

**EDWARD AGYEMAN** 

Wow! You Look Gorgeous.

Unless otherwise stated verses are taken from the King James version of the Holy Bible. All verses marked AMP are taken from the Holy Bible, Amplified version. All verses marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. The Bible version used in this book is cited after the first Bible quote

Wow! You look gorgeous

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## Introduction

We live in a society where most women have advanced in life in different capacities through intellect, physical beauty and many other factors. Women are an integral part of society and are instrumental in the shaping of our society.

Some men after seeing a lady might exclaim "pretty lady" or use other flattering remarks. Throughout history to date, women have played key roles in shaping our society; some for the good and others for the bad. But the contribution of each woman towards society is as of who they are within.

Through observation and several studies I have come to learn that some women take great confidence in their appearance to the extent that some will take hours to apply their make-up and other beauty products. However without trashing one's use of

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make-up or other beauty products, it must be clearly understood that who a woman is, primarily has nothing to do with how she looks on the outside but greatly on whom she is on the inside.

In this book, I seek to sound the alarm on the essence of women having the right identity, integrity, self worth and how it improves her living and decision making, and on the other hand, demonstrate how one's wrong image impairs her right to live as God has intended.

## 1

## Gorgeous Lady

Great pride is taken by some women in their looks. Not having conducted a mass survey on the importance of outward appearance to women, but through observations, I believe it is safe to make the statement above without prejudice or objections.

There is nothing wrong with taking pride in one's outward appearance, but it must be a result of the inner beauty being reflected. If one does not have an inner beauty the outward array of appearance will not make a difference. It's just like an act of using body perfume on someone with a body odour.

I am in no way trying to object to the radiance of outward beauty, but rather trying to admonish that a lady takes primary care of the inner beauty. The bible reveals that out of the heart comes the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23.) In as much as the heart is not visible to the naked eye, the matters of life stem from such a delicate organ of the hu-

man body.

Each man's life, whether male or female is full of decisions and choices. Each man is entitled to make his or her decision, but I must add that one's decision and choice at each stage of life is made from the depths of his or her inner being and identity.

That being said, it becomes imperative that every woman identifies and develops her being (knowing who God says she is). Failure to do so will result in jeopardy on every level and stage in the life span of that individual. It will affect one's personal conduct, decisions on relationships, career choices and any other important descisions.

It is crucial that as a lady you identify, build and develop your true identity to enhance your living. You must not shun discovering who God has made you but make a conscious effort in knowing God to discover yourself through studying and meditating on God's word.

Making wrong turns and decisions in life can occur when you fail to know who you really are, according to what God has spoken concerning your life.. Some women have sold off their chastity, purity, dignity, moral uprightness and holiness as a result of having a wrong perception of themselves, whilst outwardly they present themselves gorgeously. Be gorgeous inwardly and be gorgeous outwardly, but do not be ugly within and gorgeous outwardly. Neither should you be gorgeous within but unpresentable outwardly. Make it a primary concern to focus and address issues of your inner beauty. When you address the issues of your inner beauty, outwardly you will reflect that inward beauty genuinely.

Some women spend time on beautify themselves outwardly, yet their inner beauty is decaying day by day, which is evident through their life choices. Do not fail to understand that your chance at success in life is partly based on your inner portrait. So to devote time on the physical beauty at the negligence of knowing who you are in Christ makes you vulnerable.

I once saw a gorgeous looking lady with a gentleman with an uncircumcised character, to my amazement I paused and started asking questions. I couldn't believe how the lady could not see that the union between her and the gentleman was odd. As I continued to ask my questions, God gave me a profound answer. This led me to understand that I was looking at the whole issue from a wrong

stand point. In as much she looked gorgeous from the outside, her decision to be with the gentleman was a result of the state of her inner being and the values she had come to terms with.

Decisions stem from the conditions of the inner portrait of oneself, not the outward. The gentleman being uncultured and not mannered in behavior was an outward expression of a rebellious stage. The lady clearly held the wrong image of herself, so it was not an odd match but even.

Some women have indulged in one night stands, abusive relationships, wrong employments and professions and other life threatening ventures. This and many other issues can be attributed to the ignorance of one's true self (identity).

Therefore, as much as you might look gorgeous on the outside, are you as gorgeous inside? You might be complimented as beautiful, intelligent, and attractive but what is your inner perception of yourself?

No more hiding - how do you see yourself? Who are you? You might be a princess to people, but do you see yourself as a princess? Do you see yourself as a princess without the compliment of peo-

### ple?

It is not what men say about you that matters but rather who you think and believe you are. I ask what do you believe about yourself?

# **2** Who are you

Should you be asked "who are you?" I presume that you will answer by stating your name, ethnicity, nationality or profession. However are those things really who you are. Or factors that you use as descriptors to attempt to portray who you are. Who you are as a person is the portrait image and definition you have given yourself through your own ideas, fed ideas, experiences and the conditions of your environment. In as much as one uses the events of life to define themselves, it is important that as a believer you are able to define yourself by God's word.

#### Example 1: I am intelligent

Such a view will be as a result of the academic performance of the individual, social class and even the family environment. By stating the few I am not withstanding that there are other contributing factors that leads to such an image of oneself.

#### Example 2: I am ugly-

This is a view held by someone whose view is misguided either through verbal abuse, one's dissatisfaction of a part of the body and other factors.

Who one is, is built over time through knowledge, experience, circumstances, events, influence and environment. One who is sexually abused will form a view as a result of that event. An academia likewise will form her opinion base on her educational performance. This principle can be applied to every image of oneself at each stage of life. That being said, a true portrait of an individual is the one based on God's word, not experiences. Because regardless of the bad experiences one may have had before being born again, if anyone is in Christ he/she is a new creature. Therefore from then on, the person becomes a child of God and as such is to develop according to God's word. As the DNA of parents enables the development of characteristics and features of a child, your new birth in Christ puts you in a place to develop based on the nature of God.

I must add that there are wrong portraits that can be developed through the events of life. But as a woman, whether old or young, you need to study God's word to understand and know who you are. There might be several books on the market that are a good read, attempting to show you who you are and your worth, but the only book containing absolute truth is the Holy Bible. Therefore, any material which does not root it's source from the Holy scriptures cannot be trusted no matter how seemly profound it might be. In this book "wow you look gorgeous" I am only attempting to draw from the wells of the Holy scriptures and direct you to God's word.

Sometimes through the events of life, self portraits are formed. I cannot even imagine some of the ordeals and atrocities that have led some women to form certain views, and for others, the privileges that they have enjoyed. With great respect, I make a humble submission that in as much as you have journeyed in life with good or bad experiences. You need to seek your identity through God's word. A bad experience doesn't define you but rather you are defined by God's word. Expe-

riences impact our lives but we must learn not to permit experiences to define us.

Whatever has given you a portrait of yourself, I humbly submit that you make a visit to the Holy Bible to download relevantly God's mind and what He says of you, in order to have a true portrait of yourself.

A trip down the timeline of life to the very beginning will show that the woman (Eve) was formed wonderfully to be a helper to man (Adam) in undertaking his heavenly duties.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; Then the Lord God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. Then the man said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was tak-

The woman was a key part of creation and added value to man (Adam). Through the assistance of a woman a man fulfils his earthly responsibilities. The Holy Bible vividly informs us, that the fall of Eve was as a result deception.

#### And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.2 Timothy 2:14

The devil derails women through deception, and women can be employed as instruments to derail men through seduction. The first woman (Eve) was lured from God's image through deception and in like manner, today some women are also been exiled to worthlessness through ignorance and wrong identities. The devil employs different methods to deceive women to the wrong path. However, that being said, it will be unfair once again to be held by the shackles of hurt intended to captivate your freedom and life. Therefore in full acknowledgement of any hurt suffered, I implore you to seek God and also search through the Holy Scriptures to know who God says you are and not the words of abusers, enemies, life's event etc. Also seek counselling from a God fearing person to equip you for victory over hurt.

A woman is not trash nor a recycled version of man, but planned, intended, intellectually and spiritually designed by God. As a woman, you are a credit to creation and formed for good works. You are dynamically formed to impact the world to the glory of God.

## 3 Hurt no more

In the life of some women, the struggle to accept who God says they are has been as the result of disappointments, betrayal and other awful experiences sometimes faced. Probably as a reader you may be in the same category with those who struggle to accept God's love and what He says about them, due to past hurt. But may I cease the opportunity to share a word with you on the subject of hurt.

Pain inflicted on you is one of the many avenues the devil seeks to entangle one's life in bondage. Scripture is very clear on the devil's agenda against you.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Satan takes great pleasure in the captivity of souls in order to achieve his set out agenda. Therefore he uses avenues of all kinds and sorts to destroy a life and to keep it in bondage.

I believe every hurt faced in life is very awful and sometimes leaves the victim bitter, angry and distrusting. However, one in such a predicament owes it to the soul for healing. Healing is needed when one is hurt in whichever way because hurt caused is primarily a demonic strategy to cause impotence in ones llivelihood. Hence, the enemy goes through great lengths to cause hurt to generate unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, suppression, depression, emotional imprisonment and ultimately to destroy a life.

The ordeals and the aftermath of hurt are real and cannot be down-played in any shape or form. So with all sensitivity, I admonish you to take every hurt and pain caused to you to the Lord in prayer. Whatever way you have been hurt, it is necessary that you seek God's healing. Healing from God gives you the strength to forgive and to break free from the bonds and shackles of spiritual slavery. All hurt and pain when held keeps the victim in spiritual captivity, so healing from God is vital

for the liberation of the individual.

To break free and stay free is linked to one making a conscious decision to forgive and to deal with the hurt and pain. As a woman, making this decision might not be easy after been wronged. However it is actually in your best interest. You need to understand that forgiveness does not give victory to your enemy; rather forgiveness makes you free and defeats the intents of the devil. Hence the devil goes to great lengths to ensure that after hurt, people find it hard to forgive. But I say, learn to forgive.

In the course of your journey to emancipation you need to learn to pray for strength to forgive and to ask God to defuse that which the enemy plotted to accomplish through hurt. Prayer is key, because some actions exhibited towards an individual to cause hurt are demonically devised and sourced so your prayer invokes God's intervention. There is power in prayer and through prayer you will be able to forgive and break loose of the chains of the enemy.

# **4**Let the past be

As a female it is important that the ordeal experiences of the past and the sinful manner of living in the past and any mistake made in the past are buried to the past. Sometimes the devil raises conflict between the past and the present to destroy the future. It is important to learn not to be victimised by the past.

Regardless of any mistake made in the past, it is important that you refuse to be define by the past. The devil sometimes excels in his attack through blackmailing with the past as his evidence. But be confident that God's forgiveness to you is for real and refuse for the past to hold you hostage.

As bad as your past might have been, regardless of the terrible mistakes made in the past. Refuse to let satan blackmail you with your past sin. Remember that none was born righteous or saved before Christ prior to being born again. Everyone is what they are (born again) today because of their salvation received from God through Christ Jesus. It is therefore imperative that you live in the liberty that Christ has given you.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1

Sometimes you can be demoralised by your past sins and weaken by satan through his many antics of blackmail. However, should the devil attempt to blackmail you, consent not because whiles born again your sins are forgiven and you have been made clean.

If you were even abused in the past or you used to sleep around with men or a prostitute, regardless of your past sins. Never allow yourself to be condemned whiles in Christ, because Christ sets us free from sin and wipes our slate clean. As the east is far from the west so has God removed our sins. So it is important that you live in the knowledge of God's word of what He says concerning you.

Be sure that sometimes the devil will challenge your future and even sometimes present backsliding opportunities in light of your past.

The devil can use your past sins to even convince you that certain miracles, God will not perform in your life, God might not grace you for certain opportunities (i.e. Marriage, ministry, prosperity, children etc) due to the sins of the past. But I have a word of encouragement for you. God does not hold our past as a present evidence against our present and future when we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and personal Saviour. God desires our liberty and when He does set you free, He sets you free indeed. The freedom which God's gives is with delight and He freely gives it. Therefore learn to live in the freedom God offers and refuse the ways of the devil to enslave you.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

#### Freedom through forgiveness

Our freedom from our past is through God's forgiveness for us. Jesus sets us free from our past and offers as eternal life when we receive Christ. Your past is not evidence against your life anymore. Be rest assured that when you gave your life to God He washed you clean and took away the sins of the past that threatens your life. God shows mercy and His mercy triumphs over judgement and by His grace we are saved. Therefore be sure that before God when one repents her past is not evidence against her.

Let me expose you to a few scriptures;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Psalm 32:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,

#### because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18

As far as God is concerned your past is not an issue any more, neither is it an evidence against your destiny and His plans for your life. Your past is not strong enough and does not hold enough weight to speak against your life in Christ. The blood of Jesus does wash and make clean. As a born again believer it is important that you live in the knowledge of God's forgiveness.

As God has forgiven you, believe it and constantly be reminding yourself of God's word. To prevent the devil from holding you in guilt and condemnation because of the past.

Renew your mind daily by reminding yourself of what God says concerning you, not what your past life was. The past means the past hence your life in Christ now should not suffer due to the sins of the past. Do not neglect God because of your past, God's love is unconditional.

Surround yourself with people who are godly with positive confessions that will encourage you daily and constantly with God's word. You need companions of believers who will remind you of what God says not those who will slap your face with the past. You are no longer your past, God has made all things new as a born again believer, so refuse to be defined by the past.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

You are no longer your past so lay your past to rest in perfect peace as you have God's forgiveness.

Forgive those who have hurt you. If you were hurt by someone, learn to forgive the individual or persons. Your forgiveness gives you victory as it enables you to receive God's forgiveness.

## And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:12

Shame satan by forgiving those who have wronged you and totally surrender to God.

## **5** Relationship

The formation of a relationship before marriage is important and caution must be exercised. The union between two individuals has great impact and contributes towards their future. Therefore it is important that as a lady you form the right union with a godly man to save yourself from the heartache that can be caused by wrong alliance.

You should not make light when it comes to the decision of who to marry as marriage is crucial to your earthly and eternal destiny. A wrong decision will create a spiritual whirlwind that can destroy a life. Wrong relationship and marriage has been avenues the devil has managed to wreck the lives of some females. So it is important that you understand that marriage and the initial journey of relationship cannot be played with. Marriage is a holy institution ordained by God for His glory and purpose.

Throughout time, I have witness how some ladies

have made a mess and been misled in life through relationships. It is important that you take the decision of marriage and the formation of relationship crucial and thereby exercise caution before you further your steps towards it.

Be aware that the devil is currently using different antics to steal, kill and destroy. Most often some people become oblivious to the devices of the enemy which has led to his achievement rate of some of the lives destroyed. Most often this is so, due to the ignorance of people. Knowledge of God is very important as ignorance is costly.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6

The above scripture reveals the consequence of lack of knowledge of God. This is very true as when one becomes ignorant it then makes it easy for such a one to be prey upon. This can be said for some females these days, the devil is vigorously attacking and destroying lives through their

ignorance of God. Having the knowledge of God will enable you to have the right portrait of yourself, therefore it is important that you know who you are and who God has made you in Him. You are a creation of God and knowing your God will enable you to know yourself. It is important that you know who you are because that will also help you to make the right decision when it comes to the area of relationship. Who you think you are, affects your response to a proposal. So it is important that you know who you are.

If you fail to know who God says you are, you stand the chance of been taken advantage of to your own destruction. So as a female it is prudent for you to take time to discover yourself so that you do not fall to the tricks of ungodly men. Note that the devil in these last days is destroying lives through relationship and it is important that you ensure you are not ensured through ignorance.

You must be careful who you choose to form a union with, as the wrong union will lead you to damnation. So you need to take caution and choose right.

### What you need to know; Like an angel of light:

Some men can approach you and seem as an angel of light. They can quote scriptures, probably hold positions in church or very actively involved in their church. Some also might seem to be noble and hard working in their professions. However can be wolves in sheep clothing. Do not be deceived or make decisions based on appearance as it can be deceptive.

Get to know the man behind the veil, know him. Not for his charisma but for his relationship with God. Not everyone who professes to be a Christian is actually one neither is any person who attends church is a born again believer. So do not make your decisions based on the fact that the person goes to church.

Get to know the person, and be sure that they do have a relationship with God. That is imperative. Some women have been deceived into a wrong relationship and have been misled by men. Only to find out either he had a wife, was not a Christian as he made claims and much other despicable behaviour.

#### You are not a saviour:

I must admonish you as a lady to reframe from playing a role as a saviour. I have met a few women who have come into contact with an ungodly man. And due to the fact that the individual has taken an interest in the man, tries their best to get the person converted so that they fit into God's prescription. Please abandon such methods, it will not help you and never indulge in such a practice.

Some men can play along such a game very well, pretend to give their life to God, attend church service with you and work his way through to gain the opportunity one day to sleep with you and other atrocious behaviour. Be careful some men are tools in the hands of the evil one, they are used to lure women in to the den of sexual sins. For the devil, for you to sin is his primary focus so avoid any path that can easily lead you astray.

#### By Word not emotions:

As a female it is important that you learn to discipline your emotions and be governed by God's Word and not your emotions. It is important that with the issue of relationship you choose wisely not based on your emotions but on God's Word.

Sometimes you can come into contact with a gentleman who has it all going for him earthly speaking. Yet doesn't have a relationship with God and spiritually is not fit for the position as a husband. It is crucial you do not get head and hills over such a person, because if you get attach emotionally it can blur your views spiritually.

At the sight of every man, choose to discipline your emotions by making a stand and a decision based on God's Word not any butterfly feelings. Your feelings are not a reflection of truth or God's will. It is important that you make a decision based on God's Word. Learn to always bridle your emotions by constantly reminding yourself of God's Word.

#### Materialism is not all:

Scripture admonishes us that a man's life does not consist of the abundance of material possessions (Luke 12:15). Therefore it is important that you make your marital decision not primarily on the bases of materialism. Some men might have it all and yet has not got it all. What makes a relationship a relationship is character, what makes a marriage, marriage is character.

So materialism without character is a poison to your life. What will make you content in life and ensure you please God is not primarily centred on material possessions. Therefore to make a marital decision based on materialism is flawed. Some men have the possessions and are providing excessively for their wives and yet are committing adultery. Your primary focus, should be a man with a relationship with God whose character is daily refined by God's Word.

#### Born again not morality:

He must be born again, a man who loves the Lord. Some men are morally principled yet they are not born again. Therefore morality should not be your yardstick, rather you should look for a man who is born again. Being morally upright is not the same as being born again. It is important you shun men who do not have a relationship with God, such do not allow to come near your dwelling.

Do not even entertain such men, flee from their company. Marriage is a holy institution, you need a man with a relationship with God. There are some atheist, agnostic and people of other faith who are morally principled yet by God's standards they are still not qualified to be your spouse. Please neglect such men who do not have Christ as their head. Do not again I say do not entertain them.

#### **Beyond words:**

Hmmmmmm! Some men can talk and sweet talk. If it was possible they will even talk their way out of hell should they be found wanting. It is important that you see beyond the words of a man. Some people can talk yet without actions, it is important that you spend your time evaluating works than words. Some people can be smooth and sweet talking but their actions are sour. Let their talks be backed with actions. Hear the

words but allow the actions of the man to confirm his words.

#### Be sober and vigilant:

You need to be vigilant as a lady and do not allow yourself to be swayed by the words or the appearance of a gentleman. Appearances can be deceptive. Some people will have the looks, the words, seemly actions yet they do not have a relationship with God, for them they can act. Being sober and vigilant through prayers, and waiting on God is a key factor in making a right decision. Whenever you are not sure about the authenticity of a gentleman please, again I say please be patient on the Lord for clarification. Do not be hasty, to make a decision that is not approved or sanctioned by God.

You need to as a matter of truth, consider relationship with all caution and observing God's view on it. God ordained marriage for a wonderful purpose, therefore the initial stage leading to marriage being a relationship must be considered in light of God's word not the world. The world's approach to relationship must not be embraced as a child of God. Simply because though you live in

this world you are not of it and you are under the jurisdiction and the governance of God. Remember as a child of God you are governed by God's Word, and it is necessary that you get to know God's will concerning the formation of a relationship.

For instance, in the world pre-marital sex, fondling, kissing, and other sexual immorality are accepted norms. For the believer it is important that you recognise that, such is not your practice neither is it the will of God for you to behave in such a manner. It is crucial that you are transformed in your thinking as a believer,, because wrong mindset so can be a catalyst for mayhems.

You need to recognise that you are a child of the Most High God and therefore you need to approach relationship in holiness.

#### Mr right not Mr you look good

As a lady, you must understand that in as much as God ordained marriage and whoever desires to be married desires a good thing. It is imperative that one ensures that she is making the right decision. Marriage has its hurdles and challenges; however your

union with the right person will be a godly contributing factor to ensure you are victorious at any hurdle.

To choose a guy who looks good or has material possessions, might sound good to your ears, however it is a wrong factor to make a decision concerning marriage. Rather look for a man who meets the biblical yardstick set by God. Mr look good gentleman can look like right but might be a wolf in sheep clothing.

The primary factor to make the right choice of a man is by first you being right as a lady. You need to see yourself as that godly woman God says you are, you need to understand the vision of God for your present and future, you need to have a self identity that is rooted in Christ. By getting to know God and building an intimate relationship with God. It will help you in making the right decision. For instance, a person who has not seen a £20 cannot tell of a counterfeit when presented one. You need to grow in the Lord. Through your growth, it will enable you to discern and also help with identifying the right person from the wrong one. Yourself

development and spiritual growth through the word and prayer is crucial in making the right choice of a man.

You need to know and recognise that the devil is using some men to wreck the lives of some ladies and holding them in his dungeon of guilt, condemnation, insecurity, low self esteem, promiscuity, immorality and many other despicable things.

You owe it to yourself to be obedient to God to avoid the path of predators who have crept into the church for devilish reasons or from ungodly men.

You need to learn to be patient as well as to consider a proposal in light of God's word not your emotions. You must also learn to consider a proposal prayerfully and wait on the Lord.

# **6** Dressing

#### **Dressing**

As a lady it is important that you give attention to your fashion sense. It speaks a lot about you as a person. In some cases fashion shows the inner state of the person. Fashion does speak a lot about a woman and one can tell a lot about a woman about how she dresses.

Some are of the opinion "don't judge a book by its cover". That being true to some extent and in some issues of life, when it comes to the style of dressing a lady adorns herself it cannot be entirely true.

As a young lady, you need to understand that indecent dressing doesn't portray you in a manner of your true identity. Rather it gives the wrong impression about you as a person. However for some people they think indecent dressing makes them sexy, whilst in actual fact it makes you cheap. Some gentlemen due to their lust will make flattery remarks when a lady dresses inappropriately however when it comes to marriage such a woman is not a first choice. For most men, they will applaud women who dress indecently because it feeds their lust and gives them a window of having a free viewing of the sensitive parts of the body that marriage should be the only way to gain sight to those parts.

You need to understand that as a lady your dressing is key and must reflect the noble individual you are. Dressing indecently is actually selling yourself short. The fact that indecent dressing impresses ungodly men does not mean it is an added value to your life.

For some women because of self esteem issues, they dress indecently to get attention or compliments, however once you are opening a new chapter and coming into knowledge of God's word it is important that you repent from ungodly dressing.

Certain clothing has become popular and trendy and worn by many women. Indecent exposure of certain parts of the body has become fashion in our time.

However you need to understand that God teaches us to dress modestly, therefore you shouldn't seek to dress in accordance with the fashion of this world but rather only in line with God's word. You really need to decide on the kind of clothing you choose to buy or wear or even accept as a present. You need to dress first and foremost to honour God and please Him. Trying to fit in and look good to impress and satisfy the list of men and fulfill the agenda of the devil is not prudent. Therefore make amends to your dressing and begin to impress God and Him alone.

## **7** Stand firm

In as much as we live in perilous times, such that sinful living has become the norm. God is still calling you as a young lady to live a sanctified life.

One may ask, with all that is happening and the moral earthquake that has destroyed the concept and standard of holiness. Can I live holy? And the answer is yes, one can make a choice to stay pure in honour to God. I want to share with you a few factors that can help you in your pursuit of maintaining a godly standard and being holy.

#### The choice is yours

You must make it a conscious decision to live a life surrendered unto God and a personal endeavour not to give up on your relationship with God. Your willingness to make a decision to serve God or to resist from every immoral practice is a start to this journey. Additionally whatever abuse or hurt from the past that has defiled you as a person, the

choice is yours from today to forgive in order to be free, so that you can enjoy the life Christ has for you.

The moment is here that you need to make a choice of living a life on the basis of God's standard, regardless of how you have lived in the past.

The time is now to make a choice, and let the choice be that which will honour God in every way.

#### **Forgiveness**

### And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matthew 6:12

We are admonished by scripture to forgive. In order to be able to maintain and live a holy life, you need to learn to forgive. As bad as the hurt from your past might have been, you need to understand that forgiveness is your healing from the hurt and pain. So the act of unforgiveness keeps you bound to the consequence of the hurt. But rather your forgiveness frees you from the intended attempt to steal, kill and destroy. Your time to forgive is now, because free-

dom is better than bondage. It is hard to forgive but it is right to forgive in order to be free. One thing you must understand is that forgiveness is not forgetfulness but rather a conscious decision to let go of any wrong done to you. Be sure of this one thing, that as you choose to forgive the devil will challenge your forgiveness by reminding you of the hurt and the unfairness of the situation. But know that the devil is jealous of the liberty you enter through once you forgive and he will try to make it unbearable. So that he can fulfil his agenda to destroy.

It is painful to be hurt, but it is healing to forgive.

#### Friends and companions

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.1 Corinthians 15:33

Friends and companions can be great assets and some can be a liability that will derail your destiny. Many have made costly decisions and have gone down the wrong path in life by virtue of friends who give ill advice. You need to be careful of the kind of company you keep. We learn from scripture according to Matthew 25, that the 10 virgins, five were wise and the others were foolish. This denotes how people journey in life by groups. What is your current company? Are they wise or foolish? It is in your best interest to keep godly company, whether it is a family member, work colleague, school, college or university mate. You have an obligation to yourself to ensure that they are believers (born again), not people whose life will endorse a sinful living. Some people throughout scripture have suffered devastating consequences due to the wrong input and contribution from ungodly companions. It therefore stands to reason that you take a lesson from the mistakes of others.

#### **Fellowship**

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21

Learn not to fellowship with the ungodly. Your continual fellowship with such will rob you of your relationship with God and cause a decline in your standard of living as a Christian.

Some people have become lukewarm in their relationship with God through their fellowship with people who are not seeking God. As a young lady, if you really want to stay on the right path of life, check the kind of people you are always hang out with. See Psalm 1:1-6.It is in your best interest and for the salvation of your soul to refuse to keep fellowship with ungodly people.

Some people you may know are not Christian, I understand. I am not saying you cannot talk to people who are not Christian or even go for a meal with friends who are not born again. Rather what I am saying is that those should not be people you find yourself with constantly and sharing the intricate and lives most important issues with.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

The other aspect I want to draw your attention to is to be regular at your local church services and getting involved in activities of the church.

Regular church attendance will benefit you in a variety of ways. This may be through hearing edifying messages, testimonies, and also by being in an environment that is purely focused on the individuals building a solid relationship with God in a congregational atmosphere. It will allow you to come in contact with other people who can share their story of their personal journey to knowing Christ which will strengthen you to persevere.

#### **Prayer**

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke 18:1

Let me begin by stating that there is no substitute for prayer. Prayer cannot be replaced with anything. It is a viable way to build an intimate relationship with God. As the popular quote states "communication is

key in a relationship ", so is prayer. It is vital in order to maintain a standard and be unspotted by the world, it aids you with the grace and strength needed from God. There is absolute no way for you as a young lady to be able to stay pure without the strength of God. Prayer will benefit you in so many ways I cannot pen down all in this chapter.

Prayer will always draw you closer to God and bring intimacy. Prayer will provoke God's strength to give you the power to stay pure. Prayer will expose you to godliness and shield you from the path of sin. Prayer, as a dialogue with God will enable you to be wise and live prudently. Prayer will make your bond with the Lord strong. Prayer has many other benefits to you as a lady, so instead of being held hostage by the past and hurt of the present, engage in prayer to move on in life to freedom being relieved from the bondage of the enemy.

#### **Fasting**

Fasting enables one to notify the flesh. The desires of the flesh have always been the catalyst for the rebellion of a person towards God. The devil sends a variety of temptations

that are appealing to the flesh to cause an individual to fall. Fasting however is a unique way that helps one to receive grace to notify the desires of the flesh. I must say that fasting cannot be seen as a spiritual trading currency, but rather man's way of humbling him/herself before God. Therefore, with the importance of humility at sight, it is important for you as a lady to engage in fasting, so that God can have His way and also endue you with grace as need be. Whether you need the grace to forgive, to let go of hurt and pain, or whatsoever why don't you humble yourself before God through fasting. Scripture teaches us that David humbled himself through fasting. With such knowledge we can also learn to do the same.

Cultivate the habit of fasting and ensure not to hunger strike. Because sometimes people hunger strike rather than fast. For more teachings on fasting read Isaiah 58 and Matthew 6:16-18.

#### The Word

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119, 9, 11, 105.

Studying and meditating on God's Word will certainly edify and also provide you with guidance and knowledge to live a life that befits a lady like yourself. As you study the scriptures it will begin to reveal your real identity as God has given you and also open you to truths that will shape you for godliness.

As food is important to the human body, so is the word of God to the human soul. Feeding on God's word will help you grow and give you strength and the necessary nutrients needed for following God's path as a young lady. In as much as some ladies are

falling from God's path, I encourage you to feed on the word for energy to carry on in God's way.

#### Neglect evil words and thoughts

The devil is out to steal, kill and destroy. This is the manifesto of the devil, regardless of any promise the devil makes to you, know that his end game is as stated above.

People can be horrible and speak negative words that will pierce your soul sometimes. Their remarks can be about your dressing when you are actually dressed in a godly fashion, it can be about your decision not to defile yourself in sin etc. These words can end up playing on your mind like music. When these words and thoughts are not dealt with it can lead you to concede to the agenda of the enemy. Therefore you must learn to resist the thoughts and words of people through prayer and also making a conscious decision to think on things that are godly.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

It is crucial what you allow to play on your mind, because your thoughts are music to the soul, the more you listen, the weaker you become and easily begin to dance to the tune of the music. Therefore you need to desist from harbouring the negative words of people in your mind.

Secondly, you need to change what you say and also what you think about yourself about yourself. Words and thoughts are powerful, so the scripture admonishes us about the words of our mouth and thoughts, so it is imperative that your confessions and thoughts are in line with the word of God.

#### Secular music

Any music that is not Christ centred, it is important that you do not subject your ears to them. Music is one of the many ways the devil gain influence over the lives of people. Music is a power tool and therefore it is very important that you desist from listening to secular music. The messages in these music does not reflect God's view of life, so to subject yourself to these polluted music does not help you as a lady to fulfil purpose and keep a godly standard.

#### Television shows

Not naming any, but there are several television shows that have become a medium, promoting the devils agenda of insecurities, wrong portrayal of beauty and many other soul deforming teachings. Some of these shows are portraying beauty, family and womanhood in very pathetic and ungodly ways. As it is viewed, some ladies become discontent about their looks, and it gives them a different perception about family.

I know some of these shows are so addictive and like the effect of cocaine, so has it become in your life. You need to take caution about these ungodly shows and the messages it is promoting.

Desist from such shows, it will not help you. Subject the members of your body to godly media, so that you are edified. 'Wow, You Look Gorgeous' is a book designed to challenge the world's perceptions about being a female. The book seeks to inform, confront and revolutionise our own ideology about what it really means to be a female. From the most confident to the most self conscious, this book will teach us some truths about God's original plan for women. It is an amazing read for women of all ages. I believe this book will inspire a generation of females to believe what God has called them to be and to do as ladies.

Natatie Aidoo-Davies

#### About the author

Pastor Edward Agyeman is a man with a burning passion for souls, undergirded by his deep love for humanity; forcefully advancing the kingdom without compromising the form and substance of the Gospel. His ministry is such a blessing in such perverse times like this, a man ready to lose himself for others to gain.



