

My Marriage, My Husband – My Mission, My Ministry by Deborah A. Biddle

When I was a little girl, I dreamt of the day when I would marry. It went like this:

After I finish my college education and begin my corporate career, I will marry my high school or college boyfriend at the age of 23. He'll be 25-year-old college graduate with a professional business career. Of course He'll be a committed Christian man active in his local church. He'll be tall, handsome, funny, witty, intelligent and completely in love with me. He will appreciate my quirks, love what is a good in me and encourage me to overcome my weaknesses. He'll be financially secure with a nice apartment and a stable automobile.

Our wedding will be in autumn or early winter at the church in which I grew up. My bridesmaids will wear crimson or fuchsia floor length gowns. His groomsmen will wear conservative black tuxedos with simple, yet elegant detailing. I will wear a princess ivory colored gown with the longest hand beaded train I can find. He will wear a designer doubled-breasted tuxedo that is elegantly appointed. Flowers will adorn the church and bridesmaids. The church will be filled with all of our closest friends and family who will joyfully celebrate our union.

At our reception we will dine and dance the night into a life of wedded bliss. Within two years, we will purchase our first home. Shortly after that, we will give birth to our son. Two years later, upon the birth of our daughter, I will become a stay at home mom. Our love will continue to grow, our children will prosper and we will live our lives happily ever after.

That's quite the dream. Isn't it? Yet dreams are where it all begins. For this reason, I like to think of my life and my marriage in terms of my vision or my mission.

Before you ever dated or ever met your husband, you probably envisioned what marriage might be like. You see it all starts with vision. "Vision precedes mission and fuels it with the necessary energy to go the distance. Mission implements vision and provides the vehicle that moves you towards your goal."¹

"Success" can be defined as the progressive realization of God's plan as the progressive realization of God's plan for you or in this case --- your marriage. If you are doing things that are moving you toward becoming a godly wife, then you are "successful", even if you are not there yet. It's the goal that begins the journey.

A study on goal setting by the Ford Foundation found that:

- 23% of the population has no idea what they want from life, and as a result, they don't have much;

¹ Spellman, Peter, *The Self-Promoting Musician*, Boston, MA, Berklee Press, 2000

- 67% of the population have a general idea of what they want, but they don't have any plans for how to get it;
- Only 10% of the population has specific, well-defined goals, but even then, seven out ten of those people reach their goals only half the time;
- The top 3%, however, achieved their goals 89% of the time --- an .890 batting average!

What accounts for the dramatic difference between that top 3% and the others? The top 3% wrote down their goals. Dreams and wishes are not goals until they are written as specific end results on paper. In some very real sense, writing them down materializes them. Goals have been defined as “dreams with a deadline”.²

In the New Testament, God spoke through visions that provided direction (Acts 16:9-10), as was the case with Paul. He was on route to the area of Phrygia and Galatia through Mysia to the city of Troas when he had a vision from God directing him to go to Macedonia in Northern Greece. It was his vision that fueled his mission and moved toward his God given goal of reaching Macedonia.

God also gave guidance through visions in the Old Testament. In Genesis 46:1-3, before Jacob moved his family to Egypt, he wanted assurance that Joseph was alive. So, Jacob offered sacrifices to God and God spoke to him through a vision and instructed Him to go to Egypt.

You may be thinking that all this vision talk is great if I am planning at work or school. But, how does vision apply to a Christian marriage? It applies to us as we seek God's will for our marriages and His plan for us as wives. Our primary desire should be to be the wives God has purposed us to be. In order to know that, we have to seek the knowledge, wisdom and understanding through prayer, scripture and the Holy Spirit.

God has given us a biblical model for becoming a godly wife through his word. We know from scripture that a godly wife ought:

- To love her husband - [Titus 2:4](#)
- To reverence her husband - [Ephesians 5:33](#)
- To be faithful to her husband - [1 Corinthians 7:3-5,10](#)
- To be subject to her husband - [Genesis 3:16](#); [Ephesians 5:22,24](#); [1 Peter 3:1](#)
- To obey her husband her husband - [1 Corinthians 14:34](#); [Titus 2:5](#)
- To remain with her husband for life - [Romans 7:2,3](#)
- Not adorn herself with ornaments alone - [1 Timothy 2:9](#); [1 Peter 3:3](#)
- To adorn herself with modesty and sobriety - [1 Timothy 2:9](#)
- To adorn herself with a meek and quiet spirit - [1 Peter 3:4,5](#)
- To adorn herself with good works - [1 Timothy 2:10](#); [5:10](#).

We know that a godly wife:

- Is from the Lord - [Proverbs 19:14](#)
- Is a token of the favor of God - [Proverbs 18:22](#)
- Is a blessing to her husband - [Proverbs 12:4](#); [31:10,12](#)
- Brings honor on her husband - [Proverbs 31:23](#)

² Spellman, Peter, The Self-Promoting Musician, Boston, MA, Berklee Press, 2000

- Secures the confidence of her husband - [Proverbs 31:11](#)
- Is praised by her husband - [Proverbs 31:28](#)
- Is diligent and prudent - [Proverbs 31:13-27](#)
- Is benevolent to the poor - [Proverbs 31:20](#)
- Has a duty to her unbelieving husband - [1 Corinthians 7:13,14,16](#); [1 Peter 3:1, 2](#)
- Should be silent in the Churches - [1 Corinthians 14:34](#)
- Should seek religious instruction from her husband - [1 Corinthians 14:35](#)
- Of a minister should be exemplary - [1 Timothy 3:11](#).

We have the following examples of godly wives:

- Wife of Manoah - [Judges 13:10](#) – Was barren and had no children; became mother of Samson; blessed and favored by God
- Orpah and Ruth - [Ruth 1:4,8](#) – Orpah is Ruth's sister-in-law; loved her mother-in-law Ruth is a Moabitess; loved her mother-in-law and followed her; married Boaz; ancestress of David and Jesus
- Abigail - [1 Samuel 25:3](#) – Nabal's wife; wise; appeases David; becomes David's wife
- Esther - [Esther 2:15-17](#) – Daughter of Abihail, Mordecai's cousin; selected from harem; chosen as queen; reveals Haman's plot,
- Elizabeth - [Luke 1:6](#) - Wife of Zacharias; barren and conceives a son (John the Baptist), filled with the Holy Spirit; relative of Mary
- Priscilla - [Acts 18:2,26](#) – Wife of Aquila; an instructed Christian; one of Paul's helpers
- Sarah - [1 Peter 3:6](#) – Half sister and wife of Abraham; barren; gave her maid to Abram; promised a son; gave birth to Isaac; example of submission

We have the following bad examples of wives:

- Samson's wife - [Judges 14:15-17](#) – A philistine woman; deceives Samson
- Michal - [2 Samuel 6:16](#) – Daughter of King Saul, loves and marries King David, ridicules King David and becomes barren
- Jezebel - [1 Kings 21:25](#) – daughter of Ethbaal – Ahab's wife, destroyed Yahweh's prophets, plans Elijah's death, secures Naboth's death
- Zeresh - [Esther 5:14](#) – Wife of Haman; suggested Haman build a gallows on which to hang Mordecai
- Job's wife - [Job 2:9](#) – Scorn Job; tells Job to curse God and die
- Herodias - [Mark 6:17](#) – granddaughter of Herod the Great, plotted John the Baptist's death; married her uncle
- Sapphira - [Acts 5:1,2](#) – wife of Ananias, struck dead for lying

With such a great depth of biblical insights on being a good wife (as listed above) and biblical principles for godly living throughout the scriptures, we should be ready to hit the ground running towards a great godly marriage. That's what one might think. And, on

the surface it's true. But, we need to **study** the scripture, **earnestly** pray, and **apply** God's instruction to our lives.

So, what *dream* has God given you? What *vision*? What *mission*? What *goal*? What is your ministry to your husband and for your marriage?

In Habakkuk 2:2, God says to "write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. Have you taken the time to write down the vision God has given you for becoming the wife he has called you to be? Proverbs 16:9 says, "a man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps." The dreams and visions that I had as a young girl for my marriage and wedding were *mine, not God's*. As maturing Christians, it is our responsibility to make sure that the plans and goals we set forth are from God, not the plans we devise out of our heart's desire. In Proverbs 19:21, God tells us "there are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless it is the LORD'S counsel that will stand." If we expect the foundations of our marriages to last, we must build them upon the counsel of God from His Word.