

The Story of **REBEKAH** How to Choose A Spouse & Other Important Decisions (Decision Making God's Way)



“...He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a wife there for my son.” Genesis 24:7 NLT. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) NLT

Do you like love stories? Genesis 24 is a love story of how Rebekah became the wife to Isaac, the son of Abraham.

In Genesis 24, Abraham sent his servant back to his home country to find a wife for his son Isaac. In the story, God directs the servant to Rebekah (Gen. 24:14, 44, 50-51). The greatest motivation and glue for a life-long marriage is the conviction that your marriage is God's will. **Is love a strong enough motive for marriage?** Emotions can change over time and cause people to question whether they should stay in their marriage. God's will is constant. If God's will is the primary basis & motive for marriage, the marriage will be constant regardless of the fluctuation of one's feelings.

Does God really have a life partner just for me? He did for Isaac and he does for most of us, too.

- ▶ **What if I am single and have no prospect of getting married?** God calls some people to be single (cf. 1 Cor. 7:7, 17). He usually gives them contentment. Other singles eventually meet the one God has for them.
- ▶ **What if I am single and I am engaged to be married?** Couples planning on marriage ought to first ask themselves “Is it God's will that we be married to each other?” If you confirm that the answer is “yes,” nothing will give your marriage better stability over a lifetime of good and bad experiences.
- ▶ **What if I married someone without seeking God's will?** Perhaps God led your life when you were unaware of it. Regardless, once you are married, it is God's will! Divorce is not God's will (Malachi 2:15-16; 1 Cor. 7:10-13).

The Central Lesson:

God loves you and wants to guide your life - but we must seek Him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

1. God Guides Us through the BIBLE and His **PROMISES** (Genesis 24:5-7).

*“5 The servant asked, ‘But what if I can't find a young woman who is willing to travel so far from home? Should I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives in the land you came from?’ 6 ‘No!’ Abraham responded. ‘Be careful never to take my son there. 7 For the Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly **promised** to give this land to my descendants...”*

God promised to bless Abraham, make him a great nation through his son, Isaac, and give him all the land where he was living (Gen. 12:1-3; 22:15-18). This promise influenced Abraham's decision and plan to get a wife for Isaac.

2. God Guides Us by the **WITNESS** of the Holy Spirit.

*“For his Spirit joins with our spirit to **affirm** that we are God's children.”* Romans 8:16 NLT

The Holy Spirit speaks to our heart giving us a peace when something is right or a grieved feeling when something is not right for us. We need to learn to discern the witness of the Holy Spirit to our heart.

3. God Guides Us Through the Working of **CIRCUMSTANCES** (Genesis 24:14).

*“14 This is my request. I will ask one of them, ‘Please give me a drink from your jug.’ If she says, ‘Yes, have a drink, and I will water your camels, too!’—**let her be the one you have selected** as Isaac's wife. This is **how I will know** that you have shown unfailing love to my master.”*

Abraham's servant prayed for God's guidance. He asked God to confirm His choice through specific circumstances (see 24:14). According to verses 18-20, Rebekah responded just as the servant prayed.

4. God Guides Us by Influencing Our **DESIRES** and Our Heart (Genesis 24:49-50, 58).

*“For God is working in you, **giving you the desire** and the power to do what pleases him.”* Philippians 2:13 NLT

*“49 So tell me—will you or won't you show unfailing love and faithfulness to my master? Please tell me yes or no, and then I'll know what to do next.” 50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, ‘**The Lord has obviously brought you here, so there is nothing we can say.**’ 58 So they called Rebekah. ‘Are you willing to go with this man?’ they asked her.’ And she replied, ‘**Yes, I will go.**’”*

God was at work in the heart and desires of Rebekah's family and in Rebekah, too. She went with Abraham's servant and became the wife of Isaac.

5. God Guides Us Through the **COUNSEL** of Other Spirit-Filled Christians (Genesis 24:59-60).

“59 So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham's servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her. 60 They gave her this blessing as she parted: ‘Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions! May your descendants be strong and conquer the cities of their enemies.’”

Rebekah's family feared God. They knew it was God's will for Rebekah to become Isaac's wife. They sent her off with Abraham's servant with their blessing.

6. God Guides Us through Our Own Sanctified Common **SENSE**.

*“And so **my judgment** is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”* Acts 15:19 NLT

James, as chairman of the Jerusalem Council, makes a verdict about what requirements should be placed upon Gentile converts. The verdict was according to his God influenced common sense. Sometimes the Lord may not give us special guidance because He wants us to use our own sanctified judgment and common sense.

God loves you and wants to guide your life - but we must seek Him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior.
- ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study.
- ▶ Attend a small group.
- ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses.
- ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.