the place that is a step lower, and remember he is the main man called.

Such wives function solely in the husbands' ministry (church or anywhere God opens doors for the husband). If she keeps teaming up, the flow remains upon her.

3. Pastor's Wife Who is Planted as a Pillar to the Man

This is a woman that God has not given a portion in the husband's pulpit, but she is given a role of standing like a mighty pillar of support for the husband—being always there for him physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, and in every way.

However, such a pastor's wife shall use her believer's grace to strengthen the husband's work (e.g., music, intercession, children

ministry, hospitality, and so on).

She shouldn't come under pressure to preach or do programmes; she should stay in her place and have a large heart that accommodates, to allow other sons in the house through which God wants to do other things. Then God will defend and honour her.

4. Pastor's Wife Who Doesn't Have the Good of the Ministry at Heart

This is the category of wives that married their husbands (though pastors) for social reasons. She is not deep in spiritual matters. She's given to fanfare, frivolity, and flamboyance. She is position conscious and goes by the saying "I have my life to live." This will be a major drag to the husband's assignment. She doesn't team up with him; she lives her life, faces her career, and even commands the children after her. Such a woman needs a major encounter with God to repent and get committed to God to rediscover who and what God has made them.

The devil's major strategy in these last days is mixture.

In those days, I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon and Moab.

And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.

So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them, pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons for yourselves.

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, pagan women caused even him to sin.

“Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?”

And one of the sons of Joaida, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me.

Remember them, O my God, because they have

defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service,

And to bringing the wood offering and the firstfruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good! (Nehemiah 13:23–31)

One major way the devil weakens the church is to marry ladies who are devil's agents to careless pastors who have no regard for truth, who are not jealous over the oil of God on their heads, but honour their fleshly desires above the will of God.

Such wives marry men of God for satanic reason—destruction! And if they go undiscovered, oh, what hell will break loose! The man's hands will be tied to the back, evil forces will take over his work, and the end result is devastating.

PART ONE
SENIOR PASTORS' WIVES/GENERAL
OVERSEERS' WIVES

CHAPTER ONE
THE MULTIFACETED MINISTRY OF THE
PASTOR'S WIFE

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body.

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

—Ephesians 5:22–24 NKJV

Being a pastor's wife is a great privilege that cannot be neglected. The ministry of a pastor's wife is multifaceted in nature. However, God does not expect you to fail in any facet of ministry, and that is the reason why He will equip and help you.

The following are the different aspects of a pastor's wife's ministry:

1. Ministering to Your Husband (Eph. 5:22–24; 1 Pet.

3:3–6)

And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him.” (Genesis 2:18 (NKJV))

As a pastor’s wife, you should know that you are a suitable helper created by God for your husband. According to the Bible, the woman is created for the man (1 Cor. 11:7–10). A pastor’s wife therefore has a ministry towards her husband, and this she carries out in two major ways:

- (a) Ministering to his person: Man is a tripartite being. He is a spirit, he has a soul, and he lives in a body. A pastor’s wife needs to minister to her husband in these three areas. You should minister to his spirit through powerful intercession for him. Also, your husband should be able to draw inspirations from you.

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. (Proverbs 27:17)

A pastor’s wife can minister to her husband by ministering to his soul, which comprises of his mind, his emotions, and his intellect. She does

this through rich and effective communication. Every man naturally works with the information at his disposal and information majorly comes through communication. Therefore, you should ensure that the line of communication is kept open. And you should communicate gracefully with your husband, knowing the nature of the work of a pastor, how “heartbreaking” it is. You should not allow any communication gap between you and your husband.

Anxiety in the heart of a man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad. (Proverbs 12:25 NKJV)

Another way you can minister to your husband is by ministering to his body. This you can do by ensuring that his physical appearance is good and honourable and caring for his general well-being, which includes clothing, food, and sex.

- (b) Ministering to his vision: A pastor’s wife is ordained of God to be a help to her husband in the fulfilment of his vision and assignment from God. Your husband is living for a vision, which is his mandate from God to fulfil on the earth. Therefore, you shouldn’t compete with the

assignment; rather, you should believe in it and enhance the fulfilment of it. You should be ready to make every sacrifice necessary for the realization of God's purpose for your husband. Part of ministering to his vision is learning to adapt to him, praying for him, and providing support and comfort needed for the accomplishment of that vision.

2. Ministering to Your Children

This is another aspect of the ministry of a pastor's wife. You should cooperate with your husband to train the children using scriptural principles of child rearing. Don't incite them against their father. It is your responsibility to provide the right atmosphere at home in which the great destiny of each of the children can be nurtured. Also, you must ensure that you influence them to do the right things, don't indulge them. As their mother, you should also be intimate with your children and pray for them always (Lam. 2:19).

A pastor's wife should see this as an important aspect of her ministry that she must not fail in. She should receive God's help and grace to raise children

that are balanced socially, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and in every wise.

3. Ministering to Your Household

Your household refers to the people living with you, your husband, and, your children. A pastor's wife, like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, must see to the well-being of her household. You should also ensure that your house is well kept, be very sensitive and Spirit-led when it comes to the issue of people coming to stay with your family. Don't open your life and home to wrong spirits, even though you should seek opportunities to sow into other people's lives (2 Kings 4:9).

4. Ministering to the Ministry

A pastor's wife should see to the well-being of the sheepfold (the people).

Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds. (Proverbs 27:23 NKJV)

Whether you are a pastor or not, there is a mother's comfort the sheep receives from the pastor's wife, don't deny them. You should be

caring and praying for them, be concerned about what happens to them. Don't fight them or lord it over them, rather be a mother to them.

In addition, a pastor's wife is to see to the overall well-being of the ministry, whether she is a staff in her husband's ministry or not. You should be concerned with the day-to-day running of your husband's ministry—offer counsel, pray for the staff and the administration. Ensure that you have a good relationship with the vision-runners in the ministry.

5. Ministering to Your Family

The family here refers to the one which the pastor's wife comes from (extended family). A pastor's wife's commitment to her family or kinsmen should be by revelation. Don't be distracted (Gen. 2:24). You should know your priority, which should be your own home. Don't be influenced negatively by your family against your husband's vision or spiritual things. You cannot deny the fact that they are your people, but let us see what the Bible says:

A man who is in honour, yet does not understand, is like the beasts that perish. (Psalm 49:20 NKJV)

Relate with your kinsmen in honour; if not, they will despise your calling and grace. Pray for them, give to them, and visit them in such a way that it will not destroy your commitment. Let them be what God wants them to be and minister to them with your gifts.

6. Ministering to Your In-Laws

Relating with your in-laws must also be based on revelation. Don't make them enemies, neither make them little gods. A pastor's wife should learn to shield her husband from any unnecessary family burden, and pray against family ties that destroy destiny like Jonathan's ties with Saul, his father.

As a pastor's wife, you should love your in-laws, pray for them, minister to them by spiritual gifts, and let your husband fulfil his obligations to them. Don't turn your husband against his people.

7. Ministering to Yourself

This is another aspect of the ministry of a pastor's wife that is very crucial. The work of a pastor's wife is an awesome responsibility that compels her to work on herself. As a pastor's wife, you must avail yourself of every opportunity to develop in the following areas:

- (a) **Spiritual Development:** A pastor's wife must make fellowship with God a priority in her life. You must develop your spirit in prayer, study of God's word, worship, and witnessing.

Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it spring the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23 NKJV)

The forces that will rule your life will flow from your heart, which is your spirit man. Your inward man should be daily renewed (2 Cor. 4:16).

- (b) **Mental Development:** A pastor's wife must be sound mentally. You need to develop yourself mentally. Cultivating an unbroken communion with the Holy Spirit is not negotiable for He will bring all things to your remembrance (John 14:26).

A pastor's wife who will be mentally sound also has to be given to reading the Bible, edifying

books as well as other publications that could be a blessing to her. You need to read wide because reading will make you versed.

- (c) **Physical Development:** A pastor's wife should maintain a good appearance. She should take care of her looks and maintain good health. You need your body to fulfil destiny here on earth, so you must take care of your body. Don't permit the devil to afflict your body or attack your health. Avoid stress or anything that can lead to breakdown. Make up your mind to stay healthy and carry yourself smartly and gracefully. Dress for honour and dignity (Exod. 28:2).
- (d) **Your Gifts:** A pastor's wife's ministry to herself also involves the area of her gifts. These are spiritual gifts that God has endowed her with, with which she should be a blessing. A pastor's wife should develop all the God-given gifts on the inside of her and utilize them maximally.

You should not allow any gift in you to be dormant. Every gift should be cultivated and used for the advancement of God's programme and assignment. The gift of a man makes room for him and brings him before great men (Prov.

18:16).

God always gives every person an opportunity to develop his gifts before he comes to make a demand. Joseph was in prison, but he developed his gift, and his gift took him to the throne. Develop your own gift, and this same gift shall bring solutions to many people's problems.

- (e) Your Career, Profession, and Calling: A pastor's wife is to minister to herself in these three areas by developing herself and making herself an asset in her career and calling. Apostle Paul admonished us to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called." (Eph. 4:16).

You should develop all your talents, skills, grace, and calling and use them to advance your husband's assignment or vision. You cannot afford to fail heaven.

CHAPTER TWO
THE PASTOR'S WIFE AS AN ARMOUR
BEARER AND AN ANOINTED SHIELD

And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him”

—Genesis 2:18 NKJV

The main purpose of God giving a wife to a man is for “help.” As a pastor’s wife, one of the key ways you will be a true help to your husband is to be a shield, an armour bearer that God can use to protect him because you are the closest to him.

The Armour Bearer

An armour is a protective article of warfare, an armour bearer is a carrier of that protective article of warfare. In the context of this book, the armour being referred to is not a physical one, but a spiritual armour, which the wife of the pastor carries or bears. The way she bears the armour determines

whether or not he is shielded, wounded, or killed in battle.

For a pastor's wife to be successful in her ministry of armour bearing, she needs to do four major things:

1. Be the right person. A weak, sick person cannot shield another person. You should be strong in the Lord and develop strong intimacy with God—in the word, prayer, worship, and obedience to the Holy Spirit. Such pastor's wife must have a warfare mentality.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV)

To be the right armour bearer, the pastor's wife must be committed to God's purpose for her, her husband, her home, and the ministry.

2. Know her spouse's weak points and cover them, not expose them. The weak point refers to any weakness in him that can open the door to the devil in his life, if care is not taken. The pastor's wife should be very sensitive to pick such things,

which could include too much eating and jesting with friends. All these vary from person to person.

3. Know the things that are dangerous to him and shield him. This calls for sensitivity on the part of the pastor's wife. She must never allow spiritual poisons to get to her husband. They include anything that will affect him negatively. It must be quenched before it gets to him. Examples of such things are offences, seducers, fatigue, etc.
4. Be sensitive to divine timing in doing things. There is what is called divine timing, which the Holy Spirit sensitizes our hearts to in order to bring about the fulfilment of divine purpose. The Holy Spirit can move in your heart at awkward times to do what seemingly looks odd for the hour. Obey on the spur of the moment.

For instance, travelling with your husband to minister when you would have naturally stayed back home with the children or being led to leave the office to go home. Responding to these different leadings or instructions at different times helps you to safeguard the life and ministry of your husband.

Your Weapons

- (a) Praying in the spirit (Rom. 8:26)
- (b) Wisdom (Prov. 24:3–4)
- (c) Sex power (1 Cor. 7:2–5)
- (d) Your God-given gifts (1 Cor. 12:1–12)
- (e) The Holy Spirit's guidance (Rom. 8:14)

The Anointed Shield

In the context of marriage, God introduced the woman into the man's life for help, additional strength, and glory. As a pastor's wife, you can't afford to be indifferent, let alone be a burden on or a liability to God's servant. You are expected to fit into his life as a help. One major way that this can be done is for you to be a shield to him.

What is a shield?

A shield, according to the Chambers' Dictionary, is anything that protects from harm. You are God's gift into your husband's life, to be a shield to him, protecting him from harm. Therefore, if you will be a shield, you must be solid yourself. There must not be any loophole in your life for the enemy's arrow to get at your husband; you cannot afford to be porous. You must be sensitive, discerning, wise, and strong.

Some pastors' wives conducted interviews for the secretaries who brought their husbands down. They had certified them to be wonderful. Some ignorantly opened the door to the seducer that came to hunt the man of God. Some have even taken pure agents of the devil as prayer partners. Oh, what a cracked and failing shield!

Dear friend, the time we are in is so crucial to God and to the devil that you cannot afford to just face your life, the women ministry, music ministry, or whatever it is that you do and then leave your husband to secretaries and personal assistants. Beloved, note that your husband is your number one priority. So be there right beside him because you are a shield to him.

For the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away,
the shield of Saul, as though he had not been
anointed with oil. (2 Samuel 1:21b)

That was the lamentation of David for Saul after the latter's death on Mount Gilboa. If the shield is cast away or has been rendered ineffective as a result of being weak or having holes, the armour becomes exposed to the enemy's arrows. Thus, things happen to the anointed as if he is not called or anointed.

It is not only the wife of the man of God that God gives him as his shield. He also gives him his friends and associates in the ministry. However, the wife has the lion's share of this awesome responsibility of being a shield to the man.

How can you operate as a shield?

(a) Always be available for your husband in intimacy.

Don't be too busy with household duties, children affairs, or ministry affairs that you have little or no time to spend with your spouse. You should be there for him to be able to unburden his heart and deep thoughts. You should thereafter turn such burdens into intercessions.

Be there with your body all the time. Don't let an ongoing prayer and fasting programme make you feel your husband doesn't want sex. Beloved, never you feel that the increasing level of anointing on him is synonymous with loss of appetite for sex. I'm not trying to be vulgar, but I need to tell you that you can effectively operate as a shield to your husband and thus preserve the oil of God on his head. So prepare yourself, school yourself, and do all you can to

give him super-sex as often as he wants it! You should not see that as a burden. You should rather do it readily with all delight and sense of a covenant.

You may be saying, “Well, my husband is getting old, and next week, we will celebrate our thirty-fifth wedding anniversary.” That may be the height of deception. Most men of God that fell did so about that age when the wife thought she was too old for sex. If you say you are too old for sex, your husband is most likely not too old for it and still wants it. Don’t deny him. Don’t assist the devil with your flawed thinking and wrong assumption. The consequences could be shattering. Beware. I don’t intend to scare you, but I need to warn you because of what is at stake.

(b) Remove distractions from him.

As you grow older in marriage, some of the things you are to discover about your spouse are things that destabilize him and things that give him boldness or confidence.

If you know that when you as the wife or any

of the children take ill on a serious note, he becomes demoralized; that is an area to take exceedingly serious. Grasp the truth of divine healing and health and walk in it. Know also how to stand in faith for your children. If pressure from creditors is a monster that haunts him, you should avoid borrowing or getting into debt. Live at your level; avoid anything you do that will become a weight on his spirit.

Matters that can generate offences in his heart should be kept from him. Be an anointed and effective shield in your husband's life.

(c) Intercede for him.

Always stand in the gap for him. Pray preemptive prayers, the Holy Spirit works with such prayers to avert evil. He also causes revelations to come and releases supernatural help.

(d) Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

Be sensitive to spirits, people, and things. Pick dangers from afar. Don't be carried away with emotions. You should discern spirits. If there is any gift of the spirit you need, it is that of

discerning of spirits, but be wise in its application.

In this end time, the devil has heightened his activities against God's servants, using the same old strategies of girls, gold, and glory. Have what it takes to read the handwriting on the wall.

(e) Develop yourself.

Develop all your talents, gifts, skills, grace, and calling and throw all behind your husband. When a pastor's wife does not develop herself in these five areas, her input is lacking, and the man may look for it elsewhere. However, the process of looking elsewhere can bring negative exposure. God has put certain things in you that your husband doesn't have to look elsewhere. Develop yours to give the necessary quality of service required. Be wise. Of course, it is not by power nor by might; it is by His Spirit. Human strength will surely fail, but if you put your trust in the Lord, He'll surely lift you up. You will not fail as God's anointed shield in Jesus's name (Amen).

CHAPTER THREE

A WORTHY HELP

In Genesis 2:18 mentioned in the previous chapter, we saw what God had in mind when He was forming Eve for Adam. He wanted a suitable help for Adam. What did God have in mind when He was giving you to your husband (that man of God)? He intended that you be a suitable help for him.

The only thing that can please God is for you to live out the purpose for which you have been made. Who or what is a help? A true help is found in God. The Bible talks about three kinds of help that are all similar in operation.

1. God, a help to His people.

Because thou has been my help, therefore, in the shadow of thy wings, I will rejoice. (Psalm 63:7)

My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)

2. The Holy Spirit, a help to believers.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities.
(Romans 8:2)

The Holy Spirit does this as our comforter (John 16:7, 15:26, 14:26).

3. The wife, a help to her husband.

The wife as a helpmeet is called to be the following seven things in her husband's life:

(i) Comforter: This is someone that imparts strength to another to go through hard times. As a pastor's wife, you must know how to fire up your husband's fighting spirit and encourage him.

(ii) Counsellor: A counsellor is someone who advises. Be a counsellor to your husband, but don't manipulate, control, or intimidate him. It will be a privilege if he takes your advice.

(iii) Helper: A helper is one that does part of the job the other cannot do. Learn to relieve your husband of domestic activities and social engagements. He is a man of God.

(iv) Advocate: An advocate is a person who favours or supports somebody and speaks good things about him. Don't mess up your husband in public, be on his side always.

(v) Intercessor: This is one who stands in the gap. Sometime ago, God told me he would honour my prayers for my husband above the prayers of anyone and also respond on impulse to me. You are the best intercessor your husband can ever have. Do not leave that job to others.

(vi) Strengtheners: A strengthener is anyone who makes his strength available in the area of another's weakness such that his weakness is not visible. You know your husband's weakness, supply strength to him in that area, and cover his nakedness.

(vii) Standby: A person that is readily available when needed. Always be there to discharge any help your husband needs.

You are a true help to whosoever you do things for. As a pastor's wife, you are a help to your husband on two major levels. For the sake of emphasis, I will

like to reiterate this point and dwell more on this very crucial statement. Your ministering to your husband as a helper rests on two legs, but to effectively manifest, you must take being a help as a ministry. If you wish to live for yourself, you might not be able to fit in.

For the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man.

Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man. (1Corinthians 11:8–9 NKJV)

Know what you are carved out for, and stay there to manifest the glory of God.

FIRST LEG: You are a help to the person of your husband

A pastor's wife can get so carried away with church activities and home life that she may totally find herself neglecting the person of her husband, I mean things that affect him personally.

Almost everything in the ministry depends on the set man. He must always be sound spiritually, morally, mentally, and physically. Look at David's account (2

Sam. 21:15–17).

Thank God for such men who placed so much value on what God values—the person of the anointed. They understood the worth of David’s life and could not afford to allow anything affect his life negatively. They therefore wanted him to stay out of battle because he had become faint. So much in your husband’s ministry depends on his spiritual sanity; therefore, you must know how to protect and preserve the anointing and the anointed.

HIS SPIRIT

Help his spiritual life. Help him to pray more, study the word more, and rely more on the Holy Spirit. Don’t intrude and don’t let others intrude into his closet, his fellowship with God.

Relieve him of certain physical activities that can drain him spiritually (e.g., entertaining guests, family members, and children’s tantrums). Help him to withdraw when he wants to refresh.

And lastly, be a very spiritual woman. Be sound in the word, don’t just depend on your husband’s super revelation, get into the word. There are many cases and meetings you will be able to handle for him if you

develop yourself spiritually. Be given to prayer because you need to be extra sensitive and accurate in the spirit. If you are spiritually sound, it will be difficult for any satanic attack to work against him.

HIS SOUL

This comprises his will, emotions, and intellect. Don't compound your husband's problems with grumbling, complaints, and malice. Create for him such a peaceful environment at home and in the ministry. This will help him to think straight. Don't confuse him. He needs you as a help, not a stumbling block.

HIS BODY

The food he eats must not be treated anyhow or handled by just anybody. It must be prepared preferably by you or by proven and tested saints. Make him eat a balanced diet at the right time. Don't be unconcerned as he goes on and on without good food. His body is his tool to fulfil ministry.

See to it that your husband's clothing is neat and always fit for the occasion. Don't expose his briefs anyhow. That is your privacy.

SECOND LEG: You are a help to his vision

The most important thing in your husband's life is his vision. He is living because of it. I am talking of his life assignment, the mandate that he has received from God to fulfil on the earth.

You must understand how powerful divine assignment can be in a man's life. It takes hold of his heart just like a baby takes hold of a pregnant woman in labour. Don't compete with that assignment; help in the fulfilment of it.

Many wives complain that their husbands give more time to church work (the vision) than to them. Such comments will not come up at all if the wife throws herself behind the vision.

And the Lord answered me, and said, write the vision and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end, it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait, for it will surely come. (Habakkuk 2:2-3)

How shall this be?

1. Understand clearly the vision God has given your own husband. This understanding can come in two ways:

- By asking your husband to share with you what God told him and what he is planning to do.
- By going to God for a divine understanding of what your husband has told you.

Don't, in any way, compare your husband's vision with another man's. Help your husband to stick to God's pattern for him.

2. Have a personal revelation of who your husband is in God. This can only be revealed to you by God who called him. Or in a little way by men who are close to your husband in ministry who knew where he is coming from and have watched God's operation in his life.

When the Lord opened my eyes and heart to see who my husband is in God, I broke down completely and wept like a baby. I took a decision under the anointing never to constitute a hindrance and also pledged the totality of my support, help, and absolute loyalty to his life

assignment. Strength invaded my spirit to go through anything with him to see God's vision for him become a reality. That picture never left my spirit; it drives me.

Getting the same revelation of your husband will help you get over personal struggles you still have with him. It will simply make you to let go and let God. A lot of pastors' wives just coast along, trying to do in their own husbands' ministries what they see other pastors' wives do. This is wrong and leads me to the next point.

3. Find out from God your own role in your husband's vision. Don't operate the ministry of error. Don't let men that cannot reward you spell out your assignment to you. Let God reveal what He has equipped you for in that vision and pursue it seriously. Your husband also can tell you what he wants you to do based on his knowledge of you. This will also depend on the kind of calling your husband has (Eph. 4:11)—apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelist, or pastor.

Also, your husband might be called into any of the five-fold ministry offices, but not called as a

pioneer to headship. If that is the case, help him to stay under covering. Don't push him out to start a new thing, such things wither off quickly.

4. Let the vision enjoy your strength. Everyone has grace. If you are called to intercession, let your husband's vision enjoy your strong intercession and let the women you lead major in that. If it is hospitality, let it mark your church out. If it is pulpit ministry, let it draw multitudes into the church. If it is finances, lavish it on the vision. Instead of building an empire for yourself by pursuing "your own vision" or just enjoying the benefit of office, invest your grace in the vision.
5. Encourage other runners with the vision. Don't see others that are fulfilling destiny in your husband's vision as a threat, rather encourage them, pray for them, and let them be free to grow. Some pastors' wives are specialists in sending vision runners away because of their insecurity. Your security is in God, stay in the place that He has put you.

CHAPTER FOUR
ARE YOU A LIABILITY OR AN ASSET?

When God calls a man, He is mindful of the indispensability of that destiny, and He carefully arranges in his way everything that will help him to reach his goals safely. Of all such arrangements of relationships, finances, materials, strength, favour, and so on, a wife is most crucial to God.

For every man called of God to fulfil destiny in the kingdom of God, most especially the destiny that will affect and influence many other destinies as it is seen in the lives of ministers of the gospel, God does not joke with the wife factor at all. In fashioning that vision for man, He has prepared a woman to stand by him, to be an asset, a help, a strengthener so that such a vision does not fail or is not limited in fulfilment.

I make bold to state here that to be a pastor/minister's wife is a calling just as being a pastor is a calling. Failure to realize this basic truth as a pastor's wife will make you a liability instead of an

asset. A lot of tussles in ministers' homes today are a product of the ignorance of this truth by the pastor's wife.

God has created you, raised you, and equipped you as an asset to that servant of His that you are married to.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

He looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her. (Proverbs 31:11–12, 23, 27–28)

You cannot afford to be an “Eve” or a “Jezebel.” I see a vivid example in Sarah and Abraham. God, in giving Abraham the vision of becoming the father of multitudes, had Sarah in mind to carry the seed in her womb. Not just any woman. Hagar or Keturah could not fill that position. Sarah had been created, raised, and equipped to conceive and give birth to Isaac.

This is an awesome and great responsibility (read Gen. 17:1–21, 21:1).

Right inside you is a load of God's gift to make you an asset in your husband's life and ministry. Your spiritual endowments—grace for preaching, singing, hospitality, your natural talents, and all skills you've ever acquired at home, in school, and everywhere—should be thrown behind your husband. This will result in unexplainable blessings both from God and your husband. You are not an ordinary wife. You are not in the category of those women that burden their husbands with natural demands. You are peculiar, chosen from among women to occupy a position of honour.

- Do not compete with your husband, complement him.
- Do not complain to or about your husband, pray for him.
- Do not strive with your husband, submit to him.
- Do not take a neutral stand, be involved.

Occupy your place; don't let any woman in the church/ministry be a better asset to your husband than you are. Give your all.

Beloved, you need to get rid of all negative attitudes and actions like nagging, laziness, covetousness, indecision, indiscipline, and ungodly soul ties with your family members. What are you contributing to your husband's life and ministry?

You are a role model to the entire women in your assembly—arise, shine. Don't be an extra load that your husband has to carry with extra prayers, extra time, extra finances, extra counselling, and rebuke. Rather, take the burden off his shoulders. It takes a crazy man not to love a woman that is an asset in his life. Be one. Don't slow your husband down; speed him up. As you do this, God will multiply His grace upon your life.

What does your husband say often about you? “God, I thank you for this beautiful woman, she is an asset to me” or “God, help this woman, she is a liability.” It is not too late for you to change today from being a liability to being an asset.

Steps to Becoming an Asset

1. Examine yourself

Examine yourself whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own

selves how that Jesus Christ in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

2. Repent of your faults

Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord. (Isaiah 55:7)

3. Appreciate your position

A man who is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beast that perisheth. (Psalm 49:20)

4. Know and value your gifts, talents, and skills

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. (Proverbs 18:16)

5. Ask God for wisdom

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (James 1:5)

6. Begin to use your gifts, talents, and skills to better the life and ministry of your husband. As I said earlier, you will need to be sure you understand your husband's vision clearly.

7. Receive grace and overlook your husband's mistakes. Your husband is not perfect, neither are you.
8. Whatever you need and your husband cannot give you, go to God in faith and ask. As your source, God will respond in mercy.
9. Enlarge your coast:
 - Learn to pray over matters not just talk them over.
 - Learn to read your Bible and live it. Feel justified in reading your Bible the best way convenient for you.
 - Seize every opportunity to serve and minister to your husband and do it excellently.
 - Build up to your husband's level, standard, and taste spiritually in the word, ministry, anointing, mental exposure, thinking pattern, physical dressing, and appearance such that if you have to stand in for him, the gap will not be too wide.
10. Receive grace from God.

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee! For my strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

CHAPTER FIVE
THE POWER OF EXAMPLE

When God calls, chooses, and raises a man, He always puts beside him a woman that will magnify His grace in his life, a worthy help according to His design in Genesis 2:18.

The pastor's wife's major calling has basically two legs, and the two are necessary in order to fill that post with honour and dignity. She is

1. a help to the man of God—spirit, soul, and body;
2. a leader to the women in the sheepfold.

Every pastor's wife is expected to provide leadership (delegated or not) for the women in every assembly. If she fails to take her place, God will raise up other women in the fold who are faithful, loyal, committed, and anointed to lead the women either officially or otherwise.

Women need leadership to fall in place accurately. Even in the wilderness, Miriam (Moses's sister)

provided leadership for them but strictly under Moses's authority (Exod. 15:20). They went after her because she was their leader.

In this chapter, I will focus on the second leg of the pastor's wife's calling, a leader to the women in the fold. Leadership is seen in these three things: example, sacrifice, and influence. My emphasis here shall be on "example."

A dictionary defines example as something or someone that shows the general rule. The pastor's wife should set the kingdom standard for the women in the assembly.

You can't afford to be myopic in your thinking. Your life is like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden; you'll be accountable to the head of the church for the "general rule" you're setting for the women in your congregation.

The Greek word translated in example in 1 Timothy 4:12 is "Tupos," and it means pattern, print, model, or imitation.

You cannot afford not to present the divine picture of a godly woman to the women. You are God's pattern for them, God's model for them to imitate. You must

neither teach them to do evil nor allow them to go the way they choose. They must see in you a practical demonstration of a godly woman. What is the implication of your lifestyle, both public and private? (Esther 1:10–20). My emphasis is on verses 19–20.

The wise men knew the implications of Vashti's action of outrightly disobeying her husband's command. Being an example to the women, she was their leader. They knew the other women would take naturally after her and begin to treat their husbands the same way; hence, law and order would break down in the entire kingdom. So she was removed and Esther replaced her.

As a pastor's wife, it is either you are a good example, a bad example, or no example at all. Any of these three will reflect in the lives of the women and then in the life of the church. Can the women in the church make you their role model and have their lives straightened out spiritually, materially, financially, and in all ramifications?

Let us consider areas of example that Paul emphasized to Timothy as a leader of God's people.

Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an

example of believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (emphasis mine). (1Timothy 4:12)

Dare to be an example in these six areas to your church women, be a worthy model. Be an example in:

WORD: Your speech must reveal the picture of a godly woman. Be patient with people. Backbiting and gossip must be far from you. Your word must always be seasoned with grace.

CONVERSATION: The way you handle your life affairs must be according to the Bible pattern, including your relationships, financial management, and compartment. Live to glorify God, not to compete with any man. Apply God's word to every area of your life.

CHARITY: Pure love as highlighted in 1 Corinthians 13 must be manifested. Don't be partial, give everyone a fair chance. Don't hold on to offences, have a forgiving heart for all.

SPIRIT: You must be a woman of the Spirit, not given to the flesh in any way. Your emphasis must be on spiritual virtues, not on carnal things alone.

Prayer, commitment to God's word, and sensitivity to the Spirit must be magnified above hairdo, dressing, etc., which are also necessary to a certain extent.

FAITH: Demonstrate faith in God's power, word, and ability. They must see you depend on God for solutions to health, financial, marital, and every problem. Let the confession of God's word always be on your lips.

PURITY: Impurity must be far from you. Immorality must not even be a supposed "allegation" against you. Handle church money and materials with honesty.

Look at how The Living Bible Translation puts the same scripture:

Don't let anyone think little of you because you are young. Be their ideal; let them follow the way you teach and love; be a pattern for them in your love, your faith and your clean thoughts.
(1Timothy 4:12)

Be their ideal! Sit back and think again. Is there any negative thing a church member copied from you and has stuck to it? You'll give account to God.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men, so shall he be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)

Remember this always: Your accountability to God will not be only over your single soul, but over the multitudes that came under your leadership, for the kind of example you were to them. Women in the assembly will naturally take after you; make sure they copy the right things from your life. Be their ideal. Jesus said, for the sake of the church, he sanctified himself.

And for their sakes, I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. (John 17:19)

As the women's leader, you will determine the level of the women's commitment and dedication to God, spiritual things, and the kingdom. I always tremble at the power of example because there is a spirit flow involved. You don't have to preach certain behaviours to them. If you stand all out for truth, you will see it in them. If you value spiritual affairs above the flesh,

you will see it in them. If it is the opposite, you will see it in them also. Woman of God, teach them by example how to submit to their husbands and at the same time be spiritual giants as well as assets to the assembly and the entire kingdom of God.

CHAPTER SIX
SUCCEEDING WHERE EVE FAILED

The history of men and women that failed in the Bible is written down for us to learn from (1 Cor. 10:5–6).

Eve was the first minister's wife God ever had, and she failed woefully by putting not only her husband in trouble with God, but also the entire human race (Gen. 3:6; Rom. 5:19).

You must know that when God calls a man or woman, he or she ceases to be a single entity, but a nation, a race, a generation. Anything he or she does or does not do affects all the people attached to him or her in destiny, always walk conscious of this fact.

Eve failed in her life assignment from God, in her place of divine posting, and in her gifting. She was to help Adam fulfil his destiny, but because of her own selfishness, she destroyed her husband with her influence, causing him to displease God.

She failed when she entertained discussion with the devil, became self-centred, and took unilateral

decision on a matter that Adam had given her God's instructions.

Eve failed because she had no personal relationship with God; therefore, God's word was weaker in her life than the enemy's suggestions. This was unlike Adam who had a personal relationship with God (Gen. 2:14–16, 22–23).

As a pastor's wife, take heed to yourself that you avoid anything that will jeopardize your relationship with God. Rather, you should do the things that will enhance it.

The following will enhance your deep relationship with God:

- Strong desire for God (Ps. 42:1; 84:1–2).
- Daily fellowship with God.
- Spiritual exercises such as speaking in tongues, confessing the word, etc. (Jude 20, Josh. 1:8).
- Associating with people that have strong spiritual lives.
- Doing God's will.

On the other hand, the following will hinder you from cultivating a deep relationship with God:

- Too many physical activities leaving little or no time for God.
- Strife and tension at home, work or church.
- Works of the flesh (Gal. 5:22–25).
- Associating with carnal believers (1 Cor. 15:33).
- Disobedience to God’s will.

You can learn from the life of Eve. You will realize that after she failed in her assignment, not too long after the assignment was committed to her hands, her evil action overshadowed every good she had done.

She failed God by neglecting her spirit and was taken over by the flesh. What feeds the spirit that she neglected? The word of God (John 6:63). What establishes the flesh? The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15–16; Gal. 5:16–25).

Beware of the error of Eve. Identify your assignment and be committed to it. Don’t live for yourself and flesh; live for destiny! You can certainly succeed where Eve failed.

CHAPTER SEVEN
PASTOR'S WIFE: SERVICE OR STATUS?

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things unto him and that he was come from God and went to God,

He ariseth from supper, and laid aside his garments, and took a towel and girded himself.

After that, he poured water into a basin, he began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel where he was girded.

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

For if I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you.

—John 13:3–5, 13–15

With good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men:

Knowing that whatever good thing any man

doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord,
whether he be bound or free.

—Ephesians 6:7–8

When God calls someone to headship, it is to serve and provide leadership for His people. You are not to treasure a high status, but to serve the people you are leading.

Before You Can Serve

From the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, we could see how he laid aside his garment, took a towel, and washed and wiped his disciples' feet. Before you can serve others, including those you think you are better than, you will have to follow the steps of Jesus. He was the Chief Servant, even up to the cross, yet he is Lord of all. What a great example to follow! What must you do?

1. Arise from supper: Come away from your own comfort and satisfaction. Leadership is sacrifice.
2. Lay your garment aside: Empty your mind of status consciousness—your educational status, your marital status, your social status, your

financial status, and your position in the church. Come low to the people's level to minister to them.

3. Take a towel: Take the mantle of a servant in your hand and mind. Form the attitude of one who meets needs; be a solution to problems. Be help indeed to the women.

4. And gird yourself: Make up your mind once and for all, that it doesn't matter what they do or don't do for you, you will serve them. Man cannot reward you; God is the rewarder.

The Art of Serving People

Don't expect them to serve you first or serve God without a credible example from you. When you serve God and serve them, they will serve God and serve you better than you have done.

- Pour the water into a basin: Dig deep into the word of God primarily to sow into your heart and into them to be able to help people in various difficulties.
- Begin to wash their feet: You are to wash their feet thoroughly, not their heads. It is easier to

wash their heads, but you are to wash their feet—their mess, their weakness—must be thoroughly addressed with God’s word.

- Wipe them with the towel you are girded with: Show them love. Make them feel wanted while you minister to them. Share your life with them.
- Do it as unto the Lord, not to make them feel obligated to you.

With good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men. (Ephesians 6:7)

Areas of Ministering to Women

1. Spiritual life.
2. Family life: husband, children, domestic activities, etc.
3. Social life: relationships, associations, ceremonies, etc.
4. Health: pregnancy, family planning, child delivery and nursing, etc.
5. Finances: women should know how to give and also depend on God, not just depend on their husbands.
6. Career/business

To effectively minister to women, you must touch these six areas that a woman's life revolves round.

Resources to Make Use Of

1. Intercession

Epaphras who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (Colossians 4:12)

You should do the same.

2. Physical materials

Now there was at Joppa, a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. (Acts 9:36)

We could see in verse 39 that the widows that benefitted from her had their lives affected by the materials she gave them.

3. The Word of God

Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the

kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

Souls are established by constant exhortation from God's word after they have been saved.

4. Counselling

Without counsel, purposes are disappointed! But in the multitude of counsellors, they are established. (Proverbs 15:22)

Help people to make the right choices in life.

Learn to Refer Cases to Your Husband as the Need Arises

Don't forget that two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour (Eccl. 4:9). Therefore, take advantage of your husband's rationality as a man and add to your own emotionality as a woman. It is a wonderful combination that provides solution to many life's problems. On the spur of the moment, a man will reason while a woman will exhibit emotions.

CHAPTER EIGHT
BEWARE OF DISTRACTIONS

If there is any set of people the devil hates with perfect hatred, they are the ministers of the Gospel who are not only living for God but are helping others to do so. They are God's battle-axes against him, so he seeks their destruction, but God's shield upon His people is much greater.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

The devil is not unaware that the woman God has placed by His servant has tremendous capabilities to help God's man achieve God's goal, so he tries to at least fence out the wife's input, which is most crucial. If the woman's input to a man's life is not most crucial, there wouldn't have been any need for God to create Eve after making Adam (Gen. 2:18).

The devil fences out the input of the wife by distraction. He causes the woman to be distracted

from the vision of God for her life. Adam was Eve's vision. She was to help him to better accomplish God's task in his hand, but the serpent distracted her with the forbidden fruit in the garden.

And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die;

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be like God, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and ate, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.

(Genesis 3:4–6)

Eve was distracted by the devil's deceptions. In an instance, she forgot she was to help the man be the best. She opened herself to the love of the world, which are the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15–16). And by what she yielded to, her husband and his ministry were completely destroyed.

Woman of God, note this clearly, that the primary reason why you are alive is to stand solidly by that

man without blame and failure and help him fulfil God's plan for his life and ministry. Settling down to face this is the beginning of your success and lifting in life. You can do this with every gift that God has put in you.

The devil distracts people by taking their attention and focus away from the major things to focus on minor things—taking people's attention from God to man, from vision to situations. Beware!

Personal Desires/Interests

When you don't allow God to deal with you and replace every bit of selfishness in you with selflessness, then you will find out that the devil can shift your focus, and you will begin to fight for your personal interests and desires, which are mostly contrary to God's will and programme for your life.

You are created, called and gifted to be a help, so H-E-L-P! Don't try to live a separate life and fight for your own things.

Consider the creation of Eve in Genesis chapter 2. God did not form her from the dust like he did for Adam. She was formed from Adam's ribs. This reveals clearly that you, as a wife, are not to do your

own things, but you are joined to your husband for a purpose.

There are three kinds of pastors' wives. Whichever category you fall into, this subject still applies to you.

1. A pastor's wife who has a definite calling from God that is separate from the husband's call. She is commissioned of God with a definite assignment for her generation.
2. A pastor's wife called of God to share in the call on the husband and shares the pulpit with him in the ministry.
3. A pastor's wife not called to share in the calling. She has no pulpit ministry, but she's there as a pillar, a strong support to the husband.

Whichever is yours, first of all, be a help to your husband. Sow your life as a seed into his life and ministry, and you'll be glad at the harvest. If you have a definite call, at the appointed time, your husband will release you into that phase.

The genuine calling of many women has been trapped and stopped because of their unfaithfulness at the first stage of being a suitable help, assistant, and relief to their husbands.

For the man is not of the woman, but eh woman
of the man,
Neither was the man created for the woman, but
the woman for the man. (1 Corinthians 11:8–9)

DISTRACTIONS

The following are the things the devil uses to distract
pastors' wives from what they are made for. Watch
out for things like:

1. Demanding for more money and materials from
your husband by complaining and murmuring that
he is not taking care of you like other women. You
are not an ordinary woman; you cannot afford to
pick quarrels like other women do.

Complaints about money and materials are
common, especially when a man is just starting
out in the ministry or where there is not much
financial breakthrough yet. Take heed not to fall
for this distraction.

2. Getting carried away with your gift and neglecting
your role as a helpmeet. Any gift of ministry you
have that makes you compete with your husband
and not complement him cannot be fruitful. Don't
fight for a ministry; use your gift to complement

your husband's calling. That is where your fulfilment and fruitfulness lies.

3. The devil can distract your attention from what you are made for as a pastor's wife by causing people in the church/ministry to offend and despise you, so that you can begin to respond negatively towards them. You should be wise enough to know that this will only bring weakness into the church/ministry and this will put the devil at an advantage. Love them and pray for them in spite of what they do. You are their mother.
4. Family ties could be very dangerous for a pastor's wife. You cannot afford to be tied to your mother's apron; you are in the battlefield. Detach yourself from all controlling family ties that hinder your strong decisions for God. Be sold out to the kingdom of God.
5. Comparison. Don't let the devil compare you to another pastor's wife. It can lead to superiority or inferiority complex. We are all different. Be yourself while working on yourself to get better. Don't lose your individuality.

It takes strong focus on the vision, strength in the

inner man, stability of heart, and pursuit of divine goals to render null and void every distraction the devil brings.

Dear woman, deliver yourself from every distraction, identify them, and retrace your steps. A greater level of lifting awaits you as you eliminate every distraction and face your destiny.

CHAPTER NINE
BE YOURSELF

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.

—Romans 12:6 NKJV

A lot of pastors' wives are trying to fit into the mould cast by the society or church traditions and are thereby drying up inside. Such pastors' wives feel miserable and unfulfilled. This, however, is not God's plan for them. God made every person to be himself or herself. Just as God made you to be you and He knows the plan He has for you (Jer. 29:11).

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5 NKJV)

God knows you, and you must know yourself. You don't have to keep up with the Joneses. Of course,

you can learn from others, and you can follow godly examples, but be yourself (see Heb. 6:12, 13:7).

How to Be Yourself

1. Know who you are. Who you are is not who men say you are. You are who God says you are. To know who you are, you have to seek God's face and discover yourself in God.

Mary was told who she was in Luke 1:28–31. The angel called her the highly favoured one and the most blessed among women.

Also, Deborah knew herself in God. Judges 4:4 refers to her as a prophetess who judged Israel at that time. Don't try to know who you are by who others are. God is your source, go back to him.

2. Be careful of what men say of you. Whether you are good or bad, men will naturally label you wrong, except the people that God grants insight into His purpose for you. You must understand that anyone who does not know your purpose in God does not really know you. People, who do not know you in the light of divine purpose, will call you by different wrong names.

- They called Elizabeth “barren” who was already six months pregnant (Luke 1:36).
- They called the Messiah a “blasphemer” (John 18:28–29).
- They called the forerunner of the Messiah “Christ” (John 1:19–27).
- They called David (a king) a “break-away servant” (1 Sam. 25:10).

Do not settle for what men call you, which does not agree with God’s purpose for you, and do not let what they call you condition your attitude and life.

3. Discern accurately whom God has chosen to father your destiny. The person chosen of God to father your destiny could be your husband-minister or another man or woman of God. God has given that person the blueprint for your destiny, and he/she is committed to ministering to you till you become the person God wants you to be. The word of such a person must be weighty and important in your sight. Let us look at the following Bible examples:

- For Esther, it was Mordecai (Esther 4:4)
- For Mary, it was Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45) and

then Joseph (Matt. 1:18–25)

- For Paul, it was Ananias (Acts 9:10–17)
- For Elisha, it was Elijah (1 Kings 19:15–17)
- For Joshua, it was Moses (Num. 27:18–23)
- For you, who is he or she?

4. Step out in faith. After ascertaining the direction of God in your life, it could be organization (helps), writing, intercession, or music, step out in faith. It is not about aspiring to be known, but doing things at your level. Start sowing your gift as a seed into the lives of others—your husband first, then your children, church members, and people around you.
5. Seek to be a blessing, not to have a position. Just go all out to bless, not to lord it over people or to aspire to any position of authority. When you are faithful, God will establish you.

CHAPTER TEN
THE DANGER OF NEGLECTING YOUR SOURCE
OF STRENGTH

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

—Mark 1:35 NKJV

There has never been anyone who is as busy as Jesus was both in physical and spiritual matters.

He trekked long distances, He fasted, He taught in synagogues, He taught the disciples, He ministered to the needy, yet He never neglected the source of that peculiar strength: the Father. The greatest mistake we often make is to become so busy as pastors' wives, serving people, doing programmes, keeping the home, etc., and somehow neglect fellowship with God, our strength, until we get fagged out, and sometimes break down physically and spiritually.

The demand on a pastor's wife is so much that if

you depend on your natural strength, skill, and talents alone, you will soon burn out.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10)

There must be a constant pattern of fellowship with the Lord that will open you up to the strength you need, the wisdom and grace to minister to your husband, children, family, church members, your own career, etc.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29–31)

You need to make fellowship with God a priority in your life and build every other thing around it. Don't be carried away with activities and neglect your private time with God. Note that if you spend more time with God, you will have less trouble with men. Be prepared for difficult times ahead and be equipped

to live above situations and circumstances.

Look at Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38–42; while Mary sat and listened to Jesus’s words, Martha was distracted with food preparation and serving. The account of their brother’s death, Lazarus, and his coming back to life revealed the emptiness of faith in Martha’s heart (John 11:23–27).

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:38–42)

As a pastor’s wife, you need to make a fresh

commitment to wait upon the Lord. In addition, you should avoid stress and give no room to offence. Take advantage of physical help for physical duties and be careful of spirit flows around you, especially in the home.

Be Immovable

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Being immovable does not mean doing nothing or being passive or staying on the spot, or not going anywhere. It simply means refusing to shift when something is trying to forcefully move you out of your righteous wish and desire. It is an active word, expending energy and force to oppose and overcome what is trying to change your suitable place. Beloved, if where you are is threatening the devil, he will seek to displace you and move you out of the place so that he can have room. He tried it with Mordecai in Shushan's palace, but he was immovable, and the enemy lost. When an irresistible force meets an immovable object, one of them loses its identity.

As a pastor's wife, if truly God has called your husband as a weapon of war in these last days, to pull down the kingdom of darkness, and you are truly a helpmeet to him in that assignment, get ready to face oppositions; but fear not, be of good cheer. A strong man will laugh at oppositions because he's got a stronger stuff inside. We only fail in adversity when our strength is small. That is why you must load your spirit man with strength to the immovable level.

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. (Proverbs 24:10)

There is no doubt that the devil's assault against the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is increasing by the seconds, but it is written, "Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail." It shall not, it cannot, and it will not prevail. You must build up strength within you to walk in the reality of that truth.

THE DEVIL'S THREE MAJOR WEAPONS

The devil can always get a man to do something he will never succumb to do in his life, if his wife is weak and the man is emotionally attached. A man of God must be Spirit-controlled, not emotion-ruled.

The devil has three major weapons of attack against highly anointed men of God via marriage or their wives. He attacked Adam through his wife; if Jesus were married, he would have tried to get him via the same means.

1. The devil seeks to arrange for a highly anointed, called, sincere man of God, a candidate of his in marriage. It is sad today that many young ministers have fallen prey to these wolves, strangers, and enemies of Zion that have become General Overseers' wives. Only God can redeem such men. Filled with carnality and all works of the flesh, such women turn the man's heart from concentrating on the main thrust of the ministry to the minor irrelevant aspects. These women don't pull them totally away from the ministry because it will be obvious to friends and concerned brethren who will quickly go into prayer and fasting over their man of God. Rather, these women gradually move the man to be taken over by the flesh and begin to pursue dreams and ambitions that will take him farther and farther away from God, making him dull to the activities of the Holy Spirit.

Young pastors today must beware. This was the

strategy the devil used to bring down Solomon, the wisest man on earth (1 Kings 11:4–6).

2. The devil seeks to pervert sincere, innocent pastors' wives who are weak in decision and character so as to neutralize their effectiveness in the spirit. This can be possible if the woman has problems in the areas of covetousness, ambition, wanting to outdo others, and worldliness; she finds it difficult to reject offers, which are traps that will eventually walk her out of the spirit flow. These results into an absence of the necessary push in the spirit she's been giving to her husband. The work grows physically but becomes weak spiritually and before God where it matters most.
3. Most times, if the devil cannot succeed with the first strategy against the bachelor-pastor, he tries the second after he gets married. If that does not work as well, he tries the third, which is a frontal spiritual attack against the wife that is determined to make it. He starts by pumping in physical problems in order to distract her from the word and the place of prayers. These include offences, quarrels with family members, in-laws, and church members.

Offences, hurts and pain in the soul are spiritual energy drainers. The devil also introduces overwork by withholding physical help that should assist to do household chores/domestic affairs including giving children extra care that they may need. The devil's aim is just to reduce or steal completely the quality time for prayer and the word; if he succeeds, he gradually brings assault against her health, which results in frequent physical breakdown.

However, a woman that is discerning and loaded in the Spirit of faith will not bow to offences and overwork. She will not allow whatever can take from her, her daily strength renewal. In faith, she will stand to resist sickness.

If she is careless and does not watch and pray to stop it at that level, the enemy progresses to take her life in order to replace her with his own candidate in the anointed's life, who will wrought ruin in Zion. Can you see why you should be immovable? The devil will always seek to destroy anyone crucial in God's move in any vision. Jesus had to pray for Peter; otherwise, Satan would have gotten him.

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat;
But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” (Luke 22:31–32)

We need to pray for one another and also take advantage of the intercessory ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father. You cannot afford to be moved spiritually and physically. Tell yourself, “No one will take my place.”

Before you allow anyone to become close to you, be very careful, watchful, and sensitive and let the Holy Spirit speak to you first about the person. Never open up to anyone that will open you to attacks or anyone that is porous. Let your husband be your best friend. Don't let strange people get access to your husband through eye service and insincerity they parade around you. Be immovable, impenetrable, unshakable, and unbendable.

Five reasons why a pastor's wife must be strong

Anyone that will walk with God and work for God must be loaded with strength in the spirit man, in the

soul, and in the body.

But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. (Daniel 11:32b)

Being strong here is not just physical, financial, or mental strength, but being strong in every way, particularly spiritually.

Operating as a pastor's wife is not a matter of glamour, but high-level responsibility. A pastor/minister of the gospel is crucial in the programme of God on earth, and God always carefully prepares and works upon the woman that will stand by such. Some pastors lose their effectiveness, impact, and force in the spirit because they have been wrongly hooked to a strange flesh.

God has placed you as a helpmeet beside a man who is fighting the battles of the Lord, so you can't afford to be weak. Here are five reasons why you must be strong. When you know the reasons, you will pay the price. A pastor's wife must be strong because of the following reasons:

1. What is opposing you at the level of the calling is too serious for you to be lax in the spirit

The high-level spiritual warfare that Elijah was involved in stirred up great hostility from Jezebel. Other prophets that were not called to the national scene didn't have that problem. If Elijah were married, his wife would have also been in for it (1 Kings 19:1–10). The degree of weakness in you as the wife will be the degree of troubles you will put your husband and the vision through. See Abraham and Sarah also (Gen. 16:1–6).

Other women can be careless in spiritual matters, not a pastor's wife. You are marked by the enemy, therefore invest in your spirit-man. Be strong!

2. For the sake of people that look up to you as God's standard and example for them

The pastor's wife is the automatic pacesetter for the women in the congregation and in the entire scope of the husband's ministry. That was the sole reason for Vashti's replacement with Esther, which we saw in Esther 1:19. Those wise men understood that the leader's wife sets the pace.

If it please the king, let there go a royal

commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. (Esther 1:19)

You can't afford to do it the way you like. You are God's woman, placed by God to set the standard of God for women and others. You need internal strength not to dance to every beat, but display the strength of being controlled by the Holy Spirit. Because of those that think you are the best woman of God around and will emulate your life, be strong!

3. For the sake of those you are to minister to and lift up spiritually

If you are weak, if you complain and give excuses, they will not be helped. Naaman's maid was strong to counsel her master to receive help from the God of Israel.

And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. (2

Kings 5:3)

Jael was strong to offer Sisera milk and kill him with a nail and hammer so that God's people could be spared

And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.

Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No.

Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. (Judges 4:19-21)

The Samaritan woman, though a prostitute, was strong to take the news about Jesus to the city, and they turned to Christ

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which

testified, He told me all that ever I did.

So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

And many more believed because of his own word;

And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (John 4:39–42)

For the sake of those whose survival and relevance in life depends on your faithfulness and yielding to God, be strong!

4. The level of strength in you will maximize or minimize what God will do in and through your life

What God will do for you and through you will be amplified or reduced by the level of strength you operate in. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was strong in yielding to God and obeying divine instructions, such that when the angel came with a “ridiculous message” (a virgin to conceive), she had the strength to believe.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Job's wife was weak in understanding God and His purpose, so when the husband entered into crises, instead of supplying strength to the husband, she asked him to curse God and die. She was a vessel unto dishonour (Job 2:9). For the working of God in your life to be maximized, be strong!

5. To discern whose influence you should yield to God's, man's, or the devil's

As a human being, God, man, and the devil will try to influence you. The strength you hold inside will determine which influence you will yield to. If you are not strong inside, you'll fall for the wrong influence, and it could be disastrous. The devil came in Genesis 3:1–13 to influence Eve to eat the fruit, but her lack of inner strength to say “no” to the lies of the devil, to say “no” to what was contrary to God's will and purpose, put humanity in trouble. The devil will bring many things that look right. In order to discern accurately, be strong!

- Be strong in truth and confront errors and lies.
- Be strong in God's word; don't neglect it.
- Be strong in prayers; have a strong closet.
- Be strong in sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- Be strong in being led by the Spirit, not your flesh.
- Be strong in saying "no" to compromise.
- Be strong in giving what you have to your world.

Be strong, be strong, be strong!

CHAPTER ELEVEN
CREATING THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE IN THE
HOME

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children are like olive plants, roundabout your table.

—Psalm 128:3

Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.

—Proverbs 17:1

Influence is a peculiar gift that God has given to the woman, while He gave the man authority. Authority gives birth to direction and internal strength while influence brings about atmosphere which determines total well-being. It is the woman that determines the atmosphere, the mood, or how things will be in the home.

If the woman nags, quarrels, is unwelcoming, speaks negative words, etc., the home will be a little hell. But

if she's open-hearted, loving, caring, sweet, and welcoming, the home becomes a sanctuary of God's glory, a paradise that both the rich and the poor want to be in always.

Psalm 128:3 describes you as a fruitful vine to your husband. Don't ever forget that your husband, as an anointed man of God, needs all the help from the home-base to be all that God wants him to be. As a pastor's wife, you are to be a blessing to his destiny and not a distraction.

A fruitful vine is a blessing to God and man. So in creating the right atmosphere in your home, you must have God in mind. This is necessary so that God's kingdom will forcefully advance in your husband's life.

The right atmosphere will usher in God's presence into your home, while a wrong atmosphere will attract the devil and his activities.

How do I know the right atmosphere? A right atmosphere is one

- free of strife, tension, offences and nagging;
- free of unspoken pressure and malice;
- of oneness and unity;

- of openness and sincerity;
- of faith and exaltation of God's word;
- of submission to God's principles; and
- of joy.

Beloved pastor's wife, ensure that your husband finds it easy to relax at home, to pray, study God's word, and hear God's voice.

How to Create the Right Atmosphere

1. Know what a wrong atmosphere can do and avoid it like a plague. Don't allow envy and strife.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (1 Corinthians 3:3)

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (James 3:16 NKJV)

The wrong atmosphere will produce the opposite of the seven characteristics of the right atmosphere mentioned above.

2. Make up your mind to always have the right atmosphere. Deliberately go out of your way to

create the right atmosphere even if it does not suit your nature. Pay the price of self-denial and readily overlook insults.

3. Let your actions and reactions be guided by God's word and the Holy Spirit, not what you like or what your husband or church members do or don't do. Do not react to people, respond to God.
4. Make your home the house of prayer. Apart from your personal quiet time and the corporate family devotion, take time to pray around your home from time to time, releasing God's presence and taking authority over the devil's operations, pleading the blood of Jesus.
5. Speak words of grace always. A pastor's wife must understand that words are spirits and they are tangible. You must avoid curses, insults, lies, gossips, backbiting, slander, negative confessions, and the like (Prov. 6:2). Learn to speak life.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Proverbs 18:21 NKJV)

6. Always seek to be a blessing, show kindness to people. Do things that will add strength to your

husband. Even when you are angry, receive grace to be quiet until you become calm. Don't give the devil materials to use to work against you in your home. Rather, make sure the atmosphere of your home is never conducive for the devil. Remember Proverbs 14:1.

The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands. (Proverbs 14:1 NKJV)

The Sacred Ministry of Counselling Your Husband

Where there is no counsel, the people fall, but in the multitude of counsellors, there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14 NKJV)

Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counsellors, they are established. (Proverbs 15:22 NKJV)

The Holy Spirit Himself is the Chief Counsellor to the believer, and that is part of His ministry to us (John 14:26), but because experience, exposure, revelation, and insight differ from person to person, one may require human counsel, but it should be godly.

For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and

they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 2:7)

As good as counselling is, the way a lot of ministers have gone about it has brought lots of woes and calamities to the body of Christ through which some pastors have fallen prey to seductive women. The pastor's wife must take herself serious, be developed spiritually and mentally to counsel with women, but that is not my focus here now; my focus is on the counselling work of a pastor's wife to her husband.

As the wife of the man of God, you stand in a place of great responsibility and privilege to advise, counsel, admonish, encourage, and lift him up emotionally and spiritually. You cannot afford to fail in this role.

The following things must be avoided if God will be able to trust you with this assignment to your husband:

1. Manipulation and control: The purpose of you bringing suggestions, ideas, and counsel to your husband must be for his own good and the ministry and for the advancement of God's

kingdom, not for your own ulterior motives.

You should never manipulate your husband. Don't suggest that you feel an associate pastor be transferred just because you want to pastor or he has offended you. No, God weighs your motives, be careful.

Don't tell your husband that he needs to rest and take a break, just because you want to visit your family at that particular period, be careful.

2. Selfishness: You must avoid pressing your husband to do things for your own sake at the expense of the people of God, the work of God, or the overall plans and purpose of God. See Eve in Genesis 3:6.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

3. Ambition: Get rid of every "Jezebelic trait." Don't seek to rule, instead seek to support the leader. Avoid hijacking authority and taking decisions that present you as the one in charge. See the example

of Jezebel in 1 Kings 21:1–16, 25.

4. Gossip, backbiting, and envy: To be effective in your counselling ministry to your husband, you must avoid gossip, backbiting, and envy.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19–21)

Sarah: A Good Example

Sarah's counsel to Abraham in Genesis 21:9–12 was not manipulation, selfishness, or ambition to rule, but she had an understanding of divine purpose of the Messiah to come through Isaac and offered a counsel by the Spirit of God to advance God's purpose. She was a woman of the Spirit. No wonder, God backed her up.

CHAPTER TWELVE
PARTAKING OF THE ANOINTING UPON YOUR
HUSBAND

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.

It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing life forevermore.

—Psalm 133:1–3 NKJV

No river flows upward and so is the Spirit of God and the anointing. It flows from the head to the body. According to Ephesians 5:23 and 1Corinthians 11:3, your husband, anointed of God, is your head, and if you position yourself correctly, the anointing on him should flow to you first, before his associates. Deuteronomy 34:9 says that Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on

him.

Levels of Partaking of the Anointing upon Your Husband

1. Receiving the anointing to work for you on any personal matter. The anointing upon your husband can work for you on any personal matter, great or small, if you would take heed to the following keys:

- Do not see your husband in the flesh.

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. (2 Corinthians 5:16 NKJV)

- Relate with what your husband stands for in the spirit and in destiny.

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

And no man takes this honour to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

(Hebrews 5:1, 4 NKJV)

- You should be submissive to him and the anointing he carries. The anointing you oppose regularly and despise cannot work for you in crisis, be warned (2 Sam. 6:12–23, 1 Cor. 10:11).
2. Becoming a carrier of that anointing. Another way of partaking of the anointing upon your husband as a pastor's wife is by becoming a carrier of the same anointing. How can you become a carrier of his anointing?
- You must walk in the understanding of anointing transfer through recognition, awareness, strong desire, and contacts. See Joshua's example in Deuteronomy 34:9.
 - To become a carrier of the anointing upon your husband, you must serve him sincerely and faithfully. As a pastor's wife, don't seek your own things. Learn to follow your husband and imbibe his spirit. Look at how Elisha received from Elijah in 2 Kings 3:11, 2 Kings 2:1–15.

Remember, you will also carry the double portion of the anointing you serve. Therefore,

avoid negative attitude towards your husband and passing uncomplimentary comments about him. God does not take kindly to it. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in Numbers 16 did the same thing, and they could not become carriers of the anointing they despised, instead they became dead men. You will not die in Jesus's name.

PRAYERS

- Repent of every negative attitude that has been blocking power flow from your life.
- Ask God for a back payment of all that you have lost spiritually because of wrong attitudes.
- Make a fresh commitment to fulfil the laws of the anointing.

PART TWO
ASSOCIATE PASTORS' WIVES

CHAPTER THIRTEEN
THE HELPER OF THE HELPER

But Aaron and his sons offered sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the Most Holy place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God has command. Now these are the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son, Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son, Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son, Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.

—1 Chronicles 6:49–53

Do you know that Aaron was married? Yes, of course. He had sons by his wife who operated so much underground. You are to be like Aaron's wife, helping the helper of the man of God.

The beginning of rebellion, destruction, and failure in life and before God is when an associate pastor's wife is seeking for the limelight in any ministry.

As the helper of the helper of the set man, the factors below are highly crucial.

1. There is a divine call to the office of an associate with no mind of graduating or learning to set up something of his own. See Aaron in Exodus 4:14, 16, 16; 28:1–2.
2. Deal with any negative thing still remaining in your flesh, things that can take you away from God's plan (e.g., pride, ambition, etc.)
3. Understand who your husband is to the set man.
4. Understand what you are to do to your husband as a helper. Be a suitable minister to him personally, raise the children well, be a hardworking woman, etc.
5. Never compete with the set man's wife, she is your mother.
6. Never resent the set man, he is your father. Don't think he is using your husband or taking him away from you or not paying him well. These are all the devil's ideas to sow seeds of offence, strife, and tension. Recognise that no one owes your husband a salary, but an opportunity to fulfil his destiny. Encourage him to take the opportunity faithfully.

7. Fit in well and adapt yourself to what the ministry demands from an associate pastor's wife.

Becoming a Strong Link in the Chain

The ministry under which God has put your husband to serve is also God's posting for you, and you need to be part of the flow. You are like a link in the chain. You cannot afford to be indifferent, weak, or offensive.

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto him who is the head - Christ:

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16 NKJV)

In order to become a strong link in the chain, take heed to the following advice:

- Let God show you your place and fill it with zeal. There you will be blessed and be a blessing (Adam: Gen. 2:8, 15, and 16).
- Walk in the family spirit in that ministry. Have a

mindset of “it is our ministry,” not “their ministry.”

- Be properly related to the set man, his wife, and the brethren.
- Don't influence your husband negatively by pushing him in subtle ways against his father.
- Know that God can call someone to be an associate pastor, and this doesn't reduce him. Not everyone called is called to headship.
- Know how to handle folly in your spouse. See how Abigail excellently handled Nabal's folly and thereby saved the entire family from anguish and destruction (1 Sam. 25:1-44).
- Don't disconnect from your roots (Ananias and Saphira: Acts 5).
- Always labour in prayer over the vision you are part of.
- Don't be ambitious, let God lift you.

PRAYERS

- Repent of every silent damage that you might have done to the vision that you are part of either by omission or commission.
- Receive grace to be a strong link in the chain.
- Pledge your commitment afresh to that vision.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN
CULTIVATING THE FAMILY SPIRIT

Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouth speaks lying words and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youths: that our daughters may be as pillars sculptured in a palace style;

That our barns may be full, supplying all kinds of produce; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields;

That our oxen may be well-laden; that there be no breaking in or going out; that there be no outcry in our streets.

Happy are the people who are in such a state; happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

—Psalm 144:11–15 NKJV

Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his

own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

—Genesis 14:14 NKJV

The kingdom of God is a family, one big family. God is the Father. When anyone gets born again (i.e., comes into the kingdom) the first thing God does is to connect him to a body of believers in form of a local church.

God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. (Psalm 68:6 NKJV)

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:12–13 NKJV)

God connects a newly born again child of God to a local church for growth, development, flourishing, and fruit-bearing. As people continue in the plan of God, they are to rise up to leadership to serve God in the spirit of the house.

However, it is dangerous for any church family to

have in leadership, anyone that is not born into the spirit of the church family and sees himself as part and parcel of the house.

CATEGORIES OF ASSOCIATE PASTORS' WIVES

1. Those that have been in the same church where the associate pastor was a leader before marriage. It is easy for these to flow because they already have the spirit of the house.
2. Those that have been in church, but not in any leadership before becoming a pastor's wife.
3. Those that were married from another church. These need to really work on themselves if they will not become strange children in the house.
4. Those that have been married in the church before the man was made an associate pastor.

Four things can happen if an associate pastor's wife does not walk in the family spirit of the church.

- She cannot receive into her life the anointing on the set man and on the ministry. If in crises, she can't be helped by the same anointing.
- She cannot be a blessing fully to the church or the ministry. All the gifts and potentials in her

will dry up, whereas they are supposed to receive a boost from the umbrella anointing.

- She will hinder her husband's productivity. She is not adding; she is a drag.
- She will either start or join rebellion. Most likely, she will team up with rebellion against the set man or push her husband to it.

How to Cultivate the Family Spirit in Your Church

I am sure having read this book thus far, you desire to know how to cultivate the family spirit in your church. The following will help you considerably to realize this.

1. Be convinced in your heart that God planted you there. It is your place of divine posting.
2. Accept the set man as your father and your husband's father and relate accordingly. Accept the leadership; don't struggle with the leadership.
3. Iron out all differences you have biblically. Ask in the right spirit and attitude, questions on anything you don't understand rather than reacting negatively.
4. Begin to open up to ministrations from the church, adhere to the structure of the ministry

and obey instructions fully. Never speak ill of the church/ministry you belong to in secret or public. It is a mark of a strange child.

5. Understand the ministry's vision and see where you fit in. Use your gifts with enthusiasm and encourage others.

6. Encourage and help your husband to operate at maximum productivity. Don't be neutral; take sides with the vision.

DIVINE POSITIONING

Divine positioning is real. You are not, as a child of God, supposed to move about anyhow. God has a place for you and your husband. Psalm 68:6 says God sets the solitary in families. There is a place God places everyone with the intention for them to prosper. If God puts you somewhere, there is nourishing for you there already, both spiritually and physically. Outside of divine positioning, a man's life becomes miserable. When a child of God leaves, migrates, or wanders from his/her divine position, a wilderness journey begins for him/her. I am sure you don't pray that for yourself and your husband.

That is why as an associate pastor's wife, you need to know that God has a place for you where you are.

Settle this question deep down in your heart: Did God send and put my husband here? If yes, that is where he has put you also. Settle down and begin to take nourishment and grow. If God puts you somewhere, it is not inferior or secondary, it is a great place.

Don't stir your husband up against the set man with various strategies of the flesh—complaints, grumbling, etc. Don't let the devil use you to affect God's work on the earth negatively.

See the following people who left their places of divine posting as assistants and how they ended:

- Lucifer (Isa. 14:12–17)
- Lot (Gen. 13:5–13)
- Gehazi (2 Kings 5:10–27)
- Dathan, Abiram, Korah, and On (Num. 16:1–33)
- John Mark (Acts 15:36–40)

Also, see those that held their places of divine posting.

- Joshua (Exod. 24:13; Deut. 1:38; Joshua 1:1–3)
- Elisha (1 Kings 19:19–21)
- Timothy (Acts 16:1–3)

In rounding off this chapter, let me stress to you that if God puts you under somebody, that position for you is primary, and you need the anointing God has put on him for you to grow and be nourished, delivered, and built up for destiny. The associate pastor and his wife must not have the attitude that they are helping the set man out; he is not in trouble in the first place. Your service is your channel for receiving supernatural help into your own life. Therefore, discharge your service excellently well.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN
CARRY YOUR CROSS

And he who does not take his cross and follow
after me is not worthy of me.

—Matthew 10:38

Most times, when a man is led by the Spirit of God to work for God under a set man as an associate, he is the one who knows what he has seen or heard before answering the call. It is after receiving the call that he shares it with his wife because the call does not affect man alone directly, but also his wife and his entire family. From then, if he will be established in his place of divine assignment and flourish, the wife must be ready to team up with him, support him and be in it together with him.

She is not to be neutral, indifferent or feel embarrassed at the “subordinate role.” She must fill it with honour.

As a pastor’s wife, you must carry your cross daily in order to please God. The cross is simply God’s

will as opposed to your own will and desire. Because of God's love and reverence you lay yours aside to pick "His," that is how to win in life. There is no promotion for anyone who holds on to and does his/her own desires at the expense of God's will.

Little did Joseph know he was going to be the prime minister when he served wholeheartedly in Potiphar's house

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 Ishmeelites, 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 was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that

he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

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. 39:1-6)

Little did Ruth know she would be an ancestress of the Messiah and keep a home for Boaz (a noble man in the society) when she served an aged mother-in-law and laboured in the field as if she had no relation (Ruth 2:1-5; 4:13-17)

Here are few points that will help you to carry your cross daily and joyfully in hope of great reward.

1. Serve wholeheartedly as if your husband is the set man. Serve as if you will be there permanently, not as somebody who is thinking of leaving one day. Serve as if that is all the labour you will be rewarded for in heaven.
2. Have a clear understanding of your ministry, calling, and anointing. Even if God will lead your husband to leave and start a work, it is not you

(the ambitious wife) God will speak to. He will speak to the set man except the man has fallen from grace. God spoke to Moses about Joshua. God did not speak to Elisha on his assignment while Elijah was still alive. Elisha was like an associate of the old man, Elijah. God does not break ranks.

3. Develop yourself. Don't operate at the minimum level possible, stretch yourself, apply yourself, and be a blessing.

Understand Teamwork

If you are going to function effectively and efficiently in the ministry where your husband is an associate pastor, you must understand the importance of teamwork. In the book of Nehemiah, we see teamwork in practice with different people doing different things, contributing to the realization of the corporate goals under Nehemiah's overall leadership.

And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the

trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing. (Nehemiah 4:19–23)

Certain truths that must be clear to the wife of any associate pastor under a set man include:

- (a) The mystery of the body of Christ, and
- (b) The principles that govern a team operation.

Habakkuk 2:2–4 reveals two sets of people in every God-given vision, the visionary and vision runner.

The visionary is called by God and receives the vision. When he makes it plain and spells it out clearly, the vision runner reads to understand it and

runs with it.

You are a vision runner. Your operation is dependent upon the spelt out vision by the set man (founder/overseer). That applies not to you alone, but also all others that are chosen to labour over the God-given vision.

Please, let me reiterate that a man can be called by God to be an associate. It is not every associate that God has an assignment for that will become a founder of a ministry. Don't operate with the mind that one day, you will put out to be a founder's wife. Remain in your place of divine posting.

Like a bird that wanders from its nest, is a man who wanders from his place. (Proverbs 27:8 NKJV)

The Mystery of the Body

Christ is the head of the church; therefore, whatever you do, you have to reckon with the head of the church. There are many parts in the body and each part is important. You are a part (1 Cor. 12:12). The body of believers in various local churches constitute the body of Christ on earth. God sets people in place; you don't aspire by ambition and jostle for a place

(Eph. 4:11; Ps. 68:6; 1 Cor. 12:18). What God expects of you is to know where He has set you and recognize others that He has set in their own places.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (Ephesians 4:11)

God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. (Psalm 68:6)

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. (1 Corinthians 12:18)

The same life is flowing in members. No part is inferior/superior to the other, but roles and divine placement are quite different (Heb. 5:4).

Principles that Govern Teamwork

Achan is an example of someone who violated the ground rules guiding the operation of the team he

belonged to and brought unnecessary calamity on the group. Those who knew nothing about his sin in the battle of Ai died before the culprit was eventually fished out (Josh. 7:1–26).

In order to be a good team player, please take note of the following:

- Your heart must be right with the set man (leader) and flow with him, submitting with no struggles (Heb. 13:7, 17).
- Your heart should be right with everyone that is right in the team and flow with them.
- Never take sides with rebels. God is not on their side. Don't pull down the vision that you are part of. You might be pulling down God's security and provision in your life (Neh. 2:19–20).
- Excel at your duty post; it will make all the difference.
- Take advantage of corporate strength; don't insist you must do it alone. Two are better than one, they have good reward for their labour. Who are you trying to impress when you reject the strength available in the team to defeat your weakness?

- Offences are dangerous to a corporate flow. Don't take offences whenever and from whosoever they come.
- Avoid every secret sin of every form.

What if the set man fails?

In case the set man fails, don't forget you have an ultimate responsibility to Jesus Christ –the Head of the church. Therefore, you should do the following:

- Get committed to the truth of God's word.
- Get committed to the Head of the church not to damage the body.
- Get committed to the Holy Spirit and keep a clean conscience (1 Tim. 1:19–20).
- Give your best at your duty post.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN
THE DANGER OF MINDING IT ALONE

The devil likes to isolate people before he oppresses them so that they will not have any help to reach them on time.

A pastor's wife can fall for this, particularly the wife of an associate pastor under a set man. You may feel you don't want the set man to know your problems or that of your husband in order to keep up a false picture of "things are okay," but you are trying privately on your own to look for help here and there from family members, friends, etc. Why suffer in silence?

Remember, God lays help for His people on the shoulders of certain men, and He expects us to receive that help.

Then you spoke in a vision to your Holy One, and said: I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. (Psalm 89:19)

If you run to places where God has not put help for you, it will be in vain. They will be empty of power to change your situation.

Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him saying, “Help, my Lord, O King!”

And he said, “If the Lord does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?” (2 Kings 6:26–27 NKJV)

The good example of the son of the prophet’s wife

Let us learn a few lessons from a certain woman, the wife of one of the sons of the prophets in 2 Kings 4:1–7.

1. She cried unto Elisha (the set man). She didn’t suffer in silence; she was not too proud to seek help. She didn’t go to her family members and friends who had no anointing from God to bring supernatural supplies. If she had gone to them, perhaps they would have lent her some money to pay the debt or at best help her to pay it, and then she would have become obliged to them forever!

She was wise; she went straight to the anointed,

the spiritual father of her husband. For you to be able to do this, you must have the correct value, regard, and estimation of that man and the anointing God has put on him, particularly when you were not in any crisis, for it to work for you in moments of crisis. The anointing you despise secretly in your heart cannot work for you in crisis. What you run to in moment of crisis is what you have always believed in all your life.

2. She acknowledged who the husband was to the man of God: “Thy servant, my husband.” This enabled her to see and appreciate who Elisha was over their family. Deep in your heart, do you see your husband as a “servant” or “son” of your set man? Or do you see him as a colleague of the set man, often telling him, “You are anointed too.” Or you feel he is being underpaid or overused. You need to deal with all negative internal feelings. They prevent the wife of an associate pastor from drinking from the well of the anointing on the set man.
3. She came to Elisha. You are the one to build a relationship with your set man, his wife and his

family, not vice versa. If she had waited for Elisha to come looking for her before she would respond to the anointing, the creditor would have carried her sons away. You don't need to suffer from the creditor's hands, when you have a father!

4. Her solution came from the questions Elisha asked her and the words he told her. What is your set man's word to you? If it is a command, you are in safety, but if you treat his counsel, messages and utterances with levity, you may be trifling with the solution to a problem you are facing.
5. She didn't run away with an initial encounter. She went back for further instructions until her joy was full.

The good example of Peter's wife

There are various kinds of associate pastor's wives:

1. Those who team up with their husbands to do the set man's vision.
 2. Those who do their own things and their husbands alone team up with the set man.
 3. Those who work against their husbands because of their teamwork with the set man.
- Which one are you?

Peter was an associate of Jesus during his earthly ministry; he had a wife, he had a mother-in-law, but he was in charge in his own house, and this helped the wife and the mother to honour the anointing on Jesus. What do we learn from Peter's wife and her mother?

- Peter's wife was so committed to the vision of Jesus that her husband, Peter, teamed up with so much so that she carried her family (mother) along in the commitment. How do you present your husband and his work with the set man to your family?
- She and her mother were given to ministering personally to Jesus. Do you minister personally to the set man your husband works with "in prayers, service, giving and high estimation?" Jesus was free in their house. Is your set man free in your house?
- They received the ministration of Jesus. Do you value or honour the anointing on the set man of your husband to get blessed and draw from his ministry? Or do you prefer another man of God elsewhere in moments of crisis? The anointing you honour is what will work for

you and your family in your moments of trouble. Begin to honour the anointing God has put you and your husband under; that is your covering to make you and to help you. Get connected and receive your portion.

Listen to me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek the Lord, look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you; for I called him alone, and blessed him and increased him. (Isaiah 51:1-2)

ABOUT THE BOOK

Godly Wisdom for a Pastor's Wife is a perennial best seller and healing balm for all the women that are married to pastors and ministers of God. As the pastor was called, so also the wife of the pastor is called to stand by her husband to fulfil the call of God upon his life. This book outlines from the Bible the sacrifices, work, and the development necessary to fulfil that role without losing out in the overall scheme that God is working on the earth through herself and her husband. This book is a must-read for every Pastor's wife and soon-to-be Pastor's wife. If your man is in any level of ministry, this book will make you a blessing of immense value in your generation.