

Annual
NOJC 2026
NAME OF JESUS CONVENTION

CONVENTION
WORKSHOP
Manual

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR

9TH - 16TH AUG., 2026



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WORKSHOP**
Manual



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Convention Workshop

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WELCOME

THEME

The Year of the Lord's Favour



*Rev Dr. & Rev (Mrs)
John Idowu*

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

With great joy and a deep sense of divine expectation, I welcome you to Name of Jesus Convention 2026—a sacred 8-day gathering under the theme: *"The Year of the Lord's Favour,"* drawn from Isaiah 61, where the Spirit of the Lord declares:

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me... to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour..."

This is not merely another convention on the calendar—it is a divine appointment, a prophetic season in which God has chosen to reveal His favour in extraordinary ways. Throughout Scripture, the favour of God has marked seasons of restoration, divine intervention, supernatural provision, and the fulfilment of His promises. As we gather under the banner of the Name that is above every other name—Jesus Christ—we do so with the confidence that the same God who proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord is still working powerfully among His people today.

For seven days, we will be immersed in the Word, lifted in worship, and transformed by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God has prepared His servants to minister with divine insight, bringing messages of hope, restoration, healing, deliverance,



and fresh direction. Burdens will be lifted. Hearts will be renewed. Faith will be strengthened. And many will step into new dimensions of God's grace and favour.

In addition to our main sessions, this year's convention will once again feature practical workshop tracks covering relevant, life-transforming topics designed to help believers walk in the reality of God's favour. These sessions have been prayerfully prepared by our associate pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and family unit leaders, providing biblical wisdom and practical guidance for victorious living in our families, careers, ministries, businesses, and everyday lives.

This year's theme is a divine invitation to experience more than God's blessings—it is a call to live under His favour, to walk in His purpose, and to become vessels through whom His glory is revealed. This convention is your opportunity to encounter the God who still heals, restores, delivers, and crowns His people with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

To everyone who has laboured in prayer, planning, and preparation, your sacrifice is known to the Lord, and your reward shall surely come.

We warmly welcome you to **Name of Jesus Convention 2026**. Come with expectation. Come with faith. Come believing that this is your appointed season of divine visitation. The atmosphere is charged with expectation. The Spirit is moving. The Lord's favour is being proclaimed.

Welcome to Name of Jesus Convention 2026.

Rev. Dr. John and Rev. Mrs. Mary Idowu

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2026



T H E M E

THE YEAR OF THE
**LORD'S
FAVOUR**

◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ SUNDAY 9TH TO SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST, 2026

The Venue MAP

Use this guide to navigate the convention grounds with ease. Key areas and service points have been clearly marked for your convenience.



CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

NOJC 2026 Key Information



Free Registration

Registration begins upon arrival at the stand located at the frontage of the church auditorium. Registration is FREE but MANDATORY to receive your free convention brochures and security participant tags, which must be worn at all times for security purposes and to benefit from services at the Lord's kitchen and health bay. Ministers should identify themselves during registration for proper seating placement.

For enquiries, contact: 08032820504, 08107896247 (SMS or CALL)

Free Accommodation

Free accommodation with free breakfast and dinner is available for all Jesus Chapel members coming from branches outside Ado-Ekiti at the Seed of Grace International College. Please discuss with your respective branch pastors on how to take advantage of this opportunity. Bus departures from SGIC hostel are between 7:30–7:45am.

For more information, contact: 07032698142, 08034396529 (SMS Only)

Free Bus Shuttles and Transportation

Buses will freely transport participants to various routes after each evening session. Boarding will be at the front of the church. Departure is 20 minutes after benediction to

allow time for refreshments. Additionally, buses are available to bring participants to and from the church each evening.

A carpool system is also in place to assist non-mobile members by connecting them with mobile members living nearby, complementing the shuttle service.

Detailed bus route information is provided at the end of these announcements.

For enquiries about the shuttle or carpool system, contact: 08034396529, 08035027493, 07039751750. (SMS or CALL)

NOJC 2026 Transportation Routes

Route A

Iworoko/ EKSU...Adebayo Road....Fajuyi.....Jesus Cathedral Basiri

Route B

Shasha..Ajebandele...Ajilosun...Ijigbo ...Ile-Abiye....GRA.....Fajuyi..... Jesus Cathedral Basiri

Route C

Seed of Grace... Housing Estate....Oke-Ila....Oke-Iyimi.....Fajuyi.....Jesus Cathedral Basiri

Route D

Olorunsogo.....Faglo Filling Station.....Odo-oro.....Jesus Cathedral Basiri...

Route E

ILawe Road Church.... Falegan.... Baptist Church..... Delight hotel... NTA road... Awedele..... Jesus Cathedral Basiri

Subsidized Meals

The Lord's Kitchen and Mini shop are located near the main auditorium, opens at 8:00am offering affordable, subsidized, quality meals. Participants should take advantage of these meals during break times and consider take-away meals after night sessions to avoid missing transportation. Additionally, there is a mini shop where you may treat yourself with some light snacks and drinks. Registration at the main stand proven by wearing of participant tag is required to access the subsidy. *For more information, contact: 08035150050, 08101828415, 08035091460 (SMS Only)*

Free Medical Services

The Health Bay beside the Mini Shop is staffed by qualified in-house health practitioners offering care throughout the convention. Registration at the main stand proven by wearing of participant tag is required to access medical services.

For emergencies, contact the medical team: 08033722667, 08121693038

Toilet Facilities

Restrooms are located behind the auditorium and are maintained for your comfort. Kindly flush after use and leave the facilities in a clean, usable state for the next person – respecting the needs of others.

Please use the waste bins provided and do not litter the premises. Ushers are available for directions if needed.

For toilet maintenance concerns, contact: 08038015819, 09060207583, 08032569028 (SMS Only)

Discounted Digital and Print Media Resources

The Marketing Unit is located near the registration desk by the church gate and offers a variety of spiritually enriching resources, including DVDs, MP3s, books, and more from our parents in the Lord – available at special discounted convention prices. Take advantage of these offers while they last! Payment can be made via cash, mobile transfer, or POS.

For more information, contact: 08103617733, 08107896247. (SMS Only)

Security Unit

Security personnel will conduct random checks on vehicles and luggage at entry points. Please avoid bringing excessive baggage or large bags into the auditorium. Parking has been sectioned and is supervised by the security team both within and around the church premises.

For security reasons, all participants must wear their participant tags at all times. Anyone without a visible tag may be stopped and questioned. To avoid delays or inconvenience, ensure your tag is properly worn throughout the convention. Kindly cooperate fully with all security directives for your safety and that of others.

If you observe anything unusual, call or text the security team: 08035013446, 08129488304, 08066632103. See it, Say it, and it will be Sorted!

Children's Church

Children aged 3–10 will have dedicated sessions at the

children church facility. Parents must register and sign their children in and out. Snacks, drinks, and offerings for children are welcomed. For more information, contact: 08032162740, 08035091460

Service Livestream

All sessions of the convention are being live streamed on our official website (www.thenameofjesusministries.org), Youtube (Jesus Cathedral) and Facebook page (The Name of Jesus Ministries). If you miss any session, you can catch up later via our website or YouTube channel as video-on-demand.

You can help extend the reach of this service by sharing the streaming link at the start of each session — on your status, or directly with friends, family, and contacts who are unable to attend physically.

Let's spread the word and allow others to partake in what God is doing!

Physical and Online Giving

Make offerings, tithes, and prophetic seeds easily physically in person or online via our secure platform or with POS machines handled by designated ushers. Visit: www.thenameofjesusministries.org/giving for details of designated church accounts or payment gateways.

Need Help?

For assistance beyond the listed services, call: **08129488304, 08034396529, 08035091460, 08057487372**

Annual



NOJC House Keeping Guidelines

As we gather under the atmosphere of God's glory for this 8-day encounter, we kindly request that all attendees observe the following to ensure a smooth and Spirit-filled experience for everyone:

- **Reverence the Presence of God:** Please keep mobile phones on silent or switched off during all sessions. Let's minimize distractions so we can fully receive from the Lord.
- **Seating Etiquette:** Kindly avoid reserving seats. Our ushers are available to help with seating arrangements where necessary.
- **Prompt Attendance:** Arrive early for sessions and return promptly after breaks to avoid missing out on what God is doing.
- **Respect for Ministry Flow:** We ask that movement be minimized during messages, prayers, and altar calls, out of respect for the anointing and those receiving from God.

- **Spiritual Order & Engagement:** During teaching sessions, special ministrations, and altar calls, we encourage everyone in the audience to stay spiritually engaged—do not disconnect or spectate passively. Participate actively by praying in the Spirit, standing up, aligning your heart with what God is doing, and flowing with the atmosphere. Your agreement and spiritual sensitivity help sustain the corporate anointing. Orderliness must be maintained to avoid distracting others or grieving the Holy Spirit. Let us be intentional partners with God in every moment of His move.
- **Cleanliness:** Please help us keep the venue tidy. Dispose of litter properly and encourage others to do the same.
- **Children:** Parents are encouraged to accompany and monitor young children, especially in main auditorium spaces. A designated area is available for nursing mothers at the corner of the auditorium while other children have designated space at the children church.
- **Lost & Found:** Report or retrieve lost items at the registration or helpdesk at the church entrance or meet with any of our ushers.

NOJC 2026 SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. John Olanrewaju Idowu is a man divinely appointed to equip and empower believers to walk in the wisdom and power of God. As the Founder and Overseer of The Name of Jesus Ministries, his life's assignment is clear: to teach the Body of Christ how to live victoriously, boldly, and purposefully through the demonstration of God's wisdom and Spirit-empowered power.



Through his ministry, Rev. Dr. Idowu has impacted countless lives by unveiling the mysteries of God's Word and helping believers apply divine principles that produce breakthrough, healing, and spiritual authority. His teachings consistently emphasize a life transformed by the Holy Spirit—one that manifests godly wisdom in everyday living and operates in supernatural power for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

A prolific author, Rev. Dr. Idowu has written numerous life-transforming books, including *The Healing Jesus* and *Jesus: Understanding the Mystery of His Name*, among many others. Through his writings, he continues to bring profound biblical truths within the reach of believers, equipping them to experience the fullness of God's promises.

His ministry extends beyond the pulpit through *Hour of Power*, a daily radio broadcast and *Divine Encounter*, a television broadcast that reaches audiences across Nigeria and internationally, proclaiming the gospel with clarity, faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

With a heart devoted to raising mature disciples and kingdom leaders, Rev. Dr. Idowu mentors and equips believers to fulfil their God-given destinies through faith, revelation knowledge, and total dependence on Christ. His ministry remains a place where God's wisdom is imparted, His power is demonstrated, and lives are transformed.

As the host speaker at The Name of Jesus Convention 2026, Rev. Dr. John Olanrewaju Idowu will minister with the passion, insight, and anointing that have become hallmarks of his ministry. Prepare for a divine encounter that will deepen your understanding of Christ, strengthen your faith, and empower you to walk in the fullness of God's wisdom and power.

Rev. Mary Bolanle Idowu

Rev. Mary Bolanle Idowu is a seasoned minister of the gospel, a nurturing spiritual mother, and a steadfast partner in ministry whose life exemplifies grace, strength, and unwavering faith. As the co-host speaker of this year's Name of Jesus Convention 2026, she stands as a beacon of godly womanhood, spiritual maturity, and compassionate leadership.



A seasoned minister alongside her husband, Rev. Dr. John Olanrewaju Idowu, she has faithfully walked the path of ministry with humility and boldness. Together, they have raised a life-transforming ministry that impacts lives across nations, and she continues to pour out her heart in prayer, teaching, and mentorship—especially to women and young ministers hungry for God's touch.

Rev. Mrs. Idowu's ministry is marked by a deep sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, a heart for healing, and a commitment to raising godly families and leaders. Her teachings inspire hope, restore brokenness, and equip believers to walk in the fullness of their God-given destiny.

As a spiritual mother, she carries a nurturing mantle that strengthens the Body of Christ, empowering many to rise above challenges and walk boldly in their callings. Her life is a testimony of faith in action, showing that behind every great man of God stands a woman who prays, intercedes, and leads with wisdom.

We are blessed to have Rev. Mrs. Mary Bolanle Idowu co-host this divine gathering, where her presence and ministry will bring

encouragement, impartation, and divine refreshing to all in attendance.

Rev. Olusola Ayodele Areogun

Rev. Olusola Ayodele Areogun is a man sent from God, an apostolic voice to the nations, and a seasoned teacher of the Word whose life and ministry continue to shape destinies for God's eternal purposes. For over four decades, he has laboured faithfully in God's vineyard with singular passion—to see men discover, pursue, and fulfil their divine callings.



Marked by deep intimacy with the Holy Spirit and unwavering loyalty to divine instruction, Rev. Areogun carries a prophetic mandate to awaken the Church to her assignment in these last days. He is a mentor to ministers, a father to many spiritual sons and daughters across denominations, and a burden-bearer for the Body of Christ globally.

Through the Life Oasis International Churches and the Living Jesus Ministries, which he founded alongside his wife, Rev. Oyenike Areogun, this servant of God oversees a global outreach that includes church planting, leadership training, ministerial mentorship, and media evangelism. His voice resounds through platforms like the Web of Wisdom Ministers' Conference and over 200 publications that enrich both the pulpit and the pew.

A man of vision and structure, Rev. Areogun is not only a preacher but a divine strategist, raising leaders through the Living Jesus Ministerial Training College and various empowerment foundations that offer scholarships, support for women, and mentorship for young people. He ministers under a heavy unction that brings alignment, revelation, and revival to hearts hungry for God's order and purpose.

Above all, Rev. Olusola Areogun walks closely with God, speaks His counsel without compromise, and burns with a holy fire to see the

name of Jesus glorified in every sphere of life. We are honoured to welcome this oracle of God to this year's convention.

Rev. Dr. Francis Olonade

Rev. Dr. Francis Olonade is a seasoned apostolic leader, visionary minister, and founder of the Jesus Is Lord Foundation International (JILFI) – a global ministry birthed by divine mandate in 1986 to raise an end-time army for Christ. With a heart burdened for souls and a calling to equip the Church for fullness in Christ, Rev. Olonade has dedicated well over 45 years to preaching the gospel with power, establishing believers in faith, and mentoring ministers across continents.



His ministry is characterized by a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit, a commitment to sound doctrine, and a passion for spiritual revival and holiness. Through JILFI's diverse platforms – ranging from church planting and missions to media broadcasts and leadership training – he has impacted thousands, empowering them to walk in victory and purpose.

Together with his wife, Rev. Dr. Grace Olonade, who serves as Vice President of the ministry and senior pastor of the Full Redemption Chapels, they lead with a shared vision to raise disciples who manifest the Kingdom of God in every sphere of life. Their partnership exemplifies godly leadership, pastoral care, and intercession.

Rev. Dr. Olonade's teaching ministry is marked by clarity, authority, and a pastoral heart that calls the Church back to the power of prayer, uncompromising holiness, and relentless evangelism. He continues to inspire a new generation of believers to live boldly for Jesus and to serve as ambassadors of His Kingdom.

It is our honour to welcome this faithful servant of God to minister at The Name of Jesus Convention 2026. Prepare to be ignited by his word, stirred by his passion, and transformed by the Spirit.

Rev. Akinlolu Raphael

Rev. Akinlolu Raphael is a seasoned servant of God and anointed teacher, known for his clarity in preaching and passion for faith-filled living. He is the founding and lead pastor of Grace Covenant International Christian Bible Church in Ibadan, Nigeria, where he has faithfully shepherded believers for decades.



His ministry journey was sparked by a life-transforming encounter with Jesus during his student years in Chandigarh, India. This divine encounter propelled him to dedicate his life to ministry upon returning to Nigeria in 1986. Since then, he has remained committed to raising spiritually grounded leaders through sound biblical teaching and practical leadership training.

As Director of the World Harvest Institute of Christian Leadership, Rev. Raphael equips ministers and leaders to impact their communities with kingdom-focused vision and Holy Spirit empowerment. Alongside his wife, Rev. Mrs. Solape Akinlolu Raphael, he nurtures many as spiritual parents, fostering growth, holiness, and strong discipleship.

Rev. Raphael's messages are marked by a heart to see believers walk boldly in God's promises and power. His ministry continues to inspire transformation, deepen faith, and ignite spiritual hunger.

We are privileged to welcome this vessel of God's grace to minister at The Name of Jesus Convention 2026, where His life-giving word will bring renewal and empowerment.



Rev. Dr. Francis Tunde Falola

Rev. Dr. Francis Tunde Falola is a distinguished servant of God, seasoned evangelist, and apostolic pioneer whose ministry has profoundly impacted lives across Nigeria and beyond. As the founder and General Overseer of The Hidden Manna Ministries, he has devoted decades to proclaiming

The Year of the Lord's Favour

the gospel of Jesus Christ with unwavering passion, raising disciples, equipping believers, and advancing the Kingdom through the power of God's Word.

Widely recognized as one of the pioneering voices of the Pentecostal movement in Osogbo and its environs, Rev. Falola carries a deep burden for soul-winning, revival, and the spiritual awakening of communities. His ministry has been marked by extensive evangelistic crusades, church planting, leadership development, and an unwavering commitment to biblical truth. Through the long-running Manna Time television broadcast, his teaching ministry has reached countless homes, bringing salvation, healing, encouragement, and spiritual nourishment to generations of believers.

Through The Hidden Manna Ministries, Rev. Falola provides apostolic oversight to a growing work that encompasses church planting, Bible training, publishing, media evangelism, and annual conferences that continue to strengthen ministers and believers alike. His ministry has consistently produced disciples who are grounded in Scripture, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to living lives that glorify Christ.

Rev. Dr. Falola's ministry is distinguished by its emphasis on holiness, prayer, evangelism, and uncompromising faithfulness to the gospel. With the heart of a shepherd and the passion of an evangelist, he continues to challenge the Church to pursue deeper intimacy with God while remaining steadfast in the faith in these critical times. His life stands as a testimony to God's grace, faithfulness, and the transforming power of the gospel.

It is our joy and privilege to welcome this seasoned general of the faith to The Name of Jesus Convention 2026. As he ministers under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, prepare to be refreshed by the Word, strengthened in your walk with God, and stirred afresh for Kingdom service.



Rev. Emmanuel Oset

Rev. Emmanuel Oset is a father in the faith, a watchman on the wall, and a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. As the founding pastor of Champions' Church, Ilorin, he has spent decades raising champions for Christ—men and women grounded in truth, unshaken by compromise, and aflame with the passion to live for Jesus.

He is not just a preacher of the Word; he is a voice of righteousness in an age that often trades truth for convenience. Rev. Oset's ministry is marked by rare courage—the kind that stands for holiness even when it costs friendships, platforms, or popularity. His deep reverence for the fear of the Lord and his unrelenting pursuit of biblical order have made him a spiritual compass for many in ministry.

Rev. Oset is a man God can trust. He embodies the heart of a true shepherd—guiding with wisdom, correcting with authority, and covering with love. When others have chosen silence, he has chosen to speak—not to condemn, but to call the Body of Christ back to integrity, accountability, and truth. His life and leadership are a living rebuke to mediocrity and a call to a higher walk with God.

In a generation in desperate need of fathers, Rev. Emmanuel Oset stands as a pillar—immovable, uncompromised, and driven by heaven's burden. Those who sit under his ministry encounter not just knowledge, but a divine awakening—a call to rise, to realign, and to walk worthy of the Lord.

It is with great honour that we receive this vessel of truth at The Name of Jesus Convention 2026. May our hearts burn again for what matters to God, through the ministry of this servant of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Adewumi Adewuyi

Rev. Dr. Adewumi Adewuyi is a distinguished servant of God, medical practitioner, prophet, and teacher of the Word. As the Founder and General Overseer of Christ the Cornerstone Bible Church (CCBC), he has spent over four decades walking with God and faithfully proclaiming the gospel with faith, power, and deep revelation.



Called by God to the teaching and prophetic ministry, Rev. Adewuyi is widely known for his uncompromising commitment to the Scriptures, precise prophetic insight, and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit through healings, miracles, and transformed lives. His God-given mandate is to raise a generation of believers who understand the fullness of their redemption in Christ Jesus, reign in life as kings, and walk in spiritual and practical dominion.

Under his leadership, Christ the Cornerstone Bible Church has grown from a small fellowship into a thriving international ministry, impacting lives through biblical teaching, healing and miracle services, media outreach, conferences, and discipleship. Through his preaching and numerous publications, he continues to equip believers to embrace their identity in Christ and experience the victorious life made available through the finished work of the cross.

Together with his wife, Rev. Mrs. Mary-jones Adewuyi, he provides visionary leadership to CCBC, serving the Body of Christ with humility, integrity, and a passion to see lives transformed by the power of God's Word.

It is our great joy and privilege to welcome Rev. Dr. Adewumi Adewuyi to minister at The Name of Jesus Convention 2026. Come with great expectation as he ministers under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, bringing God's Word with prophetic clarity, kingdom authority, and life-transforming power.

NOJC '26

SHARE YOUR *Testimony*



SHARE VIA
WHATSAPP / SMS

Testimony Line:

+234 8139700883

(SMS or Whatsapp Only)



SUBMIT
ONLINE

bit.ly/nojctestimonies



They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.
– Revelation 12:11



TEACHING TIMETABLE

DAY	SPIRITUAL FORMATION & KINGDOM LIFE	MARRIAGE, FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS	LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE	KINGDOM MISSION & EVANGELISM	HEALTH & WHOLESNESS	WEALTH, WORK & ENTERPRISE	LEGACY & HERITAGE
MON	When God Opens a Door	Building a Marriage That Grows Stronger Through Seasons	Leading Through Resistance and Opposition	Digital Influence for Kingdom Impact	Freedom from Emotional Baggage and Past Wounds	Kingdom Wealth: Stewardship, Influence and Impact	Awon Qna Ti Qlorun Fi N Ba Wa Soro (How God Speaks...)
TUE	Walking in Spiritual Authority Without Striving	Navigating Conflict and Confrontation in Relationships	Leading During Seasons of Expansion	Marketplace Missionaries: Reaching People Beyond Church Walls	Beauty for Ashes: Recovering from Life's Setbacks	Receiving and Executing Divine Ideas	Awon Qna To Ma N Di Idagbasoké Emi Duro (Enemies of...)
WED	Understanding the Power at Work in the Believer	Creating a Family Culture of Faith and Excellence	Stewarding Prophetic Words Until Fulfillment	Discovering Your Sphere of Kingdom Assignment	Health, Energy and Longevity for Kingdom Service	Building Influence Beyond Your Job Title	Imo Qgbon Ninu Igbesi Aye Kristeni (Wisdom for...)
THU	The Price of Sustained Favour	Breaking Negative Family Patterns and Cycles	The Passion, Pain, Price and Prize of Leadership	Living Sent: Representing Christ Every Day	Building Resilience in Times of Pressure	Positioning Yourself for Extraordinary Opportunities	Bi A Se La Gbe Igbesi Aye Adira Titi De Opin
FRI	From Anointing to Assignment: Living Under the Spirit's Influence	Raising Purpose-Driven Children in a Confused Generation	Managing Growth Without Losing Vision	Turning Influence into Discipleship	Breaking Invisible Limitations and Destructive Cycles	Strategic Thinking for Career and Business Growth	Ijisewaju Ninu Igbesi Aye Titi De Opin (Remaining steadfast...)
SAT	Recognising Divine Seasons and Times	Building Healthy and Lasting Relationships	The Hidden Traps That Derail Great Leaders	Building Discipleship: Making Cultures	Managing Stress in Seasons of Increase	From Income to Wealth: A Kingdom Perspective	Bi A Se La Pari Ilin Ajo Wa Paju Ola (Finishing Life's...)



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Health & Wholeness School

HEALTH, ENERGY & LONGEVITY FOR KINGDOM SERVICE

▪ REV. MRS MARY IDOWU

For the purpose of better understanding, let us start this seminar by defining these three words: Health, Energy and Longevity:

Health

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It means your entire system is functioning exactly as it was designed to- that is health.

Energy

Energy is the power to work; the capacity to show up, serve, pray, build, and still stand. It is holy stamina — not burnout, not hype. *“They shall run, and not be weary.” Isaiah 40:31*

Longevity

Longevity is long life; it is the ability to live far beyond average life expectancy. But in the Kingdom, it is deeper than just surviving unto old age. Longevity is growing so that your influence, wisdom, and service endure for decades. It is

fulfilling your assignment completely... without dying prematurely.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR BODY

Your body is the earthly vehicle for your heavenly assignment, and to maximize your impact in God's kingdom, you must intentionally maintain your physical health, cultivate strength and vitality, and protect your longevity. Caring for your body is a vital part of faithfully stewarding the life which God has entrusted to you.

Body stewardship is essential. You cannot effectively fulfill your kingdom assignment if you neglect the vessel through which He works. In other words, taking care of your health is your responsibility.

POINTS TO NOTE

i. Your body is the temple of the Lord.

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

ii. God desires that you prosper and be in health just as your soul is prospering. *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth". 3 John 2*

iii. Preserving your body as a living sacrifice requires that the sacrifice is alive, well, and functional. And this is sustained by drinking from the well of the Spirit, the true source of

life. It was recorded that Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not dim, nor his vigor diminished.

Prov 4:20-22

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

It was recorded that Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not dim, nor his vigor diminished.

Deuteronomy 34:7

7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Many people pay little attention to their health; pushing themselves beyond healthy limits and taking their wellbeing for granted.

A. Health: Foundation of Effective Service

Sound health is at the heart of effective service. Without a healthy body, no one can serve God to the full measure of his/her calling or desire. If you don't have sound health, you cannot serve God to the full measure of your desire.

Your body is the vessel that carries your God-given assignment. If the vessel is weakened through neglect, the work it is meant to accomplish may be cut short or hindered.

One of the keys to fulfilling your days and completing your divine assignment is to intentionally care for your body according to God's wisdom. By faithfully stewarding your health, you position yourself to serve God with strength, endurance and lasting impact.

Kingdom Perspective: Sickness limits your availability for God's work. The healthier you are, the greater your capacity to serve God faithfully and effectively. Brethren, maintaining good health reduce unnecessary medical expenses. Kingdom stewardship calls for pursuing health with wisdom rather than living under continual burden of preventable illness.

When you get to know the root cause of the crisis, you should deal with it spiritually through prayer and confession of God's word. The enemy (the devourer) often disguises something to be managed, tolerated or accepted while offering temporary alternatives instead of total wholeness as God desires. Believers are called to live a life of dominion, resisting every spirit of infirmity.

- **Physical Health:** A healthy body allows you to preach, serve, and help others without physical constraint; but little or nothing can be done when you are feeble [extremely weak, fatigue or lack of intensity].
- **Mental Clarity:** Good health improves a sharp mind. It helps stimulating activity, solving problems, and being quick to understand tasks that seem challenging.

But when the mind is depressed, perception about life or ministry is distorted and weakens sense of judgment. That is why you must be healthy in order to fulfill your assignment on earth.

1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4, Rom 8:2, Rom 8:37-39, Rev 12:11, 1 John 3:8, Lk 10:19, 2 Tim 1:7, Phil 4:7

B. Energy: energy is the ability to carry out physical and mental activities; it is the fuel of impact. Kingdom service requires active, vibrant execution, not just good intentions.

- **Passionate Worship:** high energy level allows you to serve with joy and enthusiasm rather than burn out and fatigue.
- **Fighting Laziness or Slothfulness:** overcoming slothfulness requires physical vitality. Romans 12:11
- **Consistency:** Consistent energy enables you to fulfill ministerial assignments without quitting midway. Consistency is doing something in the same way with the same quality over a long period of time. Consistency is about real ability and steadiness.

C. Longevity: Longevity is the extension of legacy; it is the blessing of living a fulfilling life and leaving a lasting legacy. A good and godly legacy is the lasting impact one leaves to generations to come. And at this time, God needs seasoned veterans to guide the next generation.

- **Finishing your assignment:** Early death or premature incapacitation cuts your earthly assignment short.
- **Generational mentorship:** Longevity allows you to pass down wisdom, character, and anointing to younger ministers or believers.

God promises to satisfy His servants with long life so they can show forth His praise. Ps 91:16, Ex 23:26

THE COST OF MISMANAGING THE BODY

Mismanaging the body weakens the vessel which God has entrusted to carry out His purpose, reducing strength, effectiveness and service. Neglecting physical health can hinder the fulfillment of one's divine assignment. A good example is Epaphroditus.

Epaphroditus was a companion in labor, fellow soldier, messenger, and minister to Apostle Paul but he labored tirelessly to the point of exhaustion. And his relentless labour eventually took a toll on his health. Phil2:25-27

What caused sickness for Epaphroditus? **He violated the law of rest.**

It is important for you to value your life; when you don't take care of yourself (body), you injure yourself and fall sick. *Phil 2:30 — “Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life to supply your lack of service toward me”.*

- **Don't try to do everything yourself:** give others the opportunity to help you. Everyone has a part to play in the ministry.
- Leadership is discipleship, so be ready to teach, train, and disciple men for assignments.
- **Reserve your energy:** When many people are involved in Kingdom service, you don't burn out.
- **Arrange and organize** your ministerial work or assignment in such a way that suits you, not in a way that suits others.

LIVING A FULFILLING AND SATISFYING LIFE

A satisfying and fulfilling life is not measured by how much you possess, but by how you fulfill God's purpose. In other words, true fulfillment comes from living according to God's will.

- a) **Legacy:** It allows you to accumulate decades of wisdom and pass it down to the next generation.
- b) **Finishing strong:** ensures you not just start well in your youth, but finish your specific divine assignment in old age.

Examples of those who lived a fulfilled life:

- **Apostle Paul:** he passed his ministry to his younger companion and protégé, Timothy. 2 Tim 2:3-4. He commanded Timothy to continue preaching the Word and to train the next generation of leaders. And Apostle Paul finished strong — *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* 2 Tim 4:7
- **Joshua:** He remained faithful throughout his life and challenged Israel to serve the Lord. Jos 23:1-14, 24: 14-15, 29-31
- **Caleb:** At age 85, he was still strong and ready to possess his inheritance. Jos 14:6-14.
- **Samuel:** at the end of his ministry, he could confidently testify to his integrity over the years. Samuel finished his course with clear conscience and integrity. 1 Sam 12:1-5, 23

BIBLICAL PROVISION OF LONG LIFE

Scripture connects honoring God and taking care of oneself with the promise of being satisfied with a long, fruitful life.

Ps 91:16 - With long life will I satisfy him and shew him my salvation.

Prov 3:1-2- My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO LIVED HEALTHY AND SATISFYING LIVES

- a. **Moses** — He enjoyed remarkable strength in old age; he retained perfect eyesight and natural vitality until his death at 120 years. Deut 34:7 — *"And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated."*
- b. **Caleb** — He possessed the same physical strength for war at eighty-five years old as he did at age forty. Joshua 14:10-11
- c. **Daniel and his Companions:** they chose a simple diet rather than the king's rich food and were found healthier and wiser than others. Dan 1:8-16
- d. **John the Apostle** — A survivor of being boiled in oil, he outlived all other original disciples and died of a natural cause at roughly ninety-four years old.

CONTEMPORARY LEADERS WHO LIVED HEALTHY AND FULFILLING LIVES

- i. **John Wesley** — Walked and travelled on horseback for four thousand miles annually, preached multiple times daily, and maintained a rigorous schedule until his death at eighty-seven years old.

- ii. **Billy Graham** — preached in parks and stadiums worldwide for over six decades, maintained immense physical stamina before passing away at ninety-nine years old.
- iii. **Oral Roberts** — sustained a high-energy healing and television ministry for over half a century, living to the age of ninety-one years old.
- iv. **Kenneth E. Hagin** - He maintained demanding global travel, preaching, and teaching with high physical energy until he passed at eighty-six years old. He had his last headache on August 19, 1933. He lived a life of meaning, rich and satisfying, and died feeling fulfilled.

ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR MINISTERS OR BELIEVERS

A. Nutrition and Hydration

- ❖ Eat nutritious foods to nourish your body.
- ❖ Drink clean water daily to stay hydrated maintain mental clarity.
- ❖ Limit your sugar intake to avoid energy crashes.

B. Sleep

Apart from the fact that quality sleep restores the body and refreshes the mind, it also prepares you for the demands of a new day. Scientifically, it has been proven that man should sleep 7–8 hours. Observe a weekly rest to prevent spiritual burnout. Rest is a spiritual discipline, not laziness.

C. Rest — Gen 2:2-3, Ex 20:11, Ex 31:17

God rested on the seventh day after finishing creation and blessed the day. In His wisdom, God establishes Sabbath for

man as a day of rest. Rest helps to reduce stress; it also prevents physical and emotional exhaustion.

However, sleeping is not same as resting. Many people sleep for several hours yet, wake up tired and exhausted. This is because their minds remain burdened with worry, anxiety and inner struggles/pressure. Ps 127:2, Matt 11:28-29.

True rest involves both physical relaxation and inner peace.

Ex 20:11, Ex 31:17

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

D. Physical Movement

Exercise regularly to strengthen your heart and build endurance for demanding ministry tasks.

This means developing physical, mental, and spiritual strength to handle long hours and the emotional weight of ministry without breaking down or burning out.

Ministry Is Not a Sprint; It is a Marathon that Requires Deliberate Conditioning

What is a Sprint? A sprint is giving 100% of your energy immediately, which leads to exhaustion and burnout.

What is a Marathon? A marathon requires pacing yourself, conserving energy, and building endurance so you can last for years without quitting.

Keep your joints mobile for active service

In Conclusion

Do not let a preventable physical breakdown stop a divine spiritual breakthrough. Honor God with your body so you can run your race to the very end.

1 Thess 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray; may you live long, finish well, and finish strong. May your body be preserved in health, your energy sustained in purpose, and your life fulfilled in every assignment God has given you in Jesus Name, Amen.

BREAKING INVISIBLE LIMITATIONS

■ PASTOR PAUL IDOWU

Objectives

At the end of the study, Participants will be able to;

- *Understand What limitations and destructive Cycles*
- *Identify Invisible things that can limit a believer*
- *learn how to overcome these limitations.*

Many believers work hard, pray faithfully, and possess great potential, yet find themselves going around the same mountain year after year. They experience repeated delays, recurring failures, broken relationships, financial struggles, spiritual stagnation, or moral decline asking: "*Why does the same thing keep happening to me?*"

The truth is that not every limitation is visible. Some of the greatest barriers to progress cannot be seen with the natural eye. They exist in our thinking, our words, our beliefs, our choices, or in spiritual opposition. Left unchecked, these invisible limitations develop into destructive cycles – patterns that repeat themselves until they are intentionally broken.

Invisible limitations are hidden, unseen barriers that hinder a person's God-given potential, progress, or purpose, even when there is no obvious external reason. When left unaddressed, they become destructive cycles – repeating patterns of failure, delay, fear, or bondage. But through the power of God's Word, the renewing of the mind, and the authority of Jesus Christ, both invisible limitations and destructive cycles can be broken.

God never intended His children to live in cycles of defeat.

Throughout Scripture, we see Him breaking barriers, setting captives free, renewing minds, and leading His people from bondage into promise (*e.g., Israel leaving Egypt, Gideon overcoming fear, the woman bound for eighteen years set free by Jesus, or the early church walking in the power of the Holy Spirit*). Freedom, transformation, and victory are God's standard.

During this workshop, we will identify the hidden limitations that hinder progress, understand how destructive cycles are formed, and discover biblical principles for breaking free through God's Word, faith, obedience, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar study, participants will be able to:

1. Understand what invisible limitations are and how they mature into destructive cycles.
2. Identify some specific invisible forces that limit a believer's life.
3. Learn practical ways to dismantle limitations walk in sustained freedom.

Understanding How Destructive Cycles Are Formed

Most recurring problems do not begin with behaviour. Behaviour is usually the final stage of a much deeper process. Everything starts with what is happening beneath the surface. A person's thinking shapes what they believe. What they believe eventually influences the decisions they make. Repeated decisions become habits, and habits eventually produce a pattern of life. After a while, that pattern becomes what we describe as a cycle.

For example, someone who continually believes the lie of the devil they are incapable will naturally avoid opportunities that require courage or responsibility. Because they avoid those opportunities, they never develop confidence. Their lack of confidence then appears to confirm their original belief that they are incapable. What started as a wrong belief has now become a self-perpetuating cycle.

This is one reason Jesus taught that every tree is known by its fruit (*Matthew 12:33*). Fruit does not appear by itself. It is produced by a root. If the fruit is unhealthy, wisdom tells us to examine the root rather than simply trimming the branches.

Many people spend years trying to change the fruit while ignoring the root. They try harder, make new resolutions and alter their behaviour for a season, only to discover that the same struggles eventually return. God works differently. He changes people from the inside out. When the root changes, the fruit changes naturally.

That is why uncovering invisible limitations are so important. They are often the hidden roots feeding visible problems.

LIMITATION THROUGH WRONG THINKING (STRONGHOLDS)

Every visible change in life begins with an invisible change in the mind. Before Satan seeks to influence your marriage, finances, ministry, or relationships, he first seeks to influence the way you think. Your life will naturally move in the direction of your most dominant thoughts. Transformation begins strictly with the renewing of the mind (*Romans 12:2*).

A. What is a Stronghold?

A stronghold is a pattern of thinking built upon lies that have gradually been accepted as truth. It is a mental framework that exerts a powerful influence over the way a person thinks, makes decisions and responds to life, often setting itself against the truth of God's Word (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*). The greatest danger of a stronghold is that, over time, it no longer appears to be a lie. It simply becomes the person's reality — the way they believe life is. What may have begun as a painful experience, repeated failure, rejection or disappointment gradually develops into a settled belief. Eventually, the person moves from saying, "*I experienced failure*," to "*I am a failure*," or from "*I was rejected*," to "*I am unlovable*." In this way, a temporary experience hardens into a false identity, creating an invisible limitation that continues to shape the course of a person's life, for as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. (*Proverbs 23:7*)

B. How Are Strongholds Formed?

Strongholds are rarely built overnight. They develop gradually as lies are repeatedly believed until they become established ways of thinking. Some of the common ways this happens include:

- **Painful Experiences and Repeated Failure:** Unhealed hurts, disappointment, rejection and repeated failure can shape the way we see ourselves, others and even God.
- **Wrong Influences:** Family upbringing, culture, unhealthy relationships, the media we consume and unsound teaching can all reinforce beliefs that are contrary to God's Word.
- **Continual Agreement with Lies:** Every time we accept and repeat thoughts that contradict God's truth, those thoughts become more deeply rooted until they develop into strongholds.

One important principle to remember is this: Satan often uses temporary facts and experiences to build strongholds, but God uses Truth (his Word) to destroy them.

It may be factually true that you have failed repeatedly, but the truth is that God causes us always to triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14). Satan magnifies transient facts to establish strongholds; God reveals immutable truth to destroy them.

C. Biblical Case Studies

Scripture repeatedly demonstrates that God must correct a person's thinking before He can alter their physical circumstances:

- **Gideon (Judges 6):** He viewed himself as the least in his father's house. God had to redefine him as a "*mighty man of valor*" before using him to deliver a nation.
- **Moses (Exodus 4):** He believed his slow speech disqualified him, projecting his physical limitation over

God's sovereign choice.

- **Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1):** He argued he was "*too young*," requiring God to immediately command him: "*Do not say, 'I am a youth.'*"

D. How to Practically Overcome Wrong Thinking

Strongholds are rarely cast out like demons; they must be systematically pulled down by the truth of God's Word.

1. Identify the Lie - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the false belief that is contradicting God's Word and keeping you in bondage.
2. Replace the Lie with God's Truth - Study, memorise and meditate on the Scriptures that directly challenge that false belief (Romans 12:2).
3. Take Every Thought Captive - Refuse to entertain thoughts that oppose God's promises. Bring every thought into obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
4. Guard Your Mind - Be careful what you listen to, watch and dwell on. Avoid influences that reinforce fear, unbelief and wrong thinking.
5. Be Patient with the Process - Strongholds are often built over many years and are usually broken down progressively as your mind is renewed. As God told Israel, "*Little by little I will drive them out before you*" (Exodus 23:30).

LIMITATION THROUGH WRONG WORDS

Most people treat words merely as tools for communication, but Scripture presents them as creative vehicles. Words help shape the direction of our lives. (Hebrews 11:3). They release faith or fear, blessing or cursing, spiritual authority or

restrictive bondage. We do not merely use words to describe our lives; we use them to architect the direction of our lives.

A. The Biblical Power of Words

- **Words Carry the Power of Life and Death:** Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- **Words Can Become a Snare:** Proverbs 6:2- You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.
- **Words will be Accounted For:** Matthew 12:37 - For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.
- **Words influence outcomes:** Mark 11:23 - For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says

B. How Wrong Words Create Invisible Limitations

Wrong words become invisible limitations when they establish a pattern of agreement with fear, unbelief and defeat. Every repeated confession reinforces that agreement until it begins to shape the course of a person's life. What starts as a careless word eventually becomes a settled conviction, influences decisions, affects spiritual outcomes and develops into a destructive cycle. This is why Scripture repeatedly calls

believers to guard their mouths and bring their words into agreement with God's truth.

C. Biblical Case Studies

- **The Spies vs. Joshua & Caleb (Numbers 13-14):** The ten spies declared, "*We are not able,*" while Joshua and Caleb declared, "*We are well able.*" Both groups ultimately inherited the exact reality they confessed.
- **The Murmuring Israelites (Numbers 14:28):** The wilderness generation continually complained that they would die in the desert. God responded with absolute clarity: "*As you have spoken in My hearing, so will I do to you.*"
- **The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37):** Israel confessed, "*Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are clean cut off.*" Their words formalized their spiritual state. God had to command Ezekiel to prophesy *new, life-giving words* over them to reverse their self-inflicted tomb.

D. How to Stop the Limitation of Wrong Words

- **Guard Your Mouth:** Be slow to speak and disciplined in what you say. Refuse careless, negative or unbelieving words (James 1:19; Proverbs 21:23). Find creative ways to express yourself.
- **Speak in Agreement with God's Word:** Learn to declare what God has said, even when your circumstances suggest otherwise. Faith speaks from God's promises, not merely from present realities. (2 Kings 4:8-37)

- **Replace Negative Confessions with Faith-Filled Ones:** Don't reinforce defeat with your words. Instead, let your confession continually affirm God's truth over your life and circumstances. (Ezekiel 37:7-10)
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to Govern Your Speech:** Psalm 141:3 - Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips"

LIMITATION THROUGH UNCHECKED DEMONIC OPPOSITION

Wrong thinking and wrong words are not merely personal weaknesses; they are often the very avenues Satan seeks to exploit. Scripture teaches that we have a real spiritual adversary whose objective is to oppose God's purposes in the lives of His people. Peter warns believers, "*Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*" (1 Peter 5:8). Likewise, Paul reminds us that "*we do not wrestle against flesh and blood*" (Ephesians 6:12). Spiritual warfare is therefore a biblical reality that cannot be ignored.

At the same time, we must avoid two extremes. Some believers attribute every problem to demonic activity, while others deny spiritual warfare altogether. Neither position is consistent with Scripture. We should not blame the devil for every consequence of poor decisions or lack of discipline, but neither should we ignore an enemy whom the Bible repeatedly commands us to resist.

A. How Satan Gains a Foothold

Satan is a defeated foe, however, he remains an active adversary. He is constantly looking for opportunities to oppose God's work in the lives of believers. Rather than

attacking at random, he looks for open doors, unguarded areas and unresolved issues that he can exploit to discourage, oppress and hinder spiritual progress. This is why the Bible repeatedly warns us to be watchful, sober and vigilant.

For example, Paul warns, "*Nor give place to the devil*" (Ephesians 4:27). The word place means to give room, opportunity or a foothold. It paints the picture of allowing the enemy access where he previously had none.

This explains why the Bible places such emphasis on spiritual vigilance. Satan does not need to create every battle; he simply looks for opportunities to exploit what has been left unchecked. Unbelief, unforgiveness, persistent sin, deception and compromise become open doors through which he seeks to hinder spiritual growth, prolong bondage and resist God's purposes. Left unaddressed, what began as a weakness can eventually become a recurring pattern of limitation.

B. How Does Satan Oppose Believers?

Although Satan's methods vary, his objective remains the same—to hinder God's purposes and keep believers from walking in the freedom Christ has provided. While a believer's spirit belongs to Christ, the enemy continually seeks to attack the areas of life that remain vulnerable. He wages war against the soul through deception, fear, temptation and discouragement. He may attack the body through affliction and oppression, as seen in the woman whom Jesus said had been "bound by Satan" for eighteen years (Luke 13:16). He may also oppose a believer's circumstances, seeking to frustrate progress, create unnecessary obstacles and resist God's purposes, as illustrated by Daniel's delayed answer to prayer (Daniel 10:12–13) and Job's severe trials (Job 1–2).

None of these attacks mean Satan has authority over the believer. Rather, they remind us that spiritual warfare is real. When believers are ignorant of their authority in Christ or become passive in exercising it, the enemy often exploits that ignorance to maintain unnecessary oppression and limitation. This is why Scripture repeatedly calls us to *"be strong in the Lord," to "put on the whole armour of God,"* and to *"resist the devil"* (Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7). Christ has already secured the victory; our responsibility is to stand in it.

C. How to Checkmate Demonic Opposition

As believers, we do not stand against Satan in their own strength. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has already defeated the powers of darkness (Colossians 2:15). Our responsibility is therefore not to fear the enemy but to enforce the victory Jesus already secured for us.

Scripture gives us clear instructions for doing this:

- **Submit Yourself Completely to God.** Spiritual authority flows from spiritual submission (James 4:7).
- **Exercise Your Authority in Christ.** Resist the devil in the name of Jesus, knowing that he is already a defeated foe (Luke 10:19).
- **Stand Firm on God's Word.** Jesus overcame every temptation by declaring, "It is written." The Word of God remains our greatest weapon against every attack of the enemy.
- **Remain Watchful in Prayer.** A consistent life of prayer, obedience and fellowship with God keeps the believer spiritually alert and prepared to resist the enemy's schemes.

- **Close Every Open Door.** Refuse to give place to the devil through unforgiveness, persistent sin or compromise (Ephesians 4:27).

CONCLUSION

Invisible limitations may be hidden, but they are never beyond God's power to overcome. Whether they originate from wrong thinking, wrong words or unchecked demonic opposition, Christ has provided the victory. As we renew our minds with God's truth, bring our words into agreement with His Word, and stand in the authority He has given us, destructive cycles begin to lose their hold. Therefore, refuse to accept recurring defeat as your portion. Walk in the truth, exercise your authority in Christ, and step into the freedom and purpose God has prepared for you.

MANAGING STRESS IN SEASONS OF INCREASE

▪ PASTOR SEUN OKE

INTRODUCTION

Every increase in life comes with new challenges and greater responsibilities. As Winston Churchill rightly observed, "The price of greatness is responsibility." The more influence, success, resources, or opportunities a person receives, the greater the accountability attached to them.

Increase expands our sphere of responsibility. It means broader coverage, greater influence, larger figures, and more people to manage. Whether in ministry, business, government, academics, or corporate organizations, every level of increase demands more from us.

It is easier to manage one business outlet than five. It is easier to oversee a congregation of hundreds than one of thousands. It is easier to supervise five employees than twenty. As responsibilities increase, the pressure and stress associated with them often increase as well.

While most people pray for growth and enlargement, few prepare themselves for the demands that accompany them. If not properly managed, the stress associated with increase can take a serious toll on one's physical health, emotional well-being, relationships, and spiritual life.

This study examines the common causes of stress during seasons of increase and provides biblical principles for managing them effectively.

CAUSES OF STRESS IN SEASONS OF INCREASE

1. Overwork and Lack of Rest

One of the most common causes of stress during seasons of increase is overwork. As responsibilities multiply, there is often a tendency to work longer hours, stay up late, and neglect proper rest.

While diligence is commendable, exhaustion is not a badge of honour. Constant activity without adequate recovery eventually leads to burnout.

2. Lack of Proper Structure and Planning

The systems that worked when things were small may become ineffective when growth occurs.

Using the same methods to manage a larger operation can create confusion, inefficiency, and unnecessary pressure. Increase demands improved organization, strategic planning, and effective systems.

Without proper structures, growth can become chaotic rather than beneficial.

3. Poor People Management

Growth often means managing more people. Whether in ministry, business, or leadership, people are at the centre of every successful venture.

When leadership and management skills are underdeveloped, interpersonal conflicts, poor delegation, and ineffective communication can become major sources of stress.

This type of stress is often avoidable through intentional leadership development.

4. Financial Indiscipline

Every increase has a financial dimension. Growth usually brings greater access to resources, opportunities, and finances. However, if financial discipline does not increase alongside financial growth, stress will inevitably follow. More income without proper stewardship often creates more problems rather than more peace.

John Maxwell wisely noted: "*Success without good stewardship is temporary.*"

5. Isolation and Separation

Many people desire success but are unprepared for the loneliness that often accompanies it.

Leadership can be isolating. As responsibilities increase, relationships change and expectations rise. Without healthy

support systems, successful individuals may find themselves emotionally disconnected and overwhelmed.

6. Desperation for More Success

Ambition is good, but desperation is dangerous. Many people experience stress because they constantly focus on where they are not rather than appreciating how far they have come. The relentless pursuit of more can create unnecessary pressure and rob people of present joy. Theodore Roosevelt famously said: *"Comparison is the thief of joy."* Comparison and competition often fuel this stress.

BIBLICAL WAYS TO MANAGE STRESS

The following principles apply across every sphere of life – ministry, academics, business, politics, and corporate leadership. While these principles are rooted in Scripture, they provide timeless wisdom for anyone seeking to navigate seasons of growth successfully.

1. Learn to Worry Less

Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 94:19

Worry magnifies problems while prayer releases them into God's hands. Jesus repeatedly instructed His followers not to be anxious about tomorrow. Instead of carrying burdens that belong to God, believers are encouraged to pray about everything and trust Him completely. As Corrie ten Boom said: *"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength."*

2. Cast Your Cares Upon God

1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 55:22

God never intended us to carry life's burdens alone. The

invitation to cast our cares upon Him is both a command and a privilege. Stress becomes lighter when we acknowledge that God cares deeply about every detail of our lives.

3. Be Intentional About Rest

Genesis 2:2-3, Isaiah 30:15

Rest must be planned; otherwise, it will be neglected. If God rested after creation, no human being is exempt from the need for rest. Proper rest renews strength, refreshes creativity, improves decision-making, and restores emotional balance. Rest is not wasted time; it is an investment in future productivity.

4. Build Structure and Organization

Exodus 18:13-26, Acts 6:1-4

One of the greatest stress relievers is proper organization. Moses nearly exhausted himself trying to solve every problem alone until Jethro advised him to delegate responsibilities.

Likewise, the apostles appointed others to handle administrative matters so they could focus on their primary calling. *"If you want to do a few small things right, do them yourself. If you want to do great things and make a big impact, learn to delegate."* John C. Maxwell

Growth requires delegation, systems, departments, teams, and clear processes.

5. Hone Your Leadership and Managerial Skills

Increase inevitably places people and resources under your care. Without leadership capacity, growth becomes burdensome rather than rewarding.

David provides one of Scripture's greatest leadership examples. The men who joined him in the Cave of Adullam were distressed, indebted, and discontented (1 Samuel 22:2), yet under his leadership they became mighty men (2 Samuel 23:8). Leadership development is not optional for those who desire sustainable increase.

6. Embrace Discipline

Proverbs 24:30-34, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Discipline is essential during seasons of growth. Ironically, some people abandon the habits that produced their success once they achieve it. Growth demands greater discipline, not less. Discipline keeps us focused, financially prudent, and resistant to distractions. A significant amount of stress is self-inflicted through poor planning, procrastination, wastefulness, and neglect of responsibility.

Jim Rohn captured this truth beautifully: "*We must all suffer one of two things: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.*"

The temporary discomfort of discipline is far less painful than the lasting burden of regret.

7. Be at Peace with Your Progress

Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-7

Contentment is not complacency.

It is possible to be grateful for today's progress while still believing God for greater things tomorrow. Many people become stressed because they are attempting to run someone else's race. They compare their journey to others and become frustrated by their own pace. God's plan for your life is unique.

Therefore, focus on faithfulness rather than comparison.

8. Do Life with People

Psalm 68:6

Life was never designed to be lived in isolation. Every leader needs trusted relationships, that is, people who share their values, understand their vision, and provide support during difficult seasons. Strong family relationships, meaningful friendships, mentors, and accountability partners help distribute life's burdens and reduce stress.

As the African proverb says: *"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."*

9. Rid Yourself of Fear and Agitation

1 Samuel 13:1-15

Fear is one of the greatest contributors to stress. People worry about tomorrow, fear shortages, fear failure, fear missing opportunities, and fear losing what they have gained.

Much of this fear stems from an inability to trust God fully. Yet Jesus reminds us that God knows even the number of hairs on our heads. If God is concerned with such details, surely He is capable of handling the larger issues of our lives. Faith produces peace, while fear produces agitation.

Whenever fear dominates the heart, stress inevitably follows.

CONCLUSION

Seasons of increase are great blessings, but they also bring greater responsibility and demand. Therefore, it is not enough to pray for growth; we must also develop capacity to manage it wisely. Stress may sometimes signal expanded responsibility,

but when unmanaged, it becomes destructive. The answer is not to avoid increase but to build spiritual, emotional, and practical strength to sustain it. Ultimately, true success is measured not by what we gain, but by how faithfully and peacefully we steward what God has entrusted to.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF PRESSURE

▪ PASTOR YINKA AJAYI

INTRODUCTION

When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end – *Isa 43:2 MSG*

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33 NKJV

Pressure is an unavoidable reality in the Christian life. Whether it comes through financial hardship, persecution, family struggles, disappointment, ministry opposition or spiritual warfare, every believer will experience a season that test faith and endurance. The Bible never promises a pressure-free life. Rather, it promises God's abiding presence, sufficient grace, and ultimate victory in the midst of life's trials.

Resilience is more than human toughness or emotional endurance. From a biblical perspective, resilience is the Spirit-

empowered ability to remain steadfast in faith, recover from adversity, and continue fulfilling God's plans & purpose despite pressure.

Throughout the scripture, God consistently used pressure as a tool for preparation rather than destruction. Joseph's prison prepared him for the palace (Gen 39–41). David's wilderness prepared him for the throne (1 Sam 24). The apostles' persecution became the catalyst for worldwide evangelism (Acts 8:1–4). The supreme example is our Jesus Christ. Before the glory of the resurrection came the agony of Gethsemane and the suffering of Calvary. Heb 12:2 reminds believers to fix their eyes on Jesus, "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross."

Therefore, pressure is often God's classroom where character is refined, faith is strengthened, and destiny is prepared. As a member of The Name of Jesus Ministries, our goal is not merely to survive pressure but to emerge spiritually stronger, emotionally healthier, and more useful in God's Kingdom.

At this year's NOJC, we will take a look at some practical steps on how we as believers can build resilience in times of pressure.

1. Develop A Kingdom Perspective Toward Pressure. *James 1:2–4; Rom 5:3–5; 1 Pet 1:6–7.*

James commands believers to "count it all joy" when facing trials — not because suffering is pleasant, but because God uses trials to produce perseverance, maturity, and completeness. Pressure is often God's refining fire. Gold is purified by intense heat; likewise, faith is strengthened through testing.

Joseph's life illustrates this truth beautifully. Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned, he eventually recognized God's sovereign purpose: "*You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good*" Genesis 50:20.

Rick Warren, in his book 'The Purpose Driven Life' says, "*God never wastes a hurt.*" In other words, every difficulty can become preparation for ministry if surrendered to God. Charles Spurgeon quoted saying, "*The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.*"

So when faced with challenges and pressure stop asking, "*Why is this happening*". Rather, begin to ask, "*Lord, what are You teaching me*". Refuse to interpret God's love by your circumstances.

2. Strengthen Your Inner Life Through Spiritual Disciplines. *Eph 3:16; Isa 40:28-31; Matt 26:41; Jude 1:20*

The strongest believers are not necessarily those with the easiest lives but those with the deepest roots. Jesus consistently withdrew to pray before major moments of ministry (Mk 1:35; Lk 5:16). If the Son of God depended on communion with the Father, how much more should we?

As believers spending time in the presence of God is a vital part of our existence. We receive supernatural strength through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Praying in the Spirit, worship, meditation on Scripture, fasting, and corporate fellowship strengthen the inner person.

Prayer is not simply asking God for help but participating in His divine purposes through the Holy Spirit our Advocate.

A.W. Tozer, in his book *The Pursuit of God*, says that spiritual strength grows through intimate fellowship with God rather than mere religious activity.

For you to strengthen your inner life as a believer, you must build daily spiritual habits of: Praying consistently, Reading and meditating on Scriptures, Worshipping beyond church services, Praying in the Spirit and Staying committed to Christian fellowship. These disciplines prepare believers before pressure arrives.

3. Renew Your

Mind With God's Truth. Rom 12:2; Phil 4:6–8; 2 Cor 10:3–5; Jos 1:8. Pressure often attacks the mind before it attacks circumstances.

Fear whispers, *"I cannot survive this."*

Faith replies, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

The enemy seeks to magnify problems while minimizing God's promises. Renewing the mind means replacing lies with biblical truth. Many victories or defeats begin with our thought life. This means that transformed thinking produces transformed living; where the mind goes, the person follows. Winning the battle in your thoughts is essential to overcoming pressure.

Jesus resisted Satan's temptations by declaring Scripture (Matt 4:1–11), demonstrating that God's Word is the believer's greatest weapon during seasons of pressure. As a believer you overcome spiritual oppression by embracing your identity in Christ and rejecting deceptive thoughts

When anxious thoughts arise:

- Identify the cause
- Locate a Scripture that addresses it and declare that Scripture aloud
- Pray until God's peace replaces anxiety
- Avoid filling your mind with negativity and fear.

4. Learn To Depend On The Holy Spirit, Not Human Strength. Zech 4:6; Acts 1:8; Gal 5:16; 2 Cor 12:9-10.

Resilience is not merely emotional determination; it is supernatural empowerment. Paul experienced overwhelming pressures but discovered that God's grace became sufficient precisely when his own strength failed.

God often allows believers to reach the limits of human ability so they learn complete dependence upon Him. The Christian life was never intended to be lived apart from the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. We should learn to always allow the Holy Spirit to direct our decisions & depend upon His strength instead of self-confidence.

5. Remain Connected To Your Spiritual Family. Eccl 4:9-12; Ps 68:6; Heb 10:24-25; Gal 6:2; Acts 2:42-47.

God never intended believers to fight life's battles alone. The early church survived persecution because they prayed together, shared resources, encouraged one another, and remained united. Resilience is built in community. When pressure comes, our instinct is often to withdraw; that is the enemy's trap.

Relief from pressure often comes through another believer's hands. Isolation magnifies discouragement, God set people in families, and it is only the rebellious that dwells alone.

Christian fellowship is one of God's greatest gifts because believers strengthen each other's faith. As a member of this great family {The Name of Jesus Ministries}, you must stay actively involved in your church and be a functional member of a group or department.

CONCLUSION

Resilience is not the absence of suffering but steadfast faith in the presence of God during suffering. The Christian life is not measured by how often we avoid pressure but by how faithfully we remain anchored in Christ through it.

"God doesn't always take you out of the problem. He stretches your faith by taking you through the problem. He doesn't always take away the pain. He gives you faith-filled ability to handle the pain. And God doesn't always take you out of the storm, because He wants you to trust Him in the middle of the storm." **Rick Warren.**

As Paul declared, "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor 4:8-9).

In this Year of the Lord's Favour, God is not only bringing His people through seasons of pressure — He is restoring what was broken, rebuilding ruined places, establishing His people in righteousness, expanding their influence, and creating a legacy that will glorify His name.

Therefore, let every believer resolve to stand firm, rely on the Holy Spirit, remain rooted in God's Word, and embrace every trial as an opportunity for God's transforming grace. The pressure may be great, but the favour of God is greater.

BEAUTY FOR ASHES: RECOVERING FROM LIFE'S SETBACKS

▪ MRS AYoola DADA

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. Isa 61:2-3 (NIV)

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness... (Isa 61:3)

INTRODUCTION

Life is a journey filled with challenges and victories. At one point or the other, every individual experiences moments of disappointment, failure, loss, rejection, sickness, betrayal, financial hardship, or emotional pain. These experiences often leave behind "ashes" and scars which are symbols of brokenness, shame, sorrow, and hopelessness.

However, the central message of the gospel is restoration. God specializes in taking what is broken and make it beautiful. The promise of God in Isaiah 61 is that He wants to exchange ashes for beauty, mourning for joy, and despair for praise.

'Beauty for ashes' represents God's supernatural exchange. God specializes in transforming failure into success, shame into honor, sorrow into joy, weakness into strength, loss into restoration, rejection into acceptance and barrenness into fruitfulness. Recovering from life's setbacks is one of the ways God's favour is manifested in a believer's life. In other words, divine favour is often the force behind divine recovery.

This year's Convention theme, *"The Year of the Lord's Favour"* reminds us that God is extending His grace, mercy and kindness towards His people. One of the greatest evidences of God's favour is the ability to restore those who have experienced setbacks. Divine favour does not mean we will never face challenges, but it means that every setback can become a stepping stone to greater glory. And God does not merely replace what was lost; He creates something even more glorious.

At this year NOJC, this seminar seeks to help believers understand God's restoration process and equip them to recover from life's setbacks.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

At the end of this seminar, participants should be able to:

- a) Understand the biblical meaning of setbacks
- b) Identify common causes of setbacks
- c) Learn biblical principles for receiving beauty for Ashes
- d) Know Practical Steps towards Recovery.

A) WHAT ARE LIFE'S SETBACKS?

A setback is a temporary interruption or obstacle that delays progress, but does not determine one's final destiny. Setbacks

may include financial failure, business collapse, academic disappointment, loss of job, divorce or broken relationships, sickness, bereavement, ministry challenges, rejection and betrayal.

B) COMMON CAUSES OF LIFE'S SETBACKS

- 1. Poor Decisions:** Wrong choices produce painful consequences. Examples of those who made poor decisions are Samson and Lot. Samson lost his strength, freedom, eyesight, destiny and eventually, his life in the process. Prov 14:12, Judges 14:2-3, Judges 16:20-30, Jonah 1:2-4.
- 2. Sin and Disobedience:** Disobedience often delays God's blessings. Jonah disobeyed God as he made an attempt to flee God's presence and avoid doing God's assignment and he suffered for it. Lot disobeyed divine instruction to flee to the mountain and in the process, lost his wife, his possessions, and influence. Though he escaped destruction by God's mercy, but his disobedience exposed him and his family to both immediate and long-term consequences: his daughters committed incest which resulted in the birth of two sons who became the generations of those who opposed God's people. Gen 19:16-20, 26; Gen 19:30-38
- 3. Trials Allowed (not Caused) by God:** Some setbacks become platforms for promotion. James 1:2-4 teaches believers to count trials as joy because they produce maturity. God permitted Satan to test Job's integrity. Job 1:9-12
- 4. Human Opposition:** Joseph faced opposition from his brothers (Gen 37:18-28), David had Saul as his human enemy (1 Sam 19:1, 10-11), and Nehemiah also faced opposition

from Samballat and Tobiah as he wanted to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Neh 2:10, 19; Neh 4:7-9; Neh 6:5-9; 6:10-14).

C) BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR RECEIVING BEAUTY FOR ASHES

1. Bring your Ashes to God: Recovery begins when believers trust God's wisdom to fix things for them. Mt 11:28, Ps 55:22, Rom 8:28
2. Refuse to be Bitter: bitterness keeps a man in the bondage of the past; bitterness hurts the one who carries it more than the one who caused it. Heb 12:15, Eph 4:31-32, Gal 6:9, Ruth 1:20-21, Ruth 4:13-17
3. Maintain an Attitude of Praise: Praise shifts focus from problems to God's power. Paul and Silas praised God in the prison and they experienced miraculous deliverance. Acts 16:25-26, Ps 149:6-7, Ps 8:2 (NIV)
4. Learn from the Experience and Repent Where Necessary: every setback has a lesson, and it is only those who learn from their experiences that are likely less to repeat the same mistake. Unconfessed sin hinders restoration and God assures forgiveness and cleansing whenever we repent. Ps 119:71, Heb 12:11, Jam 1:2-4, Rom 5:3-5, 1 Jn 1:9
5. Hold on to God's Word: those who hold on to God's word will always have a reason to hope, regardless of their circumstance. Isa 40:8, Isa 40:31, Heb 10:23, Num 23:19
6. Be determined to Rise Again and take Positive Actions: every time you rise after a fall is a proof that your faith is

greater than your failure. God's grace is sufficient at all times, but you must be willing to rise again. Prov 24:16, Micah 7:8, Phil 3:13-14

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO WERE RESTORED

There are several biblical examples of those who were fully restored, however, it is important to note that not every setback ends in restoration. Persistent rebellion and refusal to repent can lead to permanent loss. Some who refused to repent are Cain, Saul and Judas. However, our focus today is to examine those who were restored:

- **Joseph:** Was betrayed and sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused and imprisoned.

Recovery:

(i) He was promoted to become the Prime Minister (ii) God used him to save nations from famine. His setback became a platform for greater glory. Indeed, God's favour changes circumstances which human effort alone cannot change; it opens doors that have been long shut and turns adversity to advantage. Gen 41:40-44; Gen 42:2-3; Gen 50:20-21

- **Job:** Lost wealth, lost children and lost his health.

Recovery:

(i) God restored double to him (i) He became more prosperous than he was before. This shows that God's favour does not merely bring people back to where they were; it often takes them further than they had ever been. Job 42:10-15

- **Peter:** A beloved disciple but at a time became a public failure because of his denial of Christ.

Recovery:

(i) He was forgiven, restored and recommissioned (ii) God used him to lead thousands to Christ. John 21:15-17; Mk 16:7; Acts 2:14, 38-41

- **David:** a man chosen by God to be king but at a time, he experienced moral failure (committed adultery and murder of the innocent) which led to turmoil in his family and temporary loss of the kingdom.

Recovery:

Was forgiven; his peace, joy and fellowship with God were restored; and God reaffirmed His covenant with him. David's restoration shows that setbacks caused by sin can be reversed through genuine repentance. Ps 51:10-13; 2 Sam 12:13, 24-25

- **Naomi:** Lost her husband and her two sons

Recovery:

God turned her mourning to joy by restoring her family legacy through Ruth and the birth of Obed and eventually became the grandmother in the lineage of Christ. Ruth 4:13-17

D) PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD RECOVERY

God delights in restoring those who turn to Him, but restoration requires humility, repentance and obedience. Faith requires corresponding action. Jam 2:17, 26

The Year of the Lord's Favour

- **Spiritually** (i) Daily study the Bible (ii) Fellowship with believers (iii) Seek wise and godly counsel
- **Emotionally** (i) Forgive your offenders (ii) Let go of bitterness (iii) Develop gratitude; the situation could have been worse
- **Mentally** (i) Think positively (ii) Set realistic goals (iii) Learn from past mistakes
- **Socially** (i) Build healthy relationships (ii) Seek mentors (iii) Avoid destructive influences and associations
- **Financially** (i) Budget wisely (ii) Eliminate unnecessary debt and spending (iii) Have multiple source of income (iv) Invest in your personal growth

The Year of the Lord's favour is not merely a season of blessing; it is a season in which God overturns setbacks, restores losses, replaces shame with honour and causes His people to recover all that the enemy thought was lost forever.

FREEDOM FROM EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE AND PAST WOUNDS

▪ DEACONESS ADELEYE OLAJUMOKE

What is Emotional baggage?

Emotional baggage can be described as past trauma, experiences, pain left unresolved and has been carried over/on into one's present life, relationships, interactions.

They represent weights or loads that has been carried intentionally/ unintentionally from one's past, involving tough and painful experiences. And since not addressed, they shape, affect or hinder relationships, behaviour, psychology.

These are relative to everyone, that is, everyone has his/her emotional baggage, rooted from traumatic experiences whether large or small which impacts their relationship or interactions with people, but some people face or resolve it while some don't and unconsciously learn to live with it.

They could stem from inflicted physical wounds, abusive relationships, childhood trauma, major financial setbacks or losses, unprocessed grief etc...

They are often characterized by trust issues, hyper-vigilance, people -pleasing or inability to set healthy boundaries, not feeling "*enough*", overthinking or replaying of painful past events, paranoia, offensive assumption/suspicion on possibly neutral situations), forcing oneself to be cold hearted or 'indifferent' towards people or situations to protect them from possible pain or hurt.

LET US SEE SOME OF THESE COMMON SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE

- **Trust issues:** Projecting the betrayal of past relationships/past partners or experiences to new relationship. This can make it challenging or hard to be committed to the new people.
- **Hyper-vigilance:** This may cause you to interpret neutral actions or inoffensive actions negatively in order to prevent future pain. You tend to be defensive.
- **Reactive depression:** negative emotion in response to unpalatable or irritating events
- **Suicidal ideas:** Strong desires to end the irritating emotion as an escape route.
- **A deliberate decision to avoid happy occasions,** finding it difficult to rejoice with those rejoicing.
- **Low self-esteem:** Having a negative perception about your own self/worth, lack of confidence.
- **Fear of Failure :** A persistent feeling of uncertainty and inadequacy, which creates a cycle of self-doubt , it often leads people to avoid challenges.
- **Replaying painful past events:** This could be involuntary or continuous rumination on the past, it can lead to a distressing situation which causes emotional

pain, anxiety or worry, leaving such a fellow overwhelmed or troubled.

- **Indifference towards people:** Fear of rejection, or difficulty forming meaningful connections.

WHAT ARE PAST WOUNDS?

These are old wounds, hurts that can be physical, mental, spiritual or psychologically inflicted from childhood experiences, betrayals, abusive relationships. They are psychological scars from earlier in life which dictates how you react to the present.

They involve lingering offences that can make one emotionally triggered when such experiences or topics are revisited by people and can affect one's behaviour.

Emotional baggage and past wounds are deeply interrelated; past wounds are the root causes, and emotional baggage is the weight we carry as a result of past wounds, that is, the wound as the initial injury (e.g., betrayal), and the emotional baggage as the lingering scar and defence mechanisms that shape how one reacts to the world.

When those wounds remain unprocessed or unhealed, the lingering fears, trust issues, and negative coping habits begin to pile up. This accumulation is what we refer to as emotional baggage.

Most of the time, they show up together in form of:

- **Intense Triggers:** When a current situation or partner inadvertently revisits this hurts or experiences directly or similar to it, it triggers an emotional response that is often

disproportionate to what is actually happening in the present.

- **Defensive Behaviours:** Because of the past wound, your mind brings your baggage into new situations. This might look like hyper-independence, an inability to be vulnerable, or pulling away at the first sign of trouble.
- **Repeating Patterns:** Until you actively address the past wound, your emotional baggage will lead you to interpret new events through the lens of old pain, potentially leading to repeated negative relationship cycles or self-sabotage.

To be free from past wounds that led to emotional baggage, these steps below has to be taken:

1. Acknowledging and Bringing Pain to God.

Before healing can occur, past hurts and burdens must be acknowledged and surrendered.

Psalm 34:18: "The LORD is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit". This is a comforting reminder that God is present in your deepest pain.

Psalm 62:8: "Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."

Psalm 147:3: " He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds."

2. Letting Go of the Past and Breaking Bondage.

Emotional baggage often comes from holding onto "*former*

things" and unresolved bitterness. Let go and let God.

Isaiah 43:18–19: *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

Ephesians 4:31–32: *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

3. Renewing the Mind for a Transformed Future

Moving forward requires daily mental and spiritual renewal to avoid picking up the baggage again.

Romans 12:2: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

You don't have to carry this weight forever. Healing begins when you start to separate your past from your present.

4. Receiving Rest and Freedom

The process of trading heaviness for God's restoration and peace.

Isaiah 61:1–3: A foundational passage on emotional freedom, promising *"beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."*

Matthew 11:28–30: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

John 8:36: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."
Matthew 11:28-30 [GNT]

Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.

This is a personal invitation from Jesus to everyone that are heavily burdened with worries, pains, to lay down and exchange it for rest, and peace in God. Jesus is essentially saying: "Stop trying to prove your worth or carry this heavy weight of life, trauma, hurts entirely on your own as a result of your past experiences, let me help you carry your load. Walk with Me, and learn how to live with a peaceful heart."

Isaiah 61:1-3 AMPC

[1] THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound, [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favour] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn., [3] To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of

joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

The Messiah has been empowered by the Holy Spirit for this mission, to heal, liberate, and restore those who are broken. He promises a divine exchange of joy for sorrow and the downtrodden becoming strong "*oaks of righteousness.*"

His ministry is to bring spiritual, emotional, and physical liberation.

God promises to turn those deep pains into something beautiful. He is offering the garment of praise for a direct replacement for the heavy, suffocating "spirit of despair" or heaviness.

It's the appointed time of healing those wounds!

It's the time to relieve yourself of those past hurts, pains and trauma.

It's already past, leave it behind you.

Let go and let God.

Now, it's the time of deliverance.

It's a good morning!

It's a new beginning!

It's a time of ultimate grace and restoration.

It's our year of jubilee.

Welcome to our year of the Lord's favour!

Annual

NOJC 2026
NAME OF JESUS CONVENTION



Spiritual Formation & Kingdom Life School

RECOGNIZING DIVINE SEASONS AND TIMES

▪ PASTOR KAYODE MOMOH

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (KJV)

He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also, he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Life comprises of seasons and times. Life unfolds in phases, each with its own purpose, opportunities and Challenges under divine sovereignty rather than random chance.

There is need to discern God's appointed period or seasons in life, purpose or circumstance to make the best decisions and for maximum profit. There are divine seasons and times just like there are natural and times as mentioned in Ecc3.

In the natural, In the most part of the world (West Africa), We have two seasons, dry and rainy season. Farmers take advantage of the seasons to plant their crops as planting in the

wrong season leads to great harvest loss irrespective of the seeds being planted.

In the circle of life as well, we have childhood, youthful age and adulthood stage, each passing with its own opportunities and challenges. Inability to maximize a season puts pressure on other seasons and that is why everything is beautiful in their times and ugly in other seasons. Note that:

I. GOD CONTROLS TIMES AND SEASONS.

Dan 2:20-21, 1Chr 12:32, Matt 16:3, Luke 19:42-44. "My times are in thy hand"

II. THERE ARE TWO (2) CONCEPTS OF TIME:

a. Chronos

Gal 4:4.

This refers to the clock or calendar time which is sequential or measurable. 24 hours a day, 12 months in a year.

b. Kairos

Mk1:15, Lk 19:44, 2 Cor 6:2, Lk 12:54-56., Eph 5:15-16, Gal 6:9

This refers to opportune time, appointed season, fitting moments or decisive occasions. It refers to the time when things are ripe for something to happen. It involves divine purpose, crises, opportunities or fulfilment. This is the focus of our study.

III. WHY SHOULD WE RECOGNIZE DIVINE SEASONS AND TIMES

- 1). To align with God's sovereign plan and avoid missing the purpose. Lk 19:44, 1Cor 12:32.

- 2). For timely and effective action. Mk1:15, 2 Cor 6:2, John 4:10.
To advance God's kingdom, and prevent wasted efforts.
Delays can be fatal.
- 3). To grow in faith, maturity and dependance on God.
John15:1-2. Seasons build character. It builds endurance
and removes hindrance to growth and reveals God's
faithfulness.
- 4). To navigate life's changes with wisdom and peace.
- 5). For kingdom impact and stewardship. 1Thess 5:1-6.
- 6). Proper discernments equip you to participate in what God is
doing through your availability and supply of resources.
Ignoring seasons leads to spiritual dullness, missed
visitations or unnecessary struggles. Lk 12:54-56, Gal 4:10.
- 7). It makes you interested in living for God and transforms
passive existence into action, partnership, yielding peace,
productivity and eternal reward. Ecc 9: 10, 1cor 9:26.

IV. COMMON EXAMPLES OF SPIRITUAL SEASONS

Read: Gen 8:22

- 1). Wilderness/Waiting season:** Time of isolation, testing or
apparent divine silence.
- 2). Growth/Stretching:** Time of challenges that builds faith and
capacity.

- 3). **Pruning/Refining:** Time of loss or stripping away to promote deeper maturity.
- 4). **Harvest and Advancement:** Time of reaping fruit, influence or fulfillment of promises.

V. HOW TO RECOGNIZE DIVINE SEASONS

- 1). **Prayer and intimacy with God.**
Prayer enhances one's spiritual sensitivity to God and open one to divine secrets. Deut 29:29.
- 2). **Observe Patterns and Circumstances.** Haggai 1:5.
Look at what God is doing or closing.
Changing circumstances can be a pointer to change in season. Elijah's time to move comes when the brook cherith dried up. 1king17.
Sometimes opportunity to change geographical location may be a signal. Gen12:1.
- 3). **Sudden thrust into position of significance or pressing demand for action.** Act 2, 1 Sam 17.
Sometimes when people are thrust into a position, it may be the beginning of a new season. Peter on the day of Pentecost stood up into leadership of the early church, David's appearance at the battle front was the beginning of a new phase in His life. A call for or action or decision can be an usher into a new place in life. An auspicious moment.
- 4). **Divine encounters.** 1Sam 16:13.
A powerful divine encounter may signal the beginning of a season and end of another.
 - A vision or dream. Jos 33:14-16, Acts 22:17-21.

The Year of the Lord's Favour

- An impartation from spiritual leader. Num 27:18.
- A prophetic declaration. Acts 13:2
- A powerful but definite guidance of the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:29.
- A new assignment from Prophetic/Church leadership Acts 1:23, 26, 15:40.
- Spiritual leadership giving assignment can be the beginning of a new season.
- Demanding new commitments and bringing new opportunities.

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER AT WORK IN THE BELIEVER

■ PASTOR PAUL IDOWU

Key Text:

Mark 5:30 - "And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My clothes?'" (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

One of the most remarkable statements in the Gospels is found in Mark 5:30. After the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of His garment, Jesus immediately perceived that power had gone out of Him. This tells us that the miracles of Jesus were not merely acts of divine authority but manifestations of divine power flowing through Him.

Often, when Mark 5:30 is read, many believers naturally identify with the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment. They see themselves as those in need of healing, deliverance, or restoration, reaching out in faith to receive from the Lord. That is a perfectly valid application of the passage.

However, the New Testament invites us to see something even deeper. Through the death, resurrection, and ascension of

Christ, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are no longer only recipients of His power – we are also vessels through whom His power is meant to flow. Just as virtue flowed out of Jesus to meet the needs of others, God desires His power to flow through believers to a hurting world.

This does not mean that we become Jesus, but that we continue His ministry under the empowerment of the same Holy Spirit. What was true of Jesus' earthly ministry is now true of His Church. The words Jesus read concerning Himself, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me..." (Luke 4:18), find their continuation in every Spirit-filled believer. Jesus promised, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8), and later declared, "He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also" (John 14:12).

The Greek word translated power is *dunamis*. It appears about 120 times in the New Testament and is the root of English words such as dynamite, dynamo, and dynamic. *Dunamis* is God's supernatural energy, life, and operational force made available through the Holy Spirit. This study explores the nature of that power, how it operated in the life of Jesus, why it now dwells in every believer, and how we can become effective channels through whom it flows to bless others and advance the Kingdom of God.

1. Jesus Ministered by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Although Jesus is the eternal Son of God, during His earthly ministry He ministered as the Anointed One, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:38 - *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy*

Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

Every miracle Jesus performed demonstrated the operation of divine power. Whether He healed the sick, cleansed lepers, cast out demons, calmed storms or raised the dead, God's power was actively working through Him. This was the power that flowed from Him when the woman touched His garment.

2. Understanding the Nature of Dunamis (Power)?

- **It is Inherent:** Dunamis is not merely authority or position. It is an actual force that resides within the believer through the Holy Spirit. It is God's own life operating from within.
- **It is Explosive:** Like dynamite, this power destroys whatever opposes God's purpose. It breaks strongholds, destroys demonic bondage, lifts curses and overcomes sickness and every form of spiritual oppression.
- **It is Generative:** Like a dynamo that continually generates energy, God's power continually produces life, healing, restoration and spiritual strength. It never becomes exhausted because its source is God Himself.
- **It is Dynamic:** Like current, God's power is designed to flow, not passive. It moves, acts and changes situations only when it is flowing. Wherever it is released or connected to, lives are transformed and impossible situations become possible.

3. What Did This Power Accomplish in Jesus' Ministry?

Throughout His ministry, Jesus demonstrated what God's power can accomplish.

It destroyed spiritual and emotional bondage.

- He cast out demons (Luke 9:1).
- He gave authority over the powers of darkness (Luke 10:19).
- He healed the broken-hearted (Luke 4:18).

It eradicated sickness and physical limitations.

- Diseases were healed as power flowed from Him (Luke 6:19).
- The dead were raised by resurrection power (Ephesians 1:19–20).
- Natural laws were suspended as He fed multitudes and walked on water (Matthew 14).

It empowered supernatural ministry.

- He spoke with divine authority and wisdom.
- His words convicted hearts and transformed lives.
- He demonstrated the Kingdom of God through signs and wonders.

It produced inward transformation.

- God's power is not only for miracles but also for holiness. Through the Holy Spirit, the believer receives power to overcome the sinful nature, grow in Christlikeness and bear the fruit of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Timothy 1:7).

4. The Same Power That Worked in Jesus Now Works in Us

Everything we have considered about Jesus now becomes

intensely personal. The power that flowed through Him was never intended to remain exclusive to Him. Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus reproduced His ministry in His Church. We have moved from merely admiring the ministry of Jesus to participating in it.

Jesus promised His disciples: *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."* (Acts 1:8).

Paul describes this power as: *"...the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead."* (Ephesians 1:19-20).

The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead now works in every believer. Therefore, the ministry of Jesus did not end with His ascension. It continues through His Church. This is exactly what we see in the book of Acts.

Peter became such a carrier of God's presence that people were healed as his shadow passed over them (Acts 5:15). Peter did not become another Christ; he simply became another yielded vessel through whom the same Holy Spirit could work.

God performed extraordinary miracles through Paul so that handkerchiefs and aprons carried from his body became points of contact for healing and deliverance (Acts 19:11-12). These miracles were not evidence of a different kind of power but of the same Holy Spirit continuing the ministry of Jesus through ordinary believers.

Paul later wrote: *"For He who worked effectively in Peter for*

the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me..." (Galatians 2:8).

The same God who worked through Jesus worked through Peter. The same God who worked through Peter worked through Paul. That same Holy Spirit now lives in every believer.

5. How Is God's Power Released Through the Believer?

Power does not leak out of believers accidentally. Throughout Scripture, God's power is intentionally released through spiritual channels. God's power is never given merely to reside within us; it is given to flow through us. Just as electricity fulfils its purpose only when it is transmitted, the dunamis of God accomplishes its purpose when it is released to bless others.

One of these is faith. The woman with the issue of blood drew virtue from Jesus through faith. Jesus Himself said, "Your faith has made you well."

Another channel is the laying on of hands. Throughout the New Testament, God frequently released healing, impartation and blessing through this biblical practice. Mark 16:20. The Holy Spirit responds to faith-filled obedience. As believers trust God, step out in obedience and minister in His name, His power is released to accomplish His purposes.

6. Why Don't We See the Power of God Consistently Flowing Through Believers?

The New Testament clearly teaches that every believer has received the Holy Spirit and, therefore, has access to God's dunamis power. Yet many Christians rarely experience or

demonstrate this power in their daily lives. The issue is not that God has withheld His power, but that its manifestation is influenced by several spiritual realities. We should therefore stop praying for more of his power and begin asking, *"What is preventing His power from flowing through me?"*

1. Lack of Knowledge and Awareness

God declared through the prophet Hosea, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). We cannot benefit from what we do not know or believe belongs to us. Many believers are unaware that the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus now lives within them (Romans 8:11). Until this truth is understood and embraced, they will continue to live below their spiritual inheritance.

2. Lack of Practical Faith and Trust

God's power is accessed and released through faith. Like electricity connected to an appliance, power is available, but it must be engaged. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly linked miracles to faith. When the disciples failed to cast out a demon, Jesus attributed their failure not to a lack of power but to the weakness of their faith (Matthew 17:19–20). The woman with the issue of blood drew virtue from Jesus because she believed before she touched Him. Faith remains the hand that receives and releases God's power.

3. Lack of Spiritual Alignment

Although the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer, His power flows most freely through a life yielded to God. Persistent sin, unbelief, unforgiveness, pride, and disobedience grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and hinder His work through us. Like a kink in a water hose

restricts the flow of water, an unyielded life restricts the free operation of God's power. A life of holiness and continual surrender creates an environment where the Holy Spirit can work unhindered.

4. Lack of Purpose and Intention

God never intended His power to promote human reputation or satisfy personal ambition. Dunamis power is given to reveal Christ, advance His Kingdom, proclaim the Gospel, heal the sick, set captives free, and build up the Church. When our motives align with God's purposes, we position ourselves to become channels through which His power can flow for His glory rather than our own.

5. Lack of Intimacy in the Secret Place

Jesus' public ministry of power was sustained by His private life of communion with the Father. Again and again, the Gospels show Him withdrawing to lonely places to pray (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). His miracles flowed from a life of continual fellowship with God. Many believers desire the public manifestation of God's power without cultivating the private disciplines of prayer, worship, and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Just as a tap disconnected from its source eventually runs dry, a believer who neglects intimacy with God will struggle to minister consistently in His power.

CONCLUSION

The same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus now lives within every believer. The question, therefore, is not whether God has made His power available, but whether we are living in a way that allows that power to flow. As we grow in the knowledge of God's Word, exercise faith, walk in holiness, align our hearts

with God's purposes, and cultivate intimacy with Him, we become increasingly effective vessels through whom the dunamis power of God can transform lives and glorify Christ. When we read the Gospels, we should certainly come to Jesus as the woman with the issue of blood did – desperate for His touch and confident in His power. But as we mature in our understanding of the Gospel, we must also see ourselves as those through whom that same power now flows. The Church was never called merely to admire the works of Christ, but to continue them by the power of the Holy Spirit until He returns.

FROM ANOINTING TO ASSIGNMENT: LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

▪ DR BUNMI OLASEBIKAN

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV) - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

INTRODUCTION

Our key text teaches us a very important truth. God never anoints without a purpose. Whenever God anoints a man or woman, it is because He has an assignment for them to fulfil. The anointing is not the destination; it is God's enablement for the assignment He has prepared.

This truth is clearly seen in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. When He stood in the synagogue at Nazareth, He read from Isaiah 61:1-3, a prophecy concerning the coming Messiah. After reading the passage, He declared that it had been fulfilled in Him (Luke 4:21). Notice that Jesus did not simply say, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me.*" He immediately explained why He had been anointed. He was anointed to preach the gospel to

the poor, heal the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, restore sight to the blind, and set the oppressed free. His anointing was directly connected to His assignment.

The same pattern runs throughout the Scriptures. God never anoints people without giving them a purpose. Moses was empowered to deliver Israel. David was anointed to shepherd God's people. The prophets proclaimed God's Word, and the apostles were sent to preach the gospel. In every case, the anointing was God's way of preparing His servants for the work He had called them to do.

The same principle applies to us today. Many believers desire the anointing because they associate it with miracles, signs, wonders, and spiritual gifts. While these are genuine works of the Holy Spirit, they are not His ultimate purpose. God does not anoint His people simply so they can experience His power. He anoints them so they can fulfil His purpose.

In this study, we will discover that receiving the anointing is only the beginning. To move from anointing to assignment, we must continually live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who prepares us, guides us, strengthens us, and leads us into God's perfect will.

WHAT IS THE ANOINTING?

Before we can understand the assignment, we must first understand the anointing.

The word anoint means to consecrate, dedicate, or set apart for God's service. In the Old Testament, kings, priests, and prophets were anointed with oil before they entered the offices God had called them to occupy. The oil itself had no power. It

simply symbolised God's choice and the empowering presence of His Spirit.

David is a good example. When Samuel anointed him, the Bible says, "The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward." (1 Samuel 16:13). Although David did not become king immediately, God had already begun preparing him for the assignment ahead. His anointing marked the beginning of God's preparation.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is the source of the believer's anointing. Although the Bible still records the use of anointing with oil, such as in praying for the sick (James 5:14) and as a symbol of consecration for God's service, the power is not in the oil but in the Holy Spirit. 1 John chapter 2 verses 20 says, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One...". Through the Holy Spirit, God empowers believers to live for Christ and fulfil His purpose

Therefore, the anointing is the Holy Spirit's divine enablement to fulfil God's purpose through the believer.

THE PURPOSES OF THE ANOINTING

- (1) The anointing empowers us for service.** Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." (Acts 1:8). Although they had spent over three years with Jesus, they were instructed not to begin ministry until they had received the Holy Spirit. God's work cannot be accomplished by human ability alone.

- (2) **The anointing equips us with spiritual gifts.** The Holy Spirit gives different gifts according to His will (1 Corinthians 12:4–11). These gifts are not given for personal recognition but so that the Church may be strengthened and Christ glorified.
- (3) **The anointing transforms our character.** The Holy Spirit does more than give us power to serve. He produces His fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). God is concerned not only with what we do but also with who we become.
- (4) **The anointing prepares us for divine assignment.** Throughout Scripture, those whom God anointed were also those whom He sent. God never anoints people simply to bless them. He anoints them because there is a purpose for them to fulfil. Luke 4:18–19, Acts 13:2–4, and Acts 10:38

WHAT IS DIVINE ASSIGNMENT?

If God anoints us for a purpose, then what is that purpose?

A divine assignment is a responsibility or mission that God gives to a person to accomplish His will and advance His Kingdom. It is more than a career, ambition, or personal dream. While God may use our profession and abilities, our assignment is about fulfilling His purpose wherever He has placed us. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." This tells us that God had a purpose for our lives before we were born. Our responsibility is to discover that purpose, walk in it, and remain faithful to it.

Every believer shares the same general assignment: to love God, make disciples, be Christ's witness, serve others, and live a life that glorifies Him (Matt 22:37-38; Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:13). At the same time, God gives each believer a unique assignment. Moses delivered Israel (Exodus 3:10). Esther preserved God's people (Esther 4:14). Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls. Daniel influenced a pagan nation (Daniel 6:25-28). Paul preached to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Their assignments were different, but they all served the same God and fulfilled the same Kingdom purpose. The same is true today. God calls some into pastoral ministry, others into business, education, healthcare, government, missions, or the home. Whatever our calling, every assignment matters because every assignment contributes to God's Kingdom. As my father in the Lord, Rev. Dr John Idowu, often reminds us, God prepares His people for greater assignments through faithful service. As we serve under the spiritual leadership God has placed over us, He shapes our character, builds our capacity, and prepares us for greater responsibility (Luke 16:10).

This raises an important question: How does God's anointing prepare us for His assignment? To answer this, we need to understand the relationship between the anointing and the assignment.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ANOINTING AND THE ASSIGNMENT

Throughout the Bible, the anointing and the assignment always go together. God does not call people to a task and then leave them to accomplish it in their own strength. Neither does He anoint people without giving them a purpose. He calls, prepares, empowers, and then sends.

David illustrates this principle well. Samuel anointed him while he was still a shepherd boy (1 Samuel 16:13), yet he did not become king immediately. Between the anointing and the throne came years of waiting, testing, and preparation. During that period, God was building David's character, teaching him humility, and preparing him for leadership. His assignment was great, so God's preparation was thorough. The same pattern is seen in the life of Jesus. After the Holy Spirit descended upon Him at His baptism, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness before beginning His public ministry (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 4:1). His preparation came before His public assignment. We see the same truth in the early Church. While the believers at Antioch were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ***"Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*** (Acts 13:2-4). Notice that the Holy Spirit did more than fill them with power. He identified their assignment, set them apart, and sent them out. This teaches us that the Holy Spirit not only empowers us but also directs us into God's purpose.

Many believers pray for the anointing, but few ask God to reveal His assignment. Yet the two cannot be separated. God's power is always given so that God's purpose can be fulfilled. The question, therefore, is not simply, ***"Have I been anointed?"*** but also, ***"Am I fulfilling the assignment God has given me?"***

LIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

If the Holy Spirit prepares us for our assignment, then we must remain under His influence.

Every believer has experienced the new birth and has received the Holy Spirit. However, the Christian life does not end there. Jesus promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit as God's

empowerment for service and witness (Acts 1:5, 8). Even after this experience, believers are commanded to ***"be filled with the Spirit"*** (Ephesians 5:18), pointing to a continual life of surrender to His leadership and control.

To live under the influence of the Holy Spirit means allowing Him to direct our thoughts, decisions, relationships, words, and actions. It means trusting His wisdom more than our own and following His leading even when we do not fully understand His ways (Proverbs 3:5-6). As my father in the Lord, Rev Dr John Idowu, often says, ***"The Holy Spirit is not an extra baggage."*** He is not an optional part of the Christian life. He is God's abiding presence in every believer, leading, strengthening, and enabling us to fulfil our assignment. Jesus said, ***"Without Me you can do nothing."*** (John 15:5). Paul also reminds us, ***"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*** (Romans 8:14). This shows us that spiritual maturity is seen not merely in the gifts we possess but, in our willingness, to be led by the Holy Spirit.

HOW, THEN, CAN WE REMAIN UNDER HIS INFLUENCE?

1. Live a surrendered life.

The Holy Spirit leads those who willingly submit to God. Surrender means placing our plans, ambitions, and desires under His authority. (Luke 22:42). Every believer must come to the place where ***"God's will"*** becomes more important than personal comfort or ambition.

2. Stay close to God.

The Holy Spirit speaks primarily through God's Word. As we pray, study the Scriptures, and spend time in God's presence, we become more familiar with His voice. (John 10:27). A

believer who neglects God's Word will struggle to recognise His leading.

3. Obey promptly.

Knowing God's will is not enough; we must act on it. (Acts 8:29–30). Philip's obedience opened the door for the gospel to reach another nation. Delayed obedience often becomes disobedience. Every step of obedience moves us closer to fulfilling God's purpose.

4. Depend on the Holy Spirit daily. (Zechariah 4:6)

The disciples understood this. Although they had learned from Jesus for over three years, they waited for the Holy Spirit before beginning their ministry. Their success came from His power, not their own ability.

From our study, we have seen that the anointing and the assignment cannot be separated. God anoints His people because He has a work for them to do. He prepares them, empowers them, and sends them to accomplish His will.

The challenge before us is not simply to desire the anointing but to embrace the assignment. As we live under the influence of the Holy Spirit, He will guide us, strengthen us, and enable us to fulfil the purpose for which He has called us.

WALKING IN SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY WITHOUT STRIVING

■ PASTOR MRS BOSE AKINWANDE

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV) - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

INTRODUCTION

Walking in Spiritual Authority without striving can be defined as shifting from trying to earn victory to resting in the finished work of Christ. "Authority is the power or right to give orders or make decisions i.e a place of potency (power, force, strength) while striving is to labor, toil, struggle, exert oneself, making an effort into achieving a goal".

It is the realization that your power does not come from human effort, struggling or labour but from a position of rest, identity and surrender in alignment with God. It is not about trying to force results or prove yourself, true authority flows from your relationship with God, your identity in Christ, and your obedience to His Word. Authority is conferred not earned. At new birth, you have believer's authority in Christ Jesus because you have found your identity. The name of Jesus is our identity

and all the authority given to Jesus automatically belong to us, we inherited it by grace.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Mark 16:17-18 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.

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 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

To take authority over negative circumstances or spiritual oppression comes from knowing Jesus and that whatever you allowed on earth shall be allowed in heaven, your words respond to you. Speak the word in boldness and not in defeat and fear because striving often looks like panic or overly fixated on the darkness. A person who is already dead to the world and alive in Christ cannot be intimidated by spiritual darkness again. Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Therefore, as you go in this year of the Lord Favour, knowing who you are in Christ Jesus will deliver you from striving while

exercising your authority, taking your place and laying hold on what the works of redemption has brought for you. You must have the understanding that you are blessed in order to walk in reality of it, you must know that you have an authority before you will not strive. Your daily life is no longer powered by your own human efforts but by the presence of Christ dwelling inside of you. You can now only use the authority of Jesus since your old self had died and you have been united with Him. Also knowing who you are in Christ Jesus shifts your prayers from desperate begging to confident declarations of truth. Eph 1:15-23. Our eyes of understanding must be enlightened for us to take our place in Christ Jesus because It doesn't matter if you have a thing, if you do not know you have it, you cannot make use of it.

Let Us Consider These Seven Keys We Need To Know

1. We have an Inheritance of power in Christ Jesus, we shift from 'striving' to 'resting': Eph 1:11, Col 1:12-13, Rom 8:15-17, Eph 2:6

Many believers operate as though they have to fight for victory, rather than fighting from a place of established victory. For instance, the striving mindset is "I have to fast harder, pray longer and worry enough to get God to move while the Authority mindset is "Christ has already defeated this obstacle, I am simply enforcing His victory." God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places.

2. Know Your Identity: we were Baptized and became Beneficiary of His authority. Rom 6:3-4, Luke 10:19, Col 2:10-15 Spiritual authority is not something you generate, it is something you received, and it comes from sonship not from self-effort. Jesus has given believers authority over the power of the enemy, When you understand your identity as God's child, you do not need to strive for recognition or power. Just

like a police officer directing traffic doesn't stop cars using his own physical strength but using the government authority. You operate in the name and authority of the ultimate King delegated power because we were made alive together with Christ and saved by grace. So, know who you are in Christ Jesus.

3. Exercise your Authority: Luke 4:18-19, Math 28:18-20, Eph 6:10, 1Pet 2:9.

Exercising your authority doesn't require loud, frantic pleading, it requires speaking God's word with peace and conviction over your life, family, or situation. Speak God's word with faith, it is not shouting louder rather it is agreeing with what God has said, declaring His promises with confidence, knowing that His word carries power. When faced with a trial, speak the promises of God over it, engage in intercessory prayer to invite the Holy Spirit into the situation instead of trying to fix everything in your own limited, human strength. You are a talking spirit, speak blessings to your life, speak to the situations you are facing and they will bow to you.

4. Submission to Authority: James 4:7, Heb 13:17.

You cannot effectively wield authority if you are not submitted to God's authority yourself. Submission in the spiritual realm means aligning your will with His. When you submit your thoughts, your anxieties, and your plans to God, you gain spiritual backing. Walk in obedience and humility is exercised through submission to God. "Humility attracts God's grace and keeps us from relying on Ourselves.

5. Let Worship be your Warfare: Ps 149:1-9, Matthew 21:15-16, Psalm 22:3, Bible says God inhabits the praises of His people.

His manifest presence leaves no room for darkness, fear, or oppression to thrive.

Worship brings your focus back to the One who holds all power, naturally shrinking your problems down to a smaller size. It makes you Stay Connected to God. Jesus said, ***"apart from me, you can do nothing"*** (John 15:5). Prayer, Worship and Meditation on Scripture keep you abiding in Him and take your gaze away from your situations because focusing on the works of the enemy gives the darkness more influence in your mind while focusing on Jesus shifts the atmosphere. Like our father in the Lord used to say *"activate God's presence always by worshiping and listening to spirit filled songs"* it brings down God's presence. Authority is the fruit of intimacy with God not activity.

6. Rest in the Finished Work of Christ: Eph 1:7, Act 17:28a, Col 1:16-20

Jesus has already won the victory, we do not fight for victory but from victory. Striving often comes from fear, insecurity or trying to earn what God has already provided by grace. Resting in the finished works of Christ is not about trying to force results or prove yourself, it is a true authority that flows from your relationship with God, your identity in Christ, your obedience to God's word and your faith in the redemption work.

7. Be Led by the Holy Spirit: Rom 8:14, Gal 5:25 says ***"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit"***.

Allowing God's inner promptings to guide your daily actions by having an unexplainable peace during a crisis or feeling a sudden urge of check on the inside when you are about to do a thing. Not every battle requires intense effort. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom on when to speak, when to pray, when to wait and when to act and letting you choosing patience over anger. Spiritual authority works best in partnership with Him.

How do we walk in Spiritual Authority

- 1. Alignment with God:** You walk in authority when your thoughts, words, and actions line up with God's. Living consistently with your believing in God helps you aligned with Him. Maintaining an unbroken relationship with God, do what Jesus will do in the face of trials and avoid habits that dull your spiritual discernment. John 15:4-5
- 2. Speak with Boldness:** Jesus said to the storm "Be still", He didn't negotiate. You address fear, sickness, chaos, doubt, e.t.c. directly. Authority is about refusing to let fear, doubt, or offense control you. You exercise faith, not fear, speak God's promises with confidence. Confession becomes Possession. (2 Tim 1:7, Rom 10:9-10)
- 3. Absolute Trust in God's Word:** Trusting in God's Word gives you Rest. Jesus already won. You only need to enforce your victory over satan. When you are striving, you're trying to be the Savior. Authority doesn't panic when you have absolutely trust in God's word then you rest your mind, your mouth and your mood. (Hebrews 4:11, Prov 3:5)
- 4. Walk in Obedience:** Following God's guidance rather than merely personal impulses. A life surrendered to God strengthens spiritual confidence.

Obedience keeps your heart aligned with His will. (1 Sam 15:22)

Note:- As you go in this year of the Lord, know that Freedom is yours, Dominion and Power are yours, Jesus has already paid the price! You are seated with Christ then start acting from that place. Where in your life right now do you feel powerless? That's the exact place God wants you to exercise authority. You are in charge take your place.

WHEN GOD OPENS A DOOR: RECOGNIZING DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES

▪ PASTOR ABEL EKEYI

Aim: To know when God opens a door and embrace it, for a promising life of favour and blessings in God.

Objective: To practice or act on the conditions and terms required to attract favour for life and destiny from God.

INTRODUCTION

God wants His children to be vibrant, productive and sharp with the discovery of opportunities from the realm of the spirit. Prov.20: 13. God is a specialist in opening unique doors with peculiar treasures. Isa. 45:2-3. The believers must see and hear what the lord has packaged for their blessings and favour. Ps. 5:12, prov. 22:6. We must be sensitive to know doors opened by God or devil. 1john 4:1.

AN OPEN DOOR.

An open door refers to an opportunity provided by God for advancement, service, growth and the fulfilment of His divine purpose. (1cor.16:9) When God opens a door, no man can shut it. Rev. 3:8. When a door is opened, you must contend with the forces of darkness, to keep it as your own and possess your possession. Deut. 2:24, Obadiah 17. Doors opened by God will

be full of goodness, righteousness and truth. If against the truth, discard it. It works for the best of favour of God's children. Rom.8 28. God's love is unconditional John 3:16. But the blessings and favour of the Lord are conditional. Prov 22:29. Miracles are good but for crisis, it is only the blessing and favour of the Lord that is permanent. It establishes your triumph to become a source of favour to others. Gen.12:1-2.

RECOGNIZING DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES.

We know the things from God by the Spirit of God in us. 1cor. 2:12. They are spiritually packaged and can only be recognized by the spirit. 1cor.2:10. It is the glory of God to hide a treasure but it is the honour and favour of believers to discover them. Prov. 25:2. Whatever you don't discover can never become your own. The eyes that looks are common but the eyes that sees are rare. God asked Jeremiah and said, what did you see.. In other words, what did you discover. The lord said to Abraham, as far as your eyes can see, I will give you. Gen. 13:14-15.

According to my father in the lord, Rev Dr John O Idowu, ***"POOR means Passing Over Opportunities Repeatedly"***. Let your spiritual and physical eyes be widely open, for the opportunities from God. Prov. 20:13. Work out the opportunities for favour from the lord. Prov. 14:23. When you work on your discovery, you will have plenty of bread. Prov. 12:11.

KNOW THE GOD OF FAVOUR DEEPLY.

The measure of God you have, will determine the level of your exploit in life. Dan. 11:32. Your depth in God will command your height in life. Ps. 42:1-7. Know God personally at your own level. Hearing and preaching about God, is different from the experiential knowledge of God. Job 42:5.. understanding of

God brings favour to your life. Prov.13:15. Your greatest permanent and eternal asset is the knowledge and the presence of God. Luke 10:42.. The way of God leads to the flow of His acts of favour in your life. Know His way or the word to be connected to ceaseless flow of favour and blessings of the Lord. Ps. 103:7

WORK OUT THE OPPORTUNITIES.

Any opportunity discovered without a corresponding action becomes a day dream. You must attend to any assignment wholly before it can become a reality, profitable and fulfilling. 1tim. 4:15. Your heart and your hands must be engaged for its success. Jer .30:21, Eccl.,9:10. Give it all it takes for the best to be achieved. Matthew 13:44.

According to my father in the lord, Rev.Dr. John O Idowu, *"when you do the possible, God will do the impossible"*. God will not do for you supernaturally, what you are supposed to do naturally. Any faith that places all the responsibilities on God without your involvement, is fake and imbalanced. You must be diligent to rule in the affairs of life. Prov. 12:24. Trust in the Lord and allow His leading. Prov. 3:5-6. Work as if it all depends on you, pray as if it all depends on God. No food for a lazy man 2 Thess. 3:10.

RECOGNIZING THE TIME AND SEASON OF YOUR FAVOUR.

God operates with times and seasons for humanity. He lives outside time. Eccl.3:1. Time is the greatest currency of life. A time waster is a life waster. As you have opportunities, be conscious of the morning, afternoon and evening part of life. You don't have all the time. Make the most of what you have now. Eccl 3:17. Jesus said, I must do the work of Him that sent me while it is day, for night comes when no man can work. John

4:34. You may calculate the time by your age but season can disappear like a vapour. Guard and work jealously with time ,for meaning and impact around your life. Give God your best by taking advantage of the time you have now. Season do not announce its coming and it doesn't announce its departure. Beware.

DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE.

Every door opened by God and discovered by man is for a divine purpose. Isa. 46:10. According to my father in the lord, Rev. Dr. John O Idowu, "*purpose governs creation.*" Every assignment from God is for kingdom glory and honor. The will of God must be accomplished in any door opened. Heb. 10:7.

Any door opened must be a blessing and favour to humanity and you. Gen. 12:1-2. God can place you in any location as a door or sign for others to come to God. Isa. 8:18. Moses, Joseph, Daniel and others became doors for favour, freedom and deliverance for their generations. Matthew 5:16. When you don't know the purpose of your life as a door, you will close the door against many people. 1cor.4:9. May your life and assignment be favour magnet for others in Jesus name. Amen.

SEEKING THE WELFARE OF OTHERS ATTRACTS FAVOUR.

The favour of God that follows opportunities is not cheap or automatic. Love is unconditional but blessings and favour are conditional. John 3:16, prov.22:29. The grace of God released upon you is always a dispensation for others. Phil.1:7, Eph.3:2.

In the scheme of the Lord's favour, it is not for the self-centered believers. It is for those who will seek the welfare of others. Esther 10:3.

"Whatever you make happen for others, God will make happen for you"- Mike Murdock.

"The best way to find your self is to lose yourself in the service of God and man "- Ghandi.

Jesus said the greatest among you is the one that serves. Matthew 20:27. Take people to the top where you wants to go and you will get there sweatlessly, In Jesus' Name. Amen.

You must be sensitive and prayerful to recognize opportunities, hold it by faith and obedience and sustain it by wisdom and diligence.

THE PRICE OF SUSTAINED FAVOUR

■ PASTOR MAYOWA OLUBUDE

"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." (Exo 33:13 NIV)

"For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with shield." (Ps 5:12 KJV)

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."
- (Lk 2:52 KJV)*

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

PRICE: Price refers to the sacrifice, value, cost required to obtain something

SUSTAIN: It means to support, uphold, maintain, preserve, or keep something going

FAVOUR: It refers to gracious kindness and blessing upon a person, causing them to receive help, acceptance, promotion, protection, or success.

INTRODUCTION

It is one thing to activate God's favour and entirely another to sustain it. Every believer is already positioned in Christ to walk in God's favour but they need to know what it takes to operate under perpetual divine favour. Inability to sustain God's favour is the reason for rising and falling in life. Favour that remains, grows, and continues throughout life comes with responsibilities and spiritual requirements. In the bible God grants favour freely by his grace because by nature he is the

fountain of endless mercy and grace, yet there are postures, attitudes and practices that helps believers to walk continually in that favour. The prayer in Exo 33:13 was the request of Moses when he discovered that God was pleased with him. Of all the things Moses could have asked for, he asked to know God and to continue to find favour with God.

The verse of scripture reveals that favour with God comes at a cost, the cost of knowing God. Even though it would look like the person being favored contributes nothing to receiving it; yes it is possible to stumble into favour with God as God uses his goodness to call our attention to him (Rom 2:4), but to remain favoured, one must reciprocate his love and also be favourably disposed towards his ways (Jn 3:16; 1 cor 2:9; 1Jn 4:19).

Knowing the ways of God leads to a consistent experience of favour. While stumbling into God's favour is possible, maintaining it necessitates understanding and following his ways consistently. While a one time favour might occur by chance, sustaining a favour-filled relationship with God demands intentional efforts to align with his desires. It is easier for a person who knows the lord to receive favour than one who does not know the lord. Just as it is easier to support or help someone you are pleased with than the person you are not pleased with.

God favours those who learn his ways and endeavor to live a life pleasing to him. All the men in the old testament who obtained favour from God or men did so by doing something in faith their master liked. When Jesus was favoured by God, men also favoured him. Therefore favour with men is an extension of favour with God. In this study, we will explore the prices for sustaining God's favour in your life as a believer.

1. The Price of Righteous Living

God's favour rests upon those who seek to live according to His will.

"For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield." — Psalms 5:12

A life of compromise may hinder the manifestation of God's favour. Sustained favour requires:

- Obedience to God's Word
- Integrity of character
- Holiness in conduct
- Consistency in faith

Examples: Joseph and Daniel

Joseph - Joseph enjoyed God's favour in prison, in Potiphar's house, and in the palace because he maintained integrity despite temptation and suffering. (Gen 39:9)

Daniel- The life of Daniel is a powerful example of righteousness, integrity, wisdom and sustained divine favour, He served faithfully under multiple kings and remained blameless despite intense scrutiny from his enemies

Daniel served under four kings:

1. King Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel was taken to Babylon during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II.

"And Daniel continued even unto first year of King Cyrus (Dan 1:21)

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dreams and was promoted to a high position. (Dan 2:48)

2. King Belshazzar: During the reign of Belshazzar, Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall. (Daniel 5:29)

3. King Darius: under king Darius the medes, Daniel distinguished himself above all other officials. (Daniel 6:3)

4. King Cyrus: Daniel also served during the reign of cyrus the great. (Dan 6:28)

2. The Price of Humility

Pride repels favour, while humility attracts it. *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."* — James 4:6

Many receive favour but lose it through arrogance. Sustained favour demands:

- Dependence on God
- Recognition that every blessing comes from Him
- Refusal to exalt oneself above others.

Moses: Despite his great calling, Moses remained humble, and God's favour rested upon him throughout his ministry. (Num 12:3, Exo 33:5, Exo 32:32)

3. The Price of Prayer

Favour is maintained through communion with God. *"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."* — Luke 18:1

Prayer:

- Keeps the believer connected to God.
- Opens doors that human effort cannot open.
- Preserves divine opportunities.

A prayerless believer may enjoy temporary favour but struggle to sustain it.

4. The Price of Wisdom

Favour flourishes where wisdom operates. *"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD."* — Proverbs 8:35

Wisdom teaches:

- When to speak and when to remain silent.
- How to manage opportunities.
- How to relate with people.

Many lose favour through foolish decisions rather than spiritual attacks.

5. The Price of Faithfulness

God entrusts greater favour to those who are faithful with what they already have. *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."* — Luke 16:10

Faithfulness involves:

- Diligence in assignments
- Commitment to responsibilities
- Reliability in service

Example: David

David was faithful as a shepherd before becoming king. His sustained favour was built upon years of faithfulness. (Act 13:32)

6. The Price of Good Relationships

Favour is often expressed through people.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." — Luke 2:52

To sustain favour:

- Treat people with respect.
- Avoid unnecessary conflicts.
- Walk in love and forgiveness.
- Build trust and credibility.

Many pray for favour but destroy relationships through bitterness, pride, or dishonesty.

7. The Price of Patience

God's favour often unfolds progressively.

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time." — Habakkuk 2:3

Impatience can lead to:

- Wrong decisions
- Premature actions
- Missed opportunities

Those who enjoy sustained favour learn to wait for God's timing.

8. The Price of Sacrifice

Throughout Scripture, men and women who experienced enduring favour were willing to sacrifice. Examples include:

- Abraham leaving his homeland.
- Esther risking her life for her people.
- The apostles leaving everything to follow Christ.

Sustained favour may require: Time, Comfort, Resources, Personal ambitions for the sake of God's purpose.

9. The Price of Gratitude

Thanksgiving preserves favour.

"In everything give thanks." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

A grateful heart:

- Recognizes God's hand.
- Prevents pride.
- Invites greater blessings.

Complaining often blinds people to the favour already surrounding them.

10. The Ultimate Price: Total Surrender to God

The highest secret of sustained favour is surrender.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5

When a believer completely yields to God:

- God's wisdom guides decisions.
- God's power sustains progress.
- God's favour accompanies every season of life.

CONCLUSION

Sustained favour is more than occasional blessings or open doors. It is a continuous experience of God's goodness that rests upon a life of righteousness, humility, prayer, wisdom, faithfulness, patience, gratitude, and complete surrender to God.

STEWARDED PROPHETIC WORDS UNTIL FULFILLMENT

■ PASTOR EMMANUEL SAMUEL

*"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.
1 Thessalonians 5:20-21"*

*"Do not scorn or reject gifts of prophecy or prophecies (spoken revelations
---words of instruction or exhortations or warning). But test all things
carefully (so you can recognize what is good). Hold firmly to that which
is good. 1Thessalonoians 5:20-21 AMP"*

God is a talking God and He does speak to people in different ways so that we can understand Him. In the Old Testament, God primarily communicated with His people through His prophets, divine messengers or angels and physical manifestations like dreams and visions etc. Then, prophecy was mainly a message from God delivered through a chosen spokesperson (the prophet) and it also included predicting the future (it was foretelling), its core purpose was to reveal God's will, correct moral injustices and call people back to a faithful relationship with Him. - In the New Testament, prophecy is the supernatural utterance of the Holy Spirit in a known tongue. It is forthtelling based on 1Cor. 14:3. This is meant to speak directly to people for edification (building up), exhortation(encouragement), and comfort. Under grace

dispensation, prophecy is not adding to scripture or making new doctrine. It is the Spirit bringing light to what Christ has already done. ***Revelation 19:10... ..for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.***

When God speaks prophetic words over a person, church, community or nation, He is looking for something, that is, a response from us. He is looking for our trust, faith and cooperation for those prophetic words to come to pass. He is looking for us to steward well the words He gives us. There are some prophetic words that are sovereign and will happen no matter what, like the birth, death, burial, resurrection and the coming of Jesus while there are some prophetic words that involve the cooperation of mankind in some ways.

Stewarding prophetic words refers to the active, ongoing process of nurturing, protecting and partnering with a divine revelation or spoken promises to ensure they come to pass rather than treating prophecy as a passive prediction. The word (steward) in 1Peter 4:10 and in Greek means “*oikonomos*”—manager of another's property. A prophetic word is God's property entrusted to us; it means protect, nurture, obey and do not bury it, it is our responsibility to manage and administer the word to come to pass in our lives. As a believer, you must know what has been said about your life. Do you believe that this is your **“YEAR OF GOD'S FAVOUR”**?

Luke 4:17” And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,”

In verses 18 and 19 of Luke chapter four, Jesus knew what was said by Prophet Isaiah about Him and quoted it from Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage from the prophet Isaiah was written down

around 700 years before Jesus was born and it was fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Jesus opened the book, searched what was written about him some years ago and found it. He believed, read and said it.

So how do we treat a prophetic word? Are there steps and keys to follow for it to happen? Sometimes I wish there were but no, there is no formula that will guarantee prophetic words to be fulfilled. Each prophetic word must be weighed and acted on according to God's instructions and God's time.

How To Properly Process and Steward Prophetic Words

- a) Weigh it. 1John 4:1; 1Samuel 2:3
- b) Receive it. Matthew 10:40-41
- c) Believe it. Luke 1:35-38; Romans 4:20-21
- d) Write it down. Habakkuk 2:2
- e) Confess it. Hebrews 4:14
- f) Wait on it. Hebrews 11:17-19; Habakkuk 2:3
- g) Watch over it. Habakkuk 2:2-3
- h) Walk towards it. Philippians 3:13-14

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time but at the end it shall speak and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry” - Habakkuk 2:4

Let us Consider These Biblical Case Studies:

1. Virgin Mary; Luke 2:19, 51

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart”

She received three major words: Angel Gabriel Luke 1:31-33, Simeon Luke 2:34-35, 12-year-old Jesus Luke 2:49. She didn't announce them. She stewarded them for 30 years in silence until the cross and resurrection fulfilled them. Lesson: Some words are for the *“storage room of your heart”*, not your mouth.

2. Joseph; Genesis 37:5-10 → Genesis 41:39-41 → Genesis 45:5-7
Dream at 17 years old → Prison/pit at 18-30 years old →
Prime Minister at 30 years old. 13 years of test that looked like
delay.

Stewarding looked like: Forgiving brothers, serving
Potiphar faithfully, interpreting dreams in prison without
bitterness. The pit tested if he'd steward character while
waiting for the crown.

3. Timothy; 1 Timothy 1:18

*"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to
the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them
mightiest war a good warfare"*

Prophetic words are not just encouragement. They're
ammunition. Paul told Timothy: use the word as a sword
against fear, distraction, false teaching.

4. The 3 Chokers in the parable of the Sower - Luke 8:14

*"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they
have heard, go forth and are choked with cares and riches and
pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to perfection"*

Jesus said the word gets choked by: 1. Cares/worries 2.
Riches 3. Pleasures of life.

Stewarding means weeding the soil of your heart

Biblical Principles of Stewarding Prophetic Words Until
Fulfilment

1. Record: Hab 2:2 *"Write it on tablets"* If it's not written, it will
be reversed by memory/doubt

2. Test: 1Thess 5:20-21 *"Test all things"* and Deut 18:22 Check:
Does it exalt Christ? John 16:14. Does it agree with Scripture?
2 Tim 3:16

3. **Guard:** Prov 4:23 *"Guard your heart"* and Matt 7:6 *"Don't cast pearls before swine"*

Not every word is for public sharing. Premature exposure can kill it

4. **Obey the "now" part:** 1 Sam 15:22 "Obedience is greater than sacrifice" Total obedience is very important

5. **Declare it:** Rom 4:17 "Calls things not as though they were" and Ezekiel 37:4 "Prophecy to the bones"

Agreement with God keeps faith alive. Speak the word back to God.

6. **Wait with hope:** Heb 6:12 "Through faith and patience inherit promises"

Key Takeaways for Bible Students

1. **Delay is development, not denial:** The word won't mature you unless the wait does. God is more committed to your character than your calendar.
2. **Stewardship protects the word from you:** Your unbelief, impatience, and wrong motives are the biggest threats. Hab 2:4 "The just shall live by faith" Always trust in God.
3. **Fulfilment is cooperative:** God decrees, but man declares. Ezekiel had to prophesy before bones lived. Your voice + God's word = manifestation. Ezekiel 37:10
4. **The Word must become flesh in you first:** John 1:14. Before the promise manifests "out there", Christ must be formed "in you" Gal 4:19.

The Year of the Lord's Favour

Annual

NOJC 2026
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Marriage, Family & Relationships School

RAISING PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHILDREN IN A CONFUSED GENERATION

▪ PASTOR C. T. OLUWADARE

Objectives of this Seminar session are to:

- *Identify and explain the traits of the confused generation*
- *Provide an understanding of purpose-driven children*
- *Explain the gains and pains of purpose-driven children training*
-

Share responsibilities to ensure children are guided and supported for a purpose-driven child-life and later life, especially as members of the Kingdom of God.

At the end of this study, participants, both parents, single and married youth, and children would have the impacted wisdom and understanding in committing to purpose-driven child training and later life. This will cause believers to access and harness supernatural favours from God and people.

INTRODUCTION

From the ages and in all societies, families have been given the primary responsibility to train, nurture, and support children so that society can be in a highly sought-after state of peace and in development; be disciplined, hardworking, wise, respectful, and supportive of their other subpopulations and elders.

Prov: 22: 6. Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

This is not exclusive to Christians or believers in the teaching and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Traditional, modern, and contemporary societies do this in various methods, which include home training of morals, transmission of values, laws, punishments and positive reward system. The contents vary from culture to culture and historical period. These family responsibility is increasingly being shared with other societal institutions like the schools, correctional services like the prisons, children rehabilitation centres, public media services, religious centres, and network of peer groups.

A society's quality of life (health and security, food, work and employment, prosperity, child literacy) is a direct function of the quality of training given to its children. Nigeria has one of the lowest quality of life in the world, especially in the 2026 World Happiness Report. Remember Christians constitute about 45% of Nigeria population (about 230 million people), the highest in Africa, and Pentecostal/Charismatic/Evangelical Christians make 51% of the Christian population (Wikipedia 2026).

THE CONTEXT OF CONFUSED GENERATION

Hosea 4: 1-6; 2 Tim 3: 1-7; Acts 2: 17;

1. Moral/social reality versus the faith of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. Social training and family trainings
3. The Gen Zs generation: Fads, fashion, how they do it is how we should it, crowd pulling, attention seeking, then heaven-focused by the church and Christian families and children play along
4. Left alone Kids with gadgets, school friends, neighbor friends, and unbelieving uncles and aunties by career and business burdened parents, and churchy believers.

5. Child's Rights/Liberty versus Christian Values
6. CableTv, Android, iphone dependent and addicted children
7. Negative influence of Entertainment and leisure (sports, music, betting, online surfing, drama and theatres)
8. Online role modelling, friends and followership overriding the reality of quality human relationship
9. Fast lane approach to life and prosperity versus Gal 5:22.
10. Parental pretense of ICT modernity because they have phones while their children are far above them in the application of the same, no monitoring, no control, no time, but abdication of responsibility to school teachers, church Pastors and Youth Leader

All the issues above are not absolutely bad; some are realities that parents and the church must apply wisdom to turn to positive use in the training and development of children and adolescents. We cannot stop the use of ICT, social media, phones, in and out of the family setting, within the church, and or in schools, but they must be monitored, guided and children must have access to sincere communication about their use. Raising successful children must marry purposeful child training in all areas.

ECCL: 12: 1(NLT). *Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your creator. Honour him in your youth before you grow old and no longer enjoy living.*

It is the duty of parents to make children be attuned with God, Jesus Christ, and the Scriptures so when they get to the youth age, they won't forget them, as we have been told, Oun teye baje leye maa gbefo (Birds fly with whatever they have eaten). Children are supposed to be with their parents mostly

spiritually, physically bonding with them, be used to them, and imbibing their teachings. At youth age, they may not be physically with them, like David, Samuel, Josiah, Joseph, and Moses, but they will remember the good cultural, spiritual, and moral heritage imbibed from their parents and the church.

PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHILDREN

Purpose means intent, desire, design of a product, a creation, or a plan or action (Charles F. Pfeiffer 2014). Children are products of the Almighty God to parents, so they can be trained to manifest the purpose or the original intention of their giving to the world.

Children belong to God in the first place: Ps 127: 3-5 (MSG), Don't you see that children are GOD's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They shall not be ashamed. But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Remember 1 Pet 2: 9 and Jer 29:11.

Sarah understood this, and she did everything possible to protect Isaac from the strange woman and Ishmail.

Jochebed understood this, and she risked her life and that of entire family to hide Baby Moses and her identity in order to be able to breastfeed and wean Moses

Hannah understood this and she made a covenant with God to release Samuel to serve God rather than pamper him

Mary the mother of Jesus Christ released Jesus Christ to fulfil his destiny as revealed to the family, yet they trained him

The parents of Samson tried their best but their best was not enough to sustain him in his youthful age

Jesse would have sensed that David was a peculiar child with his boldness and confidence and he trained him to be a great warrior exposing to risk-taking and fighting to survive, until he became a King.

Lois the grandmother and Eunice, the mother of Timothy, had testimony of faith in training their son in the way of the Lord.

Adam and Eve were driven out of their divinely ordained habitat due to rebellion and the twos had divided mindset outside the Garden, they still could not unite to train Cain and Abel to have a common front to serve God honourably.

Also Isaac and Rebekkah did not have one voice to train Jacob and Esau. Esau missed it in life and Jacob suffered for it until he encountered God personally and God turned him to Israel.

The banditry, kidnappings, armed robbery attacks, Almajiris becoming a norm in Northern Nigeria and coming to Southern parts are products of wrong parenting, disunited homes, and religiosity not addressing the spiritual needs of children. So verse 5 of Psalm 127 is manifesting in the reverse at the household, community and national levels.

But thank God for children dedicated to God and parents using godly principles to nurture and train their children. God said to them:

"I will teach all your children, citizens, and their prosperity will be great" (Isaiah 54:11 NLT)

Parents have priority to ensure this purpose of God manifest in the lives of their children

WISDOM FOR PURPOSE-DRIVEN TRAINING OF OUR CHILDREN

1. Provide a biblical path and biblical lens for doing things, ask questions to probe about the wisdom and understanding of God about life and family experiences. Do not leave them to world view.
2. Let them be sure of the plan and programme of God for their lives. Redirect them to choose a Role model from the Bible point of view
3. Be interested about who your child's friend and companion circle is in school and in neighborhoods.
4. Watch, observe and key early into the flair and passion of your children, engage them also not only in church activities (prayer meetings, bible study) but also music, craft, sports, school competitions. David was already a flute/trumpet player, a shepherd, and an hunter from childhood. What is your child good to do beyond, go to school, go to church?. The church can also be a fertile ground for these trainings.
5. Parents should be first role model to their children. Stop the mindset of directing them to the Pastors! What about you, parents are the first pastor of their children. It is a mark of failing yourself in the assessment scale not to make yourself the role model for your children. Role modelling in:

- Family altar
 - Friendliness
 - Gracious words
 - Forgiveness, not nagging, not abusive
 - Be angry, but sin not
 - Fruits of the spirit generally
 - Correction without damaging their self esteem
6. Declare to them and to yourself what you see in them/ the children in the name of Jesus. Jeremiah 1: 4-12. But let it start from the name given to them at birth.
7. Follow you to serve God, don't leave them behind and on their own. Homework/ Assignments can be done in Church!! Ps 92: 13; those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Let us imbibe the meaning of **P.A.R.E.N.T** in our daily responsibilities with our Children:

P= Provide not only financial and educational needs of your children but very importantly the spiritual needs

A= Affirm what you believe God for concerning your children and work towards it spiritually and practically in their character building

R= Refine, reaffirm, and redirect where necessary the habits of your children. This is whole essence of discipline mostly using words laden with grace and wisdom, testimony of the bible and true life experiences that children can relate with. Reward them step by step. Redirect them from any unacceptable soul tie with strange friends, toys, play stations, TV shows etc.

E= Engage with the children, empathy, not condemnation.

Good parenting is not to project yourself as Mr or Mrs Perfect, with no failure path, but God did it, and we are still divine work in process. Give them hope and faith with Love. Ask them questions to arouse boldness and confidence. I know you can do this, is that not true? You can perform better than this, what do you want me to do to help you do it? Provide practical support, but not in indulgence. A primary school child does not need an android phone to be taken to school. Neither do they need this phone alone on their bedroom to sleep with it.

N=Nurture the kids and children. You cannot take them on the roads you yourself dare not go or you have not gone. A role model, is a person who have performed a role, and ready to be read and train others about how to perform the same role for a better result. Spiritually and morally, you are the first role model.

T=Target setting, open their eyes and mind to what they can be without playing god in their lives. They must be educated, be ready to pay the price for quality education towards a path. They must serve God and support them on this path. Give them a reason to aspire while affirm Prov 3:5-7 and Psalm 25:4-5 and the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ, *“Not my will but Let your will be done”*

Break gender barrier in house chores and responsibilities from infancy to schooling and career choice.

Give them age specific assignment or it becomes abuse. Make them grow with responsibilities.

Conclusion

Be reminded all children belongs to God and you will give account of what, how, when and where you lead them to. They are God's gift in your care. Make a commitment to God and receive the wisdom to do all that required to succeed in raising a purpose-driven children for the Kingdom of God and blessings to humanity as their primary, care-giver, commander, coach, and intercessor. With this, divine favours increasingly attend our ways as parents and grandparents, and even as children, to adolescents, to youth, and adults to aged.

BREAKING NEGATIVE FAMILY PATTERNS AND CYCLES

▪ PASTOR EMMANUEL OLASEBIKAN

INTRODUCTION

Negative family patterns and cycles are repeated evil occurrences, weaknesses, struggles, sins, delays, afflictions, or limitations that move from one generation to another. These are often referred to as generational curses.

A curse is the opposite of a blessing. While a blessing empowers a person or family to prosper, succeed, and fulfil divine purpose, a curse works to afflict, limit, frustrate, and bring sorrow.

However, the good news is that through Jesus Christ, every curse can be broken, and every negative family cycle can be stopped.

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ.

THE ORIGIN OF BLESSINGS AND CURSES

The blessing came before the curse. In the beginning, God blessed mankind. God's original intention for man was blessing, fruitfulness, dominion, multiplication, and fulfilment. Genesis 1:27-28 - *So God created man in his own image... And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply...*

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered the world, and curses followed. God cursed the serpent, pronounced sorrow and pain upon the woman, and cursed the ground for Adam's sake.

Genesis 3:14-19 - This passage records the judgement after the fall: the serpent was cursed, sorrow and pain entered the human experience, and the ground was cursed for Adam's sake. From that time, mankind began to experience pain, toil, struggle, sorrow, broken family order, and death. The devil was cursed to eat dust, and since man was formed from the dust, this shows the devil's interest in attacking mankind.

Genesis 2:7 - *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground...*

WHAT ARE NEGATIVE FAMILY PATTERNS?

Negative family patterns are recurring problems that appear in a family line. They may manifest as:

- repeated failure at the edge of breakthrough;
- prolonged delay in marriage, childbirth, or destiny fulfilment;
- repeated sicknesses or premature death;
- poverty, debt, or financial hardship;
- divorce, broken homes, or family disorder;

- persistent addiction or sexual immorality;
- anger, violence, bitterness, or unforgiveness;
- mysterious afflictions without natural explanation.

A negative family cycle becomes dangerous when it continues from one generation to another without being confronted spiritually.

Exodus 20:5-6 - God warns that iniquity can affect generations, but He also shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments.

CAUSES OF GENERATIONAL CURSES AND NEGATIVE PATTERNS

A. Disobedience to God

Disobedience is the root of curses. When people reject God's commandments, they open doors to spiritual consequences. Deuteronomy 28:15 - *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God... that all these curses shall come upon thee...*

Obedience brings blessing, but disobedience sustains curses. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God... all these blessings shall come on thee.

B. Wickedness and Shedding of Blood

The story of Cain shows that wickedness and the shedding of innocent blood can bring a curse. Genesis 4:8-12 - Cain killed Abel, and the ground was cursed against him.

Bloodshed, violence, murder, oppression, and wickedness can create spiritual consequences that affect families.

C. Returning Evil for Good

When people repay kindness with wickedness, it can bring judgement. Proverbs 17:13 - Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

D. Dishonour to Parents and Authority

God places importance on honour. Dishonouring parents or higher authorities can open the door to trouble. Exodus 20:12 - Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long... Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord... Honour thy father and mother...

E. Negative Pronouncements from Authority

Words spoken by parents, leaders, or spiritual authorities during pain, anger, or sorrow can affect destinies. Jabez is an example of someone whose name carried sorrow.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 - Jabez prayed that God would bless him, enlarge his coast, keep him from evil, and God granted his request.

This means negative words can be overturned by prayer and divine intervention.

ENFORCERS OF NEGATIVE FAMILY CYCLES

A. The Justice System of God

God is righteous and just. Sin has consequences. Psalm 89:14 - Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne... When sin is not repented of, it can create legal grounds for affliction.

B. The Law of Recompense

Whatever a person sows, he will reap. Galatians 6:7 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth,

that shall he also reap. Families can suffer because of seeds sown by past generations, especially when the same sins continue.

C. Familiar and Demonic Spirits

Some evil patterns are sustained by familiar spirits and demonic powers. These spirits influence people to repeat the same sins and mistakes.

For example, a family may struggle with repeated adultery, anger, drunkenness, idolatry, or rebellion. These sins become like service lines that keep the negative cycle alive.

John 8:34 - *Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

Sin gives the enemy legal access. But obedience to God shuts the door.

MANIFESTATIONS OF GENERATIONAL CURSES

A. Unending Pain and Sorrow

Some families experience constant battles, grief, and disappointment. Psalm 34:19 - Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

B. Mysterious Evil Occurrences

There may be repeated accidents, losses, sicknesses, or failures that have no clear natural explanation.

C. Prolonged Delay

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all experienced delay in childbirth. Genesis 15:2-4 - Abraham cried to God because he had no child. Genesis 25:21 - Isaac prayed for Rebekah because she was barren. Genesis 30:1-2 - Rachel cried out because of barrenness. Delay can become a family pattern, but God can break it.

D. Loss of Control Over Specific Sins

When a particular sin keeps appearing in every generation, it may be a sign of a family pattern. Examples include sexual immorality, anger, addiction, lying, pride, or rebellion.

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you...

Through Christ, sin can lose its power.

A curse cannot continue without a legal ground. When the legal ground is removed, the curse loses power. Proverbs 26:2 - The curse causeless shall not come. This means a curse without a cause cannot stand. If a person lives in repentance, faith, and obedience to God, generational curses cannot continue over that life.

Christ has paid the price for sin and curses. Therefore, the believer has legal authority to reject every curse through the finished work of Jesus. Colossians 2:14-15 - Jesus blotted out the handwriting against us and triumphed over principalities and powers.

HOW TO BREAK NEGATIVE FAMILY PATTERNS AND CYCLES

A. Through Prayer

Breaking curses requires serious, consistent, and faith-filled prayer.

Types of prayer include:

- 1. Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Thank God for redemption, mercy, and victory in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In every thing give thanks...
- 2. Prayer of Faith:** Stand in faith and use your authority in Christ to bind and loose. Matthew 18:18 - Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven...

3. **Prayer of Supplication:** Pray earnestly for yourself and other believers who are struggling with negative patterns. Philippians 4:6 - By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
4. **Prayer of Intercession:** Stand in the gap for family members and others who may not understand the spiritual battle. Ezekiel 22:30 - God looked for a man to stand in the gap.
5. **Praying in the Spirit:** Pray in tongues and allow the Holy Spirit to help you pray about unknown matters. Romans 8:26 - The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities... Jude 1:20 - Building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.
Prayer must continue until it becomes a lifestyle. Luke 18:1 - Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

B. Through Understanding Your Legal Rights in Christ

Believers must understand that Jesus has already dealt with sin, judgement, and curses on the cross. Galatians 3:13 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...

When praying, build your case on the Word of God. Declare that the curse cannot continue because the sin that gave it power has been judged in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 43:26 - Put me in remembrance: let us plead together...

C. Through Purity and Obedience

Prayer without obedience will not bring lasting victory. Obedience is necessary to stop the continuity of negative patterns. Isaiah 1:19 - If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Obedience must be ongoing, especially in the specific area connected to the family pattern. If the family pattern is sexual immorality, there must be purity. If it is dishonour, there must be honour. If it is greed, there must be contentment and generosity.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submission to God comes before resisting the devil.

D. Through Service Unto God

One major way to break generational curses is through genuine service to God. Since previous generations may have served sin, idols, or the devil, God may raise one person in the family who becomes fully sold out to Him.

Joshua 24:15 - As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Service shows a change of allegiance. It means, *"This family line will no longer serve darkness; we will serve the Lord."* Sometimes God demands a higher level of loyalty from one person in the family in order to end the negative cycle.

E. Through Restitution Where Necessary

There are times when the Holy Spirit may lead a person or family to make restitution. This may include apologising, returning what was stolen, correcting wrongs, or reconciling with people. Luke 19:8-9 - Zacchaeus made restitution, and Jesus declared salvation over his house.

Restitution must be led by the Holy Spirit and done in wisdom.

F. Through the Name of Jesus

Every spiritual battle must be handled under the authority of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:9-11 - At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow. The name of Jesus is higher than every curse, demon, pattern, and family altar.

G. Through the Blood of Jesus

The blood of Jesus speaks better things than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:24 - The blood of sprinkling speaks better things than that of Abel. The blood of Jesus silences accusations, cleanses sin, and breaks legal claims of darkness.

Revelation 12:11 - *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...*

H. Through the Word of God

The Word of God is the foundation for deliverance. Every prayer must be based on Scripture. John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.

I. Through Communion

Communion reminds us of the finished work of Christ. It is a spiritual declaration that we are partakers of the body and blood of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - Through communion, believers proclaim the Lord's death and enforce the victory of the cross.

God can use one person to end a family cycle. Whenever God wants to break a negative family cycle, He often raises one person who will stand for Him.

1. Abraham

God called Abraham out of his father's house and began a new covenant line through him. Genesis 12:1-3 - God promised to bless Abraham and make him a blessing.

2. Joseph

Joseph broke patterns of hatred, betrayal, and family dysfunction by walking in purity, forgiveness, and divine purpose. Genesis 50:20 - Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good...

3. Jabez

Jabez refused to continue in sorrow. He prayed, and God changed his story. 1 Chronicles 4:10 - Jabez called on the God of Israel, and God granted him that which he requested.

4. Gideon

God used Gideon to confront the altar of Baal in his father's house. Judges 6:25-26 - God instructed Gideon to throw down the altar of Baal and build an altar unto the LORD.

5. This shows that one surrendered person can become the channel through which God delivers a family.

SIGNS THAT A NEGATIVE CYCLE HAS BEEN BROKEN

When generational curses are broken, there will be visible changes. These may include:

- the repeated pattern stops;
- peace replaces fear and sorrow;
- sinful habits lose their control;
- delays are removed;
- family members begin to experience salvation and restoration;
- blessings begin to flow into the next generation;
- children are free from the battles of their parents.

Isaiah 10:27 - *The yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.*

Memory Verse

Galatians 3:13-14 - Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ...

Conclusion

Negative family patterns and cycles are real, but they are not greater than the power of God. Through the finished work of Christ, the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, prayer, obedience, purity, service, and the help of the Holy Spirit, every generational curse can be broken.

God is looking for one person in a family who will stand for Him. That person can become the beginning of a new story, a new pattern, and a new blessing for generations to come.

Joshua 24:15 - But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

NAVIGATING CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION IN RELATIONSHIP

▪ PASTOR FT ADELEYE

"So then, make it your top priority to live a life of peace with harmony in your relationships eagerly seeking to strengthen and encourage one another.--Rom 14.19 TPT.

That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God --Phil 1:10-11 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Navigating conflicts biblically means prioritizing peace, humility and reconciliation. The process centers on seeking God's wisdom addressing your own faults first and engaging in direct loving conversations. It requires moving past winning an argument to restoring unity. Conflict resolution in marriage requires active teamwork emotional regulation and clear communication.

In the bible, confrontation is not seen as an inherently destructive act, but rather as a necessary courageous step meant to reveal truth, address sin and ultimately restore relationships. Conflict and confrontation are guided by principles of humility,

love and truth. rather than malice or pride. The ultimate objective of confronting someone is to turn them from error and restore them to fellowship not to shame or humiliate them.

Followers of Christ are instructed to speak truthfully but in a spirit of gentleness and mercy Eph 4:15, Gal 6:1.

Jesus outlines the proper method in Mathew 18:15-17.

Approach the person privately first; if that fails bring a trusted party and as a last resort involve wider group to address predatory behavior. Key examples of confrontation

1. Nathan confronted David II Sam 12

King David's affair with Bathsheba and murder of her husband. Prophet Nathan bravely confronted him using a parable. The direct confrontation pierced David's heart leading to genuine repentance.

2. Paul Confronted Peter Gal 2:11

The Apostle Paul directly opposed Peter in public when Peter began acting hypocritically by withdrawing from Gentile now believers to appease religious traditionalists. Paul did this to protect the true integrity of the Gospels. It was motivated by love and passion for the health of the church.

· **Jesus confronted the Pharisees Matt 23**

Jesus did not shy away from conflict with religious hypocrite, He directly and strongly confronted their legalism, lack of mercy and superficial piety in order to point the people back to true heart-level faith. Mat. 5:23-24

- Jesus confronted Jewish leaders about hypocrisy and false religious zeal. Mat 21:12-13, 23:13.

Twice he drove the thieves and charlatan from the temple in an act of righteous confrontation John 2.15-17

Confrontation is an inevitable part of life Others will confront us when we have wronged them or they believe us to be in error We will confront other people when they offend or hurt us and this is healthy as long as our motivation are right. When confrontation is used as a way to belittle, condemn or take revenge on another is wrong. Heb 10:30.

Avoiding confrontation may seem like a good thing but there are times it is necessary in relationships and dodging confrontation is wrong with its attendant negative consequences e.g the issue of rape in the family of King David. Amnon raped Tamar their father King David was just angry but did not confront Amnon. Two years later the brother of Tamar. Absalom organized a revenge and killed Amnon for raping his sister. II Sam 13.21, 32-33

Conflict is an inevitable part of any relationship of real depth, including marriage. Some couples assume that conflict should be avoided at all costs. The real issue, however, is not whether disagreements will arise, but how we respond when they do. The greatest danger comes when conflict is ignored, denied, or left unresolved.

Thankfully. God's Word provides clear and practical instruction for handling conflict in a way that protects unity, strengthens trust, and honors Christ. When approached God's

way, conflict can become an opportunity for growth rather than a source of division

HERE ARE STEPS TO NAVIGATE MARITAL AND OTHER RELATIONSHIP CONFLICT

Step 1: Acknowledge the Conflict -Eph4.15 James 5.16

One of the most common and destructive responses to conflict is denial, pretending that everything is fine when it is not. Ignoring conflict does not make it disappear. Rather, unresolved Issues often resurface later in more harmful ways.

Scripture encourages us to speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). This means addressing disagreements honestly but with grace and humility. Avoiding difficult conversations may feel easier in the moment, but over time it often leads to bitterness and emotional distance.

Acknowledging conflict does not mean escalating it. Rather, it means being willing to admit that something is wrong and committing to address instead of avoiding it. When both spouses are willing to face an issue with a loving spirit, space is created for understanding, repentance, reconciliation and growth in the relationship.

Step 2: Seek God's Wisdom Pro 15.28, Pro 16.23

Before engaging in a difficult conversation, pause and seek the Lord. James 1:5 promises wisdom to those who ask God sincerely and humbly: *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

When conflict arises, emotions can easily take control, and reacting too quickly often leads to words we later regret. Prayer

slows us down. It allows God to search our hearts, expose pride, and align our responses with His will,

Seeking God's wisdom reminds us that the goal is not to win an argument, but to glorify God through how we treat our spouse and other relations.

Step 3: Communicate with grace Eph 4.29 Prov.16.24, Pro 12-18
The way we speak during conflict has a significant impact on the outcome. Proverbs 15:1 teaches, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger," Harsh or accusatory words tend to inflame tension, while gentle and thoughtful responses can help de-escalate a situation.

A helpful guideline is to focus on the problem rather than attacking the person. Using "I" statements instead of placing blame can keep communication constructive. For example, saying, "I felt hurt when..." is often more effective than. "You always" because it expresses concern without putting your spouse on the defensive.

Effective communication also involves listening. Scripture reminds us. "*Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*" (James 1:19). True communication requires a willingness to hear your spouse's heart without interrupting or become defensive. When both spouses are committed to listening and responding with grace, they create space for resolving conflict than escalating it.

Step 4: Choose Forgiveness Eph 4.32

Unforgiveness is one of the greatest threats to marital unity. Ephesians 4:32 calls us to '*Be ye kind one to another,*

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." When forgiveness is withheld, bitterness takes root and intimacy suffers.

Forgiveness does not mean minimizing the hurt or pretending the offense never occurred. It is a deliberate decision to release the hurt and refuse to hold it against your spouse. In doing so, you free both yourself and your marriage from the weight of resentment.

Forgiveness is not a feeling that comes naturally: it is a choice of obedience. Often, we must choose to forgive before our emotions have caught up. As forgiveness replaces bitterness, healing is allowed to begin.

God calls us to forgive because we ourselves have been forgiven. When we rely on His grace, forgiveness becomes a pathway to restoration rather than a barrier to closeness.

Step 5: Work toward Unity, Not Victory Eph 5.21

In moments of conflict, it is tempting to focus on being right or proving a point, but marriage is not about winning arguments; it is about building unity. Genesis 2:24 describes God's design for marriage: *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* When spouses view each other as opponents, both lose.

Unity does not happen automatically. It requires humility and a willingness to prioritize the relationship over personal pride. Instead of seeing your spouse as the opposition, remind yourself that you are on the same team.

When husbands and wives remember that they are striving

together, not against one another, conflict can become an opportunity for deeper understanding and stronger unity. Rather than asking, "How can I win this argument?" a better question is, "How can we move forward together in a way that honors the Lord and reflects His grace?"

Step 6: Reject Pride Pro 16.18

Acknowledge your own blind spots and take responsibility for your own action rather than deflecting blame. Confess your portion of the wrongdoing first, Mat 7.35 Focus on the problem or issue not the person.

Step 7: Avoid Character Assassination, Abuse or Curse Prov 11.12 Prov 18:6-7 Behaviors can be discussed but never attack your spouse personality. Avoid use of derogatory words

Step 8 Set Firm Boundaries: - Pro 12.1 Eph 5.21-23, Heb 13.17

Learn to clearly communicate your non-negotiables in an assertive loving manner for necessary understanding and adjustments.

Step 9: Seek External Guidance and Counseling Mat 18.15-17

In this scripture according to Jesus our Lord addressing conflict and healing offenses should be a priority for us. Behind this process lies the authority Jesus has given to the Church Leaders. We must act wisely we have God-given authority to bring us to harmony in our relationships.

FROM CONFLICT TO GROWTH

Conflict is a normal part of married life and other relationship but it does not have to damage your relationship. When conflict is acknowledged brought before the Lord, addressed with gracious communication, met with forgiveness, and guided

toward unity. God can use it to strengthen your marriage and relationship.

The next time you face a disagreement, remember these steps. By choosing to honor God in how you respond, you'll strengthen your marriage and build a lasting foundation of love and trust.

CREATING A FAMILY CULTURE OF FAITH AND EXCELLENCE

▪ REV MRS LOLA DARAMOLA

Texts: Ps112:1-3, Gen 18:17- 19, 2 Tim 1: 1-5. Mal2:15. Ps 128:1-6.

God wanted to raise a kingdom of priests and a holy nation he started with the family (Ex 19: 6, Gen 1:27-28). The end in the mind of God was to have a people , the church (royal priesthood and a holy nation) that will enforce his will on the Earth. The birth of the Church in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses came into being when the heads of the fathers of each household were instructed to put the blood of the lamb on their lintels. Therefore, when families are doing well, the church will do well.

The enemy understands this, that is why the attack on families has skyrocketed in these last days.

A family can be defined as the basic unit in the society traditionally consisting of parents rearing their children.

Beloved a family culture of faith and excellence is the perfect will of God for every family (Ps 112:1-3) but it is not automatic. It must be consciously created. One major purpose why God instituted marriage is to raise a godly seed for continuity of

covenant and for him not to lack a witness and an exact representation on the earth (Mal 2:15). When our families align with this purpose of God, no power in hell will be able to overthrow us, in fact we will possess the gate of those who hate us (Gen 22:17, Gen 24:60).

God gave a testimony concerning Abraham:

"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 judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." Gen 18:19

This means that if a culture of faith and excellence is not passed down to our children, there will be a forfeiture of the covenant and the purpose of God for our family. May we not fail God.

Beloved each member of the family must play their part and be intentional in the way they live in order for God's purpose and covenant to be perpetuated.

THE ROLE OF THE MAN AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY

The man as the head of the family is the foundation. Everything rises and falls with leadership. It is not a mistake that the Old Testament ended with a prophecy for the restoration of the relationship between fathers and sons so that the curse will not consume the earth (Mal 4:6). It is a grievous thing before God for a father to fail. The curse hijacks the family (death, failure, poverty , mediocrity, servitude) unless there is a godly woman of deep understanding to step in and redeem the situation.

God took a rib from Adam and formed a woman. The family is a building. Every building starts with the foundation. Adam was first formed (1Tim 2:13).

God called Abraham then Sarah followed him (Is 51:1-2). Check out in the Church in the wilderness, critical instructions were handed over to heads of the father's houses. Every man therefore as the head of the family must grow up to become a responsible father. You start as a man, you become a husband by marriage then you grow into a father.

Father means source. A source of divine direction (of course you must be connected to the Head, Christ), a channel for the perpetuity of covenant, godly pattern and example.

When Eli failed to command his children, the covenant of the priesthood over his family was terminated (1 Sam 2:30). When a man refuses to grow into a father the curse is given room to manifest.

God gave a testimony about the fatherhood of Abraham, what is expected of every father that will pass on a culture of faith and excellence:

1. He commanded his children and his household after him. A father must know how to instruct, correct and enforce discipline in his family (2 Tim 3:16, Eph 6:4). Every responsible father should be a teaching priest over his entire household (Mal 2:7, 2 Chron 15:3). Every family must live within the precinct of the law of God. Don't permit lawlessness in your household. To do this, every biological father must have a spiritual father and be well planted in a local church where he is well nourished and accountable. You cannot give what you don't have. The failure of the family of Lot began with Lot disengaging from Abraham.
2. Abraham did not just train the members of his household (Prov 22:6), he armed them. That is he equipped them, he

furnished them with weapons (Ps127:4). 318 servants born in his house defeated 5 kings. Weaponise the members of your family spiritually, mentally and physically. Furnish them with all that they need to get to the top and be the best in life.

3. He married for Isaac: Unequal yoke negates the covenant (2 Cor 6:16, Gen 27:46, Neh 13:27).
4. He circumcised Isaac: make sure the members of your household are genuinely born again and baptised in the spirit (Gen21:4, Zech4:6). Make sure your household is walking and obedient to the terms of the covenant. Moses almost died for refusing to circumcise his son (Ex4:24 -26).
5. He separated Isaac from his mistake: Gen 25: 6 . How many families have been shipwrecked by the evil of the strange woman? Don't commit adultery. Learn from Samson(Judg 16:21). Avoid polygamy. Remember God created them male and female.
6. He gave all that he had to Isaac, that is the Abrahamic blessing, the covenant (Gen 25:5-6). This is the greatest inheritance.
7. Abraham was an intercessor: Gen 18:23. A culture of faith and excellence can not be built without prayers. For except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it (Ps127:1). That's why the patriarchs were altar builders. They understood the place of intimacy and communion with God in building a family in line with God's standard. Every Father must take up his responsibility as a priest for his household. Moses on the mountain lifted up the rod;

leadership, authority and intercession, only then did Joshua win the battle in the valley (Ex 17: 11). If we will prevail against the myriads of demonic assault that try to overthrow God's will for our families, we must master the art of prayer and standing before God to prevail in intercession and spiritual warfare (1Tim 2:8, Eph 6:10-18).

8. Abraham was not an absentee father. Samuel's children did not follow after him. He was always going in circuits(1Sam7:16). The children that David had when he was running from pillar to post as a result of king Saul were a pain in his heart (Amnon , Absalom Adonijah). Be present in the lives of the members of your family.

THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER (Gen 2:18)

God has called the woman as a helper to the man in the family setting. The Bible says two are better than one. If one fails, the other has a choice not to fail .

A good example here is the testimony God gave concerning Timothy. He had a heritage of an unfeigned faith passed on from his grandmother and his mother to him.

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and they mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also". 2 Tim1:5

Church history had it that Timothy at the age of 17 became the Bishop of the church at Ephesus!

What do we learn from this:

- That a man failed does not mean the woman should fail. Let God use you to redeem what the enemy wants to destroy through the failure of the man.

- Timothy's father was greek. Nothing much about him. Thank God for a pious Jewish grandmother and mother that trained him up in the scriptures (2 Tim 3:15). They preserved a heritage of faith and excellence in spite of passivity of the father of the house. How many great destinies are lost when a mother has a helper refuses to rise up to the challenge when the man of the house is failing. Eunice did not lose herself in unending contention and bitterness against her husband but she invested in the young Timothy until he became an eternal excellency and a joy to many generations.
- Out of all the protege of Apostle Paul, Timothy stood out, A man of good report from a solid character and unfeigned faith (Acts 16: 1-3, Phil 2:19-23). Raised by two women that refused to be passive in the life of their son. We should ask ourselves where was the mother of Hophni and Phinehas? Where was Mrs Samuel? Assuming Eli and Samuel were so busy in the tabernacle why did the 2 mothers not fill the gap like Lois and Eunice. May we not fail God as mothers.
- The mother of Jabez was so overwhelmed by her trouble at the home front that she almost truncated the great destiny of Jabez by giving him a name that fought his destiny of greatness (1 Chro 4:9). We didn't know what made the father to be absent that it was the mother that named the son.
- Rachel wanted to pass on a heritage of sorrow and grief to Benjamin by naming him Benoni (Gen 35:18). Thank God that Jacob stood up to his responsibility as a father and changed the name to Benjamin. How many evils are done by absentee fathers, but greater evil happens by carnal mothers that only pass on the heritage of their sorrows and bitterness to the next generation.

- Reuben could not rise to the measure of dignity and excellence that was resting on him, Rebellion motivated by bitterness (he saw how his mother was hated) reduced him and his generation to a life of perpetual failure and mediocrity (Gen 49:3). No priest, prophet or king can be traced to the lineage of Reuben only rebels
- As Mothers let us go beyond our pains and struggles. Heal from your wound. Like Leah remove your eyes from Jacob and focus on Judah. It is only then we can be the redeemer of the culture of faith and excellence in the next generation.

THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN (Ps127:3-5)

1. Every son and daughter must be resolute to exceed the faith and the excellence of their parents (Ps112: 2).
2. It is one thing to be taught and trained. It is another thing to embrace training and instructions. Esau and Jacob grew up in the same family but Esau rejected instructions and discipline(Gen 27:46).
3. **Daniel** purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the portion of the king's meat (Dan 1:8). He sat at the table in Babylon but he remained unspotted(Jam 1:27).

Beloved greatness comes with its allurements! Have we built enough spiritual strength to reject the defiling delicacies in the king's palace? How many have lost their consecration just on a little promotion? Daniel's consecration stood the test of time . He was relevant in 4 different political eras. He was preferred above others and became an eternal excellency. May you not disappear in history. They changed his name but they couldn't change his allegiance to God. They named him after the god of Babylon but he refused to

bow to the god of Babylon. Beloved life is by choice. Consecration is a choice. You cannot sleep on the lap of Delilah and wake up in Abraham's bosom.

4. **Jabez** , despite coming from a dysfunctional home did not settle for failure. He prayed to God and charted a new course. 3,000 years after the house of Jabez is still standing.
5. **Joseph chose the fear of God** . He prevailed over household witchcraft, false accusations and unjust treatment. He excelled in a strange land and became a father to Pharaoh and taught his senators wisdom (Ps105:21-22). Beloved sin is a reproach (Pro14:34). It dethrones people from their seat of excellence and glory.
6. **Esther obeyed Mordecai**: Obedience to spiritual authority and honour for our parents is a must if we will perpetuate a culture of faith and excellence. Remember this is the first commandment with a blessing of longevity and excellence (Eph 6:1-3).
7. **Be a master in your area of gift, skill and calling**. David gained mastery in the use of the slingshot, in the playing of the harp and in warfare (Ps 78:72). Joseph gained mastery in the gift of administration and in the interpretation of dreams. Daniel was skilful in all wisdom and cunning in Knowledge (Dan 1: 4) Beloved when you master your skill, you position yourself to stand in the king's palace (Prov 22:29). It takes diligence to become a master in your area of gifting. Nobody will be promoted on face value alone. You must know your onions! So, get down to work.

BUILDING A MARRIAGE THAT GROWS STRONGER THROUGH SEASONS

▪ MRS BUKOLA KOWE

Mathew 7:24-25: Therefore, whosoever heareth this sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came and the wind blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Prov.14:1 - "Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands"

INTRODUCTION

Building a strong marriage through seasons requires intentional commitment (readiness), mutual submission and anchoring your foundation in Christ. Scripture provides wisdom to navigate every changing season, teaching couples to rely on God's grace and actively serve one another. On the other hand building a strong marriage often requires placing God at the center, communicating with grace and demonstrating sacrificial love.

AIM OF THIS STUDY

1. To foster lifelong companionship
2. To cultivate emotional and spiritual oneness
3. To build or raise a godly heritage

4. To experience a safe refuge to navigate lives challenges as a team.
5. To build a strong and lasting spiritual foundation

LET US CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SEASONS OF MARRIAGE

1. New Beginning and Growth (Spring Season) - Luke 6:48-49, Gen 2:24, Prov. 24:3-4, Prov. 27:17, Mathew 7:24-25

NOTE: This early season of marriage is always marked with joy and romantic passion. However, even in the honeymoon phase, couples need to 'prayerfully' build a strong and lasting spiritual foundation." The house built on the Rock" can never be moved....

2. Season of Reaping the Benefits (Summer). Eccle 4:9-12, Phillipian 2:3-4, Deutronomy 1:18-19, Eph 5:22-33

NOTE: Summer is often a season of flourishing joy where you enjoy the fruit of earlier labor and build a shared life. It is vital to keep Christ at the center and avoid selfish pride.

3. Shifts and Changes (Fall). Ephesians 4:2-3, 1 Cor,13:4-7, Colosian 3:12-14

Fall can be a time of transition, business or subtle drifting. Work stress, raising children or taken on new responsibilities can lead couples to put each other behind. It requires deliberate effort to maintain connection. This season couples must exhibit godly love, humility, gentleness, kind and patient, making every effort to maintain unity.

4. Season of Difficulty And Trial (Winter). 1 Peter 4:8, Rom.12:12,Eccle 3:1, 1 Peter3:7

This season brings heavy storms, such as financial struggles, grief, or personal crises. This trial will test the resilience of your

commitment; at this point in time our commitment must be total and not partial or divided knowing fully that the trial and test is a matter of time. Col.1:27

3 HABBITS THAT WORK IN EVERY SEASON

1. Daily Connection; James 4:8; Jeremiah 29:13; Prov.3:5-6

2. Weekly Appraisal: Prov.27:23; Gal.6:4-5; Col.3:23

Using these verses for weekly reflection and appraisal, helping you to evaluate your progress, maintain a humble perspective and seek God's approval over earthly validation.

3. Anchor Verse: Psalm 23:1-end; Phil.4:19; Psalm 27:1

Pick one verse for your marriage, speaking the Word always when things get tensed.

HOW CAN WE BUILD A MARRIAGE THAT WILL LAST THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE.

1. Build On A Firm Foundation.

- a) The foundation is Jesus Christ: 1 Cor.3:10-11, Isaiah 28:16
- b) Build on God's Word. John 1:1, Psalm 119: 89, Prov.10:25,
- c) Building Through Obedience: Mathew 7:24, Luke 6:48

2. Build With Prayer: 1Thesa 5:16-18, Mathew 6:6, Phil. 4:6, 1 John 5:14

Pray the WORD of God over your marriage, establish a regular unceasing prayer life.

3. Be Completely Humble And Gentle: Eph. 4:2, Prov. 3:3, Col 3:12, Phil. 2:3, James 3:3.

4. Build With Unconditional Love: Eph 6:12, 1 Peter 4:8, John 3:16, 1 John 4:8, John 15:13

FIVE CORE BIBLICAL PILLARS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS IN MARRIAGE

- 1. Putting God First:** Mathew 6:33; Jere 29:13, Psalm 27:8, Prov.3:5-6

A healthy marriage relies on both individuals seeking God individually and as a couple. When both spouses align their lives with kingdom values, they gain the 'wisdom' needed to navigate.

- 2. Sacrificial Love and Honour:** Ephesian 5:25, Romans 12:10
The bible calls Husband and wife to treat one another with deep respect and to put the other's needs ahead of their own.

- 3. Grace And Forgiveness:** Col 3:13, Ephesian 4:32, Mark 11:25
Misunderstandings and disagreement are inevitable in our marriages. The bible encourages spouses to be patient, extend grace and forgive each other just as Christ has forgiven us.

- 4. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION:** James 1:19, Proverb 15:1, 18:13, Prov. 10:19, Eph 4:29. Prov. 18:21, Prov 12:18
Listening well, controlling one's temper and avoiding harsh words are central to biblical conflict resolution.

"Wise word brings healing and health" Prov. 12:18

"Season your speech with grace" Col. 4:6

"Understand The Power Of Your Words" Prov. 18:21.

"Speak To Build One Another" EPH 4:29

"Use Gracious And Kind Words" Prov. 15:1

"Control Your Temper" Prov. 18:13, 10:19

"Practice active Listening" James 1:19

- 5. UNITY AND COMPANIONSHIP:** Ecclesiastes 4:9 (*Two Are Better Than One, Because they have a good return for their labor, if one falls down, one can help the other up*)

Marriage is designed as a deep, unbreakable partnership where two individuals become one, offering lifelong support and companionship.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MARRIAGES

1. **Commitment Over Emotion.** Prov. 16:32, Rom 8:6
True love is an action and lifelong commitment. Early dating feelings naturally fade, but they are replaced by a deeper, more mature love built over years of shared experiences.
 2. **Giving Up “Being Right”**
Insisting on winning every argument damages relationship. You must be willing to make personal sacrifices, adapt to maintain harmony.
 3. **Focusing On the Positive**
Instead of constantly looking at your partner's flaws, deliberately choose to notice and appreciate his strength. Expecting perfection will only bring “disappointment”
- NOTE:* You cannot nag or force a spouse to change. BY JOYCE MEYER
4. **Guard Your Hearth:** Prov 4:23; Luke 6:45, Psalm 119:11, Rom 12:2
Your perception dictates whether friction leads to disaster or an opportunity to grow...
 5. **Be Conscious of the Holy Spirit:** Gal 5:16 & 22, Rom 8:6 & 14, Gal 2:20.

3 COMMON OBSTACLES IN BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE

1. Financial Stress
2. Communication Breakdown
3. Household Labor

LET US CONSIDER 9 ELEMENTS OF A CHRIST CENTERED MARRIAGE

1. A Christ-centered marriage involves mutual devotion to Jesus. Rom. 12:10
2. A Christ-centered marriage is characterized by serving one another. John 13:34-35
3. A Christ centered marriage practices humility. Mathew 11:29
4. A Christ-centered marriage practices forgiveness Eph 4:32
5. A Christ-centered marriage is lived in sacrificial love. Ephe 5:25-27
6. A Christ-centered marriage Communicates 1 John 1:3
7. A Christ-centered marriage Grows in intimacy with Jesus. Eph 5:14-19, Gen 2:24, Heb 13:4
8. A Christ-centered marriage Lived together in the hope of God Col 1:24-27, Rom 10:11, 1 John 3:3
9. A Christ centered marriage is church engaged. Act 20:28

IN CONCLUSION: Marriage demands hardwork, living in the gospel, reliance upon the Spirit and the passionate desire to glorify Jesus Christ in every situation (In all Season).

BUILDING HEALTHY AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

■ PASTOR PAUL IDOWU

INTRODUCTION

Relationships are one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. From the very beginning, God declared, "*It is not good that man should be alone*" (Genesis 2:18). We were created to live in relationship with God and with one another. Consequently, our effectiveness in marriage, family, ministry, leadership and even business is largely determined by how well we relate to people.

This truth becomes even more significant when we consider this year's convention theme: The Year of the Lord's Favour. Luke records that as Jesus grew, He "*increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men*" (Luke 2:52). Notice that Jesus grew in two dimensions of favour. His favour with the Father was unquestionable, yet Scripture also highlights His favour with people. Throughout the Bible, God frequently chose to express His favour through human relationships. Doors are opened through people. Opportunities come through people. Promotion often comes through people. Divine assignments are fulfilled with the help of people.

For this reason, the way we steward our relationships plays an important role in positioning us to experience and sustain the favour God brings into our lives. Many people pray for favour

while neglecting the very relationships through which God intends to manifest it. Others experience unnecessary disfavour, not because God has withdrawn His blessing, but because they have failed to build, maintain or restore healthy relationships.

Gordon Lindsay once said *"If people do not learn the art of getting along with people, they will be doomed to mediocrity, no matter what their other gifts are. And it is possible they may never really understand the reason for their lack of success."*

The Apostle Paul understood this principle well. His final letter, 2 Timothy 4, is more than a farewell message; it is a lesson in relationship stewardship. He speaks about faithful friends, disappointing companions, restored relationships, difficult individuals and, above all, the Lord who never failed him.

This reminds us that success in life and ministry is not determined merely by the greatness of our calling, but also by how well we steward the people God places in our lives. In this study, we shall examine practical biblical principles for building, maintaining and restoring healthy relationships so that we can walk in the fullness of God's purpose and continue to experience His favour.

1. RELATIONSHIP WITH YOURSELF

Before we can build healthy relationships with others, we must first allow God to work in us. Many people are quick to evaluate, correct and even criticise others while paying little attention to their own spiritual growth. Yet the first relationship every believer is called to steward is the one they have with themselves under God's authority.

As Paul approached the end of his life, he paused to evaluate his

own journey before speaking about anyone else. He wrote: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7)

Paul's confidence did not come from comparing himself with others but from honestly assessing whether he had remained faithful to God's call. This teaches us that healthy people regularly examine their own lives before trying to influence the lives of others.

One helpful way to evaluate your life is from three perspectives:

- **Your Past:** What has God brought you through? Have you learned from your successes and failures?
- **Your Present:** What is God teaching you today? Are you growing in character, wisdom and spiritual maturity?
- **Your Future:** What kind of person is God preparing you to become? Are you living intentionally towards that purpose?

Healthy people never stop growing. Even after declaring that he had finished his course, Paul asked Timothy to bring his books and parchments (2 Timothy 4:13). He remained teachable because he understood that growth is a lifelong journey.

Key Principle 1: You cannot consistently lead others beyond where you are unwilling to lead yourself.

2. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE YOU LEAD

One of Paul's greatest contributions to the Kingdom was not merely planting churches but developing people. Timothy was young, inexperienced and still growing, yet Paul entrusted him with significant responsibility. He did not wait until Timothy became everything he ought to be before giving him opportunities to serve.

This teaches an important lesson about leadership. Mature leaders do not simply look for finished products; they recognise potential and help people grow into God's purpose for their lives.

Developing people requires patience. It means allowing room for mistakes, providing encouragement during seasons of growth and seeing beyond present weaknesses. Had Paul demanded perfection before involving Timothy in ministry, Timothy might never have become the leader God intended him to be.

Every believer should ask themselves:

- Who is investing in me?
- Whose life am I intentionally investing in?
- Am I bringing out the best in the people God has placed around me?

Healthy relationships are not only about receiving encouragement but also about becoming a source of encouragement to others.

Key Principle 2: Kingdom leaders are measured not only by what they accomplish, but by the people they develop.

3. RELATIONSHIPS THAT DISAPPOINT

One of the painful realities of life is that people sometimes disappoint us. No matter how sincere, faithful or committed we are, there will be occasions when people fail us, abandon us or act in ways we never expected.

Paul experienced this repeatedly. He wrote, "*All those in Asia have turned away from me*" (2 Timothy 1:15). Later he said, "*Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world*" (2

Timothy 4:10). Then, speaking of his first defence, Paul confessed, "*At my first defence no one stood with me, but all forsook me*" (*2 Timothy 4:16*). Even Jesus experienced this. In His greatest hour of need, His disciples fled and left Him alone. Disappointment, therefore, is not a sign that something has gone wrong; it is part of living in a fallen world. The real question is not whether people will disappoint us, but how we will respond when they do. Tony Cooke once posed a searching question: "*When disappointment comes, will it season you or poison you?*"

Some people become wiser through disappointment. Others become bitter. One allows the experience to deepen their character; the other allows it to harden their heart. Choose to let disappointment mature you, not define you.

Key Principle 3: In relationship, disappointment is inevitable, but bitterness is a choice.

4. RELATIONSHIPS AT A DISTANCE

One of the remarkable things about Paul's ministry was that distance never diminished his commitment to people. Although separated by geography, Paul remained actively involved in the lives of those he loved. He knew where they were serving, celebrated their faithfulness, prayed for them and stayed interested in what God was doing in their lives. Romans 16 demonstrates this beautifully as Paul sends greetings to numerous individuals by name, acknowledging their labour and expressing genuine appreciation for their contribution to the Kingdom.

Perhaps the greatest example is Onesiphorus. Paul says that when Onesiphorus came to Rome, "*he searched diligently for me until he found me*" (*2 Timothy 1:17*). He did not allow

distance, inconvenience or personal risk to keep him from encouraging a friend in need. He intentionally sought Paul out and refreshed him during one of the most difficult seasons of his life.

In a world where technology has made communication easier than ever, many relationships still deteriorate because people stop making intentional effort. Healthy relationships are not sustained merely by proximity but by genuine care and deliberate investment.

Someone once said, "*A true friend is someone who walks into your life when the rest of the world is walking out.*" God is still looking for people like Onesiphorus—people who notice the weary, seek out the forgotten and strengthen those who need encouragement.

Key Principle 4: Distance should never become an excuse for neglecting relationships that God has entrusted to us.

5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FAITHFUL

Not every relationship is dramatic. Some of the most valuable people in our lives are those who faithfully stand with us year after year. Paul wrote, "*Only Luke is with me.*" (2 Timothy 4:11). That simple statement speaks volumes. Many people had come and gone. Some had deserted Paul. Others had moved on to different assignments. Yet Luke remained.

Luke's faithfulness is even more remarkable when we consider his contribution to the New Testament. He wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, yet Scripture mentions him only a handful of times. He was content and comfortable making someone else's assignment successful without seeking recognition.

John MacArthur once said: "*Next to Paul, Luke is the greatest writing force in the New Testament, yet he is virtually unknown.*" Luke teaches us that significance is not measured by visibility. Many people want to be celebrated, but few are willing to quietly support another person's assignment.

In today's world, everyone wants to be the leader, the platform speaker or the public face of a ministry. Yet God's Kingdom also advances because of faithful people who serve behind the scenes with excellence and humility.

Ask yourself:

- Am I only willing to serve when people notice me?
- Am I comfortable helping someone else succeed?
- Can I remain faithful even when there is little recognition?

Key Principle 5: You do not have to be visible to be valuable. Faithfulness often leaves a greater legacy than popularity.

6. RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE STRAINED (THAT GOD RESTORES)

Not every broken relationship has to remain broken. One of the most encouraging examples in Scripture is the story of John Mark. During Paul's first missionary journey, Mark abandoned the team and returned home (Acts 13:13). When Barnabas later suggested taking Mark again, Paul strongly disagreed because he believed Mark had already proved himself unreliable (Acts 15:36–39). The disagreement became so intense that Paul and Barnabas parted ways.

At first glance, it appeared that Mark's failure had permanently damaged his relationship with Paul. But God was not finished with Mark. Barnabas, whose name means "*Son of*

Encouragement," refused to give up on him. He patiently invested in Mark until he matured. Years later, Paul wrote these remarkable words: "Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry." (2 Timothy 4:11)

The same man Paul once refused to travel with had become valuable to his ministry. This account teaches us two important lessons. First, never judge a person's entire future by one disappointing season. Everyone has moments of weakness, failure and immaturity. Second, some relationships deserve another opportunity. Not every broken relationship can be restored, but many can if pride gives way to humility and grace. As Tony Cooke reminds us: *"Never cut what you can untie. Treat Life as a video rather than a snapshot image."* A snapshot captures one moment while a video tells the whole story. God often sees what a person is becoming while we are still focused on where they failed.

Key Principle 6: Don't judge people solely by their worst moment. Leave room for God's transforming grace.

7. RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE TOXIC

While some relationships can be restored, others require wisdom and healthy boundaries. One of the mistakes many believers make is assuming that forgiveness means giving everyone unrestricted access to their lives. Scripture teaches otherwise.

Paul warned Timothy: *"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm... You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words." (2 Timothy 4:14-15)*

Notice Paul's response. He did not become bitter, nor did he seek personal revenge. Instead, he committed Alexander's case to God, saying, *"The Lord will repay him according to his*

works." At the same time, Paul warned Timothy to be careful. This teaches us an important principle. Forgiveness does not eliminate discernment. We are commanded to forgive everyone, but we are not commanded to ignore wisdom. Some people repeatedly demonstrate that they cannot be trusted, and love does not require us to place ourselves in situations where they can continue causing unnecessary harm.

Healthy relationships are built on love but protected by wise boundaries. Boundaries are not walls built to keep everyone out; they are biblical safeguards that help us distinguish between those we can influence and those who continually seek to influence us negatively. Even Jesus did not entrust Himself to everyone because He knew what was in the hearts of men (John 2:24-25). Likewise, believers must learn to exercise wisdom in choosing who has access to their lives, their families and their purpose.

Key Principle 7: Forgiveness is for everyone, but trust is earned. Wisdom knows where love requires grace and where it requires boundaries.

8. THE ULTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

After speaking about faithful friends, disappointing companions and difficult people, Paul ends his letter with the most important relationship of all. He writes: *"At my first defence no one stood with me, but all forsook me... Nevertheless the Lord stood with me and strengthened me."* (2 Timothy 4:16-17)

Those words reveal one of the greatest lessons every believer must learn. Human relationships, as valuable as they are, will never completely satisfy us. Even the most faithful friend can disappoint us. Family members may fail us. Trusted colleagues

may walk away. Seasons change, and people change. But there is one relationship that remains constant; The Lord stood with me.

Paul's confidence was never built upon people's loyalty but upon God's faithfulness. That is why he could continue serving with courage, even when others abandoned him. The strongest relationships are built by people whose security is rooted first in Christ. When our identity, acceptance and strength come from Him, we are less likely to become bitter when people disappoint us or proud when they praise us. We learn to love people deeply without making them the foundation of our lives. Every healthy relationship flows out of a healthy relationship with God.

Key Principle 8: People may leave you, misunderstand you or disappoint you, but the Lord will never leave nor forsake those who trust in Him.

CONCLUSION

Relationships do not thrive by accident; they thrive through intentional stewardship. Paul's final letter reminds us that every relationship serves a different purpose. Some people will help us grow. Others will encourage us. Some will disappoint us, while others may need to be forgiven or kept at a healthy distance. Through it all, God calls us to love people wisely, steward relationships faithfully and keep Him at the centre of our lives.

Every believer needs a Paul who can mentor them, a Barnabas who can encourage them and a Timothy into whose life they can invest. Above all, every believer needs Christ. When our relationship with Him becomes the foundation of our lives, every other relationship finds its proper place.

As Paul said in *Acts 20:32* - "*Now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*" May God give us the wisdom to build relationships that honour Him, strengthen others and leave a lasting legacy. Amen.

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Leadership & Influence School

THE PASSION, PAIN, PRICE AND PRIZE OF LEADERSHIP

▪ PASTOR EMMANUEL IDOWU

INTRODUCTION

Who is a leader and what makes a person worth following?

This study sheds more light into the life of a leader, and it will help you in recognizing and developing essential godly leadership potentials.

SOME IMPORTANT TRUTH ABOUT LEADERSHIP

- Leadership is not based upon natural talent or skill but inward character. Proverbs 27:19
- Your accomplishments as a leader may make your name known but your character will determine what people associate with your name.
- Your gifts and determination may dictate your potential but it's your character that will determine your legacy. Prov 22:1
- Followers live for themselves; leaders live for others. Matt 20:28. If service is below you, leadership is beyond you.
- A leader realizes that his action or inaction influences more lives than just his own (Phil 3:17, 1Tim 4:12, Heb 13:7)
- A leader is set apart from the crowd by His confidence in

- God, not his own talents or abilities. Phil 3:3, Phil 4:13
- A leader must think like one. Phil 4:8
- immature leaders only want to be seen on stage and not in private, true leaders realize its a 24/7 job.
- Leaders have vision to see beyond the present circumstances. Rm 4-17-25, Heb 12:1-3

THE PASSION OF A LEADER (THE LIFE OF DAVID)

Main Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:17-40

Let's consider the following lessons about the passion of a leader:

1. He chose Intimacy above Activity: Buiding your intimacy with God will empower your passion. *Ps 37:4, Ps 42:1, Luke 10:38-42*
2. His heart was circumcised from selfish motives. *1Samuel 17:17-29*
3. He discovered and embraced His gift rather than complain or compare. *Prov 18:16, 1Sam17:37, 40*

Note: If you don't kill your lion and bear today, you wouldn't be prepared to kill your goliath tomorrow.

4. His leadership was established through courage and not just by his calling or talents alone. *1samuel 17:39-40*

Note: Courage requires both confidence and caution. David was courageous but not careless. He wasn't caught up in the moment nor rush into the battle field fueled by passion or the desire of becoming a hero.

The careful calculates risks, the fearful avoids risk. The Careful wants to achieve success, fearful wants to avoid failure. The Careful is concerned about progress, fearful is

concerned about protection. The careful and courageous take action, the fearful do nothing.

THE PRICE OF LEADERSHIP

Main Scripture: 2 Tim 2:3-6

1. Faithfulness and Competence: 2 Tim 2-3-6
Apostle Paul illustrate these with 3 disciplines.

a) **Soldier** (discipline): To be faithful we should have the attitude of a soldier.

- A soldier believes in a cause that is more important than himself which allows him to put up with many hardships for the cause.
- A Soldier focuses on the benefits rather than the costs. They think of how their sacrifices are helping those they love. Heb 12:2-3
- They aren't ruled by their feelings (They sacrifice their feelings for the greater course)
- They recognize their hardships are only temporary-2 Cor 4:16-18
- They submit to training. An untrained soldier will be a disaster to the team and himself.

b) **An Athlete** (preparation, consistency). Athletes undergo rigorous and consistent physical training and discipline to condition their bodies. They have to give up many of the social and physical things most people enjoy. We shouldn't do less for the cause of Christ. What are you willing to lose for what you are eager to gain? Salvation should not only change how we live our lives but should also change what we are living for.

- *Athletes have to deny themselves.*
- *They also have to prepare. Their training has to be on purpose and consistently.*
- *They have a structure to their training and preparation.*

c) Farmer (Patience, first partaker)

We have to partake of the truths we are teaching before anyone else, or in other words, we have to practice what we preach. A Farmer is also patient enough to harvest what he has planted. He understands that there is time duration between planting and reaping.

2. Character: Character is absolutely essential for kingdom leadership.

It's character that makes a leader worth following. Character is the will to do what is right even when it is hard. Daniel and his 3 friends decided ahead of time that they will not defile themselves with the king's meal.

Character is built ahead of the temptation to compromise. Having the will to do right requires that you determine what's right before the struggle to do right arises.

THE PAIN OF LEADERSHIP

- The pain of broken Trust: Samuel and Saul
- The pain of relationship: David and Jonathan
- The pain of betrayal: David and Ahithophel/ Absalom
- The Pain from unwilling people: Matt 23:37, Heb 13:17
- The Pain of being misunderstood: Jesus and some of the disciples (John 6:66-70)
- The Pain of growth: John 15:1-5

THE PRIZE OF LEADERSHIP

- Eternal Prize. Rm 8:18, Matt 25:20-23, Luke 19:17
- Transformed lives: Luke 16:9, 2Cor 6:10
- Earthly rewards. Matt 19:29, 2Cor 9:8

COMMON HIDDEN TRAPS THAT DERAIL OR LIMIT GREAT LEADERS TODAY.

Most of the hidden traps that derail great leaders are embedded in 1 John 2:16

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

From the above scripture the hidden traps or the weaknesses that can limit a leader can be broadly divided into three. The devil tempted Eve and later Jesus along these same three lines. In the Garden of Eden, the fruit was good for food (lust of the flesh), pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and desired to make one wise (pride of life). While Adam and Eve fell, Jesus overcame every temptation through obedience to God's Word. As believers, victory comes not through human strength but through submission to God, obedience to His Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Three Major Weaknesses of a Leader.

1. The Lust of the Flesh

This refers to sinful desires arising from the fleshly nature—cravings for pleasure, comfort, and gratification that are contrary to God's will.

Examples:

- **Sexual immorality.** This doesn't only destroy the person engaging in it but affects the flow of the power of God in the congregation. It's twin brother is idolatry. These were what Balaam counselled Balaam to use against the undefeatable children of Israel. Reuben and Samson truncated their destinies because they couldn't control their appetite for sex. A leader must set boundaries between himself/herself and the opposite gender who are not his/her spouse both in the church and market places.

THE HIDDEN TRAPS THAT DERAIL GREAT LEADERS

■ PASTOR IDOWU OWOLABI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

By this study we will develop the ability to identify and develop the characters to avoid and have victory over leadership pitfalls.

Memory Verses:

2 Samuel 23:3 – *"He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."*

Hebrews 12:1 - "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

INTRODUCTION: WHY LEADERS FAIL.

Great leaders rarely fail because of a lack of talent, intelligence, or opportunity. More often, they are derailed by hidden traps that gradually weaken their effectiveness and influence. However, the good news is that the devils, the tempter never change their strategy as their methods remain the same. In other words, all the pitfalls leaders fall into have been the same or similar since the time of angelic and adamic falls till dates, so we can learn from history.

· **Gluttony and Drunkenness**, e.g Noah, Lot and Esau - That's why the priests were told not to drink any wine. The wisest leader in the history of the world says in Ecclesiastes 10:16-17: "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! 17 Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!"

Biblical Remedy:

Walking in the Spirit and exercising self-control. Galatians 5:16-
"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

2. The Lust of the Eyes

This refers to coveting or desiring what we see but do not possess, leading to greed, envy, and materialism.

Examples:

· **Covetousness**; greed for wealth, envy of others' possessions, and materialistic living. All these were the weaknesses of some rising leaders such as Achan, Balaam, Gheazi, Judas Iscariot in the Bible and were shipwrecked. A leader must pursue vision while all the wealth pursue him. Greed and materialistic living would not allow a leader to know which of the financial inflow belongs to God's project.

Biblical Remedy:

Contentment and gratitude as told by Apostle Paul in Hebrews 13:5 - *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."*

3. The Pride of Life

This refers to self-exaltation, arrogance, and dependence on one's own achievements, status, power, or possessions rather than on God.

Examples:

· **Boasting;** Arrogance; Seeking recognition and glory; Refusing correction; comparing oneself with others; and unhealthy competition.

The sin of pride is subtle. Success can make a leader believe they no longer need advice or correction. Pride closes the ears to wise counsel and often precedes a fall. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Biblical Remedy:

Humility before God. James 4:6- "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

OTHER TRAPS THAT CAN SLOW DOWN A GREAT LEADER.

1. Neglecting Spiritual and Personal Growth

Leaders who stop learning, praying, reflecting, and improving day by day eventually become stagnant or get stuck. It is apparent from the teaching of our Lord in the book of Luke 11:3 that says "Give us day by day our daily bread", and Matthew 6:34 that says "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" that a church leader must present himself before God every day for spiritual strength and guidance.

Experience is good, but a leader must still seek the face of God to know which of the experiences is relevant, even where the situation would not warrant a new approach.

A leader can be too familiar with God to the extent of relying on his past experiences. A leader must not stop learning both from

the Holy Spirit and men. Every great leader is a reader. God will abandon a leader that stops seeking new ideas. Hosea 4:6

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

2. Losing Focus on Purpose

When personal ambition replaces the original vision and mission, leadership begins to drift. These can make a promising leader leave his core calling for what is popular. A leader loses his comparative advantage the moment he leaves his core place of competency and also becomes vulnerable when he ventures into an area outside of his calling. In 1 Corinthians 7:20 the word of God admonishes us as follows:

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."

The grace and the anointing of God in a man's life only covers his calling. This is why the boldness for an open air crusade hardly comes upon a Pastor who is a teacher.

3. Procrastination

Delaying important decisions or actions can cause opportunities to be lost and problems to grow beyond control. The moment you are convinced that God is working in you to will and to take an action, go for it!

4. Fear of Change

Refusing to adapt to new realities can make a leader ineffective in a rapidly changing environment. A leader who fears change may have good intentions, but excessive resistance to change can hinder growth, innovation, and the advancement of God's work.

Our God is dynamic it is His principles that never change, methods and approaches may change to fulfill God's purposes. Hear God in Isaiah 43:19 - *"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth..."*

Revelation 21:5- *"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."*

God may abandon a leader that refuses to embrace His new ways of advancing His agenda. I want to believe that God turned to use Paul the Apostle because Peter refused to fully comprehend God's plan for the salvation of the gentiles.

Signs of a Leader Who Fears Change:-

- Clings to tradition even when it is no longer effective.
- Rejects new ideas without considering them.
- Views every change as a threat rather than an opportunity.
- Discourages younger leaders from contributing fresh perspectives.
- Focuses more on preserving the past than preparing for the future.

The Dangers of Holding on to Traditions.

- Stagnation – The ministry or the business may stop growing and adapting to current realities. Nokia phone lost the market of a life time to Samsung because its investors/management management refused to adopt android until it was too late.
- Discouragement of gifted members – Creative and capable members may become frustrated.
- Missed opportunities – The church may fail to reach new generations and communities.

- Resistance to God's leading – God often leads His people into new seasons and assignments.

A Balanced Approach:

Not every change is good, and not every tradition is bad. Wise leaders test every proposed change against scriptures, prayer, and godly counsel. The goal is not change for its own sake, but change that helps the church fulfill its God-given mission more effectively.

A great leader preserves the unchanging truth of God's Word while remaining open to fresh methods for advancing God's kingdom. The question is not whether change will come, but whether we will discern which changes God is using to move His people forward. Faith honors the past, serves the present, and prepares for the future.

5. Lack of Integrity.

Integrity is doing what is right because it is right, even when no one is watching. It was integrity that made Joseph turn down the advance made towards him by his master's wife on his road to his glory. (Genesis 39:7-10)

A man of integrity enjoys God's favour, people's trust, and a lasting legacy. The man without integrity eventually loses all the three.

Talent may open doors, but integrity keeps them open. A person of integrity may face challenges, but in the end, God honors those who walk uprightly before Him.

When a leader lacks integrity he risks losing his influence and legacy as no one would follow a man that is not reliable. It's a

matter of time he will lose followership. Proverbs 10:9 - ***"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."***

A good reputation built over years can be destroyed by a single act of dishonesty. Trust is the currency of leadership. Once integrity is compromised, confidence and influence begin to disappear.

6. Poor Time Management.

Time is a leader's most valuable resource. When it is wasted on distractions, important priorities suffer.

A great leader must be under the control of his word and time. He doesn't work at his own convenience.

Time management is the process of planning and controlling how you spend your time so that you can work efficiently, reduce stress, and achieve your goals.

7. Leaders that Surround Themselves with Sycophants

Leaders need honest people who can speak the truth respectfully. Constant praise without accountability is dangerous. The female servant of Namaan out of love for her master advised him. A leader should give room for their children, spouses and closed associates to have their says, before the final decision is made.

8. Burnout

Trying to carry every burden alone can lead to physical, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion and little jobs can only be done in such an atmosphere.

9. Failure to Develop Successors.

A leader who does everything alone may achieve short-term

success but leaves no lasting legacy. Great leaders raise other leaders. Elisha versus Jesus Christ. God may not measure the success of a church leader by the numbers of his congregation.

Elisha did not have patience to develop a successor; whereas, the first job our Lord embarked on was to raise His disciples, trained them, empower them and send them. His plan was that they would be able continue where He stopped and do more jobs. John 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY.

The greatest threats to leadership are often not external enemies but internal weaknesses.

A leader does not fall suddenly; he first gives room to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. But a man who continually submits himself to God will find grace to overcome every temptation. Therefore every leader must guard the heart, discipline the flesh, and walk humbly with God. Wise leaders regularly examine themselves, remain teachable, seek God's guidance, and maintain integrity.

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." – Jude 24

PRAYER

Lord, help us to lead with humility, wisdom, integrity, and purpose. Deliver us from the hidden traps that derail leaders, and grant us the grace to finish our assignments faithfully, in Jesus' name. Father, grant us victory over the lust of the flesh,

the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Help us to live holy, contented, and humble lives that glorify You in Jesus' name, Amen.

May God grant us the wisdom to recognize hidden traps before they become stumbling blocks, the humility to remain teachable, and the strength to lead with integrity and purpose.

May our leadership in the church, and our community continue to be fruitful and impactful. May the Lord strengthen our hands for every good work, grant us sound health, divine wisdom, and uncommon favour. May our words bring light, our counsel bring solutions, and our labour yield abundant fruit.

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us" (Psalm 90:17) in Jesus name.

Amen!!!

LEADING THROUGH RESISTANCE AND OPPOSITION

■ PASTOR. D. T. OLUDELE

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 16:9, Nehemiah 4:1-14, Acts 4:29-31

Leadership in Christian life is rarely without challenge. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture shows that God often calls His servants into seasons where their vision is resisted, their motives are questioned, and their obedience is tested. Moses faced murmuring and rebellion. Nehemiah faced mockery and threats. David faced suspicion and persecution. Jeremiah faced rejection. Jesus Himself was opposed by religious leaders, misunderstood by crowds, and betrayed by one of His own disciples. Yet in every generation, God raises leaders who must learn how to stand firm, love deeply, and lead faithfully even when they are opposed.

Leadership is a divine assignment that often attracts resistance and opposition. Every God-ordained leader, whether in the family, church, workplace, or society, will inevitably encounter challenges from people, circumstances, and spiritual forces. Resistance and opposition are not necessarily signs of failure; rather, they are often indicators that a leader is making progress and advancing God's purpose.

Resistance is not always a sign that a leader is wrong. Sometimes resistance is the very arena in which God proves, purifies, and strengthens leadership. As the apostle Paul wrote, *"A great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries"* (1 Corinthians 16:9). In other words, opposition does not always mean the door is closed; often it means the assignment is important.

Throughout Scripture, God used men and women who faced intense opposition yet remained faithful to their calling. From Moses confronting Pharaoh to Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, and from Jesus facing religious leaders to Paul enduring persecution, biblical leaders demonstrated that effective leadership requires courage, faith, wisdom, and perseverance.

UNDERSTANDING RESISTANCE AND OPPOSITION

Definition of Resistance: Resistance is the act of opposing, delaying, or obstructing a leader's vision, decisions, or actions. It may come from individuals, groups, circumstances, or internal fears.

Definition of Opposition: Opposition refers to active hostility or conflict directed toward a leader because of his or her beliefs, decisions, influence, or divine assignment.

SOURCES OF OPPOSITION

- a) Spiritual opposition from the enemy.
- b) Human jealousy and envy.
- c) Misunderstanding and misinformation.
- d) Fear of change.
- e) Personal ambition and selfish interests.
- f) Cultural and societal pressures.

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Corinthians 16:9

The presence of adversaries often accompanies the opening of great opportunities.

WHY GODLY LEADERS FACE OPPOSITION

1. Leadership Opposition Is Part of the Biblical Pattern

The Bible does not present leadership as a path of ease, applause, or constant agreement. Instead, it presents leadership as a calling that often attracts resistance.

Moses led Israel out of Egypt, yet the people complained against him repeatedly (Exodus 16:2-3; Numbers 14:2-4).

Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls under constant ridicule, conspiracy, and threats (Nehemiah 4:1-3, 7-8). David was anointed king, yet Saul pursued him like an enemy (1 Samuel 19:1-2; 24:10). Even Jesus, the perfect Leader, was opposed at every stage of His public ministry (John 5:16; Mark 3:22).

This shows that resistance is not always proof of failure. Sometimes it is evidence that a leader is advancing God's purpose. Psalm 23:5 reminds us that God prepares a table ***"in the presence of my enemies,"*** meaning the presence of opposition does not cancel divine provision.

Leadership Brings Change. People naturally resist change because it disrupts comfort zones.

Biblical Example: Moses

When Moses attempted to deliver Israel, both Pharaoh and the Israelites resisted him. Exodus 5:2 - ***"And Pharaoh said, Who is***

the LORD, that I should obey his voice?"

Leadership often challenges established systems.

2. Leadership Threatens Existing Powers

One of the first requirements for leading through opposition is certainty in God's calling. A leader who depends on human approval will collapse under criticism. But a leader who is grounded in God's assignment can endure misunderstanding and pressure.

When God called Jeremiah, He told him, *"Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you"* (Jeremiah 1:8). God did not promise Jeremiah universal acceptance. He promised His presence. Likewise, when God called Joshua, He repeatedly commanded him to be strong and courageous because divine assignment always requires divine confidence (Joshua 1:6-9).

A leader must learn to ask, not "Do people approve of me?" but *"Has God sent me?"* Paul could endure hardship because he knew he had been called by the will of God (Galatians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:11-12). The assurance of calling becomes an anchor in turbulent seasons.

Those benefiting from the current system may oppose reforms.

Biblical Example: Jesus Christ

Jesus' teachings threatened the authority and traditions of religious leaders.

John 11:48 - *"If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him."*

3. Resistance Can Refine the Leader and Expose Darkness

Opposition often reveals what is inside the heart. It tests humility, patience, faith, and character. In this way, resistance

can become a divine instrument of refinement.

James teaches believers to consider trials as opportunities for growth because the testing of faith produces perseverance and maturity (James 1:2-4). Peter echoes this truth by saying that trials refine faith like fire refines gold (1 Peter 1:6-7). Leaders are not exempt from this process. In fact, leadership often intensifies it.

When David was pursued by Saul, he had the chance to become bitter or revengeful, but instead he learned restraint, trust, and dependence on God (1 Samuel 24:6; 26:9-11). Before David could wear the crown, he had to carry the character. Likewise, Joseph's opposition in Potiphar's house, the prison, and his brothers' betrayal prepared him for the leadership he would later exercise in Egypt (Genesis 37:28; 39:2-3; 41:39-41).

Resistance may be painful, but in God's hands it can develop wisdom, emotional maturity, and spiritual depth. Righteous leadership confronts corruption and sin.

Biblical Example: John the Baptist

John rebuked Herod's immoral lifestyle and paid the ultimate price. Mark 6:18 -"It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife."

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF LEADERS WHO FACED OPPOSITION

1. Moses: Opposition from Within and Without

External Opposition: Pharaoh repeatedly resisted God's command.

Internal Opposition: The Israelites frequently complained against Moses. Numbers 14:2 "And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron."

Lessons

- Remain obedient despite criticism.
- Depend on God rather than public approval.
- Maintain humility.

2. Nehemiah: Opposition to Vision

Nehemiah encountered fierce resistance while rebuilding Jerusalem's walls.

Opponents: Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem (Nehemiah 4:1)

They used: Mockery, Threats, Conspiracy, False accusations

Nehemiah's Response: Prayer, Vigilance, Strategic planning,

Focus on the mission (Nehemiah 4:9)

3. David: Opposition from Jealousy

David experienced intense opposition from King Saul.

Causes

- Success
- Favor with God
- Public recognition

1 Samuel 18:9

"And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

David's Response

- Refused revenge
- Honored authority
- Trusted God's timing

Leadership Lesson

Character sustains leadership under pressure.

4. Apostle Paul: Opposition in Ministry

Paul endured:

- Imprisonment
- Beatings
- Rejection
- False accusations

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

Despite these hardships, he remained committed to God's call.

Acts 20:24

"But none of these things move me."

Leadership Lesson

A leader's commitment must exceed the intensity of opposition.
Principles for Leading Through Resistance and Opposition

1. Maintain a Clear Vision

Keep the Mission in View

Resistance becomes overwhelming when the leader loses sight of the mission. Nehemiah's opponents tried to distract him, but he replied, *"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down"* (Nehemiah 6:3). That statement is a model for every leader facing opposition.

A godly leader must remain focused on the assignment rather than the noise. Paul pressed forward despite hardship because he kept his eyes on the heavenly calling (Philippians 3:13-14).

Jesus endured the cross *"for the joy that was set before Him"* (Hebrews 12:2). That joy sustained His obedience through suffering.

When the mission is clear, discouragement loses some of its power. The leader learns to ask, ***"What has God called me to build, protect, and complete?"***

A leader without vision is easily distracted by opposition.

Proverbs 29:18

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Vision provides direction during difficult seasons.

Application

- Keep God's purpose before you.
- Regularly communicate the vision.
- Refuse unnecessary distractions.

2. Depend on Prayer

One of the strongest patterns in Scripture is that godly leaders respond to resistance with prayer. Nehemiah, when mocked and threatened, prayed and then continued building (Nehemiah 4:4-6, 9). The early church, when faced with threats, prayed for boldness instead of safety (Acts 4:24-31). Jesus Himself withdrew often to pray, especially before major moments of pressure (Luke 5:16; Luke 22:41-44).

Prayer shifts the leader's focus from the size of the opposition to the greatness of God. It also prevents the leader from becoming controlled by fear. Philippians 4:6-7 teaches believers to bring everything to God in prayer, and the result is the peace of God guarding the heart and mind.

Prayer does not always remove the battle immediately, but it strengthens the leader to stand in it with faith.

Prayer is the leader's greatest weapon.

Example: Nehemiah

Whenever opposition arose, Nehemiah prayed.

Nehemiah 2:4

"So I prayed to the God of heaven."

Benefits of Prayer

- Divine wisdom
- Strength
- Discernment
- Peace

3. Develop Emotional Maturity

Not every criticism deserves a response.

Ecclesiastes 7:21

"Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken."

Emotionally mature leaders:

- Control anger.
- Avoid impulsive decisions.
- Stay focused on objectives.

4. Respond with Wisdom

Jesus demonstrated wisdom when confronted.

Matthew 22:21

He answered difficult questions without compromising truth.

Leadership Wisdom

- Know when to speak.
- Know when to remain silent.
- Avoid unnecessary arguments.

5. Build Strong Teams

Leadership should not be a solitary endeavor.

Example: Moses

Jethro advised Moses to delegate responsibilities.

Exodus 18:21

Strong teams provide:

- Support
- Accountability
- Shared responsibility
- Greater effectiveness

6. Remain Courageous

Fear is one of opposition's greatest weapons.

Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and of a good courage."

Courage is not the absence of fear but obedience despite fear.

7. Trust God's Sovereignty

God remains in control regardless of opposition.

Romans 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good."

Leaders who trust God avoid panic and despair.

Common Mistakes Leaders Make During Opposition

1. Becoming Defensive

Excessive self-defense can damage credibility.

2. Seeking Revenge

David refused to retaliate against Saul.

Romans 12:19

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

3. Compromising Principles

Opposition should never cause leaders to abandon biblical convictions.

4. Isolating Themselves

Leaders need godly counsel and support.

Proverbs 11:14

"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Spiritual Weapons for Overcoming Opposition

1. The Word of God

Ephesians 6:17

The Word provides guidance and strength.

2. Faith

Hebrews 11:6

Faith enables leaders to trust God despite obstacles.

3. Prayer

James 5:16

Prayer invites divine intervention.

4. Righteous Living

Proverbs 10:9

"He that walketh uprightly walketh surely."

Integrity silences many accusations.

The Rewards of Persevering Through Opposition

1. Spiritual Growth

Challenges strengthen faith and character.

James 1:2-4

2. Greater Influence

Faithful leaders gain credibility and trust.

3. Fulfillment of God's Purpose

Persistence leads to accomplishment.

Example

Nehemiah completed the wall despite fierce opposition.

Nehemiah 6:15

4. Eternal Reward

God rewards faithful service.

Galatians 6:9

"And let us not be weary in well doing."

Conclusion

Resistance and opposition are unavoidable realities of leadership. Every significant leader in Scripture encountered obstacles, criticism, and hostility. However, they succeeded because they relied on God, remained faithful to their vision, and persevered through adversity.

Christian leaders today must recognize that opposition is often part of God's process for developing character, strengthening faith, and preparing them for greater impact. By maintaining a clear vision, cultivating prayer, exercising wisdom, building strong relationships, and trusting God's sovereignty, leaders can successfully navigate resistance and emerge stronger and more effective.

As followers of Christ, our ultimate example is Jesus, who endured opposition, rejection, suffering, and the cross, yet fulfilled His divine mission.

Hebrews 12:3

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

May every Christian leader find courage, wisdom, and strength to lead faithfully through resistance and opposition until God's purpose is fully accomplished.

MANAGING GROWTH WITHOUT LOSING VISION

▪ PASTOR IGE AYOMIDE GABRIEL

INTRODUCTION

Habakkuk 2:2 - *“Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.”*

Proverbs 29:18 - **“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”**

Nehemiah 6:3- *“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down...”*

Growth is one of God's ordained principles for creation. From Genesis to Revelation, God consistently reveals Himself as a God of increase, multiplication, expansion, and fruitfulness. Whether in families, ministries, businesses, organizations, or nations, growth is essential as the evidence of life.

However, history repeatedly demonstrates that growth itself is not the greatest challenge; sustaining growth without losing the original vision is the real test of a successful and accomplished life.

God operates in and through us as His children, and this extends to our kingdom services or mandates, callings, ministries, through organizations and businesses, families, career paths and vocations, with growth in anticipation. It therefore becomes a very crucial matter that we should experience such growth in all of these without losing the very vision that birthed them.

The greatest danger of growth is not opposition; it is distraction. Many believers as represented in the Church service, divine assignment or calling, businesses and career fail not because they stopped growing, but because they forgot how and why they started.

A church can gain thousands of members and lose its burden for souls. A leader can become influential and lose intimacy with God. A business can become profitable and lose its values.

A family can acquire wealth and affluence and lose sight of God.

Growth is good, growth is sweet, but growth can become dangerous when expansion exceeds alignment with purpose.

Vision is God's divine blueprint for a person, ministry, family, organization, or nation. Vision provides direction, meaning, identity, and destiny. Growth without vision leads to confusion, compromise, mission drift, and eventual decline.

Therefore, managing growth without losing vision is the discipline of preserving divine purpose while embracing expansion.

UNDERSTANDING VISION AS THE FOUNDATION OF GROWTH

- Vision is not ambition.
- Vision is not personal preference.
- Vision is the revelation of God's intended future for an individual, ministry, family, or organization.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VISION

A. Vision Precedes Expansion

Habakkuk 2:2, Genesis 12:1-3, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 46:10

God is fully interested in Growth, but before He enlarges a man, He first reveals His purpose. Abraham did not become the father of nations until God showed and deposited the vision in him. Moses could only deliver Israel after God revealed the assignment to him. Same with Nehemiah, who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem having received a burden from God. Every genuine growth process begins with divine vision.

The greatest danger in life is becoming more committed to growth than to the vision that initiated the growth. Growth should always serve vision; vision should never serve growth.

B. Vision Provides Direction during Expansion

Proverbs 29:18, Psalm 32:8, Isaiah 30:21, John 10:27

Growth creates opportunities, responsibilities, relationships, and influence. Without vision, expansion can become distraction. Vision functions as a compass that keeps believer aligned with God's purpose regardless of the level of success attained. A believers who are in ministry, career or business do not lose their way because they lack resources; they lose their way because they lose sight of their vision. The greater the growth, the greater the need for clarity of direction.

C. Vision is the Lead Vocalist in the Symphony of Growth

Habakkuk 2:2, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 2 Timothy 2:2, Nehemiah 2:17-18

A vision that is not communicated eventually dies. Vision is what consistently remind people of:

- What God has called them to accomplish.
- Why the organization exists.
- What values must never be compromised.
- What future they are pursuing.

Vision leakage is one of the greatest threats to growth. As new people join, the vision must continually be taught, reinforced, and demonstrated.

D. Vision Requires Leadership Stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:2, Luke 12:42, Exodus 18:21, Titus 1:7

Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. Growth often tempts people to pursue popularity, profitability, prestige, or public approval at the expense of purpose. A true believer measures success not merely by expansion but by faithfulness to divine assignment. Every generation of Carriers of divine mandate must preserve the original mandate entrusted to it by God. One of the core reasons why Abraham was highly honored and valued by God was because God saw that He could trust him with the un-impaired continuity of the divine vision and purpose entrusted to him, even to his future generation. Gen. 18:17-19.

E. Growth without Vision Produces Mission Drift

Judges 2:10, Deuteronomy 8:11-14, Revelation 2:4-5, Matthew 16:26

Mission drift occurs when people gradually depart from their original purpose. It rarely happens suddenly, it's a gradual syndrome that leads to a pandemic. It often begins with small compromises, shifting priorities, neglect of foundational values, and pursuit of external validation.

A person's life through commitment, passion and the Grace of God can be used to impact the lives of many, but could also, if adequate care is not taken, make the person become a monument, trying to maintain structures because growth replaced purpose. Growth becomes dangerous when purpose is forgotten. The question every growing believer must continually ask is:

“Are I still accomplishing what GOD originally called ME to do?”

(Prayer: May I not continue to do what God will eventually reject or destroy)

THE ENEMIES OF VISION DURING GROWTH

1. Pride - The Silent Destroyer of Vision

Deuteronomy 8:11-18, Proverbs 16:18, James 4:6

One of the greatest dangers that accompanies growth is pride. Pride occurs when a man begins to attribute God's accomplishments to his own intelligence, strength, education, connections, or experience. The more God blesses a person, the greater the temptation to forget the Source of the blessing. Pride blinds people, destroys teachability, and disconnects individuals from divine guidance.

King Uzziah is a classic example. The Bible records that “*when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction*” (2 Chronicles 26:16). God prospered him, strengthened his kingdom, and gave him influence. However, success eventually produced pride, and pride led him into actions outside his divine assignment.

Every believer must remember that growth is a gift from God and not a certificate of self-sufficiency. Humility preserves vision; pride destroys it.

2. Comfort - The Enemy of Continuous Purpose

Amos 6:1, Philippians 3:13-14, Hebrews 6:12

Growth often creates comfort zones. When people attain a measure of success, they become tempted to settle. The danger of comfort is that it convinces people that their current achievement is the final destination. God, however, is a God of progress.

The nation of Israel illustrates this danger. After entering Canaan, many tribes became comfortable and failed to fully possess their inheritance. What was meant to be a platform for greater exploits became a place of complacency. Likewise, believers must never allow yesterday's victories to become today's limitations. Vision requires continual pursuit of God's next assignment.

3. Distraction - The Thief of Destiny

Nehemiah 6:1-4, Luke 10:38-42, Hebrews 12:2

Not every opportunity is an assignment from God. As growth increases, attractions, responsibilities, and demands also increase. Without discernment, a believer can become busy but unproductive. Distraction occurs when secondary matters begin to consume energy meant for primary assignments.

Nehemiah understood this principle. While rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, he was repeatedly invited to discussions that would have diverted him from his mission. His response remains a leadership model: *"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down."* Vision-preserving believers learn the discipline of saying "No" to good opportunities in order to say "Yes" to God's purpose.

4. Greed - When Growth Becomes an Idol

Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Ecclesiastes 5:10

Growth is God's blessing, but greed is man's corruption of that

blessing. Greed occurs when acquisition becomes more important than purpose. Money, influence, property, and power are all good servants but terrible masters.

The life of Gehazi demonstrates this danger. As Elisha's servant, he witnessed extraordinary miracles and divine manifestations. Yet his desire for material gain caused him to compromise spiritual integrity (2 Kings 5:20-27). Many people begin with kingdom motives but gradually replace service with self-interest. Vision survives when stewardship remains more important than accumulation.

5. Loss Of Prayer and Spiritual Intimacy

Mark 1:35, John 15:5, Acts 6:4

One of the greatest dangers of growth is that responsibilities multiply while devotion decreases. Many believers become so busy working for God that they stop walking with God. Spiritual intimacy is the fuel that sustains vision.

Jesus provides the perfect example. Despite unprecedented demands, miracles, and crowds, He continually withdrew to pray. His public effectiveness was rooted in private fellowship. Whenever growth begins to reduce prayer, Bible study, and personal and private communion with God, vision is already under threat. Great lives or ministries are sustained not by activity but by intimacy.

6. Lack of Accountability

Exodus 18:17-23, Proverbs 11:14, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Growth increases influence, and influence can become dangerous when there are no accountability structures. Accountability protects people from blind spots, excesses, and poor decisions. God never designed any individual to function in isolation.

Moses almost collapsed under the weight of leadership because he attempted to carry the burden alone. Through Jethro's counsel, he established leadership structures and delegated responsibilities. Sustainable growth requires trusted advisers, mentors, spiritual oversight, and transparent systems. Accountability protects both vision and the visionary.

7. Mission Drift – Losing the Original Assignment

Revelation 2:1-5, Judges 2:10, Habakkuk 2:2

Mission drift occurs when an individual, family, ministry, or organization gradually departs from its original purpose. It rarely happens suddenly. Rather, it occurs through small compromises, shifting priorities, and neglect of foundational convictions.

The church at Ephesus is a sobering example. They maintained activities, doctrine, and service, yet Jesus declared that they had left their first love. Outward growth continued, but inward alignment was lost. Every generation must continually revisit God's original vision. What began as a calling must never become merely an institution. Vision is preserved through constant remembrance, evaluation, and realignment with God's purpose.

“Growth without vision creates confusion, Vision without growth creates stagnation, but true kingdom success maintains both”

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES TO SUSTAIN THE VISION DURING GROWTH

Principle 1:

Never Allow Success to Replace Purpose - *Deut. 8:11-14*

Many believers remember God during struggle but forget Him during success. The greatest test of devotion is not adversity - It is prosperity.

Signs That Success Is Replacing Purpose

- More focus on numbers than impact
- More concern for image than character
- More emphasis on revenue than values
- More attention to applause than obedience

Principle 2:

Preserve the Core Values - Acts 6:1-4

When the early church expanded, the apostles protected their primary assignment. They delegated responsibilities without abandoning prayer and the ministry of the Word. Don't ever sacrifice values in exchange for expansion.

Principle 3:

Build Systems before Expansion - Exodus 18:17-23

Jethro told Moses: "The thing that thou doest is not good."

Moses had vision - but vision without systems creates burnout. What brought you to one level may not sustain the next level.

As growth increases, systems must improve, communication must improve, accountability must improve, and Leadership structures must also improve.

Principle 4:

Develop People, Not Just Projects - 2 Timothy 2:2

Healthy growth is measured by the quality of people developed. Jesus invested in twelve men before impacting the world. Buildings do not carry vision, People do.

I once heard a great man of God talking about the secret of success. He said, you do not grow a system by using people to build it, but you build people, and they will automatically (in return) help you build the system. A ministry that grows faster than its leaders becomes unstable. A business that grows faster than its workforce becomes dysfunctional.

Principle 5:

Protect Personal Intimacy with God - Mark 1:35

Before Jesus ministered publicly, He withdrew privately - Secret of Great Success

Maintain prayer life, Maintain study life, Maintain personal devotion.

Growth should never reduce spiritual sensitivity.

Principle 6:

Involve the Family in the Vision - Joshua 24:15

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

One of the greatest tragedies of life is succeeding publicly and failing privately.

A growing ministry, career, or business must not destroy the family. Family Growth Principles, carry your spouse along, communicate vision regularly, create quality family time, protect your marriage and raise children intentionally.

A vision that destroys the family has already failed.

Principle 7:

Learn the Art of Delegation - Exodus 18:21

No one can sustain growth alone. Growth demands multiplication of leadership.

Delegation Is Not Weakness, it is wisdom. What you do alone limits you, drags and growls. If you want to build large, wide, to last, then build with good people.

Good people in the context refer to people with the right heart and attitude, trustworthy and like-minded people with valid loyalty.

Principle 8:

Review the Vision Regularly - 1 Chronicles 12:32

The sons of Issachar understood the times. Ask these questions: Are we still pursuing the original mandate? Have we drifted from purpose? Are current activities aligned with our vision? Growth should strengthen vision, not replace it.

THOUGHT FOR THE STUDY

Growth is God's blessing and vision is God's compass. Growth determines how far you go, but Vision determines whether you arrive at the right destination.

A church may grow. A business may expand. A ministry may become global.

A family may prosper, but the ultimate measure of success is not how much growth occurred, but whether the original purpose of God was faithfully preserved.

LEADING DURING SEASONS OF EXPANSION

▪ BISHOP FELIX KAYODE

INTRODUCTION

The God we are serving is a God of increase. He is interested in our expansion (Ps 115:14, Ps 71:21). Expansion means the act of becoming larger, better and bigger. Genesis 1:28 says *“And God blessed them and God said unto them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”*

The theme of this year NOJC is the year of the lord's favour and I believe that God is bringing expansion upon us in every area of our lives. He has led our PAPA that the season of Expansion is here and by the favour of God, we will experience Expansion. Our ministries will expand. Our businesses will expand. We will break forth to the left and to the right even on all fronts in Jesus mighty name.

As leaders, (because we are all leaders at one level or the other, you may be a leader in the church, home, community or one way or the other, you are influencing somebody), we must catch in into what

God is saying, leading our parents in the Lord that the seasons of Expansion is here.

In life it is not evil or out of place to start small in whatever you are doing, but its an absolute error to remain small.

Job 8:7 *"Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase"*

Please, pay careful attention to the scripture above "Thy beginning may be small, but you must not remain small. You are to expand, you are to increase. And you have a responsibility in this. That is why, it didn't say, your latter end shall increase BUT should increase. It will increase if the right things are done. Therefore, I am going to be looking at this discussion from 2 angles.

1. Leading people into the ***SEASONS of EXPANSION***: That is, what to do to step into the season. GOD can bring increase, but PAUL must PLANT and APOLLO must WATER. There are things to do. In 1 King 18, when Elijah declared to King Ahab that the abundance of rain is coming. He, (Elijah) did not go to sleep. 1 kings 18:41-42.
2. Leading people to sustain the ***SEASONS of EXPANSION***: That is, what to do to keep the season of expansion so as not to loose it. It is not just enough to attain the height of great Expansion, but to maintain and retain it is most important. It is better not to be great than to fall from the ladder of greatness.

Scriptural Reading: Luke 14:16-23

Jesus told the above parable to show us how the kingdom of God operates. Pay attention to some vital points from the parable.

1. The man made a Great Supper – Our God is a great God, he does great things and he wants us to expand and be great. You must see it like that and believe it.
2. He said that my house may be filled – God wants us to expand. Don't be satisfied with the little. You have started little, yes, but aim for Expansion.
3. The Great Supper is already made i.e. God has already brought on us the Seasons of Expansion as declared by our father by the leading of the Holy Spirit, but yet, the servants have great roles to play, to go all out and make the house filled.
4. God is angry when you are not expanding. Luke 14:21. Therefore in this seasons of Expansion, leaders have great roles to play to lead.

LEADING INTO THE SEASON OF EXPANSION

1. Have A Great Vision:- No church or organization can be bigger than the vision of the leader. The above parable showed us clearly that the Man had a great vision putting up A GREAT SUPPER and desired that the house MUST BE FILLED. God will only give you AS FAR AS YOUR EYES CAN SEE. Genesis 13:14-15. If you cannot see it, you cannot become it.
2. Be A Servant – Leaders are servants vs 17, only servants can be sent. Do you know how to be a servant? You humble yourself. You come down from your high horse. Can you imagine from this parable, with all the efforts of the servant, the Lord was still angry and said to him, go back to the street. Only servants can take that. Phil 2:5-16

3. Do Not Be Lazy – Lazy people cannot lead. From that parable, the servant has to go again and again. Lazy people cannot do that. Prov 20:4, Prov 6:6-11, Prov 21:25
4. Do Not Be Excuses Maker Or Excuses Taker – Excuses does not exist, they are made. Luke 14:18. Don't be making excuses. Prov 20:4. Don't be **TAKER** of **EXCUSES**, **HELP PEOPLE OVERCOME THEIR EXCUSES**.

Let us quickly look carefully at the excuses. But before then, it will be helpful if we define A SUPPER. A SUPPER is the last meal of the day, usually eaten at night

(NOTE: BREAKFAST IS THE MEAL EATEN IN THE MORNING, LAUNCH EATEN AFTERNOON, DINNER EATEN IN THE EVENING WHILE SUPPER IS THE MEAL EATEN AT NIGHT).

- **Excuse No 1** – I have bought a piece of ground and I must needs to go and see it.
 - **Excuse No 2** – I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them
 - **Excuse No 3** - I have married a wife
5. Be A Carrier of Good News:- Luke 14:17 We are suppose to be Carriers of Good News in the midst of this social media age that is full of bad news. As a leader in season of Expansion, you must believe and proclaim the word of God even when all circumstances looks contrary. Be like the Shunamite woman that though her child has died but kept on saying **IT IS WELL** and **IT WAS WELL**. Isaiah 8:12-14 (Read KJV and NLT), Numbers 14:28
 6. Be Prayerful – I kings 18:41-46

LEADING TO SUSTAIN THE SEASONS OF EXPANSION

1. Stay connected to your source John 15:6

- Keep your salvation experience of holiness and sanctification 1 Cori 10:12
- Keep your foundation intact Ps 11:3, don't allow expansion to change your values. Protect your doctrine.
- Increase the fire on your altar. I Thess 5:17
- Study the word of God more. I Peter 2:2
- Your relationship with the Holy Spirit must not dwindle
- Beware of overconfidence. Judges 16:20. Don't disconnect from your mentor Heb 12:9

2. Bear more fruits John 15:2

- Engage the strategies that build capacity e.g. Discipleship Class, Leadership Training/Summit, Pastors Conference, Ministers Conference.
- Build and multiply leaders.
- Define your Goals, Visions, and Mission clearly for them in simple terms

3. Encourage team work Acts 6:1-7 You cannot do everything alone.

- Refuse to be a lone ranger
- Delegate duties with thorough supervision
- Establish love and unity. Ps 133:1-3

4. Take heed to yourself. I Timothy 4:16

- Guard your health and time
- Keep developing yourself, don't rely on past glory.

5. Make use of modern science and technology

- To reach out more
- To monitor and strengthen the system for care,

- outreaches and communication
 - Create several channels like Radio, Cable Television, Social Media, Mission, Evangelism etc
 - Device means for evaluation and feedback.
6. Take heed to the flock. Acts 20:28
- Visit the sick
 - Help the needy
 - Preach to the people
 - Connect to the people

STEWARDED PROPHETIC WORDS UNTIL FULFILLMENT

■ PASTOR EMMANUEL SAMUEL

"Despise not prophesying. Prove all things, hold fast that which is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21"

"Do not scorn or reject gifts of prophecy or prophecies (spoken revelations---words of instruction or exhortations or warning). But test all things carefully (so you can recognize what is good). Hold firmly to that which is good. 1Thessalonians 5:20-21 AMP"

God is a talking God and He does speak to people in different ways so that we can understand Him. In the Old Testament, God primarily communicated with His people through His prophets, divine messengers or angels and physical manifestations like dreams and visions etc. Then, prophecy was mainly a message from God delivered through a chosen spokesperson (the prophet) and it also included predicting the future (it was foretelling), its core purpose was to reveal God's will, correct moral injustices and call people back to a faithful relationship with Him. - In the New Testament, prophecy is the supernatural utterance of the Holy Spirit in a known tongue. It is forthtelling based on 1Cor. 14:3. This is meant to speak directly to people for edification (building up),

exhortation(encouragement), and comfort. Under grace dispensation, prophecy is not adding to scripture or making new doctrine. It is the Spirit bringing light to what Christ has already done. ***Revelation 19:10... ..for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.***

When God speaks prophetic words over a person, church, community or nation, He is looking for something, that is, a response from us. He is looking for our trust, faith and cooperation for those prophetic words to come to pass. He is looking for us to steward well the words He gives us. There are some prophetic words that are sovereign and will happen no matter what, like the birth, death, burial, resurrection and the coming of Jesus while there are some prophetic words that involve the cooperation of mankind in some ways.

Stewarding prophetic words refers to the active, ongoing process of nurturing, protecting and partnering with a divine revelation or spoken promises to ensure they come to pass rather than treating prophecy as a passive prediction. The word (steward) in 1Peter 4:10 and in Greek means “*oikonomos*”—manager of another's property. A prophetic word is God's property entrusted to us; it means protect, nurture, obey and do not bury it, it is our responsibility to manage and administer the word to come to pass in our lives. As a believer, you must know what has been said about your life. Do you believe that this is your “**YEAR OF GOD'S FAVOUR**”?

Luke 4:17” And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,”

In verses 18 and 19 of Luke chapter four, Jesus knew what was

said by Prophet Isaiah about Him and quoted it from Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage from the prophet Isaiah was written down around 700 years before Jesus was born and it was fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Jesus opened the book, searched what was written about him some years ago and found it. He believed, read and said it.

So how do we treat a prophetic word? Are there steps and keys to follow for it to happen? Sometimes I wish there were but no, there is no formula that will guarantee prophetic words to be fulfilled. Each prophetic word must be weighed and acted on according to God's instructions and God's time.

How To Properly Process and Steward Prophetic Words

- a) Weigh it. 1John 4:1; 1Samuel 2:3
- b) Receive it. Matthew 10:40-41
- c) Believe it. Luke 1:35-38; Romans 4:20-21
- d) Write it down. Habakkuk 2:2
- e) Confess it. Hebrews 4:14
- f) Wait on it. Hebrews 11:17-19; Habakkuk 2:3
- g) Watch over it. Habakkuk 2:2-3
- h) Walk towards it. Philippians 3:13-14

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time but at the end it shall speak and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it because it will surely come, it will not tarry” - Habakkuk 2:4

Let us Consider These Biblical Case Studies:

1. Virgin Mary; Luke 2:19, 51

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart”

She received three major words: Angel Gabriel Luke 1:31-33, Simeon Luke 2:34-35, 12-year-old Jesus Luke 2:49. She didn't announce them. She stewarded them for 30 years in silence

until the cross and resurrection fulfilled them. Lesson: Some words are for the ***“storage room of your heart”***, not your mouth.

2. Joseph; Genesis 37:5-10 → Genesis 41:39-41 → Genesis 45:5-7
Dream at 17 years old → Prison/pit at 18-30 years old → Prime Minister at 30 years old. 13 years of test that looked like delay.
Stewarding looked like: Forgiving brothers, serving Potiphar faithfully, interpreting dreams in prison without bitterness. The pit tested if he'd steward character while waiting for the crown.

3. Timothy; 1 Timothy 1:18

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare”

Prophetic words are not just encouragement. They're ammunition. Paul told Timothy: use the word as a sword against fear, distraction, false teaching.

4. The 3 Chokers in the parable of the Sower - Luke 8:14

“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to perfection”

Jesus said the word gets choked by: 1. Cares/worries 2. Riches

3. Pleasures of life.

Stewarding means weeding the soil of your heart

Biblical Principles of Stewarding Prophetic Words Until Fulfilment

1. Record: Hab 2:2 ***“Write it on tablets”*** If it's not written, it will be reversed by memory/doubt

2. Test: 1Thess 5:20-21 ***“Test all things”*** and Deut 18:22 Check:

Does it exalt Christ? John 16:14. Does it agree with Scripture?
2 Tim 3:16

3. **Guard:** Prov 4:23 *"Guard your heart"* and Matt 7:6 *"Don't cast pearls before swine"*

Not every word is for public sharing. Premature exposure can kill it

4. **Obey the "now" part:** 1 Sam 15:22 *"Obedience is greater than sacrifice"* Total obedience is very important

5. **Declare it:** Rom 4:17 *"Calls things not as though they were"* and Ezekiel 37:4 *"Prophecy to the bones"*

Agreement with God keeps faith alive. Speak the word back to God.

6. **Wait with hope:** Heb 6:12 *"Through faith and patience inherit promises"*

Key Takeaways for Bible Students

1. **Delay is development, not denial:** The word won't mature you unless the wait does. God is more committed to your character than your calendar.
2. **Stewardship protects the word from you:** Your unbelief, impatience, and wrong motives are the biggest threats. Hab 2:4 *"The just shall live by faith"* Always trust in God.
3. **Fulfilment is cooperative:** God decrees, but man declares. Ezekiel had to prophesy before bones lived. Your voice + God's word = manifestation. Ezekiel 37:10
4. **The Word must become flesh in you first:** John 1:14. Before the promise manifests "out there", Christ must be formed *"in you"* Gal 4:19.

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Kingdom Mission & Evangelism School

DISCOVERING YOUR SPHERE OF KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT

▪ PASTOR KAYODE MOMOH

1 Corinthians 12:27 (KJV)

27. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)

11. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 2:10 (KJV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

INTRODUCTION

Your '*Sphere of Kingdom Assignment*' refers to the specific area of influence, people, group, location, role or field where God has uniquely positioned and equipped you to serve, make an impact and fulfill his purpose in His Kingdom.

According to Ephesian 2:10, we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. God has a predetermined yet discoverable assignment for each believers tied to their gifts, passion and opportunities.

God told Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:5 (KJV) - *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

Every workmanship of God in Jeremiah was to be a prophet to the nations. Paul the apostle would have loved to be a witness at Jerusalem and tried to argue his case with the Lord but he responded in Acts 22:21 - ***And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.***

Every time that Paul decides to work amongst the Jews it was always trouble for Him. Paul was sent to the gentiles while another - Peter was sent to the Jews. Both made success of their ministries because they discerned and worked within their sphere of their assignment.

We must note that operating within our own area of divine assignment produces the greatest satisfaction and fulfilment. It is not an isolation from adversities.

Paul recounted his experience to the Corinthian church among other things in 2 Corinthians 11: 23-33. Despite all this challenges He fulfilled his destiny and was able to say at the end in 2Tim 4:7

2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV) - *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

Every believer like Paul must fight the good fight of faith, we must finish our course while keeping our faith.

The challenge however and the purpose of this seminar is to discover our sphere of divine assignment. You cannot fulfill what you have not discovered.

Like what one of the fathers in the faith said sometimes time ago, "Find the purpose of God for your life and give it your best shot."

SOME SEVEN (7) KEY AREAS OF KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT

- 1. Priesthood/Prophetic:** Prayer, intercession, preaching the Gospel, and spiritual oversight (e.g., Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 6).
- 2. Leadership and Governance:** Roles in government, administration, business leadership, or civil service (examples: Joseph, Daniel, church deacons, Cornelius).
- 3. Economic / Finance:** Provision, generosity, and stewarding resources to support ministry and the needy (e.g., women supporting Jesus' ministry, Lydia, Barnabas).
- 4. Media:** Communication, writing, proclamation, and influencing public discourse (biblical writings, word of mouth, etc.).
- 5. Craftsmanship / Professionals:** Skilled trades, arts, and vocational excellence (e.g., Bezalel, Dorcas, Aquila).

6. Music: Worship, creative expression, and using arts for God's glory (e.g., David, Miriam).

7. Family: Raising godly generations as fathers, mothers, and household influencers.

The emphasis is that “your pulpit is where you are” — fulfill your assignment faithfully in your current context.

PRACTICAL GUIDE ON HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR SPHERE OF DIVINE ASSIGNMENT

1. Build a Genuine Relationship with God. Dan 11:32.

Divine assignment flows from intimacy with God. The more you are intimate with the Lord, the more you can accurately pick His mind for you. He is willing and ready to reveal His will to us but we need to willingly pay the price to build and maintain a genuine relationship with Him.

We can do this by:

i. Praying consistently. James 1:5, Prov 3:5-6

ii. Studying the Scriptures.

Jer 29:11, John 5:39, Rom 12:1-2. Meditate on passages about purpose. God's general will often clarify the specific.

iii. Surrender.

Be willing to be led even if it challenges your plan. Vulnerability to direction is key.

2. Examine how God has designed you. Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:28.

a. Gifts and Abilities. Identify spiritual gifts and natural talents or skills. What you do well energizes you.

- b. Passion and Burdens.** What problem or people shrink your heart? What are the things you are passionate about?
- c. Life Experiences.** Trials, background training and critical incidents often points to sphere.

Consider your

- Abilities - what you are good at.
- Affinity- what you love.
- Awareness of need - what needs burdens you access to opportunities.

3. Seek confirmation and direction. Prov 5:22.

We cannot rely on feelings alone but Act 13:2 confirmation establishes our guidance.

- a. Godly counsel - talk to mature believers, mentors and pastors.
- b. Test through actions. Start small, start where you are.in your church, Fellowship, etc
- c. Observe your sphere of influence. Where do you **naturally have impact? This can be the field God has given you.**

THE BLESSEDNESS OF DISCOVERING YOUR SPHERE OF KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT Deep inner Peace and Clarity

- a. Grace and Supernatural Help
- b. Fulfillment
- c. Protection from Burnout and Distractions
- d. Legacy that Outlives You
- e. Increased Impact and Influence
- f. Abundant Joy

HINDRANCES TO DISCOVERING AREA OF DIVINE ASSIGNMENT

1. Fear of Starting Small and Comparison with one another

Zech 4:10

God always leads us from little beginnings

2. Waiting for a Loud Supernatural Sign

1Kgs 19:12

God spoke to the Prophet Elijah through the still small voice and not the earthquake.

3. Unhealed Wounds and Low Self-worth

Feelings of inadequacy due to past failures, hurts or wrong labels can be a hindrance to readiness to receive new information from God.

4. Distractions

Security and survival mentality can be a major hindrance to discovery of purpose.

5. Wrong Environment and Absence of Mentors

A very fearful, cynical and uninspiring environment will hinder reception to Divine revelation.

6. Perfectionism and Over-analysis

God does not use perfect but available vessels. Don't wait until you are perfect to pursue divine purpose. You discover more by doing than overthinking.

BUILDING DISCIPLES - MAKING CULTURE

■ PASTOR EMMANUEL IDOWU

INTRODUCTION

We are what we believe. We will never go to a place that we have not been to in our minds. Many leaders focus on changing societal or congregational behaviours, but they often become frustrated when they realise that behaviours are merely the fruit of something much deeper: one's belief system.

Discipleship is therefore a major key in developing a kingdom culture, Christian philosophy (belief system) and a kingdom mindset in ourselves and those we lead.

Culture are beliefs and behaviours that affect daily life. This determines what we encourage, celebrates, accept or reject.

Colossians 2:8 *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ”.*

The main focus of this study is on making(creating) culture.

What is Culture?

Cambridge dictionary defines culture as: - The way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of particular group of people at a particular time. The attitudes, behaviour, opinions, etc. of a particular group of people within society: In summary culture are beliefs and behaviours that affect daily life.

SOME IMPORTANT TRUTH ABOUT OUR BELIEF SYSTEM (PHILOSOPHY)

- Everyone has a belief system(philosophy) Eph 2:1-3, Rm 12:2, Rm 8:6
- One of the most common way the devil fights us is through our (wrong) belief system. 2cor 10:4-6, Gen 3:1-7
- Your belief system dictates your action and reactions. Luke 6:45, Prov 23:7
- A person may have the right information in his head but until it becomes a belief system (heart level) he wouldn't experience much benefit.
- To be victorious in life we must have a Kingdom philosophy, mindset and culture. If we want to fulfil our destiny and want to see those we lead come into their full potential in destiny then we need to develop a Christian belief system (philosophy) and help those we lead to develop this. Rm 3:4a, Rm 12:2, Eph 4:23-24, 2Tim 2:2
- Our thoughts turn into actions; actions turn into character or habits which turns into our destiny.

HOW DO WE CREATE CULTURE

1. **Intimacy with the Holy Spirit** : The Holy Spirit will lead (guide) us into all Truth. John 16:13. The less you know God intimately the more you are susceptible to deception. Genesis 3:1-7, Rm 8:6, Gal 6:8

2. Be Intentional: You have to be intentional about creating a kingdom culture as an individual and with those you lead (in your home, church, business etc). You cannot assume that a change will happen without been intentional about it. Assumption is the least level of knowledge.

Examples:

- Jesus and His disciples: Mark 3:14
- Paul and his followers(disciples): Act 19:8-10
- Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and his 3 Hebrew friends: Dan 1:3

3. Address the root of wrong beliefs not just the symptoms or behavior alone. Prov 4:23, James 4:1, Matt 12:29, Rm 1:16

4. Cast the Vision. Act 1:1, Hab 2:2, Heb 6:12

Paint a picture in people's minds of the kingdom culture (beliefs and actions) by living and teaching it.

A wisemen once said "what you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say" and another person also puts it this way "I no longer listen to what people say, I just watch what they do. Behaviour never lies"

5. Invest in it as a priority. Joshua 1:8, Prob 22:29, Matt 6:33

There will always be things competing for our time, thoughts, energy and resources. Invest (your time, energy etc) in God's word and in training the people you lead.

The price of knowledge is small compared to the cost of ignorance.

6. Consistency: 1Cor 15:5. If you want to reap something every day, sow it everyday

7. Creativity: Heb 11:3, Rm 4:17

TURNING INFLUENCE INTO DISCIPLESHIP

▪ PASTOR MRS EYITOPE MOMOH

INTRODUCTION

Turning influence into discipleship means moving from people following your lead to helping them follow Jesus.

It transitions passive admirable into active life on life mentorship.

It means moving from simply inspiring people to intentionally mentoring them to follow and replicate Jesus.

It shows the dynamic from attracting a follower to developing spiritual maturity and equipping others to lead.

Another way to define this is shifting your focus from gaining admirers to intentionally investing in others so they can grow, mature and eventually multiply as followers of Jesus. It requires moving from passive observation to active life on life mentorship. It means mentoring some and leaving in them deposits that have the capability to mentor those who will also mentor others and on and on like that.

Samuel in the book of 1 Sam. 2:11-29,26

While Samuel continued to follow the prophet of God, he developed and became a prophet of God. Initially he couldn't even recognize the voice of God but he continued to follow intentionally and grew to become a prophet of God. He became positively influenced under the leadership of prophet Eli and became a mighty vessel in the hand of God in his generation.

HOW TO TURN FOLLOWERS TO DISCIPLES

1). Don't just gather people but disciple. Jesus spoke to crowds but He invested deeply in a core of twelve.. *Matt. 8:23; Mk 3:14*

2). Prioritize Proximity: Spend dedicated regular time with a few trusted individuals and ready. Jesus selected individuals and brought them to be with Him so He can send them forth to do the work of the ministry. First, they were with Him before He could send them to work for Him. He first took His time to train them until they became sendable.

Matthew 9:18-19; Mk. 16:14-15

3). Share life. Let those you are leading see how you do things. How you handle everyday challenges and how you follow Christ the head of the Church, who is your example. *Matt. 18:23-26*

4). Turn Admiration to Positive Imitations. *Matt. 4:10-22*

a). Come and see – Awaken curiosity, invite them into casual conversations and observe the spiritual openness.

b). Follow me – build trust and establish an intentional commitment to walk together. *Matt. 8:18-22*

- c). **Be with me** – Share life, intimately involve them in your everyday moment – – spiritual meals, service and honest discussion about faith. Matt. 21:19-20
- d). **Come after me** – equip and release them, train them, with the expectation that they will eventually disciple others.

TURNING INFLUENCE INTO DISCIPLES STAGES FROM CROWN TO CORE

Focus On Multiplication: The ultimate goal of discipleship is multiplication. Train your disciple with the explicit expectation that they will eventually teach and mentor others. This ensures your influence creates an ongoing generational impact. You can see that the discipline of our Lord and redeemer, Jesus, even though He's now seated at the right hand over the Father in heaven, is still impacting from generation to generation. Only 120 believers were empowered at the upper room, see how many are empowered today. Acts 2:1-6, 14-22, 46-47

PRACTICAL ACTIONS AND STEPS

- 1). **Be intentional with time:** You cannot disciple a massive crowd effectively. So, focus on the selected few who are teachable and eager to grow at a time. Matt. 17:1-9
- 2). **Model the life:** Don't just teach, show them how you pray, read the word and handle trials. Let them see your struggles and faith. Matt. 26:37-45
- 3). **Hold each other accountable:-** True leadership requires vulnerability. Ask questions about their spiritual habits, thoughts and character. Matt. 26:40-41
- 4). **Empower through Service:-** More knowledge into action. Get them actively involved in serving in the Church and

sharing their faith (*This is the essence of Victory/Foundational classes*)

- 5). **Give assignments and Call for Regular Feedback**, so you can have their continuous assessments. Matt. 26:35-40

SEVEN (7) D'S OF DISCIPLESHIP

- 1). **Desire:** - cultivating of personal longing to grow closer to God, and keeping and keeping the flame alive.
- 2). **Discernment:** - Entering into an interior dialogue with the Holy Spirit to understand God's Will for your life.
- 3). **Decision Making:** - Making intentional choices to follow Christ and align your actions with gospel values.
- 4). **Discipline:** - Establishing consistent spiritual habits and practices that foster ongoing conversation.
- 5). **Dwelling:** - Spending dedicated, prayerful time, reading and meditating on the word of God.
- 6). **Dependence:** - Acknowledging the need for God's grace and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- 7). **Doing:** - Putting faith into action by serving others and translating your thoughts into concrete tangible deeds.

In summary, we are highlighting that becoming a disciple is a progression that moves from an internal spirit to active, hands on service in church community.

MARKETPLACE MISSIONARIES: REACHING PEOPLE BEYOND CHURCH WALLS

▪ EVANGELIST FEMI OGUNDARE

INTRODUCTION

Reaching people within the walls of the church is “Inreach”, and that includes all the activities we do within the church like pastoral duties, ushering, serving in the choir and protocol.

However, “*Outreach*” is all our activities outside the church to win souls and advance the kingdom of God.

Out there, our titles and designation within the church do not matter, but our divine mantle and ministry of reconciliation, where we use our NATURAL PLATFORMS to further the cause of our DIVINE MANDATE.

DIFFERENT EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE USEFUL OUTSIDE CHURCH WALLS

1. Huldah the Prophetess (2 Kings 22:11-20)

Wherever you are, you don't have to be a Pastor or a General Overseer before you can be useful for God. This woman was in the college (a citadel of learning like a university environment), but people knew her to be a person that had the answer to

questions about the word of God in her days. If you were confused and needed truth about a matter, she had the answer. She didn't advertise herself that she was a Prophetess, but they knew her. Wherever you are and whatever you do in that marketplace is not as important as the grace and giftings that God has given you to use in your office where you are. You may think people don't see you or they don't recognize you; they are watching. The day they are in dire need of those kinds of words that proceed out of your mouth, they will look for you. So, don't live your life based on today, live your life based on eternity. Do not showcase your Christianity only in church, let Christianity in you speak out in your place of work. They didn't meet Huldah in a church; they met her in a college. Be useful in your office, and when people need God in that environment, they'll come and call you. This may require that you live your life as a Christian with the characteristics like those in the fivefold ministry evident in your life, and the day they need answers to difficult situations, you are the one they will call.

2. Esther (*Esther 3:5-15*)

Esther was not in church, her office was in the palace, which you can relate in today's language as the president's wife, the governor's wife or somebody working in the presidency. She was close to the place of power and authority. And something happened: the Jews that were scattered in over 127 provinces (countries) in the kingdom of king Ahasuerus were about to be wiped out by Haman. He even went as far as putting money into the king's treasury to ensure the mass killing of the Jews.

Read: Esther 3:9 TLB, Esther 4:1-17

All these didn't happen in the church; they happened outside a church setting. Esther was in a highly placed position of authority, and a decree had gone to wipe out the Jews in over 127 countries: that's a global genocide. Esther was a

marketplace missionary here. She didn't have to be in church to be useful for God, she was useful for God in her office (the palace).

You can be in an office or in a position where your voice matters, so put your voice forward where it matters to be able to help the Christians that are under your authority; you are doing evangelism and missionary work when you do that.

Mordecai and Esther worked together to be marketplace missionaries for God to save Jews in 127 countries. Haman was a marketplace missionary for the devil: he used his money to support a negative policy that was to destroy Christians (the Jews). Who will stand for God to use huge money with prayer and fasting? Who will use his influence to get his/her staff to pray and fast to change an evil decree.

3. Certain women (*Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, etc*) - Luke 8:1-3

These women were useful for Jesus to make the work easier for Him.

Some things were written in the Bible not just to fill up the gap but to make us understand how we too should function in our generation. These women worked for God without the title of any of the fivefold offices, but they were useful to make their resources available for mission work. They worked in the secular but were involved in what was going on in the spiritual.

They were not mainline apostles, but their work was apostolic in nature in terms of what they did. They became marketplace missionaries because of their involvement in supporting the ministry of Jesus.

Chuza was in the cabinet of Herod a wicked king, yet his wife,

Joanna was a strong financial supporter of Jesus. As God will reward those who are in the mission field, He will also reward those that are supplying the resources for the mission field.

Read: *Luke 8:3 TPT*

*Footnote: To travel with a rabbi was considered a high honor. Yet it was not permitted in the culture and time of Jesus' ministry for a woman to be mentored by a rabbi. Jesus elevated women into a place of honor and respect, in spite of the cultural limitations. It was these wealthy women who provided for Jesus' care. Luke is the one Gospel writer who brings out the many times Jesus honored women. These women would later be present at the crucifixion and at the resurrection. Mary Magdalene was the first human being to see the risen Christ.

These women made provision for Jesus and His companions (disciples), and according to Luke 8:1, the provision was for Jesus' ministry in every city and every village.

According to Jonah 4:11, we know that a 120,000 population of Nineveh was called a great city. Using Nigeria as a case study, there are 774 local government areas and each local government can be called a city in reference to the population of Nineveh. That means you should be able to reach an estimate of about 774 cities in Nigeria before you can say you have reached every city. God does not want unbelievers to die.

4. Matthew - *Mark 2:14-17, Matthew 9:9-10*

Matthew who worked as a government official had just been called by Jesus to be His disciple, and he immediately became useful as a marketplace missionary by inviting Jesus to his house and bringing all his fellow workers in the same business (publicans) to come listen to Jesus. In our day, a professional in any field can do likewise, for example, a doctor can call all his

fellow doctors together and invite his pastor to come and minister to them; that makes him a marketplace missionary. Somebody can bring Nurses, somebody can bring Directors, another person Principals, while some bring teachers, Lecturers, Vice Chancellor etc.

5. Zacchaeus - Luke 19:2-10

Zacchaeus also brought Jesus to his house and brought people to listen to Him just like Matthew. But Zacchaeus was in a position higher than Matthew and he was able to bring people of his status, (chief publicans) to come and listen to Jesus in his house because he was a chief too. In a medical field, a nurse will be able to call nurses together but may not have influence over doctors. A civil servant can be able to bring other civil servants to his own house but may not be able to bring directors. A teacher can be able to gather other teachers together but a principal will have higher influence in gathering teachers, principals and other staff members of different schools. Reaching people in the marketplace is in levels. You may need to upgrade to a higher level before you can reach more people; your elevation will cause you to reach more people and do more for the kingdom of God.

6. Cornelius the centurion - Acts 10:24-27,34-48

Cornelius, a soldier was able to use his influence to bring many people to his house to listen to Peter preach the gospel. Most probably, a lot of senior and other junior soldiers would have been present, because he was a centurion captain (Acts 10:1 AMPC), i.e., captain over 100 soldiers. The power of God moved mightily in the gathering, such that the people received Holy Ghost baptism with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

7. Joseph Arimathea – (Mark 15:43)

Joseph Arimathea was a rich man that can be called a politician in our day and most probably a friend of Pontius Pilate because he was bold enough to go in unto Pilate to demand for the body of Jesus.

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

ESV translation says, He was a respected member of council, a 'honourable', yet a disciple of Jesus.

He went to Pilate and boldly demanded for the body of Jesus thus fulfilling the scriptures in Isaiah.

Isaiah 53:9 - And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

He buried Jesus in his own newly cut tomb, tomb for the rich.

Matthew 27:59-60 - And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

8. Nicodemus - John 19:38-40

Nicodemus joined Joseph Arimathea to fulfil that Isaiah scripture.

9. Ruth

She was a moabitish woman who loved the God of Israel and served her widowed mother-in-law faithfully. She was also hardworking on the farm so that she could gather in harvest all

that was left on purpose for her. And God honoured her faith to be an ancestress of Jesus.

10. Maid in Naaman's house. 2 Kings 5:2-17

This little girl, although, she was a maid would not keep quiet on the ability of her God. She was not ashamed of the testimony of the God of Israel. She was not bitter that she was a slave in a strange country “and God was looking at her and did not do anything”! She was rather bold to preach the great ability of her God to do impossibilities.

The result: a heathen general believed in and confessed the God of Israel as the only God and his own God.

That girl was instrumental to getting the chief of staff of a heathen nation born again! Glory!

11. People in highly placed authorities

- **Daniel** - Daniel, a Prophet and an Administrator per excellence - Daniel 6:1-3
- **Nehemiah** - Nehemiah an intercessor and a “personal assistance” to the most powerful “president” of his day - Nehemiah 1:11

He was in place of influence and enjoyment. Then he heard of the sufferings of his people, he caught a burden, fasted and prayed even while on duty, and the lord answered him, He found favour with the king and was supplied with everything he needed to build the wall of Jerusalem back.

You can use your influence in your place of work to positively advance God's purpose and agenda.

- **Joseph** - Joseph became a Prince in Egypt, the appointed

“Vice President” of the whole of the Land. He was known as a Jew. God gave him wisdom to help the land, help the king and also the people of God. Genesis 41:39-44

These people didn't lose their intimacy with God in spite of their highly ranked positions in the society in their days. As they rose to higher positions, their walk with God didn't decrease. When it was time for God to use them to fulfil a specific assignment, they were able to yield to His move and obey His call.

WHERE TO MINISTER TO PEOPLE

1. At Their Workplace

You can preach to people and win them to Christ at their workplace. Jesus met and called most of His disciples at their workplace.

- Peter and Andrew - Matthew 4:18-20
- James and John - Matthew 4:21-22
- Matthew - Mark 2:14

2. On The Go (Via Different Modes of Transportation)

You can win someone to Christ while on transit via any transportation means, while you are together with him/her.

- Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch on a chariot (*representing a car, airplane, train, speed boat etc*) - Acts 8:26-29,35-37
- Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus (*while on a walk*) - Luke 24:13-16,27

You can minister to people while moving from one location to another in a car or while trekking somewhere, in a private vehicle or public vehicle like taxi, Uber or bus, in a ship or in an airplane.

3. In A Common Place of Meeting People

By a water place, e.g by the well, pure water depot, at the beach,

- Jesus and the Samaritan woman - John 4:6-7
- Moses and Jethro's daughters - Exodus 2:16-17
- Abraham's servant and Rebekah - Genesis 24:15-18

In our contemporary times, there are several common places where you can meet people and share the gospel with them. You can minister to people in a shopping mall, hair salon, football viewing centre, eatery, tech hub, market, fuel or gas filling station, and so on.

4. Unexpected Circumstances

- **Paul & Silas and the Jailer** - *Acts 16:25-32*

They were in jail, beaten and in chains. A most unlikely circumstance your flesh would want to preach, yet they preached and the next pastor of the Philippian church was born again. Paul and Silas were not in a pleasing circumstance to preach to the jailer because they had been imprisoned, yet they obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, even though he was in prison, was still able to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh's stewards. When an unexpected circumstance occurs, it creates an avenue for you to preach the gospel. Don't close your mouth. When that unplanned opportunity arises, don't close your mouth; declare God's counsel. You may not know that it can lead to the salvation of someone of great destiny in the future.

- **Joseph and the chief Butler** - *Genesis 40:6-14*

Pharaoh's chief Butler was the one who later recommended Joseph to Pharaoh. According to extra biblical facts, the jailer later became the pastor of the Philippian church. Ministering to people in these kinds of situations may open some doors later or they may lead to some reconnections in the future which are not in your plan but already in the plan of God. At times, when you and some people are working

together, you may not know why, but as much as possible do your best to maintain a very good and godly relationship: you may still have something to do together in the future.

EFFECTIVENESS IN OUTREACH

1. Be born again: Make sure you are born again. You cannot win someone to the Person you have not been won to yourself.
2. Be intimate with God
3. Be Sent: Jesus has already sent us all.
Sent under your father
4. Get same spirit: Move in the same spirit, be in alignment
The place of followership cannot be overemphasized.
Jesus said to the apostles; follow me and I will make you.

GODLY MENTORSHIP

Matthew 4:18-19 - And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

The person you follow is a pointer to who you will become and where you will end. If you follow a person who does not believe or engage in intense soul winning, your outreach zeal will be low or zero.

When you are aligned with your spiritual father, grace to do same things automatically falls on you, and this brings effectiveness in your outreach life. You will be able to go with the same fire.

Let us see examples of men who were aligned with their spiritual mentors and walked in the same flow.

- **Abraham and his servant** (*Genesis 24*)

The servant of Abraham was able to flow with the God of Abraham by following Abraham, and when it was time for him to go on a very important assignment for his master, he was able to commune with the God of Abraham in the absence of Abraham, and God hearkened to his request and helped him to successfully accomplish the assignment. He acted exactly how Abraham would have been led to act on that assignment.

- **David and his mighty men** (*2 Samuel 23:8-39, 1 Chronicles 11:10-47*)

These men were mentored and trained by David and they became giant killers too, and were able to replicate the same exploits of David as they won battles and wrought great victories for Israel.

So, if a godly mentor runs his business or operates in his marketplace by the Holy Ghost, it will rub off on those that are under him and they will be able to flow in the same grace.

Also, if you are privileged to be under a man of God with authentic grace and anointing, you don't have to carry a microphone before the grace of God upon his life starts working for you. The same grace and anointing can work for you in your office, businesses, in meetings as a permanent secretary or director, and even in politics.

WHO TO MINISTER TO (*Mark 16:15*)

- People around you.
- All the world.

Cross-Cultural Evangelism: Preaching To People That Are Not From Your Tribe Or Race

Jonah was an Isrealite but he was sent to the people of Nineveh in Assyria. And in those times, the Assyrians were enemies to the Israelites, oppressing them. That is why Jonah had so much animosity against them to the point that he didn't want to obey God.

So, God can send you in the marketplace to a people that are not of your tribe or race, or even to people that are antagonistic towards Christianity.

- **Ananias and Paul** - Acts 9:13-18

You will have to let go of your personal prejudice and obey God just like Ananias because that person can be a tool God will use to reach his people and get to places with the gospel that are not penetrable by you.

Your marketplace may be to reach people that are unconventional. The people you least expect may be the ones God will use more in the future. So, don't neglect anybody.

LIVING SENT: REPRESENTING JESUS EVERY DAY

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INTRODUCTION

Every Christian accepts that we are sent but living everyday as a sent is a great challenge for many of us. This study aims at bringing us to a consciousness of our position of being sent and point to us practical ways by which we can keep representing Jesus in all we do and say everyday of our lives.

“Then said Jesus to them again, peace be unto you, as my father hath sent me, even so send I you” Jn 20:21

To understand this better, we must answer these questions; who is the sender? Who is sent? Whom and where are we sent to? And what are we sent to do?

WHO IS THE SENDER?

God, our father, the maker of heavens and earth is the foremost sender, He sent our Lord Jesus Christ to this world to reconcile us to Himself.

“For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world

but that the world through Him might be saved" Jn 3:17.

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the savior of the world" 1 Jn 4:14 (Jn 3:16, 8:18, 6:38, 57, 17:3, Lk 4:43).

Then, Jesus, on completing His work, sent His disciples into the world, ***"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost"*** Mat 28:19 (Jn 15:16, Mk 16:15).

One of the reasons for Jesus' success in His ministry in this world was that He lived in the consciousness of being sent from the beginning of His ministry to the end, He said "I must work the work of Him that sent me, while it is day,, the night cometh, when no man can work" Jn 9:4 and again ***"Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish His work"*** Jn 4:34. Towards the end, He said again ***"But now I go my way to Him that sent me and none of you asketh me, whithet goest thou?"*** Jn 16:5. He lived doing the will of His father that sent Him pleasing Him at all times ***"And He that sent me is with me, the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please him"*** Jn 8:29 (Mat 15:24).

WHO ARE THE SENT?

Christians are the sent, ***"Then said Jesus to them again, peace be unto you, as my father hath sent me, even so send I you"*** Jn 20:21. When God created man, He did so that man can be god on earth; ruling and reigning and also to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and have dominion (Rev 1:6, Gen 2:28).

WHOM AND WHERE ARE WE SENT TO?

The world is where we are sent to and we are to represent Jesus before the people of the world ***"Behold I sent you forth as a***

sheep in the midst of wolves, be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves" Mat 10:16 In Mat 5:13 and 14, we are called the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Lk 22:35). So, just as salt and light will not but make impact whenever and wheresoever they are present, we should strive to make impact in our world and as light, we are to shine, we cannot be hidden (Jn 1:5, Mt 5:14, 16).

WHAT ARE WE SENT TO DO?

It is important that we are able to identify what we are sent to do. As what we are sent to do may be general, it is also specific.

There are purposes that involve us all and there are personal purposes for each person sent by God. The list is inexhaustible but we will just consider some of the general reasons. Note that as you faithfully obey God in these general purposes, you will discover your specific purpose of being called.

- We are sent to serve God, to show forth His praises, to love Him and live for Him in Holiness and Righteousness all through the days of our lives (Lk 1:69-72, 1 Pt 2:9, Eph 1:4, Rev 4:11). God commanded Pharaoh to let His people go and serve Him and fought him when he refused until he let the people of God go. God delights in His people's worship and service, it gives Him pleasure. When He created man, it was for fellowship (Gen 1:26-28).
- We are called to be His Ambassadors, His representative in this world sent to make Him known in the world 2 Cor 5:17.
- We are sent to preach, teach and heal the sick "***And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick***" Lk 9:2, Mat 28:19, Mk 16:15, Rom 10:15.
- We are sent to bear fruits that will abide Jn 15:16.
- We are sent to please God Rev 4:11.

DUTIES OF A CHRISTIAN AMBASSADOR

Who is an ambassador? An Ambassador is a sent person to represent his or her home country in another country. Note that an ambassador is effective in another country, where, though, he is a stranger, he represents his home country, he is the face of his country and his actions are used in judging his home country. In 2 Cor 5:17, we are called Christ's ambassador, are you representing well? Are your actions and behaviours bringing glory to Him? Christians as ambassadors are commissioned by God to act as personal representatives of Jesus on earth

Just as an ambassador has duties in representing his home country in his ambassadorial territory, so also, Christians as ambassador are to represent the kingdom of God on earth here; The primary duty is preaching the gospel and because our citizenship is in heaven, we must maintain a kingdom-focused living and our words, actions and character must reflect the teaching and admonitions of Jesus. In 2 Cor 5:18, it was said that we have been given a ministry of reconciliation. God expects us to reconcile the world to Him.

REPRESENTING JESUS DAILY

"Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives. While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear" 1 Pt 3:1-2.

The above scripture though may be considered as written to women as wives but find its implication in the fact that the church is considered as the wife of Jesus. We are admonished to preach the word more with our behaviour (conversation)

Living as the sent as we represent Jesus in our daily life means

living as an embodiment of His love, grace and teaching in our choice, conversations and character. You can actively reflect His life by showing unconditional compassion, prioritizing humility and serving others without expecting anything in return.

“Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers in words, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” 1 Tim 4:12 (Tit 2:7, 1Pt 2:12).

Practical Ways of Keeping Jesus at the Center of Our Daily Routine

1. **Stay grounded in your faith.** “The just shall live by his faith” Hab 2:4. (Rom 1:17, Heb 11:6). Be intentional in dedicating time for prayers, reading, meditating, confessing and acting on God's word. This helps you to maintain a relationship that empowers you to naturally manifest God's character. The word of God gives energy to your faith, so service your faith by continuous hearing of God's word, Rom 10:17.
2. **Involve God in your daily activities.** Don't give Him the back seat or use Him as a spare tyre, don't remember God only in crises. Befriend Him; take advantage of all His provision (promises) Ps 37:5-7. Prov 3:5-8, Isa 26:3-4.
3. **Practice obedience** even in the smallest insignificant issue of life. Obey, trust and lean on Him. Disobedience is expensive; it comes with consequences which may be costly, Isa 1:19. Job 36:11.
4. **Take fresh direction and guidance from God daily.** Don't glory in past victories or failures. Remember the Israelites before Ai Josh 7:1-9, Prov 3:5.

5. **Be bold not in rudeness** but in knowing what God says about the circumstances of life. Just because you don't have the means now does not mean you don't have an option. God's word is your option. One advantage of knowing what God says is that it gives you boldness to speak what He says to your circumstance Heb 4:16, Prov 28:1b, Acts 13:46.
6. **Be opened to God's training.** You will be tried. Don't resist His training. Many times in life God may not take you through your planned routes but what is important is that He will take you to your destination Heb 12:5-6, Prov 3:12.
7. **Live your life with grace and forgiveness.** Extend mercy to others and offer encouragement to the downcast Col 2:12-13, Eph 4:2-3, 32,
8. **Embrace humility and service.** Provide assistance to those that need it, check up on isolated neighbours and treating people the ways you want to be treated. Dare to make a difference in your world. Jm 4:10, 1 Pt 5:6, 3:8, Col 3:12.
9. **Respond with peace during conflicts.** Practice being a peacemaker and manage stress by keeping your interactions full of grace Rom 12:17-19, 1 Thes 4:11.
10. **Die daily.** This is one of the secrets of the success of apostle Paul in the bible, hear him in 1 Cor 15:31 that he die daily (Phil 3:7-15. 2 Cor 4:16, Gal 2:20).

WHY DO WE NEED TO KEEP REPRESENTING HIM DAILY AS THE SENT?

Jesus said *“And He that sent me IS WITH ME, the Father hath not left me alone, FOR I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM”* Jn 8:29 (Mat 15:24).

Why was the Father with Jesus? Because, He always did what pleases God. If we too want to enjoy the presence of God always, we must seek to do all pleasing to Him. As we go preaching and teaching, living as the sent daily Mat 28:20

BENEFITS OF HIS PRESENCE WITH YOU

When God is with you, these are some of the benefits you will enjoy;

1. **Favour-** “For whoso findeth me, findeth life and shall obtain favour of the Lord” Prov 8:35 and prov 14:9b says with the righteous, there is favour (Ps 5:12, Prov 14:35, 1 Sam 2:26).
2. **Prosperity-** In Gen 39:2-3, Joseph was a prosperous man and the Lord made all that he did to prosper because God was with Him. (Ps 1:1-3, Mat 6:33, Gen 39:21, 23).
3. **Divine leading** along the path of life and pleasurable journey. Ps 16:11a says “You will lead me along the path of life, because you are with me” (Easy version). In His presence, we enjoy the fullness of joy.
4. **Strength and help-** “Fear thou not, for I am with thee....., I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee” Isa 41:10. When God is with you, you will not lack strength and help.
5. **Rest-** “And He said, my presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest” Exo 33:14 (Heb 4:9-10, Mat 11:28). God gives rest to those who obey Him.

May the Lord continue to increase us more and more and guide us to represent Him acceptably in our daily life in Jesus name, Amen.

DIGITAL INFLUENCE FOR KINGDOM IMPACT

■ PASTOR BABATOLA

Matthew 5:14-16 - "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

INTRODUCTION

We live in a digital age where billions of people spend hours each day on social media, websites, blogs, podcasts, and online communities. The internet has become one of the greatest mission fields in history, giving believers unprecedented opportunities to share the Gospel and influence lives for Christ.

Digital influence for Kingdom impact is the intentional use of digital platforms to spread the Gospel, disciple believers, encourage people, promote biblical values, and advance God's Kingdom. The question is no longer whether Christians should have a digital presence, but whether that presence is bringing glory to God and drawing people closer to Christ.

UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL INFLUENCE

What is Digital Influence?

Digital influence is the ability to shape the thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, decisions, and actions of people through online platforms. Every post, video, article, podcast, or message has the potential to influence someone.

Today's digital platforms—including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, WhatsApp, Telegram, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, blogs, podcasts, and websites—have become powerful tools for communication. When surrendered to God, they become effective instruments for ministry.

Biblical Example

The Apostle Paul used the communication channels available in his day by writing letters to churches across different regions. Those letters instructed, corrected, encouraged, and strengthened believers, and today they form a significant portion of the New Testament. In much the same way, today's digital platforms enable believers to communicate God's truth across geographical boundaries.

Mark 16:15- *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Today, the digital world is part of that mission field.

WHY DIGITAL INFLUENCE MATTERS FOR THE KINGDOM

1. It Expands the Reach of the Gospel

Digital platforms make it possible for one message to reach thousands—or even millions—of people within moments. Every believer can become a modern-day messenger, taking the

Gospel beyond the walls of the church.

Romans 10:14 - "How shall they hear without a preacher?"

2. It Provides Continuous Ministry

Unlike a physical meeting that eventually ends, digital content continues ministering long after it has been published. A sermon, devotional, or testimony can continue blessing lives at any time of the day or night.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 - *"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand."*

3. It Reaches the Unchurched

Many people who may never enter a church building are willing to engage with Christian content online. Digital platforms therefore provide unique opportunities to introduce people to Christ wherever they are.

Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

4. It Creates Opportunities for Discipleship

Kingdom influence goes beyond evangelism. Through online teaching, devotionals, mentoring, discussion groups, and Bible studies, believers can continue growing spiritually throughout the week.

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..."

THE CHARACTER OF A KINGDOM DIGITAL INFLUENCER

Digital influence without godly character cannot produce lasting Kingdom impact. Before God uses our platforms, He develops our character.

Integrity

Your online life should reflect your private life. Consistent character gives credibility to your message and builds trust with those you influence.

Proverbs 10:9 - *"He that walketh uprightly walketh surely."*

Wisdom

Not every trend deserves your participation, and not every argument deserves your response. Kingdom influencers must communicate with discernment and avoid distractions that weaken their witness.

Ephesians 5:15 - *"Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise."*

Love

Truth should always be communicated with grace and compassion. Our goal is not simply to win debates but to lead people towards Christ.

Colossians 4:6 - *"Let your speech be always with grace."*

Humility

The purpose of Kingdom influence is not self-promotion but Christ-promotion. Every opportunity to influence others should point people towards Jesus.

John 3:30 - *"He must increase, but I must decrease."*

TEN STEPS TO ACHIEVE KINGDOM IMPACT THROUGH DIGITAL INFLUENCE

Step 1: Discover Your Kingdom Assignment

Effective Kingdom influence begins with understanding your God-given assignment. Identify your calling, recognise the gifts God has given you, and understand the people He has called you to serve. When your assignment is clear, your influence

becomes focused and intentional.

Romans 12:6 - *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us."*

Step 2: Define Your Target Audience

Every ministry has a specific audience. Whether God has called you to reach young people, families, professionals, ministers, students, or another group, knowing your audience helps you communicate more effectively.

Step 3: Choose the Right Platform

Different platforms serve different purposes. YouTube is ideal for teaching, Facebook for community building, WhatsApp for discipleship, Instagram for inspiration, and LinkedIn for professional influence. Focus on the platform that best connects with your audience.

Step 4: Create Valuable Content

Kingdom content should educate, inspire, encourage, and transform. Every message should point people closer to Christ and provide biblical value.

Proverbs 16:24 - *"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb."*

Step 5: Be Consistent

Consistency builds trust, credibility, and influence. Faithfulness over time produces greater impact than occasional activity.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - *"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable."*

Step 6: Engage Your Audience

Digital ministry is about people, not just content. Respond to comments, answer questions, encourage discussion, and build meaningful relationships with those God has entrusted to you.

Step 7: Maintain Biblical Accuracy

Never sacrifice biblical truth for popularity or online engagement. Faithfulness to God's Word must always take priority.

2 Timothy 4:2 - *"Preach the word."*

Step 8: Build Genuine Relationships

Kingdom influence is relational. People are more important than followers, likes, or views. Invest in people, not just platforms.

Philippians 2:4 - *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

Step 9: Measure Kingdom Impact

Success is not measured merely by numbers but by transformed lives. Ask whether people are growing spiritually, being disciplined, and coming to faith in Christ.

Step 10: Depend on the Holy Spirit

Technology can distribute the message, but only the Holy Spirit transforms lives. Every Kingdom influencer must remain dependent upon God's power.

Zechariah 4:6 - *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."*

ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL INFLUENCE FOR KINGDOM IMPACT

Digital influence offers enormous opportunities for advancing God's Kingdom. It provides global reach, allowing one message to impact nations. It is cost-effective, enabling a simple smartphone to become a ministry platform. It supports continuous evangelism because content remains available long after it is published. Communication is faster, younger

generations are more easily engaged, discipleship becomes accessible through online teaching and mentoring, and believers can build meaningful communities regardless of geographical location.

DISADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES

While digital ministry presents great opportunities, it also requires discernment. Social media can become a distraction and waste valuable time (Ephesians 5:16). False teaching spreads rapidly online (Acts 20:28–30), while pride and self-promotion can easily replace genuine ministry (Proverbs 16:18).

Kingdom influencers must also be prepared for criticism (Matthew 5:11), resist the pressure to pursue popularity at the expense of truth (Galatians 1:10), and guard against digital fatigue and burnout by maintaining healthy rhythms of rest (Mark 6:31).

PRACTICAL WORKSHOP EXERCISE

Each participant should:

- Define his or her Kingdom assignment.
- Select one primary digital platform.
- Develop a 30-day content plan.
- Share one Kingdom-focused message each day.
- Measure engagement and testimonies.
- Join an accountability group for encouragement and consistency.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, help me become a light in the digital world in Jesus' name.
2. Lord, use my online presence to draw souls into Your Kingdom.
3. Father, grant me wisdom to communicate Your truth

- effectively.
4. Every spirit of pride and self-glorification, be destroyed in my life.
 5. Lord, let my content bring healing, encouragement, and transformation.
 6. Father, preserve me from false doctrine and compromise.
 7. Anoint me for digital evangelism and discipleship.
 8. Lord, connect me with the people You want me to impact.
 9. May every digital platform under my influence become a tool for Kingdom advancement.
 10. Father, let my life and ministry produce lasting Kingdom impact for Your glory.

CONCLUSION

Digital influence is far more than gaining followers, likes, views, or popularity. True Kingdom influence leads people closer to Christ, advances the Gospel, and transforms lives. As believers, we are called to let our light shine everywhere—including the digital space—so that others may see Christ through us and glorify our Heavenly Father.

As Jesus instructed,

Luke 19:13 - *"Occupy till I come."*

This command reminds us that every platform, every opportunity, and every tool God places in our hands should be used faithfully until He returns. Let us therefore commit ourselves to being digital ambassadors for Christ, using technology not merely to be seen, but to make Him known.

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Wealth, Work & Enterprise School

POSITIONING YOURSELF FOR EXTRA ORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES

▪ PASTOR C. T. OLUWADARE

Objectives of this Seminar session are to:

- i. Provide understanding about what positioning is especially among believers;
- ii. Explain what opportunity is, especially extraordinary opportunities;
- iii. Identify biblical and replicable patterns and types of extraordinary opportunities and the context of right positioning;
- iv. Conclude with wisdom for correct positioning for extraordinary opportunities from the scriptural perspective;

At the end of this study we would have been set again to access our divine favours.

INTRODUCTION

We are in the world where we need to apply the direct wisdom from our Lord Jesus Christ, for us to mirror His life. Jesus Christ is Wisdom personified, and He transmits the same wisdom to us at new Birth. This wisdom is bound to grow, or increase by usage or experiences. Remember Matt 10: 16- Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpent, and harmless as doves.

The world, heathen, and the children of Satan, do not want to give us any opportunity to succeed, excel, and make it in any ramification, so that they can have evidence against the gospel that it does not pay to serve God. But God called us to ARISE, SHINE, and take on the advantage of the Holy Spirit in us to do exactly opposite to what the Devil planned for us. The world does not want to give us opportunity, close us in and shut doors of opportunity against us, but in the Name of Jesus, you have broken loose and you make it in Life. The Bible is full of examples of people who positioned themselves for extraordinary opportunity; on the contrary, there are also examples of people who resigned to fate, and take only ordinary opportunities and thereafter lived ordinary life.

Let us read these texts then we can openly meditate on the contexts of positioning ourselves for extraordinary opportunity:

The story of Zacchaeus, an educated elite and senior public officer (tax collector) in Luke 19:3-6

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. *So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."* So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

Extraordinary opportunities access is equally to great favour.

The story of Rahab, the Harlot in Joshua chapter 2 and 6 and how she negotiated her deliverance and for all members of her

family and she was saved from the impending destruction of Jericho (Joshua 2:8-14):

Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." So the men answered her, *"Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, which we will deal kindly and truly with you."*

Isaac in Genesis Chapter 26 (vs 1-6), in Gerar, God knew Isaac was being tempted to migrate out of Gerar (Philistine) due to drought to Egypt, a more organized and politically attractive land, but God warned him to stay put because your allocation is tied to your divine location

The woman with the issue of Blood, that our Father in the Lord by insight called *"Veronica"* equally was prompt in time to locate Jesus Christ and took the opportunity to do what most dared not do, risked touching the hem of His garment and was

instantly healed (Mark 5: 25-34/Luke 8: 43-48). This man was highly favoured also by Lord Jesus Christ

Esther, an orphan in a strange land of Persia (Babylon) and in the Palace as a maid, mentored by her Cousin, as adopted Father, Mordecai who himself was a lowly palace servant. He mentored and guided Esther with much discretion and Esther took to his advice. Soon Esther became the queen and Mordecai, the second in command (Prime Minister) to the King in a strange and enemy nation to Israel. Esther 10:3 described Mordecai as great among the Jews and favoured by many of his kinsmen". Esther chapters 2:10-11 and 5:1-2, 20.

LET US START TO EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING KEYWORDS:

"Position yourself" it is a common usage of directing someone, or you direct yourself-I will position myself. It connotes a deliberate or intentional preparation to take a step or make a decision, or making ready for the next action or respond to an issue in a relationship. Sports men and women must position themselves on the sport's arena or field in relation to other co-players or against opponents. It means standing and ready to do what is required towards winning, achievement, victory, combat ready. Stand up and be responsible in taking action rather than a lay by, not like others, be exceptional, step forward unlike others.

The phrase also shows you have the responsibility to make yourself ready. A child cannot on their own position themselves because of weak physical frame, low knowledge of what to do. So a child needs somebody, especially either of the parent, older sibling, guardian or Nanny, school teacher to hold them to stand and be positioned. Position Yourself is for the matured, a

ready to display the strength of God Christians in career pursuit, entrepreneurship, artisanship, political leaders or politicians, church leaders, students, youth and parents.

What is “Extraordinary opportunities”?

These two words are often used to describe a very unusual, special, unique, and often unpredicted situation or circumstance that provide possibility for specific individuals, or group of people for growth, development, success, upward advancement, prosperity and in the gospel sense life and peace, transformation and prosperity in specific way. It is the combination of two words- Extraordinary that beyond the normal, beyond once's conventional effort, but it is still in the course of doing the socially, culturally and spiritually normal tasks but abiding by the values.

Opportunity is a situation that throws up and appear to everybody concerned but only few or one person is accessible to have it. For instance, promotion in public service is for everybody on the same rank, but appointment to certain positions is by opportunity. In Nigeria, competition for employment in all field is so hard to certain career and profession, there may be opportunity, but it takes Grace to certain employment area. Therefore it is extraordinary opportunity to get there. Examples extraordinary opportunities in career employment and advancement, leadership position in private and public life, marital life, entrepreneurship initiation or start up, business development and sustainability, education advancement, skill acquisition and diversification, political and public life, and spiritual development, discipleship, and church growth.

Read the parable of the labourers in Matt 20:1-16 and the Parable of the 10 virgins in Matt 25: 1-13.

GENERALLY POSITIONING ONESELF FOR EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY ENTAILS THESE ATTRIBUTES:

- i. Discerning the right timing (Esther 4: 13-14; 1 Chro 12:32 children of Issachar)
- ii. Right location (Gen 26: 12-14; Gen 3: 8-9;
- iii. Right strategy (what to do and how to do it), by the impulse of the Holy Spirit, by discernment (John 2:5), Not always the same way!
- iv. Right attitude and walking in integrity (Gal 5: 22; Phil 4: 6-8) work on your personality trait, be ready to change. The stories of Daniel, Joseph, Isaac, and Phillip in Samaria.
- v. Strong personal worship and prayer life beyond family altar!! (Esther 4: 4: 16-17; Matt 17: 21; Heb 5:7; Mark 1:35; Luke 9:29)
- vi. believe in the supernatural power for promotion and development (Ps 75:6-7; 1Cor 15:10)
- vii. Do not be left behind but update and develop yourself in ministry, career and entrepreneurship (online course or training, onsite apprenticeship, observations, use your phone wisely)
- viii. be focus on the word of God as compass for your upward and forward progression Joshua 1: 7-8
- ix. You need a mentor. You need pastoral guide or “positive or divinely linked godfather” in life, career, professional progression, and in the ministry. You cannot afford to be alone! (Eccl 4: 8-11; Jere 3:15)
- x. Uncompromising lifestyle of seeking the good of the Church you are planted in, and the Kingdom of God/Church (Ps 91:1-3; Ps 20:1-2; Ps 122; Heb 10:25)

- xi. Deliver yourself from the culture of the land contrary to the traditions of the gospel (your confession, your social network, and your habits). 12 Spies (except Joshua and Caleb) and the 2 spies in Joshua 2 and 6 (2 Thes 2:15; Col 2:8). Lot was habitually self-willed against Abraham and against the Angel (Gen 13: 10-11; 19: 18-20).
- xii. Sow intentionally or invest intentionally into the direction of your dream or desires. Ready to make sacrifice of your resources or substance towards excellence, prioritise your investment towards making profit, avoid, hedonism (foolish partying, and merrymaking-“owambe”). Prov 21: 20; 27:12; Luke 15:13 (the wasteful son!), Eph.5:16 AMP (Making the very most of the time (buying up each opportunity), because the day are evil); John 6: 12 (Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted)

IN CONCLUSION

Be ready to help in any space you find yourself using your natural skill, gift, talent and the Grace given to you by God (Prov 18:16). Don't be dull of speaking about what you can do. Speak with the Grace of God in your mouth (Matt 5:15).

Is 6:8 is about our Lord Jesus Christ: (Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I! Send me)

Joseph in Gen 40:8. They said to him, We each have a dream, and no one to interpret it. Then Joseph said to them, do not interpretation belongs to God, Tell me your dream. This was in the prison, he was later brought out of this prison to interpret for King Pharaoh, and the reward was the position of a Prime Minister in a strange land.

David spoke to his senior siblings, to King Saul, and against Goliath, his first experience and encounter in the battlefield (1 Sam 17: Please Read vs 25-45).

Rebekka in Gen 24: 15-22 intuitively offered homely help and hospitality to the servant of Abraham. She was not pretending to be accommodating but it was her usual and native self. It became an open door to her being the second global matriarch of Abrahamic blessings as the wife of Isaac

There is always a day for extraordinary opportunity, don't chicken out, step out!! (Lk 4:21, "today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing", Acts 2:11-14).

RECEIVING AND EXECUTING DIVINE IDEAS

▪ PASTOR IDOWU OWOLABI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

In this study we will be discussing how we can position ourselves in such a manner as to receive business ideas and execute them with the help of the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION AND MEANING OF THE KEY WORDS.

What's an idea? An idea is a mental thought, concept, or plan. It refers to a formulated thought in your mind. It is imagining something or a suggestion /possible course of action.

What is a divine Idea? It is a divine idea when an idea is inspired by the Spirit of God. A divine idea is a God-given insight, direction, or solution that brings progress, blessings, and fulfillment of purpose.

A divine idea is using our faith to bring into the physical world what is in the unseen world for the benefits of mankind.

Hebrews 11:3 - *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen*

were not made of things which do appear."

The above scripture is making reference to Chapter one of the book of Genesis and we are made to know that there is nothing present in the physical world that had not been existing in the spirit realm or the realm of the unseen before its existence. What we have today as inventions are the few things that man have been able to receive and convey from the unseen realm to the physical realm. God had created all that man would need in the realm of the unseen out of which He brought into existence the earth and its contents as seen in the book of Genesis chapter one. As soon as He created man in His image He vested in him the responsibility of further creation as his needs shall arrive. The popular songwriter, Bob Dylan in his 1962 song said "The answer, my friend is blowin' in the wind"

Let us not forget that man is a spirit being and every spirit being has access to the unseen world of ideas, man has a mouth and soul, and every being with a mouth and soul is able to dialogue with both human and spirit beings. He is able to meditate and receive information from both the physical and unseen realm. This was revealed through Patriarch Job when he said in Job 32:8 - *"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."*

The question then should be "if what we are to create or to venture is in the realm of the unseen how then navigate into the realm of the unseen and convey the needs into physical world?"

The response is "If what our needs exist in the realm of the unseen then we must focus on the realm of the unseen."

Then, the only way to receive a DIVINE Idea is to focus more on the unseen realm of the spirits because *"No one can receive*

anything unless God gives it from heaven. (John 3:27 NLT)

No wonder, Paul the Apostle says in 2 Corinthians 4:18: *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

HOW CAN WE FOCUS ON THE REALM OF THE UNSEEN?

1. Structure a Habit of daily Reading and Learning.

Read the Bible and relevant books relating to your area of interest. Massive Information Intake enriches your mind. Highly creative people are avid consumers of knowledge. The sci-fi author Ray Bradbury credited his continuous burst of ideas to "stuffing" himself full of essays, art, and varied literature, which his mind would naturally synthesize into novel concepts.

The soul of man has the ability to receive information, otherwise called knowledge, process it, organise it, store it and make it available for retrievers. The more information you store in your memory the more enriched you are with the idea, and that's what the scripture is saying in 3 John 2, thus;

"Beloved, I pray that in every way you may succeed and prosper and be in good health [physically], just as [I know] your soul prospers [spiritually]". (Amp)

2. Structure a Habit of Solitude and Meditation:

Silence is a fertile atmosphere to connect to the realm of ideas. Historically, prolific leaders and creators have relied on periods of solitary reflection to process the chaotic flow of information into a clear vision.

This is a moment of waiting to get the inspiration dropped into

our soul. Hab.2:1

"I will [in my thinking] stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower or fortress, and will watch to see what He will say within me and what answer I will make [as His mouthpiece] to the perplexities of my complaint against Him. (Amp classic)"

Note also, that when you wait upon the Lord in your thinking you give Him the opportunity to speak to your heart. Holy Spirit also searches through the information stored in your soul and bring to you what is relevant to your needs at a particular time. This is called rhema. Our Lord tells us in John 14:26

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you".

Learn to maintain fellowship with God through prayer and worship. Divine ideas flow from a close relationship with God as we study, pray and meditate on God's Word that open our minds to God's wisdom and direction.

Similarly, we should be observant and thoughtful as God can also speak through people, situations, needs, challenges, and opportunities around us. Proverbs 1:20-21:

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: 21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying... .."

Cultivate the listening spirit and learn to be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and your instincts. Holy Spirit is available to help and guide us in our day today running of

businesses such as locating relevant information in books and internet libraries.

It is amazing to see the Spirit of God guiding an executive on the best business decision to take, helping in meeting proceedings and calls. Our Lord Jesus Christ said we should not take thought of what to say in some circumstances.

Is it not also amazing how the Holy Spirit guides a Lawyer to the relevant principles of laws and how to search for authorities while preparing for a case? He is indeed our Helper, Counsellor, Companion and Comforter. What a favoured generation we are!

HOW CAN WE RECEIVE DIVINE BUSINESS IDEAS?

1. Through Visions and Dreams.

Job 33:14 "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. 33:15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; 33:16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction...."

2. Through Desire.

Philippians 2:13 - *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* God never stop King David, from embarking on building a temple.

3. Through Circumstances and Situations.

God allows doors to open, and arrange opportunities for us to carry out His will. He will guide you to good and relevant books, seminars, and studies. If He doesn't want it, He will stop you (Phi 3:15). This only happens to those who are sincere and live their lives to please Him. This was the difference between Saul and David.

4. Through Association and Social Networking.

God will also guide you to people. He gave Solomon the wisdom to make friends with great kings and merchants and arranged circumstances for networking. Seek to associate with wise people and read after good business Authors. Discussing specific business issues with people is known to stimulate the brain's creative centers.

A Christian friend who is also a retired banker and now a CEO of microfinance business recently burst into my office and said "Sir, I want to take the vacant space on the ground floor of our office". "What for?" I asked? "I want to be selling solar energy stuff" he responded. That was how we started the discussion on it. We observed that the population is increasing, the municipal power supply keeps dwindling, the price of gas to power generators has skyrocketed, the Chinese manufacturers are available to partner with Nigerians in the solar energy business and there is access to credit facilities from banks. We discussed all the relevant indices. Today he has added sale of solar inverter to his line of business. One of the signs that God is lifting you is when He starts to link you with relevant people.

5. Through life of obedience and Intimate relationship with God.

God entrusts greater revelations to those who walk with Him faithfully. Divine Ideas are for those who fear and honour God. The fear of God is the foundation of financial wisdom.

One of the greatest challenges we will face as leaders, specially at executive level and as business owners in life are in the areas of decisions making and how to choose between many competing ideas. The good news is that God is willing to guide us and help out when we are in confusion as to what choice to make out of many ideas if only we are humble and submissive,

ready to abide by His choices for our lives. Ps 25:12 says:

"Where is the man who fears the Lord? God will teach him how to choose the best." (LB)

We should also note, that the cardinal benefit of divine Ideas is that divine ideas attract divine favour because he that seeks a divine idea is seeking God's will.

When God is a partner in your venture He will fund and protect it as He is not under the obligation to fund and protect the undertaking or project not initiated by Him.

For instance, no one, especially a Jew could have the audacity of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem except the hand of God was upon such a person. Hear the testimony of the man, Nehemiah who conceived the idea. Nehemiah 2:2-8

"... ..And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me."

Nehemiah was able to know the will of God concerning the building of the wall of Jerusalem and he keyed into the prophetic idea and the dream became a reality. Those who will enjoy the best of God in this season of our divine favour would be people who can understand the project birthed by prophetic idea and key into it. Divine ideas are the reasons for divine provisions.

HOW TO EXECUTE YOUR BUSINESS IDEA.

It is one thing to have an idea, it is another ball game to bring it to reality. The cemetery is said to be the richest city in the world. Why? Because there we have men buried with lofty Ideas that

were never executed. These are the steps to take as soon as the business ideas drop into your mind.

1. Give God the Glory for the Ideas.

Daniel 2:19-23 -Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Acknowledge God as the source of every successful idea and accomplishment.

2. Write the Idea Down.

Our father in the Lord, Dr. John Idowu said “ *the faintest pen is sharper than the best memory*”. The first thing to do is to quickly pick your journal and pen it down while the thought is still fresh in your mind.

Habakkuk 2:2 “*And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*”

You also need to think it through on paper in the presence of God to expand the idea. This is when you map out how to get funds, when to start, people to work it, where and how to start the venture. Plan diligently. Prayer and planning should work together.

Luke 14:28 “*For which of you, intending to build a tower,*

sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?."

This is why the execution may appears delay.

Habakkuk 2:3 - ***"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."***

3. Believe You can Birth Your Business Idea.

If God can give you a dream He will help you make it a reality.

Isaiah 66:9 - ***"Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God."***

You need to develop your mental strength. A 22 year old Coco Gauff is an American professional tennis player. She has a career-high ranking of world No. 2 in singles and of world No. 1 in doubles by the WTA. Gauff has won 11 career singles titles, including two majors at the 2023 US Open and 2025 French Open, as well as the 2024 WTA Finals. She said

"If you can think it, you can do it. If you can dream it, you can do it. Just keep working hard." I agree with her!

Yes! Whatever a man can think, dream and say he has the ability to do, but he must be ready to THINK it, DREAM it, SAY it and DO it. That's why God the Elohim had to step down to stop men from executing their satanic idea in chapter eleven of the book of Genesis.

Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company popular word was ***"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't — you're right, Think positively. You are what you think."***

4. Be Strong and be Courageous.

The man Joshua was having a-larger-than-him dream of the Canaan the moment he saw it as a spie. God also assured him of His promise and was anointed take it over the land but that's not enough, God still warned him that he needed courage.

There will come a time that you will begin to doubt if you ever heard from God about a project you have started and you may want to back out of it. That's when the word of God to Joshua becomes important to you. You need strength and courage of Nehemiah and Esra in the face of challenges. There will be upset, set back. People will steal from you, your bankers will disappoint you, you may also fall sick but don't forget you are more than a conqueror. You must be ready to persevere through challenges because every God-given assignment will face opposition, but persistence brings victory.

You cannot start in the spirit and execute your project in the flesh. Keep praying, keep believing, keep watching, keep confessing the word and keep sailing like Paul the apostle until you reached your Rome.

FROM INCOME TO WEALTH: A KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

▪ PASTOR M.O. ADU

Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV) - "The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV) - "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." - Isaiah 61:1-2 (NKJV)

AIM AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish between income and wealth using a biblical framework.
- Identify at least three practical shifts in mindset and habit that move them from earning to building.
- Develop a personal action plan to begin managing money as a Kingdom steward.
- Connect their financial journey to the covenant of favour declared in Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61 is not merely a prophecy of spiritual liberation. It is a total restoration manifesto. The phrase "*the acceptable year of the LORD*" echoes the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25): debts cancelled, land restored, captives freed. This is God's economic calendar. When Jesus quoted this passage in Luke 4:18, He was announcing that Kingdom economics had arrived. Our convention theme is not just a banner; it is a financial invitation. If this is truly the year of favour, then it is time to move beyond receiving a paycheque (income) and begin building something that outlasts us (wealth).

INTRODUCTION

We serve a God who is not opposed to prosperity. From Abraham, who was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold (Genesis 13:2), to Solomon, whose wealth surpassed all the kings of the earth (1 Kings 10:23), to the promise given in Deuteronomy 8:18 that God gives power to get wealth, Scripture is clear: the capacity to produce wealth is a covenant gift. Yet many believers live their entire lives moving from income to income, never crossing into wealth.

The challenge is not God's willingness. The challenge is our understanding, our priorities, and our habits. This session is designed to help every participant cross that divide and begin the journey from income to wealth using kingdom principles.

PART 1: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

- **Income vs. Wealth:** Defining the Terms
(Proverbs 13:22, Proverbs 10:22, Ecclesiastes 5:19, Deuteronomy 8:18)

Notes: Income is the water flowing from a tap: useful while it runs, but it stops the moment you stop turning the handle.

Wealth is the reservoir. It holds water even when you are not at the tap. Income is earned by activity and stops when you stop. Wealth works while you sleep and compounds over time. Income meets today's needs. Wealth meets tomorrow's needs and the needs of others. Income is personal. Wealth is generational. Income is spent. Wealth is deployed. Proverbs 13:22 makes the divine purpose plain: "*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*" God's design is not just for you to survive this generation; it is for you to leave something for the third generation. That requires wealth, not just income.

PART 2: WHY MANY EARNERS NEVER BECOME BUILDERS

The Five Traps That Keep Income-Earners Stuck

(Proverbs 21:5, Matthew 25:14-30, Proverbs 22:7, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Proverbs 11:14)

Notes: Many believers earn well but build nothing. Five traps are usually responsible. The first is the Consumption Mindset: "I earn to spend." Every raise triggers a lifestyle upgrade. Wealth requires that you widen the gap between what you earn and what you spend. The second is Debt as a way of life: using credit for depreciating assets such as phones, clothes, and celebrations is financial bondage, the very condition Isaiah 61 declares freedom from. The third is having No Financial Plan: Proverbs 21:5 says the plans of the diligent lead to profit. Most people plan their holidays better than their finances. The fourth is Ignorance dressed as humility: saying "*I am not a money person*" is not a virtue; it is abdication of stewardship. The servant in Matthew 25 who buried his talent was not praised for his caution. The fifth is Isolation from wise counsel: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us that two are better than one. No one builds wealth alone. Your network determines your net worth.

PART 3: THE KINGDOM FRAMEWORK FOR WEALTH

· *Give First: Honour God with Your Firstfruits*

(Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Luke 6:38)

Notes: Proverbs 3:9-10 instructs us to honour the LORD with our possessions and with the firstfruits of all our increase. Tithing and giving are not taxes; they are seeds. They activate the covenant. Many believers wait until they are wealthy before they give generously. The Kingdom order is reversed: give, and the multiplication follows. The wealthiest Kingdom-minded people in history have been radical givers. Giving rewires your relationship with money, from master to servant. The year of the LORD's favour begins the moment we honour God with what is in our hand.

· *Save Consistently: The Ant Principle*

(Proverbs 6:6-8, Proverbs 21:20, Genesis 41:34-36)

Notes: Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways and be wise (Proverbs 6:6). The ant does not save because it is rich; it becomes resourced because it saves. A practical starting target is to save between ten and twenty percent of every income, however small. This is the reservoir principle: build it now, draw from it later. Joseph's counsel to Pharaoh was to set aside a fifth of the produce during the seven years of plenty (Genesis 41:34). Joseph understood that preparation is an act of wisdom, not an act of fear. What you do not save, you cannot invest. What you do not invest cannot multiply.

· *Invest Wisely: Make Your Money Work*

(Matthew 25:14-30, Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, Proverbs 31:16)

Notes: In Matthew 25:14-30, the master commends those who put his money to work. Investment is not gambling. It is the deliberate deployment of resources to generate increase. Forms include a side business, real estate, shares, skills that command

higher income, or financing another person's business with a return. The Proverbs 31 woman considered a field and bought it; from her profits she planted a vineyard (Proverbs 31:16). She was not passive with the resources in her hand. Ecclesiastes 11:2 counsels us to give a portion to seven, and also to eight, because you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. Diversification is a biblical strategy. The question every believer should ask is: Is my money serving me, or am I only serving my money?

PART 4: PRACTICAL STEPS - WHAT TO DO DIFFERENTLY STARTING NOW

· *Know Your Numbers*
(Proverbs 27:23-24, Luke 14:28)

Notes: Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds (Proverbs 27:23). You cannot manage what you do not measure. This week, write down your total monthly income and every single expense. Most people are surprised to discover where their money actually goes. A budget is not a cage; it is a map. Jesus pointed out in Luke 14:28 that no wise man starts building without first sitting down and counting the cost.

Financial awareness is the foundation of financial freedom.

· *Create a Simple Budget*
(Proverbs 21:5, Luke 16:10-11)

Notes: The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty (Proverbs 21:5). A practical starting framework is the 10-20-70 rule: ten percent to give (tithe and offering), twenty percent to save, and seventy percent to live on. This is a starting point, not a ceiling. As

income grows, the percentages can be adjusted upward for saving and giving. Jesus warned that whoever is not faithful in little will not be trusted with much (Luke 16:10). A written budget, even a simple one, is an act of faithfulness with what God has already given.

· ***Kill One Debt***

(Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8)

Notes: The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender (Proverbs 22:7). Debt is legal slavery. Paul urges in Romans 13:8 to owe no one anything except to love one another. Begin with your smallest debt and make a plan to pay it off in ninety days. Every debt cleared is a chain removed. Debt freedom is financial Isaiah 61: the prisoner walking out of captivity into the fullness of God's economic favour. Do not wait until you are debt-free before you begin saving; run both tracks simultaneously, even if the amounts are small.

· ***Start One Asset***

(Matthew 25:16, Proverbs 31:16, Genesis 26:12-14)

Notes: Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents (Matthew 25:16). The servants who were commended did not wait for better conditions; they worked with what they had. Open a savings or investment account this month. Identify a business idea, a small trade, or a skill to monetise. Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him (Genesis 26:12). Begin with what is in your hand. Do not despise small beginnings. The seed you plant today is the harvest you will reap in the year of the LORD's favour.

· ***Find a Mentor and Pray Over Your Finances***
(Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 15:22, Deuteronomy 28:8)

Notes: Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14). Identify one person in your life or community whose financial life you respect and ask for one hour of their time this month. Wisdom is transferable. Additionally, the LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand (Deuteronomy 28:8). Command your finances in prayer, weekly. Declare the covenant promises of God over your income, your savings, your business, and your investments. Faith and action work together; neither replaces the other.

THE REWARD OF MOVING FROM INCOME TO WEALTH

The investment required to move from income to wealth is significant, but the rewards, both temporal and eternal, far exceed the cost of the journey.

- **Temporal Rewards:** Families who faithfully build wealth experience the joy of generosity without anxiety, the peace that comes from financial margin, and the satisfaction of leaving something behind for those who follow. Like Abraham, whose obedience established a covenant that blessed his descendants for generations (Genesis 18:19), believers who build with Kingdom principles become sources of blessing to their families and communities.
- **Generational Impact:** The decisions you make with money today will shape your children's starting point tomorrow. Timothy's faith was passed from his grandmother Lois to his mother Eunice to Timothy

himself (2 Timothy 1:5). Wealth built on Kingdom principles carries not just money but values, faith, and wisdom from one generation to the next. This is the inheritance Proverbs 13:22 speaks of: not just financial, but spiritual and generational.

- **Eternal Rewards:** Wealth surrendered to Kingdom purposes carries eternal weight. Jesus taught that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Using wealth to fund the Gospel, support the vulnerable, build the church, and raise the next generation is an investment in eternity. John wrote that he had no greater joy than to hear that his children walked in truth (3 John 1:4). The wealth we build and deploy for God's glory will bear fruit long after we are gone.

CONCLUSION

The year of the LORD's favour in Isaiah 61 was not a year for the Israelites to sit and wait. It was a year to act: debts were cancelled, but you had to walk your land back. Captives were freed, but you had to leave the camp. Favour activates potential; it does not replace responsibility.

God has anointed you to produce wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). He has declared this your year of favour. The shift from income to wealth begins the moment you decide to stop consuming everything you earn and start building something that will outlast you.

This is your portion. Rebuild. Restore. Build wealth for generations.

STRATEGIC THINKING FOR CAREER AND BUSINESS GROWTH

▪ PASTOR (MRS) B.I. OLUWADARE

Bible References: Ish. 61, Ps.5:11-12, Proverbs 6: 6-11, 31:10-31

AIMS OF THE STUDY

- Understand strategic thinking in relation to God's favour
- Know how strategic thinking can help you grow your career with God's favour.
- Know how strategic thinking can help you grow your business with abundant favor of God and with that of people

INTRODUCTION

Strategic thinking is the ability to analyze complex situations, anticipate future trends, and make decisions that align with long-term goals. This you can achieve with your total trust in God and your relationship with people, your environment, with absolute grace of God with full restoration on every side. Joseph fled away from sinning with Pharaoh's wife. Gen. 39:6-17. It requires you to consider the bigger picture of God's favour and understand how your actions and decisions impact broader organizational outcomes Gen.4:33-34

Strategic thinking involves considering potentials outcomes of action before taking them. (The parables of the ten virgins Matt, 25:1-1-13)

1. Adjusting project timeliness Ecc.3:1-11
2. Exploring the reasons Ish.1:8, Dan. 4:36, Jonah. 2:2
3. Responding to customers' feedback (The disciples returned to give feedback of the mission work to Jesus)The parable of the Talents Matt. 25: 14-30.
4. Guiding team discussion (Jesus teaching his disciples to equip them in the ministerial work. Sent out the twelve disciples. Mark 6:1-12, Jesus feeds the four thousand. Mk 8:1-9 Matt. 15:32-39

According to Springboard research, Strategic thinking is one of the most overlooked yet essential skills in the workplace. 70% of business leaders say there's a skills gap in their workforce, with strategic thinking and decision-making ranking among the most lacking competencies. Professionals who can anticipate challenges, weigh trade-offs, and align their actions with long-term business goals are the ones who move ahead, shape outcomes, and earn trust at higher levels.

Example:

Joseph totally measured up to solve the problems in land of Egypt during and after the reign of king Pharaoh Gen. 41:25-32 But many high-performing employees still focus only on execution. Lk 5:1-5. Peter as skilled fisherman caught no fish all through the night.

They stay task-driven, missing the broader view, creating a silent barrier to strategic roles and leadership visibility. Example: The deception of the Gibeonites with Joshua 9: 1-15

Strategic thinking develops through consistent exposure, reflection, and skill-building. It doesn't happen by default; it's strengthened by focusing on key capabilities known as strategic thinking skills. Example: Peter heals the crippled beggar at the beautiful gate as a result of his discipleship training and good follower of Jesus during his earthly ministry. Acts 3:1-12 It doesn't happen by default; it's strengthened by focusing on key capabilities known as strategic thinking skills.

Strategic thinking skills are the mental capabilities that enable you to assess situations critically, plan, and make informed, forward-looking decisions. These skills combine analytical thinking, creativity, foresight, and decision-making under pressure.

Biblical examples are:

- Advise of Jethro to Moses not to wear out himself to choose some leaders to help him. Exo. 18: 13-26.
- Ruth took to the advice of Naomi to meet Boaz. Ruth 3:1-5
- Joseph interpreted the dream of the king Pharaoh about seven years of plenty and even years of famine and provided solutions. Gen. 41: 25-37
- Daniel also revealed and interpreted the dream that the king had and forgot. Dan. 2: 24-47
- Peter was sent to the Jews but had a vision to meet Cornelius and his household Acts 10: 9-23-44. Peter was contended with by others that were of circumcision that he went to the uncircumcised and ate with them.
- Paul was sent to the Gentiles and sold himself totally to the work of the gospel to train people, delivered the oppressed,

miracles signs and wonders going ahead further than Peter. He wrote the epistles in prison. If not for the call of Paul, the gospel may likely be restricted to the Jews.

Here are the key strategic thinking skills you should develop:

- **Analytical Thinking:** This skill involves breaking down complex information or situations into smaller components, identifying patterns, and drawing meaningful conclusions. It helps you to understand root causes, evaluate competing priorities, and assess the implications of various choices. Examples: The temptation of Jesus Matt.4:1-11, Lk.4: 1-13 The parable of the workers in the vineyard Matt.20:1-16
- **Problem solving:** Strategic thinkers approach problems with a solution-oriented mindset. This means resolving surface-level issues, identifying the underlying causes, and creating sustainable, long-term fixes. Example: The ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ for three and half years were full of problem solving. The four gospels are full of this.
- **Planning and Prioritization:** This skill involves structuring tasks and initiatives to achieve long-term outcomes. Examples: John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus Ministry. Matt.3: 9-12. Jesus baptized to fulfil all righteousness Matt. 3:15-17

The calling of the first disciples. Matt. 4:18-22, Mk1:16-20, Lk5:2-11, Jn1:35-42

- It includes distinguishing between urgent and important tasks, allocating resources efficiently, and ensuring that day-to-day activities align with strategic objectives.

Example: Roles played by Mordecai in the life of Esther to bring deliverance to the Jews not just to enjoy the present comfort of the palace and endangering her future because Haman plot to destroy the Jews. Esther: 3:10-15, 4:13-17

- **Foresight:** Foresight is the ability to anticipate future trends, risks, and opportunities. It involves staying updated on industry developments, analyzing external factors, and thinking proactively about what might come next. This forward-looking perspective helps you and organizations stay competitive and prepared for change. Example: Jesus our model had great foresight as the shepherd of his flock. Jn 10:1-18 Jacob in the house of Laban Gen: 30: 26-43,
- **Decision Making:** Strategic decision-making involves evaluating multiple variables such as having quality information, knowledge, risks, stakeholder needs, and long-term impact before choosing a course of action. Examples: Jesus made the greatest decision to do the will of God and finish it. Jn 4:34. Jacob took decision based on God's instruction to go to Bethel. Gen:35:1-15
- **Adaptability:** Plans must evolve in rapidly changing environments. Adaptability means staying flexible in your approach while keeping strategic objectives in focus. Strategic thinkers adjust course as needed, incorporating feedback, new information, or unexpected challenges without losing momentum.

Example: The parable of the shrewd manager Luke 16: 1-13. Wisdom and faithfulness are required to be able to adapt. By building these skills, you can contribute more

meaningfully to strategic initiatives, support business growth, and prepare for leadership roles.

Note: Strategic thinking is not a trait you're born with; it's a skill you can build through consistent practice and the right mindset. Whether you aim to lead projects, make data-informed decisions, or support your organization's long-term vision, the approaches below enhance your strategic thinking.

- **Start with clear Goals and Priority**

Strategic thinking begins with clarity. Without knowing what you're aiming for, it's easy to fall into the trap of staying busy without making real progress. Clear goals give your decisions direction and ensure your daily efforts are connected to a bigger purpose.

How to apply it:

- **Define your North Star:** What long-term outcome are you or your team working towards? Make it measurable and time-bound.
- **Break it down:** Use tools like OKRs (Objectives and Key Results) or SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable (or Attainable), Relevant, and Time-bound) goals to turn abstract ambitions into actionable steps.
- **Prioritize impact over urgency:** Strategic thinkers don't chase everything; they identify what's essential and commit to it. Link personal goals to business objectives: Strategic thinkers don't chase everything; they identify what's essential and commit to it. Strategic clarity means every action leads to a bigger vision. Once your goals are clear,

you don't just work hard; you work smart, with precision and purpose.

- **Ask better Questions** Strategic thinkers don't rush to answers; they pause to question what others take for granted. Good questions help you zoom out, challenge assumptions, and surface blind spots before they become risks.

*Pray and ask God for directions. Jer. 33:3, Lk 18:1-10, Rom:8:14

How to apply it:

Shift your lens: Don't just ask, "What's next?" Ask, "What will this choice look like six months from now?"

- **Interrogate assumptions:** What beliefs or dependencies are we relying on? Are they still true?
Dig into value: Ask, "What's the long-term benefit of this action?" or "Does this align with our strategic priorities?" For example- Instead of saying: "Let's launch this new feature, it's trending,"

You ask: "What problem does this solve for our key users? What trade-offs are we making by prioritizing this over something else?" Smart questions reframe conversations. They lead teams out of autopilot and into intentional action.

- **Schedule Regular Strategic Thinking Time**
You can't think clearly when you're constantly reacting. Strategic thinking requires space mental and calendar. Without it, you'll keep solving today's problems without preparing for tomorrow's. Mat.7:7.

How to apply it

Block the time: Schedule 30–60 minutes weekly to pause, step back, and scan the big picture. Treat it as a recurring meeting

with your future self. Gen. 8:22

- **Use visual thinking tools:** Try mind maps, scenario planning, or SWOT analyses to explore ideas from different angles. Pro. 7:7, 20:27, Col. 4:5,
- **Resist knee-jerk decisions:** When something urgent arises, take a moment to ask: “Is this important or just loud?” For example: A marketing lead spends Friday mornings reviewing campaign performance, not just to check results, but to spot emerging patterns, assess alignment with quarterly goals, and reprioritize upcoming initiatives. Ish. 26:3
- **Consume Information Strategically.** Strategic thinkers curate the information they consume. They know that smart decisions come from connecting insights across disciplines, not from reacting to the first article they read. Pro. 3:13-14, 16: 20-24, 2Tim. 2:15

How to do it:

- **Read beyond your role:** Explore industry reports, economic outlooks, customer behavior studies, and even case studies from unrelated sectors.
- **Spot transferable ideas:** Ask yourself, “How does this trend affect my organisation?” or “Can this strategy solve a challenge I'm facing?”
- **Bridge insight and action:** Don't let good ideas sit in a notebook. Apply them to live decisions, internal debates, or upcoming initiatives. For example: A product manager reading a retail industry report notices how bundling increases customer retention. They apply this insight to their own SaaS feature rollout strategy, packaging updates by value, not just function.

Strategic input leads to strategic output. Choose your information diet with intention.

5. Collaborate with Strategic Thinkers: You are the average of the people you spend the most time with. Working alongside those skilled in planning and decision-making helps you absorb their mindset. Being around strategic thinkers inspires you to approach problems with fresh perspectives and sharper insight.

6 Embrace Long -term Thinking in Daily Tasks: Even the smallest tasks you do today can feed into something bigger. Strategic thinkers know that long-term impact often starts with short-term choices, like documenting a process that saves hours later or refining a workflow that prevents future bottlenecks.

How to apply it:

- Ask yourself: How does this task support our long-term goals?
- Think through second- and third-order consequences before taking action.
- Reflect regularly: What worked? What patterns are emerging? Where's the opportunity to future-proof?

When you approach everyday work with this lens, even routine tasks become building blocks for lasting outcomes.

7. Use Strategic Tools and Framework: When decisions feel messy or overwhelming, strategic tools bring order to the chaos. Whether you're planning a project, entering a new market, or solving a team issue, frameworks like **SWOT** (*Strengths and Weaknesses, and external Opportunities and Threats*), **PESTLE** (*Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and*

Environment), Porter's Five Forces, or decision matrices help you focus on what matters most.

How to apply it

- Use **SWOT** to map strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats before committing resources.
- Try **PESTLE** or Porter's Five Forces to understand external trends and industry shifts.
- When stuck between options, decision charts or priority matrices can help you compare trade-offs objectively. These tools aren't just for big strategy meetings; they're everyday decision aids that help you step back, zoom out, and make smarter choices with less guesswork.

8. Reflect and Learn from Outcomes: Good or bad outcomes are a chance to sharpen your strategic thinking. But most professionals skip reflection in the rush to move on. That's where growth gets lost.

How to apply it

- **Run a post-mortem after key decisions, projects, or miles** to ask focused questions like: What did we overlook? What surprised us? What would we repeat or avoid?
- **Capture insights** in a shared space so your team learns together, not just individually. Reflection isn't about dwelling on mistakes. It's about building pattern recognition and foresight so that every decision gets sharper, faster, and more aligned with long-term goals.
- **Conclusion:** As a born again Christian, always bear in mind that the spiritual governs the physical. The word of God must guide you in your career and business life.

The Year of the Lord's Favour

- **Prayer:** Always commit your ways into the hands of the Lord and you will prosper and you will not run into the hands of swindlers or go into business with those that are resisted by God. Pray in Holy Ghost regularly for the unknown. Rom. 8:26
- **Pay your tithes regularly and accurately** and give measurable offerings. Mal. 3:10-12
- **Be digital literate** to measure up to the global standard of your business or career.
- **Attend seminars and workshops regularly** and you can do this virtually.

You enjoy God's favour and of people as you grow your business and career in this year with abundant grace for full restoration on every side.

Thou shall arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. Ps.102:12

BUILDING INFLUENCE BEYOND JOB TITLE

▪ DEACON JEWoola

INTRODUCTION

Influence is the ability to positively affect the thoughts, attitudes, and actions of others. You don't build influence you receive gifts that build influence. True influence is not determined by a position, rank, or title; but by character, wisdom, service, integrity, and the value one adds to others. Many people in the Bible influenced others greatly even when they did not hold the highest positions.

Matt 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

This verse teaches that influence comes from a life that reflects godly character and good works.

WAYS TO BUILD INFLUENCE BEYOND JOB TITLE

1. **Develop Godly Character and Integrity:** Prov 22:1, Gen 39:1-9

People trust and follow those who demonstrate honesty, faithfulness, and consistency. Though Joseph was a servant and later a prisoner, his integrity earned him respect and influence wherever he was.

2. Serve Others Selflessly: Mk 10:43-45

Influence grows when we focus on helping others rather than seeking recognition. Our Lord Jesus Christ Jesus influenced multitudes through humble service, compassion, and sacrifice.

3. Demonstrate Wisdom and Competence: Eccl 9:16, Dan 1:17-20

People listen to those who consistently provide solutions and add value. Daniel's wisdom and excellence made him influential in Babylon despite being a captive.

4. Build Positive Relationships: Prov 27:17, Ruth 2:10-12

Strong relationships create opportunities for greater impact and influence. The humility and kindness of Ruth earned her favor and support from Boaz and others.

5. Be a Person of Good Communication: Col 4:6, 1 Sam 25:23-35

Influential people communicate with grace, wisdom, and respect. The wise words of Abigail prevented conflict and saved her household.

6. Lead by Example: 1 Tim 4:12, Neh 5:14-19

Actions often speak louder than words. Nehemiah inspired others through his personal commitment and sacrifice.

BENEFITS OF BUILDING INFLUENCE BEYOND JOB TITLE (Prov 11:30)

- Ø Greater trust and credibility.
- Ø Increased opportunities for leadership.
- Ø Stronger teamwork and collaboration.
- Ø Positive impact on people and society.
- Ø Lasting legacy beyond one's position.

CONCLUSION

Influence does not retire only title does. Job titles may open doors; but character, service, wisdom, and integrity sustain influence. Influence causes men to serve you; it makes people submit to you. *"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister."* (Matt 20:26)

Influence causes resources to navigate towards your direction. It makes you to reign in life. Believers are called to be light and salt in their workplaces, families, churches, and communities. When we live according to God's principles, our influence extends far beyond any official position we hold.

Discussion Question: How can a person continue to influence others positively, even after retirement or when no longer holding a leadership position?

May God help us build lasting influence through godly character and faithful in Jesus name.

KINGDOM WEALTH: STEWARDSHIP, INFLUENCE AND IMPACT

▪ DCNS OREOLUWA OJOBANIKAN

The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the LORD of hosts." - Haggai 2:8 (NKJV)

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." - Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

It is not a coincidence that the theme of this year's convention is *"The Year of the LORD's Favour."* Isaiah 61 announces a season of divine release, restoration, and rebuilding, and every one of those outcomes requires resources. The rebuilding of ancient ruins (Isaiah 61:4) costs something. The double portion promised in verse 7 implies material increase. This is not a gathering disconnected from real life; it is a repositioning of God's people to carry wealth with purpose.

There is, however, a difference between having wealth and carrying Kingdom wealth. Many people possess resources but remain disconnected from purpose. Kingdom wealth is not defined by the size of one's bank account but by the intentionality behind how that wealth is received, managed, and released. Haggai 2:8 settles the ownership question once and for all: the silver and the gold belong to God. We are not owners; we are managers. And every manager will one day give an account.

It is the goal of this study therefore, that as believers we would understand that wealth in the Kingdom is a tool for God's purposes and not an end in itself; that we would identify what faithful stewardship looks like in our everyday financial decisions; that we would recognise how wealth creates influence and how that influence, when submitted to God, produces lasting Kingdom impact; and that we would each leave with at least one specific commitment to steward what God has placed in our hands more faithfully.

LET US KINDLY CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POINTS

1: Stewardship - Wealth Is a Trust, Not a Trophy

(Luke 16:10-12, Matthew 25:14-23, Genesis 39:2-6, 1 Chronicles 29:14)

Notes: David's declaration in 1 Chronicles 29:14 captures the heart of Kingdom stewardship: "All things come from You, and of Your own we have given You." Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that nothing we hold belongs to us. In Luke 16:10-12, Jesus draws a direct line between faithfulness in small things and being trusted with true riches. The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 reinforces this: the master did not reward the servant who buried what he was given. He rewarded those who worked with it.

Joseph is a striking example of stewardship in practice. Wherever he was placed, in Potiphar's house or in prison, he managed so well that everything around him prospered (Genesis 39:2-6). Stewardship is not about the amount; it is about the attitude. A faithful steward accounts for every resource, avoids waste, grows what has been entrusted, and keeps the owner's interests above personal comfort. Practical application: treat your salary, business income, and assets as a trust handed to you by God. Ask not only "how do I grow this?" but "how does God want me to use this?"

2: Influence - Wealth Opens Doors That Talent Alone Cannot

(Proverbs 22:7, Ecclesiastes 10:19, Esther 4:14, Acts 4:34-35, 2 Corinthians 9:8)

Notes: Ecclesiastes 10:19 states plainly that money answers all things. This is not an endorsement of materialism; it is a frank acknowledgment that resources create access. Proverbs 22:7 notes that the rich rules over the poor. Wealth creates a platform. The question the believer must answer is: what will you do with that platform? Esther's position in the palace was not for her personal luxury. It was for the preservation of a people (Esther 4:14).

The early church understood this principle too. Those who had lands and houses sold them and brought the proceeds to the apostles, and there was not a needy person among them (Acts 4:34-35). Their resources created a community of influence that drew thousands to faith. God promises in 2 Corinthians 9:8 to make all grace abound toward us so that we may have sufficiency in all things and abound for every good work. The "every good work" is the point. Wealth is not for hoarding; it is for extending reach into places and lives that need transformation. Practical application: identify one sphere of

influence your resources could open this year: a community, a school, a church project, or a family in need. Begin there.

3: Impact - The Measure of Kingdom Wealth Is What It Leaves Behind

(Proverbs 13:22, Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:16-21, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Isaiah 61:4)

Notes: Jesus warned against laying up treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt (Matthew 6:19). He was not condemning savings or investment; He was targeting the mindset that measures success by accumulation alone. The rich fool in Luke 12 had a full barn but an empty eternity. His wealth produced no impact beyond himself. By contrast, 1 Timothy 6:17-19 calls the wealthy to be rich in good works, ready to give and willing to share, laying up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come. Isaiah 61:4 gives us the Kingdom definition of impact: the rebuilding of ancient ruins and the restoration of devastated places. True Kingdom impact is restorative. It rebuilds what has been broken, restores what has been lost, and releases what has been held captive. Proverbs 13:22 tells us that a good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children. Generational impact is the goal, not just personal comfort or short-term achievement. Practical application: ask yourself this week, if my wealth disappeared tomorrow, what would remain? What have I invested in that will outlast me?

4: The Steward's Posture - How to Carry Kingdom Wealth Well

(Philippians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Luke 19:8, Acts 2:44-45, Proverbs 3:9-10)

Notes: Not everyone who carries wealth carries it well. Paul teaches in Philippians 4:11-12 that he had learned, in whatever state he was in, to be content. Contentment is not the absence of ambition; it is the refusal to allow what you do not yet have to

rob you of faithfulness with what you already hold. Three marks identify a Kingdom wealth carrier.

The first is Contentment with a vision: they are not driven by comparison or anxiety but by a clear sense of assignment. They know why they are building. The second is Generosity as a lifestyle: Zacchaeus did not wait to be wealthy before he gave; he gave immediately upon encountering Jesus (Luke 19:8). The early church shared as anyone had need (Acts 2:44-45). Generosity is not a response to surplus; it is a posture of the heart. The third is Honouring God first: Proverbs 3:9-10 remains the covenant gateway. Bring the firstfruits, honour God with the first and the best, and trust Him with the outcome. 1 Timothy 6:6 reminds us that godliness with contentment is great gain. The believer who walks in this posture does not chase wealth; they attract it as a by-product of faithful Kingdom living. Practical application: this week, identify one area where contentment, generosity, or honouring God first needs to be strengthened in your financial life. Make a specific, measurable commitment.

CONCLUSION

Kingdom wealth is not about how much you have. It is about how faithfully you manage what you have been given, how wisely you use the influence it creates, and how deliberately you invest it for impact that outlasts you. We are living in the year of the LORD's favour, a season of double portion, rebuilding, and restoration. God is looking for stewards He can trust with Kingdom resources, men and women who will not bury their talent, hoard their influence, or spend their increase on themselves alone.

The silver and the gold belong to Him. He is looking for faithful hands to carry it, wise minds to deploy it, and Kingdom hearts

to release it where it is most needed. Will you be found faithful?

"His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." - Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)

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BÍ A Ẹ LÈ GBÉ ÌGBÉ AYÉ ÀDÚRÀ TÍTÍ DÉ ÒPIN

▪ PASTOR LEKAN AKINWUNMI

Àdúrà ni ohun ijà Kristièni láti sẹgun àwọn ọtá. Jésù Kristi Olúwa, tí ó jẹ olùbẹrẹ àti òpin ìgbàgbọ wa, bẹrẹ isẹ ìránṣẹ rẹ pẹlú àdúrà (**Mt. 4:1–11**), ó sì parí ohun gbogbo pẹlú àdúrà (**Jòhánù 17:1–26**). Bákan náà, òjúlówó àdúrà ni láti wà pẹlú ìmọ àti ọye Ọrọ Ọlórún (**1 Jòhánù 5:14**). A gbòdò ní ìdánílójú pé Ọlórún ní dá wa lóhùn bí a ẹ ní pè é pẹlú ìgbàgbọ.

ÀWỌN OHUN TÍ Ó LÈ DÉNA ÀDÚRÀ WA

Nínú èkọ yíí ó ẹ pàtàkì láti mọ pé bí ó tilẹ jẹ pé Alààánú ni Olúwa (**Sm. 103:8–18**), ojú rẹ kò rọ sí ẹsẹ; nítorí náà ẹnìkẹni tí ó bá ní ẹsẹ lówọ rẹ tàbí nínú ayé rẹ kò lè gba àgbáyori àdúrà. Bí Ọlórún tilẹ fẹràn pé kí ẹlẹsẹ ronú pìwàdà, ojú ẹlẹsẹ kò lè rí ògo Olúwa (**Iwe Ọwe 15:8; Róòmù 3:23**).

Ọlórún kò lè gbọ àdúrà ẹlẹsẹ nítorí mímọ ni Olúwa (**1 Peteru. 1:16**). Nítorí náà, a ní láti jòwọ ayé wa fún Olúwa kí ẹjẹ Jésù Kristi lè wẹ ẹsẹ wa nù pátápátá, kí ó sì sọ wá di olódodo, kí a baà lè rí ojúrere Ọlórún nínú àdúrà wa, kí a sì lè di alábùkún fún ní

gbogbo ojọ ayé wa (**Róòmù 6:23**). Tí a bá ɣetán láti ɣe èyí, ẹ jẹ kí a gba àdúrà ránpe yíi:

“Mo fi ẹnu mi jéwọ pé Jèsù Kristi ni Olúwa àti Olùgbàlà mi gégé bí a ti kọ nínú ìwé mímọ (**Róòmù 10:9–10**). Mo sì gbàgbọ nínú ọkàn mi pé òun ni Ọmọ Ọlórún tí ó kú fún mi, tí ó sì jínà lójọ kẹta láti fún mi ní iyè àìnípèkùn. Lóníí mo ronú pìwàdà, mo sì gba èjẹ Jèsù láti fọ èsẹ mi nù pátápátá, kí n lè di olódodo, kí n sì lè gba èbùn òdodo. Mo gba agbára Èmí Mímọ láti máa gbé ìgbé ayé ìṣẹgun pátápátá nínú Kristi ní gbogbo ojọ ayé mi.”

Tí o bá gba àdúrà yíi tókàntókàn, rí i dájú pé o ti di òjúlówó ọmọ Ọlórún, àti pé ìgbàkúgbà tí o bá gbé ohùn rẹ sókè láti ké pe Ọlórún, yóò gbọ àdúrà rẹ, wàá sì máa rìn nínú ìṣẹgun ní gbogbo ojọ ayé rẹ.

- **Àìgbàgbọ:** Bákan náà, àìgbàgbọ lè jẹ ìdènà fún àgbáyorí àdúrà, nítorí Jèsù Kristi fúnra rẹ sọ pé kí a gba Ọlórún gbọ (**Mk. 11:22; Hébéru 11:6**), àti pé a kò gbódò bẹ̀rù ohunkóhun tàbí ẹnikẹni nígbà tí a bá ń gbàdúrà sí Ọlórún (**Hébéru 4:16**). Eni tí ó bá ń bẹ̀rù ti dín Ọlórún kù nínú èrò àti ìwà rẹ pẹ̀lú àìní ìdánílójú.
- **Oníyèméjì:** Oníyèméjì kò lè rí ohunkóhun gbà lódò Ọlórún (**Jákòbù 1:8; 4:8**). Bí ọmọ tí ó bá wà láti gba ohun pàtàkì lówó baba rẹ, tí ó sì ń ɣiyè méjì pé bóyá kò sí lówó baba òun, irú ọmọ bẹ̀ẹ lè máa rí ohunkóhun gbà.
- **Ìfẹkúfẹẹ ara:** Èyí náà lè fa ìdènà àdúrà (Jákòbù 4:3), nítorí àdúrà irú ẹni bẹ̀ẹ, bí ó bá gbà á, lè wá di asíló èbùn tàbí ìbùkún tí a fún un, tàbí kí ó di ìpalára fún òun fúnra rẹ tàbí ọmọ lákẹ̀jì rẹ.

- **Pípè Ọlọrun lònà tí kò tọ:** Ó dára láti máa gbàdúra nígbà gbogbo, sùgbọn nígbà tí a bá ń gbàdúra, kí a rí i pé Baba wa ọrun ni a ń gbàdúra sí ní orúkọ Jèsù Kristi; kí ó má ẹ jẹ Ọlọrun Ọmọ (Jèsù Kristi) nìkan, nítorí èyí lè jẹ ìdènà fún àdúra wa (Jòhánù 16:23).
- **Àìnídàríjì àti ìkorò ọkàn:** Ìwà àìnídàríjì àti ìkorò ọkàn máa ń dénnà àgbáyorí àti àgbáségún àdúra (Mt. 6:14; 18:21–35). A gbòdò bá ẹnikejì wa dọgba nínú àlàáfíà (Mt. 6:14; Mk. 11:25–26).

ÀNFÀANÍ TÍ Ó WÀ NÍNÚ ÌGBÉ AYÉ ÀDÚRÀ GBÍGBÀ

A gbòdò kọ láti máa fúnra wa gba àṣẹ láti ọdọ Ọlọrun, àti láti máa fi ààyè gba ifẹ Ọlọrun ní gbogbo ọ̀nà wa (Héberù 4:16; Jákọbù 4:7–10).

- Àdúra máa ń mú olódodo joba pèlú Kristi lórí àwọn ọ̀tá àti ìdojúkọ (**Ìṣípáyà 5:10**).
- Àdúra máa ń fún wa ní agbára àti àṣẹ lórí ẹ̀sẹ àti Sátání (**Éfèsù 6:11–14; Jákọbù 5:16**).
- Àdúra máa ń ràn wá lówó láti dàgbà nínú ìmọ àti òye Ọlọrun àti Ọrọ Ọlọrun (**Diutarónómì 29:29**). Ó máa ń ràn wá lówó láti mọ Ọlọrun sí i, àti láti ní ìbáṣepọ̀ tí ó dán mọ̀ràn pèlú rẹ.
- Èmí Mímọ máa ń ràn wá lówó nínú àìlera wa; ó máa ń fún wa ní agbára nínú àdúra àgbáyorí, láti gbé wa rò lórí ìgbàgbọ̀ wa tí ó mọ̀ jùlọ àti nínú ẹ̀bùn Èmí Mímọ nípa ifedéfò (**Júúdu 20; Róòmù 8:26**).

ÌPARÍ

Ní àkótán, láti gbé ìgbé ayé àdúra àgbáyorí títí dé ọ̀pin, a nílò láti máa gbàdúra láì sààrẹ̀ àti láì simi ní gbogbo ọ̀jọ̀ ayé wa. Sátání yóò mú ìrẹ̀wẹ̀sì wá nínú àdúra, sùgbọn a kò gbòdò fààyè gba

Sátàní (Lúùkù 18:1). A lè gbàdúra nígbàkúgbà — báyá láàárò, òsán, alé, tàbí òru (Mt. 4:2; 17:21). A lè gbàdúra níbikíbi pèlú àwè bákan náà. Kí a rí i pé ojoojúmọ̀ ni a ń gbàdúra pèlú ọ̀pẹ̀ àti ìyìn sí Olúwa Ọ̀lọ̀run wa (Sm. 150; Fílípì 4:6), kí a sì ní pàtó àwọn ohun tí a ń bèèrè lówọ̀ Ọ̀lọ̀run (Lúùkù 11:5–12), pèlú àwọn èniyàn, ijo Ọ̀lọ̀run (Mt. 18:20), àti ilú tàbí orílẹ̀-èdè tí a ń sípẹ̀ fún (1 Tímótì 2:1–2; Sm. 122:6; Èsítèrì 4:16).

ÌMỌ ÀTÌ ỌGBỌN NÍNÚ ÌGBÉ AYÉ KRISTIẸNI

▪ PASTOR OLUWASOLA F. A

ÌFÁÀRÀ

Nígbà tí a bá ń sọ nípa “KristiẸni tòótọ́”, a ń sọrọ nípa ẹnì tí ìgbé ayé rẹ̀ tí yí padà pátápátá nípa Kristi — kì í ẹ̀se nípa orúkọ nìkan, ẹ̀sọgbọ́n nínú ẹ̀sẹ̀ àtì ìhùwàsí rẹ̀. Nínú irú ìgbé ayé bẹ̀ẹ̀, ìmọ̀ àtì ọgbọ́n kì í ẹ̀se nípa ọ̀rọ̀ ẹ̀nu nìkan; ó tí dì ẹ̀mí tí a ń mí (Òwẹ̀ 4:5–7; Jákoḃù 1:5; Éfésù 5:13; Kólósè 4:5).

KÍNÌ ÌMỌ?

Ìmọ̀ àtì ọgbọ́n nínú ìgbé ayé KristiẸni jẹ́ ohun pàtàkì tí Bíbélì tẹ̀nu mọ́ lẹ̀pẹ̀lẹ̀pẹ̀. Wọ́n yàtọ̀ ara wọ́n díẹ̀, ẹ̀sọgbọ́n wọ́n ń ẹ̀sẹ̀ papọ̀ (Òwẹ̀ 1:7). Ìmọ̀ jẹ́ mímọ̀ ọ̀títọ́, ẹ̀kọ́, tàbí àlàyẹ̀ nípa Ọlọ́run, nípa ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ̀ àtì ẹ̀sẹ̀ rẹ̀ nínú ayé — mímọ̀ ohun tí ó tọ́. Jòhánù 8:32: “Ẹ̀yin yóò sì mọ́ ọ̀títọ́, ọ̀títọ́ yóò sì sọ́ yín dì òmìnira.”

KÍNÌ ỌGBỌN?

Ọgbọ́n ni agbára láti lo ìmọ̀ àtì ọ̀yẹ̀ tí Ọlọ́run fún wa ní ọ̀nà tí ó tọ́. Kì í ẹ̀se pé ẹ̀nìyàn mọ́ púpọ̀, ẹ̀sọgbọ́n ó mọ́ bí a ẹ̀se ń lo ohun tí ó mọ́ ní ìbámu pẹ̀lú ìfẹ̀ Ọlọ́run. Jákoḃù 3:13: “Ta ni ọ̀lọgbọ́n àtì olóye nínú yín? Jẹ́ kí ó fí ìwà rere hàn pẹ̀lú ẹ̀sẹ̀ rẹ̀ nínú ìrẹ̀lẹ̀ ọgbọ́n.”

PÀTÀKÌ ÌMÒ ÀTÌ ỌGBỌN NÍNÚ ÌGBÉ AYÉ KRISTIẸNI

"Nítorí náà ẹ má ẹ jẹ aláìgbọn, ẹ̀gbọn ẹ̀ mọ ohun tí ifẹ́ Olúwa jẹ́" (Éfésù 5:17). Ọlọrun fẹ́ kí àwọn ọmọ rẹ́ máa gbọn nínú ìmò, ọ̀yẹ àti ọgbọn. Ìmò àti ọgbọn jẹ́ ohun-ìní pàtàkì fún KristiẸni láti lè gbé ìgbé ayé àṣẹgun tí ó sì n mú ògo àti ọlá bá orúkọ Ọlọrun. Fún àpẹẹrẹ, Sólómónì ní ìmò púpọ̀, ẹ̀gbọn ohun tí ó jẹ́ kí ó gbajúmọ̀ ni ọgbọn tí Ọlọrun fún un (1 Àwọn Ọba 3:12–13). Bíbélì fí yé wa nínú Òwè 4:7 pé olórí ni ọgbọn; nítorí náà gba ọgbọn, pẹ̀lú gbogbo ohun-ìní rẹ́ gba ọ̀yẹ.

1. Ìmò n mú idàgbà sókè wa.

Hósèà 4:6: "Àwọn ènìyàn mi ẹ̀gbé nítorí àìní ìmò."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Ẹni tí ó ní ìmò kò ní rìn nínú òkùnkùn ayé. Yóò mọ ohun tí Ọlọrun fẹ́ kí ó ẹ.

2. Ọgbọn mú kí ènìyàn ẹ̀ ipinnu tí ó tọ.

Òwè 3:13: "Alábùkún ni ẹni tí ó rí ọgbọn àti ẹni tí ó ní ọ̀yẹ."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Ọ̀yẹ n jẹ́ kí a mọ̀ ìtumọ̀ ohun tí a kọ̀ àti bí a ẹ̀ lè ló ó ní ipò tàbí ayé. Ọgbọn n ràn wá lówọ̀ láti ẹ̀ àwọn ipinnu tó bójú mu ní ilé, ní ibi isẹ́, àti nínú ìjọ Ọlọrun.

3. Ọgbọn n dáàbò bo ẹni.

Oníwàásù 7:12: "Ọgbọn n dáàbò bo bí owó ẹ̀ n dáàbò bo."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Ọgbọn n jẹ́ kí ènìyàn yẹra fún àṣìṣe, ẹ̀tàn àti àwọn ipinnu burúkú. Ó sì n fún ni ní agbára láti ẹ̀gun ẹ̀ṣe àti isòro ayé.

4. Ìmò àti ọgbọn máa mú ibáṣepọ̀ rere wá.

Òwè 15:1: "Ìdáhùn pẹ̀lẹ́ n yẹ ibínú padà."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Ọgbọn n kọ wa bí a ẹ lẹ bá ènìyàn sọrọ àti bí a ẹ lẹ máa gbé pẹlú ènìyàn ní àlàáfíà.

5. Ìmọ àti ọgbọn Ọlórún máa mú àṣeyọrí wá.

Orin Dáfídì 32:8: "Èmi ó fi ẹsẹ rẹ lẹ ọnà, èmi ó sì kọ ọ ní ọnà tí iwọ ó rìn."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Èni tí ó ní ìmọ àti ọgbọn máa mọ bí a ẹ lẹ lo àwọn ànàfàní tí Ọlórún fi sí iwájú rẹ ní ọnà tí ó tọ. Ìmọ àti ọgbọn n jẹ kí a mọ bí a ẹ lẹ lo àkókò, owó àti ohun-iní wa dáadàa.

6. Ìmọ àti ọgbọn máa mú ìrẹpọ wa pẹlú Ọlórún jinlẹ sí i.

Éfésù 1:18: "Kí ojú ọkàn yín lẹ mólẹ, kí èyin lẹ mọ ohun tí ìrẹtí ipè rẹ jẹ..."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Bí ìmọ wa nípa Ọlórún ẹ n pọ sí i, bèẹ ni ìgbàgbọ àti ìfẹ wa ẹ n lágbára sí i. Nípa ìmọ ọrọ Ọlórún àti ọgbọn Èmí Mímọ, a lẹ mọ ọnà tí Ọlórún fẹ kí a gbà.

BÍ A Ẹ LẸ NÍ ÌMỌ ÀTI ỌGBỌN

1. Bí ọgbọn bá kù fún ẹnìkẹni, kí ó bèèrè lówọ Ọlórún, ẹnì tí n fi fún gbogbo ènìyàn ní ọpọlọpọ láìsì ìbáníwí, a ó sì fi fún un (Jákọbù 1:5).
2. Kí a ka Bíbélì wa ní ojoojúmọ, kí a sì ẹ àṣàrò lóri ọrọ Ọlórún tí a kà (Jósúà 1:8; Orin Dáfídì 119:105).
3. Ní ìbèrù Ọlórún, kí a sá fún ẹsẹ (Òwe 1:7): "Ìbèrù Olúwa ni ipílẹsẹ ọgbọn."
4. Wà ní àwùjọ àwọn ọlọgbọn (Òwe 13:20): "Èni tí ó bá ọlọgbọn rìn yóò gbọn, sùgbọn ẹgbé àwọn aṣiwèrè yóò sẹgbé."

ÀKÍYÈSÍ: Ó ẹ pàtàkì kí a wà ní àwùjọ ọmọ Ọlórún ní tòótọ,

láti máa gbọ kókó ọrọ Ọlọrun ní gbogbo ìgbà.

5. Níní ọgbọn nípa ìrírí ayé wa. A lè kó ọgbọn mọ ọgbọn nínú ìjákulẹ tàbí isẹ rere wa tí a bá ní ìrẹlẹ, tí a sì fọkàn sí i (Orin Dáfídì 119:71): "Ó dára fún mi tí a pọn mi lójú, kí èmi lè mọ ilànà rẹ."

ÌPARÍ

Ìmọ́ ń jẹ́ kí a mọ́; ọ̀ye ń jẹ́ kí a lóye; ọgbọn sì ń jẹ́ kí a lo ohun tí a mọ́ àti ohun tí a lóye ní ọ̀nà tí ó tọ́. Ẹni tí ó ní ìmọ́, ọ̀ye àti ọgbọn Ọlọrun yóò ní ìdarí rere, àlàáfíà, ààbò àti àṣeyọrí nínú ìgbé ayé rẹ.

BÍ ỌLỌRUN Ẹ NÍ BÁ ÀWỌN ÈNÌYÀN RÈ SỌRỌ

▪ PASTOR OLABODE BADMUS

Ní àwọn ọjó àtijọ́, Ọlọrun bá ènìyàn sọrọ tààrà ní onírúurú ọ̀nà. Ní àkókò ọ̀de ọ̀nì pẹ̀lú, Ọlọrun sì n sọrọ. Ìbẹ̀rẹ̀ pàtàkì ni: "Báwo ni Ọlọrun ẹ n bá àwọn ènìyàn rẹ sọrọ, báwo sì ni a ẹ n gbọ ọrọ rẹ?"

Ní àkókò, o kò lè gbọ bí kò bá sí ipè láti ọ̀dọ ẹ̀nikan tàbí láti ibikan. Bẹ̀ẹ̀ sì ni, o lè dáhùn sí ipè tí o bá gbọ nikan ni.

(1) Ọlọrun máa n bá ènìyàn sọrọ tààrà.

Fún àpẹẹrẹ, Ọlọrun bá Ábúráhámù sọrọ tààrà nínú Jénésísi 12:1, níbi tí Olúwa ti sọ fún Ábúráhámù pé kí ó kúrò nínú ìdílẹ̀ rẹ àti ní ilé baba rẹ lọ sí ilẹ̀ tí ọ̀un yóò fi hàn án. Bákan náà nínú Jénésísi 17:1, nígbà tí Ábúráhámù pé ọ̀dún mọ̀kàndínlógọ̀rín, Olúwa fara hàn án, ó sì sọ fún un pé: "Èmi ni Ọlọrun Olódùmarẹ; máa rìn níwájú mi, kí o sì jẹ pípé."

Ẹ wo Mósè nínú Ẹ̀kísódù 3:4: Nígbà tí Olúwa rí i pé ó yà sí ọ̀nà láti wò ó, Ọlọrun ké pé é láti àárín igbó pé, "Mósè, Mósè!" Ó sì wí pé, "Èmi nìyí."

Nínú Nọmbà 12:6–8, Olúwa wí pé: “È gbọ ọ̀rọ̀ mi: bí wòlî kan bá wà láàárín yín, èmi Olúwa yóò fí ara mi hàn án nínú ìran, èmi yóò sì bá a sọ̀rọ̀ nínú àlá. Sùgbọ̀n kì í ẹ̀ bẹ̀ẹ̀ pẹ̀lú ìrànsẹ̀ mi Mósè; olùsòtító ni nínú gbogbo ilẹ̀ mi. Lójú-sí-ojú ni mo ń bá a sọ̀rọ̀, ní gbangba, kì í sì í ẹ̀ ní àlọ; ọ̀ sì ń rí àwòrán Olúwa.”

Nínú Jósúà 5:13–15, nígbà tí Jósúà wà nítòsì Jẹ́ríkò, ọ̀ gbé ojú rẹ̀ sókè, ọ̀ sì rí ọ̀kúnrin kan tí ọ̀ dúró níwájú rẹ̀ pẹ̀lú idà tí ọ̀ fà yọ̀ ní ọ̀wọ̀ rẹ̀. Jósúà tò ọ̀ lọ, ọ̀ sì bí í pé, “Ọ̀dọ̀ wa ni iwọ̀ wà tàbí ọ̀dọ̀ àwọn ọ̀tá wa?” Ó dáhùn pé, “Bẹ̀ẹ̀ kó, sùgbọ̀n bí balógun ọ̀mọ̀ ogun Olúwa ni mo ẹ̀şẹ̀şẹ̀ dé.” Jósúà sì wólẹ̀ orí rẹ̀ délẹ̀, ọ̀ sì sìn ín. Balógun ọ̀mọ̀ ogun Olúwa sì sọ̀ fún un pé, “Bọ̀ bàtà rẹ̀ kúrò ní ẹ̀şẹ̀ rẹ̀, nítorí ibi tí ọ̀ dúró sí mímọ̀ ni.”

(2) Nípasẹ̀ àlá.

Àwọn miiran, bí Jékọ̀bù, gbọ̀ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lọrun nínú àlá (Jénésìsì 28:12–13). Ó láláá, ọ̀ sì rí àkàbà tí a gbé kalẹ̀ lórí ilẹ̀ tí orí rẹ̀ kan ọ̀run, àwọn áńgẹ̀lì Ọ̀lọrun sì ń gòkè sì ń sọkalẹ̀ lórí rẹ̀. Olúwa sì dúró lókè rẹ̀, ọ̀ sì wí pé: “Èmi ni Olúwa Ọ̀lọrun Ábúráhámù baba rẹ̀ àti Ọ̀lọrun Ísáákì; ilẹ̀ tí ọ̀ dùbúlẹ̀ sí ni èmi yóò fí fún iwọ̀ àti irú-ọ̀mọ̀ rẹ̀.”

(3) Nípasẹ̀ ìran.

Ìşékẹ̀lì 1:1: “Ní ọ̀dún kẹ̀tálẹ̀lọgbọ̀n, ní oşù kẹrin, ní ojọ̀ karùn-ún, bí mo ti wà láàárín àwọn ìgbẹ̀kùn ní etí ọ̀dò Kébàrí, ọ̀run sí sílẹ̀, mo sì rí àwọn ìran Ọ̀lọrun.”

(4) Nípasẹ̀ àwọn wòlî àti nípasẹ̀ Jésù.

Kí ifara-balẹ̀ Ọ̀lọrun Ọ̀mọ̀ tó dé, Ọ̀lọrun sọ̀rọ̀ nípasẹ̀ àwọn wòlî

(Héberù 1:1): "Ọlọrun, tí ó ti bá àwọn baba wa sọrò ní onírúurú ọ̀nà ní ìgbà àtijọ́ nípasẹ̀ àwọn wòlì." A gbọ ọ̀rọ Ọlọrun nípasẹ̀ àwọn èniyàn bí Mósè, Aísáyà, Ìṣẹ̀kẹ̀lì, Míkà, Málàkì, àti àwọn wòlì yòókù. Wọn gbé ìhìn-ìṣẹ Ọlọrun jáde, a sì kọ ọ̀rọ wọn sílẹ̀, kí a baà lè mọ àwọn ilérí rẹ̀, òfin rẹ̀ àti ètò iràpadà rẹ̀ nígbà gbogbo. Bákan náà, nípasẹ̀ ìṣẹ̀ Jésù, Ọlọrun bá wa sọrò tààrà.

Ọ̀rọ̀ Jésù kún fún Ẹ̀mí àti iyè, kì í ṣe ọ̀rọ̀ lásán (Jòhánù 6:63): "Ẹ̀mí ni ó ń sọ ni di ààyè; ara kò lérè kankan. Ọ̀rọ̀ tí mo sọ fún yín, ẹ̀mí ni, iyè sì ni." Héberù 1:2: "Ní àwọn ojọ̀ ìkeyìn wònyí, Ọlọrun ti bá wa sọrò nípasẹ̀ Omọ̀ rẹ̀."

(5) Nípasẹ̀ ìtọ̀nì pásító láti inú Ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlọrun.

Èyí jẹ ọ̀kan lára ọ̀nà tí a ń gbọ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlọrun lónìí. "Àwọn ojọ̀ ìkeyìn" ni àkókò ìjọ̀ tí a wà yíí. Lábẹ̀ ìmísí Ẹ̀mí Mímọ̀, Ọlọrun fún àwọn àpósítélì Kristi ní àṣẹ láti sọ àti láti kọ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlọrun sílẹ̀ fún ìjọ̀ rẹ̀, kí gbogbo ìjọ̀ baà lè gbọ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlọrun ní tòótọ̀ — gan-an gégé bí àwọn òbí wa nínú Olúwa ṣe ń ṣe. Nípasẹ̀ wọn, a ń gbọ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlọrun nínú ọ̀rọ̀ tí a kọ sílẹ̀, èyí tí í ṣe Bíbélì (2 Tímótì 3:16–17): "Gbogbo Ìwé-mímọ̀ ni a fi ìmísí Ọlọrun kọ, ó sì ṣe ànṣààní fún èkọ̀, fún ìbáwí, fún àtúnṣe, fún ìtọ̀nì nínú òdodo, kí èniyàn Ọlọrun lè pé, tí a múra sílẹ̀ ní kíkún fún ìṣẹ̀ rere gbogbo." Jeremáyà 3:15: "Èmi ó sì fún yín ní oluṣọ̀ àgùntàn gégé bí ọ̀kàn mi, tí yóò máa fi ìmọ̀ àti òye bó yín."

(6) Nípasẹ̀ ìmọ̀ràn ọ̀rẹ̀ tí ó so mó Ìwé-mímọ̀.

2 Kóríntì 13:1: "Èyí ni ìgbà kẹta tí mo ń tò yín wá. Ní ẹnu ẹlẹ́rìí méjì tàbí méta ni a ó fi idí ọ̀rọ̀ gbogbo múlẹ̀."

(7) Nípasè àṣẹ olórí tí Ọlórún yàn sípò.

Héberù 13:17: "Ẹ máa gbọ ti àwọn tí n darí yín, kí ẹ sì máa tẹriba, nítorí wọn n sọ ọkàn yín, gégé bí àwọn tí yóò jíhìn. Ẹ jẹ kí wọn ẹ é pẹlú ayọ, kí í ẹ pẹlú ìbànújẹ, nítorí èyí kì yóò lérè fún yín."

(8) Nípasè ohùn tí a n gbọ ní gbangba.

Bí Sọ̀lù ti n lọ tí ó sì súnmọ Dámáskù, ìmọ̀lẹ kan tàn yí i ká láti ọrun wá. Ó wó lulẹ, ó sì gbọ ohùn kan tí ó wí fún un pé, "Sọ̀lù, Sọ̀lù, èéṣe tí iwọ fi n ẹ inúnibíni sí mi?" Ó sì wí pé, "Ta ni iwọ, Olúwa?" Olúwa sì dáhùn pé, "Èmi ni Jésù tí iwọ n ẹ inúnibíni sí." Sọ̀lù wárìrì, ó sì wí pé, "Olúwa, kí ni o fẹ kí n ẹ?" Olúwa sì sọ fún un pé, "Dìde, kí o lọ sí ilú, a ó sì sọ ohun tí o gbọdọ ẹ fún ọ." (Ìṣe 9:3–6)

(9) Nípasè ẹrí inú (inner witness).

Ìṣe 27:9–11: Nígbà tí àkókò púpọ ti kọjá, tí ìrìnàjò òkun sì ti léwu, Pọ̀lù gbà wọn ní mọ̀ràn pé, "Ẹyin ọkúnrin, mo rí i pé ìrìnàjò yì yóò dọpin pẹlú ìparun àti àdánù púpọ, kí í ẹ ti ẹrù àti ọkọ nìkan, sùgbọ́n ti ẹmí wa pẹlú." Síbẹ, balógun ọrún nàà gbà ọrọ atukọ àti olúwa ọkọ gbọ ju ohun tí Pọ̀lù sọ lọ.

(10) Nípasè ohùn kẹlékẹlé.

1 Àwọn Ọba 19:12: Léyin ìṣẹ̀lẹ̀ ilẹ̀, iná wà, sùgbọ́n Olúwa kò sí nínú iná; léyin iná, ohùn kẹlékẹlé kan wà. Jóòbù 4:16: "Ó dúró jẹ́, sùgbọ́n èmi kò lè fọ́júrí àwòrán rẹ; àwòrán kan wà níwájú ojú mi; ìdákẹ́jẹ wà, mo sì gbọ ohùn kan."

(11) Nípasè àwọn ìránṣẹ Ọlórún àmì-òróró.

2 Àwọn Ọba 20:1, 5: Ní àkókò kan, Hẹ́sẹ́kíà Ẹ̀sà̀sà̀n à̀sà̀n ikú. Aísáyà wòlì, ọmọ Ámósì, wá bẹ ẹ wò, ó sì sọ pé, "Tò ètò ilé rẹ,

nítorí ìwọ yóò kú, ìwọ kì yóò yè." Olúwa sì sọ pé kí ó padà sọ fún Hẹsẹkíà olórí àwọn ènìyàn mi pé, "Báyíí ni Olúwa Ọlórún Dáfídì baba rẹ wí: mo ti gbọ àdùrà rẹ, mo ti rí omijé rẹ; dájúdájú èmi yóò mú ọ láradá. Ní ojọ kẹta ìwọ yóò gòkè lọ sí ilé Olúwa."

Ní àkótán, Ọlórún máa ń sòrò nípasẹ ọrọ rẹ tí a kọ sílẹ — Ìwé-mímọ — gbogbo ọ̀nà mǐràn tí a fi ń gbọ ọ̀rọ Ọlórún sì gbọ̀dọ bá ọ̀rọ tí a kọ sílẹ mu. (Ìtókasi: Lúùkù 1:26–45; 2 Àwọn Ọba 4:16–17; Lúùkù 1:34–37; Jẹnẹsìsì 18:12–14; Nọmbà 23:19.)

ỌLÓRUN KÌ Í Ẹ ÈNÌYÀN TÍ Ó LÈ PURÓ

Ọlórún kì í ẹ ènìyàn, tí yóò fi purọ; bèẹ̀ ni kì í ẹ ọmọ ènìyàn, tí yóò fi ronú pìwàdà. Njẹ́ ó ti sọ, tí kì yóò sì ẹ é? Tàbí ó ti fohùn, tí kì yóò sì mú un ẹ? (Nọmbà 23:19)

Iṣẹ́ iyanu Ọlórún kì í farahàn bí ọ̀títọ́ ní ipele ilérí. Èyí jẹ nítorí pé iṣẹ́ Ọlórún kojá ọ̀ye ènìyàn. Nígbà tí Ọlórún bá sòrò tàbí tí ó bá ẹ ilérí ohun ńlá, ó máa ń farahàn bí irọ́ — kò sí ọ̀pọ̀lo ènìyàn tí ó lè gba iṣẹ́ iyanu rẹ mọ́. A gbọ̀dọ́ fi ìgbàgbọ́ dàhùn sí ilérí Ọlórún, kí a baà lè gbádùn àkúnwọ̀sílẹ̀ ìbùkún rẹ.

A gbọ̀dọ́ dàhùn sí ilérí Ọlórún bí Màríà ti ẹ, kódà nígbà tí ó farahàn bí irọ́. Ángẹ̀lì wá bá Màríà, ó sì sọ fún un pé yóò lóyún, yóò sì bí Olùgbàlà ayé. Bí wúndiá tí kò tì mọ ọ̀kúnrin rí, ó fẹ̀rẹ̀ẹ́ sọ fún ángẹ̀lì pé ó ń purọ́, nítorí ó sòro láti gbà gbọ́. "Báwo ni èyí yóò ẹ rí?" ni Màríà bi, "bí mo ti jẹ wúndiá?" Ángẹ̀lì dàhùn pé, "Èmí Mímọ́ yóò bà lé ọ, agbára Ọ̀gá-ògo sì yóò sọ́jì bọ́ ọ. Kódà Èlísàbẹ̀tì ìbátan rẹ yóò bímọ ní ojọ ogbó rẹ; ẹnì tí a ń pè ní àgàn ti lóyún oṣù mẹ́fà nísinsìnyí, nítorí kò sí ohun tí kò ẹ é ẹ fún Ọlórún."

Ọlórún tí ẹ̀ ẹ̀lẹ́rì fún Dáfídì pé ìjọba rẹ̀ yóò dúró títí láé. Ìbí Jésù láti ọ̀dọ̀ wúńdíá jẹ́ ẹ̀ṣẹ́ ìyanu tí ó ọ̀rọ̀ fún ọ̀pọ̀ láti gbàgbọ̀. Lúùkù jẹ́ dókítà; ó mọ̀ bí a ẹ̀ ń bí ọ̀mọ̀ láààrín ọ̀kúnrin àti obìnrin dáadàa, ó sì ìbá ti ọ̀rọ̀ fún un láti gba ìbí wúńdíá gbọ̀ — síbẹ̀ ó kọ̀ ọ̀ sílẹ̀ gégé bí ọ̀tító. Kristiẹ̀ni tí ó ń sin Ọlórún gégé bí Ẹ̀lẹ́dàà agbáyé gbọ̀dọ̀ gbàgbọ̀ pé Ọlórún ní agbára láti dá ọ̀mọ̀ sínú inú wúńdíá (Lúùkù 1:36–38).

Ìkẹ́de àti ayọ̀ Ọlórún nípa ọ̀mọ̀ tí a ó bí pàdé onírúurú ìdáhùn nínú Ìwé-mímọ̀: aya Ábúráhámù rẹ̀rìn-ín (Jénẹ́sìsì 18:9–15); Sekaráyà ọ̀yẹ̀ méjì (Lúùkù 1:18); ọ̀gbọ̀n Màríà gba ọ̀rọ̀ áńgẹ̀lì gbọ̀, ó sì gbà láti bímọ̀ kọ̀dà nínú ipò tí kò ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀ sí ènìyàn. Ọlórún lẹ̀ ẹ̀ ohun tí kò ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀; ìdáhùn wa sí ohun tí ó bèèrè kò gbọ̀dọ̀ jẹ́ ẹ̀rìn tàbí ìyẹ̀méjì, bí kò ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀ wọ̀gbà tinú́tínú.

ÌLÉRÌ TÍ Ó WÁ SÍ ÌMÚ-Ẹ̀

2 Àwọ̀n Ọ̀ba 4:11–17: Ohun tí ènìyàn Ọlórún sọ̀ wá sí ìmúṣẹ̀. Nínú ayé obìnrin ará Ọ̀nẹ̀mù, léyìn tí ọ̀kọ̀ rẹ̀ ti dàgbà tí ó sì ti pàdánù ìrẹ̀tí bíbímọ̀, Ẹ̀lìṣà wòlì Ọlórún sọ̀ fún un pé yóò bímọ̀. Ó ẹ̀ àjẹ̀jì gan-an fún un débi pé ó sọ̀ fún wòlì náà pé ó ń purọ̀. Bí ó tilẹ̀ farahàn bí irọ̀, àìyípadà ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlórún mú un ẹ̀.

Jénẹ́sìsì 17:15–19; 18:12–14: Ọlórún yí orúkọ̀ Ábúráhámù padà sí Ábúráhámù — baba ọ̀pọ̀ orílẹ̀-èdè — láìpẹ̀ léyìn tí a lóyún ọ̀mọ̀ ìlẹ́rì náà. Láti ọ̀jọ̀ yẹ̀n ni Bíbélì ti ń pẹ̀ é ní Ábúráhámù. Ọlórún ń dá májẹ̀mù láààrín ọ̀un àti Ábúráhámù: ìpinnu rẹ̀ rọ̀rùn — Ábúráhámù yóò gba Ọlórún gbọ̀, yóò sì kọ̀ gbogbo ọ̀mọ̀kúnrin ní ilẹ̀ rẹ̀ ní ilà, Ọlórún sì yóò pa májẹ̀mù rẹ̀ mọ̀ láti fún Ábúráhámù ní àrólé ìgbàlà, ohun-ìní, agbára àti ọ̀rọ̀.

Akíyèsí: nínú àdéhùn àti ìpàṣípààrò ènìyàn, o fún ni ní ohun kan, o sì gba ohun tí ó dógba ní iye padà; ṣùgbón nígbà tí a bá di ara ìdílé májèmú Ọlórún, ìbùkún tí a gbà ju ohun tí a fún lọ. Sarà nàa ni a ṣèlérí ọmọ fún ní ọjọ ogbó rẹ, nígbà tí ó ti dé àkókò àìrín-àìrín-òṣù. Bí ó ti gbọ pé ọ̀un yóò di ìyá ọmọkùnrin, ó rẹ̀rìn-ín; ó dàbí àlá àti irọ sí i. Síbẹ̀, ó bímọ gégé bí a ti sọ, orúkọ Ọlórún sì gba ògo.

Ohun tí Ọlórún bá ṣèlérí lè farahàn bí ohun tí kò ẹ́ é fojú inú wò, débi tí o fi ń rọ pé irọ ni. Ó lè jẹ tuntun, àrà-òtò àti àìsọ-tó débi tí o fi ń ṣiye méjì nípa òtítọ̀ rẹ. Má ẹ́ yonu — kàn gbàgbọ̀, kí o sì gba ìlérí Ọlórún. O kò gbọ̀dò lóye rẹ́ kí ó tó ẹ́; Ọlórún fúnra rẹ́ kọjá ọ̀ye. Ó lè má ti ṣelẹ́ rí bí ti Màrià, ṣùgbón Ọlórún yóò ẹ́ é. Maa gbékèlẹ̀ e, nítorí ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ́ jẹ́ òtítọ̀, yóò sì rí fún ọ̀ gégé bí ó ti sọ. Má ẹ́ fàyẹ̀ gba Èṣù láti ba ìbáṣepọ̀ rẹ́ pẹ̀lú Ọlórún jẹ́.

AGBÁRA Ọ̀RỌ̀ Ọ̀LÓRÚN

Oníwààsù 8:4: Níbi tí ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lórún bá wà, agbára wà. Bí ọ̀rọ̀ ọ̀ba ti jẹ́ ọ̀rọ̀ ọ̀láṣẹ́, ta ni ó lè sọ fún un pé, “Kí ni iwọ ń ẹ́ tàbí sọ?” Ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lórún lágbára àìní-ẹgbé, ó jẹ́ ìparí, ó sì ga lólá. Orin Dáfídì 138:2: “Ìwọ ti gbé ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ́ ga ju gbogbo orúkọ rẹ́ lọ.” O kò lè ya Ọ̀lórún kúrò nínú ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ́. Nígbà tí Ọ̀lórún bá sọ̀rọ̀, agbára rẹ́ ń bá ìkédé rẹ́ lọ. Nọmbà 23:19: kì í ẹ́ ènìyàn tí ó lè purọ̀.

Ó ń sọ ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ́ tí tí ó fi ní ìmúṣẹ́; bí ó tilẹ̀ lè pé diẹ́ kí ohun tí ó sọ tó farahàn, ọ̀rọ̀ nàa kò lè parẹ́ tàbí di àiwúlò lónà (Aísáyà 55:10–11). Ọ̀rọ̀ nìkan ni a sọ, gbogbo àgbáyé sì wá sí wíwà. Njẹ́ o lè tọ́ka sí ohunkóhun nínú ayé rẹ́ tí ó tóbi ju àgbáyé lọ? Bẹ́ẹ̀ kó — èyí tùmọ̀ sí pé ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lórún lè tọ́jú àìní gbogbo nínú ayé rẹ́. Kò gbàgbé tàbí kọ ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ́ sílẹ̀; ó ń sọ ọ̀ tí tí dé ìmúṣẹ́ rẹ́ (Aísáyà

55:11). Kò lè padà sódò rè ní òfò. Ọrò tí ó ti ẹnu rè jáde dàbí ohun-ìjà tí ó gbódò kàn ojú àmì. Ọrun àti ayé yóò kojá, sùgbón ọrò rè kì yóò kojá láìṣe (Mátíù 24:35).

Kí Ọlórún tó ẹe ohun tí ó sọ pé òun yóò ẹe, o gbódò mò pé òun ni olùrànlọwọ ẹ (Orin Dáfídì 54:4; 46:1; 108:12; 121:1). Títí tí o fi mò pé Ọlórún nìkan ni orísun ìrànlọwọ tí o nílò, wàá máa sáré kiri. Dáfídì sọ pé Ọlórún ni ààbò àti agbára wa, olùrànlọwọ tí ó wà nítòsí gan-an nínú wàhálà (Orin Dáfídì 46:1). Ọlórún ni olùrànlọwọ aláìní-ìrànlọwọ; yóò ràn ọ lọwọ nínú ipò tí o wà.

Olùfẹ, má ẹe wo ènìyàn kankan fún ìrànlọwọ; kò sí ẹni tí ó lè ràn ọ lọwọ láìsí àṣe Ọlórún. Dípò wíwo ènìyàn, kí ló dé tí o kò wo Ọlórún Olódùmarè tààrà? Ìrànlọwọ ẹ wà lódò rè nígbà gbogbo. Dúpẹ lọwọ ẹ, nítorí kò lè kùnà ọ; kò sì sí òjìjì ìyípadà lódò ẹ. Béèrè lọwọ Èmí Mímọ láti gbé ọ ró àti láti jẹ olùrànlọwọ ẹ nísinsìnyí àti títí láé.

(2) JÉ ÈLÈRÌÌ

Ìjẹrìì jẹ ohun tí ń mú ìgbàgbọ lágbára, nítorí irin a máa pọn irin. Ìṣípayá 12:11: ìjẹrìì jẹ ohun-ìjà ńlá ní ọwọ Olúwa fún rírí ìṣẹgun lórí gbogbo ipò. Ìjẹrìì jẹ ọ̀nà ìdúpẹ, ó jẹ ohun-ìjà ogun, ó sì ń mú ọwọ Ọlórún kúrò láti jà fún ọ. O gbódò rí i dájú pé ìwọ ni olùṣẹgun nígbà gbogbo níwọ̀n ìgbà tí Ọlórún bá wà nínú ẹ. Nínú 2 Króníkà 20, Ọlórún rí i tó débi tí ó fi sọ fún Jèhósáfàti pé kò sí ìdí láti jà ogun náà mò; bí Jèhósáfàti àti àwọn ènìyàn náà ti yin Ọlórún, ó dojú àwọn ọ̀tá kọ ara wọn. Kí ìwọ má ẹe kúrò níwájú Ọlórún ní orúkọ Jésù.

ÀWỌN ỌTÁ TÍ Ó MÁA ÍN DÁ ÌDÀGBÀSÓKÈ ÈMÍ DÚRÓ

▪ DEACONNESS FOLUSO OJO

Ìdàgbàsókè èmí jẹ ohun tí ó ẹ pàtàkì nínú ayé àti nínú ìrìnàjò ìgbàgbọ gbogbo Kristièni tí ó ti di àtúnbí àti ẹni tuntun nínú Jésù Kristi. Ní kété tí a di àtúnbí àti ẹdá tuntun nínú Jésù Kristi, inú Ọlórùn dùn sí ìdàgbàsókè wa nínú èmí. Gégé bí àwa òbí nínú ara ẹ ní fẹ ìdàgbàsókè àwọn ọmọ wa nípa ti ara, melòmélòó ni Ọlórùn Èlédàá wa. Ẹ gbọ ohun tí Bíbélì sọ nínú Mátíù 7:11: “Njẹ bí ẹyin tí ẹ jẹ ènìyàn burúkú bá mọ bí a ti ní ẹbùn rere fún àwọn ọmọ yín, melòmélòó ni Baba yín tí ń bẹ ní ọrun yóò fi ohun rere fún àwọn tí ń bèèrè lówó rẹ?” Bákan náà, Orin Dáfídì 35:27 sọ pé kí àwọn tí ń ẹ ojúrere sí òdodo wa máa hó fún ayọ. Nítorí náà, ìfẹ Ọlórùn sí wa ni pé kí a dàgbà sókè nínú èmí (1 Pétérù 2:2): “Bí ọmọ-ọwọ tuntun, ẹ máa fẹ wàrà Èmí náà tí kò ní ẹtàn, kí ẹyin lè máa ti ipasẹ rẹ dàgbà sí ìgbàlà.”

Báwo ni a ẹ lè dàgbà sókè ní èmí? Nípa kíkà ọrọ Ọlórùn déédéé, kí a sì máa ẹ àṣàrò nínú rẹ (Jósúa 1:8); kí a máa wo ara wa nínú àwòjìjì ọrọ Ọlórùn; kí a mú ọrọ Ọlórùn lò, kí ọrọ Ọlórùn ní ifarahàn nínú ìgbé ayé wa bí a ti ń fi ẹ òdíwọn ayé wa (2 Kórínthì

3:18). A tún lè dàgbà sókè nípa wíwá ojú Ọlórún nínú àdúrà, àti nípa níní idàpò tímótímọ̀ pẹ̀lú Ọlórún nínú àdúrà. Bí Ọlórún ti ní ifẹ́ pé kí a dàgbà sókè nínú ẹ̀mí, bèẹ̀ náà ni àwọn ohun kan wà gégé bí ọ̀tá tí ó lè mú idádúró bá idàgbàsókè wa nínú ẹ̀mí.

Ẹ JẸ KÍ A Ẹ ÀGBÉYẸWÒ ÀWỌN ỌTÁ TÍ Ó MÁA N DÁ ÌDÀGBÀSÓKÈ ẸMÍ DÚRÓ

- 1. Ẹ̀ṣẹ́ — Ẹ̀ṣẹ́ jẹ ọ̀tá idàgbàsókè ẹ̀mí.** Ẹ̀ṣẹ́ jẹ̀ idènà láti jẹ́ kí a ní idàpò àti ibáre tí ó já géere pẹ̀lú Ọlórún. Ẹ̀ṣẹ́ àìgbòrán àti ìṣòtẹ̀ ló mú iyàpá wá láàárín Ọlórún àti àwọn òbí wa àkókó, Ádámù àti Ẹ̀fà. Bíbélì sọ pé àdúrà ẹ̀lẹ̀ṣẹ̀ dàbí igbe ajá létí Ọlórún. Ẹ̀ṣẹ́ máa n dúró gégé bí ògiri láàárín Ọlórún àti ènìyàn (Aísáyà 59:2; Orin Dáfídì 66:18; Héberù 3:13).
- 2. Àìgbàgbọ̀ àti Ìyèméjì** — Nígbà tí a kò bá ní ìgbàgbọ̀ àti ìgbáralé nínú Ọlórún àti ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ̀; tí a bá n ẹ̀ ìyèméjì ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlórún àti ilérí tí ó ti ẹ̀ fún wa; tí a bá n gba ìtanniye Ẹ̀ṣù láàyè nínú èrò ọkàn wa pé Ọlórún kò fẹ̀ràn wa tàbí pé kò gbọ̀ àdúrà wa — nípa ẹ̀ṣẹ̀ bèẹ̀, Ẹ̀ṣù a gbé ojú wa kúrò lódò Ọlórún. Àpẹẹrẹ̀: Ẹ̀ṣù tan Ẹ̀fà jẹ (Jénésìsì 3:1–24). Ẹ̀mí ìyèméjì máa n sọ pé, “Sé o rò pé Ọlórún ni ọ̀nà àbáyọ̀ sí idojúkọ̀ tí ó tóbi kojá? Sé o tilẹ̀ rò pé Ọlórún gbọ̀ àdúrà rẹ?” Àwọn èrò wònyí lòdì sí ọ̀rọ̀ Ọlórún; tí a bá bèrẹ̀ sí gbà wọn yẹ̀wò, a mú irẹ̀wẹ̀sì ọkàn wá tí ó lè ẹ̀ àkóbá fún idàgbàsókè wa nínú ẹ̀mí (Héberù 13:12; Máàkù 9:24; Jákọ̀bù 1:6).
- 3. Ìgbéràgà àti ìgbáralé nínú ara ẹ̀ni** — Ẹ̀yí lè déna idàgbàsókè nínú ẹ̀mí nítorí irò pé a ti tó tán tàbí a ti mò tán. Ẹ̀yí ló farahàn nínú ayé Pétérù nígbà tí Jésù sọ pé gbogbo

àwọn ọmọ-ẹyìn òun yóò fi òun sílẹ̀, tí Pétérù sì sọ pé, "Rára o!" (Mátíù 26:31–35). Pétérù ní ìgbékẹ̀lé nínú ara rẹ; níkẹyìn a rí i pé ó sẹ̀ Jésù lẹ̀mẹta. Ìgbéraga kì í jẹ́ kí èniyàn gba ẹ̀kọ́, ìmòrán tàbí ibáwí; kì í jẹ́ kí èniyàn ẹ̀ ẹ̀gbéyẹ̀wò ìgbé ayé àti ìrìnàjò ìgbàgbọ́ rẹ. A rí àpẹẹrẹ ẹ̀yí nínú ayé Ọba Sọ̀lù: dípò kí ó ẹ̀ ẹ̀ àtúnṣe, awíjare ló ń ẹ̀ (Òwe 16:18; 1 Pétérù 5:5; Jeremáyà 17:5).

4. Ẹ̀mí àìnídàríjì àti Ìkorò ọ̀kàn — Ẹ̀mí àìnídàríjì máa ń déna àdúrà, kì í jẹ́ kí àdúrà ní ìdáhùn lódò Ọ̀lórùn; bẹ̀ẹ̀ gégé ní ìkorò ọ̀kàn. Àìnídàríjì àti ìkorò ọ̀kàn máa ń fa ọ̀gbé inú àti ìrora nínú egungun. Nítorí náà, ó ẹ̀ pàtàkì kí a má jẹ́ kí ẹ̀mí àìnídàríjì àti ìkorò ọ̀kàn ẹ̀ ìdádúró ìdàgbàsókè ẹ̀mí wa. Ohun tí a lè ẹ̀ láti wo ọ̀gbé ọ̀kàn sàan ni pé kí a máa gbàdúra fún ẹ̀ni tí ó ẹ̀ wá; nípa sísẹ̀ bẹ̀ẹ̀, a ó dáàbò bo ọ̀kàn àti ara wa kúrò lówó àìsàn ẹ̀mí àti ti ara (Mátíù 6:14–15; Máàkù 11:25–26; Héberù 12:14–15; Mátíù 5:43–47).

5. Ẹ̀mí ìrẹ̀wẹ̀sì — Ẹ̀mí ìrẹ̀wẹ̀sì lè jẹ́ ìdíwọ́ fún ìdàgbàsókè nínú ẹ̀mí. Kì í fàyẹ̀ gba èniyàn láti gba àdúrà, tàbí láti ka ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lórùn, tàbí láti ẹ̀ àṣàrò nínú rẹ. Nípa gbígba àdúrà àti kíkà ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lórùn ni a ẹ̀ ń dàgbà sókè dáadàa nínú ẹ̀mí. Bí a bá ń wá ojú Ọ̀lórùn fún ohunkóhun, tí a kò sì tètè rí ifarahàn ìdáhùn àdúrà, ẹ̀mí ìrẹ̀wẹ̀sì lè wá; sùgbón a gbódò dúró lórí ìgbàgbọ́ wa nínú Ọ̀lórùn, nítorí Ọ̀lórùn jẹ́ olòtítọ́ sí ọ̀rọ̀ rẹ̀ àti àwọn ilérí rẹ. Bí ó ti lè wù kí ó pé tó, àwọn ilérí tí Ọ̀lórùn ti ẹ̀ fún wa nípasẹ̀ àdúrà yóò wá sí ìmúṣe (Gálátìà 6:9; Héberù 12:3; Jóòbù 8:7).

- 6. Şışe ifé ohun ayé yíí** — Şışe ifé ayé yíí ju şışe ifé Ọlọrun lo jẹ ọtá idàgbàsókè ẹmí. Bíbélì sọ pé, "Ìbàré ayé, ìṣòtá Ọlọrun ni." Tí ènìyàn bá ti fi ara rẹ sílẹ̀ fún ifé ayé, ó máa ń fa ènìyàn kúrò lódò Ọlọrun pátápátá. Irú ènìyàn bèè kì í rí ààyè fún ohun tí ó ń ẹ ti Ọlọrun, kì í tilẹ̀ rí ààyè láti gbàdúrà tàbí ka Ọrò Ọlọrun. Tí a bá rí ohunkóhun tí ó dúró láàárín wa àti Ọlọrun, ọtá ni irú nńkan bèè jẹ sí idàgbàsókè wa nínú ẹmí (1 Jòhánù 2:15–17; Róòmù 12:2; 1 Pétérù 2:9).
- 7. Ẹgbé-kegbé** — Bíbélì sọ pé, "Ẹgbé burúkú a máa ba iwà rere jẹ" (1 Kóríntì 15:33). Şışe àwọn ẹgbé-kegbé tí kò dára lè fa idíwọ̀ fún idàgbàsókè ẹmí, ó sì máa ń mú ifàsáyìn bá idàpọ̀ ọmọ Ọlọrun pèlú Ọlọrun. Ẹ jẹ́ kí a wo àpẹrẹ Samsoni: nípasẹ̀ idàpọ̀ rẹ̀ pèlú Delíla, a rí bí Delíla ẹ lo ogbon àrékérekè láti mọ̀ àsírí agbára Samsoni, nípa èyí tí ó fi tà á fún àwọn ará Filístìni ọtá rẹ̀. Bíbélì kilò fún wa pé kí a má ẹ̀ bá àwọn aláìgbàgbọ̀ dọgba (2 Kóríntì 6:14–18; Jénésìsì 34:1–31). Ẹgbé-kegbé máa ń fa ènìyàn jáde kúrò nínú ìrẹ̀pọ̀ pèlú Ọlọrun.
- 8. Àìlè-gba-àdúrà bí ó ti tọ̀ àti bí ó ti yẹ** — Èyí jẹ́ ọtá tí ó ń mú idádúró bá idàgbàsókè nínú ẹmí. Nípasẹ̀ àdúrà ni a ti ń wá ojú Ọlọrun fún ohun kan tàbí òmíràn tí a ń gba Ọlọrun gbọ̀ fún. Lórí pẹ̀pẹ̀ àdúrà ni a ti ń rí ìfarahàn nínú ẹmí. Nípasẹ̀ àdúrà ni a ti ń gbọ̀ ohùn Ọlọrun nínú kélékélé ọkàn wa. Àdúrà ni ó máa ń tan ìmọ̀lẹ̀ sí ohun tí ó bá sòkùnkùn tàbí farasin fún wa. Bíbélì sọ pé kí a máa gbàdúrà láì simi àti láì ẹ̀ àárẹ̀. Ọmọ Ọlọrun tí kò bá fàyẹ̀ sílẹ̀ fún àdúrà, aláìlágbara ni nínú ẹmí (Lúùkù 18:1; Jeremáyà 33:3; Jákọ̀bù 5:14–18; 1 Tẹ̀salóníkà 5:17).

BÍ A ŞE LÈ BÓRÍ ÀWỌN ỌTÁ TÍ Ó NÍ DÁ ÌDÀGBÀSÓKÈ ÈMÍ DÚRÓ

- 1. Ìjẹwọ àwọn ẹ̀ẹ̀ẹ̀ ikòkò:** Nígbàkúgbà tí a bá gbé ẹ̀ẹ̀ẹ̀ sínú ẹ̀ẹ̀ẹ̀, ẹ̀ jẹ́ kí a jẹwọ àwọn ẹ̀ẹ̀ẹ̀ yẹn, kí a tọ̀rọ̀ ìdàríjì ní kíákíá. Kí a má ẹ̀ ẹ̀ ẹ̀ wa mọ̀lẹ̀ tàbí ẹ̀ awíjàrẹ̀ láti gbé ara lẹ̀yìn. Kí a jẹwọ ẹ̀ẹ̀ẹ̀ náà ní kíákíá, kí a sì ronú pìwàdà, kí a pinnu láti má ẹ̀ hu irú iwà bẹ̀ẹ̀ mọ̀, kí a sì tẹ̀síwájú nínú ìrìnàjọ̀ ìgbàgbọ̀ wa (1 Jòhánù 1:9; Ọ̀wẹ̀ 28:13).
- 2. Kíka ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lọ̀run déédéé:** Kí a máa ka ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lọ̀run déédéé, kí a máa jẹwọ̀ rẹ̀, kí a sì ní ìgbàgbọ̀ ààyè nínú rẹ̀. Kí a máa fi ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lọ̀run bó ìgbàgbọ̀ wa ní ojoojúmọ̀; nípa síṣe bẹ̀ẹ̀, a ní fi ebi pa gbogbo èmí àìgbàgbọ̀. Baba mi nínú Olúwa, Revd Dr John Idowu, sọ pé ọ̀nà méjì ní a lè gbà pa ajá: àkókó, a lè fi àdà tàbí ìbọ̀n pa á; èkejì ní pé kí a dẹkun fífún un ní ọ̀únjẹ — níkeyìn, ajá náà yóò kú. Bẹ̀ẹ̀ gégé, tí a kò bá fún èmí ìyèméjì ní ọ̀únjẹ, yóò kú. Ẹ̀ jẹ́ kí a máa rán ara wa létí ìbùkún àti ìṣẹ̀ ìyanu tí Ọ̀lọ̀run tí ẹ̀ nínú ayé wa, kí a ní ìgbàgbọ̀ pé Ọ̀lọ̀run wa lè ẹ̀ jù bẹ̀ẹ̀ lọ̀ (Róòmù 10:17; Jósùà 1:8).
- 3. Títẹ̀rí ìgbéràga ba:** Kí a gba oore-ọ̀fẹ̀ láti tẹ̀rí gbogbo èmí ìgbéràga ba. Kí a gba èmí ìrèlẹ̀ láàyè, kí a sì jẹ́ ẹ̀nì tí ó gba èkọ̀ ọ̀rọ̀ Ọ̀lọ̀run tí ó sì n mú un ṣíṣẹ̀. Kí a ní itẹ̀ríba fún àwọ̀n tí ó wà ní ipò aláṣe, tí wọ̀n sì jẹ́ olórí fún wa (Jákọ̀bù 4:6; Róòmù 13:1; Héberù 13:17).
- 4. Èmí ìdàríjì:** Kí a máa múra sílẹ̀ nígbà gbogbo láti dáríjì ẹ̀nikẹ̀nì tí ó bá ẹ̀ wá. Ọ̀nà tí a lè gbà mú ogbé ọ̀kàn tàbí ìkorò ọ̀kàn kúrò ní pé kí a máa gbàdúrà fún ẹ̀nikẹ̀nì tí ó bá ẹ̀ wá (Mátíù 5:43–47).

- 5. Gbígbe ojú sí Jèsù nìkan:** Kí a gbé ojú wa sí Jèsù Kristi nìkan, Aláṣepé ìgbàgbó wa. Kí a máa rántí àwọn ìbùkún, ịṣẹ ìyanu àti ọ̀nà àbáyọ tí Ọlórún tí ẹ fún wa. Èyí ni yóò mú wa lókàn le nínú ìgbàgbó wa. Kí a ní ìdánilójú àti ìgbékèlẹ́ nínú Ọlórún pé, "Pèlú Olúwa, ohun gbogbo ẹ é ẹ," àti pé "ohun gbogbo ẹ é ẹ fún ẹni tí ó bá gbàgbó" (Róòmù 4:17–24; Máàkù 9:23; Héberù 12:2). Kí a má ẹ fàyẹ gba ifẹkúfẹẹ ayé yìi; kí a ronú àwọn nṣẹ́nkan tí ń bẹ lókè (Kólósè 3:1–2), nítorí gbogbo ifẹkúfẹẹ ayé yìi yóò bàjẹ lọ (1 Jòhánù 2:15; Róòmù 8:35–39).
- 6. Fífi gbòngbò múlẹ́ nínú ibáṣepọ́ Kristi:** Kí a ẹ àdámọ́ irú àwọn èniyàn tí a ń bá kégbé. Bíbélì sọ pé, "Egbé burúkú a máa ba iwà rere jẹ." Ọwẹ Yorùbá sọ pé, "Fi ọrẹ rẹ hàn mí, máa sọ irú èniyàn tí o jẹ." Ọrọ Ọlórún sọ pé, "Nípa èso wọn ni a ó fi mọ wọn." Àwọn tí ó lè mú wa dàgbà sókè nínú ẹmí àti ìgbàgbó wa ni ó yẹ kí a bá kégbé (1 Kórínthì 5:9–11; 2 Kórínthì 6:14–18; Ọwẹ 13:20; Orin Dáfidi 1:1–6; Mátíù 7:17–20).
- 7. Àdúrà àìsìmi:** Kí a máa gbàdúrà làìsìmi àti láì ẹ ààrẹ láti lè pa gbogbo ọ̀tá tí ó ń dá idàgbàsókè ẹmí dúró run, àti láti gba agbára lówọ wọn (Lúùkù 18:1; Mátíù 26:41; 1 Tẹsalóníkà 5:17).

ÌPARÍ

Ní ìparí: "Nítorí bí ẹyin tí gba Kristi Jèsù Olúwa, bèẹ ni kí ẹ máa rìn nínú rẹ; kí ẹ fí gbòngbò múlẹ́, kí a sì gbé yín ró nínú rẹ, kí ẹ sì fí ẹṣẹ́ múlẹ́ nínú ìgbàgbó yín gégé bí a tí kọ yín, kí ẹ sì máa pọ́ nínú rẹ pẹlú ìdúpẹ́" (Kólósè 2:6–7, 10). "Nítorí náà, ẹ tẹríba fún Ọlórún. Ẹ kọ ojú ịjà sí Èṣù, ọ̀nà yóò sì sá kúrò lódò yín" (Jákọbù 4:7).

BÍ A Ẹ LÈ PARÍ ÌRÌNÀJÒ AYÉ DÁADÁÁ

▪ PASTOR ADELEYE A.O

Àyọkà: 2 Tímótì 4:7–8; Héberù 12:1–2; Orin Dáfídì 90:12.

ÌFÁÀRÀ

Ayé jẹ ìrìnàjò tí ìlálálá jẹ ibùdé rẹ. Gbogbo ènìyàn tí a bí sí ayé yíí n rìn gba àkókò lọ sí ipádé àtòrunwá pẹ̀lú Ọlórùn. Àjálù tó tóbi jù lọ nínú ayé kì í ẹ kíkú ní kùtùkùtù nìkan, bí kò ẹ àìkápá iṣẹ àyànfúnni Ọlórùn ní àṣeyọrí.

Ọpọ ènìyàn ni ó n bèrẹ dáadáa, sùgbón tí kì í parí dáadáa. Àwọn kan n bèrẹ pẹ̀lú itara àti iháragàgà, síbẹ tí idàrúdàpọ, ibàjẹ, ààrẹ, ègàn, àìbikítà, tàbí itutù ẹmí dé bá wọn ní ọ̀nà. Ọlórùn kò ní ifẹ sí bí a ẹ bèrẹ nìkan; ó ní ànìyàn jíjìnlẹ nípa bí a ẹ parí.

Ìje Kristiẹni kì í ẹ isáré kúkúró, bí kò ẹ ije gígùn tí ó béèrè iforítì, isòtító, igbóràn, ibáwí, ifòyemò ẹmí, àti ifojúsí Kristi tí kò mì.

Oore-ọfẹ Olúwa kì í ẹ fún ibùkún ti ayé nìkan; oore-ọfẹ àtòrunwá tún n fún àwọn onígbagbọ lágbára láti mú àyànmọ ẹ àti láti parí ní iṣẹgun.

“Mo ti jà ìjà rere, mo ti parí ìje mi, mo ti pa ìgbàgbò mó.” — 2 Tímótì 4:7. Ọ̀rọ̀ Àpóstìlẹ̀ Pọ̀lù yí dúró gégé bí ọ̀kan lára àwọn ìjẹ́rì tí ó tóbi jù lọ ti ìgbé ayé ẹ̀mí tí ó kún fún àṣeyọ́rí.

KÍNÌ ÌTUMỌ̀ PÍPARÍ ÌRÌNÀJÒ AYÉ DÁADÁA?

Pípari dáadáa tùmọ̀ sí pé:

- Kíkápá ìṣẹ̀ àyànfúnni Ọ̀lọ̀run pẹ̀lú ìṣòtítọ̀.
- Dídúró ọ̀sọ̀sọ̀ nínú ìgbàgbò tí tí dé ọ̀pin.
- Gbígbé ìgbé ayé tí ó wu Ọ̀lọ̀run.
- Pípa ìwà-mímọ̀ ẹ̀mí ẹ̀ni mó.
- Kíkú ní ìtẹ̀lọ̀rùn àti ìṣẹgun nínú Kristi.
- Wíwọ̀ ìlálálá pẹ̀lú ìtẹ̀wọ̀gbà àtọ̀runwá.

Ó ṣe é ṣe láti:

- Bẹ̀rẹ̀ dáadáa kí a sì parí burúkú.
- Bẹ̀rẹ̀ búburú kí a sì parí ológo.
- Bẹ̀rẹ̀ pẹ̀lú Ọ̀lọ̀run kí a sì parí láisí rẹ̀.
- Dúró ọ̀sọ̀sọ̀ kí a sì parí pẹ̀lú ìṣẹgun.

Ìfẹ́ tí ó ga jù lọ ti Ọ̀lọ̀run ni pé kí àwọn onígbàgbò parí ní ìṣòtítọ̀. “Ọ̀pin ohun kan sànjú ìbẹ̀rẹ̀ rẹ̀ lọ.” — Oníwààsù 7:8.

ÀWỌN ÀPẸẸẸ BÍBÉLÌ TÍ Ó PARÍ DÁADÁA

1. Àpóstìlẹ̀ Pọ̀lù (2 Tímótì 4:7–8; Ìṣe 20:24). Pọ̀lù faradà inúnibíni, ẹ̀wọ̀n, kíkọ̀sílẹ̀, ebi àti ìjìyà, síbẹ̀ ó dúró ọ̀sọ̀sọ̀ ní olùṣòtítọ̀. Ẹ̀kọ̀: ẹ̀rọ̀ngbà ni ó ń gbé iforítì ró; idánílójú ń mú idúró ọ̀sọ̀sọ̀ wá; ifojúsọ̀nà ìlálálá ń fún iforítì lágbára. “Kò sí ọ̀kan nínú nńkan wọ̀nyí tí ó mì mí...” — Ìṣe 20:24.

John Wesley sọ pé: "Fún mi ní ọgọrùn-ún ọkùnrin tí kò bèrù ohunkóhun bí kò ẹ ẹ̀ẹ̀, tí kò sì fẹ ohunkóhun bí kò ẹ Ọlórùn; kò jẹ mọ mi bóyá àlúfàà tàbí ọmọ-ìjọ lásán ni wọ̀n — àwọ̀n nìkan ni yòò mi àwọ̀n ẹnu-bodè ọrun àpáàdì."

2. Kálẹ̀bù (Jósúa 14:10–14). Ní ọmọ ọdún márùndínlọgọrùn-ún, Kálẹ̀bù sì ní agbára, igbọyà àti iná ẹmí. Ẹkọ: idúró sìnşin ẹmí n pa àyànmọ mọ; isòtító n fa ogún àtòrunwá; ọjọ-orí kì í ẹ idènà sí imúşẹ àyànmọ. "Ó tẹlé Olúwa pátápátá." — Jósúa 14:8.

3. Dáníẹ̀lì (Dáníẹ̀lì 6:4; 1:8). Dáníẹ̀lì pa iwà-mímọ àti iwà-òdodo mọ nínú ètò tí ó kún fún ibàjẹ. Ẹkọ: idánílọ́jú n dáàbò bo àyànmọ; iwà-tító n mú ijépàtàkì dúró; àdúrà n pa okun ẹmí mọ.

4. Jésù Kristi — Àpẹẹrẹ Pípé (Jòhánù 17:4; 19:30; Héberù 12:2). Jésù kápa isẹ ayé rẹ láika àtakò, ifàsẹyin, ijìyà àti kíkòsílẹ sí. "Ó parí." — Jòhánù 19:30. Ẹkọ: èròngbà béèrè irúbo; igbọràn n rídájú imúşẹ; ifojúsí n sẹgun idàrúdàpọ.

Leonard Ravenhill sọ pé: "Àhààní igbésí ayé gbódò jẹ kíkó nínú àkókò tí àhààní nàà sì wà."

ÀWỌ̀N ÀPẸẸRẸ TÍ KÒ PARÍ DÁADÁA

1. Ọba Sọlù (1 Sámúẹlì 15:22–23; 31). Sọlù bèrẹ ní irẹlẹ sùgbón ó parí nínú isòtẹ àti àìgbọràn. Okùnfà ikùnà: igbéraga (Lúùkù 2:48); igbọràn àipé (Aísáyà 1:19); ilara (Jénésìsì 27:41); àika itóni àtòrunwá sí.

2. **Samsoni** (Onídàájọ 16). Ọkùnrin alágbára ńlá tí ó ẹ̀lẹ́nì íbáwí àti ifòyemò ẹ̀mí. Ẹ̀kọ́: àmì-òróró láìsì iwà ń ba àyànmọ́ jẹ́; ibásepọ́ tí kò tọ́ lẹ́ fòpín sí ẹ̀ròngbà.
3. **Démási** (2 Tímótì 4:10): "Démási ti fi mí sílẹ̀, ó ní ifẹ́ ayé ìsinsìnyí." Ẹ̀kọ́: ifẹ́ ayé ń sọ ifọkànsìn ẹ̀mí di aláìlágbara; idàrúdàpọ́ ń ba ifojúsí ìláláí jẹ́.

Billy Graham sọ pé: "Nígbà tí ọ̀rọ́ bá sọ̀nù, kò sí ohun tí ó sọ̀nù; nígbà tí ìlẹ̀rẹ́ bá sọ̀nù, ohun kan ti sọ̀nù; sùgbọ́n nígbà tí iwà bá sọ̀nù, gbogbo rẹ̀ ni ó ti sọ̀nù."

ÀWỌN OHUN PÀTÀKÌ FÚN PÍPARÍ DÁADÁ

1. Ìrírí Ìgbàlẹ̀ Tòótọ́ (Jòhánù 3:3; 2 Kóríntì 5:17). Ènìyàn kò lè parí dáadáa ní ti ẹ̀mí láìsì iyípadà tòótọ́. Ìgbàlẹ̀ ni ipilẹ́ ìgbé ayé ìségún.
2. **Ìbásepọ́ Tímótímọ́ pẹ̀lú Ọlọrun** (Jeremáyà 9:23–24; Fílípì 3:10). Mímọ́ Ọlọrun jíjínlẹ̀ ni ó ń mú ipé-ẹ̀mí dúró.
 - **Àwọn ọ̀nà láti kọ́ ìbásepọ́ yìí:** àdúrà (Orin Dáfídì 5:1–3; 1 Tẹ̀salóníkà 5:17); ìjọ̀sìn (1 Króníkà 16:29); àṣàrò (Jósúà 1:8); àwẹ́ (Mátíù 4:2); ìgbọ̀ràn (Aísáyà 1:19).
 - **E.M. Bounds sọ pé:** "Ènìyàn lè ṣètò, sùgbọ́n àdúrà ni ó ń làkàkà."
3. **Gbígbé Ayé Nípa Ọ̀rọ́ Ọlọrun** (Orin Dáfídì 119:105; Jósúà 1:8). Ọ̀rọ́ náà ń tọ́ ni sọ̀nà, ó ń tún ni ẹ̀, ó ń fún ni lókun, ó sì ń pa onígbàgbọ́ mọ́.

- **Ipa Ọrò náà:** ìtọ́sọ̀nà, ọgbọn, ìdúró ẹ̀ṣinṣin, àti ìdàgbàsókè ẹ̀mí.

4. Ìbáwí àti Ìkóra-ẹ̀ni-níjà́anu (1 Kọ́ríntì 9:27; Gálátíà 5:22–23). Pípari dáadàa béèrè ìṣàkóso lórí ìfẹ́kúfẹ́ ara.

- **Àwọn agbègbè tí ó nílò ìbáwí:** ọ̀rọ̀ ẹ̀nu, ìfẹ́-òúnjẹ, ìmọ̀lára, ìwà-mímọ̀ ìbálòpọ̀, ìṣuná owó, àti ìṣàkóso àkókò. Àpósítélì Pọ̀lù sọ pé: “Mo n pa ara mi lójú, mo sì n mú un wá sí ìteríba.”

5. Ìforítì Nínú Ìdánwò (Jákọ̀bù 1:2–4; Róòmù 5:3–5). A kò ẹ̀ ìdánwò láti pa onígbagbọ̀ run, bí kò ẹ̀ láti mú un dàgbà. Ohun tí ìdánwò n mú jáde: sùúrù, ìwà rere, ìgbáralé Ọlọ̀run, àti ìdàgbà ẹ̀mí.

6. Pípa Ìwà-mímọ̀ Mọ̀ (Héberù 12:14; 1 Pétérù 1:15–16). Ìwà-mímọ̀ ẹ̀ pàtàkì fún ìparí ìṣẹ́gun. Agbègbè ìwà-mímọ̀: èrò, ọ̀rọ̀ ẹ̀nu, ìbàṣepọ̀, ìṣesí ìgbé ayé, àti ìhùwàsí.

7. Ìṣòtító Nínú Ìṣẹ́-ìsìn (Mátíù 25:21; 1 Kọ́ríntì 4:2). Ọlọ̀run n san èrò fún ìrírú olùṣòtító.

Ìṣòtító ní nínú: ìfọ̀kànsìn, ìgbékẹ̀lé, ìdúró ẹ̀ṣinṣin, wíwà-ní-àrọ̀wótó, àti ìdúró ti ìṣẹ́ Ọlọ̀run.

Mother Teresa sọ pé: “Ọlọ̀run kò pè mí láti ní àṣeyọ́rí; ó pè mí láti jẹ olùṣòtító.”

8. Yíyera fún Ìdàrúdàpò Èmí (Héberù 12:1; Lúùkù 21:34). Àwọn apa-àyànmọ-run ni: èsè, ìkorò ọkàn, ègàn, ifẹ-ohun-íní, ibásepọ tí kò tọ, ìgbéraga, àti ifẹ-ayé.

A.W. Tozer sọ pé: "Ohunkóhun tí ó bá ń pa mí mọ kúrò nínú Bíbélì mi, ọ́tá mi ni."

9. Ìgbáralé Èmí Mímọ (Sekaráyà 4:6; Róòmù 8:14). Kò sí onígbàgbọ tí ó lè parí ní àṣeyọrí nípa agbára ènìyàn nìkan. Ipa Èmí Mímọ: ìtọ́sọ̀nà, agbára, ìdà-ọkàn-lójú, ifúnnilágbára, àti ìpamọ.

IPA OORE-ỌFÉ ÀTỌRUNWÁ NÍNÚ PÍPARÍ DÁADÁA

Ìsopọ̀ pẹ̀lú àkòrí: "Ọdún Oore-ọfẹ Olúwa" (Orin Dáfídì 5:12; Lúùkù 2:52; Orin Dáfídì 90:17). Oore-ọfẹ àtọrunwá ń sí àwọn ilẹ̀kùn tí kò ẹ́ ẹ́ sí, ó ń dáàbò bo onígbàgbọ kúrò nínú ìparun, ó ń fún ní ìrànlowọ̀ àrà-ọ̀tọ̀, ó ń mú àyànmọ̀ dúró, ó sì ń fún ní eré àti oore-ọfẹ àìsẹ̀.

Bí oore-ọfẹ ẹ́ ń ràn onígbàgbọ̀ lowọ̀ láti parí dáadáa:

1. Oore-ọfẹ ń fún ní ìpamọ.
2. Oore-ọfẹ ń fa àwọn olùrànlowọ̀ wá.
3. Oore-ọfẹ ń dá àwọn ọdún tí ó sọ̀n padà.
4. Oore-ọfẹ ń fún iforítì lágbára.
5. Oore-ọfẹ ń rídájú ìgbéga àtọrunwá.

Ọ̀rọ̀ kan wà pé: "Nígbà tí oore-ọfẹ bá sọ̀rọ̀, ìjàkadì parí."

ÀWỌN ÀMÌ ẸNI TÍ YÓÒ PARÍ DÁADÁA

- Ebi ẹmí tí ó dúró sìnşin.

- Ìrèlẹ̀.
- Ọkàn tí ó šetán láti kọ̀ èkọ̀.
- Ìfẹ́-ọkàn fún iwà-mímọ̀.
- Ìfẹ́ Ọlórún.
- Ìṣòtító nínú ohun kékeré.
- Ìforítí lábẹ̀ ìkímọlẹ̀.
- Ìfọkànsìn sí ìṣẹ́-ìsìn ìjọba Ọlórún.
- Jíjìhìn (ìdúró-fún-ìsìrò).
- Ìdúró ṣinṣin nínú àdúrà.

ÀWỌN EWU TÍ Ó N DÁ ÈNÌYÀN DÚRÓ LÁTI PARÍ DÁADÁA

Ewu Èmí: Àìgbàdúrà, èṣẹ̀, ìgbéraga, èkọ̀ èké, àti ìtutù èmí.

Ewu Ìwà: Àgbèrè, iwọ̀ra, àti ìbàjẹ̀.

Ewu Ìmọ̀lára: Ègàn, ìrẹ̀wèsì, àti ìkorò ọkàn.

Ewu Ìbàṣẹ̀pọ̀: Ègbé tí kò tọ̀, àti ìmọ̀ràn tí kò bìkítà Ọlórún.

“È má ṣe ṣ'ìnà: ìbàṣẹ̀pọ̀ búburú a máa ba iwà rere jẹ́.” — 1 Kórínthì 15:33.

ÀWỌN Ọ̀NÀ ÌGBÉ-NÍṢÀ FÚN PÍPARÍ DÁADÁA

1. Pa ìdàpọ̀ ojoojúmọ̀ pẹ̀lú Ọlórún mọ̀.
2. Dúró gbọ̀ngbọ̀n nínú ìjọ̀ tí ó dúró ṣinṣin nínú èkọ̀.
3. Sọ ọkàn rẹ̀ pẹ̀lú àìfọ̀yà.
4. Wà ní ẹnì tí ó n jìhìn.
5. Yera fún ìfàra-balẹ̀ èmí.
6. Fì ìláláláí síwájú ojú nígbà gbogbo.
7. Maa sọ ọkàn rẹ̀ di tuntun nígbà gbogbo.
8. Yára láti ronú piwàdà.
9. Sìn ní ìṣòtító.
10. Gbáralé oore-òfẹ́ Ọlórún pátápátá.

ÀWỌN ÌBÉÈRÈ FÚN ÀŞÀRÒ

1. Şé mo şì ní ìtara ẹmí?
2. Àwọ̀n ìdàrúdàpọ̀ wo ní ó ń halẹ̀ mọ̀ àyànmọ̀ mi?
3. Şé mo ń gbé ayé pẹ̀lú èròngbà?
4. Şé Ọlórún lè gbékẹ̀lé mi pẹ̀lú ìşẹ̀ ńlá sí i?
5. Bí Kristi bá dé lóníí, şé mo ti múra sílẹ̀?

ÀWỌN KÓKÓ ÀDÚRÀ

1. Baba, ràn mí lẹ́wọ̀ láti parí ije mi ní ìşòtítọ̀, ní orúkọ Jẹ́sù.
2. Olúwa, pa mí mọ̀ kúrò nínú gbogbo ìdàrúdàpọ̀ tí ń pa àyànmọ̀ run.
3. Mo gba oore-ọ̀fẹ́ fún ìdúró şinşin àti iforítì.
4. Jẹ́ kí oore-ọ̀fẹ́ àtòrunwá gbé mi ró ní gbogbo ìrìnàjò ayé mi.
5. Ẹ̀mí Mímọ̀, fún mi lókun kí n má baà şubú.
6. Baba, ràn mí lẹ́wọ̀ láti mú èròngbà àtòrunwá mi şẹ̀ ní kíkún.
7. Jẹ́ kí ìgbé ayé mi mú ọ̀go bá Ọlórún títí dé ọ̀pin.
8. Ẹ̀mi kì yóò di olùpalára ẹ̀mí, ní orúkọ Jẹ́sù.

ÌPARÍ

Pípari dáadáa kì í şẹ̀ ohun àìròtélẹ̀; ó jẹ̀ ohun àfowọ̀yàn. Ó béèrè ifaramọ̀, ìbáwí, ìşòtítọ̀, ìşọra ẹ̀mí, àti ìgbáralé oore-ọ̀fẹ́ Ọlórún. Ọ̀pọ̀ ní ó ń bèrẹ̀ ije Kristiẹni, şùgbọ̀n àwọ̀n tí ó bá dúró şánşán nìkan ní yóò gba adé.

“Njẹ́ sí ẹnì tí ó lè pa yín mọ̀ kúrò nínú ìşubú, tí ó sì lè mú yín jáde láilẹ̀gàn níwájú ọ̀go rẹ̀ pẹ̀lú ayọ̀ ńláńlà.” — Júúdà 24. Kí ìjẹrìí wa ní ọ̀pin ayé jẹ́: “Mo ti parí ije mi, mo ti pa ìgbàgbọ̀ mọ̀.” Àmín.

DÍDÚRÓ ŞINŞIN NÍNÚ ÌGBÀGBÓ TÍTÍ DÉ ÒPIN

▪ PASTOR MRS BADMUS D.O

KÍNI DÍDÚRÓ ŞINŞIN?

Gégé bí ìwé-atúmò-èdè, dídúró şinşin jé ọ̀rò-àpẹ̀júwe tí ó túmò sí níní ìpinnu tí ó lágbára, àìşe-é-mì, ìdánílójú tí ó dúró şinşin, àìşe-é-tẹ̀, àti ìforítì.

KÍNI ÌGBÀGBÓ?

Héberù 11:1: “Nísinsinyí, ìgbàgbó ni ìpilẹ̀ àwọn ohun tí à ń retí, àti ẹ̀rí àwọn ohun tí a kò rí.” Nítorí nàà, ìgbàgbó ni ìdánílójú pé ohun tí à ń retí yóò şẹ̀lẹ̀ ní tòótọ̀; ó ń fún wa ní ìmúdájú nípa ohun tí a kò lè rí.

Ìtumò mīràn ni pé: “Ohun tí mo ń retí yóò şẹ̀lẹ̀ dájúdájú.” Nípa ìgbàgbó ni o di ẹ̀ni tí ó ní gbogbo ohun rere ayé ní tòótọ̀, tí o sì lè dé gbogbo ìbùkún tí Ọ̀lórún ti pa mó fún ọ̀ nínú ayé yíí. Şùgbón kì yóò wá láísí akitiyan: gbígba ohun-íní rẹ̀ ní àpapọ̀ ọ̀kàn títọ̀, ète títọ̀, یشه́sít títọ̀, àti ìgbọ̀ràn sí Ọ̀lórún, pẹ̀lú ìjàkadì púpọ̀ nípasẹ̀ ìjẹwọ̀ ìgbàgbó rẹ̀.

Ìgbàgbó jé eré-idárayá tí ó ń tẹ̀síwájú, ọ̀ràn ojoojúmọ̀. Ìgbàgbó

rẹ gbòdò pò sí i, kí o sì máa ẹ́sẹ́ lẹ́ e lórí lójoojúmọ́, bí o bá fẹ́ wu Ọlórún kí o sì gbé ayé dáadáa. O kò gbòdò gba Ọlórún gbó lóníí kí o sì kún ní ọ̀lẹ́; bèè kọ́. Ojúmọ́ kòòkan nì bẹ̀èrè iwọn ìgbàgbọ́ tí ó yàtò. Jí nì gbogbo ọ̀jọ́ kí o sì sọ fún Ọlórún pé, "Olúwa, mo gbà ọ́ gbó lóníí."

Hábákúkù 2:4: "Olódodo yóò wà láàyè nípa ìgbàgbọ́ rẹ́." Héberù 10:38: "Olódodo yóò wà láàyè nípa ìgbàgbọ́." Gbígbé ìgbé ayé ìgbàgbọ́ jẹ́ dandan fún gbogbo àwọn ọmọ Ọlórún. Héberù 11:6: "Sùgbọ́n láìsì ìgbàgbọ́, kò ẹ́ ẹ́ látí wu Ọlórún, nítorí ẹnì tí ó bá fẹ́ tò Ọlórún wá gbòdò gba pé ó wà, àti pé olùṣọ̀nì-lóró nì fún àwọn tí n fí ara balẹ́ wá a."

Ní àkókò bí èyí, tí ayé kún fún wàhálà tí kò sì sí ẹnì tí ó dàbí ẹnì tí ó bìkítà, ènìyàn ìgbàgbọ́ nì ó lè rékọ́já. Èyí nì ìgbà ìkẹyìn. Ènìyàn ìgbàgbọ́ yóò gbilẹ́ kódà nínú ọ̀rọ̀-ajé tí ó ti bàjẹ́. Kenneth Hagin sọ pé Ọlórún sọ fún ọ̀n pẹ́ àwọn ènìyàn Ọlórún n jìyà, wọn sì n kú, nítorí àìmọ́kan. Ọ̀pọ̀ àjàlù, ìkùnà, ìjàkulẹ́, àìsàn àti ikú tí n ẹ̀lẹ́ sí àwọn ọmọ Ọlórún nì a lè dènà bí àwọn ọmọ Ọlórún bá lè gbé ayé ìgbàgbọ́ nínú Ọlórún nìkan. Hóseà 4:6: "Àwọn ènìyàn mi ẹ̀gbé nítorí àìní ìmọ́."

Látí lè dúró ẹ̀ṣìn nínú ìgbàgbọ́ wa, kí a sì gbádùn àkúnwọ̀sílẹ́ oore-ọ̀fẹ́ àti ìbùkún Ọlórún, a gbòdò gbé ayé ìgbàgbọ́. A gbòdò dojú kọ gbogbo ọ̀ràn búburú tí ó bá fẹ́ takò wá ní gbangba nípa ìgbàgbọ́.

ÌBÈRÙ NÌ ÒDÌ ÌGBÀGBỌ́

2 Tímótì 1:7. Papa sọ pé, "Ìbèrù nì ẹ̀rì èké tí ó farahàn bí òtítọ́." Ìgbàgbọ́ gbà pé Ọlórún nì olùrànlọ́wọ́ wa tí ó wà nítòsí gan-an nínú wàhálà (Orin Dáfídì 46:1). Ìbèrù gbà pé o dá wà, tí kò sí

wọn ní ìṣégún lórí àwọn ọ́tá wọn. Lẹ́yìn ìṣégún ńlá yí, Mósè àti Míríámù kọ orin ìṣégún ní ìparí. Rò mò ìgbàgbọ̀ rẹ, nítorí Olórún kò yàn wá sí ikùnnà àti ìṣégún-bò-ni.

4. **Jósúa àti Kálẹ̀bù** (Nọmbà 13:27–28; 14:21–24). Àwọn ọ̀kúnrin ìgbàgbọ̀ méjèèjì yí ni a mò fún ìjẹwọ̀ ìgbàgbọ̀, nígbà tí àwọn amí mewaà yòókù jẹwọ̀ ìṣégún-bò-ni, àṣe-é-ṣe àti ikú; sùgbọ́n Jósúa àti Kálẹ̀bù jẹwọ̀ rere, wọn sọ pé, “A lè gba ilẹ̀ náà.” Kí o gba ohun-ìní rẹ, ní orúkọ Jésù. Ohunkóhun tí ó bá jẹ òkè níwájú rẹ, pèlú ìjẹwọ̀ ìgbàgbọ̀ ní ẹnu rẹ, ìwọ yóò ṣégún rẹ (Òwe 18:21; 2 Kóríntì 4:18; Máàkù 11:22).
5. **Àpósítélì Pọ̀lù** (2 Kóríntì 11:16–33). Níbí, Pọ̀lù ṣàpẹjúwe gbogbo ìdánwò àti inúnibíni rẹ nítorí ìgbàgbọ̀ àti ifẹ̀ ìhìnrere Olúwa Jésù Kristi. Láìka gbogbo ìpọ̀njú wònyí sí, ó rékojá. Èyí ń fún wa níṣíírí láti dúró ọ̀nọ̀nọ̀ nínú ìgbàgbọ̀ (Títù 2:2, 11–15; 1 Tímótì 2:15). 2 Tímótì 4:7–8: “Mo ti jà ìjà rere, mo ti pa ìgbàgbọ̀ mó.” Kí Olúwa ràn wá lówọ̀ láti pa ìgbàgbọ̀ wa mó àti láti gba adé ọ̀dodo, ní orúkọ Jésù.
6. **Jésù Kristi, Olúwa àti Olùgbàlà wa** (Héberù 12:2). “È wo Jésù, olùpilẹ̀ṣẹ̀ àti olùparí ìgbàgbọ̀ wa, ẹnì tí, nítorí ayọ̀ tí a gbé kalẹ̀ síwájú rẹ, faradà àgbélébùú, tí ó kẹgàn ìtìjù, tí ó sì jókòó ní ọ̀wọ̀ ọ̀tún itẹ̀ Olórún.” Fílípì 2:8–9: “Ó rẹ ara rẹ sílẹ̀, ó sì jẹ onígbọ̀ràn tí tí dé ikú, àní ikú àgbélébùú. Nítorí náà, Olórún gbé e ga lópòlópò, ó sì fún un ní orúkọ tí ó ga ju gbogbo orúkọ lọ.”

olùrànlọ́wọ́; ìgbàgbọ́ gbà pé Ọlọrun Olódùmarè wà pẹ̀lú rẹ, àti pé kì yóò fi ọ sílẹ̀ tàbí kọ ọ sílẹ̀ láá (Héberù 13:8).

Ìgbàgbọ́ gbà pé Ọlọrun yóò pèsè ìṣẹ̀ ìyanu sí ìṣòro rẹ, àti pé kò sí ohun tí kò ṣe é ṣe fún Ọlọrun (Lúùkù 1:38). Nígbà tí ìbèrù n sọ fún ọ pé Ọlọrun kò tó, tí kò sì lè pèsè àìní rẹ, ìgbàgbọ́ gbà pé ìmọ̀lẹ̀ Ọlọrun yóò tàn, tí ìṣẹgun sì dájú. Ìbèrù fi ọ sínú òkùnkùn, tí o n fowọ́ tálẹ̀ ọ̀nà rẹ pẹ̀lú ìjákulẹ̀. Ìgbàgbọ́ fi hàn wá pé Ọlọrun wà pẹ̀lú wa nígbà gbogbo. Bíbélì sọ pé ìbèrù ní ìdààmú (1 Jòhánù 4:18). Gégé bí onígbàgbọ́, a gbọdò rìn nínú ìgbàgbọ́, sọrọ ìgbàgbọ́; ìṣẹgun wa sì dájú ní orúkọ Jésù.

ÀWỌN ÀPẸẸẸ AKỌNI ÌGBÀGBỌ TÍ Ó DÚRÓ ŞINŞIN TÍTÍ DÉ ÒPIN

- 1. Şádíràkì, Mésàkì àti Àbédúnígò** (Dáníèlì 3:16–18) jẹ ọkùnrin ìgbàgbọ́, ìgboyà, iforítì àti ìpinnu nílá. Wọn dúró şinşin nínú ọkàn wọn, wọn kọ láti foríbalẹ̀ fún ère níwájú iná iléru àti ikú. Ìwọ náà gbọdò dúró şinşin, kí o sì pinnu láti dé òpin, ní orúkọ Jésù.
- 2. Ábúráhámù, baba ìgbàgbọ́** (Róòmù 4:16–21; Éfésù 1:19–20; 2 Péterù 1:3). Ọlọrun kò pè wá fún itijú, ègàn àti ìjákulẹ̀; ọ pè wá láti bùkún wa àti láti sọ wá di ọlọrọ.
- 3. Àwọn ọmọ Ísírèlì ní Òkun Pupa** (Ēkísódù 14). Nígbà tí Fáraó lépa wọn tí wọn sì rí àwọn ọtá, ìbèrù bà wọn, wọn sì bèrè sí kùn. Şùgbọ́n Ọlọrun sọ fún Mósè pé, “Ē má bèrù, ẹ dúró jéjé, kí ẹ sì wo ìgbàlà Olúwa.” Olúwa jà fún wọn, ó sì fún

ÌFỌKÀNBALÈ ÀTÌ ÌPARÍ

Olùfẹ́, ẹ́e o n dojú kọ ìrírí aginjù? Ẹ́e ipò rẹ dàbí ẹni pé o wà nínú aginjù? Má ẹe pàdánù ìrètí. Ọlórún tí ó bá àwọn ọmọ Ísírẹlì rìn nínú aginjù ẹì wà láàyè; ó ẹì n bá ọpọ ènìyàn rìn nínú ìrírí aginjù wọn lóníí. Kò kú, kò lọ sí ìsinmi, agbára rẹ kò sì dín kù.

Ẹ́e òùngbẹ n gbẹ ọ — ti owó, ti ìgbéyàwó, ti èkọ, ti iṣẹ, ti iṣẹ-ìsìn, tàbí ti ẹmí? Ọlórún tí ó pa òùngbẹ àwọn ọmọ Ísírẹlì rẹ yóò ẹe bákan náà fún ọ. Kàn máa gbékèlé e, máa gbàdúra, má ẹe juwọ sílẹ fún Ọlórún, fi sùúrù dúró de ìtọsọ̀nà rẹ, kí o sì rántí pé bí ó bá ti ẹe ọ dáadáa rí, yóò ẹe jù bẹẹ lọ nínú ipò rẹ lówólówó. Dúró gbòngbòn tí tí dé ọpin, ní orúkọ Jésù.

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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]*

2

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.

3

I'M PRESSING ON.....

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.

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.

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]*

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.

The Year of the Lord's Favour



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69. Healing Belongs to You

MEDIA OUTREACH

STATIONS FREQUENCY PROGRAMME

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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