

Women Reveal How Waiting Worked To Their Advantage In Finding Their Soul Mate

By Margena A. Christian
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Wanda Hadley was 40 when she married her husband, Daryl, and she was 41 when she had their first daughter and 42 when she had another. The couple has been married for 12 years.

By today's standards, Wanda is a rare breed. That's because statistics show that seventy percent of Black women are unmarried and 34 percent of Black women have never married by 40, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Before Wanda wed, she might have agreed with the figures.

"I had a come to Jesus moment. I was challenging God. I was like, 'What's up?' You've given me the desire to be married and to have children. My clock is ticking," she said. "I was literally rolling around on the floor crying out to Him. Then the Lord spoke to me and said, 'I'm preparing him and I'm preparing you, because you're not ready.'"

Wanda, a Mary Kay senior sales director, is just one of the women featured in the award-winning documentary *SoulMate* where she shares her story and reveals how her "season of singleness" prepared her for marriage.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA, describes a soul mate as



JET photo by Valerie Goodloe

▲ Wanda Hadley and husband, Daryl, are the parents of Gabrielle, 10, and Alexandria, 9. "I married at 40 and I'm still married," Wanda said. "There is hope for healthy relationships and marriages lasting no matter what society paints today. I am proof of that."

"that person who is comparable to you, equally, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. It's someone who understands your joys and sorrows, moods and attitudes. It's someone who is passionate about the same kinds of things that you are or at least supportive of those kinds of things."

Hale said that when women become

LIFESTYLES



◀ Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale said that “mature hope has confidence that God has everything settled in your life.”

▶ Andrea Wiley, founder of Clean Heart Productions, wrote, produced and directed the award-winning documentary *SoulMate*, which offers a Christian perspective on finding purpose while single.



content while single, they will be able to explore their purpose for life and for living.

“God knows the desires of our heart,” she said. “I also know God gives us what is best for us. So the surrendering is leaving the choice to Him.”

Hale added, “Women, as we get older, need to be instead of sad about our singleness, but more hopeful. Matured hope has confidence that God has everything settled in your life.”

Andrea Wiley, married nearly 12 years and the mother of two sons, was so concerned about many of her single, successful girlfriends who were near or at 40 and fearing they might not ever marry or have children, that she decided to write and produce the documentary *SoulMate* (www.soulmatefilm.com, \$19.99).

“I wanted to let them know they are not alone. God has a plan for them,” said Wiley, a noted TV writer who executive produced “The Parkers.” “The message

▶ Janice Kovacek almost missed her soul mate, Wolfgang, who is Austrian, because he did not look the way she expected.

of the movie really is to make Him your priority and He will order your steps and give you the things you need.”

The film has generated buzz with women as well as men, said Wiley. And already it has picked up five major awards, including Best Documentary at the Hollywood Black Film Festival.

“I’m hearing theme parties like ‘SoulMate and Salad’ or ‘SoulMate and Sushi,’” she said. “I’m so grateful to God that this film has ignited the much-needed discussion between the sexes.”

North Hollywood, CA, executive



assistant Janice Kovacek almost missed her soul mate, Wolfgang Kovacek, a website designer from Austria, when they met in 1999 at a going away party.

“I didn’t expect him to come into the package he came in,” laughs Janice, who has been married for six years. “Spiritually speaking, he did come into the package of what I wanted. Physically he didn’t, but I wanted who God had for me. I was open to that.”

They dated for a year and a half. Abstaining from sex, she said, allowed God to reveal His will for her.

“In so doing, it means you can hear from God more clearly,” she said. “When you have sex, you can’t hear from God because you’re bonded spiritually, emotionally and physically. Emotions will rule.”

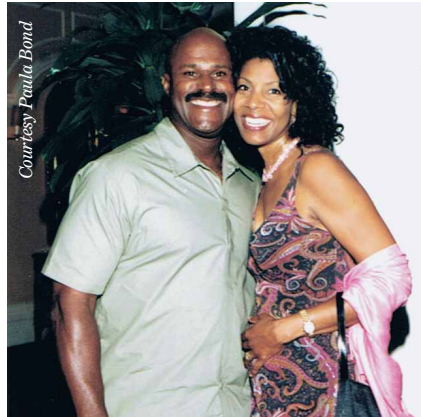
Surrendering after prolonged single-ness doesn’t mean settling, said Hadley.

“Don’t lower your standards. Standards are a good thing,” she said. “I don’t want our sisters to feel hopeless. I don’t want them to settle for the gay man or the married man because they’ve given up.”

Paula Bond, CEO of First Option Entertainment, was “over 40” when she married the love of her life, Gary Fitten, in 2002.

The couple were honeymooning in Maui when he complained of having pains. Two weeks later, he was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, a type of lung cancer, and given 18 months to live.

“It’s not what you think when you’re standing at the alter,” said the former



▲ Paula Bond shares a moment with her husband, Gary Fitten. Bond married over 40 and within two and a half years later, she was a widow after Fitten died of cancer.

Ebony Fashion Fair model. “You don’t think about in sickness and in health, for richer and poorer. What a lot of women plan for is the wedding. They don’t plan for the marriage. After the honeymoon, you have a whole life together.”

After a two and a half year battle, Fitten died in 2004. “Had I not been mature, I don’t know how I would have handled what I had to do with my husband. I don’t know if I would have been equipped to do so had I been younger, because I would not have had enough life experience.”

Bond said that she and her late husband always believed that God was using them for a reason. Today she shares her testimony with others.

“You can get married at any age. Guess what? I will get married again. I will be older than I was then when I get married a second time. I will do it again with a lot more knowledge and a lot more experience.” □