

David O. Oyedepo

Walking In The
Newness
Of Life

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WALKING IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE

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All Scripture quotations are from the King
James Version of the Bible, except otherwise
stated.

Introduction

Living a new life in Christ is a reality! The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

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

No matter what the story of your life has been, I want you to know that you can walk and live in the newness of life!

Jesus Christ does not only redeem us from our sins, but also makes His grace to walk in the newness of life available to us by His Spirit and by the working knowledge of His Word. That is why the Bible admonishes us in Romans 8:13:

...But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

How do we walk and live in the newness of life, more so in this end-time we are in, in which the Bible says evil shall abound? That is what I hope to show you by the Spirit of God in this book. My prayer for everyone reading this book is that the Spirit of God will have His way, and deliver you from every form of bondage to sin that may be tying you down right now.

Holiness is the pathway to walking and living in the newness of life. When God began to speak to me about Double Honour for the Church in 1997, I asked Him, “What is it that guarantees consistent and never-ending honour?” He said to me: “*Tell them, honour is rooted in righteousness.*” The following day, I got a copy of Kenneth Copeland’s 30th anniversary publication of The Believer’s Voice of Victory (January 1997) in the mail. And what did I see? On the first page, Gloria Copeland was saying, “Holiness is the pathway to God’s glory.” And she went on to say that beginning from January 20th, she would begin to teach on the subject of holiness on their daily radio broadcast, from Andrew Murray’s book, The Holiest of All. What a unique coincidence!

Heaven is sounding an alarm! God is blowing a definite and very certain trumpet from heaven to the body of Christ; He is crying out: "Holiness! Holiness! Holiness Unto God!" That trumpet is sounding now, preparing the Church for her hour of glory. That trumpet is saying: *"If you will be holy, I will make you whole — spirit, soul and body. I will cause you to excel, and make you shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars of heaven forever and ever."* The Church is rising out of her "debris" and filth, and taking her place in true holiness unto God, which will cause her to walk in the newness of life.

Let me show you another prophetic link from as far back as 1961 (as contained in Charles and Frances Hunters' book, *How To Heal The Sick* (1983) pp. 8-16]. In it the writer said:

"Last year, I mysteriously laid hold on a prophecy given by Tommy Hicks in 1961, describing a vivid vision of the body of Christ in the end-time: 'Suddenly, I beheld what looked like a great giant, and as I stared and looked at it, I was almost bewildered by the sight. It was so gigantic and so great.

'His feet seemed to reach to the North Pole, and his head to the south. Its arms were stretched from sea to sea. I could not even begin to understand whether this be a mountain or this be a giant, but as I watched, I suddenly beheld a great giant. I could see his head was struggling for life. He wanted to live...'

Do you really want to live? Do you want to walk in newness of life? According to this prophecy, the end-time Church will have a desire to rise, and that desire will generate the force to rise. It will cause hell to loose its grip, and the Church will lift up her head one more time. The prophecy continued:

"...But his body was covered with debris from head to foot, and at times this great giant would move his body and act as though it would even raise up at times. And when it did, thousands of little creatures seemed to run away. Hideous creatures would run from this giant, and when he would become calm, they would come back. All of a sudden this great giant lifted his hand toward the heaven, and then it lifted its other hand, and when it did, these

creatures by the thousands seemed to flee away from this giant and go into the darkness of the night....

“Slowly, this great giant began to rise, and as he did, his head and hands went into the clouds. As he rose to his feet he seemed to have cleansed himself from the debris and filth that were upon him, and he began to raise his hands into the heavens as though praising the Lord, and as he raised his hands, they went even unto the clouds. Suddenly, every cloud became silver, the most beautiful silver I have ever known.”

That’s talking about the inexplicable, unbeatable beauty that God has packaged for the end-time Church, which purity He will cause to manifest. What a day we have entered into! This prophecy given 44 years ago is talking about the Church to which you and I belong. The Church will consciously, deliberately and determinedly cleanse herself from every “debris” and filth, and lift up her head (like the Prodigal Son) and say, “No! I will arise and go! Home is sweeter than this pig sty!” In other words, consciously choosing to walk in the newness of life!

The beauty of “Israel” is being unfolded, and God is calling the body of Christ unto purity, so everybody can become a partaker of this beauty, which has come upon quite a number already. It’s time to clean up, because the Church, the end-time army of God, is presently pressed down with filth, immorality, lies, financial corruption, bribery, covetousness, idolatry, name it. “But at last this great giant rose...” You too will rise!

If you want to see the beauty that God has in store for you in this end-time, then it’s time to go after purity. The Bible says:

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

God is saying to His body on the earth now: “Clean up! I want to beautify you.” Clean up! I want to beautify you. Until you have cleaned up, you don’t qualify for clean clothes. Until you go take “a bath”, God won’t put new clothes on you. The glory that awaits the Church demands that we clean up first. God is determined to beautify Zion, for the time for her marriage to the

Lamb is set (Rev. 19:7-8). Everyone that cleans up will be part of the bride. But everyone that says, “It doesn’t matter” will be forgotten.

Everyone who will embrace the life of holiness will be a partaker of the beauty and glory of this end-time. Everyone that will say “No!” to the king’s food (Dan. 1:8), to Potiphar’s wife (Gen. 39:7-9), to Delilah (Jud. 16), to Gehazi’s spirit (2 Kgs. 5), and to Ananias and Sapphira syndrome (Acts 5), will be numbered among the shining stars of this end-time. Heaven is certain; but it takes holiness to get there. Likewise, this earth can be exciting for any child of God, but it takes holiness to have that excitement.

Holiness is double sanctification. It is a covenant treasure of the saints of God. Whereas sin is destructive, righteousness is constructive. God is visiting His body with the Spirit of holiness, which will enable us to walk in the newness of life.

Every act of God has a foundation. The foundation for power and the supernatural, which is the characteristic of the end-time Church is very clear: righteousness! Before Jesus comes, the fear people now have for the devil will be shifted to the Church. The Church of Jesus Christ will command the fear of all that dwell on the earth by reason of the enormity of power manifestation, coming out of the realms of purity that the Church will be walking in.

This message is not sent to anybody else, it’s sent to YOU! It is sent to let you know you too can walk in the newness of life, and to get you set, lest you become a casualty as the end-time war intensifies. Whatever you must have heard before in this light, let’s call it fun. It is now war time. There is something you need to stop, otherwise it will stop you in this great move. There is something in your hand now that you need to drop, or it will drop you tomorrow! There is something you must disappoint now, or you will be the one disappointed tomorrow. God is not mocked!

Clean up, because time is running out! Before you are abandoned, abandon sin now! God is about to enthrone the Church. He did not enthrone Jesus until He fulfilled all righteousness. We are told in Psalm 45:6-7:

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

God is determined to glorify His Church, and whosoever does not let shall be let, until he be taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:7-8). That will not be you!

This book will show you the way of escape. God does not only show us the problem, He also offers the solution. Therefore, we shall be examining the provisions made for our sanctification, and the weapons that are at our disposal, which will enable us walk in the newness of life. So get ready for an encounter with the light of God through His Word, that will shatter every work of darkness in your life. Welcome to a new life in Christ Jesus!

1

The Horrors Of Sin

All unrighteousness is sin. Whatever is not right is wrong. Sin brings reproach, erodes honour, terminates dignity, cuts down, and brings low. Sin is at the root of every evil, because before sin came there was no evil. At the root of every disease and frustration is sin. Sin is a spiritual heart disease, and you know that heart disease is the shortest cut to death, for “*The soul that sinneth it shall die*” (Ezek. 18:20).

The wages of sin is death. Sin kills joy, destroys finances, the family, peace in the home, the business, etc. That is, you’ll virtually be living as a dead man if you continue in sin, because the Bible says, “He that lives in worldly pleasure is dead while he yet liveth.” A walking corpse!

“*The sting of death is sin*” (1 Cor. 15:56). When sin stings, it results in death when not treated on time. If you have snakebite and it’s not treated, you’re ready for the grave, because it carries deadly venom. That’s exactly what sin does.

The nature of sin is three-dimensional:

It is deceptive (Heb. 3:13)

It offers temporal pleasure (Heb. 11:25)

It is destructive (Prov. 11:3)

Sin is not anybody’s friend; it is a hideous enemy. It’s out with subtlety to disappoint people’s destinies. So stop it before it stops you, kill it before it kills you!

Please note that sin is sin, no matter who commits it. Sin does not require much definition. Whatever is not right is wrong, because the Bible says all

unrighteousness is sin. Whatever the Bible marks wrong is sin.

Sin is not a friend, but an enemy. It doesn't lift; it destroys. Sin is not a promoter, it demotes. Sin does not give people beauty; rather, it makes men ugly. Sin is a reproach to any people. Any people means no matter your grade, category, or cadre in life.

Now, let's examine some of the horrors of sin. By this I mean the devastating consequences of sin.

Shame

Sin is a barrier to honour in anybody's life, whether white or black, literate or illiterate, young or old. No matter who you are, sin will never allow you to see honour. Wherever sin reigns, shame reigns. Wherever sin reigns, reproach reigns. Wherever sin reigns, men have no future.

When the first man, Adam, sinned in the Garden of Eden, he was stripped naked. God called out to him, "Adam, where art thou?" his response was, "...I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was NAKED; and I hid myself" (Gen. 3:10).

Sin will strip any man naked of all honour, dignity and glory. Adam fell from grace to grass; he became a labourer where he was once the king. So sin must die for your glory to rise, sin must die for you to walk in the newness of life. No honour or glory awaits the crooked, because Proverbs 28:13 warns that "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper."

Hear what the Bible says:

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

That is, if you don't stop iniquity, it will stop you. If you don't break it, it will break you, and if you don't destroy it, it will destroy you. No one will see glory nor experience honour as long as he celebrates sin. Integrity is the

father of dignity. Sin will bring shame anytime, because sin's payday is sure. The earlier you resign from sin, the better, as sin transfers honour from the original owner to another person.

Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;

And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed.

Proverbs 5:7-11

Sin is sin, no matter the coloration. You don't talk of honour where sin reigns. No! Until you solve the sin problem, you can never experience lasting honour. When the first man, Adam, sinned, he became a struggler, a beggar. He began to hide, as sin had stripped him naked. It's time to return.

Isaiah 59:8 says,

"The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."

Crookedness is a barrier to honour, let it go! If you don't destroy corruption, you will see corruption. When sin is enthroned, shame is inevitable. When sin has its way, honour loses its place.

Sin is the father of shame, whereas integrity is the father of dignity. Make your choice. Everyone that gets married to sin ends up giving birth to children of shame. Please understand this:

...The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

If you don't depart from iniquity, you'll be humiliated. If you continue to meddle with sin, you will die in shame. God is going to beautify the holy, but clothe the sinner with shame. He is going to exalt the righteous, but bring reproach upon the sinner. It's time to walk in newness of life, so let go of sin!

Destruction!

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Proverbs 11:3

Do you know that sin is at the root of every trouble and calamity of man? There were no calamities before sin came. There were no sicknesses or accidents. Before sin came, man was absolutely secure—divine presence was his covering. He was heavenly, gorgeously dressed, but sin robbed him of all glory, and he started wearing leaves for clothing. As soon as sin came, all manner of calamities followed, because, “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed...” (Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed...Prov. 13:13).

If there's a “but” around your life now, it must go; otherwise it will send you packing, just like sin sent Adam packing from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:21). Sin is a destroyer; it is a silent killer! See how it destroyed the destiny of Samson (Judges 16). Samson was the strength of Israel in the Old Testament, but Satan trapped and destroyed him. He became a toy for the heathen. Though he killed more people at his death, he also died. A mighty treasure turned to a toy overnight, all because of sin.

A young usher used to steal from the offering bucket. This was his regular source of income. Then he was struck with tuberculosis. When he confessed to me, I told him to ask God for mercy, and I also pleaded for mercy on his behalf. I desired for him to live, but he died! Somebody else died, who on his

deathbed confessed to impropriety of one million naira, which he claimed to have returned. But he died of a horrible disease, because “*The sting of death is sin*”! God has shown us the path of righteousness so we can destroy the mystery of sin, and walk in the newness of life. Let’s walk in that path.

Not everyone that left Egypt arrived Canaan. They died unnatural death in the wilderness. They died a death of judgment, because they continued in sin. They provoked God to anger, and they were destroyed by the destroyer (1 Cor.10:10). Not everyone who is born again will arrive Canaan; so let’s watch it.

Sickness, Disease, Affliction

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

Every disease has its root in sin. There was no sickness before sin came. God made provisions for everything in the Garden of Eden, but not for healing, because man was not created to be sick. But by one man sin came, and sin brought death, and everything that leads to death, including leukaemia, cancer, AIDS, name it.

Jesus said, “Thy sins are forgiven thee” is the same thing as saying, “Arise and be healed” (Matt. 9:6), because both sin and sickness have the same root. Every disease is a curse, and a curse is as a result of sin (Deut. 28:15-68).

The Bible calls all forms of sicknesses curses, whether fever, chest pain, bad eyesight, deafness, name it. No other theological or medical explanation can be stronger than what the Bible has to say. Sin is at the root of every disease; and until righteousness takes over, sickness will continue. So let go of sin, so you can enjoy newness of life in your health!

Absence Of Peace

When Israel departed from God and began to do whatever she wanted, the Bible says that peace departed from her.

Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law...

And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

And nation was destroyed by nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

2 Chronicles 15:3,5,6

And then the prophet came and began to announce a new order, just as I'm doing now. Job 22:21-23 says:

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.

I pray that you will do exactly what Asa did. When he heard the words of the Prophet Oded, he took steps:

...He took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin...and renewed the altar of the Lord...

And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin.

And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.

2 Chronicles 15:8-9,12

And consequently, verses 15 and 19 tell us:

...The Lord gave them rest round about.

And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

I want you to believe God that every seed of the wicked one in you will be destroyed, so that the glory of God in your life can emerge, and you can begin to walk in the newness of life. Before sin finishes you, finish it and enter into your liberty!

2

Agents Of Sin

From scriptural examples, I was able to locate three traps the enemy has set against the end-time Church. This can be found in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The enemy will bring all these things, which can be classified under three broad categories, to defile the saints. They are the principal traps through which the enemy plans to destroy great destinies.

Immorality

Financial corruption

Rebellion

Immorality

Sin is not just sin; it is in grades and categories. When Israel left Egypt and

journeyed to the Promised Land, the highest number of people slain was through sexual immorality. Paul in his writing told us that 23,000 men fell in one day because of fornication (1 Cor. 10:8). From Bible records, this was the highest number of casualty throughout their journey from Egypt to Canaan. Immorality will take its toll among people this end-time also. It is, therefore, important to choose this day where you will be.

Samson, the strength of Israel in his time, fell by immorality. He was the treasure of heaven on earth, but he was turned into a toy. He was the gift of God, but became a curse on the earth, all because of immorality! Samson lost his enviable throne to a woman. They plucked out his two eyes and made him dance the dance of Israel among sinners (Judges 16), all via the trap of immorality! If you are a captive of this sin, my prayer for you is that this day marks the end of sexual sin and immorality in your life, in Jesus' name! You are loosed from this captivity, to walk in the newness of life!

Sexual immorality is a very powerful weapon of the enemy. With it he has destroyed several glorious destinies. Yours will not be one of them, in Jesus name.

For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

Proverbs 7:26

Do you want to be cast down? Do you want to be slain?

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

Proverbs 6:27-29

Let go the sin of immorality, otherwise it will cast you down! Multitudes are waiting for you to manifest, would you give up your crown to sin? The sin of immorality will cause you to mourn at last, when your flesh and body are consumed with AIDS, cancer, gonorrhoea, etc. (Prov. 5:11).

So many men are dying as slaves today because this sin of immorality has not been put under check. It is better to be impotent than to miss heaven because of sexual immorality. It is better to be sexually dead, than to be alive in the flesh but dead in the spirit. It is better to live naked and pave your way to heaven, than to live in a falsified mansion, only to end up in the pit of hell! Why must you destroy your destiny on the laps of Delilah, when the whole earth is waiting for your manifestation? Whatever you saw before was child's play; the one coming now has vowed to kill you, so run!

Remember that giant in Tommy Hicks' prophecy? It rose and cleansed itself from all debris and filth. You can do the same. First John 3:3 says:

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Purify yourself from the sin of sexual immorality, so you can walk in the newness of life. When the Bible talks about a sin unto death, we see that no other sin killed more than the sin of fornication and immorality in the Church in the wilderness. Twenty-three thousand people died in one day—the mercy of God ran out! Apostle Paul said:

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:17

I might not know what the sin unto death is, but I know the sin that kills people. The next immorality you get into, having read what you are reading now, may land you in AIDS, an incurable and destructive disease that kills, so watch it!

Immorality is a capital sin. It is the most devastating, destructive and effective tool in the hand of the devil. This is because it is deceptive and pleasurable. Concerning Moses, Hebrews 11:25 says he chose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.”

Sexual sin is both pleasurable and destructive. Flee from it! So awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light (Eph. 5:14).

Financial Corruption

Another trap of the devil this end-time is that which claimed the second highest number of lives—the sin of financial corruption.

Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

Exodus 32:26-28

Three thousand men died, holding on to their gold!

And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

Exodus 32:31

Remember also the story of Gehazi, Elisha's servant?

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men

of the sons of the prophets; give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

2 Kings 5:20-22

See what happened to him on his return from his covetous trip:

But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

2 Kings 5:25-27

Why must you carry Naaman's leprosy, when your destiny is to have twice Elisha's unction? Why must you allow covetousness to purchase leprosy for you? To free himself from this trap, hear what Job said:

If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

If I rejoice because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;

And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:

This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

Job 31:24-28

The love of money is the root of all evil. And as long as the root is in place, the tree will keep bearing fruits. Until the root is destroyed, there is still hope for the tree. Look at what the Bible says in 1 Timothy 6:10:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The love of money is the root of all evil, and covetousness is what gives it expression. But verse 11 advises:

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Jesus said: “Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:24). That is, you cannot serve God and money. By this we know that there are two entities that crave human worship—the Living God and the god of gold. You are either worshipping the Living God or the god of gold; you can’t be in the middle.

In Luke 4:5, Satan took Jesus up into a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdom of the world and all the glory thereof, and said to Jesus:

...All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I give it.

Luke 4:6

Note that Jesus never denied the devil’s claim of ownership (in fact, in John 14:30, He referred to him as “the prince of this world”), but He said to him:

...Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Luke 4:8

So, everyone worshipping the devil is actually worshipping the god of gold. The man in the cult is not there because he likes the devil; he’s there because he likes money. All armed robbers are into robbery because of money. The

god of gold is the brain behind the afflictions of many. That is why such people end up with all manner of sicknesses and diseases—because the god of gold is a killer god! You must not be part of it. There's a neater way of making money without worshipping it.

We are here as the light of the world; we should show the world how to do it. The prophetic ministry of Balaam crashed at the hands of money, Gehazi's destiny collapsed because of covetousness, and Achan's entire household was publicly stoned to death because of covetousness (Josh. 7). The love of money is the root of all evils, as all its victims end up in sorrow. You will not end your journey in sorrow!

In Mark chapter 10, a young man ran to Jesus and asked him,

“Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” And Jesus answered, “Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.” And the young man replied, “Master, all these have I observed from my youth.”

Jesus looked at him and loved him. He had no eternal life; he only came to find out how to get it. But with his natural life, he had been able to deal with adultery, falsehood, etc. But this man had a problem—his possession had become his god. He had made a god of gold for himself. Jesus told him in verse 21: “One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.” But the Bible says, “And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” Jesus had touched his gold, which was his god!

...They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 Timothy 6:9

Gold is one of the greatest corrupters on this earth. Whereas your affair with another woman or man is adultery, your affair with money is idolatry. And the number one commandment in the Bible is,

“Thou shalt not have any other gods beside me.”

That young man was free from adultery, but was a victim of idolatry. He chose the god of gold over eternal life. Behind many sorrows on the earth today is money. When you see a young man looking sad and devastated, the god of gold is afflicting him. He's not sick, his wife is not sick, but his idol (money) is plaguing him with sorrows, because the love of money naturally invites sorrow.

The eyes are never satisfied with seeing. So every lover of money will always see what he does not have (Prov. 30:15-16). No lover of money can ever be sorrow-free. I want you to desperately desire a deliverance from the god of gold, so you can truly walk in the newness of life.

Those who go after gold miss God; but those who pursue hard after God will have gold as additions (Matt. 6:33). We saw how the god of gold trapped and destroyed about 3,000 men in one day. Idolatry is a great sin. To have another god in the place of the Living God is a great sin. If you don't count gold as dung, you will become dung. So you must rescue yourself from the god of gold today.

The love of gold is a killer disease. The Bible calls it the root of all evil. If one evil equals death, then the root of all evil equals all death—death of joy, peace, progress, health, everything! By the time you get to a position when going to church becomes when convenient, or you begin to complain of not having enough time to go to church, you're already on your way down. That's the mission of the god of gold—it won't let you keep your covenant relationship with God. May you never see the business expansion that won't let you worship God, in Jesus name! Jesus asked:

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?*

Mark 8:36

May your name not be removed from the Book of Life because of one vain government appointment or contract. I have told the Lord, “Wherever I will get to and Your presence eludes me, let me never get there. Whatever I will own that will make You disown me, may I never own it. Whatever I will possess that will make You dispossess me, let me never possess it. Whatever

position I will get to that I will no longer see You, may I never get there.”

The god of gold is not a friend of anyone. Defile it today, and say to it, “Get thee hence, get thee behind me you god of gold and silver. I no longer worship you. Get lost!” Isaiah 30:23 promises:

Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous; in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

That means when you cast the god of gold away from you, then God will add His own to you. And you know that the blessings of the Lord makes rich and He adds no sorrow to it (Prov. 10:22). When you defile the god of gold, God’s own silver and gold is added to you for your beauty. So defile the god of gold today, before it defiles your destiny! Defile the god of gold, then God will beautify you with gold! Defile the god of gold today and you will never see dryness again!

If you’re a lover of gold, you can never be free from telling lies. Besides, pride will stick to you like tick to a cloth. Nebuchadnezzar saw the expansion of his kingdom and he said, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” And he was turned into an animal (Dan. 4:30,33)! The rich fool in Luke 12:16-20 saw his harvest and said, “My soul rest”, and God said, “Your body will rest too”! He was laid to rest that same night! When Solomon saw wealth, the spirit of whoredom possessed him, and he became King Whoredom — 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kgs. 11:3)! He was a victim of the god of gold.

It was gold that led Judas to commit suicide. He sold his master for a mere 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15)! Ananias and Sapphira died by the dagger of the god of gold (Acts 5:1-10). Jeshurun (Israel) waxed fat, and then kicked against God, and God in turn hid His face from them (Deut. 32:9-25). May God not hide His face from you! They kicked against God in their prosperity. May your prosperity not bring about your perishing!

What the god of gold does is to bring enmity between you and God. Every time you choose another god over the Almighty God, you are inviting Him to

a wrestling contest, and who has ever fought with God and prospered (Job 9:4)?

There is no salvation in gold and silver. Enough of running after it! May every increase you see in your life create an increase in your affection for God! May no increase come your way that will take you away from God!

Rebellion

This is another sin that claimed the third largest number of souls in the Church in the wilderness. It claimed an entire household! Look at the account in Numbers 16:

Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the Lord hath not sent me.

But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Numbers 16:1-3,28-33

That was how Dathan, Korah, Abiram, and 250 others, and all their families perished! Rebellion destroyed an estimated one thousand people in one day! Friend, rebellion is of the devil, don't give in to it.

Rebellion is a deliberate reaction against order, targeted at leadership at all levels in the Church of God. Any church or establishment you find yourself in and you have doubts about the leadership, it is not a place where you can be blessed. So check out of the place, before you're checked out.

Rebellion is risky. Don't expect to survive if you reject God's order. To wish leadership evil is mental disorder, as heaven is a city of order. Leadership is required for human society to survive, whether in the secular world or in the Church. But if we accept order in the secular, rejecting it in the Church will be playing with fire. Thinking ill against any leadership set over you is tearing down your own heritage. If you have accepted leadership over you at work, then stop playing with fire by rejecting God's order in the Church or in the family.

Rebellion is a costly poison; don't take it. Peace never reigns in any home where divine order is not accepted. The reason my wife enjoys all the goodies from me is because she has never raised an eyebrow against anything I say God told me. You may say, "That is stupid!" Well, it is better to be stupid and be successful, than to be wise and end up a failure (that is if your wisdom is really wisdom).

Leadership offers direction; it doesn't receive direction from the led. That is why leadership must strive at all levels to hear from God before offering

direction to the people. Then anyone who rebels against such direction will pay dearly for it. That was why Dathan, Korah and Abiram died such a strange death. Exodus 22:28 says, “Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.” This is particularly when you know you will be destroying your own position by doing so.

The Church is going to know such terrific promotions that hell will not be able to sit and fold its hands. Hell will, therefore, be seeking for who can be pulled down along with it. That was what happened to Absalom, who set out determinedly to unseat his father, David.

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 15:1-6

Rebellion is demonic. Do you know that Absalom rejoiced when Ahithophel (David’s former adviser) gave him counsel on how to kill his father? (2 Sam. 17:1-4) But the whole of 2 Samuel 15-19 tells of the collapse of a rebel. Absalom was the most loved of David’s sons. Though he was destined for the throne, he lost his destiny to rebellion. Privileged and talented people are

the most susceptible to rebellion.

The Bible says the conspiracy was strong and the people increased continually with Absalom (2 Sam. 15:12). May you never join such demonic increase in any set up you are in; it never pays. Every breakaway ministry ends up withering. You cannot disconnect from the root and expect to survive. Ministries can grow from ministries, but it is demonic to get it done through rebellion. The Bible tells us in Luke 22:3 that before the rebellion of Judas, Satan entered him. That is why we are warned not to give place to the devil in Ephesians 4:27.

Absalom died the death of a scapegoat. It was obvious that he would have been the next king after his father, being David's first son. It was there in God's agenda, but he couldn't afford to wait for the appointed time. He must have said, "The way I'm seeing this 'young man' (David), he doesn't want to die yet. When will it be my turn? No! Let's kill him now." Nobody needs to die for you to rise! There are many stars in the sky, and all of them shine. If you're a star, another shining star cannot make you obscure. May you enjoy your covenant position in God and await His timings for your lifting, so that you will not crash like Absalom.

Have you ever heard or seen a head-on collision between two birds in the sky? No! The sky is too broad for that to happen. There is a time and a season for every purpose under the sun. In the physical, can you go up at the same time you're pulling some one else down? Where will you eventually find yourself if you don't stop pulling him down? On the floor of course! You will even get to the floor before the person, causing him to fall upon you! But when you're lifting others up, you will be going up as well. That is exactly what happens when you're pulling any system down: you go down with it. But when you're lifting it up, you go up. Make your choice.

Rebellion is a dangerous trap. It traps people without their knowing it. It's very subtle; it creeps in on people. Satan set that subtle trap for Eve, and she fell for it.

Rebellion is dangerous. I have never seen a rebel that made a name in the Kingdom. Your name is erased the moment you enter into rebellion. That was what happened to Ahithophel when he left his ministry to David and joined his rebellious son, Absalom. The Lord turned his counsel to

foolishness, and Ahithophel ended up hanging himself (2 Sam. 17:23). Rebellion took him away and wiped off his name as well! He was the brain tank of Israel, but was destroyed when he joined Absalom's rebellion. Rebellion terminated his hitherto glorious destiny.

Rebellion always ends one in shame and reproach by the judgment of God that says, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" (Ex. 22:18). This is because 1 Samuel 15:23 tells us:

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...

A witch is not just someone who flies about in the night, looking for blood to suck. God is saying here that no man or woman that is rebellious is permitted to live. The first rebellion recorded in the Bible was that of Satan in heaven (Isa. 14:12-19), and that is why till now he is the influence behind every rebellion.

When you react against leadership, you disqualify yourself from becoming a leader. Rebellion always tells someone, "You can do it better." Miriam and Aaron ganged up against Moses in Numbers 12, and God reacted against them:

And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it.

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Numbers 12:1-2, 9-10

Rebellion always looks around for who to take. Don't be available to be taken. Watch your statements; let them not be calculated against persons and

authority. Stop making insinuations, and shut your door against the devil. Don't let him come inside and disrupt your life.

After reading 2 Timothy 3:1-4, I discovered that all the evil mentioned there can be narrowed down to one thing—rebellion!

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.

It says: “Lovers of their own selves”—that’s Absalom. “Covetous”—He coveted his father’s throne. “Boasters”—He said, *“Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!”*

“Proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents”—He sat at the gate of his father, drawing Israel after himself. “Unthankful, unholy, without natural affection...”—He would go to his father and do obeisance, but it was all hypocrisy. It was mechanical, no natural affection.

All these culminated in the trap of rebellion, which became his undoing. Listen friend, there’s going to be such a release of the spirit of rebellion this end-time, that people who don’t know its naked name will easily become its victims. The moment you begin to react against order, you are a rebel. It usually doesn’t begin on a large scale; it creeps in unnoticed. Your boss gives you an instruction for instance, and then you carry it out reluctantly. You’re already registering in the school of rebellion.

Something happened in a church in one of our cities in 1992. Some fellows in the church rose up against their pastor. One man in particular was the ringleader. He was raging and ranting, pointing accusing fingers at the pastor. The pastor warned, “Let’s be careful, so that what happened to Ananias and Sapphira will not happen here.” But the man stood up and continued to talk. Right there and then in church, he slumped and died! His wife was there, and saw how it all happened, so no one would say somebody killed him. He died in rebellion.

Friend, before sin sinks you, sink it! The end of rebellion is death. Absalom died. Dathan, Korah, Abiram and their entire household died. Ahithophel and Judas died as well. If by any chance you are already caught in the trap of rebellion, withdraw from it now, and free your life. You don't need to curse a rebel; he's cursed already.

In the last days, there will be releases of the spirits of rebellion. They will gather in too many creeping forms. There are rebellious wives, and I perceive rebellious husbands as well, who don't believe in order. When you don't believe in order, you are a rebel. You may call it reaction, but God calls it rebellion. And He says it is like the sin of witchcraft. So, if you are in rebellion, you're a witch. You will not be caught!

Rebellion, as we saw in 1 Samuel 15:23, is equated with witchcraft. And we know that Exodus 22:18 says that no witch is permitted to live. She must die. This is not talking about second death, but judgmental death. The end of rebellion is death.

There's a vivid illustration given in James 1:14-15:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

That's why I said before sin finishes you, you should finish it, because when sin finishes, it results in death. So don't wait. Rebellion is dangerous; none of its victims ever survives. Instructions are to be obeyed, not to be discussed. The obedient makes the greatest mark in the Kingdom. So go for obedience, and leave rebellion alone, as your opinion is your greatest trap into rebellion.

It's also important to note that rebellion is an issue of the heart. Though it occasionally finds expression through the mouth, it's actually an issue of the heart. You don't need to be rebellious for any reason at all. So take your time and walk in wisdom. When the devil whispers rebellion in your heart, tell him, "Shut up, I know better!"

Now, I commend you, therefore, to God, for a rebellion-free life; a life that jumps at obedience, and is open enough for God to instruct and direct. May

God give you understanding, so that you will celebrate every instruction that comes as another step up the ladder for you, and celebrate it from your heart. Don't try to look at any instruction objectively; look at it obediently, with all the excitement you can stir up in you. Then you will be on your way to the top. Then will you begin to walk in the newness of life.

3

Controlling Powers

In this chapter, I will be discussing another dimension of the sin problem - the subject of controlling powers. Many are held captive in sin because there are controlling powers that won't let them go. But I have good news for you: you can be free from them! There is a way out of sin, so you can walk in the newness of life.

The last days' operation of iniquity, unlike previous times, is on the frequency of mysteries. The wicked shall do more wickedly, because forces have been let loose from hell, to hold and keep the sons of God in bondage.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2

There's a law of sin, a force that remotely controls, subjects and brings innocent sons of men into captivity. Paul talks about this in Romans chapter 7:

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:18-19, 21-23

There's a law of sin. A law is a force. The law of sin is a force; it's a control! There are many things you never intended to do, but somehow there are forces (controlling forces in the air) that want to take advantage of your ignorance of the real battle. Or how do you explain this - somebody got drunk with alcohol yesterday, and in his stupor slept in the gutter. He wakes up the following morning to find himself in the gutter. Should he go to his drinking joint again? No! But on his way back from work that same day, instead of going home, he goes back on his drinking spree! That's a man under the law of sin! He can't help himself.

The Bible describes this man:

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.

Romans 8:20

The Bible says such a man is held, "not willingly." There are forces called "rulers of the darkness of this world." They are behind all the works of darkness. They are spirits. They are forces in the spiritual realm, out to devastate the destinies of men. Ephesians 6:12 tells us:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Our battles are essentially spiritual. It will, therefore, require a spiritual approach to have our desired victory. There are habits and there are controls. Controls are remote in nature. They are in the air. They are called "spiritual wickedness in heavenly places."

There's a spiritual dimension to those terrible and demonic habits and depressive moods you sometime find yourself. They are organised by hell, to disconnect you from your source. For instance, there are many men who

have vowed: “I will never beat my wife again!” They have knelt down to pray and to ask God for forgiveness. They have even called themselves names, but all to no avail.

That wild anger, that depression that you can't seem to trace its source is the work of controlling powers. You're jumping and praising the Lord one minute, and the next you're like a “deputy devil”. Demonic controls are behind them. A man given to anger doesn't need anyone to say anything to make him angry; he just gets angry over anything, whether good or bad, because of the bondage of the law of sin and death. It's there in him warring.

*And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit;
and he cried out,*

Mark 1:23

There is what is called unclean spirit. Everyman that is reacting against the Word of righteousness is under the bondage of unclean spirits. And what is the mission of unclean spirits? To make men walk in all manner of uncleanness. Let's look at some scriptures that establish the reality of these controlling spirits.

The Spirit Of The World

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit
which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely
given to us of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:12

There is a spirit of the world. First John 2:15-17 tells us what that spirit commands:

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any
man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the
eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The spirit of the world commands the activities of the lust of the flesh. It monitors, supervises, co-ordinates, and organises the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Let's look at Peter's case:

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Matthew 16:22

Jesus was talking about His coming death, and Peter, influenced by one of these negative spirits, began to rebuke Him. The rulers of this wicked world and the wicked spirits in high places are the forces we are contending with. These forces influence people to do things against God, so they can fall under His judgment.

See how they manipulated Peter, who had just proclaimed Jesus as the Christ by revelation. "*Neither flesh nor blood has revealed this to you,*" Jesus had told him. The devil then decided to also reveal something to him. So Peter took Jesus and began to rebuke Him. He was under a strange influence from the pit of hell.

Anything that causes spiritual arrogance and rebellion is the work of the spirit of the world. Jesus saw beyond the man Peter, and so turned and said:

Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Matthew 16:23

When the things of God don't matter to you, you are under the influence of one of the rulers of this wicked world. Every time you see your spirit not embracing the truth of life, know that there is a strange influence trying to tear down your destiny. So be smart enough to say, like Jesus did, "Get thee behind me Satan!"

Judas was also a victim of the spirit of the world.

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

Luke 22:3

Rebellion is a demonic activity perpetrated by evil influences. Satan entered Judas, and caused him to betray the Master. These are not natural forces. They are essentially spiritual, demonic, and satanic forces, aimed at men's destinies, to destroy them. You will not be destroyed in Jesus name!

The spirit of the world has destroyed many families. The woman wants everything money can buy, until she wears the man out. That is the lust of the eyes. A man or woman who wears clothes bought on credit is under the captivity of the spirit of the world—the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes. To see a wristwatch that is worth thousands of dollars and go for it, while other pressing issues are left unattended to is sickening!

Friend, these things work so subtly. You don't hear the footsteps of a serpent, do you? Now tell me, what is a man doing with two cars, when he's only just starting a business? Meanwhile, he's all over the place looking for capital. He is committing a capital sin! He's under the influence of a remote control from the realm of the unseen.

The spirit of the world puts people in bondage via the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. Some people are looking for what business to do, meanwhile the jewelries they have on add up to more than the capital they need. When our ministry first started, I had just three coats and two trousers. I just kept combining them. Yet I was the "President General" of the ministry.

Who is looking at you? The worth of a man is not in his dress; it's in his address! Your worth is in your value to men, not in the things you put on your body. For instance, if a harlot wears all manner of expensive apparel, does that make her an honourable woman? That title "harlot" has already destroyed the glamour of the clothes. Have you ever seen a beautiful beggar? The fact that he is a beggar has eroded whatever beauty he has.

The spirit of the world is what is tormenting your mind, that won't let you be contented with or be grateful to God; but rather keeps your mind panting after things. Haven't you heard that godliness with contentment is great

gain? (1 Tim. 6:6)

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2:1-3

It says, “the prince of the power of the air”. So wherever air is, that’s where he operates. The prince of the power of the air is what moves a man into the lust of the flesh and all that accompanies it. Now, look into the air and say: “*Christ has given me power against unclean spirits. Prince of the air, hear my voice: I am not subject to your authority. Your influence will no longer find access into my life, my flesh, or my mind. No, no more!*”

The things in the world—the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life—are all machinations of the spirit of the world. And when they capture you, you become an enemy of God.

...Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

No enemy of God has a future. Remember Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod and others. It is the love of God that guarantees a glorious living; it is what guarantees you newness of life.

Lying Spirit

There Is Also A Lying Spirits

And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

1 Kings 22:22

There is a lying spirit, and you may even look so anointed under its influence!

Lying is one of those demonic influences over people's lives, to make them come under God's wrath. Listen to this brother's testimony:

"I used to indulge in everything you can think of, except smoking. And since I got born again last year, I started trying to stop all these things. I used to go out with a lot of girls, and also indulged in lying. I took lying as impossible to stop. I thought one couldn't stop lying, even after being born again.

But at the January Signs and Wonders Week, the Bishop said, 'If you take holiness to be unachievable, you will die in sin.' Then I prayed to God, that I wanted to stop lying. Before, I was a master fabricator of lies! Whenever my friends were in trouble, they would come to me and say, 'Dare, this is what we want, this is how it is.' After telling me everything, I would help fabricate a lie that would settle the matter.

After hearing the Bishop, however, I told God I wanted to stop lying. And glory be to God, yesterday, I was just thinking and I cast my mind back, trying to remember when last I told a lie. One of the pastors said the devil is like shit to us, that he has no value. That's how lying and every form of sin are to me now. I give God the glory."

This brother was under the influence of a lying spirit. Those who won't go to heaven know from here, since it is written that all liars won't go there (Rev. 21:8). You know if you are a liar; so don't expect to be raptured.

The Spirit Of Bondage

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye

have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:15

There is also a spirit of bondage. It gets people tied down, locked up, and chained. This spirit is responsible for all manner of afflictions that people suffer. Talking about the woman that was under affliction for eighteen years in Luke 13:16, Jesus asked:

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound...be loosed from this bond...?

That's the spirit of bondage. It is a spirit of captivity. It just captures you. For instance, how do you explain somebody who is coughing and yet smoking? Meanwhile, he has been told at the hospital that he has tuberculosis. He doesn't want to die, yet he keeps smoking and he is coughing as a result. He is under the arrest of the spirit of bondage, the spirit that causes addiction to evil.

There is an addiction to corruption, and it is as a result of the spirit of bondage. It gets people addicted to evil without any feelings. But when Jesus was here on earth ministering, He went about healing many who were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38). Everything binding you to what you don't want is a spirit of bondage, and you can be free from it now.

The Spirit Of Whoredoms

They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.

Hosea 5:4

There is a spirit of whoredoms. It constantly craves filthiness, sexual immorality, making motions in the body, etc. You have cried secretly for help or deliverance, and you have fasted and prayed, yet you can't break away from it. It's a spirit at work—the spirit of whoredoms. That's the spirit of adultery and fornication. That crave for adultery in you is a spirit, it's a

control by an unclean spirit. The good news: you have power over it! Jesus gave us power against unclean spirits, to cast them out (Matt. 10:1).

The Spirit Of Disobedience

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:1-2

There is also a spirit of disobedience, and its' ministry is to fulfill the desires of the flesh and the mind. This spirit works disobedience in people, going through the flesh and the mind to take people away from God's presence, so they can be afflicted and tormented. But the hour for your liberty has come.

“Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Paul lamented. Whereas habits may be handled by the will (determination), vow or choice, spiritual controls require much more. But thank God there's a way out! The Bible says:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Let me now show you the way out of sin and controlling powers that are set to destroy you. You can walk in the newness of life; you can live a holy life! God has given you all you need to live life to the fullest, free of the devil and all his influences.

4

You Can Disarm Sin

At the root of every human calamity is sin. Until the root of sin is destroyed, the tree will keep bearing fruits. But destroy the root, and you've killed the tree.

There is an answer to every human question in the Bible. God has made adequate provisions to cover all the problems of life. So the sin question has an absolute answer with Him. When you locate that answer, you step into your freedom.

In the race for righteousness, man is the determining factor, not the devil. I want you to know that you can disarm sin. Let me show you how.

New Birth

The new birth is the beginning of the adventure into holiness.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

Until you're saved, you can't be safe from sin. Please understand that the scriptures cannot be broken. God is no respecter of persons, nor is He a respecter of colour, connections or age. Until you become a child of God,

you're not safe, for the Bible says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4).

Until you become a child of God, there's a death sentence hanging over your head, your education, status, age and connections not withstanding. The Bible says:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12

God had no business sending Jesus to the world, except for love sake. Would you reject the love of God? Would you frustrate His grace?

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.

John 3:16

As many as will open up to Jesus and say, "Jesus, have mercy and forgive me", will He save. Sin will loose its grip on you instantly. But as many as will not receive Him will be destroyed. If you're too old, too civilized or too smart to accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you can't escape destruction, for:

...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

Everything takes its root in righteousness. It is only after the Son of God is received into your life, and with all your heart, that every other blessing in heaven begins to follow. Look at what the Psalmist said in Psalm 103:2-5:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with

lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

If it is your choice today to be free from filthiness and to walk in newness of life, there's a blood flowing from Emmanuel's vein, ready to cleanse and sanctify you, and to make you whole.

Sit Down And Think

Another treatment for sin is to sit down and think. If only anyone struggling with sin would do this, then the sin problem will be more than half solved. Haggai 1:5 says to you:

Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

This next scripture should help your reasoning:

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

Proverbs 6:32-33

Now, ask yourself, "Is that what I want to get?" If the answer is no, why must you do what will cause you a wound and land you in dishonour? The Yorubas (a major tribe in western Nigeria) describe repentance as "Ironu p'iwa da". That is, thinking to effect changes—that is, thinking your way through to positive changes. You remember the story of the Prodigal Son? He came to a point where he decided to stop and think, and his story changed from there. The Bible says, "When he came to himself..." (Lk. 15:17).

We need to sit down and find out from God's Word, asking ourselves, "What benefit can sin offer? What benefit has it ever offered any man?" The Prodigal Son reasoned his way back home; you should too. God said in

Isaiah 1:18:

Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If you don't know how to think, you'll never know how to turn. Stop and think now, so you can turn.

Exercise Yourself

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Acts 24:16

Christianity is a race, and exercise is the rule of championship in sports. Exercise is what begets exploits, as no one excels in anything without exercise. Nothing goes without a force being applied to it. The kingdom of God suffers violence, and only the violent take it by force. Every object assumes a state of rest, until a force is applied.

Godliness is established by exercise. Until you apply force in the handling of the sin issue, it will remain. But when you exercise yourself against any or all forms of unrighteousness, heaven will declare your righteousness. The very gentle and weak way you are handling sin is the reason it has remained for so long. You need to put an end to it, and fast too. Paul told Timothy:

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Godliness is not cheap; the opposition is tense. Therefore, you require a lot

of exercises to overcome sin completely. “Exercise yourself unto godliness.” Godliness is profitable unto all things, but requires spiritual exercise to be enforced. It’s time to get on the line, so you will not be pushed out of the way. Holiness is the fastest vehicle on earth to anywhere you desire to get to. That is why God is calling the Church back to order: sin is not a friend of anybody; it is a silent destroyer! It has cast down and wounded many. Many strong men have been slain by it.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Corinthians 9:25

And verse 24 says:

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Righteousness is a spiritual sport that requires exercise. It demands you accepting personal responsibility. Paul continued:

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

Your body can be subjected and hooked to the grace of God by the power of your will. To “keep under” your body means to exercise it. You say to immorality, “No!” To bribery and corruption, “No!” You say to your body, “Shut up there!” As anointed as he was, Paul said he had to exercise himself to the height he got to. That means you also need to exercise yourself against bitterness, envy, strife, immorality, lying, etc. Bring your body under and say to your mouth, “Shut up!” Say to your eyes, “No, look here, not there!”

There is no luck in sports; only those who exercise excel. If you don’t

exercise, you'll fail. No wrestler enters the ring banking on luck; otherwise he would be broken into pieces. No matter what the horoscopes say about you that day, if you're not used to the punches of a boxer, and you enter the ring with one, when he hits you, you will have your teeth and jaw in separate parts! Boxers do exercise. They put some heavy stuff in a sack and begin to hit it so that when flesh hits them while fighting, it won't break them—they are already used to the bruises from the punch bag. Now, receive strength against the traps of hell, so you can walk in the newness of life. Your destiny will not crash!

Paul said to Timothy:

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

*No man that wareth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;
that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

*And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned,
except he strive lawfully.*

2 Timothy 2:3-5

The word “strive” connotes exercise. Romans 14:22 says:

*Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that
condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.*

So nothing happens in your life without your permission. When you say, “No” to sin, hell must bow. Disallow corruption from now on and take your stand for practical holiness beginning from now by standing against the arrows of the wicked and the manoeuvrings of hell.

In Philippians 3:12-17, Paul said:

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:
but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am
apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one
thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching*

forth unto those things which are before,

I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you,

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

All these are forms of exercises. Determine in your heart to follow the rules—the law of holiness. Be determined to be like Jesus, to follow until you're like Him. If Paul pressed, how much more do you need to. If he was following after, you too should. If he did something, you must do something too to keep yourself pure. First John 3:3 says:

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Stop waiting for someone else to do it for you; you and I must purify ourselves. The prodigal son reasoned his way back home from penury, Paul exercised himself into glory, you too can make your way back into glory. Godly exercise is the pathway to a dignified Christian life. James 1:12-15 has this to say:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Temptation can be overcome; it's a hurdle to be crossed over. God tempts no man with evil; rather, every man is tempted by his own lust (Jms. 1:14). So before sin finishes you, finish it! Receive strength for godly exercise from this hour! Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41).

There are many ways of exercising one's self unto godliness. One way is through the Word of God.

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Ezekiel 36:24-25

Ephesians 5:26 also says:

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

The clean water is the clean Word of God. Jesus said to the disciples in John 15:3:

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

God's Word cleanses people. If you want to be free from immorality for instance, read Proverbs 5, 6 and 7, and you will be free. It is clean water; it will clean you up. Psalm 119:9 says:

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

God's Word cleanses and washes people clean. That's why you must exercise yourself in it. That way, you can launch a counter attack against the attacks of the devil. The Bible says:

...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19

And Psalm 107:20 tells us that,

“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

God’s Word is a vital treatment for sin; exercise yourself in it.

Cast Off

Another way of exercising yourself in righteousness is to cast off all forms of unrighteousness around you.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Romans 13:12

“*Cast Off!*” These are the same words implied in Mark 16:17, where Jesus said we will cast out devils in His name. “*Cast off*” connotes a force. It implies that you can get yourself out of sin. You say to that spirit of adultery, or that spirit of lying: “Loose your grip off me, in the name of Jesus!” And off it goes.

After you have made your choice for righteousness, and have entered into a covenant with God with an oath never to be found in that thing again, and the motions of that sin is still trying to move in your body, cast it out! That sin is a stranger in a hiding place, waiting to devour and destroy your destiny; therefore, cast it out!

The Bible advises us to, “Cast off the works of darkness...!” And in Mark 6:7, we are told that:

He called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits.

We saw them return in Luke 10:17 with the report that, “even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.” Jesus said: “I give you power over unclean spirits to cast them out.” I want you to know that you have power, given to you by Jesus, to cast out unclean spirits. You can cast out all manner of unclean spirits that are trying to destroy your glorious destiny. You can do this by exercising your power to cast off filth from your life.

Command It To Enter No More!

After casting off sin and all forms of evil from your life, exercise yourself even further by commanding it to enter no more; otherwise, you will keep battling with sin, and your latter state might be worse than your former, like Jesus illustrated in this scripture.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Matthew 12:43-45

Oh, what a very innocent Christian! He succeeded in casting out the spirit that was oppressing him. But finding him clean, the spirit reinforces seven more wicked spirits than himself and comes back, seeking to possess him again! Unclean spirits of sin are roaming about, looking for where to land—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, all looking for who to capture. But you can handle them!

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him,

Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and

enter no more into him.

Mark 9:25

Listen friend, when you cast out the evil spirit of sin from your life, command it to enter no more forever, and secure the place with the blood of Jesus.

Put Off!

You can put off unrighteousness just the same way you put off your clothes. Hear what the Bible says:

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:8

I'd like you to see the weakness of the controlling spirits of sin. When a strongman, armed, keeps his goods, his goods are in safety. But it will take a stronger man to come upon him and overcome him. The same way, the moment you see Satan as being stronger than you, you will remain his captive for life.

The Bible says, "Put off!", not, "Struggle to put off." God is telling you to put off because He knows you can. You can put off anger, malice, wrath, blasphemy, filthy communications out of your mouth, etc. It also says, "Lie not one to another..." That means you can put off lying too.

Verse 9 of Colossians 3 tells us to, "Put off the old man with his deeds." When I get home at the end of a day's work, I always tell my children to take off my shoes for me. I don't have to start praying that the shoes should obey me when I want to put them off. No! I just go ahead and take them off. That means the works of the flesh are as lifeless as the clothes or shoes you put on and off. So you can put them off at will!

I want you to have a superiority complex against sin and controlling spirits. That way, you will see them as things you can handle.

Put On...

After you have put off unrighteousness, you need to put on righteousness. In that same Colossians chapter 3, verse 10 says, “*And have put on the new man...*” It’s just like changing clothes! You put off this (sin) and put on that (righteousness). You put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the new man. Verses 12 and 14 further say:

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Now you see that you can put off anything you don’t want and put on that which you want. That is the only reason God will judge anybody: because sin has no more power over every redeemed child of God. Since we are involved, He sees what we are doing as our choice, and that’s why we are punished for it. Is that sin you are involved in right now your choice? If your answer is “No!” then put it off!

You need to possess a sense of superiority, in order to enhance your exercise of authority. Sin is a thing to put off at will. You can will it where you are right now, and that motion in your flesh will die; and you can put in its’ place the one you desire.

Lay Aside!

You can also lay aside that spirit of bondage, that spirit of whoredoms, that lying spirit, etc. You have the power to lay it aside, otherwise God wouldn’t ask you to do so.

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

The Bible also says:

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 13:14

That means it's only your provision or permission that grants it entrance. As far as God is concerned, sin and all forms of unrighteousness have no power over you.

Mortify!

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.

Colossians 3:5-6

To mortify means to destroy. You can destroy fornication, you can destroy lasciviousness, and you can destroy envy and all the likes. We need to mortify the deeds of the flesh through the Spirit, because they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Therefore, mortify the deeds of the flesh, so you can live in the newness of life!

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:13

I'd like you to be violent, because there's no gentleman at the warfront! It's a survival of the fittest. The other side has no mercy, so you shouldn't. The instruction is: "See him first and get him down."

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

Psalms 119:9

That is, you can use God's Word (what He is saying) to mortify the deeds of the flesh.

Purge Yourself!

Here is what the Word of God commands:

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

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:3

Who is to do the purifying? You!

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:21

Who is to keep himself? You! You have to accept that responsibility. First John 5:18 also says:

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Who keeps himself? You! The ball is in your court. Accepting personal responsibility is what establishes a man's dignity and victory over sin. So stop looking out for who to blame. Exercise yourself unto godliness, and

walk in the newness of life!

Go For Light

Another very effective way to disarm sin is to go for light—the Word of God.

And then shall the wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“*The spirit of his mouth and the brightness of his coming*” is talking about revelation, insight, and depth. We are talking about intense revelation, which will disarm the mystery of iniquity. There will be such brightness of light from heaven, revealing the weakness of sin, to establish the triumph of the saints.

We are going to be engaging the revelations of the kingdom to disarm the corruptions of hell. “*The brightness of His light! The Spirit of His mouth!*” There’s going to be such an electric effect from the spoken Word, that will liberate men totally and completely from sin. We are going to use revelations to counter destructions.

The Bible says, “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*”, not because the devil is strong in any way. He only hides behind your ignorance to afflict you. But I have good news for you:

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple

Psalms 119:130

And this light shines in darkness, and darkness can’t handle it (Jn. 1:5)! So when God’s Word is fired into your heart, your struggles with sin will come to an end. The night is far spent, the day is nigh; therefore, put on the armour of light, so that darkness will not be able to hang around you. Put on the armour of light, so that integrity can manifest in your life.

Jesus is coming here for a glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. A glorious group of people! Sin which has slain so many will be slain in our own time. The devastating effect of sin will become history; it will not destroy anymore. When the Word comes with intense revelation, all the wickedness of the enemy is subdued.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

Let us, therefore, engage the mystery of Christ to counter the mystery of iniquity that's already at work. God will provide such brightness of light that will cheaply disarm the forces of darkness. He said He will destroy him, *"with the spirit of his mouth and the brightness of his coming"*. That is, God's Word coming forth like fire, destroying all the stubbles and chaff of hell.

You can disarm sin, you can conquer controlling powers, and you can walk in the newness of life. And the good news is that you have all it takes to do it. So, go for it!

5

Your God-Given Tools

We discussed how you can disarm sin in the preceding chapter. In it I showed you the role you must play in your fight against sin. You have a personal responsibility if you desire to live a holy life, one that is pleasing to the Father.

In this chapter, I will be showing you some tools God has provided you with, and which you can apply in winning the war against sin. You can walk in newness of life, because all you need to do so has been divinely provided. Indeed, God has given us all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

Every bondage is an operation of a spirit—the spirit of bondage, which is Satan himself. That is why in your fight against sin it is not what you want, but what he wants. And to destroy what he wants, we must catch him in the frequency he operates in. Satan is also a spirit, and he operates by spirits. For instance, there's the spirit of fear, of bondage, and unclean spirits.

In chapter six of Romans, Paul makes us understand that sin disconnects us from God. Then in chapter seven, he came up with the understanding of the helplessness of the mortal man to deal with it. And in chapter eight, he introduces us to the help of the Spirit, which brings our desired victory.

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

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

The law of one spirit subdues the law of another spirit, just as Moses' rod swallowed up the rods of the Egyptian magicians. The superior rod will

always swallow the lesser one, bringing it under subjection. The superior Spirit will swallow the operations of the inferior spirits of iniquity. This is made very clear in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8:

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

God has made provisions for His sons and daughters to destroy the mystery of iniquity that is on the earth today. That provision is found in 1 Timothy 3:16:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness...

Thank God there is a higher mystery on our side—the mystery of godliness! The answer to the mystery of iniquity is the mystery of godliness. The great mystery of godliness will easily consume the mystery of iniquity. The mystery of godliness seeks justification in the Spirit.

What the law demands is made possible by the operations of the law of the Spirit. The law on its own is helpless to bring you to a place of sanctity. But when you operate the law of the Spirit, you are able to walk automatically, fulfilling the righteousness of the law. When you walk in the flesh (i.e. when you have only your will and your determination), you don't really have a future. This is because of attacks that may weigh down on your will or your determination. But there's a higher help.

The Holy Spirit

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

The Holy Spirit is that superior helper God has provided for you in your fight against sin. When you come to your wits' end, that's where He begins. True liberty from sin is impossible without the operation of the Spirit of God.

...And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Zechariah 4:6 tells us that in our fight for righteousness, it is:

...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

This is because it takes the Holy Spirit to subdue unholy spirits. Do you know that uncleanness is a spirit? And what does the unclean spirit do? It brings filth and dirt. Since it is law for law, and Spirit for spirit, it will take the Holy Spirit to swallow up the unclean spirits that are set against you.

Moses' rod swallowed the rods of the magicians because it was a superior rod. The unclean spirits have their source in Satan, a fallen angel, whereas the Holy Spirit has His source in God. To destroy the unclean spirits, therefore, you must be operating by the Holy Spirit.

When the devil possesses a man, they say he's mad, and the man goes about in filth. He no longer knows what it is to take his bath or to comb his hair, because he is possessed by an unclean spirit. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon such a man (by the operation of the messengers of God), he discovers he had been unclean. You need that same Holy Spirit now, so that He can swallow up the mysteries of uncleanness at work in any area of your life.

Remember, He is also the Spirit of holiness. So if you're thirsty for holiness, then go for the Spirit of holiness, for we're not contending with flesh and blood, but with spirits. We can only subdue and disarm these evil and unclean spirits by the Spirit of holiness.

But how do you get the Holy Spirit to work on your behalf, so He can swallow up all the unclean spirits that are out to destroy you with their satanic venom?

A Genuine Thirst

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:1

Are you thirsty for holiness? Jesus said:

...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:37-38

This means that it takes a thirst to pull down the Spirit of holiness. You cannot connect to His flow without a thirst.

Are you truly thirsty for the flow of holiness? Then go for the release of the Spirit of holiness, for that is your surest security against the wantonness of unclean spirits. We are in a spiritual conflict, and can't afford to mistake it for natural issues. We are confronted daily by trenches dug by the enemy, with a determination and an oath to bury us in them. So, we need to be spiritually armed.

However, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty (and spiritual) through God, to the pulling down of strongholds. There is no true liberty, except by the Spirit; for wherever the Spirit of God is, there is liberty. Every natural technique can fail, but the Spirit of holiness will never fail in our conflict against sin. True liberty from unrighteousness is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, "For by strength shall no man prevail" (1 Sam. 2:9).

Therefore, you must be genuinely thirsty for the Spirit of holiness. He will destroy every uprising of sin in your life. Isaiah 59:19 says:

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory

from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

When the spirit of sin and filth is flooding your life with a dogged, devilish, and hellish determination to floor you, the Holy Spirit is your only reliable help. We have always sought to connect with Him for power, but He also works holiness, so as to enhance the release of power.

Until holiness is worked, the flow of power is damned. So let's get thirsty for the Holy Spirit, and for His ministry of holiness to find total expression in us. David yearned for it:

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Psalm 63:1-2

When heaven sanctions your thirst, your place of security is guaranteed. It's like David was crying, "In a place where almost no one else has a testimony of holiness, in a place that is dry of holiness, dry of your glory, dry of your honour, my soul thirsteth and my flesh longeth for thee. I want to connect with your Spirit, so I can make a difference."

If you're connected to God and to His Holy Spirit, you don't need any human connection on this earth to climb to the top. He's more than sufficient; He's all you'll ever need. When you find your help in God, you're helped indeed! But a genuine thirst and longing is what will connect you to the flow of the Spirit of holiness.

There are certain things choking you privately that only the Holy Spirit can break. Isaiah 10:27 gives us that assurance:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

The Holy Spirit destroys yokes. He's your access to true liberty; He's the key to true holiness. When He takes charge, the enemy can never again floor you. When He takes charge, He puts you in charge.

The holiness you desire is a product of the Spirit of holiness. When you thirst for the Spirit of holiness, you have entered into your realm of holiness, because the law of the Spirit goes into operation, to deliver you from the law of sin and death. But if there's no thirst, there's no access. It takes a desire to have an accomplishment. It takes your desperate yearning for the Spirit of holiness to escape the terrible, mysterious, heavy, and "rocket" attacks of the enemy against the Church (Rev. 12:12). Satan has vowed to corrupt the wealth of Zion, so we must be fully armed, for we are not fighting against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12).

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:11-12

The ministry of the Holy Ghost is principally the ministry of purity. He's the purifying fire; He's the refiner's fire!

Walk In The Spirit

This I say then, Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:16-17

To walk in the Spirit means to operate in the Spirit, to engage the Holy Spirit

in your earthly walk—to take advantage of His ministry against the works of the flesh.

The spirit works contrary to the flesh, and the flesh to the spirit. So if you don't walk in the spirit, the flesh will subdue your spirit, and entangle you the more in sin and unrighteousness. But when you engage the Holy Spirit, you subdue the flesh. The scriptures tell us in Romans 8:3-4:

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The righteousness of the law can be fulfilled. How? By walking after the Spirit, by engaging the law of the Spirit of life in battle.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 8:5-7

It is impossible to be free from the law of sin and death without the law of the Spirit. It takes the law of the Spirit to break the law of sin and death, because:

...They that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the

Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:8-11

The Holy Spirit dwelling inside you is the way to cheaply disarm the law of sin and death, hence we need to walk in the spirit.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:12, 14

Paul said even we too do groan for the redemption of our body (verse 23). Your greatest enemy is this body; but there is help from above for you through the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is the force that guarantees your security in the conflicts of life. Therefore, you must be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Jesus was so filled with the Spirit that the flesh had no hold on Him (Lk. 4:1-13). That is why Paul admonishes us to:

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

The Holy Spirit has power to put all the evils listed above to death in our members, if we walk in the Spirit.

Ask For Him

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:13

It's not enough to be thirsty for the Spirit of holiness; you need to go a step further by asking for Him. The good news is: when you ask for Him, you will receive Him.

In Acts 4, we are told that the disciples prayed, and the place where they were praying shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke God's Word with boldness. They prayed down the Holy Spirit. You too must pray down the Spirit of holiness.

I'd like you to know this: God will give you the Holy Spirit faster than any other thing, if you will just be thirsty for Him, and then express your thirst with a genuine call for Him in prayer. Until the Holy Spirit takes control, your body remains dead (Rom. 8:13). Until you call Him by His very name, you will never see His holiness at work. He comes to thoroughly purge your system and burn the chaff with an unquenchable fire.

So, engage the Spirit. Get into cloud-forming prayers in the Spirit (like Elijah did). *Paul said in Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."* When you engage the Holy Spirit in warfare prayers against your flesh, a wind begins to blow inside you. It will gather the chaff, bind them up, and finally set them on unquenchable fire (Matt. 3:11-12). The fire of the Holy Ghost establishes God's judgment against the forces of evil warring against you, enabling you to walk in the newness of life.

Pray In Tongues

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

Jude 20

Praying in the Holy Ghost means praying in tongues. It builds you up on your faith for holiness. Praying in the Holy Ghost is a missing vital key in our adventure in holiness. It provides access into the realms of holiness; because Romans 8:26-27 says:

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

So, when you pray in an unknown tongue, you are praying yourself into the centre of God's will, which is that you be clean. That leper came to Jesus and said: *"If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean"* (Matt. 8:2). And Jesus said to him, *"I will, be thou clean."* Sin is a form of leprosy. And just like the physical leprosy separates you from men, this one separates you from God. Cleanliness is God's will for you.

The Holy Ghost prays you into the will of God, for He makes intercessions for the saints according to the will of God. That is to say He organises your life to fall in line with the will of God. First Corinthians 2:11 tell us that the Holy Ghost knows the mind of God. So as you pray in the Holy Ghost, He channels you into the mind of God.

The ultimate height of holiness is attainable by a mysterious law of the Spirit, which is praying in the Holy Ghost. He helps us pray with unimpeded access to heaven. One of the greatest men in the Bible, with open testimonies of holiness (Paul the apostle) said:

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.

1 Corinthians 14:18

Praying in the Holy Ghost is a personal gift for your personal victory; it's not for public show. It is to help chart your course into the will of God. It's a private confidential weapon. When you come face-to-face with an attack of sin, you get into your room and burst out in tongues, and immediately, your taste for that sin will be paralysed, because deliverance will answer from

heaven as you pray yourself into the centre of the will of God.

You can put to death the works of those controls that seek to destroy your life and destiny by engaging the Spirit against them. Look at it this way: when the water level in a hydro electricity supply dam is low, the power supply has to be rationed, because the rate of the turning of the turbines is reduced, thereby reducing power supply as well. The same way, when your water level is low, the river of God inside you is low, just as the power it generates is low. What should you then do? You should pray from the depth of your heart for an infilling. Burst forth in tongues, praying in the Spirit. Let the earth under you shake, and let your life be filled to overflowing with the Spirit of life!

Every time you pray in the Spirit against the motions of the flesh—anger, lust, covetousness, depression—you are commanding the judgment of the Spirit against the forces that are controlling your life remotely from the spirit realm. Don't let that thing stay on, pray! Pray in the Holy Ghost!

That motion in your flesh can be consumed. That lying, that crave for adultery, drugs, beating of your wife, and yelling at your children can all be consumed. All you need do is engage the Spirit; and as you pray in tongues, you will devastate the works of the flesh.

Paul had the brightest testimony of holiness among all the other apostles. Speaking in tongues was one of his secrets. It's an adventure into the realm of holiness. It keeps you strong in your communication with heaven.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2

When you pray in tongues, your communication is outside the devil's understanding. He can't connect, so he can't attack. He doesn't know what you're talking about. As you're praying or speaking in tongues, the fire of the Holy Ghost begins to work inside your body, to burn off all the chaff and purify you for the Lord's coming. This is a very efficient way of purifying yourself as He commanded in 1 John 3:3.

Cry: “Abba Father!”

Here is another way of breaking the power of sin and controlling spirits over your life and destiny.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ABBA, FATHER.

Romans 8:15

The spirit of adoption is a forgotten treasure in the Church today. It is the spirit that says to God, “*This can’t be above You! This is not greater than You! You can handle this, Father!*” This is the spirit that was at work when Jesus cried out on the cross, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” (Matt. 27:46). The Father must have responded, “No! There’s an agenda. I’m going to bring You out,” and He did!

Satan can no longer force you into doing whatever is not your will, because the spirit of adoption has come alive in you. I would like you to invoke the spirit of adoption for your absolute and total liberty now. When you invoke the spirit of adoption, you are saying to Satan, “I will show you whose son I am!”

Now, go ahead and invoke the spirit of adoption. Say to your Father:

“Abba Father! This Pharaoh is not stronger than You.

This depression that goes and comes, Abba Father!

This spirit of bondage, Abba Father!

This addiction to evil, Abba Father!

This control that I can’t even trace, Abba Father!”

The spirit of bondage will always bow to the spirit of adoption. So I want you to target that area of your life that has been a problem, and begin to cry,

“Abba Father!”

One time the devil came against me with a heavy attack, and I said to him, “*Satan, you just watch. I’m going to show you whose son I am.*” *That is the spirit of adoption, that is crying, “Abba Father!”*

“Did You not fully pay for my total redemption? Abba Father! This is not my will, why is somebody remotely controlling me? Abba Father!”

When the “spirit of adoption”, so to say, came upon the Prodigal Son, he said, “*I will go to my father,*” meaning, “Rescue me from this dying state!” That is Abba Father!

Let’s get back to this forgotten treasure, as it’s the Father’s gift to His children for triumphant living on earth. Deliverance will always answer whenever you cry, “Abba Father!”

Engage The Blood Weapon

A brother was delivered from drug addiction after reading one of my books, *The Blood Triumph*. He said anytime he was gripped with the urge for drugs, he would say, “*The blood of Jesus!*” and the taste would die.

Friend, backed up by the blood of the covenant, you become indestructible and insurmountable in the war against sin! You become a threat to the devil. All you need is a genuine choice and decision against sin and unrighteousness.

The blood is our purging mystery. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 5:7:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

There is a total purging of everything you present for purging when you drink the blood in communion, sprinkle it or call out to the blood for help. The blood of Jesus is the strongest treatment for sin. The blood of Jesus is our way out of the corruption of sin.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Ephesians 1:7-9

So we can engage the blood weapon to bring us into the perfect will of God. He has ordained it that way for us. The blood way is our access into the realms of holiness.

But God commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Romans 5:8-10

We have the answer!

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to

come in unto your houses to smite you.

Exodus 12:13, 22-23

The passover blood is our stronghold against the corruption of sin. We can engage the blood defence to destroy the corruption of sin. A brother testified of his liberty from drug addiction using the instrument of the blood. I don't think there's any other sin as demonic as drug addiction; it is next to madness. Yet this young man engaged the blood weapon to destroy its hold over him.

The blood is enough defence for you against sin. It's enough to silence the forces of hell. When the taste for sin begins to rise, let your hands be lifted up, as you begin to fight with the blood weaponry. When you're on your feet, holding the stronghold of the blood in your hand, Satan will know that you are ready for victory, and will leave you alone. See what Zechariah 9:11-12 says:

As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee.

The sending forth of the blood of Jesus solved the universal sin problem, because where there is no shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. The Lamb that was slain "hast redeemed us to God, by (His) blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

The blood of Jesus is the price God paid for your liberty from sin; and that blood is still speaking today.

But ye are come unto mount zion, and unto the city of the living God...and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22, 24

So when you plead that blood, it begins to ring on the Father's table in heaven. Then the angels stand at alert, to deliver and to set free. This is your

hour of liberty!

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean; sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:12-14

The blood has access to our hearts, to purge them from sin and dead works.

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:15

The purging precedes the receiving of the inheritance. That purging is what will lead to our purity, which will in turn lead to our beauty. That is when we can begin to walk in the newness of life. You won't miss your inheritance!

The blood of Jesus will disarm the wickedness of sin and set whosoever wills free. The blood is our way out. From today, if it is your desire to be free from sin (and you can turn that desire into a covenant with God), then take cover under the blood of Jesus. Lying, deception, immorality, etc., will all be far away from your habitation when you do.

The blood is the answer to the strongest hold of sin. It has access to your conscience, to quicken it and to bring it back to life, causing you to stand on your feet again.

The Power Of Your Will

Another God-given weapon you can use in this fight against sin is the power of your will. And one of the waves of the end-time is the willingness of the people. Psalm 110:3 says, “Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.”

I discovered something very amazing in Mark 10:

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:17-23

Verse 20 is what startled me. This man didn't have eternal life; all he had was the human life. But look at what he said: "...Master, all these have I observed from my youth." He didn't have eternal life, yet he had observed sanctity from his youth. He could not be corrupted by adultery, murder, fraud, etc. "All these have I observed from my youth," he said. By what means? By the means of his will!

Your will is a force of deliverance, a force of liberty. This man, with his “inferior” life (as compared to our superior, eternal life) was able to handle stealing, fraud, falsehood, etc, through the power of his will.

The will is a potent heaven-invested force inside every mortal being. It is a God-given force for man’s liberty. It is able to determine your habits. This is because whereas what you want is a desire, what you will is a decision. Your desire may be dislodged, but your decision can’t, because it is stronger than your desire.

“I don’t want to!” That’s okay. But what is your decision? We have heard what you don’t want, now what do you want? What is your decision, based on what you don’t want? That man came looking for eternal life, but even before he found it, his will had kept him in charge. Daniel purposed in his heart (he decided within himself) not to defile himself, and not even the den of lions could make him change that decision. He was ready to be held in captivity for life, rather than defile himself (Dan. 1:8). In Genesis 39:9, Joseph said, *“How can I do this thing and sin against God?”*

Friend, man’s will is supreme in the contest with sin. Your desire is your wish, whereas your decision is your choice. God said in Deuteronomy 30:19, *“I lay before you life and death. Choose life that ye may live.”*

Your will is your choice, because your will is your decision. He said, *“Choose life that you shall live.”* It means that whatever you will is a force on this earth. Jesus said, *“Whosoever will, let him come...”* That means no devil can stop you from coming, if you will. He didn’t say, *“Let him pray.”* Rather, He said, *“Whosoever will, let him come and drink of the water of life freely. Whosoever wills to come, I will in no wise cast out”* (Jn. 6:37).

Your will is what initiates His will. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. So, it is your will that determines His will. Therefore, if you will for purity today, no spirit of filthiness can prevail against your will. That man with his human life overcame the spirit of adultery, murder, falsehood, fraud, rebellion, and he honoured his father and his mother from his youth. You have eternal life, so you can do better.

It is your will that determines your way. Until you will, you don’t win. Your will is your determination and the expression of your decision, and it

determines your destination. Until you will for holy and righteous living, you won't win. Your will for holy living is supreme in your contest with sin. It is your will that wheels you on.

It is important that you know you have a will. It is given to you by God, and is strong enough to destroy every attack that is arrayed against your destiny. If Joseph's will prevailed, your will shall prevail against the forces of immorality too! If the will of Daniel prevailed against defilement, yours can too.

It's time to engage your will. It is a potent force invested and deposited in you for your purity, victory, and conquest in life. So engage your will to establish your glorious destiny. Make your decision for righteousness known to both heaven and hell—that you will stand on your feet and see victory every day of your life.

Your will determines your tomorrow. Cleansing is an act of the will, buttressed with the violence of faith. I saw a very great prophetic parable in Hebrews 9:16-17:

For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Somebody writes something down, which cannot be enforced until after his death, because as long as he is alive, he is still the owner of all those things he has willed out on paper. The testament or will is a document that becomes operational only after the death of the testator. How does this apply to you and me?

Paul said in Colossians 3:3:

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

If you are redeemed, it means you are a dead man now. That means your will is in force on this earth today. You were crucified with Christ. Though you are still living, the life you now live, you are living by the faith of the Son of God, who died for you and gave Himself for you.

Because you are dead, your will is in force. You are legally covered to will anything you wish. When it is your will, the way will be clear. So God is waiting for your decision, which will compel your determination and destination.

If your will is not in place in your contest with sin, you will be a victim. Until your will is in force, everything you want is a mere desire, a mere wish. But when your will is engaged, everything you will becomes a decision, and compels determination. Daniel determined, and he won. Joseph willed, and he won too. The young man who met Jesus willed, and he conquered. If you will, you will win too.

These are serious survival strategies. You need to hold them tightly in your hand. When you say, “No!” and mean it, it becomes a will. Friend, you have the gift of your will from God; engage it beginning from now for your liberty here on earth.

If it is your will to stop beating your wife, for instance, there’s no way your hand will ever go up to hit her again. It has been your wish all this while, that’s why you keep hitting her. But when it becomes your will, Satan will give up. If you will for total, endless liberty from immorality, it will be enforced and sanctioned in heaven and bowed to by hell. Why? You are a “dead” testator, your will is enforced by law.

If it is your will to devastate the trap of sin this end-time, that will goes into force, and heaven will back it up. So God is waiting to see which way you’re going. Without a will, you have no way out! Your will is your strength in the contest with sin. It is your greatest resistance against sin. So let your will be in force now.

Jesus is saying, “If you will, then I will.” It’s, therefore time to say:

“I will for purity! I will for holiness! I will for righteousness! I will against sin! I will against immorality! I will against strife! I will against distractions! I will against stealing! I will against lying.”

Your will determines God’s will for you. May your will be properly in place against the onslaught of Satan this end-time. Satan is out with a vow to trap and destroy us, so we must destroy him with a stronger vow.

Do you will to be holy? Every accomplishment begins with a desire. If it is your will to be clean, the taste for sin will die now! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego saw the fiery furnace, but their will for God was in place. The will is a potent force, which when engaged in the covenant makes you unbeatable in life.

If the will of man is stronger than sin, how much more the will of God Who said, “Be ye holy for I am holy”. He’s the same God that said, “Let there be light!” and there was light. So if He says, “Be ye holy”, it is because you have all it takes to be holy, if you want to be.

The Power Of Choice

All through my little life, I have seen the power of choice on display. I call it the power that keeps man. I call it the seed of God inside man. I mean, you make your choice and He backs it up, because He is committed to backing it up.

Friend, just make the choice against anything you’ve been doing wrong and that will end it, particularly as a covenant child of God, with the blood of Jesus backing you up. Satan legally has no more say in your affairs, because God:

...Hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

Sin has no hold on you anymore. According to Romans 6:14:

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Therefore, anyone who chooses liberty can be free. Even some natural, unregenerated men make some strong choices and are able to implement

them. I read about a man who would wake up at 2 a.m. (to plan his day, not to pray or to read the Bible) and go back to bed at 5 a.m. That was his natural lifestyle. I have read so many things about man, that made me conclude that man has so much inbuilt power he is unaware of. It's the power of choice.

When people choose integrity, visitations from heaven become a regular experience in their lives. If Daniel could be free by his choice, you too can be free.

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

If Joseph also could be free by his choice, you can be free too. We see, in Genesis 39:7-9:

...it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

But he refused, and said unto his master's wife. Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Holiness is a choice to make, and a vision to pursue. It's a covenant life of choice. Your choice is supreme in the conflict with sin. Daniel lived in a land of defilement (Babylon was the headquarters of sin then), but he purposed not to defile himself. He made a choice for righteousness, and made his way to the throne.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Deuteronomy 30:19

This scripture further buttresses the power of your choice. Life and death lay before the people, but it was in their power to choose whichever they wanted. All God could do was to suggest to them what to choose, but the actual choosing was in their hand.

Your choice is supreme in the adventure of righteousness. It is your choice that counts, not the wickedness of Satan. The prodigal son made a choice, and it was effected in his favour. Certain things you are doing now can be stopped, if only you will stand strong the same way he did, by the power of your choice.

It's not the devil; it's your choice! You can make the right choice, and the blood of Jesus will set a seal on it. Sin lost its' power from the day the blood of Jesus was shed. The choice is now left to man. You can't make your choice and the devil thwarts it. No!

God is saying to His precious sons and daughters today:

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

“Come out from among them,” He says, not, “Try to come out.” It is you that will choose to come out. Choose today to come out of immorality, lying, financial impropriety, deceptions and craftiness, etc, and choose to be straight. Choose purity and holiness, and honour will pursue you. Initially it may appear as though you're locked up in a prison (as it was with Joseph), but they will send for you. It may appear as though your business is going down because you refused to give bribes and kickbacks, but that's when it's rising up, for they will soon send for you. This is because: Righteousness exalts; it doesn't destroy.

When the father of the prodigal son received him back, honour was bestowed upon him. Sin does not give people beauty, it makes ugly! It is salvation that

beautifies. You simply have to make a covenant choice to live holy, to live right. When that choice is made, you're through. And when your choice is made, Satan is finished!

Make a decision for holiness; decide for righteousness! Make that choice today! The job has been completed; God is just waiting for your choice. The little foxes spoil the vine. That little lie, that little malice, that little bitterness will disqualify you from God's great and glorious army. God is waiting for your choice. You will not be disqualified!

Every sin can be laid aside; every weight can be laid aside. It is your choice that determines what happens. Understand that it is your birthright to live a holy life, but it takes your choice to make it a reality. Sin would have tied Joseph's destiny down in Potiphar's house, but he made a choice for righteousness, and he arrived on the throne in Egypt! You too will arrive on the throne God has set for you.

Where you are now is not the best yet, it's only a stepping-stone to where you are going. Don't destroy your destiny. Sin has been destroyed; make your choice to be free from it.

Note, however, that the quality of your choice is largely determined by the quality of information available to you. That's why you need the Bible, God's Word, to shape your life. Every price you pay to let go of sin will lead you to a prize in the Kingdom, in the name of Jesus!

Strength In The Inner-man

This is one other tool given to you by God that guarantees success in your stand for holiness here on earth. Strength in the inner-man is so vital for every Christian who desires to walk in newness of life. No wonder Paul made this prayer for the Church in Ephesus:

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

Ephesians 3:14-16

In other words, you need strength in the inner-man for your spirit to stay on its toes in this holiness adventure, so that when you say “No!” to any evil, heaven will sanction it, devils will tremble, and hell will have no choice but to obey.

But how does one come by strength in the inner-man? Your inner-man is being strengthened when you engage mysteries that are revealed to you. Joseph could say, “No!” to Potiphar’s wife because he had been able to develop strength in the inner-man. He couldn’t imagine himself committing fornication with another man’s wife and sinning against God, so he fled.

Our lives as redeemed children of God is sustained by the state of our spirit-man. When our spirit-man is sick, our body follows suit, but when our spirit-man is alive, our physical body lives. The spirit of a man will sustain him, no matter the attack from hell. I want you to engage your spirit-man right now in charting an honourable course for your life. Desire honourable habits for your life, and then the Lord will supply the grace for accomplishment (Prov. 16:9). Daniel purposed in his heart to stay holy, and God supplied the grace. He was under every kind of pressure, but God supplied the grace that saw him through.

After you gave your life to Christ, probably no one preached to you against alcohol; you just discovered it’s not befitting for a child of the King, and you gave it up. All you did was purpose in your heart, and God released the strength in your spirit-man. Right now certain things are going on in your life, which you know will stop you if you don’t stop them. All you need do is to say, “Lord, my mind is made up today for a consecrated life. Bring me into that realm of honour that You’ve mapped out for me. I receive strength Lord.”

After making this prayer, the Bible says, “Give no place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27). That is, develop a programme that does not provide opportunities for Satan to re-enter your life. Draw up a programme that shuts him out of your schemes.

6

Do These Also...

In this chapter, I will, by the Holy Ghost, deliver some more tips that will aid your victory, and forever keep you above sin. If immorality and infidelity are the devil's plan for the hour, then we too must look out for scriptural solutions with which to destroy them. If you do what I will be showing you in this chapter, in addition to all that have been discussed in the two preceding chapters, then you will be able to maintain your holy living, and be forever free to walk tall and in the newness of life.

Disconnect From Sin!

To live in the newness of life and be eternally free from sin and unrighteousness, you must disconnect from sin. Sin will never go on its' own. If you don't rise against sin, it won't go. You can wait from now till eternity for sin to go; but until you rise up against it, sin won't go, because it's determined to destroy your destiny. But Jesus made this invitation in Matthew 11:28:

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The moment you disconnect from sin, every tree of evil, plagues and spells that the enemy might have planted in your body, family, business, or finances will be destroyed. You know that when the root of any tree is destroyed, the life of that tree is gone. But it is your responsibility to disconnect from sin.

The moment you will to be holy, the root of that tree of sin that is growing in your life (with its attendant fruits of sickness, disease and all manner of plagues) will be destroyed, and the fruits will no more manifest. No matter how fresh the tree might still look after its' root has been destroyed, it will

whither and die in no time. The root is gone, so its life is gone also. Likewise, when you disconnect from sin, all the products of sin in your life die. Jesus said in Matthew 15:13:

Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

God has not planted sin in your life. He said whosoever is born of God does not sin, because the seed of God abides in that person (1 Jn. 3:9). So you need to disconnect from that sin now! Face it, and call it (that sinful habit) by its' name. Say to it, "You have no power over me! I disconnect from you now, by my will and through faith in God."

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

This means we can lay them aside and say to them, "*I'm not doing again.*" God won't say, "*lay aside,*" if it is impossible to do so. The prodigal son laid aside the weight of rebellion, and walked his way back to royalty.

You might be asking, "How do I disconnect from sin?" Repentance is your path to disconnection. Desire is what brings your restoration, and steadfastness will guarantee continuity in your freedom from sin. Restoration leads to manifestation. Repentance brought restoration to the Prodigal Son, and restoration brought him manifestation. He became the envy of the land almost immediately.

When you return to the Father or turn from sin through repentance, you will receive speedy honour from heaven, because "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). If you are able to determine the cost of sin and compare it with the value of righteousness, you will walk out on sin. It is my prayer that you won't miss this heaven-sent opportunity to walk out of the dungeon of sin.

I see all the forces of filthiness and corruption fleeing from your life, in Jesus' name. Leave that man! Leave that woman! Leave that illegal business!

Leave that corrupt job, before it corrupts your destiny! Righteousness will relocate you. But if you join them in the pleasures of sin, you will also join them in the prize of failure which includes sufferings and regrets.

The former things God has overlooked, but He commands everyone everywhere to repent. Disconnect from sin now, for this is your hour of restoration!

Take An Oath For Purity

So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

Proverbs 7:13-15

This scripture is talking about the adventure of an adulterous woman. She had vowed to pull down the man, who unknowing fell into her trap. The same way, Satan has vowed to cast you down. But we are not ignorant of his devices, so you too must vow to destroy his works, and free yourself! It is rod for rod, a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye. It is law (of Spirit and life in Christ Jesus) for law (of sin and death).

If Satan has vowed to cast you down and to destroy you through sin, then you cannot be jesting. Goliath vowed to destroy David, and David vowed to destroy him too. Goliath swore in the name of his gods, David also swore in the name of his God (1 Sam. 17:43-45). But the stronger vow swallowed up the lesser one. If David was just talking back at Goliath, without also making a vow, Goliath would have eaten him up!

Satan has vowed to destroy you, why are you jesting? He has taken a blood oath, but his blood is the blood of bulls and calves. If you too take a Jesus blood oath for purity, it will swallow up his oath as though it never existed.

It is time to counter satanic vows with covenant vows. When you enter into an oath with God, it is called a covenant. And every covenant that is ratified by the blood of Jesus is supreme, because that is the blood of the everlasting covenant. Forever, that blood covers any covenant you make.

To forever maintain purity, sanctity and holiness, you need to make a vow. When attacks came against me at the onset of our ministry from so-called well-wishers, I didn't argue with them. Satan was determined to stop me, and I was also determined to stop him; and I did this by countering him with an oath. I said, "God, should I pretend not to have heard You, see to it that I don't succeed in any other thing I will do!" After that, everything anybody said was just by the way. I was under an oath.

What an oath does is to establish your steadfastness to your will; it puts it on your choice, and ends all strife. That's why till tomorrow, I don't have alternatives and distractions; I am under an oath. I have not dared to invest a dime in any other business since I came into ministry, because it will not succeed—I am under an oath!

Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." He put himself under an oath. That was why all the upsetting situations around him didn't bother him at all. He was under a covenant oath with God.

When you come under a covenant oath for purity, your life will become a challenge even to yourself. Let's look at Hebrews 6:13 and 16

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself.

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Your struggle with sin will end when you enter into an oath for confirmation. Look at verse 17 and 18 of that same chapter:

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge

to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

That means God sanctions the strategy of oath taking, because it brings a strong consolation and guarantees your destination, so you don't miss the hope that is set before you. When my wife and I were in courtship, Satan whispered to me, "I will make sure you fall." But I said to him, "Satan, you're too small!" And I said to God, "If I ever do it, put leprosy on me!" That ended the strife!

Do you want to get to where you're going? Then understand the mystery of oath taking. An oath is a seal on your decision. When you get into an oath for purity, it refrains you. Friend, Satan is swearing to destroy your glorious destiny; you can't just be speaking or making fun! Look at Proverbs 7:13-14 again:

So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

Immorality has vowed to ruin the Church, to devastate the strength of Zion! There must be a counter vow to swallow up that evil vow. Satan has sworn, so you too have to swear, to swallow up his own oath. Satan has vowed your destruction; you must vow his devastation too! Before now the Church was satisfied with praying and fasting. But those are not fundamental issues; they are all at the conclusion. These things you're hearing now are the foundations that will help your prayers to go up to the Father speedily.

Your will and your oath will put you over any demonic attack any day, anytime. So let your desire graduate into a decision, and let your decision graduate into a confirmation—confirmation is an oath. The moment you enter into the realm of oath, you've come to the end of struggles. When you enter the oath realm in your conflict with sin, you have ended the strife; the match is over!

An oath constitutes a strong assurance that you won't miss your place in this mighty move of God. An oath brings steadfastness; it compels continuity and keeps you on the move. God bound Himself by an oath to Israel. That was why in spite of all the evil they did He couldn't punish them; He would always remember the oath He made to Abraham, and would restrain

Himself.

An oath restrains men from being victims of evil. Till today, that oath of faith I made when I came into ministry has kept my eyes single. I've never looked anywhere else. I've remained on my job, and it shows! There's no cheaper way to weaken the devil than by taking an oath for purity. Only an oath will confirm your state and establish your destiny.

We are training up as members of the assault company and are in the forefront of this great army that is emerging this end-time, so we can humiliate the devil and punish him who has punished humanity to this time. But the only way to enlist in that army is to come under an oath for purity.

Hear this: your will is a force to reckon with in the contest with sin, and an oath is a confirmation that the end of struggles has come. Jesus loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore, God exalted Him and anointed Him with the oil of gladness above all His fellows (Ps. 45:7). I'd like you to express your will for purity to both God and the devil. This is because until you will, you don't win. The will is what is commonly called determination. It is determination that determines destination. I see you punish the devil with a new lifestyle!

I'd like you to believe God for grace to enter into the oath realm in your quest for purity. There is no attack from hell that can dislodge a covenant oath with God—not even if death were staring you in the face. You remember Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? An oath is the end of all strife. It's left to you!

Have nothing to do with lies, deceptions, immorality, and pride. Holiness is a possibility. You can counter any vow from hell. Your vow is your strength in the hour of crisis. In the day of conflict, your covenant oath is your strongest strength. Sin is not your Lord, your will is stronger than it, and your covenant oath will destroy it forever. We've seen how others were set free, showing that you too can be free if you choose to be free.

God has shown us the weakness of sin and how to deal with it. Have a will, and bring yourself under a covenant oath. Until your will is in place, an oath is a risk. But when your will is in place, an oath becomes your security. The sting of sin is death. But thanks be to God, who has abolished both in Christ

Jesus.

Develop A Good Conscience

Your conscience is the scale of justice that tells you what is wrong. That is why nobody will ever say in the presence of his wife, “I thank God that my woman friend has been so wonderful to me.” Nor will anyone say, “I thank God we had a very successful stealing expedition yesterday. We shared 2.4 million, and I have brought my tithe.” Or, “We were at a meeting yesterday, where I lied so much!” No! Nobody says such things. Why? Conscience!

Your conscience tells you what is wrong and what is right. If well developed, it is a good aid in winning the war against sin. A good conscience sets off an alarm within you when there’s trouble lurking, and you will do well to heed it. But a good conscience doesn’t just happen; it has to be developed, like Paul did.

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Acts 24:16

Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with hot iron.

1 Timothy 4:2

One with a seared conscience can’t tell good from evil anymore. At the beginning, Solomon loved the Lord (1 Kgs. 3:3). He had a good conscience. But in his later days, it became, “And Solomon loved many strange women...And his wives turned away his heart [from the Lord]” (1 Kgs. 11:1,3). His conscience had been seared with hot iron by this time, and the Lord was angry with Solomon. His hitherto glorious and enviable life ended in vanity. A dead conscience was his undoing.

A bad conscience can’t be relied upon, especially in the evil days we are in now. What you need is an exercised conscience that can discern evil, so you won’t be caught in the devil’s trap that is set to derail you. Keep your

conscience alive; fire it up with light from heaven, so you can be above sin always.

Stop That Habit!

Each one, not the devil, is responsible for his habits. Habits can be stopped, and new ones formed. Mike Murdock said, “You don’t decide your future; you decide your habits, and your habits decide your future.” So, you can stop that bad habit, and in its place learn and acquire godly ones. You have the power to stop all ungodly habits in your life right now. That’s why the Bible tells us to “resist the devil, and he will flee from you” Submit yourselves therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (Jms. 4:7).

Every bad habit can be stopped. Paul said:

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Your body can be brought under subjection. Every habit is according to man’s decision. You can decide today to stop that lying, that cheating, those evil thoughts, that covetousness. You can stop them all now. You can tell your mouth, “No more gossip today. I subdue you now, in the name of Jesus!” You can subdue your taste. You can subdue the longings of your flesh. You can subdue whatever you choose to subdue. Romans 8:12-13 tells us:

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

We can through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the flesh; we can kill it. Every time you come up against any habit, enter into a covenant with God on it, then you have finished the devil completely. Enter into a covenant with God concerning that habit, and you will live in liberty all the days of your life, you will walk in the newness of life! This is the cheapest access to triumph.

No Contact, No Contract

Contact is what establishes contract. It is the surest access to get into the trap of immorality. But when contact is monitored, evil contract becomes impossible. First Thessalonians 5:22 warn us to “Abstain from all appearances of evil.”

Immorality is impossible without contact. You remember the woman in Proverbs 7:13? Samson wouldn't have gone down if he hadn't made the contact with Delilah. He was right on her laps, she had the opportunity to press him with her words. She caught him and finished him! So beware of evil contacts. Clean up your environment, to avoid evil contacts. Send that staff of yours with whom you cannot be relaxed away now, before he or she ruins you. Be cautious. Peter said:

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:13-16

Never mind those women who keep coming to you for deliverance, they are not possessed. Just like Satan entered into Peter to use him to distract Jesus from His mission, people around you can be entered into at any time. That did not get Peter possessed; he was only used. God is sounding this alarm because Satan is out to use too many people to corrupt our lifting. That's why we have too many bad examples now. Therefore, you must be careful, so you are not added to the list.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart, neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Proverbs 6:25

They will hunt for the precious, as that is their mission. Note that they will also be fully armed! They will come crying and weeping. They know that you and I are precious in the sight of God, so they will come hunting. You must vow not to be caught by them.

Keep The Right Company

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 15:33

If you want to live right, you must keep the right company and relate with the right things. Somebody shared a testimony of how he used to watch a certain programme on T.V., which eventually led to his backsliding. He lost his eternal life for at least two years, before he returned home.

Friend, it's right company for right living! No matter how anointed you are, no matter how dedicated you are, no matter how much vows you have made, evil communication will always corrupt good manners. The company you keep determines the life you live.

The Corinthian Church was the most gifted Church. The Bible says they were not behind in any gift of the Holy Spirit. In fact, speaking in tongues became like their natural language. So much so that Paul had to introduce order to the way they spoke in tongues in their gatherings. It was also a

knowledgeable and giving Church. They had understanding of mysteries. But they were corrupted by evil communication.

As gifted and knowledgeable as they were, they were the most corrupt Church in the New Testament days. Any kind of sin you could imagine was there! In fact, they even fought at the communion table! It was the most charismatic of all the Churches, yet it was so corrupt! They had the gift of the Spirit of holiness, as the Holy Spirit was heavy upon them. Yet, evil communication corrupted them.

Proverbs 13:20 warns us:

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

The Corinthian Church was so polluted that in 1 Corinthians 5:1, it is stated that one of them snatched his father's wife! This was because after they gave their lives to Christ, they did not separate from evil company. They still hung out with their old boys associations, childhood friends, and still kept club memberships. How do I know this? Well, see what Paul told them in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17:

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

I can imagine some of them saying, "Christianity does not mean we should abandon our friends. How will they get to know Jesus? If we separate from them, how will they know the Lord?" Well, I've got news for you! It's easier

for them to separate you from God than for you to bring them to God. Listen, Christianity that has no demarcation will lead to destruction! How can you sit together with a sinner and be swimming in his counsel?

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the
scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he
meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that
bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind
driveth away,*

*Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners
in the congregation of the righteous.*

Psalms 1:1-5

I am, therefore, asking you to make your choice. It is impossible to live the holy life by getting into an accord with unholy people. When you stay with a liar, you partake of his lying spirit. He will make you a false witness. You can't make friends with an adulterer and not fall into the same sin. When we started the Christian race in those days, some of our brethren decided they would take the revival back to their former churches. Now, they themselves are in need of revival, because they have "died" there! What is the living doing among the dead? Proverbs 21:16 tells us:

*The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall
remain in the congregation of the dead.*

May God deliver you from the trap of unbelievers! God said: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate..." As anointed as Jesus was, He remained among believers all through His stay here on earth. He chose the 12 to be with Him. That way He had a registered company of men that surrounded Him. His confidants were Christians. John the beloved had the

closest access to His heart.

To have an unbeliever as your confidant makes a fool of your Christianity. Some of you say, “We were classmates in school.” Well, get ready, because you will surely end up as prison mates eventually, because hell is the greatest prison there is—it’s a bottomless pit! Friendship is not by force; it is by choice. Please don’t play with your life! You are solely responsible for what becomes of your tomorrow.

Friends have broken many homes. Some husbands’ friends have polluted their minds against their wives. On the other hand also, some wives have friends that load them with destructive insinuations and so-called advices. Evil communication corrupts good manners. What is a Christian going to an ungodly man to share his genuine needs for? He can only give you ungodly counsel, which will end up separating you from God.

Beware of men! Take heed where you stand or sit to hear what you’re hearing, so you don’t destroy your life. Don’t walk into the prison of evil friendship with your eyes wide open. Even a mad man knows a prison gate when he sees one. Have you ever seen a mad man walk up to the gates of a prison house and say, “Open! Lock me inside”? No! How then can you call someone who is against everything you stand for a friend? You stand for righteousness, but he stands for sin. You stand for God, but he stands for the devil and gold, and yet you say you’re friends!

Do you want to be free from adultery? Then disconnect from those adulterous friends you are hanging out with. If you don’t, they will disconnect you from God. No matter how strong you think you are as a man, if you go for pornographic magazines, the spirit of adultery and whoredom will settle upon you and possess you. This is because contact is what leads to contract. If you don’t monitor contact, it will develop a contract to your disadvantage.

Evil communication corrupts good manners, so be careful. There are certain friends and relationships you must stop today, or they will stop you. Before you know it, you’ll find yourself swimming in lies and adultery with them. That is why I don’t have permanent friends, I only have permanent interests. The moment we are no longer on the same frequency, I’m gone! It is iron that sharpens iron. If I want to be a boxer, I will go to a boxer to train me. If I

want to be a champion, I'll go to a champion to train me.

Friendship with the world is enmity with God (Jms. 4:4). A friend of the world cannot be a friend of God, so make your choice. I would rather be received by God and rejected by men, than be rejected by God and received of men. Paul said:

Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

2 Corinthians 5:9

Beware Of Ungodly Brethren

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1 Corinthians 5:11

God is saying “No” to friendship with both the ungodly and with Christians who live ungodly lives. This is because of what the Bible says in Hebrews 10:26:

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

A young lady for instance, who is determined to be free from fornication, and has in fact claimed God's grace for freedom, but later goes back to meet the same man and to renew the old contract has gone back to her vomit. Awake unto righteousness, for there is profit in purity. Godliness is profitable unto all things (1 Tim. 4:18).

Your lifestyle is largely determined by the company you keep, as you cannot be brighter than the company you keep. God's Word is emphatic on the company you keep, the counsel you receive, and the place you stand and sit because all these determine whether you remain godly or ungodly. God is

saying, if you want your tomorrow to be secured, mind the counsel you draw from, the places you stand, and the people you sit with. That is, mind the company you keep or you'll destroy your destiny.

The association you keep will either make or break you—it never leaves you neutral. It's either building you or breaking you, lifting you up or letting you down. Many people's Christianity is out of place today because of the friends they're keeping. No wonder the Bible says, "*A companion of fools shall be destroyed*" (...*a companion of fools shall be destroyed*. Prov. 13:20).

With great price did I purchase my liberty to go for God. Everybody gave up on me, for God to take me up. Won't you let God take you up? Until He takes you, you're not secure. If you don't break off from those unholy associations, they will bring you back to your vomit. Galatians 5:1 says:

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

Having been fired up by God for a life of purity and holiness, this caution is important to maintain it. It is right company for right living. There's no friend of a liar who can be free from lying. You're either consenting to his lies by nodding your head or keeping quiet.

You need the right association, to enjoy the right manifestation. In any relationship, you're either growing or groaning, being blessed or coming under a curse, either going up or coming down. God has brought you out of the miry clay, may you not return to your vomit!

We have been raised up with Christ and made to sit together with Him. That means we are up, whereas those who are not saved are down. When you join them in friendship, you're walking on the edge of the cliff, and need to be careful, because the nearer you are to the edge, the more dangerous it is. A fifty-fifty Christian journey always ends in a crash! I have made up my mind to stay in the centre of the Kingdom, because it is possible to fall headlong into hell from the edge of the cliff

Evil companionship will keep you in sin. Let not your anointing or spiritual maturity deceive you; evil communication corrupts good manners. The scriptures cannot be broken! Separate from anyone that won't let you get to where you're going. Leave those old friends you had before you gave your

life to Christ, so they do not drag you back to your vomit.

Evil association is an unclean thing, and God says, “Touch not the unclean thing.” You are in the “best” trap if your best friend is an ungodly man. If you still have a sinner as your best friend you’re looking for trouble. It’s better to walk alone with God, than to be trapped with someone who scorns the truth, someone who defiles and mocks Jesus. You need friends who walk with God. You need associates that believe in your God, otherwise you will be trapped. How can you a Christian own a company or business, and make a sinner the Chairman or director? Remove that chairman! He is the reason you are going round and round on the same spot. Remove that uncle who is taking your company’s name to the medicine man. If they won’t go, leave the company for them and go start another one. Sinners won’t take you to any place of honour. They don’t have it, so they can’t give it!

Let him that has ears hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church! If you have put yourself in chains, go and release yourself now! Don’t wait till tomorrow. Wrong association is ungodly. It brings about all forms of ungodliness. Sin will continue as long as you keep wrong company.

You should stop visiting people who drain you spiritually. Why must you celebrate your relationship with a liar, when you have made a choice for the truth? Why must you be visiting an adulterer, when you have made a choice for purity? Break those relationships now before they break you!

The Jonadab Trap

Let me show you an example of what evil company can cause you. There was a young man named Amnon in 2 Samuel 13. He was one of the sons of David, and had a step brother called Absalom, whose younger sister was called Tamar. Amnon so desired his step sister, Tamar, that he looked for ways of sleeping with her. His lust made him sick to the point where he began losing weight. Then his friend Jonadab came on the scene.

Jonadab desired to know what Amnon’s problem was. After he was told, he went ahead to plot an evil plan for Amnon to achieve his goal.

And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make

thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

2 Samuel 13:5

Note that Amnon was a covenant child, he had covenant blood in him. His father was God's choice on the earth. He had a connection with the covenant of purity. So he couldn't organise sin successfully. But he was cast down, trapped by the craftiness of a subtle friend—Jonadab. See what happened next:

And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

And she answered him, Nay my brother, do not force me, for no such thing ought to be done in Israel; do not thou this folly.

Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

2 Samuel 13:11-12,14

And at the end of it all, Absalom killed Amnon (vs. 28-29), and the same Jonadab that gave the evil advice was the one that announced Amnon's death to David.

Let every husband help his wife in her choice of friends, and let every wife also help her husband in his choice of friends. It is right company for right living! If your Christianity is still one-leg-in-one-leg-out, you don't have a future. If you don't have a friend you're relating with spiritually, you're already on your way to hell. Look for one now, as friendship is not by force, but by choice.

Do you want to be free from sin? Then look for godly saints as friends. If you kill yourself through ungodly association, nobody will jump into the grave with you. No! Others will still go on living. So think straight, and put on the armour of light. Remember, "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise"(Prov. 13:20).

Please disengage from every Jonadab in your boat; he's an agent of the devil sent to bring you down. Before he kills you, destroy that relationship! There are places you must not enter anymore now that you are a believer. There are things you must not share with just anybody, and people you must not take counsel from anymore. There's no fifty-fifty in this holiness business. If you don't come out from among them, you'll cave in. Since your Christianity has not been able to influence that friend of yours after all these years, better break away from him now, otherwise, he will pull you down to hell!

Your destiny is precious, the devil is looking for how to destroy it, but he will not succeed. You won't let him, will you? So protect yourself.

But he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 John 5:18

Take time to read the books of Corinthians and Romans, and you will see how much you need to be careful in making friends, both with outsiders and insiders (unbelievers and believers). Make your choice, and let your choice be in line with what you stand for, and you will increase steadily in your righteousness.

Let Go Of Those Idols!

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:21

After every major revival, quite a number of people are leaving "Egypt", i.e. they get born again. But because they are new in the faith, some still have things hidden under their beds and in their wardrobes - things "my mother or father gave me." But you have to let go of them, if you desire to truly live a holy life and to walk in the newness of life. This is because you become God's enemy when you have other things you are leaning on other than on Him. He made this very clear when He gave the 10 commandments.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:3-6

The Bible says that the sorrow of them that follow other gods shall be many. This could be why your sorrows have kept multiplying, because you've been secretly following other gods that only you know of. God wants to put you on course this very hour by delivering you from the curses of life. Please, let Him do it!

Idolatry puts God off; it's pollution in His sight. You can't serve two masters; you must choose one and despise the other. Don't be surprised to find that some Christians still have tiny things hidden in hideous corners in their homes, offices, cars, etc. Things they resort to time and time again. Some even still read the stars (horoscope) in the newspapers! No wonder their sorrows are multiplying!

I don't care who gave that thing to you, I don't care where you found it, I don't care either for how long you've had it, if you don't let it go now, that might be your end! There's a strong wind blowing; you either move with it or be floored by it!

Let Go Of Human Idols Too!Even Human Idols!

Whether graven images or human idols, they're all idols! These are the little godfathers and godmothers you've been leaning on. That's why the God of

heaven has left you alone. Those people you worship in other to get one thing or the other from are the reasons you're on the floor today. Take your eyes and confidence off them, and look to God, for "If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matt. 6:22).

When you look away from God, you enter into darkness. The cheapest way out of idolatry is to give God your total focus. God is more than enough! In 1 Kings chapter 15, we see Asa returning to the Lord. But first he had to deal with his mother's gods.

And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook kidron.

1 Kings 15:13

God wants every idol in your life burnt, so you don't get burnt. Idols are fire; and whosoever keeps fire in his bosom and clothes will be burnt. That thing you're hiding somewhere is the reason fire is burning in your life. Bring it out to be burnt, and your life will take a new shape.

I don't know where you go after church, or what you put on your lips before you come out in the morning. I don't know what is under your office carpet, neither do I know what your mother gave you 15 years ago, and which you have kept even after you gave your life to Christ! I don't know that thing you inherited from your father, which you cherish so much that when your wife is coming, you hide it. But all things lay bare before God. He sees all things, and God who sees you in secret will reward everyone openly.

To go after idols as a Christian is to be a vagabond, like the sons of Sceva in Acts 19. Those young men, though sons of the high priest, were vagabonds, and Satan tortured them! If you don't want to be tortured, then you must clean up by taking out those idols. Do what the people did in verses 18 and 19:

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the

price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

It's time to bring out all those things your parents sent to you from the village, to be burnt. If you don't bring them out to be burnt, they will soon burn you before all men. There's a baptism of holiness going on now. This is your chance to be free, if you desire to be free.

Those hidden things and idols are afflicting your family, business, and health. When God is against you (because of your idolatry), everything else is against you. This revival is not just for any kind of person; it's for those who are ready! If you won't let go your idols, leave God alone! God does not need you; He is not looking for you. Your money is stinking in His sight. Take your money to hell, to your father the devil! Your position is worthless. The only thing that matters to God is your status in redemption. You have a chance to be free now, if you want to. You can't be a vagabond in you Father's house!

This is the New Testament order of doing things: *"they confessed and brought them forth..."* Then: *"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."* So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. That means those hidden things were resisting the Word. But after they were burnt, the Word of God grew mightily and prevailed.

That idol is the reason the Word of God is not growing in your heart! All those federal ministers that you are leaning on is the reason your business is down, instead of up. All those government idols in your life are the reasons you're on the ground. But His name is El-shaddai; He's more than enough! My prayer is that, like Jesus, you will be able to boldly and publicly declare: *"The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me"* (Jn. 14:30).

Some people say, "Since I gave my life to Christ, things have just been going downwards." It is because of that thing in your life that you've not taken care of. I met Jesus in 1969, and my life has not gone backwards ever since. I have never had a better last year in my life.

Stop looking at somebody else or pointing accusing finger at some one else. Look at yourself now, and locate whatever idol is in your life, be they human idols, position idols, or graven image. Look at it and tell yourself, "Enough is enough! I am going on with Jesus!"

Speaking in Acts 15:19-20, James said:

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

If you have left fornication but have not left idols, you have not left anything. If you have left adultery, but not idolatry, you have not left anything at all. The Bible says:

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 1:7-8

Such a person will remain on the other side of lack and want; he will pray and God will not hear, because he's double-minded. His mind is on that thing under his pillow or that one inside his pocket. I have seen many vehicles that had charms hanging in front and still had accidents. Where were the charms when the cars had accidents? The charms could not help them. In fact, the charm was what brought the jam! But because of this Jesus I serve, I have passed through death 19 times without a scratch! "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth his bones, and not one of them is broken!" (Ps. 34:19-20). The righteous is protected by heaven. When you camp with God, you have camped with good!

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“*But such were some of you*”. “*Were*”, not “*are*.” So idolatry must become a thing of the past in you life. Let God be true and all men be liars. If you love your father, mother or uncle more than Him, you are not worthy of Him. I love Jesus; He’s all I want. Nothing matters to me near how much Jesus matters to me in this world. I will follow you only to the extent that you don’t derail me from Christ.

I’d like you to know that your will is strong enough to get the job done. Maybe you’ve kept that thing in ignorance, saying, “Well, I have given my life to Christ, it doesn’t matter anymore.” It does matter. There’s a young man in the Bible called Manasseh. He became king at the age of 12. He led Israel into idolatry, sorcery, witchcraft and wizardry. He even built altars for idols in the house of God! Manasseh was a terrible man, and God afflicted him (2 Kgs. 21:1-18).

Idolatry brings affliction, flee from it! It’s over to you now! Let go of those idols, and begin to walk in the newness of life! Be like those Christians Paul described in 1 Thessalonians 1:6-9:

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

7

The Money Issue

I have earlier in chapter two identified financial corruption as one of the three agents of sin the devil uses in getting men. I shall now show you how to be free of this trap of the enemy, how to be free of the god of gold.

Be Contented

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

The number one way to be free of financial corruption or sin is to learn how to be contented. Beware of covetousness. Knowing well the effect of this evil, Paul warned again and again against it.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced

themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Contentment is the answer to covetousness. Until you are contented, you will remain covetous. Godliness with contentment will lead to the realms of great gain in life. Covetousness is ungodly; it is a sin. It corrupts godliness. But contentment will discipline and subdue it.

Covetousness is a major ministry of the god of gold. The moment money is what determines your mood, you're already enslaved by it. But if you can arrest the god of gold, you will be able to walk in the newness of life, causing your beauty to emerge.

What you have is not what determines your value, but who you are. That's what determines your true worth; and your position with God is what determines your ultimate value among men. I'd like you to be determined in your heart to subdue covetousness, and renew your altar with God. Destroy the altar of financial corruption in your life, and stop living for money, so you don't end up as a mourner!

Why am I saying all these? It's because we are in the days of plenty in Zion. The day of His jewels is at hand (Mal. 3:17), and His silver and gold are being released to the Church. May it not trap you instead! Job was a man that feared God and eschewed evil, yet he became the greatest in all the east. He is in heaven now. You too will make it!

Righteousness does not demote, it exalts! But sin is a reproach to anybody. Righteousness is a promoter. Go and tell the truth! Deal truthfully in your business or office. Don't partake in bribery and corruption; don't give it, don't take it. Don't swear falsely to make money. Tell the truth and you will triumph. Walk straight and your path will be straight. Put your children in the schools you can comfortably afford. The kind of school one goes to is not what determines one's level of intelligence or future. Rather, your personal discipline is what determines your great future.

When you denounce the god of gold, the God of heaven embraces you. And

when He embraces you, every discomfort will leave you alone, because, “*In His presence is fullness of joy and at his right hand, pleasures forever more*” (Ps. 16:11). God has prophesied your lifting, you don’t have to be crooked to get it. So, walk straight; walk in the newness of life!

Lay Up Treasures In Heaven

The key to your freedom from the trap of the god of gold is laying up treasures in heaven. If you stack it up here like the Rich Fool did, you will worship it, because “*where a man’s treasure is, there his heart will be*” (Matt. 6:21). But if you lay it up there, it will create a future for you.

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:16-21

Your riches become risky when God is kept out of it. When you’re not rich towards God, no matter what you have, you’re a poor man. When you have no account with God, no matter where you get to on this earth, you’re on the floor.

The cure for covetousness is the giving life. The giving life will free you from the trap of the god of gold. Paul, writing in 1 Timothy 6:17-19, advised:

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

This is the cure. The love of money is conquered when you're rich in good works, willing to distribute, ready to let go. Until money becomes like dust to you, God will never let you have it. He said in Job 22:24, "Then shall you lay up gold as dust...", not as idol. When gold is more than dust to you, you will be far from it. God will only allow you to lay it up when it has become dust to you; otherwise you will worship it. Achan said:

When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Joshua 7:21

It was not dust to him, but an idol. He was sleeping on it, until his sin found him out. Until money becomes dust to you, God won't let you lay it up. And if you lay it up your own way, you will certainly worship it to your own destruction.

Hear this: lovers of money will never have it. Look at this little poem that God quickened in my heart one day:

The "Man" called Money The "Man" Called Money

He is a speed machine

No one has ever caught-up with him!

Why?

He has wings, and off in the sky he goes

And men are busy running helter-skelter on the earth

To catch-up with him.

He soars like an eagle,

And men are sweating and swotting on the earth.

Watch Him!

He is a speed machine

An engine that goes in the air

No man chases him on earth and catches him.

Oh the speed of money!

With wings it flies,

While those who chase it remain on the ground.

Money is a speed machine.

Its chasers are mourners

None has ever been satisfied with it.

Money has speed

Those who chase it don't catch it.

But thank God!

When you catch God,

You have caught good!

Lovers of money will never have it, and those who get it through crooked means will be killed by it. On the other hand, however, lovers of God will enjoy money automatically. The love of money is the root of all evils. Those who run after it are always slain by it. Look at that young man we read about in Mark 10. When Jesus touched his “great possessions”, he decided against eternal life. He went away, saying as it were, “Take your eternal life, I’ll keep my money.” His possessions meant much more to him than eternal life. But a man called Paul the Apostle said:

...I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

Philippians 3:8

As a result, God gave him plenty of abundance all through his ministry. So much abundance was ministered to him by the saints in various churches, so that he had all he needed.

Be Faithful

And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:9-12

Unfaithfulness is the number one way covetousness is expressed. But unfaithfulness grounds people, making them unfruitful. Unfaithfulness

means playing out the other person, with the aim of taking advantage of him. You don't go places that way. From what Jesus said, you're bound to fail. He said, "when ye fail..."

Unfaithfulness guarantees failure in our covenant walk with God. For instance, a driver who is given money to fill the fuel tank, but instead buys half tank and collects a receipt for a full tank, because he knows no one is likely to check the car to see if he actually filled the tank. This driver has only succeeded in cutting down his life and blessings by half. Unfaithfulness is a trap of the devil to make you a failure. Don't let him, because God wants to promote you.

Do you know the big error Jacob made? Before he was born, his destiny had been determined: he was to be the greater of the two (Rom. 9:11-13). But the devil moved him to supplant his brother (Gen. 27:18-29). He didn't have to do that to be number one. And he paid for it! He suffered under Laban for 14 years (Gen. 29:18-30). His destiny was tied down for 14 years, in which he languished in the house of Laban, his father-in-law. That is what unfaithfulness can cause a man.

The god of gold is the root of all lies and evils, and it expresses itself in unfaithfulness. Be free from its' trap!

Avoid Debt

Another way in which covetousness expresses itself is in debt. When you have a flair for owing, then you're a victim of covetousness. The god of gold has held you captive. Whatever your eyes see and you long for, but you don't have the money for, you will want to borrow to get it. For instance, what is a man borrowing to ride a car for?

The spirit of debt is a terrible one. The moment you start taking steps that are larger than your own strides, you're cutting down your life without knowing. Don't you know that there's always something you can buy with the money you have in your hand? Whatever I don't have now is not a need, but a want, and God is committed to meeting my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, because I walk in the covenant (Phil. 4:19). There's a size for your present status. All you need do is to locate it and be satisfied with it.

Discontentment brings down your speed and makes you defenceless. No matter your level now, God has made provisions for your size of food, house, clothes, etc, so be contented and live a happy life.

Remember Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:23-27? That man couldn't pay his debt, his creditor commanded that he, his wife, his sons and all that he had be sold, to pay the debt. You see, no debtor can claim to be comfortable, particularly when he is in the presence of the one he owes.

The covetous on seeing an item or merchandise says, "Why not get it? Go and get it now!" But God says in Deuteronomy 28:12:

...And thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And Paul the apostle re-iterated this in Romans 13:8:

Owe no man anything...

Borrowing makes you a slave to your creditor (Prov. 22:7), and you know Jesus said you can't serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). So if you're a debtor, the one who lent you the money is your lord. Yet God said,

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them..."

(Ex. 20:3,5).

Deuteronomy 15:6 says, *"For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee."* You don't reign as a debtor; you reign as a creditor, as a lender.

A contented man can never be trapped in debt. You shouldn't cut your cloth according to your size, but according to your cloth. A man on a salary of 30,000 naira per annum shouldn't be seen living in a house of 36,000 naira per annum. He would be sleeping inside debt! Those who lend you money

are simply lending you money to destroy your destiny.

If you take your stand against debt today, you will live. I decided against debt on October 4, 1984, and since then, I've lived debt-free. I got my freedom from Deuteronomy 15:6. A borrower never sees the throne, so sit up! Don't live above your size!

Hear me, you will live long if you can be free from financial unfaithfulness and the deception of debt. Debt is not a way of life. Wait till tomorrow to do what you can't do today. A man's life is not determined by what he has. If you live your size per time, your size will know no limit. I don't change anything until I have the money for it. I don't even think of changing anything until I have the money for it. By the time you borrow to buy a bed, how will you find sleep on it? You'll probably have to borrow sleep too!

To borrow money to eat means you're eating beyond your size. To take money from someone to buy shoes means you're wearing shoes bigger than your size. To buy a necklace on hire purchase means you're choking your life. You won't leave debts for your children! When your time on earth is over, it shall be with dignity. The papers of the houses you have built will be at home (at your children's reach), not in the bank (as a surety for your loans). The papers of your cars will not be with a finance house, but in your house, in Jesus precious name!

The torture of being indebted should make you fear it. Some have built houses and can't live inside it because of debt. I have seen creditors insult, molest and humiliate their victims. Friend, it's time to be free! May the grace for contentment descend upon your life today, and stay on forever!

Look at this illustrative poem I came up with not long ago. It is titled, "Mr. Greed And Mr. Give"

I have met two covenant neighbours,

Mr Greed and Mr Give.

Greed will not give, Give will not greed;

Greed is a friend of gold, Give worships God;

Greed stores on earth, Give stores in heaven;

Greed leads to death, Give leads to life;

The choice is mine.

I choose Give as my friend;

I don't want to end my journey in debt.

So help me God.

You too can make your choice. When Gehazi ran after greed, he was baptised with leprosy. All manner of diseases are contacted through the love of money, which is the root of all evil. If only you will allow the covenant to prevail, only then can you be free from all circumstances of life. Borrowing is ungodly. Oh, there is a great future for you; reach out for it.

Jesus knew no sin, yet He knew no lack. The god of gold had no place in His life, yet He laid up gold as dust. You remember when they needed to feed the 5,000 men in the wilderness? He asked them, "*Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?*" The issue was not money, but where to buy bread.

It's your turn to swim in covenant fortunes. All you need do is to walk clean and refuse financial corruption, refuse the trap of covetousness. Leave unfaithfulness alone and despise debt, then God will be committed to you. It is only then that before you knock, the doors will be open to you.

It is time to enter into a covenant with God, to destroy the lordship of money over your life. Money is not a god; it's merely a tool. Ecclesiastes 10:19 says, "*Money answereth all things.*" So don't let it destroy your life. Money has destroyed many homes; don't let it destroy yours. For instance, there are many homes where the husband is miles away from his wife and children, all because of money. In some cases the man has not seen his children or wife for months, even years. The husband is now in adultery somewhere, and the wife is also looking for another husband. All because of money!

This day marks the end of the rulership of money over your life! It shall no longer torment you, nor determine your mood! From this day, your dominion

over finances is hereby established! You will never again become a victim of the god of gold!

8

The Rewards Of Righteousness

There is profit in every labour. Innumerable profits await you if you labour to live a holy and righteous life. Apart from the other benefits, you are instantly guaranteed a completely new and fulfilled life in Jesus, and you also enjoy God's presence continually.

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34

Whereas sin brings a curse, righteousness brings blessings. Psalm 112:1-3 tells us:

Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

Righteousness is usually in place wherever you see God's blessings. While the wages of sin is death, the wages of righteousness is life more abundant. There is a lot more pleasure in righteousness than there is in sin.

Prosperity, Promotions, Honour

But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be

anointed with fresh oil.

Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.

Psalms 92:10-14

No matter the drought in the land, the righteous shall flourish; his leaves will remain green. Just as Job flourished by righteousness, everyone that practises righteousness will flourish. See how the Bible describes Job:

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:1-3

Righteousness was the reason for the height Job attained. Evil must die in your life, so the glory that God has mapped out for you will come out. Job became the greatest man in the land not through crookedness or perverseness, but through uprightness and godly perfection. He was scared of evil; he never touched it. Hear what the Bible says about him in Job 1:5:

And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the

morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

That he avoided evil suggests that he was living in the days of evil, but never partook of it. Instead, he became the greatest man in the east! Righteousness announces promotions for the righteous. Who is righteous? Whosoever does righteousness is righteous. Joseph fled from sin. But his trouble became his triumph, as the prison yard became his palace. Even in the prison, he prospered!

Righteousness holds a guarantee for your prosperity. The Prodigal Son said, “I will arise and go!” And he arose and went, and every devil was watching him go. He walked back into liberty and honour. It’s time to walk back into honour.

All those I read about in my Bible that lived righteous lives were honoured. Potiphar’s wife would have ended Joseph’s ministry as a steward, but righteousness paved a way for him to the throne. The king’s rich food would have defiled Daniel and made him remain a mere civil servant in that country, but righteousness exalted him. He wouldn’t deny his God. No, not even in the face of death! He walked gallantly into the den of lions, and righteousness preserved him (Prov. 11:3)! He ended up in the high places of the government of his time!

Honour has its root in righteousness. See what Daniel 12:3 tells us:

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.

Righteousness causes men to shine as stars. If you truly desire honour, then wisdom demands that you also desire righteousness with a greater intensity. Let your desire for righteousness be more than your desire for honour, for when righteousness is in place, honour is automatic.

God stood by all who stood for Him in the scriptures. God made Daniel, who would not defile himself, the king of the land. Joseph became a king and ruler in the land simply because he would not touch Potiphar’s wife. Friend, honour is guaranteed when practical righteousness is in place.

Desire righteousness, and honour will follow suit. It is automatic. No matter how many principles you put together, until righteousness takes its place, honour is not in view. Righteousness is the root of honour. When it's out of place, honour is out of the question.

Holiness is the cheapest way to the top. You don't need to be crooked to become great. Job was a perfect man, yet he became the greatest in the entire east. You don't need financial perversion or immorality to gain access to the throne. Whatever throne unrighteousness places you on, it is to bring you to utter shame at the end.

Every accomplishment in the Kingdom is borne of a desire. The lack of desire for righteousness is the reason for the captivity of sin. Where there's no desire, there's no accomplishment (Mk. 11:24). I want you to be wise. Since honour is an offspring of righteousness, then desire righteousness.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro through all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of anyone whose heart is perfect towards Him. So, God's eyes can enter any prison and pick up any man. God's eyes found Joseph in the prison. And while he was in prison, God was organising promotion for him in the palace. Pharaoh in his dilemma asked, (...Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? Gen. 41:38.) See what happened next:

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck.

And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:41-44

When God's eyes find you, they will have no choice but to put you where He wants you to be. Righteousness is the surest way to the top; stop that sin now, so that it doesn't stop you tomorrow!

Beauty

Purity also gives birth to beauty. Let's look again at Tommy Hicks' prophecy:

"Slowly, this great giant began to rise and as he did, his head and hands went into the clouds. As he rose to his feet he seemed to have cleansed himself from the debris and filth that was upon him, and he began to raise his hands into the heavens as though praising the Lord; and as he raised his hands, they went even unto the clouds."

Suddenly, every cloud became silver, the most beautiful silver I have ever known.

Nothing glorifies and beautifies like holiness! It says, *"The cloud became silver..."* When the Church will rise in holiness and righteousness, there shall be beauty, heaven-decked beauty upon Zion! When men will come forth with a covenant oath—*"If I perish, I perish, but I will live for the truth!"*

Having cleansed itself from the debris, that giant emerged in beauty, and the cloud over its head became silver. *"The most beautiful silver I've ever seen"*, said Tommy Hicks. Oh yes, purity gives birth to beauty! Purity is the mother of beauty. Psalm 149:4 says, *"He will beautify the meek with salvation."* And what is salvation? Talking about Jesus in Matthew 1:21, the Bible says, *"He shall save his people from their sins."*

Your beauty, true colour, and covenant colour emerges only when you are saved from sin. That is when your authority and dominion is established. Let us go for purity, for it will surely deliver our beauty to us. When sin goes, beauty emerges. I see your beauty emerging in a most powerful way!

Rejoice At Persecutions

With every lifting and beauty comes persecutions, but I'd like you to know that God's faithfulness is stronger than any attack that the quest for righteousness may bring your way.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I defined persecution as, "*a display of emotional displeasure, which leads to unjust treatment. Borne out of hatred, bitterness, envy, misgivings, etc, it is the heritage of the front liners.*"

Naturally, the seed of the bondwoman is on a commission to persecute the child of promise. So when you are persecuted for righteousness sake, God is giving you a signal of lifting from heaven. God told me something on March 1, 1992. He said:

"Hundredfold (of every blessing) will come with hundredfold of persecutions!

If you don't want to be persecuted, then you don't want to be blessed.

If you don't want to be backbitten, then get behind!

If you don't want to be pulled down, then choose to be on the ground.

If you don't want to be gathered against, then stay where they are.

In a race, only those behind see how the ones in front are running.

Man is a free moral agent; he must be allowed to speak what he sees.

If you don't want to be talked against, then you must quit the front.

You must allow all those who are behind you to do their job—see your back

and talk at your back.

As you begin and continue on this journey of holiness, be rest assured that plenty of mockeries will come from wayfaring Christians, the ones who are not going anywhere. They are wayfaring because they just stand on the way. They are the seeds by the way side, so the birds will soon come and pick them up.

You must allow those who are behind you to do their job: to see your back and both talk at your back and bite it. Therefore, everyone who wants the blessings must automatically want the persecutions as well—that is, the lies, the mockeries, the slanders, the castigations, etc. If you don't know that these things are there, you will be tired. Jesus said:

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!

Luke 6:26

Those who mind men will miss God. If I had minded men, I would have missed God. But the Lord said to me, “Develop yourself to enjoy persecutions; but just make sure you're not in error.”

Persecutions are no afflictions; they are signals and proofs of promotion. A brother heard and received the word that, “You must not give or take bribe”, and for 10 months he was humiliated, because he refused to give bribe. His friends perhaps mocked him. He was asked to return the one million naira cheque they had given him. Since they now knew his stand, they were out (as the children of the bond woman) to persecute him. But when they persecute you for righteousness sake, it provokes God to promote you, as every persecution for righteousness equals exaltation from heaven.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Every child that shies away from exam will remain in the same class. If you

like, go on sick leave when exams are around; that's not a certificate that you have passed. You will still come back to take the exam when you are well. Everybody must write this exam we are talking about, or you won't go forward. God said to me:

“Develop yourself to enjoy persecutions. They are no afflictions; they are signals of your promotion. I am out to stir up jealousy through you!”

Every persecution against your righteousness is announcing your promotion, so rejoice at them. Note that persecutions are not just from sinners, but also from saints, preachers, and even very close acquaintances. If you choose the holy life, you are going to write the tests of persecution, but you will pass them and be promoted by them.

Please, expect persecutions! Develop yourself to enjoy them also. Rejoice at them, because they will announce your promotion. Persecution does not kill; ignorance is what kills. Every greatness from heaven is always welcomed here on earth by persecutions. Moses was born into the midst of persecutions. Pharaoh had already announced that every male Hebrew child should be killed. When Jesus arrived (the Moses of the New Testament), persecution was waiting also. Herod said, *“Kill all the children born, because I have heard that a king is born.”* Hell has heard of your status now, and is setting up snares to trap you. He will not catch you!

The persecutions of life are a reality, but your power over them is also a reality. The sole aim of persecutions is to stop the persecuted from attaining his goal. So let your eyes be single. You will attain your goal for holiness and righteousness, in Jesus' name!

Anybody can call you any name, that's his opinion. If they call you a thief, just make sure you are not stealing. If they say you are a liar, make sure you are telling the truth. Among liars, the only one telling the truth is reckoned as a liar. So leave them to their opinion. The Judge of the whole earth is watching. Don't fight them, so you don't lose your righteousness. Don't be embittered against them either, so you don't defile your holiness. If Jesus had minded the comments of the Pharisees, He would never have arrived heaven. Leave the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes where they are, and stick with Jesus!

Persecutors have their ministry, leave them to it. Rather, take heed to your own ministry, and don't bother about other people's ministries. You know where you are going, so don't look back. May the love that you have for Him keep you away from all the horrors of persecution.

Heaven is the home of overcomers, and only those who sail through in the temptations of life will find their places there. When you endure persecution, you win a crown of life. You are not to endure sin, but persecution.

Friend, a crown of glory and honour awaits you; you will not miss it!

9

It's Time For The Showers!

Now that sin is out of the way, it's time for the showers of God's blessings to fall. As we well know, righteousness exalts, while sin is a reproach. To walk in the newness of life, we must get rid of sin from our lives. But it doesn't end there. God then steps in and fills our lives with His blessings in place of Satan's sin and defilement. This is what God promises everyone that will clean up:

And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.

Ezekiel 34:25-28

“There shall be showers of blessing!” says the Lord, for everyone who will choose to walk in newness of life, to walk in holiness and righteousness. And why will God release the showers of blessings upon us? It is because by prophecy, the end-time Church is to enjoy a climax of honour and glory as

the arrival of the Bridegroom approaches. Our Bridegroom is on His way. He is very close by; and the nearer we are to His coming, the more glory we begin to experience.

The Church has entered into its “rainy” season. And just like the rainy season is the most glorious season in the natural (where leaves on trees are green and fruits can be seen hanging down branches, where the grass is green and everything is flourishing), so is it in the realm of the spirit as well. Showers cause God’s people to flourish (Ps. 65:9-10).

With sin out of our lives, drought is gone as well. It’s now time for the showers. When I say “Showers”, I mean showers, not mercy drops as some are experiencing now.

But before the showers of blessings is the rain, which allows for the continuous flow of the shower. The Bible talks about four kinds of rain. One leads to the other. You have to start at the bottom of the ladder to get to the top. Let’s identify the four kinds of rain.

The Rain Of Righteousness

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea 10:12

The greatness of the end-time Church that is foretold in scriptures is impossible without the rain of righteousness. It is the fundamental rain of God. It precedes the release of every other rain, and ultimately leads to the glory of the Church.

For instance, we understand that it is impossible to encounter the rain of the Spirit until the rain of righteousness is in place. Acts 2:38 says:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The rain of the Spirit comes after repentance. Even Jesus Christ had to obey this law. Righteousness was what triggered off the flow of the anointing of the Holy Ghost upon Him (Ps. 45:7). Jesus loved righteousness above all His fellows, and He was anointed with the oil of gladness above them all. He enjoyed unction without measure, because He was pure beyond measure!

The rain of righteousness is also crucial to the release of the rain of the Word.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

Isaiah 55:6-7,10

In essence, God's Word will come on you as the rain when you forsake every act of wickedness and embrace righteousness.

In Hebrews 9, we discover that the mysteries of life are deposited in the most holy place—talking about the tabernacle of Moses and its present day significance. That was where the golden pot that had manna was. That is where the deep things (the profound revelations) are located. But we are made to understand that no unrighteous man ever gains access to these mysteries. Only those sanctified by the blood and yielded to God can proceed into the most holy place.

But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.

Hebrews 9:7

It takes righteousness to enter where the tables of the covenant are, just as it takes the rain of consecration to release the rain of revelation.

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Mark 4:11-12

Reading this, you may wonder, “Who are those without?” Revelation 22:15 tell us “without are dogs.” Then 2 Peter 2:22 tells us that dogs are those who return to their vomit. These are habitual sinning Christians. They are those who return to the habits they had earlier given up. Such Christians will never have access to depths of mysteries that make stars of men. Remember, Paul said, “the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Cor. 3:6). Sinning Christians only have the letter of the Word, lacking the Spirit that will make it produce life.

It takes the rain of righteousness to experience the rain of revelation. There was a strong wave of consecration in the early Church. The rain of righteousness had been falling, sweeping off dubious characters like Ananias and Sapphira. And because the rain of righteousness was in place, it paved the way for the showers of revelation.

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

If you want to see an increase in revelation in your life, then you must seek the rain of righteousness. Remember that “without are dogs.” How much understanding can you put into a dog? No matter how long he has been your pet, he will never think like a man; he can never become your son.

Every blessing of God is rooted rooted in righteousness.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalms 24:3-5

What will this righteous man shall receive? “the blessing from the Lord.” Psalm 112:1 also tells us that the man that fears the Lord and delights greatly in His commandments is blessed. Wealth and riches reside in his house, and his seeds become mighty on the earth.

People may mock you for choosing to follow the path of righteousness today, but until men mock you, God cannot make you. The rain of righteousness must precede the showers of blessing.

A young lady in our church caught the Word of righteousness and triumphed by it. In her testimony, she said after the National Electric Power Authority had disconnected the power supply at the house where she lived, her co-tenants reconnected the lines illegally. When she got wind of this, she decided to remain in darkness rather than switch on the illegal power supply. She slept in darkness while the others rejoiced in their illegal electricity supply. This lady became an object of mockery. But God was not asleep, as He soon turned her mourning into dancing.

This sister was at this time looking for a job, and her accommodation then was a one-room apartment, with shared toilet facilities. Then she mysteriously got a job, with living quarters attached to the package! Not only that, she also discovered that there was a standby generator attached! In her testimony, she said, “I have never suffered five minutes black out since I left them (fellow tenants).” God picked her up from their midst and exalted her, because she allowed the rain of righteousness to soak her. God was on hand to show Himself strong on her behalf!

Friend, when you embrace righteousness, your journey through life ends up in blessings, no matter what it may look like now. Your beginning may be

small, but your latter end shall greatly increase (Job 8:7).

The Rain Of The Spirit

Once the rain of righteousness has fallen, it paves the way for the release of the rain of the Spirit. The rain of the Spirit is the second type of rain.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Joel 2:23

God gave us the former rain moderately, but He will cause to come down for us “the rain”. This is a combination of both the former and the latter rain together in the first month. When the former rain fell in Acts chapter 2, Peter quoted from Joel 2:28-32.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

Joel 2:28

This scripture is actually talking about the pouring out of the rain of “My Spirit.” To pour means, “to flow, especially downwards, in a continuous stream.” It also means, “to fall heavily (of rain).” This means that the rain of the Spirit will be poured out on the people of God in the last days, releasing them to a most glorious destiny in God. It is an outpouring that will exalt the Church above all hills, and establish her above all mountains, and all nations shall flow unto her. And because your lifting is tied to the lifting of the Church, you also need the outpouring of the rain of the Spirit to be lifted.

The rain of the Spirit is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God upon men. The Holy Spirit is a personality in the order of the Godhead. He is the third Person of the Trinity, not a feeling or an emotion (1Jn. 5:7). He is in charge

of the affairs of the kingdom of God on earth today, the Chief Executive of the divine programme on earth (Joel 2:28). The Holy Spirit is the motivator, energiser and operator of every revealed plan (vision) from God. He is the revealer of the hidden treasure of the kingdom (1 Cor. 2:9). He holds the key to the inheritance of the saints, and is the most valuable asset to Christian living. He is the central figure in any breakthrough in life.

The effect of the Holy Spirit can be likened to rain. Just as rain is crucial to the sustenance of a river, the rain of the Spirit is the life wire of the river in you.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:38-39

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is described as “rivers of living water.” But if the climate is harsh, a river reduces in volume and can ultimately dry up. So it needs the rain to keep it full of water. That’s why you need the rain of the Spirit, to increase the volume of “water” in your “river.” Without it, you run a risk of drying up.

But it is impossible to encounter the outpouring of the rain of the Spirit without righteousness first being in place. The rain of the Spirit follows consecration, it requires one being yielded. It is actually the level of your consecration to God that determines the level of unction you enjoy. Acts 3:19 says:

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

There is coming a deluge of divine release, which will turn every destiny the right way up. But you must first break up your fallow grounds. Break up that hardened habit that is out to make you a kingdom misfit. Determine to invest in righteousness; work it out, and you will experience the rain of the Spirit.

The Rain Of The Word

The Word of God can be likened to rain that comes pouring down from heaven (Isa. 55:10-11). It is God's major way of ending the drought in a man's life. When the Word of God is received and applied, no matter how harsh the climate may be, results are inevitable. Responding to the Word is the way to end the dry season in your life.

For instance, in the time of Isaac, there was physical famine in the land. King and subjects alike were affected. The famine was very severe, and king Abimelech and all his experts saw no way out. But Isaac was also in that land. He despised the famine and instead obeyed the Word of God—sowing in spite of the weather condition—and God blessed him. Isaac became great because he operated God's Word.

God's Word is your access to healing, deliverance, abundance, promotion, etc. And just like no amount of energy applied can force open a firmly locked door, it is only the application of the Word to a given circumstance that can produce favourable results—not the use of force.

The Word comes like rain. When there is an outpouring of the rain of the Word, and your spirit absorbs it, you “bring forth and bud” in all areas of life, like the woman in this testimony:

*“For 18 years, my mother suffered from hypertension. But she got hold of one of the Bishop's books, **Keys to Divine Health**. She read from the book that the devil is not a gentleman and immediately decided to stop taking her drugs, and to rather claim her healing. For over a month now, she has not taken the drugs. And when she went for a test last month, the test confirmed that her blood pressure had come down to 120/80. This has never been in the past 18 years! The test also confirmed that she does not have hypertension any more.”*

As she absorbed the Word in that book, it produced a harvest of divine health for her. It takes the Word to have victory over life's circumstances. There is nothing life demands that is not obtainable in the Word. That's why you need the rain of the Word to fall upon you.

But, like we said earlier, the rain of revelation draws from the rain of righteousness. Proverbs 1:23 says:

*Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you,
I will make known my words unto you.*

You turn at His reproof first before He pours His Spirit upon you and makes known His Words unto you. The Holy Spirit is prepared to teach you the ways of God, but until you turn away from iniquity, He will not teach you; and except the Holy Spirit teaches you a thing, you cannot know it (1 Cor. 2:13).

Thus, without consecration, there's no unction, and without unction, there is no revelation.

The Rain Of Blessings

*Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from
heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain
rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my
law, or no.*

Exodus 16:4

There is a way to break forth into the realm where the showers of heaven's blessings will stay with you until you get to the borders of heaven, just as Israel was fed everyday for forty years, until they got to the borders of Canaan. Remember, God has an agenda to deck the last days' Church with honour, riches and glory such as eyes have never seen, nor ears heard. He is set to release the rain of plenty upon the Church and make her an envy of nations.

But the release of the showers of blessings begins with insight into the workings of the covenant. However, the covenant is not for the "public", but for those who fear the Lord. In essence, God has given you power to get wealth so as to establish His covenant with you. But you need an understanding of what that covenant entails. This understanding is made available to you by revelation, and revelation only comes to those who fear

the Lord.

Do you want to see God's hand rest on your life? Then sign in for Him. Position yourself and as you walk in righteousness, you will find God; and when you find Him, you've found good! Anyone who wants the showers of blessings must first be drenched with the showers of righteousness. You must be soaked with the rain of righteousness before you encounter landmark blessings.

... Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

Psalm 112:1-3

From Psalm 112, it is clear that for the upright, no matter how terrible the situation around him may be, no matter how terrible the economic condition of that country, God will single him out for a blessing. How else could Joseph have prospered in the prison? In spite of the fact that he was a slave, God lifted him.

Righteousness is what triggers off the showers of blessings. And when God's rain of blessings begins to fall, there is a great restoration, such that if you had lost anything in life, the release of the rain brings you a replacement of that which was lost, and makes you forget that anything was ever missing. But it begins with a returning to the Lord with all your heart.

Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Gather the people, sanctify the congregation...

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Joel 2:12,13,16,23,24

A great restoration awaits you, but it begins with a returning to the Lord with all your heart. He said, "Sanctify the congregation." Why? Because He is bringing a rain of restoration, a rain of blessing such as you have never known before. That's why He said:

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Joel 2:26

I am excited because I see the showers of God coming down upon the people, bringing restoration that will lead to revolutions. All you need do now is to break up the fallow ground of your heart. It is time to seek the Lord until He rains righteousness upon you. Then there will be a turn around, a revolution in your life. Then and only then will you experience the showers that will cause you to walk in newness of life!

10

Access To The Showers

God's will for you is that the dry places of your life become as a well-watered garden. He wants to see you "fat" and flourishing, to demonstrate His goodness in practical terms. But you need to know how to access His showers. We have identified the most important access—righteousness. Now, let us name some other vital access to His showers.

A Thirst

For I will pour out water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.

Isaiah 44:3

God's rainfall is for the thirsty. It is a basic requirement for enjoying all four kinds of rain in the kingdom of God. Without a genuine thirst, you may never encounter the showers.

To buttress this point, let us consider the first type of rain - the rain of righteousness. Matthew 5:6 highlights what triggers it off:

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

What do you do to enjoy the rain of righteousness? You hunger and thirst for it! You cannot receive the rain of righteousness without a genuine thirst. Are you truly desirous of the showers? Then you must first yearn for the outpouring of the rain of righteousness.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen in the sanctuary.

Psalm 63:1-2

David yearned for it; he longed to see the rain of righteousness flow. Perhaps he was in a place dry of holiness, dry of God's glory and honour. So he longed for an outpouring of the rain of righteousness.

If there's no thirst, there's no access. It takes your desperately yearning for the release of the rain of purity to encounter a deluge. Your strong desire is what leads to its accomplishment.

To experience the rain of the Spirit also takes a thirst, a crave, and a yearning. God wants to pour out upon all flesh the rain of His Spirit, but what may constrain Him from releasing Him to you is the state of your heart. He will first check to see if you're genuinely thirsty, or whether you're merely asking out of a religious sense—because everyone else is asking.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:37-39

You also need a genuine thirst emanating from your heart to contact the rain of the Word.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Isaiah 55:1-2

The Word of God is likened to water in Ephesians 5:26. It is also described as milk in 1 Peter 2:2, and strong meat in Hebrews 5:12-14. The Word is “that which satisfieth,” but you must constantly thirst for it in order to be satisfied by it.

The rain of blessings answers also to a thirst. But note that it’s not a thirst for God’s blessings, but for God.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

Your delight in God and your thirst for Him releases the rain of plenty upon you. As long as it is God you’re pursuing after, you will not lack any good thing (Ps. 34:10). It is your thirst for God that opens you up to the rain of His goodies. Job said:

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Job 22:21

David was one of the most prosperous men in the Old Testament. A closer look reveals his dedication to God as the secret behind his rise. David loved God. His heart panted after God, as a thirsty hart pants after the water brooks (Ps. 42:1). He was not thirsty for goods. No! He was thirsty for God, and good came his way automatically.

In Psalm 122:1, David declared that he was glad to go into the house of the Lord. In verses 6-9, he led us into his secret winning card:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

This speaks of commitment, dedication, devotion and addiction to God. This was the foundation and base of his prosperity. But many today, particularly in the charismatic circles, have left off seeking God and are seeking after good; and that is why good never comes to them. David sought the Lord, so he never lacked any good thing. When Jesus arrived in the New Testament, He incorporated the same principle into the new covenant.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:30-33

God knows you have need of good things, but to encounter His unlimited rain of blessings, you must seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. Once you seek the kingdom of God, He releases the showers of blessings upon you. Get connected to God by a genuine thirst, and not even the devil can stop the flow of blessings to you. When you become addicted to kingdom pursuits, divine additions become your portion.

Friend, you need a thirst to experience the showers!

Ask For The Rain

It is not enough to be thirsty for the rain of God; you need also to ask for an outpouring upon you.

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Zechariah 10:1

It is he that asks that receives, and he that seeks that finds. You are greater than grass in the field, so you are entitled to a release of the showers. But you must ask for the rain in order to receive it.

For instance, in Acts 4, the disciples prayed and the place where they were praying shook. They prayed down the rain of the Spirit. You too must pray down God's rain upon your life. You must understand that God is eager to give showers of rain to everyone grass in the field. But you must be thirsty for the downpour, and express your thirst with a genuine call in prayer.

You have access to the rain of God, so why don't you open up right now with a genuine thirst and ask for the showers?

Sin Will Stop The Showers

And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Isaiah 5:6-7

Why did God command the clouds to rain no more upon the house of Israel? Because sin reigned in their midst. He looked for judgment, but rather He found oppression and unrighteousness. Israel was planted on a most fruitful hill. She was the choicest of vines, with a most enviable destiny. But sin

withheld her showers from falling.

We have sang the hymn, “There shall be showers of blessings”, yet many have never seen any dew come upon them. Even mercy drops are not visible anywhere around them. Why? It is because rather than walking in purity, they prefer to “bombard” heaven with their cries, which cannot be heard anyway. “...he looked for judgment, but behold oppression: for righteousness, but behold a cry.

Stop shutting your heavens; you need the showers! The world is a desert place; you require the showers to make a difference in it. Once the sin question is solved, the heavens are opened and the clouds are obliged to release showers upon you.

Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Jeremiah 3:3

The devil cannot stop your showers. Sin is what is locking up the heavens above you. As long as sin is present, the rain will be withheld. Stop blaming the devil; he is not at fault. I'm yet to see any man who is on key with God being stopped by the devil. If he could not stop you giving your life to Christ, then he couldn't possibly be your problem.

Whosoever does not refuse sin will very soon become a piece of refuse. Righteousness is the choice of the wise. If you choose to, you can purify yourself, even as God is pure (1 Jn. 3:3).

Using the covenant insights available to you (contained in previous chapters), once you say “No!” to defilement, no devil in hell can defile you. Who could stop the prodigal son when he arose to go back home? He must have said in his heart, “Enough is enough, I'm going home!” And it was so.

This is the time for our blossoming and flourishing. To refuse to purge yourself is to sign in for shame. When you see others in Zion radiating the glory of God, may shame not chase you out of Zion, back to Egypt!

Not everyone survives a revival. People whose hearts are not in perfect tune

with God will be swept away by the mighty waves. May you be kept, as you choose to clean up!

It is the showers coming from an open heaven that causes the righteous to flourish.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.

Psalm 92:12-14

When heaven tore open and the Holy Ghost came down upon Jesus, He began to flourish and His fame went abroad. He flourished like the palm tree and the cedar in Lebanon. He brought forth fruits until the last minute—even on the cross, He saved the sinner crucified beside Him.

The showers of heaven is responsible for the flourishing of the righteous. It's the showers that cause the flourishing, not his strength, smartness, or his ability. God also sends the rain to water seeds in the ground and cause them to yield fruit. Luke 8:11 says:

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. And Hosea 10:12 says:

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Since the seed is the Word, and Hosea tells us to sow in righteousness, it means until you receive the word of righteousness, believe and act on it, you'll never reap any rewards. I, therefore, charge you to break up all the fallow and unplowed grounds of your life. Break up the hardened habits, that sin that so easily besets you. Then God will make bright clouds, and send rain upon every green grass in the field, which includes you!

You are in a most privileged season of your life; may you not misuse His heaven-sent opportunity!

11

Keep The Rain Falling!

Having known your access to the showers, you need to know what it takes to keep the rain falling. What must you do to keep your heavens perpetually open?

Carry God's Presence

And the ark of God remained with the family of Obbedom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the house of Obbedom, and all that he had.

1 Chronicles 13:14

The ark of God symbolises the presence of God. Tremendous blessings abide wherever the ark dwells. Consider Obbedom. The ark remained with his family for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his household because of this.

The presence of God was what made the difference in Obbedom's family. In the same way, the Lord will keep the heavens over you perpetually open if you carry His presence. That is why the enemy constantly tries to get you out of God's presence, so that he can oppress and afflict you. But as long as you remain enveloped in God's presence, all oppositions will be converted to opportunities (Ps. 114:3-7)!

God's presence is the answer to a shut heaven! It was His presence, I believe, that brought about a mental, psychological and intellectual awakening in Obbedom. He must have been so prosperous that David saw it and envied him, and quickly brought the ark into the city of David (2 Sam. 6:12). God's presence always triggers off envy, because His presence is always announced

by blessings.

*Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;
at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Psalms 16:11

Please understand that the Church is in the midst of an outburst of heavenly blessings, where a little one among us will become like a thousand, and a small one, a strong nation.

When God came down in the midst of Israel, their captivity of over four hundred years was turned overnight, and gold became their luggage! God remained with them in the wilderness, and their heavens remained open. None was feeble among their tribes. They were not permitted to thirst, for the Rock that brought forth water for them followed them. They never hungered, because God rained down Manna for them daily. A cloud covered them in the day, and the pillar of fire by night. They were guided and protected, and the wild beasts had no access to them. God's presence was their sufficiency.

If God is with you, you must have proofs, because God's presence is always announced by blessings. And when God blesses, it is forever. God blessed Obadiah, and it was eternal. You too will encounter such blessings that would last you a lifetime, in Jesus mighty name!

In the Acts of the Apostles there was none among them that lacked. Why? God's presence was so strong in their midst. All that retained the ark had blessings as proofs. Would you like to retain His ark?

The Love Of God

The love of God is the platform upon which any Word of God comes to pass. It is the vital force that keeps one's heaven open.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

The love of God is what keeps the showers on, as it is the pivot for the fulfillment of all prophecies recorded in scriptures. Everything rests on it. It is the intensity of your love for God that will determine the degree of accomplishment you will have. There is nobody under heaven, who is genuinely addicted to God that will not continually enjoy the showers.

When man fell in the Garden of Eden, his love nature died; he was stripped of the nature of love. It will, therefore, take supernatural help for man to re-enter that love realm. The love of God is made possible and easily accomplishable by the help of the Holy Spirit. He infuses the love of God into your being, and delivers you from selfishness. You need that help today.

When you succeed in walking in that kind of love, your heaven will stay open. Why? Because things work for you only to the level that you love Him.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Every struggle is settled by love. When the love of God is in place, your struggles in life come to an end. But too many are serving God, not because they love Him, but for the things they hope to receive from Him. That's why the Holy Spirit is given to us: to destroy self and enthrone God, Who wants to possess us. And when God is enthroned in our hearts, our heavens will remain continually open!

David was a man after God's heart. He was in hot pursuit of God. Remember how he obtained the throne of Israel? Someone was defying the army of God, and David said, "No! Who is this uncircumcised Philistine? I would

rather die than watch him continue.” Love drove him to Goliath, and love brought him the victory! Love destroyed Israel’s opposition.

Do you want your heaven to stay perpetually open? Then allow the love of God to reign in your heart. The Holy Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in your heart, delivering you from the hold of self and connecting you to God. When that is in place, every work of the flesh that stands between you and God is destroyed, and the heavens over you remain open.

You can also keep your heavens open by demonstrating your love for God in your giving. This is not a man-made theology, but a commandment from God, given to guarantee that your heavens remain open.

God’s love is active. It is a giving love. God Himself demonstrated this to us by first giving us His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16). It is not the love of God if it is not a giving love. What I mean by the giving love is when you give cheerfully. It is your love for God that makes you give cheerfully, just like David.

*Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God,
I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have
given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have
prepared for the holy house.*

1 Chronicles 29:3

David’s love was demonstrated in his giving life. It was not as a matter of duty, but of delight. David was delighted in God! “Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God...” It was that affection that developed into devotion, and devotion into addiction.

Let me put it this way: when love is not giving, it is not love. Giving is the only authentic proof of your love.

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life
for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

*But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need,
and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth
the love of God in him?*

1 John 3:16-17

So, when your bowels are shut to God and to others, there is no proof that God's love is dwelling in you. But you can unlock the windows of heavens by the demonstration of love. It is not prayer or fasting, but love! See it this way: "God so loved, He so gave. If I so love God, I will so give to God."

You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. People give for many funny reasons: to satisfy their religious conscience, to earn the praises of men, or simply because he's the pastor of the church. You may give for whatever reason, but you cannot love and not give. It is the intensity of your love for God that determines how wide He will open His windows over your head.

You need a heart for God to make a mark on the earth. The larger your heart for God, the greater marks you will make on the earth. The largeness of your heart is expressed in the intensity of your giving. By intensity I don't mean the amount, but the quality of your giving.

Please note that prayer cannot open your heavens. Financial blessings are not prayed for, but provoked by a covenant walk. You don't pray for material blessing; a covenant walk is what guarantees it. The heavens over you will no longer be shut!

Until you give God His place, you never have your own place. To enjoy the showers and keep your heaven open, you must remain addicted to God and His affairs on the earth. Until you mind Him in His plan, God will not mind you or be delighted in your ways. Understand that except you are moved by God's kingdom, your needs never move Him, because abundance answers only to God-addiction.

Many have been working, yet nothing seems to be working for them. Why? They are not mindful of God's house, and so the heaven over them has been stayed from dew, and the earth stayed from her fruit (Hag. 1:8-10). But when your heavens are opened, you enter into the realm of supernatural additions.

My wife's salary when she joined me in the ministry was about 25% of what she earned in her secular job; and yet our standard of living did not drop. This is because it is not your income that brings the blessings; it is the covenant! I have seen people who have earned salaries for over twenty years

and yet have nothing to show for it. But show me a man engaged in a qualitative covenant walk, and I will show you one whose life will remain like a well-watered garden. That will be your experience from now on!

Everything that concerns God moves me, that is why He is moved about me. Some thirty-two years ago, I was in a place doing a vacation job, and I discovered that there was no church there. So I vowed not to leave the town the same way I met it. I was not a pastor then, and had not received any call into full-time ministry; I just loved the Lord with all my heart. To the glory of God, a church started in that town before I left! I remember climbing palm trees and cutting down palm fronds to build the church. God was watching. His eyes, which run to and fro in all the earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect towards Him, located me, and I can declare with all confidence today that I am blessed!

A burning love in your soul is what gets you connected to God that nothing else can come between you and Him. Be sold out to God! It is the only way to keep your heavens open. And as long as your heavens are open, the showers will keep falling!

Friend, the Church is now in her “rainy” season. You must burst forth in your giving life and increase the quality of your covenant walk, then you will see a great tomorrow. The end-time Church is programmed to enjoy such financial and material favours that will shake the entire world. God will locate men and women into whose hands He will commit heavenly treasures that will shake the natural world. The world will be forced to respect the Church, by reason of the lifting hand of God. May you be one of those upon whom God’s deluge will fall!

Praise Him

Praise is another way to keep the showers coming. In praise you are appreciating God for His Person; you are worshipping Him for who He is. You go before the Lord in worship, you approach His throne with a heart of gratitude, and bless the Lord and adore Him. Zechariah 14:17 says:

And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts,

even upon them shall be no rain.

Everyone is coming before the Lord, but how many are actually coming in praise or in worship? Do you want to keep the showers falling upon you? Then begin to worship the King! Don't let anything affect your worship. The Psalmist said:

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Psalm 103:1

If you don't bless Him, your rain will stop. God will stop blessing you when you stop blessing Him. He won't raise you if you won't praise Him. You have to take the step to do your part, as God is constant. He is committed to honouring you, if you will honour Him. If you exalt Him, He will exalt you.

It is very important that we understand the place of praise in relationship to our rainfall. Praise is what keeps the heavens open; it is what keeps the rain coming.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2

Calling to mind all His benefits helps you to bless Him the more, particularly when you remember that your iniquities have all been forgiven, and that you are guaranteed a place in heaven. Know that until you are forgiven, you are not free. It is only after you are forgiven that you are free from the tormenting agents of sin like lying, adultery, hatred, etc. When you are forgiven, the power to go and sin no more is delivered to you; you are then recovered and restored. So, bless the Lord for forgiving all your iniquities. The proof that you are forgiven is in the grace of liberty. God destroys your taste for sin, delivering you from returning to it again.

Forgiveness is the number one benefit you bless God for, not shoes and clothes. Another benefit to bless God for is your health. You don't know the value of health until you are attacked by sickness. When you are sick everything that appears to be your concern loses value. Sickness humbles a man. A man who is sick and cannot feed himself, drink by himself or use the

toilet by himself has been humbled by sickness.

For the good health you enjoy, why won't you bless Him in praise! He has every right to erase your health if you don't bless Him. Sickness can dissolve, in a matter of moments, whatever you have gathered in the world by way of possessions. Don't bless Him for bread and butter only, but for things of greater value. Somebody who has a problem with his car accuses God and another who has lost something begins to complain. When you do such things, you're simply showing God where your heart is. You're proving to Him that your heart is not with Him, but in things.

But if you bless God for your health, He will give you greater health. If you bless Him for His provisions, He will bless you with more of it. Until you bless Him, blessings will not continue.

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction...

Psalms 103:4

There is a redemptive package that makes you untouchable. Witches and wizards don't have access to it. That package guarantees the protective hand of God over you and all that you have. You should bless Him for it. God protects us from many things we are unaware of. He knows those who are angry that you are laughing, and those who are restless that you can come out of a house that you call your own. Yet you sleep and wake up unharmed, because He has hidden you in the hollow of His hand. It's wisdom to give Him thanks!

The things you sorrow about make you a sorry case. You are bothered that you don't have new shoes; but you need legs to wear the shoes. If you had no legs your cries wouldn't be for new shoes, but for new legs! That is why you must be committed to blessing the Lord at all times. If you stop blessing Him, His blessings in your life will also stop. I have discovered that people only stop blessing God when they forget His benefits. As long as you lay His benefits to heart, you will never stop blessing Him.

Friend, if you bless Him for your health He will give you greater health. If you bless Him for His provisions, He will provide more for you. And as you bless Him for delivering your soul from destruction, He guarantees that you enjoy more protection.

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Malachi 2:1-2

If you do not give glory to His name, He brings curses instead of blessings. But your ground remains fertile and well watered when you are thankful for all He has done. Blessing God moves Him to water your ground; and as the ground is watered, you begin to flourish like a palm tree.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Psalms 92: 1,12

It is thanksgiving that moves heaven to send rain upon you. And as long as the rain keeps falling, you remain fat and flourishing and ever productive. The mystery behind the cedar of Lebanon hinges on this: you praise God and the rain comes, and as the rain comes, you are raised. But you can be raised higher than your present position, if you engage in high praises. So, go for it!

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.

Psalms 149:6

Friend, there are no general blessings. You must find a place for yourself in this great outpouring of grace. God does not need anything from you. Your blessing Him is a response to His benefits, which He first endowed upon you. So, let everything within you praise the Lord, and then He will raise you. Complaining compounds your problems; choose rather a life of genuine praise!

Epilogue

I'd like you to be sensitive in the spirit, and start taking steps in the direction of the things you've encountered in this book. All you have read about are not for another person, but for you, because it is your hour of visitation.

Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

Proverbs 13:13

It's time to slay sin, before it slays you. To continue in sin is dangerous; don't toy with it! The former things God has overlooked, He now commands that you repent. Don't go back to what is gone. Rather, walk in newness of life and enjoy the showers from heaven.

The beauty of salvation is righteousness. So be determined for a stainless Christian walk, and see God match your resolve with stainless glory upon you.

Sin is a reproach to any people. You may not see the reproach on the first, second, or even the third day. But surely, it comes! If you don't stop that sin now, someday it will stop you. God is saying to you: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. Deut. 30:19).

Stand on your feet like that giant, and the debris must give way! The filthy garment must go, so you can walk into your liberty. Isaiah 60:1 says:

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

We are talking about total redemption in Christ. Sin was the beginning of shame for man, but righteousness is the only way to have honour restored.

“You have not seen glory yet,” ***saith the Lord.*** “I am preparing you for realms of glory you have never seen before. If you will clean up, and be holy as I am holy, I will visit you with My beauty. Your purity will provoke the release of My power. The world will seek My knowledge from you. You are going to see Me in a way you have never seen Me before. I am cleaning you up to manifest you to the world. I am preparing you to declare your sonship. I am making you ready to occupy your throne,” ***saith the Lord God of Hosts.***

When sins are forgiven, refreshing and healings follow immediately (1 Jn. 1:9). Miracles are released when sins are forgiven. After God has forgiven your sins, access to every other thing becomes automatic.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be so found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

2 Peter 3:14

And Romans 13:14 adds:

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

It's time to arise and walk in newness of life! The world is waiting for you! I have said it over and over again, that it's possible to live a holy life. I have included the following testimonies to prove this, and also to help boost your faith. The people in these testimonies were able to overcome sin; you too can. All you need do is to accept personal responsibility, and you will be set for the showers from above.

“Dear Bishop,

I use this wonderful opportunity to testify that God is truly a living God and that you are a true prophet of God.

I am into the business of Promotions and Events Management. I handle promotions for many companies; but each time I do any business with this company which happens to be my major client, the guys who are responsible for the jobs ask for so much in return as kick-backs. I had been servicing them, and each time I settle them I get broke and my company is in trouble, to the point that we

run helter-skelter to pay salaries. To feed even becomes a big problem.

In January 1996, you instructed that we should not give bribe to any one, and I had just finished a major promotion for this same company, and the guys were expecting me to bring their returns. I became confused as to what to do, but I eventually obeyed your instruction and did not give the guys anything.

Then trouble started! They started to blackmail me and refused to give me any more jobs. People told me to go and beg them, but I refused, because I was acting on your instructions. Things became rough, but I held on to your instruction.

I then decided to start talking to some other companies, for them to show interest in our major event of the year that holds in December. I found another company in June, and after several meetings, they agreed they were going to sponsor the event on the condition that the first company be part of it, because they did not want to be seen as stealing an event that another company had been involved in for some years back.

They requested for a meeting with the first company, told them their mind, and the first company agreed to all their requests. But unknown to me and the other company, they had their own plans. Arrangements began and all hands were on deck for us to have two multi-national companies sponsor this event. It was going to be a bang!

On October 24, 1996, I received a cheque of one million naira from the second company, as their own share for sponsoring the event. I was expecting to collect another one million naira from the first company as their own share too. I paid the cheque into the bank on October 28, and returned to my office to do some paper work. As I finished praying, my secretary told me I had a visitor—it was the brand manager of the brand and company that gave me the one million naira cheque. She said the first company had pulled out of the deal, so I should not pay their cheque into my account. She also said that her company might not continue with

the deal since the agreement was that the two companies must do the event.

I did everything I could, but they had made up their minds not to go ahead, since the first company had pulled out. I later found out that the guys deliberately led us on to enable them disappoint us, because I had refused to give them their usual bribe in January.

Somehow, I refused to lose hope, as I remembered and held on to your testimony of having lost your bag at the airport sometime ago, and how you did not worry. My wife met with a pastor in church, and they prayed together. On Tuesday, October 29, I returned the one million naira cheque, making one prayer—‘God, if it is You that sent Bishop Oyedepo to say we should not give bribe, and I listened to him and this happened, then over to You.’ I returned the cheque without any ill feelings. My staff were all upset, but I told them not to worry, saying, ‘God is in control.’

When I got back from returning the cheque, I met another letter from some people requesting a meeting with me. Apparently, they had been looking for me for a while. Somebody who had seen one of my events got to South Africa and mentioned it to them, and they wanted to set up an office in West Africa, with headquarters in Nigeria.

I went for the meeting and what did I come out with? They wanted me to be their head in West Africa, moving my office to Ikoyi from Ikeja, all expenses paid by them! Presently, they have bought me a brand new car valued at 2.2 million naira! I arrived Nairobi (all expenses paid) on a course, and for Christ sake, what I got is unbelievable! First class treatment, five star hotel, etc!

I decided to write to you, to personally say, ‘Bishop, THANK YOU’, for your words, and for everything. Words are not enough to describe my appreciation. I also want to specially thank God for everything. The package I have is extremely unbelievable! I thank God. Bishop, I love you with the whole of my heart.”

— Onime, K.

DIVINE TRANSFORMATION

“I’m a Nigerian, but live in Banjul, The Gambia. I want to testify of what the Lord has done in my life since I met the World Mission Agency in Banjul, The Gambia.

I am a businessman who used to deal in illegal business. But the day I came in contact with the World Mission Agency, I decided to give up that business, because I received the Word of life from the church, and God has transformed my life ever since!”

— Okonkwo, C.

“God...I Want To Live A Holy Life”

“I thank God, I thank the Bishop for making him to send that word unto me yesterday. Since Sunday when that bomb (the message preached) came unto me, things have turned around in my life.

I used to be a womanizer, a terrible one at that. But after hearing that sermon on Sunday, I couldn’t get up from my seat to walk home. The Bishop said, ‘If you have all those useless things of the world in your house, throw them away.’ On getting home, I gathered all the useless pictures I used to take in those days and tore them all.

When I desired to be close to God, I asked Him what I could do, and He led me to join the Sanctuary Keepers group. But despite this, the devil kept tempting me. I am an automobile electrician. There is no way we would do any job without telling lies. We would always inflate the price of things bought. I then said, ‘God, I need a change. I want to live a holy life.’

The word preached yesterday hit me again. The Bishop said, ‘If you are in a place where evil is done, even if you don’t join them, you also partake in the curse that befalls them.’ So I decided to change my job.

When I came to clean the sanctuary this morning, I looked on the notice board and saw a vacancy advert for a driver. I have six years driving experience, so I copied the address and went in search of the place. It is a new nursery/primary school. I met a teacher there, who told me that the proprietress was not around, but confirmed that they actually needed drivers to drive the school bus and a personal driver for the proprietress.

On leaving there, I decided to walk down to my former office, to say hello to my colleagues and then go home. On getting there, they still wanted me to continue working, but I told them I didn't want to work with them any more. While still there, a relation drove in. He said they had been looking for me for many days, and I told him that I was looking for another job, because I wanted to live a holy life.

He said, 'We have been looking for you. We want to buy a bus for you. In fact, I'm just coming from where I went to price the bus.' He said the bus he saw was going for 410,000 naira, and that we would go to the place together tomorrow, so I can make my choice!"

— Ezekiel, S.

“I’ve Stopped My Crave And Love For Money!”

“Being ruled by the god of gold, I got involved in drug trafficking. I took drugs to the United States of America, and at times brought some in from Thailand. A cousin of mine who worships here had always invited me to this church, but I refused. Instead, I went to another church where I was given something to use. After using whatever I was given, I thought I was okay. But despite all those, I got into problem and I was arrested and detained.

I said, 'Money would do it.' I didn't know the Lord. My business partners came together and raised money to bribe my way out of

the place. I believed so much in their bribes that I was convinced that I would be released. But I wasn't released!

The first year came and went, the second year rolled by. I was taken to prison. Then I knew that the end had come. When I got there, I met people worshipping God. In fact, some people invited me to God, but I rebuffed them. My cousin who worships here kept sending books to me. Then one day, something ministered to me, "If you don't know God, you will die here."

I'd never fasted in my life, but I then began to fast; I started doing dry fasting. I found myself able to fast and pray for three days at a stretch. People spent a lot of money to get me out of prison, but did not succeed, and after some time they began to be weary. When they got tired, I said, 'God will do it.'

Though all my needs in the prison were supplied (as people kept bringing money to me), I was desperate to be released. So on April 22, 1994, I accepted Christ into my life. I began to know God and to have faith in Him to set me free. Miraculously, in February 1996, a way opened for me. I was arraigned in court, and instead of being jailed for at least 25 years (because of the quantity of substance found on me), I was given a jail term of five years. My sentence started reading from the day I was arrested, so I was set free immediately!

God has been doing wonderful things in my life since I was released from jail. I've never missed a service here. And whenever I come, the Bishop's preachings always touch me, especially his teachings during the Signs and Wonders Week. And now, I've stopped my crave and love for money. I've cut off from all my friends, who still come to convince me to continue in the drugs business. I'm free now, and the Lord has been supplying all my needs, according to His riches in glory."

— O.K.

"Since the Bishop began to preach about sin on Monday, I began to confess all that the Spirit of the Lord laid in my heart to confess.

And I thank God that I've now exalted righteousness in my life."

— Adebayo, V.

"I was held captive by the spirit of immorality for about 12 years. I gave my life to Christ in 1994, and whenever I read Proverbs 7:13-14, I cry, but this spirit still didn't go.

I then made up my mind to wait on the Lord in the Word during the Signs and Wonders Week, and I was totally delivered from the spirit of immorality."

— Adepoju, O.

SUPERNATURAL HEALING

"I'm a footballer. We were in camp last year, while preparing for the challenge cup competition. I had an evil attack in the night, something held me down to the bed and I was being choked. When I got up, I started feeling terrible; I had internal heat, headache and several other symptoms. I couldn't tell what was wrong with me.

My team officials took me to the doctor, and after several tests, they told me that I was all right, that there was nothing wrong with me. But the heat, headache and all, still persisted. At one of our away matches, I almost fainted in the stadium. I had to be stretched out. I then had to leave my club camp in mid season, and came down to Lagos. I reasoned within myself that if I was to die, then I should die in Lagos, where my parents live.

In Lagos, I ran into a friend, who worships here. He administered the anointing oil to me in his house and I felt relieved slightly. That made me to believe for the first time. I then decided to start worshipping here. I started coming, and my condition improved, though I still felt pains in my knees and legs. I was still unable to try out road walks and my usual workouts.

Bishop kept talking about righteousness, that if we wanted to be healed of all ailments in our bodies, then we should start living righteously. I thought within myself that I was probably not healed because I was still doing things that I knew were wrong. I then made up my mind to put all those things aside, and to live righteously.

I was here yesterday, and on my way home, I discovered that I was relieved of the pains. This morning, I tried out road walk. I did a 10 kilometre road walk, and I discovered that all the pains were gone!”

— Chike, P.

MY BUSINESS REVIVED

“I started worshipping here last September. The problem I had with my work was what brought me here. I’m a block maker. But since 1993, the business slumped. All I did to revamp it was to no avail. A friend invited me here, telling me that if I joined Winners’ Chapel, I would be a winner. I decided to be a Winner so I came here.

But all the while, I was still playing with sin. I came here, and the Bishop said whoever comes here and continues in sin would remain the same. I caught it and resolved from that day on not to have anything to do with sin again. I forgot all about sin and changed to the laws in the Bible.

I studied Deuteronomy 28 and attended last month’s anointing service, the one we had thrice. After the service, I went to my work place and anointed it. That very day, a friend came to me and said, ‘Mr. Laiwola, I brought this woman to you, for you to make blocks for her.’ I asked how many blocks she wanted and she said about 3,000! The first miracle brought in 56,000 naira! Before I finished that one, another one came in, and so it has been ever since. Now, I produce blocks everyday!”

— **Olaiwola, G. A.**

“Before I became born again on July 6, 1996, I’d been smoking cigarettes for 10 years. I was also into womanizing. But when I look back at what God has done in my life, the way He has turned my life around, I can’t but feel that He has been very good to me.

Not only that, God has used me to touch other people’s lives. I get up in buses and share the gospel of Jesus with them. Yesterday night, after the message I shared in the bus, a man came down and said, ‘Brother, everything you said was directed at me.’ I said, ‘Well I didn’t know you before. I wasn’t the one talking to you, it was God.’ He then said I should keep praying for him and he gave me some money to sow as seed for him in my church.”

— **Akinfemi, B.**