

No. 80.

11342 Church Street
Chicago 43, Illinois
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My darling little Wife,

Sweetheart, it certainly is wonderful to be able to set aside the things I am doing and have a little chat with you. Darling, even as I write to you, my heart burns within me. More than anything in the world, right now I would like to have you in my arms. I do believe I would squeeze you so tight you would loose your breath. How I do long to be with you always, to have you as my little wife, and to do all the things husbands and wives do to each other. I love you more than I even thought I could love anybody, my Darling.

I praise the Lord that He has shown you the same thing He has shown to me - that you should discontinue your training in Sweden. Praise His wonderful name! And I want you to continue praying about it. I am sure you will experience the same thing I have experienced - that the more I pray about it, the more I am assured that you should come to the States and that we should become one as soon as possible. Darling, often we cannot understand the working of the Lord and often the Lord does not work in the way men expect Him to work. Often we want to wait for man's approval. But, Sweetheart, it is far more important to seek the Lord's will. It might seem the right thing for us to be engaged for a long time before marriage; but if it is the Lord's will for us to become man and wife real soon, we must forget what our friends might expect in order to do the Lord's will. Somehow I feel so sure (and I know you do too) that we should become man and

wife real soon. Doris, let me ask you, "How can we know the Lord's will for our lives?"

I believe the Lord brings about His will in many ways. First of all, I believe He leads us to choose the way He wants us to go. In other words, if we are yielded to Him, He causes us to want to do the thing He wants us to do. Now, Darling, we do want to marry and we do want to marry as soon as possible. We have prayed much about it and asked the Lord to help us decide what we should do. The more we have prayer, the more we are sure we should marry in the near future. Isn't it very likely that the Lord Himself has led ~~us~~ us to want each other and to want each other real soon. It is very sensible too. After you come to the States, you will want to settle down as soon as possible. If we wait too long to be married, you will waste too much time. You can't afford to waste time if you are going to prepare for missionary service. If you should start training or college as soon as you arrive, you only will have to stop training as soon as we do ~~get~~ get married. What good is it to begin training if you soon must stop. Why waste all that time. But, Darling, if we marry real soon, you will live with me and you will start training or college where I am studying. That way no time will be wasted. See how important it is for us to marry real soon? You mentioned staying in Sweden to work awhile. Sure you will earn some money. But what good is money. You can't take hardly any of it out of Sweden with you. You said that you want to buy clothes. But Darling, if you buy Swedish clothes, you will not be in style in the U. S. You will want to have American clothes. Otherwise you will feel out of place here. Please don't bring too much clothes along with you. Take along what clothes you have and buy more here. Darling, the Lord leads us by creating a desire within us for what is His will. We want

to become man and wife real soon. Perhaps that is the Lord's will for us. Do we DARE to do anything but get married. If it is the Lord's will for us to marry real soon, than, Sweetheart, we MUST get married as soon as possible.

Another way the Lord leads is through the Bible. According to the Bible, we know that it is God's will that men and women should marry. We are told that that is why God made male and female. And we are told that a man can serve God better when he has a wife to assist him. Darling, we both have felt the call of the mission field and we do need each other desperately. If we are to become missionaries and remain missionaries, we must live honorable lives. Yet we have been made to crave the opposite sex. Darling, already you have experienced how hard it is to say "no" when a person of the opposite sex wanted to uncover your privacy. I am so glad that you remained true to the Lord. But, Darling, it will be just as hard to go without sexual intercourse when we return to China and we might weaken some time even though we are missionaries. If we weaken just once, we will be disgraced and will have to return home defeated. And besides the Lord cannot use missionaries that are not true to Him. So, Honey, to protect ourselves, we must become man and wife to satisfy the cravings of the flesh. Even now it is hard to go without a wife. The Lord has kept me so I never have had intercourse, but I only am human and it is altogether possible I may make a slip some day. Darling, I know you feel the same. So, to protect ourselves and to live a holy life before God, we MUST become man and wife as soon as possible.

The lord also leads through circumstances. When we want to do His will, He just makes different things come to pass. Look, Darling, how marvelously He has brought us together. I had to go all the way

to China to find you. Then He caused us to break up I am sure to try my faith. All this time I knew He would bring us together if that should be His will. And He did cause us to realize how much we really loved each other. See how wonderfully He has made circumstances to bring us together. Now, He has caused you to become ill and made it highly unlikely that you should go back into training in Sweden. It is strange, Darling, but when I used to pray about our coming together, I used to get the strangest assurance that we would become man and wife. I didn't know how we would get together, but He seemed to assure me that we would be brought together. Often I even would think that it might take your illness to make you leave training. Perhaps the Lord even was showing me how you would be forced to leave training to come to me. Now, if He is bringing us together, it is for only one purpose, to become man and wife. It is not natural for a fellow and girl to just go together. We were made to be married. God's place for us is in marriage. Otherwise we are not fulfilling God's full will. We are made to want each other and we are made to need each other for fellowship and for the marriage bed. If we don't marry, we are not doing the natural thing. I am sure God is bringing us together to be man and wife. Therefore, because the Lord is making circumstances bring us together, we must do His will - we MUST become man and wife. We dare not do otherwise.

Darling, this is what I do when I am seeking the Lord's will in any matter. First of all I pray about it and then I try to find the Lord's direction in Scripture. Then I ask the Lord to guide my desires so that I will want what is his will. Then I see how the Lord is leading me through circumstances. After considering all this, I can tell pretty well how He is leading. This is how I have been able to determine that He would have me in China as a missionary. And this is

how I am sure He would have us become man and wife. Now, I am pretty sure the Lord is leading me to China as a missionary. What do I do now? Now I prepare in every way possible to return to China. I study things that will help me in His service in China. I am almost positive I shall become a missionary in China. But there is something else I must do to know God's will. I must trust that He will bring His will about in my life. I must trust Him that if it is not His will for me to return to China, He is cause circumstances to direct me somewhere else. But, ever since returning from China, circumstances, His leading (my interests), and every thing else has made me believe I should return to China. Darling, that is what we must do. We must try to get together and to get married as soon as possible. I am sure that is the Lord's will. Then if it is not the Lord's will for us to marry real soon, we must trust Him to keep us apart or prevent us from getting married until it is His will we should marry. BUT WE MUST TRY TO GET TOGETHER AND WE MUST TRY TO BECOME MAN AND WIFE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I am sure this is the Lord's will. If not, let's trust Him to show us differently.

Sweetheart, I don't know how you can come here in less than that awful year you think you must wait, but I am sure there is some way. Also I believe we can do something about getting passage before Jan. Let us trust the Lord to bring you here real quickly. Even if it is necessary for you to come to marry me, I believe you should get here as soon as possible. I am not sure how much time we have before another war. I am sure I want you for my wife and I know you are sure that you want me for a husband. Need we know more. We have said that we must meet first. BUT why? We have said that we must be positive we are in love. But can we be more positive? And if we should change

our minds, I'll still pay your way back. But that is ~~out~~ of the question. No matter who it is, can they ever be absolutley positive they are in love? No, they can't be any more sure than we are. The night before her wedding any fellow or girl might think they might be wrong. They never can be positive the ~~other~~ is made for them. In fact, Darling, we can be more sure than most people. Have we not trusted the Lord to bring us together? If He has brought us together, are we going to doubt Him by saying that perhaps He is wrong? No, Darling, I am sure the Lord has cause us to fall in love. We are as sure of ourselves as ever we can be sure. Right now we know we are in love and right now we can plan on becoming one. So, Sweetheart, why not come to the States not as an immigrant, but as my bride? I am sure the Lord has made us fall in love and I am sure we are to be man and wife. You told me that you love me more than you even loved Herman, and you told me that we have more in common than you even had with Herman. You promised him you would come to the States to marry him. Darling, because you love me more than you did him, I am sure you will do the same thing for me - because THE LORD has meant US to be one. Sweetheart, oh how I love you.

Darling, that sounds funny, you taking Roy to the States because he never has traveled alone. It sounds funny because he is a man and older and you a little girl. Sweetheart, Roy does not need you to take him to the States. Nor do you need him. From what you have said about Roy, I am sure I shall like him very much. He is a man and should be treated as one. So, don't embarasse him by telling him you will take him to the States. He won't appreciate it. Darling, you just get to your hubblee as soon as possible and don't worry abut Roy. As far as the actual corssing of the Atlantic, it doesn't take more than a week,

does it? If you were going on a vacation for a week, would you insist on waiting for Roy because ~~he~~ never had a vacation alone before? Sounds silly, doesn't it? Darling, you only are taking a little vacation trip to America. Why take Roy with you. He can take the same vacation later. You need your vacation now.

Darling, you asked if the folks really want you. They most certainly do. I told Mom yesterday what you said and she laughed. They are not taking you because they feel they have to, but because they have heard so much about you and know what a sweet little gal you are. Darling, you little numb-skull, they WANT you; and if you stay any place but here, they will feel very much hurt. We not only invite you to stay here, but we insist on it. We would appreciate it if you would help out just a little bit until Mom is on her feet again. But perhaps you would not care to help at home. Maybe that is the reason you asked about staying here (now, answer that one, your dope!). If you can help out a little, I would appreciate it because Mom needs you. Just a couple of weeks or so will be enough (if you come soon). I am worried about Mom. Last night I went to the wedding. Fact was I missed the wedding. Mom's temperature went up considerably and I stayed home till a doctor was contacted and promised to come out. Then I went to the reception. But no sooner had we eaten than Dad called and asked me to come home to take Mom to the hospital. So I left and came home. It was about twelve last night before we got there. But we took Mom to her room and the nurse put her to bed. So, Darling, you can see, Mom really could use a nurse around here for a short time. She not only needs you, but wants you. Of course, you will have little or no house work; Elaine does that. But a nurse being around would help.

Mother hasn't answered your letter yet because she hasn't been steady enough to write. She said that as soon as she feels better, she'll send you a nice letter and will tell you just how she feels about your coming here. I don't expect you to stay here very long anyway. Just as soon as I can, after you arrive, you and I are going to visit the preacher. We'll not make definite plans until you arrive.

Sweetheart, you don't know how happy you made me when I read in your letter that you will quit training and come to the U. S. I am glad, and I praise the Lord, that you definitely and for all time have made up your mind. I know you will come now because you have promised. Further, Darling, I am sure that you will not wait for Roy, but will come as soon as possible. That is one thing I am proud about you, Darling: you are very open-minded. As soon as you see how sensible it is to do something, you don't let your own feelings interfere with what is best. And Darling, we both know that it will be best for you to come to the States and to marry me as soon as the Lord permits.

Sweetheart, tomorrow morning I expect to go to the Council's office down-town and find out how soon you can come to the States. As soon as I know I'll write and tell you. For now, I want you to file immigration papers. There is something else I would rather have you do if you love me, and that is to apply for admission to the States as my bride. Then we can be married within three months after you arrive. Just think, Sweetheart, Mrs. Bernard Holmquist. How does it sound. If you only will apply for those papers, it will come to pass.

Your loving husband,

Bernie XXXXXX

P. S. I love you!