

The Countdown



7-Day Devotional for the Soon-to-Be Husband

A #COMPLETELYMARRIED
Devotional

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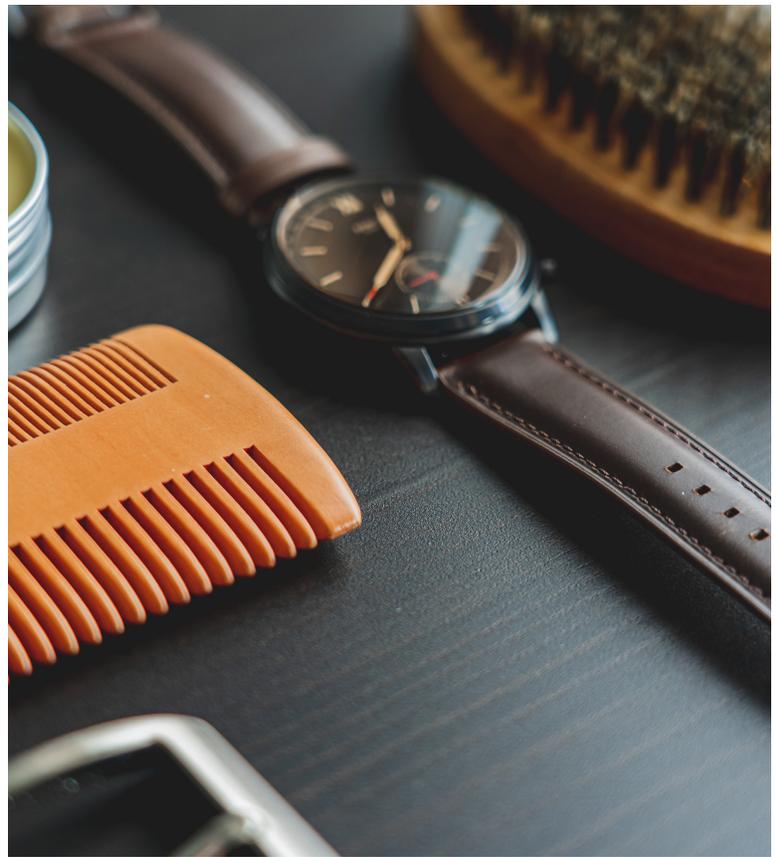
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THE COUNTDOWN

INTRO

Planning on get married to your lovely bride soon? Are you feeling nervous and maybe unprepared for this next major step in your life? If so, you are not alone! I can relate to some of the feelings you may be feeling as I was in your shoes not too long ago. I wrote this devotional because I want you to feel equipped before you jump the broom. I know you might have picked out your best-man already, however, I would be honored if you would allow me to be an honorary best-man for the next 7 days. I want to share 7 important things you can focus on during your engagement as you countdown to your wedding day. So join me as I provide some wisdom based on biblical principles and a few personal experiences to encourage you throughout this journey. Let the Countdown begin...



DAY 1 LEAD

Are You Ready?

If I had \$1 dollar for everytime I heard this during the weeks leading up to my wedding, I'd be rich. People called, texted and even asked me face-to-face if I was ready to marry my fiancé.

I too want to ask you this question but with a different spin. Sir, "Are you ready" to be the leader God is calling you to be? This question is super important to answer because you are about to lead a wife and (potentially) future children. If you answered yes, then I want to follow up with the question: "What type of leadership style are you going to adopt?".

I have learned from my spiritual community that Jesus is our ultimate role model on what a leader should look like. In fact, He shares what type of leadership style the disciples should strive to have in Matthew 20 which reads:

"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"
(Matthew 20:25-28 NIV)

My friend, God has called us men, especially husbands and husbands-to-be, to be servant leaders! Typically, men go into marriage trying to tell their wives and children what to do. They take the domineering or authoritative approach. But, that's not going to be you, right? I am telling you from my own personal experiences that this approach is unwise and unfruitful. We should never try to control our spouses. *Remember that a leader has a heart to serve and the servant has the will to lead.*

Having a servant leadership mindset has really allowed my marriage to flourish.

This leadership style seeks to understand rather than to be understood. With this style, you are looking at your wife's growth, both spiritually and emotionally, as well as always being aware of her safety and well-being. You are taking the lead as far as making sure you have a vision and a mission for your marriage. These should be top priorities for a servant leader.

So, as you are approaching this new leadership role as a husband, think about how Jesus wants you to position your heart to serve your significant other now and in marriage. Take some quiet time and meditate. Find a notebook and jot some ideas that the Holy Spirit drops in your spirit on how you can serve your future wife in marriage. See you tomorrow...

Prayer:

Father, Thank You! Thank You for the next couple of days/weeks as I prepare to be the husband You have called me to be. Thank You for giving us Jesus as a great example. Help me become more like Jesus as a servant leader in my marriage as I serve my future wife. I love You. Amen.

DAY 2 | LUST

Alright. You are one day closer until your wedding day. Let's take a deep breath!

In the previous devotional, we discussed the role of leadership, specifically servant leadership. As a husband, you will continue to see what a blessing it really is for you to lead your family.

Today, I want you to focus on the word purity and what it means to you. As a man, you have the opportunity to also lead in this area as well. Personally, I knew I was ready to marry my lovely wife when I had self-control in the area of purity. Very specifically, I had not watched any pornography in a couple of years. Praise God, I was delivered! If you might be struggling with impurity in any area, I am here to tell you there is hope.

Psalms 119:9-11 says *"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (NIV)*

Question: How is your purity? The Psalmist gives us a strategy to stay pure in these verses. First, we must try to live according to His word. To live according to His word, we have to know His word. How well do you know the Word of God? Do you try to commit God's word to memory?



Secondly, we must seek Him with our whole heart and not stray from His commands. And lastly, we have to take the word of God and hide it in our hearts. This means we have to move it from head knowledge to the heart.

Here is one quick illustration. I personally do this whenever I am tempted by Satan and his minions with lust. Yes, that's right. Even though I am married, I still get tempted by the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes. I take a scripture that I have memorized and continue to recite it until the temptation fades away. I then remove myself or the thing that is causing me to be tempted out of my area. Whether an image on a screen or if I am at a place where I am tempted by a person's looks/attire. You must do what the Bible says and flee.

Remember, it is impossible for a positive and negative thought to be in your mind at the same time. So go find a scripture, insert that scripture and let it transform your mind and your heart. As the head and leader of your home, I encourage you to really take this seriously. You don't want to bring anything from your past into your marriage, especially into the bedroom.

Prayer:

Father, thank You so much for Your restoration power. I repent for not always living a pure life. Holy Spirit, guide me on what scriptures I need to memorize and hide them in my heart so I don't continue to sin against You. Help my future wife and I remain pure until the altar and beyond. Also, help me lead my future family in the area of purity. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



DAY 3 LEAN

I am so proud of you for staying committed to this devotional thus far. As you might have guessed, today we are still talking about leadership.

So what other area besides purity do you need to lead in? Well, I would definitely say your spiritual life and growth. Yes, you want your future wife to have a strong spiritual life but it starts with you as the head of the household. There are many statistics out there that talk about the benefits of the man in the home being the spiritual leader. And we are going to keep improving that statistic on our end.

Now, I must say that this is an area that I was adamant about even during the very first week of marriage. I wanted to set the pace, spiritual tone, and the example of what it looks like to have a serious relationship with God at home.

So, I know what you might be asking? What does my spiritual life and growth consist of? Well, this is not just going to church weekly. You want to show your future wife that you can lead with your devotional time (i.e. reading and studying the bible), your prayer time, and even your worship time.

Again, Jesus teaches about how to do this in Mark 1:35 which says, "*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*" (NIV)

After a year and a half into marriage, I see the benefits of getting up in the morning and having my devotional time with the Lord where I read the bible, study, and pray. My wife and I have a weekend bible study as well (which I highly recommend you having) where she is teaching me and I am teaching her during the devotional time. She mentioned a similar passage to Mark 1:35 which convicted me to start leading more in this area, especially early in the morning. Now, I don't think we need to be legalistic here, but I do encourage you to carve out some time daily, whether in the morning, noon or night, to devote precious time to the Lord.

This will definitely help you lead your wife, especially in making major decisions because you have already sought the Lord during your devotional time. Where do you start? I suggest using the S.O.A.P method when starting your devotional journey. >>[Here](#)<< is a quick explanation and video to explain it.

So question, do you currently have a devotional life? Can you honestly say you can lead your future family in this area today? What I know is when you lead spiritually, you will be more sensitive emotionally which will end up being beneficial for your physical needs. And that's all I'm going to say about that!

Prayer:

Father, thank You for time. We get to spend time with you each and every day on this Earth. Help me put You first in every area of my life. Help me become a leader in my devotional, study, prayer and worship time. Help my future wife in this area as well as we prepare to become one. Father I love You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Resources: If you want to learn more about how to study the Bible, Click: [HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE](#)



DAY 4 | LISTEN/LIPS

Today, we are going to talk about two things that will save you from a lot of pain and arguments. These two things are the gift of active listening and controlling your words. As men, we should focus on listening to our wives without providing unsolicited solutions and listening without having a rebuttal. James 1:19, 20 gracefully teaches us, *"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."* (ESV)

If you can master this and lead her in this area, you will learn how to minimize a lot of unnecessary conflict that arises in marriage. Proverbs also provides some wisdom for us in how to use our lips. Proverbs 15:1 reads, *"A gentle (soft) answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."* (NIV) Let me translate, never fight fire with fire. If her voice is raised, never raise your voice. I challenge you to be intentional and talk softly as the scripture says. Eventually, her voice will lower to yours. That's a bonus tip for you. (Smile) It definitely won't be easy, but it will most definitely be worth it!

You are not just slow to speak because she is angry but because God has given you a wife to help you make wise decisions. So listen to her and give her space to share what she thinks about different situations. Consider her advice and her feelings. Proverbs 19:20 says "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future." (ESV) Men are typically more factual and we need to hear the feminine side and how they feel about the situation before making major decisions. Furthermore, human logic is great, but spiritual wisdom is better. Jesus says in John 10:3b-5 *"The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."* (ESV) You must be aware of foreign voices that try to steal your attention and distract you as the leader of the house. This could be people or even demonic spirits. You want to learn to listen to God's voice in the different ways He speaks to you and sometimes this can be through your future wife.

This goes back to our last devotional and how it's important to have quiet time with God. So seek to hear the voice of the Lord for yourself. Be led by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit my friend as Romans 5:16-26 teaches us to do.

Leading with both your natural ears and spiritual ears is very wise as you go into marriage. Also, leading in how to control the words that cross your lips will definitely help you maintain order in your home.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for my natural and spiritual ears. I repent for not always listening to You and obeying Your voice. Tune my ears to listen to my future wife. Also, help me first see how You are trying to communicate to me and help me listen to Your voice. Remove every distraction, whether person, or thing, that tries to get in the way of me and You and me and my future wife. I rebuke and silence all voices of enemies that will try to distract me from listening to Your voice in Jesus' name. I also pray that You help me control my words. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



DAY 5 LEND

For God so loved the world that He gave...

If you have been a Christian for sometime now, you probably can finish that scripture found in John 3:16. You might even see it tattooed on your favorite athlete. Although we are thankful for Christ coming to the Earth and dying for our sins, today's leadership lesson is brought to us by Our Father.

Learning how to give will be crucial for marriage. Yes, you spend time with your fiancé now but when you get married, more often than not, we take for granted the time we have together because we just think she is always going to be there. So I am going to challenge you to focus on three things that will bode well for you.

Number one: Make sure you lend and give your attention when your wife is talking to you. This is more than listening; this is hearing her and making eye contact. This also means turning off social media, tv, podcasts, closing laptops and shutting off computers. If you practice this with your wife, you will also have plenty of practice for any of your future children.

Number two: Make sure you lend your time to others. Yes, it's important to have some time to build your own family. However, you are also called to be the light. This is something God had to personally work on in my heart. This means helping people move, getting in community and even a small group to share your life experiences with. One thing I've learned is that people might be going through the same thing or have gone through similar situations, but we will never know if we don't spend time and fellowship with others. Give your time away!

Number three: Make sure you learn how to give your resources away which includes your money. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7 says, "*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly*

will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (ESV)

Remember, that we are blessed to be a blessing. As you enter into marriage, try to switch your focus from building your kingdom to building God's Kingdom. He desires to partner with you, but you have to pray for a generous heart. Make a margin in your budget to give to God first after every paycheck. I will not get into how much you should give, but it should be discussed with the Holy Spirit and then your wife whatever amount you feel He is asking you to give.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for giving Your Son to us to die on the cross for our sins. I am forever grateful. Help me not take for granted my future spouse, children and the time I have with them. Also, I recognize that everything is Yours so please help me learn how to be generous with both my time and my resources so I can build your Kingdom not mine. It's in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

DAY 6 | LIFE

After today we have one more day together!

It has been an honor to take the role as your honorary best man.

Today, I want us to really focus on this word, "Life". Question: what brings you to life? What gets you so excited that your alarm clock doesn't even have to ring to get you going? One of the most important things I challenge you to think about is the purpose of your life and the calling God has for you to do on this Earth. Some people even call this your "why". *Remember this, we all have a similar purpose which is to bring God glory and to bring Him joy.* Now, how you decide to do that will take prayer and seeking God's face.

No matter what career path you choose, whether in the tech industry, retail, corporate, government, entertainment or even church, every position is important to God. He wants our lights to shine in every industry. You want to do something that also brings you joy and life, not just doing something that makes all the money. Remember, 1 Corinthians 10:31 which says, *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."* (ESV)



The second "life" I challenge you to really think about is the life with your spouse. What I mean is not thinking about a way out of marriage. You must decide to take divorce off the table. *Remember, this is for life and this is not a contract that you can just rip up but a covenant.* Now a covenant means a divine agreement between you, your future wife, and God. There are spiritual repercussions when we break a covenant that can cause generational curses on our lives and our legacy through the bloodline.

If you are having a traditional wedding, you both will be saying "as long as we both shall live." This means that you are promising to build, grow, and nourish your relationship until death. But it starts with you. If something is off, you first should go to the Father and see if your relationship is strong with Him and then to your wife. Create a habit of always going to the Father because that vertical relationship affects the horizontal ones.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for Life! I am thankful that I get to serve you each and every day. Also, thank You for the life I am about to build with my future wife. Please help me see that my purpose is to bring You glory and joy. Guide me on how I can best serve You in my work, career or any other venture You want me to create. I pray for my future wife's purpose as well. I pray for our future covenant and rebuke and revoke any thing, person or spirit that tries to come between our union in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



DAY 7 LAUGH

I am not going to keep you long, because you have a wedding to get to!

Let me tell you a quick story. On our wedding day, everything was going great. We were getting compliments that our wedding was the most peaceful and organized wedding that our friends have ever been a part of... and then it happened. Kenady and the photographer were still taking pictures when she was supposed to be walking down the aisle.

I freaked out a bit because of the schedule and money that I saw leave our wallets. Plus, I am somewhat of a stickler for time. My groomsmen were trying to calm me down, but I was not having it. After a while and seeing my mom with her smile and beautiful dress, I decided to let it go and just enjoy the moment. And I started to lighten up and laugh.

Sir, everything in life is not going to go as planned but know God holds all the plans. If you know that this is God's will for you, then learn how to just have fun and laugh. Proverbs 17:22 says:

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength." (NLT) Scientific studies have shown that laughter is literally medicine. There are health benefits to those who laugh. Yes, Solomon was also right when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:4 that there will be *"A time to cry and a time to laugh."* (NLT) But what I have experienced is if I know who holds the future I can laugh more than I cry.

If you ever met me or Kenady or watched our [YouTube Channel](#), then you know that we love to laugh. In fact that is one of our values. We have decided there is too much hatred and pain in the world and we must laugh more often than we are sad and angry. Even in disagreements, we choose to laugh rather than to stay mad at each other. So I implore you, learn to laugh!

Prayer:

Father, thank You for laughter. Please help and my future wife rediscover the joy of Lord this season and beyond. I pray that all the wedding plans and wedding itself is a joyous occasion not just for us but for our family and friends as well. We invite You into the plans because without You our wedding is meaningless. Come Lord Jesus. It's in Your matchless and wonderful name I pray, Amen.

This devotional just scratches the surface. In our book [#CompletelyMarried](#), I wrote a chapter on How to Prepare to Be a Husband. I also cover how a man should prepare after, "I do." If you are interested in joining our online course that contains 8 sessions with your future wife, check out the [#CompletelyMarried course](#). And lastly, make sure your significant other checks out Kenady's devotional called *The Preparation: 7-Day Devotional for the Soon-To-Be Wife*.

It was an honor to serve you.

Blessings,

Damien K. H. Nash

Please visit:
www.DamienandKenady.com
for more resources.

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