

YOUR
KNIGHT
IN SHINING ARMOR

P.B.  ILSON



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Verses marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Verses marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover illustration © Krieg Barrie

Cover by Left Coast Design, Portland, Oregon

YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR

Copyright © 1995 by P.B. Wilson

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Wilson, P. B. (P. Bunny), 1950–

Your knight in shining armor / P.B. Wilson.

p. cm.

Originally published: Eugene, Or. : Harvest House Publishers, c1995.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7369-1685-1 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 0-7369-1685-7

1. Single women—Religious life. 2. Husbands—United States. 3. Marriage—Religious aspects—Christianity. I. Title.

BV4596.S5W55 2006

248.8'432—dc22

2005021118

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

06 07 08 09 10 11 12 /VP-CF/ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Foreword by <i>Michelle McKinney Hammond</i>	7
KnightVision	9
1. Knight Blind.	13
2. Good Knight	25
3. KnightTime	41
4. Knight-Mare.	55
5. In the Heat of the Knight.	71
6. Knight Life	89
7. Knight-Knight.	105
8. Knight Owl	117
9. Knight Gown	129
10. Knight Rider.	143
11. Knight School.	159

I KNIGHT BLIND

Since you are reading this book, I know there is a desire in your heart to be married. You may have joined the chorus of some other single women who complain, “There just aren’t any good men around!” Well, be encouraged. You aren’t going to be marrying *any good men*. You will be marrying *one good man*.

A single woman attending college in Washington, DC, informed me that she’d heard a frightening statistic—supposedly there is only one man for every seven women. So she and a couple of her friends devised their own solution to the man shortage. They shared one man between three women! They all lived in the same apartment; they saw to his needs financially and he saw to their needs physically. Sounds like a perfect ungodly plan!

Don’t be discouraged by worldly statistics. When God brings that one good man to you, you won’t need to share him with anyone. In God’s eyes, the equation changes every day. The options of who is available should not be based solely on what you see today. When

people move, change jobs, lose a spouse, opportunities open up. On the face of this earth there is one man who will love you. God will present you to him at the right time. And until the right time arrives, there's plenty of work for you to be doing.

Under Construction

Have you ever taken a look through a peephole at a construction site? The old building has been demolished and a billboard illustrates how the new building will look. Meanwhile, there is a big hole in the ground where the new foundation is being laid. If you have the occasion to pass the site daily, you will notice that progress continues to take place even though you may not have a clue about what the construction crews are doing. Before long, the building will be ready for its intended purpose.

In order for this book to be effective, you need to take out your mental hammer, nails, and plywood. Build a wall around your life and hang out a sign that reads, "Under Construction for Six Months." Why six months? It takes about six months to get to know someone really well. And you'll want to spend that period of time with your True Husband:

For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth (Isaiah 54:5).

Have you and the Lord been on your honeymoon? Have you spent as much time thinking about Him as you have thinking about "eligible" men? Do you remember meeting someone new and being consumed with thoughts and daydreams about him? Well, if you have not enjoyed that kind of relationship with the Lord, it will be difficult for Him to do the construction work necessary to prepare you for your earthly husband.

The Lord wants to be our First Love. And that doesn't happen unless we have intimate fellowship with Him. He created us, loves us deeply, and desires us to know Him fully. He can't be our First Love if we focus all our emotional energy on another human. Once we are wholeheartedly committed to God, He is able to direct our steps,

cover us with His peace, and give us the wisdom we need to make sound decisions. Then the Lord will expose the areas in our lives that need redesigning, rebuilding, or renovating.

Are you ready to start developing a close, intimate relationship with the Lord? Are you ready to let Him work with you in preparation for marriage?

If you are not seriously dating right now, I challenge you to wait until the full six months are over to begin. Even if you meet someone during the next six months who appears to be God's answer to your prayer, be careful. Satan will often send a counterfeit before the original arrives. Ask the gentleman to call you in six months because right now God has you under construction. If the gentleman is your man, he'll be there at the end of the wait. If you're currently thinking about getting married, please put a hold on your wedding date until you have finished the process in this book. Since you plan to be married for a lifetime, six months shouldn't seem like an unrealistic investment of your time.

By the way, don't assume that spending six months with God means spending every moment of every day in isolation! Look forward to enjoying the beauty of God's creation. You'll want to take trips to museums, zoos, national parks, and, perhaps, other countries. You'll discover new perspectives on life, new people, and new hobbies. The next six months promise to be among the best times of your life—you will be a new person by the end of this special time if you are committed to the process.

Before you begin, make your decision official. Please read the following commitment and then sign your name:

Lord, I want You to fashion me for my prospective husband. I commit the next six months of my life for Your construction. I will surrender any area which is not controlled by You so that my life will bring You glory.

_____ Date _____

If you don't feel you can sign this now, don't close the book! You'll have more time to think about it as you read further.

The Building

If you have ever stayed out of town overnight, you probably were careful about where your hotel was located. Were you concerned about the neighborhood? Was the appearance of the building important? Did you consider whether the hotel chain had a respectable reputation? I hope so.

When a man is trying to find a resting place, he will search for a building that appeals to him. Depending on the quality of the man, different kinds of buildings will catch his eye. Let's make sure the building you're erecting in your life will only attract a man of the highest caliber—someone who will respect and value who you are. That is why you are “under construction.” You want your building to attract the appropriate type of person.

We all know women who seem to attract the wrong kind of men. They end a relationship with a man who is physically or verbally abusive. Then they go to a social gathering, and out of all the men in the room, they are drawn to someone who will abuse them again. Why do they constantly attract men who will reject them, who will insult them, or who are allergic to work and will not take the lead in making decisions? The reason may be that they have not learned to design, decorate, and dedicate their buildings to attract a godly man.

A Sure Foundation

Your building may be in pretty good shape with only a few cracks in need of repair. Or maybe you need to have a new foundation laid. No matter how wonderful your building looks, if the foundation is weak, life's storms will eventually cause the building to crumble. What is your foundation? What does your life rest upon?

Webster's Dictionary says a foundation is “a basis upon which something stands or is supported.” What is holding you up? Have you knowingly, willingly, and sincerely asked Jesus Christ to come into your life?

In the book of Romans we find:

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

If you believe the encyclopedia regarding the life of Jesus, it's history. If you believe that Jesus not only died but rose again for your sins, it's your salvation. It is only a prayer away. If you have not done so, ask Him to come into your life. When we believe Christ died for our sins and was resurrected to give us new life in Him, then He becomes the foundation of our lives.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his..." (2 Timothy 2:19).

Has the thought run through your mind, "What if I set aside six months to allow God to reconstruct me and I still don't meet my husband?" There's another necessary element to the construction of your character, and that is the growth of your personal faith.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1).

We live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Keep these Scriptures in your heart and meditate on them. Once you've laid a solid foundation, erected a sturdy building, and filled your rooms with understanding, knowledge, and wisdom, it will then be up to God to bring you to your husband.

Loving Jesus Daily

In my conversations with single women there is often frustration expressed over endless pressures that are faced on a daily basis. Once you get married, the pressures may differ, but they never leave. The solution for relief is the same for singles as it is for married people: rest on the firm foundation—the Lord.

A single woman who has learned this principle will carry it into her married life. When you add another person to your life, pressures

increase. Some of you may be thinking, “I’ll gladly take on the pressures of married life; just give me some *new* pressures!” Don’t worry—you’ll have your chance!

I married my Knight in Shining Armor in 1973. Since that time, we’ve had our share of challenges. But, because we apply God’s Word to our marriage, we are experiencing the joy of being “one flesh” in all aspects of our lives. Nevertheless—although I love Frank with a passion—the first thing I think about upon awakening in the morning is Jesus. The last thing I think about before I go to sleep is Jesus. And throughout the day my thoughts drift to the Lord and His Word.

When I do think about Frank, I smile and tell God how grateful I am that He brought him into my life, but then my thoughts once again go to the Lord. When I was single, the process was the same: I was consumed by thoughts of my Divine Father who watched over me.

What do you think about all day? Start in the morning and pay close attention as your day unfolds. Most women agree that during the day their thoughts drift toward career, money, family, friends, and, of course, toward themselves. How we view ourselves and our God in light of those issues determines the strength of our foundation.

Let’s look at three areas that call for a very strong foundation: money, relationships, and trust.

A Provider You Can Count On

A single parent said to me, “My children think money grows on trees. I am so stressed just trying to make ends meet and having to explain why they can’t have designer jeans like the other children. I’m tired of carrying this load.”

Money is a vital issue in life, whether we’re single or married. But the best time to stretch your money muscles is when you’re single. Finances are one of the primary reasons for divorce, so getting priorities established now will help you select a mate with compatible values. Have you ever thought about how wonderful it would be to have a husband who is your provider? Someone who will help carry the load, or at least relieve it a little? Maybe you should think twice.

When I married Frank, he was a successful record producer earning a six-figure income. A year after our marriage, we recommitted our

lives to Christ. Two years later, Frank's recording contract expired and needed to be renewed. He refused to do so because he didn't want to be locked into a deal that would limit his ability to pursue God's will for his life. Since he wasn't sure what God wanted Him to do, he walked away from the music industry for over a year while waiting to hear from the Lord. During that time, our income virtually came to a halt. This didn't happen because Frank was slothful or uncaring. He was waiting on God.

If I'd gone into the marriage believing that Frank was my provider, I probably would not have been able to endure the crisis. But it became one of the highlights of our marriage. We had weekly Bible studies with our friends, we spent quality time together, and we rested in the Lord.

Financial fortunes often change—sometimes dramatically. Loss of revenue can happen to anyone.

A news reporter showed a video of a handsome young man who had been married just a week. He was well-educated with a good paying job. As the video of the wedding continued, the newscaster described a tragic turn of events. The groom had been in a hit-and-run accident and would be permanently paralyzed from the neck down. His bride would now be providing for herself *and* her invalid husband for the rest of her life.

One of the greatest lessons you can learn *before* you get married is that your future husband will never be your provider. God can use him as a *provision*, but the Lord alone is our *Provider*. God can also use you as a provider. Sometimes more money may flow through you than through your spouse. In any case, we should never lose sight of where our resources really come from. As you learn to entrust your single life to God as your Provider, that confidence in Him will carry on into marriage.

God's Economy Sheet

Some of you may be thinking, "Well, if God is my Provider, where is the money?"

Money comes in different forms: income, gifts-in-kind, and savings. God has His own ledger sheet. I call it "God's Economy." Take

out a piece of paper so I can help you understand how wealthy you are. Draw three columns.

At the top of one, put *Income*.

On the second, write *Gifts-in-Kind*.

On the third, write *Savings*.

Under the income heading, write your monthly earnings minus taxes, minus your 10 percent tithe. (You do pay tithes, don't you? If not, it will directly affect the other two columns.)

In the second column, entitled *Gifts-in-Kind*, write down goods or services that God gave you through other people. Include the approximate dollar amount. For example, you moved into a new apartment and the manager waived your security deposit of \$200. Or your hairdresser may have told you she wanted to style your hair for free instead of charging you \$40. Someone may have blessed you with a new \$60 jacket for one of your teenagers. If your mind is blank, be observant over the next month and write down each gift when it arrives.

When you come to the third column, *Savings*, you might think, "This certainly doesn't apply to me!" Yes, it does. What has God saved you from? Suppose you or your child were stricken with a catastrophic illness. What would the hospital bill have been? What would it cost to replace your car if it was stolen? How much would it cost to replace your valuables if your home was burglarized? Most of all, what if you were disabled and could not earn the money listed in the first column?

By now you're getting the picture! Money is not only what we earn, it is also what is given and what is not taken away. When I prepared my list, I discovered I was a very rich woman. If you are stressed over money, there is a good chance you have not checked God's Economy Sheet.

First Things First

Earlier I mentioned that if you are not paying a ten percent tithe on the money you earn, it could affect your *Gifts-in-Kind* and *Savings*. These two areas are extra blessings from God, and He is not likely to abundantly bless a robber. Are you a robber? Let's look at Malachi 3:8,9:

Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, "How

do we rob you?" In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse...because you are robbing me.

I think it's pretty safe to say that God does not need our money. One of the purposes of tithing is to keep our financial focus clear. When we give ten percent of our income to the church, it is our way of saying, "God, Your gift of health and strength enabled me to earn this money, and I thank You. I give to You ten percent in recognition of the 100 percent You gave me."

God's reply is:

"Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).

In laying a solid foundation for your future, it is important that you put to rest the issue of money. *God* is our Provider. Your Knight in Shining Armor should not be chosen solely for the amount of money he makes. In fact, if you don't feel like the richest woman on earth there is more work to do on your foundation. You may also need to make some adjustments on how you spend the money God gives you.

Many of our spending woes come because we've demonstrated a lack of good judgment, perhaps by overextending ourselves with credit. My pastor says, "If your out-go exceeds your income then your upkeep will be your downfall!" The time to fix your money situation is during your single life. Good biblical money principles will follow you into your marriage, and your husband will appreciate it more than you know.

If you need help to set up or work on a budget, I recommend *The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke* by Suze Orman.

Building Healthy Relationships

Moving on from monitoring our thoughts concerning money, our next assignment is to reflect on our relationships with friends and family. I loved the Lord for ten years before He challenged me concerning the bitterness in my heart toward a particular family member.

With the Lord's help, I was able to get free of the bondages of bitterness and it stimulated me to write a book entitled *Betrayal's Baby*. Many of our betrayals take place in our families.

Recently a woman told me, "One of my sisters shared her heart one day. She said there was a spirit of unforgiveness in our family among the women. I am close to 50 years old and had never realized that fact. Now I know why it is so hard for me to forgive."

Stand back and consider your thoughts as they pass through your mind. Are they pleasant? Or do they cause you anguish? If they are pleasant, keep them. If they are despairing, purpose in your heart to change them. If you haven't learned to enjoy peaceful and loving relationships with the family you already have, how can you expect to get along with a husband and his family? You can be sure that your Knight and your future in-laws will be just as imperfect as your own next of kin. Be faithful in forgiving and loving the people God has placed in your life.

The same is true of friends. Have you ever had a close friend or roommate who hurt you in some way? Did you put up a wall of defense? Did you develop a spirit of distrust toward people? That kind of hostile response will flow into your marriage. We need to make sure our foundation is based on trust. However, our trust is not supposed to be placed in men and women, but in God as He directs our lives. The moment we put our trust in a human being the Bible says we are cursed:

Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands...He will dwell in the parched places of the desert... (Jeremiah 17:5,6).

I have been hurt by friends, too—but only because my trust was in them instead of in God. I brought the pain upon myself. When I realized I had violated God's law, I repented before the Father and began loving again. For God's Word says,

But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water... (Jeremiah 17:7,8).

A Matter of Trust

The matter of trust includes the man you will eventually call your husband. Although you will need to be able to trust him as far as human honesty and integrity are concerned, he can't be given a position in your life that will diminish your absolute trust and confidence in God. Many women wrap themselves around the man they love and re-create themselves to fit his preferences. They begin to eat what he eats, like what he likes, and think what he thinks. Although it's normal to adapt to a boyfriend or husband, avoid a man who thinks the construction work is his job.

A woman can't afford to trust him, instead of God, to mold her personality or to remake her into his image.

If you invest six months in knowing God more intimately, you will come to know yourself more clearly, too. The self-respect you gain by recognizing yourself as God's beloved will help keep you from making unwise compromises about who you are when your "knight" appears. This is why it's important to let your Maker do six months of construction work *before* you begin to date someone new.

Trust the Lord to do what is right in your life. Don't consecrate the next six months to the Lord solely because you desire a husband. Do it because you know it's right to develop a deep and abiding relationship with the Lord. We've all heard Christians say, "God has never failed me yet!" He won't fail you, either. Let Him teach you to trust Him with every aspect of your life.

***God gives His best to those
who leave the choice to Him.***

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- 1) Make sure you're resting on a solid foundation. Have you accepted Jesus into your life?
- 2) Start a personal six-month journal. Record your observations and new discoveries about yourself and others often.
- 3) Monitor and summarize in your journal your daily thoughts concerning family, friends, and finances. Begin to memorize Scriptures that will counteract any negative thinking. One wise woman carried verses on 3 x 5 cards and called them "counter cards." She used them to counteract negative thoughts.
- 4) Place an asterisk beside every thought listed above in which you see improvement on a daily basis.