

# THE TWO FOLD MANTLE

**(WOMEN BALANCING  
MINISTRY & MARRIAGE)**



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Publishing Notice

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# *Introduction*

**T**his book is a reflection of my personal journey as a woman called into ministry and as a wife. It is a testimony of grace, struggle, and triumph in the face of societal, spiritual, and emotional challenges. Many women in ministry face resistance—not only from external forces but also from internal doubts and cultural expectations. The idea that marriage hinders spiritual growth or that ministry demands singleness is a misconception that has discouraged many from embracing both callings fully.

So, a woman is not limited by marriage when done according to the will of God, even though many believed it is expedient to be alone than to be married while leading a church.

While many also believed that marriage often reduces their spiritual prowess. Many also believed that they're limited by marriage.

Many women are told:

- "Marriage will distract you from your calling."
- "You can't lead a church and be a wife."
- "Your spiritual authority will diminish once you marry."
- "Having sex often reduces your spiritual attainment."

These ideas are not biblical. Scripture affirms the value of both marriage and ministry, and God equips women to thrive in both.

> "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." — Galatians 3:2

> "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." — Ecclesiastes 4:9

**"The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host." — Psalm 68:11 (ESV)**

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# *Chapter 1*

## *Identifying the Forces Against Women in Ministry and Marriage*

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Women in ministry often face unique pressures that can affect both their spiritual and marital lives. These forces include:

- **Sexual and Emotional Needs**

Ministry can be isolating, and unmet emotional needs may lead to vulnerability. God designed marriage to be a place of emotional and physical intimacy that honors Him. Many women in ministry are given to fornication and they struggle to balance that with God. They've learnt the falsehood language that says "God understands and he knows what I am going through."

- **Financial Pressure**

Many women in ministry face financial instability, especially when their calling is not yet fully supported. This can lead to stress and dependence.

- **Loneliness and Companionship**

The burden of leadership can be heavy. Without a supportive partner, loneliness can become overwhelming.

- **Inclusiveness and Acceptance**

Women may feel excluded from leadership circles or undervalued due to gender bias.

- **Sexism and Social Expectations**

Cultural and religious traditions sometimes discourage women from leading, despite biblical examples of female leaders like Deborah (Judges 4:4) and Priscilla (Acts 18:26).

# *Understanding Marriage from a Kingdom Perspective*

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## **What Is Marriage?**

Marriage is a covenant between two individuals, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. It reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church. A union of two lovers built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ to reveal the father's relationship to the world. Marriage is not just a social contract—it is a spiritual assignment. A woman's conduct in marriage is a reflection of her devotion to God. Every marriage is centered on revealing Christ to their world.

In loving of your wife, to the loving of your spouse only in the Lord!

Whatever a woman does is projected at displaying her loyalty, conduct, life, love, respect for the Lord.

This means that, all that she does to her husband is seen as being done to the Lord.

Her service(life) to her husband is her service to the Lord.

**“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” —**

**Ephesians 5:25**

**“Ephesians 5:22-24 AMPC [22] Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord. [23] For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body. [24] As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands.**

A woman's service to her husband is a reflection of her service to God. Her conduct, love, and respect within marriage are spiritual acts of worship.

## **Why Marry?**

Marriage is a divine partnership. A woman marries to fulfill a purpose in the life of her husband and to walk together in destiny. She is marrying to fulfill a divine mandate in the life of the man.

**It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” — Genesis 2:18.**

The missing piece to complete his puzzle is the woman. A woman is a man's completion. So, having this understanding helps you to know that, the man is everything you see in Jesus Christ.

The man is Christ in your life.

If you live in a way that contradicts the kingdom of God's instructions on how we should conduct ourselves as believers towards your husband, the disrespect and disobedience is done towards Jesus Christ. So, this will help you to manage your marital choices/decisions in alignment with divine purpose. Marriage is a platform for mutual growth, spiritual covering, and kingdom advancement.

### **Purpose of Marriage in Ministry**

Marriage is meant to reveal Christ to the world. It is a spiritual partnership that goes beyond procreation—it is about populating heaven and fulfilling kingdom assignments together.

**“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.”  
— 2 Corinthians 6:14**

A woman in ministry must choose a spouse who understands and supports her calling. The wrong partner can hinder her spiritual progress and ministry effectiveness. If the Lord has called you into ministry to lead a congregation as a woman you must understand that who you marry isn't just important to you but to the body of Christ.

When God gives an assignment, God knows the journey is smoother and easier being married. You're more exposed to the enemy being alone.

Many can say anything and everything but as a woman in ministry, you can not function alone, it is dangerous.

It is clearly stated in the Bible that two are better than one

The role of marrying is a seal into deep spiritual agreement and you both standing together will win together.

When God calls a woman into ministry, her marital choice becomes a spiritual matter. The person she marries must understand and support her divine assignment.

▶ "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" — Amos 3:3 Marriage provides emotional stability, spiritual covering, and accountability.

It is a shield against isolation and temptation.

▶ “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” — Ecclesiastes 4:12\*

Ministry can be emotionally draining. Loneliness and fatigue can increase vulnerability to temptation. Marriage provides a God-ordained outlet for intimacy and emotional support.

▶ “But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.” — 1 Corinthians 7:9

Emotional exhaustion can lead to unhealthy attachments, confusion, and spiritual decline. Women must guard their hearts and seek godly companionship.

▶ “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” — Proverbs 4:23

## *Navigating Marriage Before or During Ministry*

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If you are already married before receiving your ministerial mandate, seek God's guidance. The health of your marriage will influence your readiness for ministry.

**“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”**

— **Proverbs 14:1**

If your marriage is abusive or spiritually toxic, take your concerns to God in prayer. The call of God is meant to build, not destroy. God's call does not destroy marriages—it builds them. Use your calling as a weapon of prayer to align your spouse with God's purpose. If you see that starting the ministry will bring chaos into the family, DO NOT START! You both must agree and align to be able to lead a congregation.

**“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach.”**

— **James 1:5**

# *Chapter 2*

# *Managing Marriage and Ministry Without Chaos*

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## **1. Set Your Priorities Right**

Your first ministry is your home. When your congregation sees you prioritize your marriage, they will follow your example.

Your number one priority is your family.

Never bring anything or anyone above your marriage.

You as a woman must understand that nothing comes first other than your marriage. This is biblical.

**“Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith.” — 1 Timothy 5:8**

## **2. Communicate Openly**

Involve your spouse in decisions. Respect his role, even if he lacks ministerial experience. It is commonly known that most women assume their husband to be lesser to them because they're ministry leaders so they'll rather take decisions and seek opinions from other higher spiritual leaders

than their spouses.

This can cause shipwreck to the marriage.

A man will feel unseen and unheard and disrespected if information are kept from him. That will naturally breeds resentment and malice.

Even if you think or feel he doesn't have adequate knowledge to lead or support in the decision making, bring him to speed.

Discus it with him, tell him to pray about it so you two can decided.

If you have to ask a third party, suggest it to him and respect his wish if he declines. Let the situation ends there.

God is the owner of the ministry, God will care for it. Protect his sanctification.

Over time if he has seen your level of submission and intentionality to keep the home and respect him...

He will naturally grow to help and even suggest how to embrace other support systems.

When we obey God, Men yield to us!

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."- Philippians 2:4

### **3. Nurture Intimacy and Connection**

Do not neglect emotional closeness. Be affectionate, present, and intentional in your relationship. Let your husband feel cherished and valued. Never deny him sex no matter what happens, the upper room of pleasure must be inviting always.

Learn to be romantic as a minister.

Ministry doesn't take away your sexual fantasies.

Fantasize your husband, love him, care for him, make him feel your presence at all times, touch him, text him constantly.

Be fully involved romantically.

If he says he wants sex at awkward moments, do it.

Let him feel like he owns you.

Don't make him feel like he's lost a wife while he's still married. Suggest intimacy, be romantically naughty.

This will make him to naturally ensure your paths are clear of clusters.

Never forgets that God knew Adam needed sex that was why he was tagged 'not good alone' the creation of completeness came with pleasure body part and functions, which is different from Adam's

body parts and functions. Make the honeypot easily accessible and don't do it grudgingly, enjoy your man too. His love grows much deeper into you through love making.

**“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.”**  
— 1 Corinthians 7:3

#### **4. Openness in Finances**

Transparency in financial matters is essential for trust and unity in marriage, especially for women in ministry who may receive financial support from various sources.

- **Be honest and open** about all income, gifts, and expenditures.
- **Avoid secrecy**, which can breed suspicion and division.
- **Discuss financial decisions together**, ensuring mutual agreement and stewardship.

**“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.”**  
— Proverbs 28:6

**“Two are better than one... for if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.” — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10**

Financial integrity reflects spiritual maturity and honors God in the home and ministry.

## **5. Pray and Study the Word Together**

Spiritual unity is the foundation of a thriving marriage and ministry. Prayer and Bible study should be a shared discipline.

- **Pray together regularly** to invite God's presence and guidance.
- **Study the Word as a couple**, allowing Scripture to shape your values and decisions.
- **Lovingly correct one another** when sin arises, with humility and grace.
- **Confess and forgive quickly**, maintaining a peaceful and godly atmosphere.
- **Speak life and Scripture over your marriage**, keeping your hearts aligned with righteousness.

**“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” — Colossians 4:2**

**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... teaching and admonishing one another.”  
— Colossians 3:16**

**“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” — James 5:16**

A spiritually connected couple is better equipped to withstand trials and lead effectively.

# *Chapter 3*

## *Managing Loneliness in Ministry as a Woman*

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### 1. **Recognizing the Reality of Loneliness**

Loneliness in ministry is not a sign of weakness or failure—it is a human experience, even among the most faithful servants of God. Many biblical figures, including women, experienced seasons of isolation and emotional emptiness.

- **Hannah** felt misunderstood and alone in her grief and longing for a child (1 Samuel 1:10–16).
- **Mary Magdalene** stood alone at the tomb, grieving and searching for Jesus (John 20:11–16).
- **Deborah**, though a judge and prophetess, likely bore the weight of leadership in a male-dominated society with few peers (Judges 4:4–5).

**“Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.” — Psalm 25:16**

## **2. Finding Comfort in God's Presence**

God is near to the brokenhearted and those who feel alone. He is the ultimate companion, and His presence is a source of peace and strength.

**“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18**

**“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” — Psalm 23:4**

In moments of loneliness, cultivating intimacy with God through prayer, worship, and meditation on His Word can restore joy and purpose.

## **3. Building Healthy Relationships**

While ministry can be isolating, God often provides people who can walk alongside us—mentors, spiritual sisters, and trusted confidants.

**“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.” — Ecclesiastes 4:9**

**“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2**

Seek out godly friendships and community. Don't be afraid to be vulnerable with those who are spiritually mature and trustworthy.

#### **4. Guarding Against Emotional Vulnerability**

Loneliness can lead to emotional vulnerability, which may open the door to unhealthy attachments or decisions. It's important to recognize these moments and turn to God for strength.

**“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” — Proverbs 4:23**

Be intentional about setting boundaries, seeking accountability, and staying rooted in your identity in Christ.

#### **5. Embracing Your Calling with Joy**

Loneliness can sometimes make you question your calling. But remember, God sees your labor and honors your obedience.

**“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people.” — Hebrews 6:10**

Your ministry is not in vain. Even in solitude, your life is bearing fruit for the Kingdom.

# Chapter 4

## *Encouragement for the Journey*

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Dear woman of God, you are not alone. The One who called you walks beside you. He understands your tears, your silence, and you're longing. Let your loneliness draw you deeper into His love, and let His presence fill every empty space.

**“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” — Hebrews 13:5**

### **Understanding the Power of Gifts vs. the Fruits of the Spirit**

**Balancing spiritual gifts with godly character for effective ministry and a fruitful marriage.**

- **Many women in ministry are gifted but lack spiritual depth.**
- **Gifts are powerful, but without the fruit of the Spirit, they can become destructive.**

**“The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” — Romans 11:29**

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” — Galatians 5:22–23.**

**I. The Danger of Gift Without Fruit**

- Gifts can puff up and lead to pride (1 Corinthians 8:1).
- Without fruit, gifts can cause spiritual blindness and relational damage.
- Gifts may open doors, but only fruit sustains influence.

**Matthew 7:16 – “By their fruit you will recognize them.”**

**John 6:63 – “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.”**

**The Power of the Fruit of the Spirit**

- Fruit is the evidence of spiritual maturity and Christlike character.
- Fruit is cultivated through intimacy with God, not performance.

- Fruit sustains your marriage, ministry, and personal walk.

**Galatians 5:16 – “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”**

**Philippians 4:8 – “Whatever is true, noble, right... think about such things.”**

## **II. Applying This in Ministry and Marriage**

- Use your gifts to serve, not to impress.
- Let love lead your leadership.
- Correct in gentleness, lead in humility, and serve in joy.
- In marriage, fruit like patience, kindness, and self-control are more powerful than any public gift.

**Colossians 3:12–14 – “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility... and over all these virtues put on love.”**

## **Practical Steps for Growth**

1. Daily Devotion: Spend time in prayer and the Word to grow in the Spirit.

2. Accountability: Surround yourself with people who value fruit over fame.
  3. Self-Examination: Regularly ask, "Am I bearing fruit or just displaying gifts?"
  4. Marriage Focus: Let your spouse see the fruit of the Spirit in your private life.
- Gifts may elevate you, but fruit will sustain you.
  - Seek to be a woman who not only operates in power but walks in love, humility, and holiness.
  - Let your life reflect the nature of Christ more than the noise of charisma.

**John 15:8 – "This is to my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."**

## *Final Encouragement*

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Dear woman of God, your calling is valid. Your marriage is sacred. You do not have to choose one over the other. With wisdom, prayer, and the right partner, you can thrive in both. Let your life be a testimony that **God still uses women—married or single—for His glory.**

\*\*"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who... but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Minister Olushola Temitope Erinle Adebere is a devoted Christian, A pastor and a community health worker, who dedicates her life to spreading love and kindness as a pattern of life in Christ Jesus.

She was born in Nigeria in 1985, November 28. She migrated to Canada in the year 2014.

She is recently married to Engr. Ojo McDonald Adebere in holy matrimony.

She has given herself to the will and calling of God, with a heart for philanthropy, she tirelessly serves her community, reflecting God's love in both her words and actions. Olushola's deep faith and unwavering commitment to God's teachings inspire those around her, guiding them towards a more meaningful and spiritually enriched life.



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