



Theme:

END TIME HARVEST

◀ SUNDAY 11TH TO SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST, 2024



CONVENTION
WORKSHOP



Theme:

END TIME HARVEST

◀ *SUNDAY 11TH TO SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST, 2024*



END TIME **HARVEST** Workshop

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Rev Dr John .O. Idowu

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WELCOME

END TIME HARVEST



You are welcome to the 2024 Name of Jesus Convention (NOJC 2024) in the name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We trust the Lord will bless you tremendously this special week of holy convocation.

As we prepared to enter 2024, the Lord ministered to me that 2024 is our year of multiple harvest.

In the place of meditation, my mind went to *John 4:35-37* and *Lev.26:5*.

John 4:35-37

³⁵ *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

³⁶ *And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.*



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³⁷ *And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.*

⁴⁵ *And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely." Leviticus 26:5*

This brochure/workshop is a collection of in-depth studies that relates to the theme **END TIME HARVEST**. I gave various topics to our beloved church leaders and Pastors in our ministry across the nations and after editing, we have in this convention, a rich brochure with spiritual investment that will bless you all, as they take you through the various workshop teachings.

I therefore commend you to the grace of the LORD as you study to make yourself approved unto God, the workmanship that would not bring shame to God in JESUS CHRIST NAME.

REV JOHN OLANREWAJU IDOWU (PhD)

TABLE OF CONTENT

| | |
|--|---------|
| • FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND END TIME HARVEST | 18-28 |
| • CHRISTIANS AND THEIR ASSUMPTIONS | 29-36 |
| • OCCUPY TILL I COME | 37-62 |
| • THE SOWER, THE SEED AND THE VISION OF THE HARVEST FIELD | 63-71 |
| • THE PROPHETIC AGENDA FOR THE LAST DAYS HARVEST | 72-80 |
| • DIVINE TIMING AND END TIME HARVEST | 81-97 |
| • LABOUR IN THE HARVEST FIELD | 98-104 |
| • THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE IN END TIME HARVEST | 105-125 |
| • THE CHALLENGES OF THE HARVEST FIELD | 126-135 |
| • THE PRICE IS NOT GREATER THAN THE PRIZE | 136-153 |
| • THE END TIME HARVEST | 154-160 |
| • THE JOY OF AN HAVESTER | 161-172 |
| • HYMNS | 173 |

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END TIME **HARVEST**

◀ SUNDAY 11TH TO SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST, 2024

END TIME *Harvest*



CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

NOJC REGISTRATION UNIT

Registration of participant starts on arrival. The registration stand is located at the frontage of the church auditorium. Registration is compulsory for The participants and convention materials will be given to you as soon as you register.

- All participants are requested to be registered. Payment of different convention materials can be made at the registration stand. This will enable you get the complete convention package and materials.
- Ministers of the gospel should endeavor to indicate at the point of registration who they are for the purpose of easy placement in the auditorium
- All registered participants should wear their participant tag at all times during the convention. This will assist the security network in place.
- Necessary information about location of facilities available for your convenience at this convention will be made available at the registration stand

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation arrangement is available for those who may need it

Hotel facilities

Hostel facilities (SGIC)

The prices vary. You can avail yourself of one depending on your financial capacity

- Accommodation officers are at the registration stand. All matters relating to accommodation should be discussed with them
- The list of hotels in town with rates is also available at the registration stand
- No Loitering around church premises after evening services. Visit the registration stand to resolve any accommodation issues in case you have one
- Bus take off time at the SGIC hostel facility will be between. 7:30am- 7:45am

TRANSPORT UNIT

The buses will be available for the movement of participants in the morning and evening to convey people to Church and bring people back to different routes after each session of everyday at designated bus stops in the metropolis.

TRANSPORT UNIT

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ROUTE A: Church – Awedele – NTA – Aba Iya Medi – Baptist High School – Falegan – Ile Abiye – Irona – Ijigbo – Bamigboye – Ologede – Ajebamidele

BUSTOPS : *Hillmat Hotel junction – NTA – Delight Hotel – Aba Iya Medi – Baptist High School – Falegan – Irona – Jesus Chapel Ajilosun – Bamigboye – Ologede*

ROUTE B: Church – Fajuyi – Okesa – Ereguru – Atikankan – Ijigbo – Mathew Street – St Paul Church Odo Ado – Ureje – Federal Poly/ABUAD

BUSTOPS: *Pavilion Okesa – Post Office – Fidelity Bank Ijigbo – Agric Olope Junction – St Pauls Odo Ado – Immigration – Eureka – Fedpoly/ABUAD*

ROUTE C: Church – Fajuyi – Stadium – Dalimore – Adebayo – Opopogbooro – Bawa – EKSU (Iworoko)

BUSTOPS: *Fajuyi Pavilion – Stadium – Dalimore Junction – School of Nursing/Ori Apata – Jesus Chapel University Road branch – Bawa – EKSU (Iworoko)*

ROUTE D: Church – Opopogboro – Adebayo – Housing Road – SGIC

BUSTOPS : *Apata Nathal Junction – Nova School – Jesus Chapel University Road Branch – Housing Junction- Iwaro Junction – SGIC*

ROUTE E: Church – Oke Ori Omi _ Isato – Irona – Omisanjana – Olaoluwa

BUSTOPS : *Oke Ori omi – St Thomas Nur/Pry – Omisanjana Junction – Filling Station Omisanjana – Olaoluwa School*

Church – Odo Uro – Faglo filling Station – Ikingbinsin – De Head – Opopogboro – EKSUth – Crist School – Fajuyi – Church

BUSTOPS: *Odo Uro Market – Faglo Filling Station – Deeper Life Church – Olorunda Junction – De Head – Adehun – Jesus Chapel University Road – Crist School – Fajuyi*

ROUTE G : Church – Nova Road – Apata Nathal – Staleg Mall – Car Wash – Onala – Tinuola – Okela – Okeyinmi – Church

BUSTOPS: *Apata Nathal Junction – Apata Nathal – Jimoh Aliu Road Junction – Car Wash – Marta Chriti Nursery and Pry Schl Onala – Tinuola – Mary Mount Junction – Aladetoyinbo Complex Okeyinmi*

ROUTE H : Church – Jewaco shop Ojumose – Post Office – Atikankan – Irona Market – Omisanjana – Shepered – Deper Life Camp Ground – Ajebandele – Shasha – Ikere

BUSTOPS : *Jewaco Store Ojumose – Igbeyin/Atikankan – Omisanjana Junction – Alasia Junction – Shepered – Deeper life Camp Area – Ajebandele – Shasha – Ise Junction at Ikere – Post Office Odo Oja Ikere*

After evening session each day, the take-off time for buses to different routes will be 20 minutes after benediction.

Marketing unit of NOJC 2024 gracefully welcome all participants to this year's convention.

- The unit is rightfully positioned at the entrance of the church premises after the gate
- Sales of NOJC DVD, MP3, MP4 and other messages are available immediately after each service. You will be promptly attended to by the personnel at the stand.
- Sales of newly released and previous books of our father and mother (*Rev Dr. John and Rev. Mrs. Mary Idowu*) are available at the marketing section beside the registration stand.
- Previous teachings of Papa and Mama on DVD, ACD, and other formats are available. Kindly request for these before the end of each service
- You can pay for the items bought by cash, mobile transfer or POS at the stand
- Dominion voices (*of the Holy-Ghost Choir*) released music album as well as previous albums are also available at the stand

MEDICAL SERVICES

Visit the medical unit besides the church office for any health needs. The unit has qualified medical personnel. A patient is requested to provide the medical team with necessary information and cooperation in the course of treatment

- The unit offers medical services throughout the program. So as to access this medical services, you need to be registered at the convention registration stand

CHILDREN CHURCH

Our children will be having their services throughout all sessions of the convention. The children church is located behind the main auditorium.

- Parent/guardian are expected to register their children at the children church
- You are to sign in when dropping your ward (s) and also sign out when taking them
- Ask for guidance at the registration stand for proper direction
- Children between the ages of 3-10 years are expected to attend the children church
- Bring snacks, drinks and offerings for your children

CATERING SERVICES

Good, sumptuous and affordable meals are available in the canteen. The canteen is located at the building next to the main auditorium from the main entrance.

- The canteen opens by 6:30am and food is available at affordable prices
- Participant should endeavour to abide by the scheduled break time to avoid hanging around or loitering around during the services
- Participant should endeavour to get their meals in take away packs after the night session to avoid missing their buses.

SECURITY UNIT

All participants are expected to register on arrival at the registration stand and also to wear their participants tag during the program

- The Security personnel will be on ground for security checks of vehicle and luggage when entering the church premises. Kindly accord them the honour
- Vehicles owners (*especially of vehicles parked outside the church premises*) are advised not to leave any attractive material or document on the car seat while leaving. Kindly lock-up your car doors.
- There is a luggage point where bags and other valuables of participants are kept and you will be given identification tags which should be kept and presented to reclaim your luggage.

ACCESS

- Ø Participants are expected to enter into the auditorium using the main entrance and the two other doors at the side of the church auditorium
- Ø No participant will be allowed into the auditorium with bags except female hand bags after being checked by the security unit

PARKING OF VEHICLES

- Ø Parking of vehicles has been sectionalized during the convention
- Ø Vehicle owners should adhere to the directives of the security team. Kindly follow their instructions to ensure safety of your vehicles

Charging of electronic gadgets within the auditorium is prohibited please

TOILET FACILITIES

Decent toilet facilities are behind the church auditorium. See any of the ushers for guidance and direction

- Participants are expected to use the toilet decently and flush after use
- Waste bins are positioned in strategic locations within the premises. Participants should use these waste-bins and not litter the premises please. Nursing mothers please take note

INTERNET MINISTRY

Live Streaming

The live streaming of all sessions and services at the NOJC 2024 is available through any of the following platforms.


1. NOJC live-streaming via the church official website:
www.thenameofjesusministries.org/live-broadcast
2. Facebook Streaming: search for The Name of Jesus Ministries Encourage your family, friends and others in faraway places to log on. You can easily connect online to the streaming platforms with your own mobile devices (*IOS, window or android devices*)
Missed convention sessions can be watched as “*video on demand*” through our website / youtube channel.

Join us

Every Sunday: Royalty Sunday Service between **8:00am** and **12 noon**

Every Thursday: School of Wisdom between **5:00pm** and **7:30pm**
And during our special programs (*e.g. IBC, Women Congress, God of Signs and Wonders etc.*). Be a part of what God is doing in our days. God bless you!

Online Payment



Online Payment Platform
BY THE NAME OF JESUS MINISTRIES

Proverbs 3:9 - Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: Kindly give below

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| AMOUNT | Amount to pay |
| FULL NAME | First & Last Name |
| EMAIL ADDRESS | Email Address |
| TYPE OF GIVING | Type of Giving |
| CITY | City |

MAKE PAYMENT

You can now pay your offerings, Tithe, seeds and partner with the ministry online on our payment platform. Visit www.thenameofjesusministries.org/payment

You can also talk to any of our designated ushers to make use of the POS (point of sale) machine with your ATM card to make payments

Social Media

The social media stream of the church will be active throughout the convention. You can register at the registration stand to get enlisted into our social media platform. We will equally be delighted if you can provide us with information about your relatives and friends you want us to invite through the platform.

You can search for us on:



Facebook: **The Name of Jesus Ministries** (Like us)



Twitter handle: **@revjohnidowu** (follow us)



Youtube: **Search for Jesus Cathedral.**



Email Subscription: **jesuschapel@hotmail.com**



jesuscathedralcontact@gmail.com or
contact@thenameofjesusministries.org

NEED HELP ?

In case you need assistance concerning anything or services not provided or rendered by the earlier mentioned units please call
08033976565, 08035091460, 09057152985, 08032864181,
08035013446, 08032590537, 08033722667.

MINISTERS PROFILE

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REV. (DR.) JOHN O. IDOWU

Dr. John Idowu is the President of the Name of Jesus Ministries Int'l and the senior Pastor of JESUS CHAPEL worldwide with its headquarters (JESUS CATHEDRAL) in Ado- Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

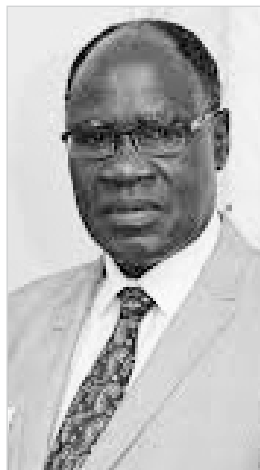
He has a PhD in Petroleum Geochemistry. He was a former university Don and Petroleum consultant with two National Prizes from the Nigeria Mining and Geoscience Society. His research on

petroleum potentials of the northeastern Nigeria basins won him a 1st Prize in 1988 from ELF oil company, Nigeria.

He has an apostolic mandate with a prophetic, teaching and healing ministry. He has also authored many books and his commitment to God's word has aroused great joy and excitement in the Body of Christ.

He is also a host of a powerful radio teaching titled **"HOUR OF POWER"** that cuts across states of Nigeria and a telecast **"DIVINE ENCOUNTER"** aired in various TV channels across Nigeria and on satellite TV channels. Through these, thousands are delivered, born again and reached with the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus.

His wife, Rev (Mrs.) Mary Idowu works together with him in the ministry and they are blessed with a daughter and two sons who are ordained ministers of the gospel.





REV. (MRS.) MARY IDOWU

Rev. (Mrs.) Mary Idowu is an ordained minister of the gospel with a prophetic, intercessory and healing anointing. She serves the will of God in this generation as an intercessor, pastor and prolific writer. She is the author of several books on family matters and has been organizing an annual interdenominational women congress for all women and singles. She hosts monthly **FAITH CLINIC** and **HOME BUILDERS** for women

She is the vice president of the Name of Jesus Ministries and a senior pastor of Jesus Cathedral. She is also the C.E.O of Seed of Grace International College (*The College Arm of the Church*) and the Proprietress of Royal Ambassadors College, Akure-Ondo State.

She serves the will of God in this generation together with her husband, Dr. John O. Idowu and they are blessed with a daughter and two sons who are ministers of the Gospel.



REV. OLUSOLA AREOGUN

Rev. Olusola Ayodele Areogun is an ordained minister of the gospel. He serves the will of God in this generation as author, teacher, church planter and mentor of leaders for the next generation with varied ministerial exposure and experience. He also serves as a father and cover to many up and coming ministries.

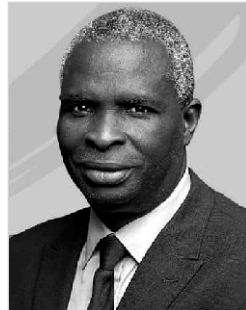
He is a new testament apostle and the President of the Living Jesus Ministries Inc. He is the General Overseer of the Life Oasis Int'l Churches. His daily Radio/ TV Programme,

“Living by the answer” is heard across Nigeria, UK and the US. Other outreaches include Web of Wisdom Ministers' conference, a bi-annual event to refresh and re-fire ministers of the gospel, the Living Jesus Ministerial Training Institute (*a full time Bible School*), Eagle Media and Abundant Life House; the publishing arm has over hundred publications.

In a recent vision, he saw himself standing before the Lord with other servants of God to pick their assignments when his turn came, he picked a sheet where it was written; **“COMMITTED TO HELPING MEN REALISE THEIR GOD-GIVEN DREAMS IN LIFE”**. This sums up the heartbeat of this servant of God. He is happily married to Rev. (Mrs.) Oyenike, also an ordained prophetic minister of the gospel; they are blessed with two children, Pastor Joshua and Peace, who are also involved in the ministry.

REV. (DR.) FRANCIS OLONADE

Rev. (Dr.) Francis Olonade is an apostle and the President of the Jesus is Lord Foundation International in Nigeria. A dynamic ministry dedicated to preaching the total gospel around the whole world with signs and wonders following. He is also the Senior Pastor of Jesus Embassy Int'l Churches. He is



highly recognized and respected for the ministry of the word with great prophetic insight. He has a particular ministry of preparing the church for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and proclaiming the end time message for our generation.

He travels extensively as a speaker and hosts a powerful weekly programme on Radio and Television called **“The Full Redemption Hour”**. He is highly respected and honoured for

his love for people and extreme humility. He is indeed a man of God who is a gift for our generation.

Dr. Francis O. Olonade serves the Lord together with his wife, Dr. (Mrs.) Grace Olonade and they are blessed with anointed children who are ministers of the gospel.



REV. EMMANUEL OSET

Rev. Emmanuel Oset, a former lecturer is the General Overseer of Canaan Ministries with more than 50 years walk with God. The emphasis of Canaan Ministries is simply and squarely embodied in these references; The Ministry's name and that of the Church. It is simply an articulation of that part of the Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to which God has ordained His Servant.

As clearly as can be, REV. EMMANUEL OSET has been called to the pastoral office with a specific commission of tending, treating and strengthening the brethren and delivers those taken captives by the enemy in the onward march to the measure of Christ.

God, having signified this to His servant, confirmed it through many witnesses who testified by open vision and prophetic utterances. This responsibility often manifests itself as he goes about doing good and fanning the kingdom's smoking flaxes back to flames.

The plan of God is to raise a people who will be impossible for the enemy to crack but who themselves will be fully His battle axes and weapons of war to execute His everlasting counsels on the forces of Darkness! His Ministry is one of God's channels to this end, we therefore make bold to

invite all and sundry to come and partake of the balm of God's grace.

REV. (DR.) ADEWUMI ADEWUYI

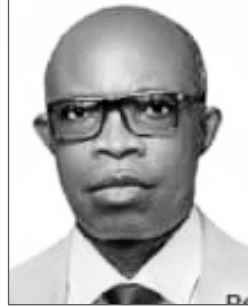
Rev. (Dr.) Adewumi Adewuyi is a prophet of God with a strong healing anointing, teaching the fullness of our redemption in Christ.

He's a medical practitioner who forsook his profession to fulfill his mandate from God. He's the president and founder of Christ the cornerstone Bible Church, a ministry that started in 1997, teaching God's word of redemption with great revelation and manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

He is used by God to bring life, Joy and hope to the lives of many people all over the world.

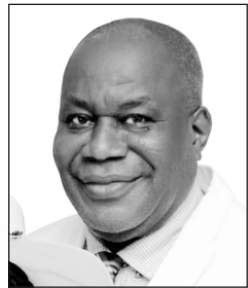
God has solved many problems, wrought miracles and diverse healings, demonstrated signs and wonders through his ministrations, books and other publications.

We are glad to have him minister to us at this year Name of Jesus Convention 2024.



REV. (DR.) FRANCIS FALOLA

Rev (Dr.) Francis Falola is the President and Senior Pastor of Hidden Manna Ministries Int'l with its headquarters at Osogbo in Osun State. He is a highly anointed evangelist, pastor, author and conference speaker with international outreaches.



He was called out almost four decades ago by the Lord

into the work of the ministry in a crusade at the University of Lagos. This call which changed his ambition and pursuit in a dramatic way has taken him to many nations of the world. He is a well-travelled evangelist and teacher and his miracle crusades also witness a massive conversion of souls with creative miracle and healing.

PASTOR TUNDE JAIYEBO

Pastor Tunde Jaiyebo is the senior Pastor of Charis Family International Church with churches in Ibadan, Lagos and the United Kingdom.

He attended University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Oyo State (now Obafemi Awolowo University) where he bagged an honours degree in Law.

He practiced as a legal practitioner for several years in the United Kingdom before being led to return to Nigeria to now devote his full time to leadership development, teaching, writing and pastoring.

He was the pioneer President and full time Representative of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in the South West Region of Nigeria and a member of the Nigeria National Executive Council.

Pastor Tunde Jaiyebo in addition is a profound teacher of the word of God, a conference speaker, leadership expert, newspaper columnist, author and pastor.

His impactful ministry will be a blessing to us at this year convention of the Name of Jesus Ministries.



END TIME *Harvest*

CONVENTION
WORKSHOP

NOJC 2024

END TIME HARVEST

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND END TIME HARVEST (1)

1

REV JOHN & REV. (MRS) MARY IDOWU

A steward is a person managing someone else's property, finances or other affairs. He recognizes that what he manages is not really his to begin with.

The very basic thing we need to know about our finances and assets is that we are stewards accountable and for a purpose. It is God that gave the talents and abilities and grace so everything is a blessing from him.

Do I hear you thinking "God did not give me the money I have for I worked for it to attain the level of my success". What a wrong mindset for people to see making a living the result from the sweat of their brow and not seeing God as their source. On the other hand some others in their religious thinking say they know God is the source of everything but their lives don't reflect an understanding of that truth. Their keeping tighter hold of their money until it becomes their master in a kingdom of God on earth is a pointer that they don't see themselves as a steward of God's blessing.

How can money or finance; a deliberate tool for end time harvest of souls become a master over the righteous? When we repent, and to repent is to have a change of mindset from ownership to stewardship. Our lives will make a tremendous difference in the apostate generation that we are in.

LET US CONSIDER ALL THESE IN THE CONVENTION WORKSHOP SESSION

- 1) God is the source of everything we have and so we are stewards for the end time harvest of souls. *Lk.16:1-13, Ja.1:7, Gen.1:26; Act 17:28, Deut.8:18, Lk.19:12-13, Gen.14:22-24*

Note:

“We need to see God as our source and develop the attitude that the resources we have are a gift from God. Yes, you may have worked 40 or 60 hours a week at your job, but God is the source. God gave you life, health and abilities and God is the one who opens doors of opportunity. God is our source, and just like Abraham, we need to recognize that the money we have belongs to God.

Until you recognize God as your source, nothing else the Bible says about finances is going to work as long as you are holding onto your money with a chances first and hoarding possessions, God's method of prosperity won't work in your life” – Andrew Woomack.

- 2) Seeing God as your source does not mean you sit at home and do nothing with your life: *Eph.2:10, 1Thes.4:11-12, 2Thes.3:6-12, 1Cor.3:7. Ps.127:1-3, Deut.28:12, Matt. 25:24-30. Lk.12:43, 47-48, Gen.14:22-24*

Note:

The foundation of Abraham's confidence goes back to when God appeared to him and said "I will bless you and I will make your name great". I am sure Abraham put effort into maintaining his flocks and herds, and he had hundreds of servants helping him, but he still saw God as his source. He trusted in God and because of that, God prospered him supernaturally. This same attitude is necessary for any Christian to really begin to walk in the financial prosperity God desires for us" – Andrew Wommack

- 3) Ownership mentality ends up trying to do everything themselves but stewardship receive God's blessing.
Gen. 12:1-3, Heb.6:13-14, Gen.13:8-11, 14-17; Gen.14:14. Isa.51:1-2, Gen.14:22-24, Gal.3:13-14, 29.

Note:

In the natural, it is impossible for a man who grazes his flocks and herds in the desert to prosper as much as a man whose cattle graze in lush pastures, but nothing is impossible for God (Lk.1:37)

The blessings of God made Abraham rich and prospered much more than LOT did." – A. Wommack

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND END TIME HARVEST (II)

2

REV JOHN & REV. (MRS) MARY IDOWU

“**S**eeing yourself as the source of blessings in your life puts a lot of pressure on you to control circumstances that are really beyond your control. One of the benefits of seeing yourself as a steward is peace of mind and a sense of security. When you know that God is your source, you are worried about the natural circumstances. If God can prosper Abraham and feed his flocks and herds in a desert, then He can bless and prosper you in any economy situation. It does not matter what is going on around you, God is responsible for you.

When you open up your hand and begin to trust God, you will see that God is not a taker – He's

a multiplier. He has not come into your life to take from you” –
Andrew Wommack.

LET US CONSIDER ALL THESE IN OUR VARIOUS WORKSHOPS

- (I) **Godly prosperity is different from coveting riches, yet God wants us to have nice things.** *Gen 14:22-24; Gen. 26:12; Jer. 31:5; I Tim. 6:17; Rom. 8:14; Isa 1:19*

“Tele-evangelist and Teacher, Andrew Wommack once told the story of a man many years ago who bought him a very costly car as a gift. He was embarrassed with people telling him that the car was too nice for a preacher. It got to be embarrassing for him to take the vehicle out in public so he returned it to the man who gave it telling him people don't think a preacher should be driving something this nice.

According to him, the man said “If you are not embarrassed at your level of prosperity, then God is not really your source.”

If you can look at everything you have and say “I did this; this is all the result of effort” then you have not tapped into God's supernatural ability – you are just depending on yourself.

- (ii) **David, a good example of a steward**
1 Chr 29:3-5, 10-12; I Chr 29:16-17; Ps 103:1-5, Ps 23; Mt. 10:30

NOTE

David is a good example of a steward. He wanted to build the Lord a temple, but God told him he couldn't.

God wanted Solomon his son to do the building but David started setting aside money and materials that his son Solomon would need. All the leaders of the tribes caught the spirit of giving and began to donate large sums of money like David. David knew all his assets had been given to him by God. They had only given what God first gave to them as all they had was given back to God. What a good attitude!

(iii) **Seeing yourself as a steward brings peace of mind and a sense of security**

Ph 4:19; Pr 29:18; Ps 127:1-3; Ps 50:7-14; I Cor 4:7; Rom 5:9; Hag 2:8; Deut 8:18; Mal 3:10-11

NOTE

“Money is difficult to come by when you think of yourself as the provider. Money reminds you of how hard you have to work just to get by, and giving it away would only seem to put you further away from the goal of having all your needs met.

All of that would be true if God was not your source. In God's economy, you move closer towards your goals by giving than you do by clinging to everything you have”
– Andrew Wommack.

(iv) **The way the world goes about trying to prosper is ungodly: thus bringing grief upon themselves**

Mt 6:3; I Tim 6:9-10; Pr. 10:22; Lk 6:38; Gen 8:22; Ps 127

NOTE

It's possible to prosper without God, but it comes with headache. The world's attitude toward finances is

causing people to be totally stressed out. They need a pill to get through the day and another pill to get to sleep at night.

We need to quit following the example of the world. The godly way to seek prosperity is to remember that God has given us the power to get wealth.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND END TIME HARVEST (III)

3

MRS OLUBUKOLA KOWE

As a man has received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as 'good stewards' of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the Oracle of God, if any man minister let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.

1 Pet. 4:10-11KJV

INTRODUCTION

From the above scripture, it is obvious that God is a God of purpose, who has reasons for giving us all things. All he gave us as His steward financially is for us to be faithful and responsible manager to what He entrusted to us. The reason God made all grace abound towards us is that we may be ready to give to every good work (2 Cor 9:8) KJV. The real motive of financial stewardship shouldn't be to "get but to give".

Financial Stewardship refers to responsible and faithful management of the resources God has entrusted to us. Being a good stewards or caretakers of what God has entrusted to us. (1 Cor.4:7)

Luke 16:11 KJV

"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 has not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches"

1Corint 4:2 NLT

"Now a person who is put in charge must be faithful."

The purpose of a steward is to be productive, accountable and faithful to whatever is entrusted to you, be it talent, gift, money and including your soul.

Note: we need to prosper as stewards so that we will be a blessing.

(Gen. 12:2) God told Abraham, I will bless you and make you a blessing.

God blesses His people with many resources, including money, but that blessing comes with the responsibility of using it for God's Glory and Purpose.

"If you want to walk in perfect will of God- in God's best for every area of your life- you are going to have to do the perfect will of God" (Rev. Kenneth Hagin).

A Christian first consideration and priority in giving should be to his local church. A church needs consistent and regular flow of finances for the propagation of the gospel. This is the purpose of our (GAP) Gospel Advancement project.

Not only do we have an obligation to bless others and help finance the Gospel into the uttermost part of the world (Act 1:8), we are also responsible to invest our funds into ministries that are trustworthy and productive. Like farmer, we should do our best to sow our seed in good ground.

As financial stewards in this end time, we must be prepared, ready and available to support the kingdom of God, ministries that are actively contributing to the preaching of the gospel and the expansion of the church. Mark 16:15, Romans 8:19

LET US CONSIDER ALL THIS IN OUR VARIOUS CLASSES.

1. Kingdom first: *Mat 6:33, Ps 37:4, Ex 20:3, Prov. 3:6, Col. 3:1-4, 1 John 5:21*
 2. Trusting God with all we have: (*Ps 34:10. Mt 6:33. Prov 3:5*)
 3. Following the will of God: *Eph 5:17, Prov 6: 3, Rom 8:28, Mk 3:35, Rom 12: 2, 1 Pet 2:15.*
 4. God gave power to make wealth: *Deut. 8:18, Ps 35:27, Jer 10:12. Prov 3:9-10, Ps 112:3, 1 Sam.2:7*
 5. Both riches and honor came from God: *Prov. 10:22, Prov 8:18, Prov 22:4, 1 Chr 29:12*
 6. Obedience and willingness to God: *John 15:10-14, Jam 1:22-25, Gen 22:17-18, Isa 1:19, Job 36:11, Rom 2:6-11,*
 7. Faithfulness in little: *1 Cor. 4:2, Mt 25:21, Lk 16:10-11*
- The Disciples of Christ must become faithful stewards

of financial resource, only then can they serve the only true Master of life.

8. Concentrating on the needful: *Col. 3:2 Lk 10:42, Phil 3:13, Ezra 7:20, Heb. 13:5, Phil 4:8, Rom 12:1-2, I Pet 1:13*

QUALITIES OF A GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARD

1. Accountability: *Rom. 14:2, Gal. 5:25-26, 1 Cor. 12:26-27, Jam 5:4*
2. Integrity: *Mat 5:48, Prov. 1:3, Eph 6:14, Rom 3:7, Prov 10:9*
3. Ability to support: *Prov.11:25 Gal. 6:2, Heb.13:16, John 15:12, Mat. 5:42*
4. Humility: *1 Peter 5:5-7, Mat 5:1-3, Prov 22:4, Lk 14:1-14*
5. Generosity: *2 Cor. 9:7,10 &11, Prov. 22:9, Prov.28:27, Prov 11:24, Lk 6:30*

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY

Every Christian has been entrusted with the gift of the spirit to fulfill the work God has called him to perform.

If you work for someone on a job then you are a steward over a “specific responsibility”.

The most important thing for you to remember about your responsibility as a steward is that you will one day be called to give account for your stewardship. (*Luke 16:1-2, 10*)

As a financial steward in this end time, God entrusted us to proclaim the gospel/message of the cross to the world.

1 Thess 2:4, 1 Cor 9:17, Mk 16:15, Mat 9:37.

CHRISTIANS AND THEIR ASSUMPTIONS

Wisdom Nuggets

4

REV JOHN & REV. (MRS) MARY IDOWU

The danger of money in a family is the spirit of entitlement. *Lk 15:12, 29.*

Surround with people who have revelation of you.

Don't run around people who are hurting you.

How can somebody hurt you and you still being around them?

If you put no value no one will put value on you.

3 things you can do with money

- (1) You can spend it – fool
- (2) You can save it – average people
- (3) You can invest it – wise people

Foolish people don't save when they ought to save – breed/seed. When you eat all your seed you have no exchange for future harvest. So seed is an exchange for harvest.

- (1) I asked God, “Why Are You taking me through troubled water”?

He said because enemy cannot swim – Ex. 14:15

- (2) Why do I have always feel that I am failing and struggling?
Each challenge is an opportunity for growth.
- (3) Why do I always feel confused and lost?
It is because you overlook my plan for your life. Focus on me and I shall pave the way. In my hand all is as it should be (Mt. 14:31 – Peter)
- (4) Why do I have to face disappointment and setback? (Jer. 15:18-19)
Because in disappointment, you learn to trust; in setback you learn to persevere.
- (5) Why do I feel sometimes life is full of pain and helplessness?
Because in your weakest moment, I am by your side (Heb. 13:5-6).
I use your pain to forge your character. *James 1:3-4; 2 Pet. 15:10*

PULPIT: *where you pull people for the pit.*

You are supposed to be equipped to pull people from the pit with the help of the Holy Spirit – Judah; Jeremiah (*Gen. 37:24-26/Jer. 38:12*).

That is the gift not necessarily money – Ebed Melech

In giving to people never let them know you have more than enough.

Don't let their responsibility kill you.

The danger of money in a family is entitlement.

Lk 15:12 – Give what fell to me

Vs 29 – You never gave me

Money or Wealth hides in:

- (1) Ideas: Lk 15:17 – I will go back and serve
- (2) Gifts and talents but package it.
- (3) Opportunity: Lk 19:13 – Do business till I come.
Opportunity + Preparation = Success
- (4) Problem you solve: Joseph. Gen. 40:7
- (5) Vision: Provision is a production of vision – Pr. 29:18

Division is the opposite of vision.

Gehazi: *Broken focus* – II Kg 5:20

Ananias & Sapphira: *Double minded*. Act 5:

Ph 3:12-14 – Focus on one thing

Forget the past that don't benefit you

It exists only in your memory

People don't want your discipline but want your result.

How badly you desire something is seen in your pursuit

Delay personal gratification

A land of milk and bread: Deut. 8:9

The cow does not give milk until you milk it

The wheat does not bring bread until you process it.

Don't be accustomed to getting things easy way

Priceless blessing should not be taken for granted

Happiness is a result of effort, sacrifice and understanding

Diligence and perseverance is the secret of life

Hard times create strong man, and strong men create good time.

Ph 3:12-14

You are a person of one thing.

You are born to do everything

Let your life be simple

People with vision live longer. They have no stress so they are extended, not distressed.

Stress comes from not knowing what to do

Jesus told Martha who lived in assumption

She had a visitation, she assumed

Jesus was hungry

You don't tell God what He must do. Martha ended up cooking and angry, wanting others to joint her.

Study the answer of Jesus - *Lk 10:41-42*

You are so busy about many things

You are trying to be everything to everybody

Only few things are necessary

Life is full of many things

Are those things you have done these 4 months necessary?

Think about it.

What is necessary?

1 Cor. 6:12 – Everything is permissible for me but will not be mastered by anything.

NIV – *I have the right but not everything is benefit*

NLT – *I am allowed to do anything not everything is good*

Don't become a slave to anything

NKJV – *All are lawful but not expedient/helpful*

Aramic Bk – *Everything is legally free but not is useful*

NT – *Everything is allowable but not profitable.*

As you are going older, you can't afford to make mistake
No time for experimentation. Know your destination. You are
not getting younger.

Some people in your life are unnecessary; playing with them
and eating with them are distractions.

Don't buy unnecessary things. Vision simplifies life. Study
successful lives – their lives are simple.

Stress comes from not knowing what to do

Don't live on assumption

2 Sam 11:6-27 – David got caught in the trap of sin

David was better while a servant than when a king; for being a
servant, he feared to kill Saul his adversary but being a king he
slew Uriah, his most faithful friend and dutiful subject.

Temptation turned into lust and lust into adultery. When the
consequences of his adultery threatened to expose his sin, he
covered it first with deception and then with murder.

David stayed home from the war against the Ammonite
Wars are not normally fought during cold winter. Fighting
resumes in the spring.

(1) David stayed behind

Through custom and experience, David needed to be at
the battle but he remained in Jerusalem.

Gal 5:16 – Walk in the spirit not to fulfill the lust of the flesh

If David attention had been where God wanted it, he would
never have put it where God did not want.

He walked on the roof – He walked back and forth; could not sleep – unusually because he was not where God wanted him to be.

He saw a woman bathing and ... the rest is history. The illicit pursuit of pleasure directly or indirectly cost him a lot.

A man after God's heart (Act 13:22) went against his own heart falling through a lustful impulse.

- (1) An unwanted pregnancy
- (2) The murder of a trusted associate
- (3) A dead baby
- (4) A daughter raped by his son
- (5) One son Absalom murdered another son Anan
- (6) A civil war led by one of his sons
- (7) A son who imitates David lack of self control (*Solomon 1000*)

The world primarily see sex outside marriage as pleasurable experience but God sees it as cement that binds together a flesh relationship.

Job 29:1-7

V6 – *When my steps are bathed with cream
And the rock bored out rivers of oil for me*

The word of God releases the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

If your steps are directed by the Holy Spirit, God will back up the grace upon your life.

- (i) Mary's encounter and trip to Elizabeth
- (ii) Paul (Act 16) responding to the spirit of God on his missionary journey
- (iii) Saul and Samuel – 1 Sam 13
- (iv) Uriah – 2 Chr. 26

Independent mindset like Lucifer

Paul – II Cr 1:8-10

Trial of faith is the purifying of your faith by a removal of all impurities of dependence on yourself.

We depend on ourselves, education etc.

Help me to discover area of my life that depends on myself than Him.

There will be stuff you don't know what to do but you can depend on Him – Jn 2:23-25

Complete dependence upon Him is the attitude you should have

Lucifer declared his independence from God

I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. Isa 14:13-15

He told Adam and Eve to live life without God until they found themselves naked.

Every development, innovation, breakthrough goes through resistance, inconvenience and sacrifice to get better – but only the Church do we think we don't need to pay prices or suffering.

II Tim 3:12 – All that will live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution.

II Tim 3:10 – But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience
“Persecution, affliction what persecution I endured but out of them all, the Lord delivered thee”

Paul dependent in Go for deliverance.

Don't look for reason to quit on God; there is no alternative to His will. We can't be mad at the only One who makes us.

Jn 15:5 – I am the vine: ye are the branches.

Branches survive because they depend on the vine, *“for without me ye can do nothing”*.

Biggest reason for doing nothing is not being connected to the VINE.

You rather die obeying God than quitting on what God asked you to do.

Gal 6:6 – Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

9 - Let us not be weary in well doing

10 - As we have therefore opportunity.

1 Cor 9:11 – If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it great thing if we reap carnal things?

12 – If other be partakers ...

Rev 15:27 – Debtors not be exchange carnal for spiritual

2 Cor. 8:1-6 – Grace of giving – in Philippi

2 Cor. 11:9 8 – Paul called it robbery of other churches.

OCCUPY TILL I COME (I)

5

PST. MRS BADMUS

God has saved you to win souls, be wise and do as Jesus did reconciling souls back to God. (John 15:16) as you do these, remember to be sensitive, courteous, kind and humble. Don't approach the sinner with a highhanded attitude .You will repel them instead of bringing them to the fold of God. When all these efforts are backed up by God's power and anointing, there would be a great harvest of souls.

Above all, let your life point sinners to the cross. As a Christian you have been called to be a light, so your deeds must match your words. If all Christians were to be Christians indeed, more souls would have been won for the lord on a daily basis. But it's unfortunate that many Christians do not live up to their calling. We live in a dark world, where sin and sinning is the norm and this put many Christians in a very tough situation.

As the children of the light “ We must be on guard not to become so accustomed to the world's darkness that we think it's normal and conform to it guidelines. It's not normal, the

moral confusion and spiritual dim insight of the world is not the standard that the Christian disciple is to walk in or live by”.

You cannot win any soul as a Christian, if you blend with the world. Therefore, if you're serious about winning the lost for Christ, let your personality, conversation, reaction, actions and inactions show forth the love of Christ. Only then can you point souls to the cross. Let others see Jesus in you. (John12:32).

This implies that both the Jews and the Gentiles, the white and the black, the old and the young, the learned and the illiterate will be drawn unto him.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the father in my name, he may give you.

Proverbs 11:30; Isaiah 52:7; John 15:16; Mathew 28:19-20; John 15:16.

The cardinal purpose of believers is to evangelize and win souls for Christ and to further ensure that these souls abide. Believer should go ye into the world and preach the gospel and bring them into the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Reconciling souls back to God was the main mission of Christ, when he came to the world and as such a wise disciple has no major assignment than to win souls into the kingdom of God.

Let's consider these in Our Workshop

He That Win Souls Is Wise

THE REWARD OF WINNING SOULS

1. Great harvest of souls and jubilation in heaven. (John12:32, Luke15:7):”I say unto you that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth as a

soul winner.

2. You will be filled with an inexplicable joy (Luke 10:17,15:10). The line of a song reads thus: what joy it will be at set of sun in mansion beyond the blue. To find some souls that you have won...."
3. You'll have divine security (Act 18:9-10) manifestation of spiritual gifts.(Acts 1:8)
4. Eternal life (Luke 10:20,Phil 4:3)
5. Abundant supply(Matthew 6:33, Mark 10:29-30)
6. Long life(John 15:2, Psalm 118:17)
7. You will have mansions in heaven (John14:2-3) and stars in your crown, when you win souls for God here on earth, you will have both earthly and eternal reward. Someone said," The person who seeks to empty hell of its potential inhabitants is the one who will be great in the world to come. A soul winner who spends his time, energy, money and prayers to keep sinners out of hell is wise".
8. Your work for the Lord will also be confirmed with signs and wonders for the scriptures says "And these signs shall follow them that believe, in my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly

thing, it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover". (*Mark 16:17-18*).

Therefore, dear Christians don't rest on your oars, deliver those souls, (dying every second and leaving this earth unprepared) from the pit of destruction. Get out of your comfort zone, go out there, do all you can, the best possible way you can and win them to the Lord at any cost.

THE BLESSINGS OF WINNING SOULS

9. According to John 15:16, if you win souls and they abide, then you have a blank cheque from God to ask anything and it shall be done.

10. It increases the number of worshippers and God seeks true worshippers John 4:23. There is growth in the church at large.

11. The Lord of harvest is happy. Luke 15:10.

OCCUPY TILL I COME (II)

6

PASTOR OLUWASOLA AKINTUNDE

TEXT: LUKE 19:11-27

*And he called ten of his slaves and gave them ten minas and said to them, do business with this until I come back.
Luke 19:13 (NAS)*

Life is governed by purpose. God is a God of purpose and He is looking for believers who will dedicate and consecrate themselves wholly to Him to carry out His plan for their lives.

As we live our lives every day, we must always remember that we are here for a purpose; to live our lives for God and do His biddings. As a born-again Christian, we are here on earth to represent God and to do our father's business i.e. to propagate the gospel until He comes; *Mk 16:15*.

The investment of God in our lives must not be taken for granted. The endowments, gifts, graces, privileges and advantages that God entrusted in us must be for the advancement of the gospel and the benefits of our fellow creatures. In our Christian journey, we must be aware of the

antics of the enemy (Devil) **John 10:10**; he does not want us to succeed therefore he will do everything he can to distract us, those that are successfully distracted by the devil end up in hell; the reserved place for the devil and its fallen angels. The desire of God for us is not to end up in hell, but to spend our eternity with Him in heaven.

That is the main reason that we must be sober and vigilant daily, to recognize and resist the devil whenever he comes to attack us through deception; **2 Peter 5:8**.

Let us consider the following in doing the business of God

- i. God created us for a purpose. **Eph 2:10, Jer 29:11, John 15:5-6, Rev 4:11, Jer 1:5**

***Note:** Purpose governs creation, for our existence is at the mercy of God. In the mind of God, we are created to fulfil a divine mandate. It is our total submission to the will of God by our obedience to the calling that will make this divine mandate a reality in our lives.*

- ii. Understand the business of the father. **Gen 1-28, Mt. 28:19-20, Mk 16:20**

Note:** The divine mandate for all creation is to be fruitful and multiply. At the end of Jesus Christ ministry on earth He gave commandment to all believers to go and depopulate the kingdom of the devil by teaching of the gospel to all nations. **Mt. 28:19-20.

Our main duty as Christian is to go out and spread the gospel and win souls for Christ. *If you are not wining soul for Christ as a born again Christian you are not doing what you are destined to do.*

- iii. We shall all be accountable for our deeds before the Lord. *Luke 19:15, Ecc. 12:14, 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom 14-10*

Note: What many of us run from is accountability that is taking responsibility for our actions or inactions. One thing that is sure is that everyone of us will appear before the judgement seat of Christ, to receive what is due for what he has done in the body, either good or evil.

- iv. We must avoid distraction. *Neh. 6:1-19, Mk. 4:19, Lk. 10:41*

Note: One of the major traps of the enemy to take us off from divine mandate set before us is distraction (enemy of our vision). We give distractions all sorts of names, but the end of it all, distraction is anything that pulls our attention away from God. Beware of your environment and location. Focus on your divine mandate.

THOUGHT FOR STUDY:

We live life by choice. We need to make the right choice by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He will come into our heart and make it a dwelling place. He is able to supply the grace needed to navigate life successfully.

OCCUPY TILL I COME (III)



PST. MAYOWA OLUBUDE

“He said therefore. A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. And he called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds and said unto them. Occupy till I come” Luke 19:12-13

Without any iota of doubt, Christ will return and this should motivate us to work hard on the end time harvest. In the parable of the ten pounds in our text, Jesus essentially said that we are to remain occupied in working hard for his kingdom until he returns. Parting words are lasting words. The last words before the departure of Jesus Christ pointed to the end time with the expectation of a global harvest. The words are accompanied with a specific task in mind.

What is the task?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt 28:19)

The expectation of the Lord is that God's glory and kingdom fills the earth (Hab 2:14) so that there is worship from every nation, tribe, people and tongue (Rev 7:9). The summary of the great commission in Matthew 28:19 is found in the same commission of the nobleman in Luk19:13- 'occupy till I come'.

Military occupation is provisional control over a certain territory by another ruling power not under the formal sovereignty of that entity. The territory is known as the occupied territory and the ruling power is the occupant. Just as it is in the military circle, we are the occupants on this earth and we represent the cause of our lord.

In this topic, let us go through the following outlines:

THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

- Not understanding road signs will always lead to disaster just as ignoring road signs is a potential ticketing offence
- Signs point us to what lies ahead and prepare us for what must be done. In 1Chronicles 12:32, the Bible says “and of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”
- It is one thing to know the signs, but it is another thing to understand it and yet another thing to know what to do
- Are we like the sons of Issachar in understanding the times?

What are some of the things the Bible says about the end times?

The Bible provides us with a long list of the signs of the

second coming of the lord Jesus Christ in matt 24:3-14, the summary of the list is as follows: false messiahs, wars and rumours of wars, nation against nation, famines, earthquakes, tribulation, the persecution of Christians, the falling away of many, Israel becomes a nation again and the Jerusalem in the hands of Israel. Almost all the above have happened. The principal one was the Lord's response to the vital question in Matt 24:14 which says, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come."

As we approach the time when the final whistle will soon sound, there shall be fierce competition for souls between light and darkness. This is certainly the reason the Lord has commanded us to occupy. What then is the occupation?

THE OCCUPATION

When we take a look at the modern church:

- You see that she is busy, but are we accomplishing what God has given to us?
- Is the church occupying or just setting on laurels and waiting for the Lord to return?
- Is this what he called us to do? Is this what will hasten his return? Jesus said to the church in *Rev 3:16* "*so then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot. I will spew you out of my mouth*"

Profitability in God's kingdom is measured in souls and not in dollars. Just as there are profitable and unprofitable companies in the corporate world, so are the profitable and unprofitable servants in the kingdom of God. What then is the occupation of the profitable in the kingdom? What must we be busy doing in

obeying the command to “occupy till I come”? it is important to know because many are busy albeit doing the wrong things.

There are at least six of the major elements of occupying in the kingdom and we shall attempt to spell **O-C-C-U-P-Y** as follows: O-Outreaches; C-Church planting; C-Church growth; U-unity of the brethren; P-Prayers; Y-Yadah (praise). Let us discuss them one after the other.

O-OUTREACHES

“Follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men” (Matt 4:19).

We can talk about fishing for men, read about it, discuss it, pray about it, meditate on it but if we do not cast our lines we are not fishers of men. If we do not reach out to those in need, we are not fishers. It is a calling for the church to reach out beyond the four walls of the building. Jesus had outreach programs, going beyond the walls of Jerusalem. Outreach is reaching beyond one's limits. Jesus said “Go ye”, not stay home.

The various platforms like radio, television, social media are today modern and effective ways to reach the unreached in the world today.

Why do we need outreaches?

Our outreach efforts must reach out in love to the people in these categories and much more. Let's check these categories in Matt 25:34.

C-CHURCH PLANTING

Throughout history, men and women have sought after power. Church planting switches on the light everywhere. We plant churches to drive away darkness. Let us note the following:

- The quickest way to drive darkness away from a city or a nation is to switch on the light of the gospel through

church planting

- You cannot claim to be occupying for Christ without occupying the cities and nations with church planting
- Church planting is the true occupation of territories for the lord and it is the expansion of the kingdom of God on earth
- It is the occupation that we must all embrace to be profitable in the kingdom of God

C-CHURCH GROWTH

McIntosh defines church growth as all that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ into fellowship with him and into responsible church membership. In other words, church growth is effective evangelism, not a methodology for increasing membership.

The gospel records many occasions when Jesus addressed large crowds. The heart of Jesus' ministry was his investment in the lives of his disciples. We call this process discipleship. It was the pattern that Jesus used and he expects us to use the same, to carry on the ministry of reconciliation that he began.

The method that Jesus used, of investing his life into people was continued in the early church.

It is seen at Antioch with Paul and Barnabas pouring their lives into the believers at Antioch (Acts 11:21-26)

If there is to be a maximum impact, new converts must be nurtured, trained up and helped to grow in their faith. This is discipleship. Paul's theme statement on discipleship comes from his letter to timothy in 2Tim2:2, it says "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witness entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others". Here

is the principle of great discipleship which involves not only winning a person to Christ but investing your life in that person who will be qualified to nurture others. You can grow the membership without growing the church if the members are not heaven bound because Christ is coming for the church.

U-UNITY OF BRETHREN

Occupation as believers includes fostering unity amongst brethren. *Heb.13:1 says "let brotherly love continue"*.

A true worshipper works on having good relationships as a way to glorify God.

The early church did so well in this regard and no wonder the church grew and did many signs and wonders as we see in Act 4:32-33, it says "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all".

P-PRAYERS

Prayer is a major assignment in our occupation. Jesus clearly said so in Lk 18:1 "and he spake a parable unto them to this end that men ought always to pray and not to faint". Apostle Paul emphasized the same. He puts it so simply but so powerfully in 1 Thess. 5:17, it says "pray without ceasing"

Prayer is standing in God's presence like Elijah did (Jam 5:16-17). It is the railroad upon which God conveys his blessings. It unlocks the gates of heaven and closes the gates of hell. A praying man will stop sinning and a sinning man will stop praying. Mk 1:35-38 teaches that:

- The devil does not bow to a prayerless saint
- It is on the knees that every spiritual abortion of dreams is resisted. It is there all miscarriage of visions are appropriately dealt with.
- The man that will find God is the man who will seek him. God is not found where he is not sought. He reveals himself to the longing soul.

Occupy till I come could be interpreted as “keep praying till I come”. The early church did a good job of this in *Act 4:31*.

Y-YADAH (PRAISE)

Yadah is a Hebrew verb with a root meaning “to throw” or the “extended hand, to throw out the hand” “to worship with extended hand”

Eventually it also denotes “songs of praise”, to lift up the voice in thanksgiving, to tell forth and confess His greatness”

The praise of God must be always and continuous for every believer. Our occupation demands the praise and the worship of God, for God seeks worshippers. *Jn. 4:23, Ps 34:1-3, Ps 67:5-7*

OCCUPY TILL I COME (IV)

8

PASTOR BABATOLA S.M

TEXT: LUKE 19:13

INTRODUCTION:

What does it mean to Occupy till comes ?

Jesus instructs his servants to "occupy till I come." The book explores the concept of living a purposeful and productive life while awaiting Christ's return.

Occupy Till I Come", We can't take a Territory from a stronghold, without being combatant or dressed for battle as a mature Christians, looking at what apostle Paul said in Ephesians 6:10-18, where Paul writes about putting on the whole armor of God to stand against spiritual forces. And combining it with the concept of "Occupying till He comes" Bible devil is defeated already, but the devil in the world where we live need to be bounded, before we can occupy till our master returns, you can't enter the house of a stronger man Without first bond him, before you can have dominion and victory over him.

LET'S PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ALL THESE IN OUR VARIOUS CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

- (1). *Understanding the Parable of the Minas*** (Luke 19:11-27)
- A nobleman entrusts 10 servants with 10 minas (a significant amount of money) to invest while he's away.
 - The servants are instructed to "occupy" or trade with the money until his return.
 - The nobleman returns, and the servants report their gains:
 - *One servant earned 10 more minas (100% return).*
 - *Another earned 5 more minas (50% return).*
 - *One servant didn't invest the money at all, fearing the nobleman's harshness.*
 - The nobleman rewards the first two servants with authority over cities, proportionate to their gains.
 - The third servant is rebuked and punished for his inaction.

DENOTES ABOUT THE PARABLE

- The parable teaches the importance of using one's talents, resources, and opportunities wisely, as if investing for the Kingdom of God.
- It emphasizes faithfulness, productivity, and accountability in serving God.
- The nobleman represents Jesus, who will return to judge and reward His servants according to their deeds.

Note

- Use your gifts and resources wisely for God's Kingdom.
- Be faithful and productive in serving God.
- Expect accountability and rewards based on your actions.

(2.)The Master's Instructions - "*Occupy Till I Come*", We can take a Territory from a stronghold, without being combat in what apostle said in Ephesians 6:10-18, where Paul writes

about putting on the whole armor of God to stand against spiritual forces. And combining it with the concept of "Occupying till He comes" from Luke 19:13.

NOTE:

- Put on the whole armor of God:
 - Belt of truth
 - Breastplate of righteousness
 - Shoes of the gospel
 - Shield of faith
 - Helmet of salvation
 - Sword of the Spirit
- Occupy till He comes:
 - Use your gifts, talents, and resources wisely
 - Be productive and fruitful in His absence
 - Manage what He's given you well, as if He were returning soon

IN ESSENCE, you're being encouraged to:

- Prepare yourself spiritually with God's armor
 - Live a life of purpose and productivity, using your gifts and resources wisely
 - Stand firm against spiritual forces, awaiting Christ's return
- It's a powerful call to live a life of spiritual readiness, service, and expectancy!

(3). Understanding Your Talents and Gifts:

Understanding your talents and gifts is essential to "Occupying till He comes." Here's a breakdown:

- Talents:

- Natural abilities and skills
- Innate strengths and aptitudes
- Developed through practice and experience

- Gifts:

- Spiritual gifts, such as:

- *Word of wisdom*
- *Special Faith*
- *Healing*
- *Prophecy*
- *Word of Knowledge*
- *Working of Miracles etc.*
- Received through the Holy Spirit
- Used for building up the Church and serving others

To understand your *talents and grace

1. Reflect on your strengths and abilities.
2. Listen to others what they see in you.
3. Seek guidance from mentors or spiritual leaders.
4. Explore opportunities to use your talents and gifts.
5. Pray for wisdom and discernment.

Remember, your talents and gifts are:

- Given by God
- Unique to you
- Meant to be used for His purposes
- To be developed and shared with others

By understanding and using your talents and gifts, you'll be
"Occupying till He comes" with purpose and fruitfulness!

(4.) Overcoming Fear and Excuses:

Overcoming fear and excuses is crucial to "Occupying till He comes." Here are some strategies to help you overcome:

(a) Fear:

1. Acknowledge and face your fears.
2. Trust in God's presence and power.
3. Focus on His strength, not your weakness.
4. Practice faith and take steps forward.
5. Remember, fear is not a stopping point.

(b) Excuses :

1. Recognize and challenge limiting beliefs.
2. Stop making excuses, start making progress.
3. Take ownership of your choices and actions.
4. Embrace responsibility and accountability.
5. Focus on solutions, not excuses.

Remember, fear and excuses can:

- Hold you back from fulfilling your purpose
- Prevent you from using your talents and gifts
- Keep you from living a life of faith and obedience

By overcoming fear and excuses, you'll be able to:

- Move forward in faith
- Use your talents and gifts effectively
- Occupy till He comes with confidence and purpose

Keep in mind, it's a process, and it's okay to take it one step at a time. Seek support from God's Word, prayer, and community, and remember that God is with you every step of the way!

(5). Being Faithful with What You Have:

Being faithful with what you have is a crucial aspect of "Occupying till He comes." It involves:

1. Recognizing God's provision and resources in your life.
2. Managing and stewarding them wisely.
3. Using your talents, gifts, and resources for His purposes.
4. Being dependable and trustworthy with what you've been given.
5. Multiplying and increasing what you've been given, rather than burying or wasting it.

Remember, faithfulness is about:

- Being loyal and committed to God's plans.
- Using your resources wisely and efficiently.
- Trusting God's provision and guidance.
- Being accountable for what you've been given.
- Honoring God with your life and resources.

By being faithful with what you have, you'll be able to:

- Experience God's blessings and favor.
- See increase and growth in your life and ministry.
- Build a strong foundation for future opportunities.
- Hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Keep in mind, faithfulness is a choice and a practice. It requires discipline, dedication, and a willingness to trust God's plans and provision.

(6) *The Rewards of Faithfulness:*

The rewards of faithfulness are numerous and eternal! By being faithful with what you have, you can expect:

1. Spiritual growth and maturity
2. Increased wisdom and discernment
3. Deeper relationship with God

4. Fruitfulness and effectiveness in ministry
5. Recognition and commendation from God (Matthew 25:21, 23)
6. Eternal rewards and treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20, Luke 12:33)
7. A sense of purpose and fulfillment
8. God's trust and confidence in you (2 Timothy 2:2)
9. A legacy of faithfulness for future generations
10. The joy and satisfaction of hearing "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Remember, faithfulness is not about seeking rewards, but about honoring God with your life and resources. However, God is a faithful rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Keep in mind, faithfulness is a lifelong journey, and the rewards may not always be immediate or tangible. But trust God's promises and provision, and stay committed to occupying till He comes!

(7) Living a Life of Purpose and *Productivity:* Living a life of purpose and productivity is a key aspect of "Occupying till He comes." It *involves the following:*

1. Discovering your God-given purpose and passions.
2. Setting clear goals and priorities.
3. Managing your time and resources effectively.
4. Being fruitful and productive in your endeavors.
5. Making a positive impact in your sphere of influence.
6. Continuously learning, growing, and improving.
7. Staying focused and motivated.
8. Overcoming procrastination and distractions.

9. Embracing challenges and opportunities.
10. Trusting God's guidance and provision.

By living a life of purpose and productivity, you'll:

- Experience a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.
- Make a meaningful impact in the world.
- Bring glory to God.
- Develop a strong work ethic and character.
- Be a good steward of your talents and resources.
- Be prepared for eternal rewards.

Remember, purpose and productivity are not about self-achievement but about serving God and others. Stay committed to occupying till He comes, and make the most of your time on earth!

OCCUPY TILL I COME (V)



DEACONESS ADELEYE YEWANDE T.

TEXT: LUKE 19: 13b

"And he called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds and said unto them occupy till I come" (Mk. 13:3-4).

To occupy means to engage/busy with a business or assignment as commanded within a space of time in which there is going to be accountability for the result or reward gained at a specific time which the Master wishes to return.

Each worker is going to be rewarded accordingly whether they put their resources to use or not i.e bringing profiting to the Master or not. In which the unfaithful shall be judged likewise.

In *Lk.: 19: 13b*, This parable came from the mouth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Master of all as he drew near to Jerusalem concerning a Noble Man, who gave Money/Talent to his servants who expected them to trade with it so that it can multiply so that when he return, he can require them to give an

account of their stewardship how well they've been occupied in the use of their resources which he gave them. Lk. 12:43, Matt. 25:14-30, Romans 10:15, Ps 68:11. This is applicable to us as believers as to the assignment committed into our hands by winning souls into his Kingdom which is the Ministry of reconciliation "II Cor. 15:18-19. It is all the BUSINESS of all believers. We are not to rebel against this command neither be slothful or procrastinate to do our own part. The scripture says the harvest is ripe already (Matt 9: 37-38, Luke 10:2). We are labourers in the vineyard of God.

Believers are to use their resources such as Time, Finance, Treasure, Talents, Strength, Gifts to serve his purpose seeking for the Lost Soul.

Matt. 9:35-38, Lk. 10:2, We are to walk circumspectly as wise people winning souls not thinking that there is still time for the time is short. We are to redeem the time because the time we are in now is evil (Eph. 5:10), perilous time is already here (2 Tim 4:1-4).

We believers are to do The Work of the Evangelists in season and out of season not allowing the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to overtake us, instead we should show compassion for the lost souls preaching the Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ rebuke, exhort with love and long suffering, looking forward for the hope of his appearing to collect the Saints (Harvest) unto Himself, Matt. 25: 31, 2 Tim 4:2.

We are to awake and be watchful in all things and make proof of our ministry since people are to fight the good fight of faith knowing fully that there is a crown of righteousness laid up for us we go for evangelism we must be faithful till the end hoping for his second appearing.

We must show compassion and care for the souls that are perishing, Mark 16: 16-18, Lk 12:35-27, Jude 1: 22-23, Ezekiel 36:24-25

HOW WE CAN BE OCCUPIED

Firstly we must be saved/born again - John 3:16

When we are genuinely converted, it is then that God can empower us for His assignment as Ambassador of Christ, 2 Cor. 5: 20, who has made us able ministers of the New Testament, so we should be bold in following through

B. Dependency on the Power of the Holy Ghost

When we are baptized in the Holy Ghost, God gives us the ability to do exploits for the Lord without fear in preaching and teaching of the word. There is need to be baptized in water to fulfill all righteousness as a witness to his death and resurrection which is one of the doctrine of Christ, *Acts 1:8, Luke 3:21, Acts 2:2-4, Hebrews 6: 2, Lk. 4:18, Acts 2: 15 & 18, Mark 16:16-end, Matt.28: 18-20, Romans 10:4*

C. Believers are to separate themselves apart as Holy Vessels sanctified, prepared to be used of God, 2 Tim 2:20-21, Hebrews 12: 1-3, John 17: 17-18, so that anointing and grace can increase for the work of the Ministry

D. Burden for soul winning

We are to give our time to pray for direction, power, revelation and desire for Spiritual gifts and growth.

b. Study of the word of God and meditating upon it so that we can have intimate relationship with the Lord who sent us. *Luke 18: 1, Jude 1: 28, Joshua 1: 8, Acts 6: 4, 2 Tim 2: 15, 1 Cor. 14:1, Proverb 1:2, John 11:35-41, Matt. 26:38-39*

E. GOOD WORKS, *Titus 3:14*

Believers are to give their resources for the advancement of the Kingdom purpose - Welfare, Physical need (Mark 8:1), Spiritual need, Medical need, Financial need and Evangelism. Types of Evangelism- Group/ Mass, Corporate/ Corporate Evangelism. Romans 10: 15-17.

Personal Evangelism, John 1: 45, John 4:1,25-30,

Through Media Outing: Radio, TV Evangelism, Social Media (WhatsApp, Tiktok, Facebook, Twitter)

Prints: Christian magazine, tracts, Christian books, 2 Tim 4:13

Believers are to give their time for prompt follow up of new converts and purposeful counselling,

BENEFITS OF BEING OCCUPIED TILL JESUS COMES

1. When Jesus Christ the Master shall come in His glory, we shall reign with Him.
2. He will reward us as faithful servants
3. He shall give us the crown of righteousness, separating the sheep from the goats
4. Angels are rejoicing for every souls that is saved
5. Crown of stars for soul winner shall be given to them
"Dan 12:3

THE SOWER, THE SEED AND THE VISION OF THE HARVEST FIELD (I)



REV. MRS LOLA DARAMOLA

TEXT: Jh. 4:35, Matt 9:37, Matt. 20:1, Matt 13:1-26.

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Jh4: 35.

What a great time to be alive! A kairos time for the greatest manifestations of God's power to bring in the last days harvest of souls into the kingdom. Beloved God has appointed us for such a time as this to go into the FIELDS and bring souls into the kingdom. Now is the time to wake up from our slumber and Go into the harvest fields(Pro10:5).

" He that gathers in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

The fields are all around us. Don't wait until you are sent to a mission field outside the country. Your family, your school, your office, the community where you live and do business are

all harvest fields already ripen waiting for you to Arise and go in to reap the souls of men into the kingdom.

Beloved now is the time to Arise from apathy, we can't afford to be caught in the web of the depression that has reached it's peak in our generation. We can't afford to be lost in the daily burden of how to meet our needs. We can't become drunken with the excesses of the social media of our days and be blinded from the vision of the over ripened harvest fields. We all know that this generation is a highly distracted one, we must not be ensnared. Now is the time to lift up our eyes to the harvest fields. As we meet the need of the Father, He meets our needs. (Jh 15:16)

" Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

Let us consider the followings:

1. Let God hire you as a labourer / Sower: Jesus said the harvest is plentous but the labourers are few(Matt 9:37,). God is in need of labourers. The labourers are the sowers. There can not be harvest without sowing seed. And seed cannot be sown without a Sower (Matt13:3).

"..... Behold a Sower went forth to sow."

Beloved now is the time to be enlisted as a Sower. We are not just saved to warm the bench and enjoy God alone. We come to church to be equipped (Eph4:11-12) to go forth and harvest others to come and taste that the Lord is good. It is not just the work for the five fold ministers alone. You were harvested into the kingdom to go and harvest others.

Therefore we must submit ourselves to be adequately equipped and trained under the church leadership so as to be effective labourers to win others to Christ.

The five fold ministers train the saints for the work of the ministry, the major part of which is to go and win souls. Beloved are you hireable as a labourer/Sower? (Matt20:1).

2. The seed: The seed is the Word of God.

" Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God." Lk8:11
It is the remedy for all the maladies in our generation today.

Apostle Paul said,

" For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." Rm 1: 16

As Sowers(labourers), we must go forth to sow the seed of the Word . It is not until we are ordained as Evangelists. Every born again child of God can do the work of sowing the seed of the word of God to our family members, friends, co - workers and neighbours. Signs and wonders we only follow us as we go(Mk 16: 20).

B. We also must become a seed that God can sow into the harvest fields:

" Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field". Matt13: 24

" The field is the world;; the good seed are the children of the kingdom;" Matt13:38

In order to become a seed that God can plant into the harvest fields, we must mature, " Except a corn of wheat" not an ear of wheat. When we mature, we will heed the call of God like Moses (Heb 11: 24-25) and shun worldly pleasures in order to

take the gospel to wherever the Master we send us. Only mature and responsible sons are sendable (Matt 21:28).

Reaching our families and communities with the gospel is a level. We must also be ready to be sent from the local church under our Apostolic leader to lands, people groups ,tribes and nations(Matt24: 14). This takes a level of death to self and worldly pleasures.

C. Sow the seed of your treasure, time and talents: in order to bring in the great harvest of these last days, it is not just sufficient to sow our lives as sons of God, we must also sow the seed of our treasure (Money).

The Seed of the Word rides on the wings of Money to be published. We must plant our money into Radio and T.V ministry, Book publications, Church planting e.t.c ,So that souls and sons can be harvested into the kingdom.

We also sow the seed of our time in being available to preach to others. We also sow our talents in skillful handling of all the equipments and operations to bring in the harvest.

" Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe..." Joel3: 13
It takes skillful men and women to handle the sickle.

3. The harvest fields: the harvest fields are in the world.

"The field is the world: the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one".
Matt13:38

The harvest fields are your family, your office, your school, your community and the nations of the world.
God has equipped us with the incorruptible seed of his word to go forth as Sowers .

He has planted us as the good seed in this generation to

harvest other sons and souls. The Tares (the seed of the wicked) are present, planted by the devil but God is not deterred by their presence. He said:

"Let them grow together until harvest:" Matt13:30

That is the Tares and the Wheat. The Father so much believes in us as his mature sons to bring in the last days harvest. The presence of the sons of the wicked should not stop us. We are well able to bring in the great harvest. May we not fail the TRUST of heaven. May we not sink into passivity. Remember: "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame." (Prov 10:5).

THE SOWER, THE SEED AND THE VISION OF THE HARVEST FIELD (II)

77

DNS AJAYI BOLADALE

TEXT: Jh. 4:35, Matt 9:37, Matt. 20:1, Matt 13:1-26.

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Jh4: 35.

THE SOWER: The sower represents those who spread the message of God's kingdom. Jesus often used parables involving sowers to illustrate how the word of God is shared with different hearts and minds e.g. the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 vs. 1 -23.

THE SEED: The seed symbolizes the message of God's word itself. It is what the sower plants into the hearts and lives of people. The seed is the truth, the gospel, or the teachings of Jesus Christ. Believers are called to cultivate the seed of God's word in their own lives and in the lives of others. This involves studying the scriptures, meditating on God's promises, allowing the word of God to take root and grow in their hearts. By nurturing the seed of faith, believers can bear fruit in the form of spiritual growth, character transformation and acts of love and service.

THE VISION OF THE HARVEST FIELD: This vision portrays the abundance of souls ready to receive the gospel and enter into God's kingdom. It represents the mission field, where the sower diligently plants seed of faith and through God's Grace and work, plentiful harvest of believers are gathered. Believers are called to have a vision for the harvest field both locally and globally. This means actively participating in the mission of the church to make disciples of all nations, Believers engage in missions, outreach programmes, social justice initiatives and community service project to bring about the transformation and restoration of individual and communities. John 4 vs. 33 – 38.

The following elements/factors illustrate the cycle of evangelism and spiritual growth.

- The sower is the faithful messenger who spreads the word
- The seed is the transformative message that takes root in people lives
- The vision of the harvest field is the hopeful anticipation of a bountiful gathering of souls into the kingdom of God.
- They encourage believer to actively participate in spreading the gospel, trusting in God is providence for the growth and fruition of their efforts.

LET US CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

- i. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Mt. 7 vs. 12, James 1 vs. 22-25, Rm. 12 vs. 12, James 2 vs. 8, Heb. 1 vs. 3, Prov. 4 vs. 1, 20, 1 Cor. 7 vs. 35, 1 Tim. 4 vs. 13, Ps. 66 vs. 19. Believers should reflect and evaluate the condition of their own

heart as the soil receiving the seed of God's word. Are they receptive to this message or are there distractions and obstacles hindering spiritual growth? This reflection can lead to personal growth and a deeper commitment to cultivating a receptive heart.

- ii. **EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP:** Mk. 16 vs. 15-20, Mt. 28 vs. 18-20, John 4 vs. 33-38, Matthew 6 vs. 33, Prov. 3 vs. 10, Acts 5 vs. 42, Acts 2 vs. 46-47. The parable of sowing seed and reaping a harvest can inspire believers to actively engage in evangelism and discipleship. Just as the sower in the parable spread seeds indiscriminately, believers are called to share the message of the kingdom of God with others, trusting that God will bring about growth and transformation in people's lives.
- iii. **PERSISTENCE AND FAITHFULNESS:** John 14 vs. 12-14, Mt. 17 vs. 20, Prov. 18 vs. 20-21, Mk. 16 vs. 17 - 18, Mk. 11 vs. 23 - 24. The parable encourages believers to be persistent and faithful in their witness, even when faced with challenges and opposition. Just as the sower continues to sow seed regardless of the soil conditions, believers are called to remain steadfast in sharing the gospel and living out their faith, trusting in God's timing and sovereignty.
- iv. **FRUITFULNESS AND IMPACT:** Matthew 5 vs. 16, John 15 vs. 1-8. Believers can strive to live lives that glorify God, produce spiritual fruit and make a positive impact on the world around them through acts of love, service and justice.

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY

The parable of the sower, encourages a proactive and intentional approach to living out one's faith. It challenges believers to be diligent in sowing the seeds of the Gospel, nurturing their own faith, and also participating in God's redemptive work in the world. Believers can impact their communities and the world for Christ, thus contributing to the growth of God's kingdom.

THE PROPHETIC AGENDA FOR THE LAST DAYS HARVEST

12

PASTOR OLUKAYODE MOMOH

Isaiah 2:2-3

2. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
3. And many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Joel 2:28-29,32 KJV

28. 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.
29. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
32. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

The above Scriptures are prophecies about the great outpouring of the Spirit of God in the last days. Zion is the prophetic assembly of God's people - the Church.

On the day of Pentecost Peter in his sermon in Acts 2:14-17 pointed the people to the prophecy of Joel. Peter using the phrase 'pour out of' instead of 'pour out' as used by Joel signifying that this is the first installment of the fulfillment of Joel's prophesy. On that day 3000 souls were saved. It was indeed a great harvest.

However, now the last days harvest is going to be the greatest move of God that will sweep countless multitudes into the kingdom of God.

The Lord Jesus speaking about the harvest in **Matthew 9:37-38** said,

37. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

He mentioned 3 main aspects of the harvest

1. The Harvest's Great Dimension.
2. The Labourer's Inadequate Numbers
3. The Prayer Need of the Harvest.

Jesus said the harvest is plenteous.

The Lord Jesus declared that 2000 years ago. The estimated population at that time was 150 - 350million. However, the estimate today is about 8billion human beings. If the harvest was plenteous then, it is much more plenteous today.

Papa said, the population of those who are dead are not more than the population of those who are alive on the earth today. So the present dwellers on earth are of great interest both to Heaven and Hell.

The need for the Gospel to be preached is seen in the Lord's Commands to the Disciples at His ascension.

Mark 16:15-16

15. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

On the road to Emmaus the two disciples were ignorantly disappointed that they thought Jesus Christ was the One that should redeem the world. As at this time they were already redeemed as Jesus Christ has already died and resurrected. He had to appear to them and expounded the Scriptures to them of Himself before they could come to terms with what had taken place. In the same way many are not even aware that Jesus has died for them and many more who are even aware are not adequately instructed enough to enable them make a sound informed decision. So today there are multitudes in the valley of decision. Joel 3:14

We are in the last days already, if there is going to be any outpouring, it is now. Now is the accepted time the Scripture says. Today is the day of salvation.

This last day's harvest is located in 3 places:

1. Completely Closed to the Gospel
2. Partially Closed to the Gospel.
3. Open to the Gospel

According to prophecies, all nations shall be opened as the gospel shall be preached as a witness and many shall be swept into the Kingdom of God.

The Prophetic Agenda for the Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. Jesus' prophecy about the gospel.

'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come'. Matt 24:14

Thank God for declaring the end from the beginning and therefore a substance for our hope to lay hold upon.

The whole world would be reached but when if not now as we speedily draw near the end of the ages.

2. Recent prophecy about the last days harvest.

William Seymour and Maria Woodworth Ether the main protagonists of the great Azusa Revival while winding up their ministries prophesied around 1909 - 1910 that a hundred years from now another revival like this will sweep the earth which will ultimately usher in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Other great ministers of God like Smith Wigglesworth, Lester Sumrall and Oral Roberts have made similar declarations since then.

In the last 50 years we seem to have been experiencing pockets of mercy drops but now the showers are here.

3. Prophetic Stirring of God's Apostle - Our Spiritual Father in the Ministry.

As from the year 2010, our Spiritual Father Rev Dr John Idowu stirred by the Holy Ghost began to declare again like Daniel on Jewish restoration that the time has come, it is now above 100

years as the prophesy has said. It is time for the last days harvest. May we with confident assurance of faith thrust in our sickles and reap this great harvest as the Prophetic Generation with this mandate.

May we not say like Jer 8:20

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

THE GREAT SHAKING

Haggai 2:6-9

6. For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7. And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

8. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.

9. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.

Prophet Haggai prophesied about the shaken that will take place on the earth that will attract the desire of the nations to the Kingdom of God. As things begin to fail in the world as the regime of the black horse of the apocalypse (famine) in Rev 6:5-6 begin to set in, men would begin to seek the Desire of the Nations (Christ Jesus) for salvation. Human systems will fall in the world but we have a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. Heb 12:26-28 It is going to be like what happened in Egypt with the plagues affecting the Egyptians but there was peace and protection in Goshen where the Israelites dwelled. God will

protect the Carriers of the Oil (Anointing) and the Wine (Holy Ghost) - the Believers.

As the Believers face begin to shine through the divine wisdom ordained for the glory of the Saints in the last days (1Cor2:7), the world would be greatly drawn to the Church and the great last days harvest will come in as the Lord has said.

THE GROSS DARKNESS Vs THE GREAT HARVEST.

Isaiah 60:1-3

- 1. Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*
- 2. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*
- 3. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

The gross darkness has begun to cover the people of the world today but also the great harvest has started to come in via different open doors for the gospel into hitherto closed lands through the technological innovations like the internet, satellite television and radio. The Gentiles are already coming to the light in their droves. Where sin abound, grace did much more abound. Rom 5:20

HINDERANCES TO THE WORLD HARVEST

- Misconceptions or doctrinal error that God will still save those He wants to save even when Believers are unfaithful in preaching the gospel
- Rom 10:13-15 - they cannot believe except they hear.
- Doctrinal errors about the reality of hell. Whole denominations now do not believe in a literal hell due to wrong doctrine. Mk 9:45, 2Tim 2:18

3. Inadequate understanding of Salvation truth leading to inadequate instruction to sinners. Today most Christians are nominal, mental assenters with false hope of salvation at the end.
4. Lack of power in preaching the gospel due to lack of effective prayer life of contemporary Believers. Lk 24:49
5. Complacency in entering the harvest fields. Jos 18:3, Prov 10:5

The Missionary Statesman Oswald J Smith identified Seven (7) factors which have limited World Harvest:

1. The 3 enemies of the Gospel: Nationalism, False Religions and Communism
Doors have been shut against the gospel in many nations by these enemies. However, we have the power to overcome. Matt 16:18, Lk 10:19
2. Education: Even though education has brought so much advancement, it has also brought along with-it skepticism about religion. Today the fountain of knowledge has been highly infected by the evil virus of secular humanism.
3. Many closed doors have taken the attention of the Church which has refused to enter the opened ones. Paul often leaves closed doors and proceed to opened ones believing God to open the closed ones in His own times. Acts 16:7-10
4. The Church has thought that other people's religions are good enough for them. It seems not to believe that Salvation is only by faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
5. The Church has not sent forth sufficient number of missionaries. As the Lord put it, the labourers are few.
6. Inadequate training of Christian workers or ill-equipped and unskilled labourers for the harvest.

7. The Church erroneously believed that the heathen or sinners are not really lost. But the teaching of the Bible is that all without Christ are lost and if they die in their sin they go into the damnation of eternal separation from God. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun

HOW TO LEVERAGE ON THE PROPHECIES TO REAP THE LAST DAYS HARVEST

1. We should lift up our eyes and see the great harvest and know that this is the Church's opportune moment. Jn 4:35. Matt 9:36. The Lord Jesus saw the harvest in the helpless multitudes who were scattered without shepherd. Can you see the harvest all around you today?
2. Like Daniel, the Church should take hold of its prophecy and pray it into manifestation. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth all kinds of labourers into His Harvest. Like the early Church, they should pray for open doors to the gospel and for multiplication of signs and wonders to confirm the gospel. God can be counted upon to keep His promises. We should now ask for the rain in this time of the latter rain taking with us His promises Zech 10:1, Hos 14:2

Count Nikolaus Zinzendorf of the Moravian Brethren started a prayer chain that lasted for about 200 years and is believed to have ushered in the outpouring of the 19th Century of which we are still partakers today.

3. The Church should take advantage of all means available to reach the unreached 1Cor 9:20-22. The Radio, the TV, the Internet - all means must be deployed.
4. Holy Ghost inspired strategic nets should be innovated to gather and conserve the harvest. The Church should provide a good atmosphere for the multitudes that are coming to be

- retained and not cast away by traditionalism and carelessness. Jn 6:37
5. The Body of Christ should completely consecrate itself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in total commitment to His purpose to make Him known throughout the whole earth. Rom 15:20-21, Acts 20:24. Instead of focusing its energy on doctrinal differences, the Church should unleash its energy into gathering in the harvest.
 6. The axiom that Jesus saves, Jesus heals and Jesus delivers should once again be proclaimed from the rooftop to the end of the world with all authority and boldness of faith. We should not allow Jesus to be confined to the dustbin of history in dead religion but boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb 13:8, Acts 2:36, Rom 14:9
 7. The Church should be filled with expectation to see again our altars filled with penitent sinners laying hold of the full and free salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. We should expect to come to Church and see the blind see, the cripple arise and mighty move of God in our services. Acts 3:1-8
 8. The Church should go out of the Sanctuary to where the sinners are, as someone said, 'sinners don't go to Church'. The early Church went everywhere and preached the Gospel and the Lord worked with them confirming the world with signs following Mk 16:19-20

DIVINE TIMING AND END-TIME HARVEST (I)

13

PASTOR YINKA AJAYI

34. To clarify, Jesus spoke up and said, "My food is to the will of him who sent me and bring it to completion."

35. As the crowds emerged from the village, Jesus said to his disciples, "Why would you say, "the harvest is another four months away"? Look at all the people coming-now is harvest time! Their hearts are like vast fields of ripened grain- ready for a harvest. John 4:34-35{TPT}

29 I do want to point out, friends, that time is of the essence. There is no time to waste, so don't complicate your lives unnecessarily. Keep it simple — in marriage. 1 Cor 7:29{Msg}

4 We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. John 9:4 {Msg}

Time/Timing is of great essence in our walk with God at this end time, considering the above passage in the book of John chapter four verses thirty-five Jesus was trying to expose his disciples to the differences in time operations. He started by pointing their attentions to the fact that the working

of God is not govern by the natural seasons of the day and night, sequential time {**Chronos Time**} which talks about our normal planting and harvesting seasons but beyond that Jesus want them to realized that there is an appointed, opportune or precise time {**kairos Time**} in the divine plan of God for some specific things to be done and it requires immediate action not procrastination.

Using the example of the normal harvesting season to explain to them, that the Samaritans that they assumed are not ready or worthy of the gospel at that time are already ready and willing to receive the message of the kingdom, so also we must take cognizance of the divine timing of God for this end-time harvest, I believe the harvest time is NOW!.

LET US PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ALL THESE IN THIS STUDY

1. **Understanding Divine Timing will preserve you:** 2 Samuel 11:1-5; 18-27. Note: the scripture mentioned that the time was the period when kings lead their armies to battle but king David chooses to stay at home where is more comfortable and convenient which gave room for the devil to tempt him and opened him and his family to a curse. As a child of God, being in sync with God's timing may not be convenient but it very profitable.
2. **Understanding Divine Timing gives you a sense of urgency:** John 4:9; Eph. 5:16; Col.4:5. Note: Being alert to every opportunity the Lord brings across our ways for harvest should be the hallmark of every child at this time. We must seek to know the mind and strategies of God for the end-time harvest that we may not waste time and the harvest.

3. **Understanding Divine Timing puts you in the place of advantage in God's prophetic agenda: Luke 2:25-32.** Note: Simeon was able to see and experience things ahead of his generation because he was in alignment with Divine timing.
4. **Understanding divine timing make you function beyond prejudice: John 4:3-9.** Note: Prejudice is a major hindrance of the end-time harvest of soul. Our Lord was able to see beyond the hostility between The Jews and the Samaritans of his earthly days because He was in sync with the Divine timing of the Father, He never allowed the cultural prejudice of that time to hinder him. Like Jesus Don't allow any personal/ cultural prejudices to hinder our work as an end-time harvester.
5. **Understanding Divine Timing prevents premature exposure: John 7:3-8.** Note: Our Lord declined the offer into a premature expose because of his clear understanding of Divine timing. Don't give in to any pressure that can give birth into premature expose. "Premature exposure Destroys Destiny".
6. **Understanding Divine Timing gives you an Edge: 1Chro.12:32; 1Sam. 17:29.** Note: if you understand the times, you will end up as a commander in your generation.
7. **Understanding Divine Timing develops patience in us: Exo.2:11-15; Gen. 26:1-3; 6; 12-14.** Note: lack of understanding of Divine timing makes a child of God becomes too hasty in life and falling short of God's plan. Your timetable is not necessarily God's timetable. Our job is to seek to know God's plan and patiently align ourselves with it.

DIVINE TIMING AND END-TIME HARVEST (II)

14

PASTOR OWOLABI

Scriptures to Remember:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"

Mark 16:15,19 & 20

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

Aims of the Study:

This study focuses on end time harvest of souls of mankind as directed by God. It is the most critical job on earth and the reason for all other happenings and events either in the world of light and of darkness.

We are also going to be looking at the importance of times and seasons for this divine assignment handed down to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

It should be noted that the first thing that God created in the book of Genesis was light and the purpose is more than illumination. It was also to create times and seasons. Let's look at the scripture. Genesis 1:3-5:-

"3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."

The above purpose was made manifested in verse 14

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years"

The ordinance was later reaffirmed in Genesis 8:22, thus

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Since that time immemorial it is a labour loss to do anything off season on earth and there is always results and joy for whatever we do in due times and seasons.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT DIVINE TIMING AND END TIME HARVEST.

1. Harvest Requires Labour.

Matthew 9:36-38 (KJV)

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

If God is ever going to use you to bring a harvest of souls into His kingdom, then you must be hardworking. This is because harvesting requires way more labour than sowing. Harvest time is a busy time. Don't sleep in harvest. Proverbs 10:5

"He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

2. Our Calling is a Call to Harvest.

Christian life is a call to harvest souls of men. The first word of our Lord to the first set of followers in Mark 1:17 was.

"Come, follow me! I will teach you how to catch people instead of fish." (Godsword)

Now, catching of fish is toiling day and night as Peter puts it. Catching men to the kingdom of God is not easier; that is why Jesus Christ refers to soul winners as labourers. Someone may say what about the word of our Lord in Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The answer to that is that the rest our Lord Jesus Christ has called us unto is the rest for our souls and not for the bodies

For now, our Father in heaven is working, our Lord Jesus Christ is working, the Holy Spirit is working, the angels are working, the devils are working and all creatures are working including the sun, the moon and all the stars. Hear the word of our Lord in John 5:17

....., My Father has worked [even] until now, [He has never ceased working; He is still working] and I, too, must be at [divine] work. (AMP).

3. There is Divine Timeline for the Work of Harvest.

As a Farmer I have realized that reaping involves more hard work, technicalities and sense of urgency. This is because there is a time limit for harvesting. If you don't harvest within the time limit, the fruits will rot.

The harvest of souls that God has prepared in this end-time revival is great and we have limited time.

Our Lord in John 9:4 told the people:-

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

We will always have to study the wisdom of the ants as God directed us to it regarding harvesting. Proverbs 6:6-8

"6. Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7. Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8. Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

Beloved, we are in the summer of this world. It's time to focus on souls as our Lord tells us in John 4:35

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

4. We must Treasure Man's souls more than earthly possession and comfort.

Read Jonah 1:1-3; 4:1-11

NOTE: In the above scriptures Jonah preferred going to Tarshish for gold business than going to preaching the gospel. His belief and complaint probably was that God was disturbing the flow of his life. He probably needed to reach the peak of his career, he probably needed to trade in more gold.

However, he eventually did preach anyway under untoward circumstances. Not many would have that kind of another chance with God.

In chapter four we saw him complaining over a shadow that was no more available to protect him from the heat of the sun when the gourd that provided shade died.

God's challenge to him, was..."so, you feel pains when the gourd that provides you comfort and pleasure died but you do not feel sad for souls of men that were perishing. How can you care so much for the gourd more than the souls of people of Nineveh."

You see, we love to dedicate more time to our businesses than the work of God, we often feel disturbed by God; we mourn over loss of possessions than over souls.

May the Lord revive our passion for souls of men.

5. We are to Follow up to Disciple and Establish the Souls

It was part of the apostolic assignment of Paul and Barnabas to always establish local churches, put pastors to oversee them and then go round those churches once in a while. Acts 14:21-22:-

21. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

There is a Yoruba proverbs that “taba ta, taba to, oma di eran onidin” meaning “if we shot at a game and we fail to search for it, it will rot and be wasted”.

Proverbs 12:27 *The slothful man does not catch his game or roast it once he kills it, but the diligent man gets precious possessions.*

The above scripture is telling us that it takes more extra efforts to catch and prepare a game that is killed so it will not rot away than killing it.

God is not going to waste His anointing on a man or church who will win souls and not follow them up. He will also stop bringing people to a church that is not ready to follow up on the new folks until they are established.

NOTE:

A man of God once said "Soul winning is an easier job than following up new converts till they mature in Christ. This is why some people prefer the work of the evangelist to that of a pastor. The evangelist gets on a podium, preaches the gospel of salvation, makes an altar call, and leaves thereafter, leaving the pastor to do the hard work of training the new converts, setting them in systems that will help them grow spiritually, answering all their questions, and teaching them regularly until they can stand on their feet. In a time of revival, you must not only be ready to do the work of an evangelist but that of a pastor as well. John 15:16 says that you must win souls and ensure that they abide, implying that they never return to the devil.

As painful as it is, giving birth is still easier than taking care of a baby until adulthood. Parents will tell you that the work of a mother over her children never ends. Are you ready to nurture new converts and people that come to our respective local church till they make it to heaven? If your answer is yes, then God will really find you useful for His work.

We must put more effort into the follow-up of souls till they are mature and are on the sure path to heaven."

6. There is Reward and Joy for Harvest of Souls

God is not going to reward us for giving our lives to Him, He is going to reward us for winning and establishing souls. John 4:36-37:-

"36. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth."

Daniel 12:3 *And the teachers and those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) [shall give forth light] like the stars forever and ever.(Amp)*

DIVINE TIMING AND END-TIME HARVEST (III)

15

PASTOR C.T OLUWADARE

Our God has timing, seasons and calendar in His Plan and Destiny for man. In his creation, creatures and works were made to manifestation per timing or days. The Bible is the record of his manifestations in the world according to times, seasons, periods and locations.

Eccl. 3:11. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also he has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

The purpose of God is time defined even in eternity.

Haggai 2: 9. The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace says the Lord of Hosts.

End Time Harvest means there is Start point or beginning or initial Harvests and these are in time and purpose. End Time Harvest is the rap up harvest season that demands great wisdom and concerted efforts to make sure the fruits are not wasted or infected by wasters (pests, birds and other wasters).

God Almighty lamented in Jeremiah chapter eight of wasted harvests because the harvesters did not rise up to work:

Verse 20: *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, And we are not saved.* This harvests season by divine and prophetic insight is the saving of souls, salvation message to the world to harvest their souls into the Kingdom of God. Unserved souls are materials for the Kingdom of darkness. Remember the word of God that God does not love the destruction of sinners but their repentance. But repentance will not come except there is the receiving and believing of the gospel. We are now in the last opportunity to harvest souls since we are in the last days, latter days, and end time in the agenda of God and if we fail to do it now, there is no better time.

Rom 13:11(KJV)

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed Rom 13:11(AMP)

Besides this you know what (a critical) hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah)

Our final salvation here is when the trumpet shall sound, the catching up of the saved, and we go for presentation of our stewardship to our Master, Jesus Christ.

LET US UNDERSTAND THESE:

1. We are in the time of demonstration of God's power especially through our obedience to his instruction. We are the doers of his Word and implementers of His Plan and Mandate. Mark 16:17-20; Acts 1:7-8; 2:1-5

2. Every believing and obedience to the instruction of the Holy Spirit produces harvests into His Kingdom and joy to the heart of the Father. Mt 5: 16; Luke 10: 17-23; Acts 2:41; 47; 5:14; 11:24.

Can you reflect on the great revivals experienced in 1930s and 1970-1980s in the new wave of village wide and city wide crusades of mighty men and women in Southern Nigeria. Not of highly educated ministers, not of highly wealthy ones, but people who were yielded to God with sincere faith believing only the Word and the Holy Spirit from Ilesha, Ibadan, Osogbo, Benin and Ilorin that spread to West Africa reminiscence of Biblical Apostolic moves. These all happened because the believers yielded themselves to God.

"the great revival of the late 1930s was a period of spiritual renewal and transformation that had a profound impact on Nigeria society and culture"

"But the charismatic revivals of the 1970s and 80s were more widespread, covering the entire nation ...and impacted the church community in Nigeria" this also became more sustained and we must sustain and escalate it as the End Time revival and harvest.

NOTE: G. Campbell Morgan said, we cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again through our fervent prayers and expectation (Joel 2:28-30; Acts 1:8; 2:1-3; Acts 10:44). There is no past tense to this fulfillment of these prophecies. We are in the last phase of the Endtime or Latter Days and it must be the greatest experience.

3. Expectation moves God, so be drunk with expectancy and put on the sickle for the spiritual harvests of the End Time. Joel 3:13; Mark 4: 29.

NOTE: The power of God is always manifested in an atmosphere of joy and rejoicing than in atmosphere of insecurity, fear and strife. We cannot achieve much in the atmosphere of despondency. Ephesians 5:18; Neh 8:10;

It is time for God's people to become drunk with expectancy and anticipation instead of staying sober with boredom and in the midst of community unbelief, complaints and murmuring. The only way God is limited is through people. Therefore God is telling us to raise our level of expectation.

4. End Time Harvest is focusing on Soul Harvests for the Kingdom of God!! You are the Harvester or reaper. Several parables of our Lord Jesus talked about talents, gifts and harvest. All these are about populating and being fruitful for the Kingdom. The ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ was all about Soul Winning. Luke 5: 32; Mk 2: 17; Acts 26: 20; Matt 15: 24-28; Acts 10: 28.

5. It is time to redirect and refocus all believers to the example of the early Church where daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ (Acts 5:42).

The ministry of true evangelism belongs to every believer for unbelievers are mostly outside of the conventional church services. Therefore we must go out to meet them where the sinners are.

The Grace of God is abundant in believers for soul winning and gospel dispensing but waiting for your cooperation as you take the step to do it. Remember it is still the Grace that compels people to give their life to Jesus

Holy Ghost only confirm the spoken word as you speak, not the word of God in your heart!! Acts 16:20; Luke 21:15

6. Where to harvest for the Kingdom (Examples): Luke 14: 16-23
 - House to house
 - Street walk
 - Buses and taxis
 - Small group meetings
 - Large group meetings
 - Using your online contacts and applications in a consistent and focused manner (Facebook, Whatsapp chat or status messages, using google platforms, your X, Youtube channels).

We however still need capacity enhancement on the most effective way of individual using ICT for soul winning
Soul winning demands great passion and yielding to the impulse of the Holy Ghost, taking advantage of every opportunity and wisdom like Phillip yielding to the Spirit to harvest the soul of Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8: 5-6; 26-39)

7. Use your platform and gift for End Time Harvest. Eph 4:7; Rom. 12: 3-8
The excellent, superlative prophetic and Apostolic Ministry manifesting in fiery widespread epistles of Dr Paul of Tarsus cannot be separated from his education and rich training in philosophy but he turned all these for divine purpose of preaching the gospel. Anywhere you find yourself, seize the opportunity and turn it to preach the gospel. This is the style of our Lord Jesus Christ also.

8. Do not give in to the World's blackmail of not referring your converts or people that you preach to come to the Church-Jesus Chapel. "you are preaching Church" they accuse us!! But can we separate Jesus Christ from His Body?. Remember we are the ambassadors of Jesus Christ on earth and our House is the Church where we meet and fellowship, so let them follow you to the house. Let them come to worship Jesus Christ and learn how to grow by the Word. Mat 8:16; 9:28; 11:28; Heb 12:22

LABOUR IN THE HARVEST FIELD

16

PASTOR SEUN OKE

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matt 9: 36-37

It is clear from the passage above that;

- i) the harvest is ripe
- ii) the harvest requires labourers.
- iii) there is work to do in the kingdom.

What is the harvest field?

The harvest field is the world, particularly, the hearts of men. The Lord wants to harvest the hearts of men. What Jesus came to do was to prepare the field for us. The Lord's desire is for men to come and labour in the field. The Lord has prepared the field for the harvest, we only need to put our sickle and reap the harvest. **John 4:35**

What is the labour required in the harvest field?

The kind of labour required of every labourer is to reap what has been sown. We are reaping the harvest of the labour of Christ. The labour undertaken by Jesus was that He came, died on the cross, buried and resurrected for the sins of men to be forgiven.

Who are the labourers?

- The labourers are those who had been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. **Rev 14: 1-4, 1 Peter 1:8.**
- The labourers are those who had separated themselves from the world to uphold the purpose of the master. **Rom 1:1, Gal 1:15-16**
- Labourers are all disciples of Christ commissioned for this purpose. That includes all believers without the exception of any. **Mark 16:15-16**

The labour of the kingdom

John 9:4

[4] I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Jesus spoke about the works of Him who sent Him above. This goes to show there is work to be done in the kingdom. Jesus did His part of the work and finished. We are also required to do our part and finish. Every believer has a work to do, we have an assignment here on earth. There is a call upon our lives. We have been destined to fulfil this important kingdom work assigned to us by the master. That “kingdom work” can also be called “good works” which Jesus referred to as labour in our opening scripture.

Eph 2:10. Matt 5:16

These scriptures show that we were created in Christ Jesus for good works. That is, we were made in Christ so that we can execute the kingdom labour which can also be called good works. This good work is revealed when we shine as light in the world to the glory of the Father.

There is no greater work of the kingdom than reaping souls for Christ and discipling them until maturity. We would be wrong to think labour in the harvest field only involves soul winning. It goes beyond that. It also captures the journey of the souls won from the born again experience until maturity.

Colossians 2:6-7NKJV

[6] As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, [7] rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

This scripture goes to show that there is work to do after the conversion experience. For a soul to be rooted and built up in Him, it means the soul has walked and followed the Lord.

The labour over souls begins at the born again experience until the soul matures in stature. The growth of a soul to a perfect man and measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ is as important as winning a lost soul.

Equipping for the harvest

Ephesians 4:11-14

[11] And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, [12] for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the

edifying of the body of Christ, [13] till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; [14] that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

The ministry gifts in the body are to do 2 major things.

- a. To equip the saints for the **work of the ministry**.
- b. To edify the body of Christ

The emphasis is on item “a”. The ministry gifts in the body are to equip the saints until they become mature and a measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. The gifts are to take believers from children to mature entities in the spirit.

What's the labour/work about?

Understanding the purpose of Jesus' coming will go a long way to shape our understanding of the work expected of us. Jesus came so that man would not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16-17, John 10:10, John 17:3, 1 John 5:11-13.*

As simple as these scriptures are, they speak a lot to the reason Jesus came to the world. Our labour in the kingdom must lead to this. Everything humanity can get without Jesus can not be the primary reason for His coming. So also, everything man can achieve or get before Jesus came cannot be the primary reason He came. The only thing missing before He came was that there was a separation between man and God, and this severed man from the life of God. Eternal life was the only thing man couldn't possess until Jesus came. The coming of

Jesus helps us to access eternal life.

Therefore, our kingdom labour must be about the reason He came primarily. The work we do is on the soul of men, How men can be built in stature to measure up to Christ. How men can be raised to possess the life of God (eternal life). Whatever we do in the kingdom must have this as the end. That is our ultimate purpose and calling.

Understanding kingdom labour

1. Evangelism and mission: 1 Cor 9:16, Mark 16:15, 2 Tim 4:2, 2 Cor 5:11

This is targeted at the lost souls. Those who are on their ways to hell. Those who have not received the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must recognise that evangelism should be a lifestyle for believers. You don't wait until there is a general evangelism in church before you evangelise. It has to be what you do on the go. Mission on the other hand is a strategy deployed to reach the unreached with the message of the gospel.

2. Making disciples of others: Matt 28:18, Gal 4:19, Phi 4:9, 1 Cor 11:1.

Disciples are often referred to in scripture as followers of Christ. A disciple is the one who puts Jesus first, follows Him and makes disciples of others. The kingdom advances when we can replicate in others what was produced in us. Jesus spoke categorically to the disciples that they should make disciples of all nations Matt 28:18. It is in applying the principles of discipleship that we can all come to the fullness of Christ.

If the devil fails in stopping a man from being born again, his next move would ensure that the man is not

matured spiritually. He knows that following Christ brings us into maturity and he will do all to ensure you are not discipled for maturity. Discipleship will bring us into the fullness of Christ and he does not want us to come into that. Maximum attention should be given to 'discipling others' in the journey of faith. Older and mature believers should help younger believers to mature in faith.

3. Intercession: Col 4:12-13, Eze 22:30, Lk 22:31, 1Tim 2: 1-3

Intercession involves talking to God for others and standing in the gap for His kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth. God can do everything but there are some things that will not happen until there is someone standing in the gap. There are some souls that will not come to Christ until there is a serious intercession over them. It took Jesus praying for Peter for him not to be lost to satan. It took Moses standing for the Israelites for them not to be destroyed in the wilderness. Intercession is a labour we must be involved in as believers to have great kingdom harvest. You have to labour in prayer over the souls the Lord has made you overseers so that Christ can be formed in them. Believers grow better in an atmosphere of prayers and intercession.

4. Service and Ministration in the vineyard of faith: Rom 12:4-8, 1Cor 4:1-2, 1 Pet 4:10.

We are members of the body and as such, God has deposited virtues in us to minister to His church. The Ministry here does not suggest having an organised ministry with a name or location. It is working in your local assembly or the body of Christ to fulfil His purpose. It

could be ushering work, church cleaning, being a chorister, protocol etc. It could also be using your God given spiritual and physical gift to advance the course of the kingdom. All these are important to God and His work. This is a kingdom labour that will be rewarded and accounted for in heaven. It is a way to also labour in the harvest.

Enlisting as a kingdom Labourer

1. You must be born again
2. You must be separated from the world and sold out to God.
3. You must be intentional about following and obeying the Lord
4. You must grow in compassion for souls.
5. You must love righteousness and hate lawlessness.
6. You must be a disciple.

THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE IN END TIME HARVEST (I)



DNS ARIBISALA

I. INTRODUCTION

In the Scriptures, the concept of the "**end times**" or the "**last days**" is frequently mentioned, referring to the culmination of God's redemptive plan for humanity. This period is often depicted as a time of great spiritual harvest, where multitudes will come to know and embrace the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The Bible employs agricultural metaphors, such as the "harvest," to illustrate the ingathering of souls into God's kingdom (Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35).

As we approach this prophetic season of the "**end time harvest**," it is crucial to understand the pivotal role that sacrifice plays in this grand work of evangelism and discipleship.

Sacrifice has been a central theme throughout the biblical narrative, as it represents the depth of our devotion, obedience, and surrender to God's will.

In the Old Testament, we witness numerous examples of sacrifices offered to God, such as Abel's offering (Genesis 4:4), Noah's burnt offerings after the flood (Genesis 8:20), and

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18). These sacrifices were not only acts of worship but also demonstrations of faith and obedience to the Lord.

The ultimate sacrifice, however, was made by Jesus Christ Himself, who "gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2). His sacrificial death on the cross became the ultimate atonement for sin, opening the way for humanity's reconciliation with God (Romans 5:11).

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul exhorts believers to present their bodies as "living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1), representing a lifestyle of complete surrender and service to God. This concept of sacrifice extends beyond mere rituals and encompasses a daily commitment to lay down our lives, desires, and ambitions for the sake of the gospel.

As we eagerly anticipate the end time harvest, the place of sacrifice takes on profound significance. It is through our willingness to sacrifice—our time, resources, comfort, and even our very lives—that we become vessels for God's purposes and participate in the great commission of making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

II. BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SACRIFICE

The concept of sacrifice is deeply rooted in the pages of Scripture, woven throughout the narratives of both the Old and New Testaments. From the earliest chapters of Genesis to the culminating events recorded in the book of Revelation, sacrifice stands as a central pillar of God's redemptive plan for humanity.

A. Old Testament examples of sacrifices

1. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18)

- A profound demonstration of Abraham's faith and obedience to God's command.
- God's provision of a ram as a substitute sacrifice foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Christ.

2. The sacrificial system in the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 1-7)

- Burnt offerings, sin offerings, and peace offerings were prescribed for the Israelites' atonement and worship.
- These sacrifices pointed to the need for a perfect and final sacrifice for sin.

3. The Passover lamb (Exodus 12:1-30)

- The blood of the sacrificial lamb spared the Israelites from the angel of death, symbolizing God's redemptive power.
- This practice foreshadowed the sacrificial death of Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).

4. The prophetic utterances (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22)

- These passages prophetically described the suffering and sacrifice of the Messiah for the sins of humanity.

B. New Testament teachings on sacrifice

1. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:11-14)

- Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, offered Himself as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin.
- His death on the cross fulfilled the sacrificial system of the Old Testament and provided eternal redemption.

2. Living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:5)

- Believers are called to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God's service.

- This involves a daily commitment to surrender our lives to Christ's lordship.

3. The sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15-16)

- Offering sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving, and good works is pleasing to God.
- Believers are encouraged to continually offer the sacrifice of their lips and lives.

4. Sacrificial love and service (Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6)

- The apostles exemplified a willingness to be poured out as a sacrifice for the sake of the gospel.
- True discipleship involves sacrificial love and service for others. Throughout the biblical narrative, sacrifice is presented as a fundamental expression of devotion, obedience, and worship to God. It serves as a profound reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ and the call for believers to live sacrificially in response to His great love.

III. THE MEANING OF SACRIFICE IN THE END TIME HARVEST

As we anticipate the end time harvest, the concept of sacrifice takes on profound significance. It becomes a catalyst for spiritual growth, a witness to the world, and a means of advancing the Great Commission. In this pivotal season, sacrifice encompasses both spiritual and physical dimensions, each playing a vital role in the ingathering of souls into God's kingdom.

A. Spiritual Sacrifice

1. Devotion and obedience

- The end time harvest demands a deep level of devotion and obedience to God's will.

- Just as Abraham demonstrated unwavering obedience in sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18), believers are called to sacrifice their own desires and agendas for the sake of the gospel.
- This spiritual sacrifice involves a daily surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit and a willingness to go wherever God calls.

2. Worship and praise

- The sacrifice of worship and praise is essential in the end time harvest (Hebrews 13:15-16).
- As believers offer their lives as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1), their worship becomes a powerful testimony to the world.
- Sacrificial praise and adoration create an atmosphere conducive for the move of God's Spirit and the drawing of souls to Christ.

3. Service and ministry

- The end time harvest requires sacrificial service and ministry to others (Philippians 2:17).
- Just as Jesus sacrificially served and gave His life for humanity (Mark 10:45), believers are called to sacrificially serve the church and the community.
- This service may involve sacrificing personal comfort, time, resources, and even careers for the sake of advancing the Kingdom of God.

B. Physical Sacrifice

1. Time and resources

- The end time harvest demands a sacrifice of time and resources from believers.

- Just as the widow sacrificially gave her last two mites (Mark 12:41-44), believers are called to sacrificially invest their time, talents, and finances in the work of the gospel.
- This sacrifice may involve prioritizing ministry over personal pursuits, generously supporting missions and outreach efforts, and using one's resources to meet the needs of others.

2. Possessions and material wealth

- The end time harvest may require sacrificing personal possessions and material wealth for the sake of the gospel (Luke 14:33).
- Just as the rich young ruler was challenged to sell his possessions (Mark 10:17-22), believers may be called to sacrifice their attachment to material things.
- This sacrifice frees believers from the bondage of materialism and allows them to fully embrace the call of Christ.

3. Comfort and security

- The end time harvest often requires sacrificing personal comfort and security for the advancement of the gospel (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).
- Just as the apostle Paul endured hardships and persecutions for the sake of Christ, believers may be called to sacrifice their sense of comfort and security in order to reach the lost.
- This sacrifice may involve leaving familiar surroundings, enduring persecution, or embracing a lifestyle of risk and vulnerability for the sake of the gospel.

In the end time harvest, sacrifice takes on multifaceted

dimensions, encompassing both spiritual and physical aspects. It is a powerful witness to the world, a catalyst for spiritual growth, and a means of advancing the Great Commission. As believers embrace a lifestyle of sacrifice, they become vessels through which God's redemptive plan can unfold, and the harvest of souls can be reaped.

IV. THE ROLE OF SACRIFICE IN PREPARING FOR THE END TIME HARVEST

Sacrifice plays a pivotal role in cultivating a heart that is ready to receive and participate in the great ingathering of souls. It serves as a witness to the world, drawing others to the transformative power of the gospel, and fuels the necessary resources for missions and outreach efforts.

A. Cultivating a Heart of Sacrifice

1. Dying to self (Luke 9:23-24)

- Preparing for the end time harvest requires a daily dying to self and a surrender of personal ambitions and desires.
- Just as Jesus called His disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross daily, believers must crucify the flesh and embrace a life of sacrifice.
- This dying to self allows the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in our lives, making us effective vessels for the harvest.

2. Brokenness and humility (Psalm 51:17)

- A heart of sacrifice is accompanied by genuine brokenness and humility before God.
- Just as the psalmist acknowledged the importance of a broken and contrite spirit, believers must cultivate a

posture of humility and dependence on God.

- This brokenness prepares our hearts to be used by God and enables us to serve others selflessly during the harvest season.

3. Intimacy with Christ (John 15:4-5)

- Sacrificial living is rooted in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.
- By abiding in the Vine, believers can draw the strength and sustenance necessary to lay down their lives for the gospel.
- This intimacy with Christ empowers believers to sacrificially love others, even in the face of opposition or persecution.

B. Sacrificial Living as a Witness

1. A testimony to the world (Matthew 5:16)

- A lifestyle of sacrifice serves as a powerful testimony to the watching world.
- Just as Jesus exhorted His followers to let their light shine before others, sacrificial living illuminates the transformative power of the gospel.
- When believers willingly sacrifice their time, resources, and comfort for the sake of others, it becomes a compelling witness that can draw people to Christ.

2. Reflecting the heart of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8)

- Sacrificial living reflects the heart and character of Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.
- As believers emulate Christ's sacrificial love, they become

living epistles, demonstrating the reality of the gospel message.

- This sacrificial witness can soften the hardest of hearts and prepare the way for the end time harvest.

C. Sacrificial Giving to Support Missions and Outreach

1. Funding the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

- The end time harvest requires significant resources to support missions, evangelism, and discipleship efforts.
- Sacrificial giving of finances, talents, and skills enables the church to fulfill the Great Commission and reach the uttermost parts of the world.
- Just as the early church sacrificially shared their resources (Acts 2:44-45), believers today are called to give sacrificially to support the work of the gospel.

2. Meeting practical needs (James 2:15-16)

- Sacrificial giving also involves meeting the practical needs of those within and outside the church.
- By sacrificially providing for the poor, the marginalized, and those in crisis, believers demonstrate the love of Christ and open doors for the gospel message.
- This sacrificial compassion not only alleviates suffering but also prepares hearts to receive the truth of the gospel during the end time harvest.

As believers embrace a lifestyle of sacrifice, they align their hearts with the purposes of God and position themselves to be instruments in the great end time harvest. Sacrifice cultivates a heart that is receptive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, serves as a powerful witness to the world, and provides the necessary resources for missions and outreach efforts. By embracing

sacrifice, the church can effectively prepare for and participate in the ingathering of souls that awaits during this pivotal season.

V. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS AND EXAMPLES

While the concept of sacrifice may seem abstract or daunting, its practical applications in the context of the end time harvest are both tangible and inspiring. Through personal sacrifices, church-wide initiatives, and the powerful testimonies of those who have embraced sacrificial living, we can catch a glimpse of what it means to lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel.

A. Personal Sacrifices

1. Time management

- Sacrificing personal time for Kingdom priorities (e.g., prayer, Bible study, service)
- Intentional scheduling to prioritize evangelism, discipleship, and outreach efforts
- Volunteering time and skills for church ministries and community outreach Programs

2. Financial stewardship

- Sacrificial giving to missions, church planting, and evangelism efforts
- Living below one's means to free up resources for the work of the gospel
- Investing in resources and tools that support the end time harvest (e.g., Bible translations, gospel literature)

3. Lifestyle adjustments

- Sacrificing personal comforts and conveniences for the sake of the gospel
- Embracing simplicity and contentment to free up resources for the Kingdom

- Willingness to relocate or change careers to align with God's call and the needs of the harvest

B. Church-wide Sacrifices

1. Missions support

- Sacrificial giving to support full-time missionaries and church planters
- Sending out short-term mission teams to participate in the harvest
- Providing practical and financial support for persecuted believers and underground churches

2. Community outreach

- Sacrificial investment in community development projects (e.g., schools, medical clinics, job training)
- Offering facilities and resources for community events and services
- Partnering with local organizations to meet practical needs and share the Gospel

3. Evangelistic efforts

- Sacrificial allocation of resources for large-scale evangelistic campaigns and crusades
- Utilizing media and technology to reach the unreached with the gospel message
- Training and equipping believers to be effective witnesses in their spheres of influence

These practical applications and examples serve as a powerful reminder that sacrifice is not merely a theoretical concept but a tangible reality in the lives of those who are committed to the end time harvest. By embracing sacrificial living at a personal and corporate level, we not only prepare ourselves for the great

ingathering of souls but also become living examples of the sacrificial love of Christ, drawing others to the transformative power of the gospel.

VI. CONCLUSION

As we stand on the precipice of the end time harvest, the place of sacrifice emerges as a profound and indispensable reality. Throughout the biblical narrative, sacrifice has been a constant thread, weaving together the tapestry of God's redemptive plan for humanity. From the sacrifices of the Old Testament patriarchs to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, sacrifice has been the pathway to intimacy with God, obedience to His will, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

In this pivotal season, the call to sacrifice resonates with even greater urgency. As we eagerly anticipate the ingathering of souls into God's Kingdom, our willingness to sacrifice our time, resources, comforts, and even our very lives becomes the catalyst for the end time harvest to unfold.

The meaning of sacrifice in this context extends far beyond mere rituals or symbolic gestures.

It encompasses a deep spiritual dimension, where our devotion and obedience to God are manifested through the surrender of our desires, the offering of our worship, and the sacrificial service to others. Moreover, it demands a physical dimension, where we sacrifice our possessions, wealth, and comforts for the sake of the gospel.

As we cultivate a heart of sacrifice, dying to self and embracing brokenness and humility, we position ourselves to be vessels

through which God's redemptive purposes can flow. Our sacrificial living becomes a powerful witness to the world, reflecting the heart of Christ and drawing others to the transformative power of the gospel. Additionally, our sacrificial giving enables the church to support missions, meet practical needs, and fuel the necessary resources for the end time harvest.

The practical applications and examples of sacrifice serve as a powerful reminder that this call is not merely theoretical but a tangible reality lived out by countless believers throughout history. From personal sacrifices in time management and financial stewardship to church-wide initiatives and the inspiring testimonies of missionaries, martyrs, and ordinary believers living extraordinarily, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have embraced the call to sacrifice.

As we gaze toward the horizon of the end time harvest, let us embrace the place of sacrifice with unwavering commitment. Let us lay down our lives, our ambitions, and our comforts for the sake of the gospel, knowing that our sacrifices are not in vain but are a sweet aroma to God and a powerful catalyst for the ingathering of souls.

May our hearts be stirred with a renewed sense of urgency and a willingness to surrender all for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. For it is through our sacrificial living that the end time harvest will be reaped, and multitudes will come to know the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE IN END TIME HARVEST (II)

18

PASTOR (MRS) B.I. OLUWADARE

Text: Matthew 24, Rev 14:15

This topic simply means that sacrifice is a key to the End time Harvest. Without sacrifice the end time harvest may not be a reality in an individual life (believer) family, local church and the universal body of Christ at large. Generally, the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is nearer than anyone could imagine. If all believers in Christ bear this in mind, then the passion for soul winning will be more to reach unto sinners and even backsliders. What is sacrifice? What is End time - harvest? The books of Matthew and Revelations affirmed 3 phases of the END-TIME Harvest commonly known as:

1. Barley Harvest- The Rapture of the Church
2. Wheat Harvest- The first half of the Tribulation
3. Grapes Harvest The 2nd half of the 7-year Tribulation

Question: What is the END-TIME HARVEST?

Answer: The End time Harvest is simply separate time period where Christians will be taken into heaven (*dead or alive*)

Let us examine carefully what the Bible has to say about the END-TIME HARVEST

1. Among those Christians, will be included those who have been preparing for the GREAT day of the Lord, who purged themselves and prepared their hearts in anticipation for Christ's kingdom to be taken into their heavenly home, include also those dead in Christ currently sleeping in the grave.

2. Falling into the 2nd category will be the lukewarm church~those who will be left behind to go into tribulation & eventually die for Christ.

In these two groups of people, many will be taken to their heavenly home at a specific time frame, as the book of Revelation confirmed.

Barley harvest

Which is what is known as the Rapture of the Church, also known as the rapture of the Saints, also the rapture of the Bride consisting of those group of people who are sleeping in the grave, have died in Christ and those who are preparing their hearts as of right now for Christ's coming...those people who have surrendered fully to Jesus, those people who have been living a life of moment by moment Repentance, Righteous living, Holiness, Truth and total surrender to the lord Jesus. Those people who had washed their garments clean and made them white in the blood of the lamb will be found worthy to go in the rapture.

1Thessalonians 4:16-17 describe amazingly that event: For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and

remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the lord.

Those are also the people who were wise enough to prepare...they will not go into the 7 year-tribulation period. It is noted that EVERYONE, ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE to go through tests and trials as part of life requirement for the godly; it is such things that will purge us from self-dependence to total submission.

This period in time, marked the beginning of sorrows, famine, natural disasters, plagues, persecution and martyrs of some saints, the rise of evil & Anti-Christ

SACRIFICE

Sacrifice means giving to the Lord whatever He requires of our time, our earthly possessions, our energies to further His work. "The Lord commanded, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Our willingness to sacrifice is an indication of our devotion to God. People have always been tried and tested to see if they will put the things of God first in their lives. In Old King's James version, the word 'sacrifice' appears in 159 verses to show the importance of sacrifice.

Do you ever question whether your harvest is worth it? The life of a Christian is a life of sacrifice. We are called to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Christ. The world hated Jesus, so the world will hate us. We are called to speak truth in love that commensurate to Christ love towards us. We are called to sacrifice our time, money, and our pride for the glory of God. We will face persecutions, trials and tribulations. We will be tired, grow weary. Is it worth it? There will be days

that question may be harder to answer, but there will be that day when the answer will be abundantly clear and that living for Christ worth it.

Revelation Chapter 14 should be a reminder that all our labours and sacrifices for the Lord worth it. We must not believe the lie or discouragement that darkens the hope of the resurrection. We experience the presence of God and that day we will know that all our efforts worth it. Revelations: 14:1-5.

Sacrifice was mentioned in hundred and fifty-nine places to show the importance of sacrifice in the scriptures and also the obligations of believers in the place of sacrifice.

END TIME HARVEST

2Thessalonians 1:7-10

Matthew 13:47-50

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

SO SHALL IT BE AT THE END OF THE WORLD: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

2Thessalonians 1:3-12 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come A FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now you know what withholdeth (what we're waiting

for) that He (Jesus) might be revealed in His time.

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

And then shall the Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And for this cause God shall **SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION**, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believe not the Truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

NOTE

There will be a falling away of multitudes in contrary to many believers and these multitudes are being led astray by lying signs and wonders, as it is in Re. 13:14

“And deceived them by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast...”

Everything is to be separated into their appointed destinies, once and for all.

2Thessalonians 1:7-10

“And you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

WHEN HE SHALL COME TO BE GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS, and to be admired in all them that believe...”

NOTE

- We are not to be carried away with signs as believers.
- Be alert both spiritually and physically. Fine tune your discernment with “fresh oil”
- Allow the help of Holy Spirit for total guidance and leading in accordance to Romans 8:14
- Signs and wonders don't save but the LOVE OF THE TRUTH... the very thing that they are “falling away”
Matthew 24:24 “For there shall arise false Christs, false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, IF it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Behold, I have told you before.

All glory to God for it is not possible for the elect to be deceived as long as they are safe, well-grounded and sound in the Revelation of God's word, understand the importance of the body of Christ (the bride) and Jesus (the bridegrooms)

SACRIFICE AND END TIME HARVEST

Before a farmer can talk of harvest, he must have good and viable seeds, right soil, tools to work with in the farm correct season, labour- plowing, planting, irrigation if not a raining season, different kinds of seedlings, including planting, pruning, fruit/ fruitfulness, different seasons of harvest, different stages of growth for different types of crops so also is Christian sacrificial life towards the end time harvest.

Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold time and heat, and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease”

2Timothy 2:3-4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ No man that warreth 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 mysteries, yet is He not crowned, except He strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

400 major leaders were mentioned in both the old and new Testaments but only 20% of them finished well. Examples are Jesus, Peter, Paul and others. Without mincing words they manifested the fruits of the spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23 while the works of the flesh are clearly written in Galatians 5:19-21. No one that manifests the works of the flesh that can be in a good position to sacrifice successfully in the end-time harvest.

The sacrifice of the end-time harvest requires total commitment to reach unto the unsaved ones at every level. The Lord Jesus paid the price with his life Jn 3:16, Rom. 5:8. We are also called to pay the price. It will cost us:

Time: 3:14

Travail/Intercession- Col. 4:12

Treasures- Matt. 6:21

Talents and gifts- Matt. 25:24-32

Love of God/ Eternal life Jn. 3:16, Jn.6:35, Jn 11:25-26

Obedience to soul winning: Isaiah 1:19, Prov. 11:30, Prov. 14:25 2 Tim. 2:7, Eze. 18:27

Boldness:

Being faithful and steadfast to the end

THE CHALLENGES OF THE HARVEST FIELD (I)

19

PASTOR MRS OLASINBO OWOLABI

"Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish His work. Say not ye, there are yet four months and then cometh the harvest, behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together and herein is that saying true, one soweth and another reapeth" John 4:34-37.

A song writer encouraged us to labour on, that the labour in God's vineyard is sweet and the reward is sure. God has called us into the harvest, Jesus said in John 4:38, **"I have sent you to reap a harvest in a field where you did not work; others worked there and you profit from their work"**. God is the owner of the farm or harvest. The work of harvesting is a call unto service by the Lord as shown from the scripture above and it is meant for profiting. Usually, harvest time is a time of making profit.

Becoming a harvester is an answer to the prayer of Jesus' disciples. Jesus asked His disciple to pray that God will send

labourers to the field because the harvest is ripe. (Lk 10:2, Matt 9:36-37). So, when you accept God's invitation to be a harvester, you become a fulfillment of Jesus' desire. Truly, the harvest is ripe. When Jesus saw how miserable and hopeless the people were, like sheep without a shepherd, he asked that prayers be offered to God to send labourers to the field (Matt 9:16-18).

Though, the field is ripe for harvest, harvesters are few, are you ready to join the workforce of God today? Are you willing to be committed to the trust He left us? The father in the gospel according to St Mathew 21:28. Verse 28b, "Son, go work today in my vineyard", in the same way God is calling on men at all times, as He is calling on us today, to come work in His vineyard.

Challenges of the harvest field;

As you enter into the harvest field, these are some of the challenges you may face;

1. There are wolves out there: Matt 10:16-18, Lk 10:3. Jesus said He is sending us out as sheep and lamb among wolves. Knowing that there wolves without should get us prepared for the task ahead. There is a saying that to be forewarned is to be forearmed.
2. There are enemy within: The parable of Jesus in Matt 21:33-36, of a landowner that planted his vineyard and let it out to husbandmen but when the time of harvest came, he sent his servants and they were beaten, later sent his son and he was killed. This shows that there are some who went from us but no longer with us (Acts 15:24, 1 Jn 2:19a).
3. There are competitors on the field: Phil 1:15-18, Apostle Paul said it here that some preach the gospel because of envy and strife, with the intention of frustrating him. Some people are

out there preaching Christ out of contention, be mindful of them. There are also some preaching other messages contrary to the message of Christ that we carry.

4. There are enemies without whose aim is to frustrate the harvester's labour. They sow tares among the good seeds of the field. Matt 13:24-30. They intend to make a shipwreck of your effort, so, don't be moved by their activities.
5. Lack of understanding of the time of harvest: There are times of harvest, not understanding this can be frustrating Mk 4:29. You need to identify when to put in the sickle. In Gen 8:22, the bible says seedtime and harvest will not cease, though, time was not allotted to harvest here because, harvest is a continuous process but each plant has its time of harvest, so we must walk in this consciousness for a bountiful harvest.
6. The challenge of distractions: There abound distractions on the harvest field, both legitimate and otherwise. Jesus was hungry as recorded in the book of John 4:32-34 but while His disciple went in search of food, opportunity to preach came, in the midst of it, His disciples came back with food and implored Him to eat but he declined claiming that He had food to eat that they know not of. Food is legitimate, yet our Lord postponed that gratification until after he finished the master's work. There will be time that you too will have to boycott some legitimate needs for the work as well as avoid illegitimate or demonic orchestrated distractions completely, some of which are listed in 1 Jn 2:16; lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life.
7. The challenge of identifying your audience and being able to bring them to understanding. Jesus often spoke in parables that His audience could understand while on the field. Mk 4:33 **"Jesus preached His message to the people using many other parables like these. He told them as much as they**

- could understand”** (GNT). Paul also confirmed that he became many things to his audience so that he may win some for Christ (1 Cor 9:19-23).
8. The challenge of laziness and procrastination: Jn 4:34a says, “You have a saying, four months and then the harvest”. Eccl 11:4 also says, “**He that observeth the wind shall not sow and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap**”. Don't be lazy, there is not a more appropriate time (Pro 20:4). Now is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2).
 9. The challenge of discouragement: Often, on this road we are faced with discouragement, the toughest of us can be discouraged if we shift our focus. Remember Jonah and Elijah, with all the great works they did, a time came that they were discouraged and tired. Therefore, let your focus always remain on Him that send you and give no room for the devil to wear you out (1 Kings 19:2-7, Jonah 4:1-4).
 10. The challenge of confusion: There are many voices in the field, there is therefore need for you to constantly and continuously fine tune your ears to hearing the master. Jesus said my sheep hear my voice and follow me, they will not listen to the voice of the stranger (Jn 10:5, 27). Follow the master's voice. Remember the young and the old prophet (1 Kings 13:11-28).
 11. The challenge of rejection: Our Lord Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry was faced with rejection. He was despised and rejected (Isa 53:3). Know that you will not be accepted in everywhere you go and by everyone you meet. In fact, you are not sent to everyone, no one is! Even Jesus came to His own and they rejected Him (Jn 1:11), so, some of your audience may also reject you or at least in the first instance and later accept you.

Overcoming the challenges:

Though, we may be faced by the aforementioned challenges and more, they are not enough to stop us, we can rise above them by noting the following;

1. Be wise and harmless. Jesus charged you to be wise as serpent and harmless as dove Matt 10:16. Act with wisdom, avoid negative influence of the wolves. You also need to be wise and harmless to overcome the enemy within. "....., **let them bring out the best in you not the worst, when someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God created selves. In a word, what I'm saying is, grow up, you're kingdom subjects. Now live like it, live out your God created identity, live generously and graciously toward others...."** Matt 5:44-45, 48 (MSG).
2. Don't be anxious, God is able to meet all your needs, He said, carry no purse or scrip or shoe (Lk 10:4-9, Matt 6:31-34). Your eating and drinking will be provided as you go to work in the field, because the labourer is worthy of his hire (Lk 10:7b). All your needs will be met.
3. Focus on God, the sender and your assignment. Gal 6:9. Give no room for fainting and complaining. Be like Jesus that said, my meat is to obey the will of the one that send me and to finish the work He gave me to do. Jn 4:34 (GNT). Be diligent in your assignment, don't be lazy (Pro 20:4). Make up your mind to finish strong.
4. Walk in the consciousness that you are sent Jn 4:38. It is a privilege to be part of the few harvesters, don't waste it Matt 9:37. Your feet are made beautiful and wonderful as you do your work (Isa 52:7). Our Lord Jesus and apostle Paul are perfect examples of people who always remind themselves

- and people around them of their assignment, they never let it slip away from them (Jn 4:34, Lk 4:43, Mk 1:38-39, 1 Cor 9:16).
5. Don't be deceived Gal 6:7. The harvest field also occupies enemies of your assignment, so don't allow their activities to discourage, deter or weary you. Some of them are out to antagonize you or make you feel otherwise about your assignment. Don't be moved by their success or other things. Remember Apostle Paul said in Phil 1:16, that some are preaching to add to his affliction. You must also develop your ability to discern and identify the tares from the good seeds.
 6. There is reward at the end of your stewardship, so be faithful Jn 4:36. The reward is both earthly and eternal. It also makes the husbandman to rejoice. God has promised not to forget our labour of love (Heb 6:10) and He said He has not called us to labour in vain (1 Cor 15:58).
 7. Understand the timing for the harvest. "A sensible person gathers the crops when they are ready; it is a disgrace to sleep through the time of harvest" Prov 10:5 (GNT). Don't wait for convenient time (Eccl 11:4). The best time is now!
 8. It brings joy to the heavens when souls are won Lk 15:7, 10. The angels rejoice when a soul is saved. If you also remember that the worth of a soul is more than the whole world, you will not waste the harvest (Mk 8:36).
 9. Be connected to the husbandman in prayer and in seeking direction, just like the servant did in Matt 13:28-29, if not they would have pluck out the good seeds with the tares but for the counsel of the master they obeyed, the seeds were preserved till the time of harvest.

We are encouraged in Rev 2:10 **“Don't be afraid of anything you are about to suffer, listen, the devil will put you to test by having some of you thrown into prison and your troubles will last for ten days, be faithful to me even if it means death and I will give you life as your prize of victory” (GNT).** Our father in the Lord often says, **“The prize is more than the price”.** No matter the challenge, we can overcome! **“We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil 4:13).**

THE CHALLENGES OF THE HARVEST FIELD (II)

20

PASTOR F.T ADELEYE

"But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" 11 Tim 4:5 NKJV.

Harvest field refers to a target culture and people group to be won for Christ through missionary work and evangelism. **Mat 9:36-38 NKJV** *"36-But when he saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd, Then he said to his disciples 37- The harvest truly is plentiful but the laborers are few. 38- Therefore pray THE LORD OF HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST"* Mathew shifted his metaphor from sheep without a shepherd to harvest metaphor.

The word "harvest" is used three times in verses 37-38 and the act of harvest implies a sense of urgency. The time is just right; the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. It was out of compassion and brokenness for these people that Jesus looked

at his disciples and told them to pray for laborers to be sent out into the harvest field of the world. When Jesus looked upon the multitudes of people, He must have seen what looked like a field of grain ready for harvesting but who would go to do the work, who would labor in the fields, who would preach to them and teach them God's word. Jesus had just been preaching the entire day in various cities. He finds the entire field of unguided people who have gathered to follow Him as sheep without shepherd. Jesus was concerned about reaching out to all of them. The entire world is full of cities with people like this one, but who will go, who will reach them. Jesus is calling us- His disciples into the Harvest field-Mark **16:15,16**.

In II Cor 4:1-12 and II Cor 6:1-10, Apostle Paul through His experience in the harvest field by the inspiration of God reveal to us the myriads of challenges in the harvest field. These should not deter, discourage or limit us. We are able by the Grace and Power of God to do the work of an evangelist, to win souls for Christ.

"And He said to them "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15 NKJV. "And they went out and preach everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs Amen. Mark 16-20 NKJV.

LET US CONSIDER SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

- 1. Satanic or Demonic Blindfold of Heart-** Is 49:25; 11cor 4:4; Act 13:6-12. The devil does not want people to be delivered from their sin and depravity. He wants to hold people captive, the power of God is available to bring liberty and freedom unto salvation **"For I am not ashamed of gospel**

of Christ, for it is power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek. Rom 1:16 (NKJV).

2. **Persecution-** Mat 5:10; Act 5:17-20; Act 9:23; Act 13:50; 11cor 4:5-9; II Tim 3:10-12. This is the systematic mistreatment of an individual or group by another individual or group on the basis of religions belief or preaching of the gospel. It is treating people unfairly or cruelly. It involves denial of legitimate rights, privileges and entitlements. Persecution can lead to loss of harvest **Mat 13:21**.
3. **Lack of Adequate Financial Support for the Laborers in the Field-** II Cor 6:3-4; Phil 4:12. Laborers in the field can be discouraged, distracted and diverted due to lack of finances. This may limit their commitment and effectiveness especially those on mission field in the foreign lands.
4. **Language and Cultural Barrier to Effective Communication-** Gal 2:7-10. Preachers may have to learn new languages and adapt to new cultures to be acceptable on the field.
5. **False Doctrine and Religion Bigotry-** Gal 5:1-4,6; Col 2:8,16,17; Col 2:20-22. False doctrine and religion Bigotry is a deception from the devil to sway people away from the truth and path of deliverance and salvation.
6. **Worldliness and Cares of Life-**Mat 16:26; 1John 2:15. Things of this world have been a major distraction and hindrance in the heart of people to genuine salvation of souls.

7. Opposition from Enemies of the Gospel- Act 16:16-23; Acts 17:16-20; I Cor 16:9. The occults and idol worshippers most times want to oppose the Gospel of Christ through physical and spiritual attack against laborers in the field. Government legislation and policies of some Countries are opposed to the Gospel.

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY

No challenge or confrontation in the Harvest field is greater than the Power, the Grace of God and His Abiding Presence in your life. Nothing in this world should hinder you from fulfilling your God-Given Assignment. Draw courage from Apostle Paul in Act 20:24 (NKJV): **"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy and ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus to testify of the Gospel of Grace of God".**

I Cor 15:57 NKJV- "But Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

Put your faith in the word of the Lord of the Harvest our Savior Jesus Christ in Luke 10-17. Then the seventy returned with joy, saying Lord even the demons are subject to us in your Name. And He said to them "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpent and scorpion and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:17.

THE PRICE IS NOT GREATER THAN THE PRIZE (I)

21

ADU, M.O. (PASTOR)

Introduction.

Throughout history, many people have gone on difficult journeys, driven by a strong desire to achieve something very important. From explorers' discovery new lands to scientists working hard for new findings, the dream of a priceless reward has inspired them to Keep going and make big sacrifices. The path of faith is no different - a quest that demands sacrifice, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to the highest prize.

As believers, we are called to a life of discipleship, where the cost is high, but the reward is beyond measure. The word of Jesus resonates with clarity! "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:35)

These words challenge us to consider the price we must pay and weigh it against the eternal prize that awaits us. While the journey of faith may seem hard and costly, the truth remains - the price we pay is not greater than the prize we receive in Christ. The riches of His grace, the promise of eternal

life, and the assurance of his abiding presence outweigh any temporal sacrifice or hardship we may endure.

LET US CONSIDER ALL THESE IN THIS STUDY

UNDERSTANDING THE PRICE

- (1) The price involves the sacrifice of self – a surrendering of our own desires, ambition, and comforts in exchange for the will of God *Matthew 16:24; Gal 5:24; 1Cor 15:31*

NOTE:

The discipleship is a multifaceted concept that – encompasses various sacrifices, challenges, and struggles that we must embrace when we choose to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. It is a cost that permeates every aspect of our lives, demanding a radical transformation of our priorities, mindsets and actions.

- (ii) **Temptations:** As followers of Christ, we are constantly engaged in a spiritual battle against the temptations that seek to lure us away from our devotion to God. *Matthew 4:1-11, 1Jn 2:16; Eph 6:11-18.*
- (iii) **Wordly Distractions:** The world around us is filled with countless distractions that can gradually erode our commitment to Christ. *Matthew 13:22, Matthew 19:23; Luk 8:14 1Cor 1:26; Col 3:2:*

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE

- (I) True discipleship requires a total surrender – a willingness to take up our cross, symbolizing the sacrifice and suffering

that may come our way. *Isa. 53:11; Lk 14:27; Phil 3:8, Matthew 16:24; Mk 8:34; Mk 9:23 2Timo 3:12.*

- (ii) Our willingness to pay the price is not only essential for ourselves but also serves as a testimony the world. *Math 10:39; Mk 8:34-35"; Jn 12:25; Lk 9:24*

NOTE:

The importance of being willing to pay, the price cannot be overstated. It is a fundamental requirement for those who seek to follow Christ wholeheartedly, demonstrating our commitment to His Lordship and our willingness to sacrifice all for the sake of the Gospel.

"THE PRIZE"

The prize extends far beyond the mere concept of eternity; it also encompasses the profound peace joy and fulfilment that can only be found in an intimate relationship with the Lord. *John 3:16; Jn 14:27; Ps. 16:11; 2Cor 4:17; Rev: 21:3-4.*

Examples of individuals who caught a glimpse of this eternal prize, inspiring them to press on despite the cost were: Moses (*Heb 11:26*), Peter (*1 Peter 1:4*).

NOTE:

While the price we pay as followers of Christ may seem steep, the value of the prize we receive is beyond measure, surpassing any earthly treasure or possession. The riches of God's eternal kingdom are incomparable to the fleeting pleasure and possessions of this world. (*Matthew 13:45-46*) *Phil 3:8; 1 Pet 1:3-4.*

The prize we seek is not merely a future reality but also a present one, as we experience the indescribable joy and peace that come from walking in intimate communion with our

savior (Psalm 16:11) The everlasting joy and pleasure found in the presence of God are beyond compare, transcending any temporary gratification this world can offer.

EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO PAID THE PRICE AND RECEIVED THE PRIZE

1. The Apostle Paul:

- (i) Once a zealous persecutor of the church
- (ii) He encountered the risen Christ and surrendered his life to the Gospel (Acts 9:1-19).
- (iii) He endured countless hardships, including beating, imprisonment, shipwrecks, and ultimately martyrdom, all for the sake of proclaiming the name of Jesus (2Cor 11:23-28).
- iv) Despite these immense sacrifices, Paul remained steadfast, declaring "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. (Philp 1:21).
 - (i) His resolute commitment was fueled by the assurance of the eternal prize that awaited him (2 Timo 4:7-8)

II) The Martyrs of the Early Church

I Stephen – The first Martyr. (Acts 7:54-60). The Countless Believers who were tortured, imprisoned and executed during the Romans persecutions. These individuals exemplified a willingness to sacrifice everything for the sake of the gospel. Their commitment inspired generation of believers and served as a powerful testament to the eternal prize that awaited them (Rev. 7:13-17).

iii) Modern-Day Persecuted Believers.

- I. Countless believes around the world continue to pay high price for their faith in Christ.

- ii In the face of adversity, their faith remains unshaken, sustained by the promise of the eternal prize.
- iii Like the martyrs of old, they follow in the footsteps of Christ. (Heb 12:2).
- iv They know that their present sufferings cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed. (Rom 8:18)

PRACTICAL STEPS OF EMBRACING THE PRICE AND PURSUING THE PRIZE

- i We must cultivate a posture of humility and submission, recognizing that our strength lies not in ourselves but in the power of Christ Philp 4:13; James 4:7-8, 10; Matt 23:12; Job 22:29.
- ii Be diligent in the study of God's word allowing it to transform our minds and shape our understanding. Jos 1:8, Ps. 1:1-3, Ps 119:105, Ps 119:132; Rom 12:2, 2 Timo 2:15.
- iii Be prayerful Jer 29:12-13, Jer 33:3, LK 18:1, 1Thess 5:17; Philp 4:6-7.
- iv We must surround ourselves with a community of fellow believers who can encourage, exhort, and sharpen us in our pursuit of the prize. Ps. 1:1-3, Prov. 13:20, Heb 10:24-25; 2Peter 3:9, 11 & 14.

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY

In the light of the eternal prize that awaits. us, and the steadfast faithfulness of our Heavenly father, we are called to a renewed commitment – a wholehearted embrace of the price of

discipleship, no matter the cost.

Let us be emboldened by the words of the Apostle Paul who declare: “for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom 8:18).

May these words resonate within our souls, igniting a fire of commitment to the pursuit of the eternal prize, pressing on with steadfast faith and unwavering resolve, knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord (1Cor 15:58)

THE PRICE IS NOT GREATER THAN THE PRIZE (II)

22

EYITOPEMI MOMOH

Another way to put the topic is the sacrifice is not greater than the reward. Our Christian race has rewards in view. Apostle Paul a man of great experience in the calling in writing to the Christians in Corinth on the Christian race testify on how the Christian race should be ran to obtain the expected prize.

1Cor 9:24-27

- 24. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all but one receiveth the price? So run that ye may obtain.*
- 25. And every man that striveth for the mastery is tempted in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown but we an incorruptible.*
- 26. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly: so, fight I, not as one that beateth The air;*
- 27. 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 cast away.*

Here the apostle is calling our attention to what it takes to win the prize by natural athletes. A natural athlete will put in every necessary price to his race so as to win the prize knowing fully well that the price is not greater than the prize. Whatever it costs to get a thing is not greater to what is gotten. So, in our Christian walk, whatever it takes us to achieve our goal is less valuable to the goal.

There is a race set before every believer and the goal is to remain relevant at the end of the race and not be cast away in God's heavenly kingdom. Another illustration of the price not greater than the prize is in the parable of the ten virgins in Mathew 25:1-13

Mathew 25:1-13

- 1. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*
- 2. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
- 3. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*
- 4. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
- 5. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*
- 6. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*
- 7. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*
- 8. And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9. But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*
- 10. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came;*

and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the son of man cometh.

In the above story, the ten virgins were all qualified for the race before them and were all enlisted for it and all were looking forward for the reward or you call it the blessing or the prize. A Natural athlete though qualify for either 100meter or 200meter senior boy/girls race still put in some sacrifices to make him fit for the race. A footballer also needs some preparations to be able to win the goals. So were the five wise virgins. Unlike the foolish five virgins who thinks anything goes. Maybe the five foolish virgins thought why use our money to get extra oil with the price of oil in town.

Daddy (Rev Dr John Idowu) say preparation plus opportunity brings success and that instinct is better than instructions. Can you imagine nobody instructed the five wise virgins to come with extra oil but their instinct did and they got blessed for it. The extra oil means extra price/cost towards their goals. You will need to put in more sacrifice if you aim for more blessings in life.

Daddy (Rev Dr John Idowu) categorically that God said to him and I quote "Great people are not great because of what they have but because of the sacrifice and price they are willing to pay."

Characteristics of men who understand the price is not greater than the prize

1. They go on destiny journey not minding the price. e.g., Ruth Ruth 1:6-22, 2:5-12, 3:9-14
2. Do the right thing not withstanding the cost. (e.g., Abraham) or how unpopular. Gen 21:8-14
3. Are not opportunist but contented. (e.g., Abraham, Esther and David.) 2 Sam 24:21-25, Esther 2:15, Gen 23:1-20
4. They are grateful even for a little help. Lk 17:11-19
5. They have hearts void of offences. Lk 17:1-4, Gen 13:5-9, 14, Gen 14:1-16
6. They contribute to the lives of others, raising and training to become those who are down to nothing.. E.g., Abraham. and Modechai. Gen 14:14-15, Esther 2:5-7
7. They are people of integrity.

Examples of Men/Women who pay the price and God the Prize

Ruth

For Ruth to have left her country (Moab) and follow a widow mother-in-law and herself also a widow, nothing naturally is attractive or hopeful on that journey. Even Naomi expressed her hopelessness and frustration to discourage her from following her but she insisted on following the destiny mother in-law and at the end she met Boaz on the journey of destiny, got married to him and birthed a child of destiny and find herself in the lineage of the genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a reward of consistent price. (Ruth 1:1-16)

ABRAHAM- God called Abraham at an unlikely age asking him to leave his fathers land to a land that he would show him. In today's language, it can be called leaving certainty for uncertainty but for a man of faith, its not. On the journey he had unpalatable experiences in the hand of men. Lot the little boy he took along to help turned against him. He had

challenges in his marriage but in all his challenges he never turn against God or turn back on the journey of destiny.

Today, Abraham is referred to as a friend of God also a father of faith. All mankind refers to him as the father of all the human race. He paid the price of following and today and in eternity still reaping the blessings of price paid. This is amazing. God testify of him and said I know Abraham. May we live our lives in a way that God will boast of us as He did of Abraham.

Gen 18:18-19

- 18. Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*
- 19. For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

PAUL (The Apostle)

After Paul then as Saul met with Jesus on his way to Damascus, had a change life and name, Jesus gave him his vision to run, from that spot, he took up his destiny journey with all seriousness not minding what others think about him. At times in the life of Apostle Paul he needed to go on destiny journeies for the purpose of the gospel of Faith even when all around him(Acts 19) were discouraging him on his journey to Jerusalem his response was he had to go not minding all that will befall him. Even when the four daughters Stephen who are prophets were prophesying of the challenges on his way , and even Agabus Prophecy the same, Paul responded to them in Acts 21:13, that they should not stop him or discourage his heart.

Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, what mean ye to weep and to break my heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

What a price this Apostle was paying and is willing to pay for the purpose of the gospel. No wonder he became a well noted Apostle in His generation and his letters still affecting lives today. The price indeed is not greater than the blessings or Prize. Paul had experiences of being beaten and even sometimes pushed out of the synagogues and being called different names but in all he faced what God called him to do and succeeded as an apostle God sent to the gentiles.

JOSEPH

Joseph was the favorite of his father among twelve children. He walked with God and Knew God's way and God was with him. He had different challenges and was disappointed by close family members. Sold out as slave by his brothers without the knowledge of his loving father and by this time he had lost his mother. His life though appears miserable but he kept his dreams of God. He journeys from his father's house into the pit dogged for him by his very brothers, to Potiphar's house and from there to prison and eventually find himself in the palace he dreamt of. In all his journey, He kept his dream alive, pay all the price of many disappointments and at the end forgave all who disappointed him and fulfilled his God given dream because all the disappointments and troubles he went through can not be compared to his palace experience and fulfillments. All his dream came to pass.

THE PRICE IS NOT GREATER THAN THE PRIZE (III)

23

PASTOR A.O ADELEYE

We must understand that with every prize comes a price, with every opportunity comes a cost, and with every blessing comes an accounting.

There is a Prize we must pay when we are chosen by God to follow Jesus. Jesus himself said in Matthew 16:24. "if people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want". Not very many people are willing to pay the price for following Jesus. Instead, too many just continue tagging along on the church membership rolls as stagnant uncommitted dead weight. Christianity was never meant to be just a "go to church" ritual. Anyone can come into a sanctuary and sit through an hour long worship service. It is who one is and what one becomes beyond the Sunday service.

Our calling to the kingdom has always been about developing a personal, intimate relationship with God the father through his son Jesus Christ. It is a relationship that is not built on doing but being.

Jesus calls us into a relationship not just a decision. Jesus never said he wanted decision makers to follow after him.

Jesus wanted disciples who will pay the price on entering into a lifelong relationship of learning about and relating to both him and the father. This relationship is spoke about will demand efforts and a lot of commitment. In other words there is no joking around because there are price to be paid if they wanted to follow after Jesus in order for the people to understand him Jesus said that if they really want to follow him and be a disciples they must hate their family and hate life itself while at the same time carry their cross. Upon this statement the number of crowd following Christ would have thinned out . This following after Christ came with two conditions, first you must hate your own family and even your own life to even be one of his disciples and secondly you must carry your own cross while following after him.

Every worth while accomplishments has price tag attached to it. The question is always whether you are willing to pay the price to attain it.- in hard work, sacrifice, Patience, faith and endurance — John C.Maxwell.

Life does not always give you what you deserve but what you demand of it. A way to demand for it is to aggressively pursue your goals, as you count the cost (price) to see if you will be willing to pay it or not.

The cost to pay is largely dependent on the training you are willing to pass through and endure. Our scriptural reference today (1Sam 17) gave us the background on how David was able to defeat the giant, Goliath. We saw that David had always been in the bush taking care of his father's sheep and lambs, there he encountered both lions and bears that came to steal from his sheepfold but he withstood and conquered them time and again.

Those were David's years of training, fighting with lions and bears would have taken a lot of skill, faith and courage on David's part but David endured those years of training, he did not cower in fear because of the size of the enemy, which was why he was able to go out afterwards to defeat Goliath. The prize Goliath's head in David's hand was proof that he had sometime, somehow, and somewhere paid the price through fighting lions and bears to get to his present position.

How Do We Run the Race to Win the Prize?

*(1) *Winning the prize takes assurance and motivation that comes through continued self-control**

Winning the prize takes assurance and motivation that comes through continued self control.

Paul tells us something similar. He tells us that if we want to finish the race of the Christian life and win the prize, we have to exercise self-control and self discipline, as we do our assurance that we will finish the race grows, which provides us with motivation to keep running (1 Cor. 9:25a; 27).

One way we can exercise self-control is by having a greater desire to please God than ourselves. I don't know about you but my desire for God grows when I remember what Jesus has done for me in the gospel.

The gospel message tells us that Jesus saves us from the wrath of God by absorbing our sins on Himself and dying the death we deserve. As well as it tells us Jesus defeated sin's reign over our lives, allowing us to resist its temptation and exercise self-control.

As we remind ourselves of the gospel, preaching it to ourselves, a sense of gratitude towards God and a desire to please Him should grow in our hearts.

saying, "I float like a butterfly. I sting like a bee." Those two qualities allowed him not only to make quick work of his opponents with his pounding punches, but it also allowed him to make his opponents look foolish for striking the air instead of him.

Paul tells us if we want to finish the race and win the prize, we can't be like Muhammed Ali's opponents. We can't flail around the ring, "beating the air" or running aimlessly (1 Cor. 9:26). Instead we have to box as one determined to knock their opponent out, and we have to run as one determined to win the race. In order to do that, we must be focused.

(2) Winning the prize takes focus

Muhammed Ali was famous for his saying, "I float like a butterfly. I sting like a bee." Those two qualities allowed him not only to make quick work of his opponents with his pounding punches, but it also allowed him to make his opponents look foolish for striking the air instead of him.

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What we need to be focused on is Christ and the eternal heavenly reward awaiting us, so that we will keep our eye on the prize and stay on the track.

(3) Winning the prize also takes us heeding the warning of the past

Israel had a troubled history. One littered with fall after fall. What was at the heart of Israel's sin was their pride. They

thought they didn't need the Lord, that they knew better, that they had it all figured out. They, however, were wrong, and their Many falls prove it.

In fact, all of us are wrong if we believe we have it all figured out. Proverbs 11:2 tells us that, Those who think they know better than the Lord, that they don't need Him, that they have it all figured out will not succeed. They will fall.

You see, if we are going to finish this race, if we are going to win the prize, we can't go at alone. We must depend on God. We must look to Him for how we are to live. We must humble ourselves before Him and allow Him to lead us.

(4) Winning the prize takes us resisting temptation

Paul delivers to us a wonderful promise from God. A promise that tells us we don't have to sin; we can resist temptation, for the Lord has made a way of escape for us. If that is true, the real question is: Do we want to escape the temptation and please God, or do we want to succumb to the temptation so we can please ourselves? That is what it comes down to — who we desire to please — God or self?

If we desire to please God, if we delight in God, then we will be able to resist temptation because God always provides a way of escape for us.

(5) Winning the prize takes us fleeing idols

We can't be united to Christ and an idol. We can only worship one thing. If we choose an idol over God, we are in jeopardy of running of the track and not finishing the race.

What is an idol?

An idol is anything we allow to take the place of God in our lives. It's those things we give the most weight to, or think are necessary for life and happiness. Ultimately, an idol is

anything that stands between us and God, hindering our relationship with Him.

That which fits those categories could be an idol in your life. It could be the thing that is stealing your affections, love, and worship away from God.

Paul tells us if we want to finish the race, we have to flee idols. We have to run from them toward God, allowing Him alone to satisfy us (1 Cor. 10:14).

THE END TIME HARVEST

24

PASTOR BADMUS

2Cor 4:4 "In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them".

There are men whom the devil has so blindfolded that talking to them, preaching to them or even arguing with them will not produce any good effect. When preaching has failed to be effective in winning a soul, if a giant in the Lord gets on his/her knees and prays concerning that soul, the devil will flee from such a soul and he (the sinner) will begin to run and to ask for the way of Salvation. If you have been preaching to someone who is near to you or whom you have close contact with but he would not yield, if he moves to a distant land from you, you can trail him with prayers and still get him to the foot of the cross. If you have neither his address nor his phone number, heaven knows his abode. When you resort to prayers like this, even the devil will be afraid of you and mighty things will take place through you. Your prayers will begin to change families. You will begin to change nations and you will begin

to touch the whole world positively. You can grow to the point that though you will go and talk to the kings, rulers and governments, you can control affairs on your knees. Therefore, expand your coast by expanding your prayers.

1. WE NEED MORE LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST

Matt. 9:37-38, Lk 10:2, John 4:34-38, Matt. 24:14 “Then saith he (Jesus) unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Mathew 9:37-38). No doubt, this is not the first time you are reading this reference. You may have preached it to others. But now, have you got enough labourers? No! Until you stop to read or preach it and begin to pray it through, we will still be short of effective labourers. **“Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest.”** Make it your burden and the prayer point with which you bombard heaven, morning, noon and night,

Talk to the Lord about the idle, unoccupied, carefree believers. Talk to the Lord about those who are sleeping when they ought to be on fire for God. Pray to God about the people that have the knowledge of the word of God but are hoarding it. Talk to God about these believers who see multitudes dying and go to hell every minute but are not concerned. Pray about the uninvolved Christians, who don't see the need of volunteering.

You may have tried to motivate, inspire and carry them along-all to no avail. Then carry their case to God in prayer, that He will take away the lukewarmness in their lives and replace it with fire for service that the desire for mundane things will give way to unquenchable passion for souls and for God. Stop

putting pressure upon them; that would only make them resentful. Rather, call upon God who knows where to touch them so that they can turn around to come ablaze for Him. When you pray to the Lord of the harvest, they will drop all the excuses they have been holding onto. Through your prayers, the people that are tied down by heavy family, financial or philosophical chain will be released to go all out for the Lord.

This is the beginning of the kind of prayers that would change the world by putting the devil on the run. It is kind of prayer that makes the knowledge of the Lord fill the earth like the waters cover the sea (Habakuk 2:14; Matthew 24:14). It is the kind of prayer that will make the Almighty God happy. It is invariably this kind of prayer that will quicken the coming of the Lord Jesus.

2. BE BURDENED FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL

II Cor. 5:4; Rom. 9:1-3

As if you were in that condition or state. That was the kind of burden that Paul the Apostle had for the children of Israel when he wrote. **"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh"**

3. WE NEED TO TRAVAIL IN PRAYER

Isaiah 66:8; Gal; 4:19 Gal 1:6. We need to travail also in prayer that the men/women who are dead in their trespasses and sins will receive spiritual awakening. We can indeed pray sinners into God's Kingdom. This is exactly why we read of the word 'travail' from the Bible. There can be no better way of expressing this kind of prayer. **"Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath**

seen such thing? (Have you heard it in your own tribe? Have you heard it in your local assembly? Have you heard it in church history?) **Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or Shall a nation be born all at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children** “(Isaiah 66:8).

Whenever a child is about to be delivered, the woman enters into the travail of labour pain. If we want sinners who are gripped in the clutches of Satan to be delivered, we must in like manner, travailed in prayer. It is not just any kind of prayer, but real serious praying, groaning while praying. Sinners who are written off by relatives and friends can be converted by travailing in prayers on their behalf. A man who is almost dead physically, spiritually and even eternally, over whom the devil is already rejoicing that he has done a permanent ruin of, can be awakened by prayer so that the individual cries out in repentance.

Paul the Apostle became spiritually concerned for the Galatians (Galatians 1:6). They had been born again but now their life in Christ was nothing to write home about. Their zeal for the truth was in jeopardy. They were in a terrible state of backsliding and confusion. Paul wrote to them, but he knew that writing alone would not do. He began to preach to them but he knew that preaching alone would not do. He warned them, but he knew quite well that warning alone would not do. He began to expound both the Old and the New Testament to them but that alone would not do. Then he began to travail.

Then he began to pray and to agonise, seeking the face of the Lord on their behalf. So he said, **“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you”** (Galatians 4:19). That is what Christ is expecting of us, that we will pray backsliders back into the kingdom of God. Normally,

backslider have had a taste of God's love and the knowledge of His word. So, preaching alone would not move them. Before you call a passage of the Scriptures, they will tell you what is written therein. When you try to quote from the writing of a popular Christian writer, they will finish it up for you. Only travelling in prayer can restore backsliders to the faith!

4. MAKE SUCH PRAYER A PRIORITY PRAYER ON TOP OF YOUR PRAYER LIST

Prov. 11:30; Rom 10:1; Lamentation 2:18-19.

That is to say, praying souls into God's kingdom should be more important to you than praying for your personal needs such as healing Provision, children or life partner etc. **"Brethren, my heart desire and prayed to God for Israel is that they might be saved"** (Romans 10:1). Is this not a priority prayer? Paul's burden was that Israel might be saved.

Yours might be that your husband/children etc. might be saved or restored as the case may be. **"Their hearts cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion. Let tears run down like a river, day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease. Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord. Lift up thine heart toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street"** (Lamentations 2:18-19). Pouring tears day and night before the Almighty God is really agonizing in prayers. It is travelling in prayer.

That is the kind of prayer that will move the hand of the Almighty. That kind of prayer will make you special in the sight of God. Angels will see you and identify you as a peculiar person in the kingdom of God.

Souls are dying every day! Backsliders are dying every day! If you look at the pages of the newspapers you will see obituary announcements every day. Myriads of death are not even announced in the newspapers. Men/women die in athletics, in hospitals, in colleges, at home, in the yards and on our streets every time. They die in motor accidents, they die in plane crashes. They are dying and going to hell! Where are concerned believers? Where are the people that will agonise? Where are the believers that will travail for the salvation of sinners? Where are the Christians that will agonise for the restoration of the backsliders? Are you ready to pray for the sinners?

Are you ready to pour down your tears even for the conversion of your own husband and children? Arise, and call upon the Lord. Let tears run down your eyes! Tears like a river! Tears of agony! Let your heart pour out its desire in traving prayer. Count their salvation more important than your healing. Count the restoration of that backslider more important than your daily provision and more than your conveniences. Is your husband born-again? Is your wife born again? Are your children born-again? How about your parents? Are they born-again? Why are you so unconcerned?? Why are you still keeping quiet?.

5. IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PEOPLE IN NEED OF SALVATION OR RESTORATION.

GEN. 18:23-32; MATT. 5:44; EXO 32:31-32; ROM. 12:14

When Abraham was praying for Sodom and Gomorrah, he was very specific (Genesis 18:23-32). When Moses was praying for the children of Israel after they sinned against God and He was to wipe them off as a nation, Moses was very specific

(Exodus 32:31,32). In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel looked at the children of Israel in captivity and prayed for them that God would return them from captivity to their land so they could worship God in spirit and truth. Identify specifically the men/women you are praying for their salvation/restoration.

Know the name, the condition and the person and go to God specifically for such individual's conversion. The individual could be our persecutor or a mocking neighbour who would not even listen to your preaching. Identify that person. In fact, that should be what the early believers did to the Saul of Tarsus. They identified him as the man who was holding the clothes of the people that stoned Stephen. The prayer of the church and even of Stephen himself gave him no respite until Saul, in the following Chapter, got converted to Christ. Yours is to be very specific, sincere and serious for the conversion or restoration of the individual you have identified.

THE JOY OF THE HARVESTER (I)

25

PASTOR OLUDELE

Introduction

Beloved brethren, we are gathered to explore a profound and joyful truth found in the Scriptures: "The Joy of the Harvesters in the Harvest Field." As we delve into this topic, let's seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the profound joy that comes from being workers in God's harvest field.

Let us begin by reading our key texts:

- Matthew 9:37-38: "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"
- Joel 3:13: "Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow – so great is their wickedness!"

These verses call us to recognize the urgency and the joy of participating in God's work. Let us explore this joy together.

1. The Plentiful Harvest

In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus declares that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. This statement highlights several key points:

- A. **The Readiness of the Harvest:** Jesus sees the multitudes and recognizes that they are ready to receive the good news. There is a ripe harvest waiting to be gathered. This speaks to the spiritual readiness in the hearts of people around us. Many are seeking hope, truth, and salvation.
- B. **The Need for Workers:** Despite the readiness of the harvest, there is a shortage of workers. Jesus urges us to pray for more laborers. This is a call for each of us to consider our role in God's mission. Are we willing to be the workers He needs?
- C. **The Joy of the Harvest:** The harvest is not a burdensome task but a joyful one. Psalm 126:5-6 tells us, "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them." There is immense joy in seeing lives transformed by the gospel. Always look at what you will gain after sowing. The reward of sowing is harvest. Harvest season is a season of joy.

2. The Urgency of the Harvest

Joel 3:13 emphasizes the urgency of the harvest: "Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe." This sense of urgency is echoed throughout Scripture.

- A. **The Harvest is Now:** In John 4:35, Jesus says, "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe

for harvest." We must recognize that the time for harvest is now, not in some distant future. The world is in desperate need of the gospel today.

B. The Consequences of Delay: Delaying the harvest can lead to lost opportunities. Souls hang in the balance. The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 teaches us the importance of being prepared and ready for the bridegroom. We must be diligent in our efforts to reach the lost before it's too late. There is a joy in heaven over a single soul that is saved.

C. The Joy in Urgency: There is a unique joy in responding to the urgency of God's call. When we grasp the importance of our mission, our hearts are filled with a sense of purpose and joy. Acts 20:24 tells us, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Embracing our mission brings deep fulfillment and joy.

3. The Rewards of the Harvest

Harvesting is not only about labor but also about the rewards that come with it. Scripture assures us that our efforts in God's field are not in vain.

A. Eternal Rewards: 1 Corinthians 15:58 encourages us, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." Our work for the Lord has eternal significance. The souls we help lead to Christ will experience eternal life.

B. Joy in Heaven: Luke 15:7 and 10 reveal the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. Imagine the heavenly celebration for each soul saved! This heavenly joy should motivate us to continue our work with zeal and passion.

C. Personal Fulfillment: There is personal fulfillment in doing God's work. In John 15:11, Jesus says, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." True joy comes from abiding in Christ and participating in His mission.

Conclusion

As we reflect on "The Joy of the Harvesters in the Harvest Field," let us remember that we are called to be workers in God's harvest field. The harvest is plentiful, the urgency is real, and the rewards are eternal.

Let's commit ourselves to pray for more workers, to respond with urgency, and to rejoice in the harvest. May we experience the deep joy that comes from seeing lives transformed by the gospel.

THE JOY OF THE HARVESTER (II)

26

PASTOR BOSUN ADEGUNSOYE

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. John 4:35-36

When people come to Christ, when they repent and turn their lives from sin, accept and confess Him as their Lord and saviour, there is joy. This change is the joy of God's harvest. It is like the fresh satisfying taste of ripe grapes for a vineyard owner. It is a shout of "Hallelujah!" from friends who had prayed for such moment, and it is the celebration of Angels, as the lost have been brought home to God.

Let's Consider Some Insights on the Joy of the Harvester from a Scriptural Perspective

1. Bringing in the Harvest of Souls: Matt.9:37-38; Prov.11:30; Dan.12:3; Matt.4:19; Luke 15:10

We, as believers are often referred to as "harvesters" who are

called to share the Gospel message and bring others to faith in Christ. The Bible frequently uses agricultural imagery to illustrate the importance of evangelism and spreading the Good News. The joy of the harvester comes from seeing souls saved and lives transformed through the work of sharing the message of salvation. Don't keep this salvation to yourself alone, share it with others and bring joy to the kingdom, especially to the heart of God.

2. Co-laboring with God: 1Cor.3:9, 2Cor.5:20; Phil.2:13; 1Cor.15:10

God is the ultimate harvester who desires to see all people come to know Him and be saved. As believers, we are in partnership with God in His work of redemption. There is joy in knowing that we are participating in God's divine plan for humanity. The joy of the harvester stems from the privilege of being used by God to accomplish His purposes on earth.

3. Fulfilling the Great Commission: Matt.28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 14:23; Acts 1:8

Jesus gave us the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). As harvesters, we are called to be obedient to this command and to actively engage in sharing our faith with others. The joy of the harvester is found in being faithful to this calling and seeing the impact of our efforts in advancing God's kingdom. How committed are you, when it comes to sharing the gospel with others?

4. Reaping the Fruits of Righteousness: 2Cor.9:10; Phil.1:10-11; Eph.3:19, Gal.6:9

Just as a farmer experiences joy in reaping a bountiful harvest, as Christians, we also experience joy in seeing the fruits of righteousness grow in our own lives and in the lives of those

we have influenced. The joy of the harvester includes witnessing spiritual growth, maturity, and the transformation of hearts and minds as a result of faithful labour in the Kingdom of God. Just as a farmer reaps the fruits of his labour after sowing seeds, we are called to bear fruit in our lives through our faith and good works.

CONCLUSION

The joy of the harvester is deeply rooted in the fulfillment of God's purposes, the joy of leading others to Christ, and the privilege of co-laboring with God in His redemptive work. As Christians embrace their role as harvesters in God's kingdom, they can experience profound joy in seeing lives changed, souls saved, and the kingdom of God advanced on earth.

The metaphor of the harvest is to convey the urgency and significance of spreading the Gospel and bringing souls into the kingdom of God. The fields ripe for harvest symbolize the readiness of people's hearts to receive the message of salvation. The harvester, in this context, represents the laborers of the Gospel who bring in the spiritual harvest through their efforts and obedience to God's call. The joy of the harvester, therefore, is not merely in the physical gathering but in bringing delight and satisfaction to the heart of the Father, who has sent us into a harvest field. (**John 4:34**)

THE JOY OF THE HARVESTER (III)

27

DNS BABATOLA OLUWAKEMI

The Biblical meaning of the "Joy of the Harvester" is derived from several passages:

- *"And the one who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together" (John 4:36).*
- *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).*
- *"The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).*
- *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

Note: The Joy of the Harvester is defined as:

- The joy and rejoicing that comes from seeing souls saved and lives transformed through the gospel.
- The joy of partnering with God in the harvest, knowing

that He is the One who brings the increase.

- The joy of reaping what you have sown, and seeing the fruit of your labor.
- The joy of knowing that your work is not in vain, and that God is pleased with your efforts.
- The joy of celebrating with other believers, the sower and the reaper rejoicing together.

➤ **Reason for joy during harvest**

(1) Understanding the Harvest

- Introduction to the concept of harvest in scripture (*Matthew 9:37-38, Luke 10:2*)
- The importance of harvest in God's kingdom
- The role of the harvester in bringing in the harvest

(2) The Joy of the Harvester

- The joy of seeing souls saved (*Luke 15:7, 10*)
- The joy of reaping what you have sown (*Galatians 6:7-8*)
- The joy of working together with God (*1 Corinthians 3:9*)

(3) The Harvest is Ripe

- Recognizing the signs of the times (*Matthew 16:3*)
- Understanding the urgency of the harvest (*John 4:35*)
- Being prepared to reap the harvest (*Matthew 25:1-13*)

(4) The Harvester's Weapons

- The importance of prayer in harvest (*Luke 10:2*)
- The power of the gospel in harvest (*Romans 1:16*)
- The role of the Holy Spirit in harvest (*John 16:8-11*)

(5) Overcoming Obstacles in Harvest

- Dealing with rejection and persecution (*Matthew 10:22*)
- Overcoming fear and doubt (*Isaiah 41:10*)
- Staying motivated and focused (*Galatians 6:9*)

(6) The Harvest Celebration

- Celebrating the fruit of your labor (*Deuteronomy 26:1-11*)
- Sharing your testimony with others (*Revelation 12:11*)
- Continuing to reap and sow (*Galatians 6:9*)

Remember to include practical exercises, group discussions, and testimonies to make the workshop interactive and engaging.

LET'S PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THESE PRINCIPLES OF JOY OF THE HARVESTER IN OUR CLASSES/WORKSHOP

1. ***God's delight in harvest:*** God takes pleasure in seeing souls saved and lives transformed (*Luke 15:7, 10*).
2. ***Urgency of harvest:*** The harvest is ripe, and there is a sense of urgency to reap it (*John 4:35*).
3. ***Partnership with God:*** Harvesting is a joint effort between God and believers (*1 Corinthians 3:9*).
4. ***Joy in seeing fruit:*** Harvesters experience joy in seeing the fruit of their labor (*Psalms 126:6*).
5. ***Power of prayer:*** Prayer is essential in harvest, and God answers prayers for the harvest (*Luke 10:2*).
6. ***Gospel's power:*** The gospel has the power to transform lives and bring in the harvest (*Romans 1:16*).
7. ***The role of the Holy Spirit:*** The Holy Spirit convicts, guides, and empowers harvesters (*John 16:8-11*).
8. ***Perseverance:*** Harvesters must persevere through challenges and obstacles (*Galatians 6:9*).
9. ***Celebration:*** Harvesters celebrate the fruit of their labor and give God glory (*Deuteronomy 26:1-11*).

These principles guide the joy and passion of harvesters as they work together with God to bring in the harvest.

THE JOY OF THE HARVESTER

1. ***Increased fruitfulness:*** Harvesters experience joy in seeing souls saved and lives transformed, leading to increased fruitfulness in their ministry.
2. ***Motivation and enthusiasm:*** The joy of harvesting motivates and energizes believers to continue sharing the gospel and reaping the harvest.
3. ***Deeper relationship with God:*** Partnering with God in harvest leads to a deeper relationship and understanding of His nature and character.
4. ***Boldness and confidence:*** Harvesters become more confident and bold in sharing the gospel, knowing that God is with them.
5. ***Unity among believers:*** The joy of harvesting unites believers in a common purpose and goal, fostering unity and cooperation.
6. ***Encourages perseverance:*** The joy of harvesting encourages believers to persevere through challenges and obstacles, knowing that their labor is not in vain.
7. ***Inspires gratitude and praise:*** Harvesters are filled with gratitude and praise for God's goodness and grace, leading to a more worshipful and thankful heart.
8. ***Increases faith:*** Seeing the fruit of their labor increases harvesters' faith, trusting God for even greater things.
9. ***Brings glory to God:*** The joy of harvesting brings glory to God as believers celebrate His goodness and grace.
10. ***Creates a sense of purpose:*** The joy of harvesting gives believers a sense of purpose and meaning, knowing they are fulfilling God's plan.

THOUGHTS FOR THE STUDY

In essence, the Joy of the Harvester is a biblical concept that highlights the joy, rejoicing, and celebration that comes from being part of God's harvest, and seeing lives transformed through the gospel.

HYMNS

1

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *[Refrain]*
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]*

PRAISE TO THE LORD THE ALMIGHTY

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.
3. Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.
4. Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness and sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the B horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.
5. Praise to the Lord, who over all Things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy Desures ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

6. Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings,
yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy
desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?
7. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is
in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come
now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His
people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

I'M PRESSING ON.....

3

1. I'm pressing on the upward way
New heights I'm gaining every day
Still praying as I onward bound
"Lord plant my feet on higher
ground.
- Refrain:**
*Lord, lift me up and let me stand
 By faith on heaven's table-land
 A higher plain than I have found
 Lord plant my feet on higher ground.*
2. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay
Though some may dwell where
these abound
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.
 3. Beyond the mist I fain would rise
To rest beneath unclouded skies
Above earth's turmoil peace is found
By those who dwell on higher ground

4. I long to scale the utmost height
Though rough the way, and hard
the fight
My song, while climbing shall asound
Lord, let me on the higher ground.
5. Lord, lead me up the mountain side
I'll dare not climb without my guide
And, heaven gained, I'll gaze around
With grateful heart from higher
ground.

4

THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS

1. "There shall be showers of blessing;"
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the saviour above.

*Shower of blessing
 Shower of blessing we need
 Mercy drops round us are falling
 But for the showers we plead.*
2. There shall be showers of blessing
Precious reviving again
Over the hills and the valleys
Sound of abundance of rain.
3. There shall be showers of blessing
Send them upon us O Lord
Grant to us now a refreshing
Come and now honour thy word.
4. There shall be showers of blessing
Oh that today they might fall
Now as to God we are confessing
Now as on Jesus we call.

5

TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!*

2. Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

6

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

1. When upon life's billows you are
tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done.

Refrain:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what
God hath done.*

2. Are you ever burdened with a
load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you
are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry
doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the
days go by. *[Refrain]*
3. When you look at others with
their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised
you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings,
money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your
home on high. *[Refrain]*
4. So, amid the conflict, whether
great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is
over all;
Count your many blessings,
angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to
your journey's end. *[Refrain]*

7

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

1. Standing on the promises of
Christ my king,
Thru' eternal ages let his praises
sing
Glory in the highest I will shout
and sing
Standing in the promises of God.

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God
my saviour,
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of
God.*

2. Standing on the promises that
cannot fail
When howling storms of doubt
and fear assail
By the living word of God I shall
prevail
Standing on the promises of God
3. Standing on the promises I now
can see,
Perfect present cleansing in the
blood for me
Standing in the liberty where
Christ makes me free
Standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises of
Christ the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by
love' strong cord
Over-coming daily with the
spirit's sword.
Standing on the promises of God.
5. Standing on the promises that
cannot fail
Listening every moment to the
Spirit's call
Resting in my savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

FI IBUKUN RE TU WA KA

1. Fi ibukun Re tu wa ka
Fi ayo kun okan wa;
K'olukuluku mo 'fe Re,
K'a I'ayo n'nu ore Re,
Tu wa lara, tu wa lara
La aginju aiye ja.

2. Ope at'iyin I'nfun O,
Fun ihinrere ayo;
Je ki eso igbala Re;
Po I'okan at'iwa wa;
Ki oju Re, kioju Re,
Ma ba wa gbe titi lo.
3. Nje, nigbat'a ba si pe wa
Lati f'aiye yi sile,
K' Angeli gbe wa lo s orun,
L'ayo ni k a jepe na;
K'a si joba, k'a si joba
Pelu Kristi titi lai.

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| STATIONS | FREQUENCY | PROGRAMME | DAY/TIME |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| The Omega Channel, South Africa | HiTV & MyTv (satellite Station) | Divine Encounter | Sun 7:30-8:00pm Mon 1:00pm-1:30pm Thur. 3:00pm |
| NTA, Ado Ekiti | Channel 5 | Divine Encounter | Sun 3:00-4:00pm |
| Progress FM, Ado Ekiti | 100.5 FM | Hour of Power | Mon- Sat (5:30-5:45am) |
| Voice FM, Ado Ekiti | 88.9 FM | Hour of Power | Sun 6:30-7:00am |
| Orange FM, Akure | 94.5 FM | Divine Encounter | Mon- Sat (6:45-7:00am) |
| EKTV | UHF channel 41 | Divine Encounter | Sun 6:30-7:00pm Tue 6:30- 7:00pm Fri 6:30-7:00 pm |
| ROYAL FM, Ilorin | 95.1 FM | Hour of Power | Mon- Sat (6:45-7:00am) |
| Positive FM | 102.5 FM | Hour of Power | Sun 8:30- 9:00 am |
| KWARA TV | | Divine Encounter | Sun 6:00-6:30pm |
| CREST FM | 91.1 FM | Hour of Power | Mon 7:30-7:45am |



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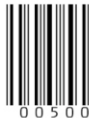


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