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# **12** keys **TO** **READING** **CHRISTIAN** **B O O K S**

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**12 PRINCIPLES YOU MUST KNOW & PRACTICE  
TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF READING ANY  
CHRISTIAN BOOK INCLUDING THE BIBLE**

**JOSIAH OKHEAPE**

# **12 KEYS TO READING CHRISTIAN BOOKS**

*12 Principles You Must Know & Practice to Maximize the  
Benefits of Reading Any Christian Book Including the Bible*

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## 12 KEYS TO READING CHRISTIAN BOOKS

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

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## INTRODUCTION

I love to read, but I have read some books that I forgot what I had read at the beginning when I got to the end. Your case may not be the same as mine, but the question is, how much of what you've read are you becoming?

The truth is the reason you put yourself through the pain and time of reading Christian literatures is so you can improve yourself and grow your faith.

You want to really live the healthy life you've seen in the word of God, that's why you chose to read a book on health. You want to understand financial prosperity and flourish, that's why you spent a month on that book on prosperity.

I began my Christian journey with a goal that I wasn't going to settle for the ordinary. And in my quest, I learned that my journey to mastering the life of Christ was dependent on the amount of knowledge I had and applied.

So even though I disliked reading, the grace needed was bestowed on me. Today I can't tell you how many books I have read, but I am writing this book from the 12 Keys

the Holy Spirit gave me from reading Christian books as my walk with him kept improving through the knowledge I was acquiring.

The keys shared in this book, follow a sequential order of arrangement. Beginning from what motivates your choice of the book to read. How to read, what to expect, what to do after reading, steps to practicing what you've read, and much more: all based on Biblical principles.

It is great you agree, that reading Christian books is key to advancing your knowledge in Christ. But this book will set you up with what it takes to become the dreams and visions that you have for reading.

So I urge you to, read this book with an open mind and a humble heart to learn the keys shared in it. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as they relate to you and help you make amends where necessary in your life.

Of a truth, I see you becoming wiser, disciplined, and more diligent as you embrace and imbibe the truths shared in this book in Jesus' name. Amen!







# **CHAPTER 1**

## ***Selecting the Book to Read***

There are so many Christian books to read. And if care is not taken you may be pressured to just read whatever you can lay your hands on at any time. It is one thing to desire knowledge, which is very important, but it is another thing to follow a systematic sequence of learning.

There are some books you should read as a new believer in Christ, and there are some you may have to consume later when you are more mature.

Now, that you saw someone else reading a book doesn't make it the right book for you to read. So then how do you go about this?

### **Picking with a Need in Mind**

Reading a book can be fun, but beyond the fun of

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reading a book, you must be intentional about the results you desire to produce or obtain. Picking a book to read begins with a desire or a demand or a goal you desire to meet. You must ask questions like:

- What are the challenges in my life right now?
- What must I know to overcome them?
- What do I want to gain after reading this book?
- Does this book meet the needs that I have or the goal I have set to accomplish now?

Answering these questions gives you a picture of what you want to accomplish. Growth has to be intentional. You must consider that in any building, you must have a foundation first before you can have a roof.

So as a believer there are certain foundations you must understand to be able to grasp other subjects relating to the goal you may have set to accomplish.

Take for example; every Christian experience must be built first on the foundation of salvation. Until you are saved every other thing will come as a mystery—you will never understand them. Also, apart from the foundation of salvation, following very closely is the foundation of righteousness—right standing with God. There is also the foundation of sanctification and your

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walk-in holiness.

If you don't have these foundations many things in the scriptures will be hidden from you even though you read voraciously.

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*"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." (Psalms 25:14) I have said all of that to say this; you need to be very intentional about picking a book to read because it will affect how you grow. Also, this can be buttressed in our elementary educational system. You go from lower grade classes to higher grade classes you don't begin from the top to the bottom. Else you may be overwhelmed with learning.*

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When you organize your reading in this manner, you would observe that after a while you'd notice significant changes in your spiritual growth. In the Kingdom, nothing happens by mistake. You don't become a miracle worker in one day; you don't become a perfect or mature Christian in one month.

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As knowledge increases and the application of that knowledge enhances; you will find that after a while you begin to produce fruits in line with the knowledge you are consuming. In my experience, I find that when I read over a subject for a month or read different Christian books on a particular subject; I get to see the experiences of different people in line with a particular subject. So, it helps me to learn from different areas and come out with a good conclusion on that particular subject.

My Faith is enhanced and fed with more understanding to execute the lessons I may have learned from these different authors on the same subject. So, one way to help your selection is to focus on one thing for some time.

### **Being Led to Read**

If you are a new believer who is yet to master the act of being led by the Holy Spirit; or are yet to receive the Holy Spirit: who is our helper and counselor. Then you need a more mature believer, like your Pastor or someone who has proof of their walk with the Lord to guide you. It is not wrong to ask for help.

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You can say, "Brother, I am new in the faith and I don't want to overwhelm myself with certain things I may not be able to understand now, what books do you recommend I read now?" This is simple enough.

If I were to recommend books to read early in the faith, I will recommend you read books on:

- New Creation Realities
- Fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit
- Faith & Grace
- Purpose
- Prayer

With these subjects well understood, I can say you are off to a good start.

On the other hand, as you keep growing, the Holy Spirit begins to lead you personally into his purposes and desires for you at various moments and seasons of your life. At this time, you can follow his emphasis on picking books to read.

He wants to teach you certain things at certain times to maximize his will for your life. You must value his leadership to ensure your growth is seamless.

Just like there are physical schools, so also, there is a

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spiritual school that only the Holy Spirit can admit you into. If you follow his leading well enough you should come to this place in your walk with God, that's if you haven't been there.

When He lays a certain emphasis (topics or subjects he wants you to learn about) on your heart, which you shouldn't ignore. So, as you study through the word, you should also get books on such subjects to deepen your understanding.

### **Focusing Your Attention**

As I mentioned earlier you must be intentional about your reading. Instead of reading five different books on five different subjects in a month—which you may consider to be a very good attitude to reading. It is better to read five different books on one particular subject in one month.

What will happen to you with this kind of focus is that the truths you have found will be more grounded in your heart. It means you would have seen the same thing, said through different minds, over one month. And so, with this kind of focus comes, more strength,

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more insight, and more grace to do what you have found.

### **Seeking Those Who Have Proof**

Apart from setting a goal for your reading and focusing on a particular area of demand or desire for some time; you also need to be mindful of the kind of books you choose to read.

There's this cliché in my part of the world that a blind guide can and will only lead his victim into a ditch. Even Jesus said that about the Pharisees. (Matthew 15:14).

Since there are so many books being written today about the various subjects in the Christian faith; you must choose wisely out of the many choices that you may have.

Take for example; an author with results over a written subject matter will be a more potent option to follow than an author with lesser results on a subject.

You can picture this idea better between the choice of a specialist doctor to a doctor who isn't a specialist in a specific area. Even though they are both doctors, one

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has more experience in the practice, with proven results to show for it. While the other has less or none.

When it comes to the kingdom, you may call those proven results—testimonies. With testimonies alone, faith to believe and produce the same results as you would be reading about (a proven author's book) is easily generated.

I have a mentor whom I follow through books. His books most often than not, come with testimonies of other believers who engaged in the truths he writes about, and this alone for me is a faith booster.

It is only wise to not stop at setting a goal, or being led to read on a subject, or focusing on one subject for some time, but also to seek materials with proven authors.

Even the Bible recommends that you can't just follow anyone. You should follow those who have obtained the results you are looking for. Not those trying to get to where you want to get to.

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*"That ye be not slothful, but followers of  
them who through faith and patience*



*inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)*

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## **Be Open-Minded to Learn from the Best**

Don't read out of emotions for an author, or be blinded because of your passion and love for a particular person. The fullness of God is in Christ. However, in Christ, this fullness is shared in different people who have been called of God into the five-fold offices of the Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, and Teacher.

These five-fold gifts are further broken into two. According to the scriptures, we are all built on the foundation of Apostles and Prophets. What does this mean?

It means that there are dimensions of Christ you may not be able to learn from one man, no matter how anointed and wise he is. So, you must learn from not just the epistles of Paul, but also the epistles of John the beloved and Peter the Chief Apostle.

Using my previous example, a little further; a specialist in gynecology can't also be a specialist in eye surgery. Their specialization in various areas of medicine brings

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them to the point of perfection in one subject of human medicine.

So also, this applies to the Kingdom of God. God calls different people in different areas of specialization; and as they walk with God in their various areas of callings, their experiences differ, so they become stronger in specific areas of graces as lavished on them by Christ.

With the above, it is wise to learn from the best in any area of the Christian faith you desire to grow in. Paul had more experience with the gentile saints than Peter did. Even though they were both Apostles. Why? Because he (Paul) was sent to the gentiles.

Don't close your mind to only listening to Peter when what you really want to learn has been proven beyond doubt in the life of Paul. We belong to the same family of faith.

Whether Paul, John, Apollos, or Peter; they all belong to us. Every sent messenger of Christ belongs to the entire body. Don't close your mind to the blessings you can receive from them in knowledge and impartation of grace.

*Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the  
world, or life, or death, or things present,  
or things to come, all are yours. (1  
Corinthians 3:22).*

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## **Swallowing All**

If you are a new believer, swallowing all is not an option for you. By this I mean, having to accept, without questioning what you are reading. Mainly because you are very young in the faith.

However, as you grow in faith, your knowledge of the word of God will help you sift what you should swallow or what you shouldn't swallow while you read.

At different levels of our faith, there are areas of a book that would not catch your attention while you are reading it. But also, as you grow, when you pick that same book you will find things you did not see before. Why? Because you are attracted by the things you know.

New revelations always seem to attract your eyes when certain areas of your faith have been built up. So, the life of a believer is a life that encourages practical

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growth.

Also, you may not be able to swallow all at first based on your understanding. But as your understanding increases in God, the things you couldn't swallow at first may become swallow-able. This is why taking notes is so important, but I will elaborate on this point much later.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### ***Pray Your Way Through***

Prayer is a sign of humility. It is acknowledging that; left on your own, your reading may not profit you. It is saying, Lord, I don't know so much but teach me through this book the things I must learn. It is how we ask for help—the help of the Holy Spirit.

It shouldn't be optional. Having walked with the Lord for a few years, I have found out in reality that the flesh was destined to fail, so that man can always need God.

Prayer is how we register our need for grace to begin a book and to commit to reading it to the end. It is how we give the Holy Spirit access to perform his ministry as both a teacher and a counselor.

### **A Prepared Heart**

Prayer is an essential part of the Christian faith. It is how

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we come to God and how we carry him along in all that we do. Reading a book is no exception. We also need prayer to prepare our hearts for what it is we desire to gain or harness from our reading.

If you are a young believer, then you must know this: that desire alone is not enough to get spiritual things done. You also need the aid and the help of the one who is capable of guiding your footsteps to the right path.

Prayer is how you channel your desire to the Lord after finding the perfect book to read so he could guide you to ensure that you don't miss the things that you ought to see.

Believe me, I tell you: I have read some books before and when I thought to glance through the excerpts I took from those books again I found out that I could see things I had not seen previously.

Your heart is the most essential part of receiving the word of God. The Bible talks about the four kinds of grounds the sower went to sow seeds upon. The last ground among the other three was the heart, which enabled the seeds sown to produce to the degree of the understanding that the heart had at the time.

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Prayer is how you prepare your heart to engage any book. The Holy Spirit through your prayers helps your heart fit into the right conditions to perceive the truths that will be shared in the book you are about to read.

You can read a book without praying before starting, but if you desire the help of the one who can help you see what's basically for you in that book, you need to carry him along through prayer.

## **The Teacher**

This leads to the next subject matter about the one called the teacher. Jesus said to the apostles before he left, that he was going to send to them another comforter whose primary assignment will be to teach.

There are teachers and there are teachers. The Holy Spirit is the believers' teacher. He has his unique way of bringing truth to light in the life of a believer: because we are all different and are passing through different experiences at the same time.

The Holy Spirit can bring truth to you in your various points of need to the end that you can understand or perceive what it is he wants you to know.

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One of the primary ways the Holy Spirit teaches is to lead you into truth. It is one thing to guide you to the truth; it is another thing to tell you the truth, and it is another thing to show you the truth. But the Holy Spirit leads you into all truth.

What does this mean? You may read a book and not figure out how that book said one thing or the other to correct your way of life. But then, while you're in an experience, trying to get yourself out, the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance whatsoever it is you have read before and then explains to you more.

How you should have used that to solve that problem or handle that situation better. You may not have gotten it when you read it, but then he will lead you into that truth you read about.

Everyone needs the Holy Spirit. As much as you are a believer, you can't do without him. I often say, "if Jesus needed the Holy Spirit who am I not to need the Holy Spirit." Receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a choice. But I think it's the wisest choice to make to have the one who made the heavens and the earth live in me.

So, if you are reading this book right now and you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, you can be filled right



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now. But first, you must be born again before you can have this experience. If you are not born again, let me help you do that first.

Turn to the last page of this book, there you'll find the prayer you should pray to become a child of God. Now, if you have sincerely done that, you are born again. You can go ahead to pray the prayer below to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

*"Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit you have given freely to everyone that believes. Father as your child, I desire to have this gift in my life, and as it is written that whosoever believes in Christ and has repented from their sins can have the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) Right now, I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit into my heart and I expect to speak in my new spiritual language which is the evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen! If you have said that prayer you can just begin to worship the Lord and thank him for he has given you the gift of the Holy Spirit. You will begin to sense the Holy Spirit grant you utterance. It is coming out from your belly; for out of your belly shall flow rivers of*

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*living water."*

Just give voice to that utterance right now by faith and begin to speak in tongues right now. This Sensation is coming out of the belly of your spirit and so give voice to it without hesitation. Praise God, hallelujah!

Well if you already have the Holy Spirit we had to do that for someone who may have needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit right away. Praise God!

There are many things you will never see without the teacher's aid. I can testify to that fact because I have experienced his tutelage in my reading experiences.

One time I was reading, and while I was reading, a certain truth just burst forth from a book that I had never seen before and I was overwhelmed with the glory of God. And I knew it could have only been the teacher at work. Sometimes, I have had to stop and meditate on new revelations over and again.

Sometimes it comes while I share some lessons that I had learned; something new just pops out of my sharing and I'm like wow I didn't see that before. It's always fun to carry the teacher along, he wants to teach you, he wants to show you the things you have not seen before.

## **Praying as You Read Along**

This is important as you find areas of your life or things you would love to see changed in your life appear in the book that you read. Don't wait until the end to pray for the things that you find along in the book. So, you can take a pause or a break when you find a truth that draws your attention while reading a book and pray that truth quantitatively into your life.

Remember that you are reading the book in the first place to get a new understanding and to help your Christian faith become better.

So, when you find an area of weakness that a book you are reading provides a solution to, immediately jump at that solution in prayers. And pray sincerely from your heart whatever truth it is that you have found.

Sometimes it is a call to repent from a wrong way of living. You must respond to it immediately by praying the prayer of repentance to turn from that particular wrong way you have been living, to walk in the new path of life—don't keep that till the end of the book.

The Bible is God's word. What other Christian books

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which may not be the Bible help to do are zoom into specific areas, to magnify a truth that has been found through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by a particular person or an author.

Reading with this consciousness helps you to respond appropriately to whatever the Holy Spirit may be demanding of you from the lessons he's showing you in whatsoever book you are reading per time.

Failure to respond to what you find in the middle or at the beginning of a book shows that you are not ready to harness other lessons you were supposed to learn in the course of reading that book.

God is a God of knowledge and he weighs our actions. If he guides you into truth and you fail to respond to it, is there a need to guide you into more truths, you wouldn't respond to?

So, you see, you must strike when the iron is still very hot. It's a sign that you want more. Take for example; an instructor giving a student an assignment, and then the student refuses to accomplish the assignment he was given.

The first assignment is meant to lead to the next

assignment, and so without accomplishing the first assignment, it will be futile to give such students the next one.

What does this say then? You must prayerfully jump at every revelation you find as you read along in a book. Asking the Lord or receiving grace to accomplish whatsoever the demands are for that revelation you have received.

## **Praying at the End**

Reading a book is a journey. It is like moving from one point to the other; beginning from a starting point to a destination you had in mind at the very beginning.

Usually, when one accomplishes a journey there is the satisfaction derived from it. If I had in mind to embark on a journey by road that would last for 12 hours. The satisfaction of that journey doesn't come, not until I have gotten to my destination.

This can also be said for reading a book; when you pray at the beginning and then carry on with praying every revelation you find along in the book. Getting to the end brings up this satisfaction for the things you have gained

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and seen; through the book.

However, if this is not the way you read before now, reading would be more like finishing a target or a goal and gaining so little, if not nothing. You can be said to have just read for fun or to tell someone else how fast you read.

The end of every book should lead you into a place of satisfaction, whereby you have read through, gained so much, and prayed these things into your life. In the end that you become a product of the book, you have just read.

In Chapter four I'll be talking more about taking notes while you read. But before then you can also write down your prayer points or I call them 'prayer revelations' that you find as you read along in a book.

This will aid your concluding prayers at the end of the book. It will help you see the things you have prayed for while you read the book and help fuel your expectation of the answers to the prayers you have prayed. You can also decide to pray them again if you are not satisfied with the way you had prayed before.

In all, your prayer revelations show a summary of the

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things the Holy Spirit had convicted you about while reading a book. In the future, going back to your record where these prayers have been written; you can check to see in your life the manifestations of the answers to the prayers you had prayed while you read the book. This would help you appreciate your growth in the faith.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### ***Be Expectant, Great Things Happen***

Grace is an ability of God made available to every believer through the finished work of Christ. However, each person enters into one level of grace or another through knowledge and empowerment.

A good Christian book must possess in it the ability to lead you into realms of higher grace. Why? Because it was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the raw encounters or experiences of the author.

This is why you must be expectant, and not just expectant but point your expectation to the direction of the goal(s) for which you have chosen to read on a particular subject.

### **Expectation Precedes Manifestation**

Whatsoever you don't expect, you can't manifest. This



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is a Spiritual law—expectation precedes manifestation. Without hope for a substance, which must be generated from God's word, you can't get faith to work. Faith always needs hope—expectations based on God's word—to deliver.

"So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off." (Proverbs 24:14)

Every book written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit contains not just what is written—all the knowledge you may gain from reading such books—but also a spiritual content called GRACE. Grace is what makes the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In 2Peter 1:2, the Bible has this to say about the knowledge of God:

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*"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you  
through the knowledge of God, and of  
Jesus our Lord."*

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As long as knowledge is being dissipated through the inspiration of the Spirit of God, then it always contains a divine content called **GRACE**. What then is this Grace?

**"Grace is an innate or indwelling spiritual ability, supplied from the throne of Christ (through his finished work) to the life of a believer, as an aid to living the victorious life of Christ."**

However, the level of grace available to you, through the knowledge of God can only be released by your expectation or hope for it. Your expectation intermingles with your faith to release an impaction of this grace upon your life.

Let's say, you already picked a book, using the lessons already taught here. You already have a desire you want to see accomplished.

Then you went further to pray that desire before you began to read the book. What naturally happens is that grace (that ability of God to live the life of Christ) just flows into your spirit as your knowledge increases through that book.

This same process is applicable as you read God's word. The revelation of God's word that comes to you per

time, comes with a grace component.

When you decide to do the word: you would observe that beyond your abilities, you find yourself being able to do those things. That grace is triggered by your choice to either do (obey) or don't do (disobey) the revealed word you found.

## **What Is Grace For**

As I defined in my definition above, it is to aid you to 'do'. The whole essence of knowledge is to do better than you used to. The difference between reading a doctor's prescription and studying medicine is that; you may know that smoking is bad, but the human depraved nature would not allow you to quit smoking.

However, in Christ, there is a supply of grace to do what the word talks about. A doctor knows that smoking would kill his lungs, but his education isn't enough to ward off the lust in his flesh that craves the cigarette that wants to kill him.

Generally, the more you know, the more understanding you acquire, and this improves the quality of your decisions. However, we are in a world that is laden with

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so much lust. This lust—which isn't ordinary, but spiritual—affects the ability of a man whether in Christ or outside Christ to make the right choice. But glory to God, that in Christ we have the victory.

Grace is meant to put you over where others fell. Grace doesn't give you clearance to sin, rather it empowers you to live a sin-free life. So, the more knowledge of God you have on a subject, the more grace you have at your disposal. It is a spiritual force or ability, so a man who's walking in the flesh can't function in grace.

Grace demands that you walk in the spirit to be able to engage it. So, if you have paid the price to build faith in any area of life, it means you possess grace in that area to overcome whatever challenges may await you.

However, if victory isn't your experience, then you aren't using the grace available to you, or what you have generated isn't enough.

### **Spirit and Life**

The reverse of the above is spirit and death. Words are not ordinary. Words are so important that God made the heavens and the earth by his word. Just as some

words emit spirit and life, so also some other words emit spirit and death. Jesus taught his disciples this principle in John 6:63 "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Books are written in words, this means that a book written with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit can also release spirit and life to its reader. The same can be said of a book written under the inspiration of the flesh or devils; they can release not just knowledge but also spirit and death to its readers.

This is why you must be careful with the kinds of books you read. If it's not helping you grow or adding value to your life and destiny, then it's wise not to read such books.

I have heard stories of some, who in their high inquisitiveness, took up books that aren't appropriate for believers to read, and at some point, degenerated into madness or something abnormal—they contacted a strange spirit. It is wrong to just desire any kind of spiritual knowledge.

Many have opened themselves up to devils, all in the name of knowledge. You must be mindful of the fact that there are many access routes to the spirit realm.

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However, the Holy Spirit is the legal guide and guard to take you who is a believer there. If you go into the spirit realm by any other means (spirits) you open yourself to corruption.

Just like the knowledge of God passed across to you through books carries grace; so also, the knowledge that isn't from God passed across to you through books carries in them a different kind of grace that leads to destruction.

Words empower the creative power of the mind to imagine anything to the point of reproduction—whether you are reading or listening. This calls for an intentional act of guarding your heart against words that defile.

The major gates to secure then, are your eyes, ears, and your feet

## **CHAPTER 4**

### ***Taking Notes While Reading***

Although, everyone has an opinion about taking notes while reading. I am going to share with you why it is important and why it works.

I believe the goal of reading is not to be able to say or tell others that you are a reading machine; but rather that you may gain knowledge and apply such knowledge in your daily walk with God and men to make your life better.

This is why taking notes while reading can't be excused. It may be old school, but if it works, then it's worth the stress. However, there are simpler ways of getting it done, which I have practiced that I will be sharing with you.

## **Actions Are Weighed**

God is a God that weighs our actions. (1 Samuel 2:3). What this means is that he doesn't just reward. He weighs our actions to reward us based on the actions that we take.

God doesn't speak so much and so his voice must be cherished. It is the action that you take when you hear the voice of God that proves whether you cherish that voice or not. In the Bible when men encountered God in the Old Testament.

They made a monument on the ground where they had such encounters and gave the place a name and probably built an altar there. Today, this might be different for us: what we do today is that we document our encounters.

When you don't approach a book, you want to read with the mindset of taking down certain concepts, new ideas, revelations, or insights. It is proof that you were not expecting anything from such a book. And it is an expectation that begets a manifestation. Faith needs hope: and hope is an expectation based on God's word.

If you followed chapter one you should have observed



### *Taking Notes While Reading*

that you had the reason for picking that book you want to read. So, you should come prepared to pick out the things you will find while reading that book. Failure to do this limits the encounters you should have had because God is a God that weighs your actions.

If you are like me right now you should begin to imagine how many books you have read before now and you did not take any notes from. Now, imagine having to read those books all over again to remember the things you have read before that you have forgotten.

I think that's more stressful than simply taking notes. Just thinking about it alone, is scary. It will cost you more to read a book you have read before again; instead of just taking notes when you were reading it at first. You would have had your notes to go back to when you needed to recollect a lesson you had learned.

I began that way (not taking notes) but over time I had to learn the hard way. Today, taking notes when I read a book, for me is not an option. I don't read any book today without taking adequate notes of the lessons I am learning; the insights I am seeing, and the revelations being revealed to me through the Holy Spirit from each book.

## Once and Again

When it comes to growth, no one grows all at once. We all had to eat the same food, again and again, to grow from strength to strength, and we still do today. The same principle applies to the Bible. I don't know how many times you may have read your Bible. But whatever the count may be, as long as you live we still keep reading it day by day.

The more we read with the Holy Spirit the more inspirations we keep having. There is so much depth in God that he is unsearchable. The more you think you know the more you know that you don't know much yet. This brings us to the once and again approach.

What you read yesterday you will find a different meaning for today; when it comes to the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God is shrouded in mysteries. Unlike other aspects of human learning, the word of God has proved to be deeper.

So, it takes the once and again approach to get any truth grounded to the point of understanding in one's heart. Not having this mindset makes you think you know so

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much already. Meanwhile, there is so much you are yet to understand.

Taking notes when you read gives you the advantage of an easy "once and again" approach. With this, you don't have to read the entire book again. All you need is to pick up your notes and just go through them again and again. It will save you time and energy which can be invested in either doing something else or reading other books.

The last time I went through the excerpts I had gathered from the books I have read before now, the things I saw amazed me. It was like, I had not read the contents I was reading before that time.

I was seeing entirely new things that I had not seen before and I was so blessed. With my experience, I decided that I'd have to go through all my excerpts from the books I have read again. I can tell you; that you learn when you go with the once and again approach.

## **Tools at Your Disposal**

Different tools can aid you in taking notes from the books you read easily. The ideas I want to share with

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you now are not the only ideas there are. You may know more than I'm going to share with you here. But what I want to share with you now are the things that have worked for me and many around me as well.

Before I tell you about the tools that I use let me quickly say here that I love reading books on soft copy than hard copy. This doesn't mean that I don't read books on hard copy. What I'm saying is I'll prefer to have a soft copy of a book than have a hard copy of it to read.

Why? Because I can take points or notes from my soft copy and paste them on some notepad which can aid search results or be handy anytime.

But when I read hard copy books, I only can mark out the point or lessons in the book and write notes inside the text as well. The advantages of the latter are lesser than the former.

Here are some of the tools you can use when reading a hard copy book:

- First, you need a pen which you would use to mark out the areas of interest as you read through the book. With this pen, you can write out your ideas generated from the new

### *Taking Notes While Reading*

knowledge you have found in the book. This is highly recommended.

- For some other persons, you may need a colored marker. This would do the same job the pen would have done as well. Except that you cannot write your ideas with a marker.
- You may need a book. You can use this to summarize each chapter as you read them for future reference. This provides you with something tangible to read: written in your own words for better understanding at a later date.

*Just to add this: when I read hard copy books, I go the extra mile to transcribe the underlined points and lessons to my notepad.*

Here are some tools you may need when reading a soft copybook

- First, you need a smartphone, whether it's a tablet or normal sized phone. You can also use a computer. But a phone is recommended because it's easy to move around. This is where a copy of the book is stored and can be accessed.
- Secondly, you need a book reading app that can read a wide range of book formats, such as; pdf,

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mobi, doc, epub, txt, etc. Such apps are available on whichever app store you use, whether you are an Android or iPhone user. Peradventure you are using a computer, you can also install applications that can help you read any format of books that you have. My book reading app has a voicing feature. I love this feature because while I copy a point and minimize the reader, it keeps on with my reading.

- Thirdly, you need a notepad. Or an app that can help you take notes as you read. A notepad gives you the privilege to minimize your reading app while it keeps reading, and take down some catchy points on your notepad. For me, I prefer to copy these points and use them as my summary for each book for later referencing. You must also check if the app you are using stores up your notes externally, if not you may lose all your notes when your phone is missing.

With the above tools at your disposal, you are ready to take notes while reading. And you can

## **CHAPTER 5**

### ***Be Spiritually Sensitive***

Reading a Christian book is not like reading a chemistry or philosophy text as said in the previous chapter. Instead, it is more like reading the revelations and insights received by the author of such a book, as given by the Holy Spirit. So, you will also require the help of the Holy Spirit while you read such materials to explain certain things to you.

Why is this important? It is important because these authors have written these books at their various levels of understanding and you may not be at such a level of understanding when you probably are reading.

So, the Holy Spirit helps to bring what you are reading to your specific level of understanding for that moment. You would observe now that the author writes through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and you also need to read through the Holy Spirit to have access to the revelations embedded in the book.

## **Spiritual Sensitivity**

First of all, spiritual sensitivity is a virtue that can only be expected or experienced by those who have been born of God through the water and the spirit. You should understand that it requires regeneration to have access to spiritual sensitivity before we define what it means.

To be spiritually sensitive means your spirit is alive and awake. It means to be conscious of what is happening inside of you (your spirit). It also means that you are one (in agreement) with yourself—spirit, soul, and body.

You must understand that man is spirit, soul, and body. Now the soul, which is the seat of every man's will, is a slave to either the spirit or the body. So, to be spiritually sensitive also means that your spirit is alive and awake, and in control of your soul (the seat of your will, emotions, and mind) at any given time.

What this means is that: The Holy Spirit can communicate with your spirit and your spirit communicates with your soul, to help you understand what is being said by the author.



## *Be Spiritually Sensitive*

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*According to; 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

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The man who is a believer but not spiritually sensitive cannot access the things of God. They don't make any meaning to him. Now, who is a natural man?

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*"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."  
(Romans 8:5)*

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He is someone who has his mind full of the things of the world. His mind is full of the things that his flesh lusts after. Yes! He may be a believer, but he has his affection set on the things that satisfy self rather than God.

On the other hand, the spiritual man is attracted to the things that please God. His spirit is active to hear from God. He has his mind full of the thoughts of knowing God and walking with him. It is such a man that can

glean whatever it is the Holy Spirit will be saying to him from the book he or she may be reading.

### Logos and Rhema

Logos is the written word of God. Anyone who can read is free to read what is written in the Bible. Anyone who picks up a spiritual book can read what its content is. There are moral lessons, proverbs, and stories of events all in the Bible. However, that's just the surface. Behind the written word, there is also the revealed word; called Rhema.

Rhema is the revealed word of God. God is the author of the Bible, and God is a spirit. It, therefore, means that beyond what may be physically written you will also require the help of the Holy Spirit to access or understand its spiritual content.

You will never be able to understand the Bible with just the Logos. Instead, you would have a lot of questions and misconceptions.

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*"And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the*

## *Be Spiritually Sensitive*

*parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:" (Mark 4:10-11)*

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We need God's help to break down whatsoever he has written. Now any spiritual book written by any proven Christian author is written from their encounters and revelations as given to them by the Holy Spirit.

When you read the written book, you are reading the logos of such books. Behind the logos of the book lies the Rhema of the book. Which can only be revealed to you. You must note that whatever is written in a Christian book or even the Bible was at some point a Rhema word to those who wrote them through the Holy Spirit.

However, to you, they are logos, until they are revealed to you. It will require you to be spiritually sensitive to be able to access the other side of the book because it's not physical.

This is where we are different: one man can be reading the same book and see a different thing, while another

## *12 Keys to Reading Christian Books*

man takes up the same book and perceives a different thing based on their different levels of growth and walk with God.

Why does this happen? It is because the Holy Spirit is customized to each person. As you grow so also, he grows with you. He can't teach you what he taught another man the same way, because your experiences are different.

My growth level may be different from yours, and all these factors are based on how much time I have put in, in fellowship with him. In prayers, studying the word, obeying his instructions, and all spiritually related exercises.

So, what an author writes may be shown to me in a different light based on my growth and understanding level.

What to do to improve my spiritual sensitivity before reading a book;

### **1. You Must Pray Before You Begin:**

Now that you know that each Christian Book is written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you also know that you need his help to access the

## *Be Spiritually Sensitive*

Rhema or revealed word of God in that book.

It is therefore wise to pray to the source of that book for understanding and insight. You can take whatever position is comfortable for you and talk to the Holy Spirit about that book. Below is a prayer example:

Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for helping me find this book and the grace you've made available for me to read it. I decree that the eyes of my understanding are open to see and learn about (the reason you chose to read that book) and all that you desire that I must see, even as I read this book in Jesus name. Amen!

This is very short and simple. The goal is not in the length of prayer, but rather the access granted to access the spiritual content that you need.

You don't just pick a book for the sake of reading and jump into reading it without praying. If you practice this, you will notice an improvement in the access you are granted in revelation when you read.

## 2. Fasting:

It is wonderful to read a book when you are in a fast. Fasting is starving the flesh to stuff the spirit. It is denying your body of food or fleshly pleasures to feed your spirit man with the food that it needs. The spirit is fed by the word of God.

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*"But he answered and said, It is written,  
Man shall not live by bread alone, but by  
every word that proceedeth out of the  
mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)*

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So now, you are about to read a book written by an author who was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Fasting keeps your flesh down and gets your spirit set to digest whatever revelations the Holy Spirit may want to show you through the book. Yes, you may be weak in your body most times, but the act of reading a book gives strength to your spirit to lift you.

## 3. Praying in the Holy Spirit

According to God's word, "when you pray in the spirit, your spirit prays." (1 Corinthians 14:14).

## *Be Spiritually Sensitive*

Remember we are talking about how spiritual sensitivity can help you get the best of the Holy Spirit while reading a book. You can take a break while you read and just spend some time praying in the spirit.

You can also pray in the spirit for some time before you start reading. Some books have prayer points at intervals, either within the book or at the end of each chapter. So, you can take advantage of these opportunities to stir your spirit more sensitively.

### 4. Reading in a quiet place:

The Holy Spirit wants to speak to you personally as you read a Christian book. However, being in a noisy place may prevent you from hearing his still small voice. It's not a competition or trying to let those around know you love reading.

The goal is to receive instructions and revelations to help your knowledge of God improve. Reading in a quiet place helps you hear the Holy Spirit clearly. He may begin to engage your mind with past experiences and how they relate to what you are reading at that time.

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He may also choose to speak to you directly in your heart. It is reading in a quiet place that can help you hear or sense his voice towards you, without distractions.

### 5. Pause to Meditate

As you read a Christian book, there may be certain things that will come at you, as if you were just seeing them for the first time. It is wise at this point to pause and meditate (think upon these things).

What they mean, and how they relate to your life. Ask yourself questions about them. Remember, the Holy Spirit has an emphasis he desires to lead you into. It may not be the entire book.

Asking questions will help the Holy Spirit bring perspective to you about such things at that time. So, watch out for such moments while you read, then pause to properly get a grip on that insight or revelation by thinking about it for some time.



## **CHAPTER 6**

### ***Meditating As You Read***

This subject is an immediate continuum of the previous chapter that ended with taking breaks to meditate while you read a Christian book. The goal is to spend time thinking, and engaging your mind (soul), and your spiritual mind (spirit) with the things you have learned from the book you just read.

This is to get these things rooted into your heart—away from the surface. You cannot keep reading and ponder on what you are reading at the same time. So, you can do this while taking breaks as you read.

Or when you are done reading, you read through the summary you had taken down while reading, either through highlighted notes on a hard copy book or those you drew out using the method I discussed earlier in chapter four.

## **Steps to Pondering on Lessons Learnt**

Pondering is another word for meditation. It is to help you squeeze out the juice: bring out the meaning from what you have learned. This will help you understand what you have read better.

How can this be achieved?

Pondering or meditation is best achieved when you ask yourself questions. Such as;

1. What have I learned from this book or this chapter?

With this question in your mind, it will help you recollect what you have read. And pick out the things that are important to you. The book may contain a lot, but when it is read by you, your heart will only pick the things regarding you and the Holy Spirit at that time. This question will begin to help you appraise your life in comparison to what you have learned that is new and can add value to your living. This is how your mind works together with the Holy Spirit to help you bring out these points.

2. How does this affect me?

## *Meditating As You Read*

The lessons you have learned, how do they affect you in the past, present, and future? Are you guilty as charged by the lesson? Are you currently doing well? Or can you do better? What efforts can you put into what you have learned to add more value to yourself?

Answering these questions will help you take steps moving forward; helping you see your weak areas, which require adequate improvement.

These are some of the questions, you can ask yourself while pondering to help you see what the Holy Spirit is saying to you at that moment.

## **From Your Mind to Your Spirit**

Until any truth journeys from your mind to your spirit, it doesn't form a way of life for the believer. It may interest you to know that the primary assignment of the believer is to get the word of God from the Bible into his mind and from his mind into his spirit. This is only possible through meditation or pondering upon the word.

When the word of God on any subject gets into your

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spirit, then your faith (the substance of the things you had hope for) is formed for it. This makes getting the word from your head to your mind, and from your mind to your spirit the greatest challenge for the believer. This process is called **UNDERSTANDING**.

Jesus while explaining the parable of the sower, said, ***"Those who understood the word produced fruits from it."*** (Matthew 13:23). The proof that a word has entered your spirit is shown in your ability to produce fruits from it. If you cannot produce or reproduce what the Word talks about, then it is yet to get into your spirit.

E.g. A man may have been under lots of sermons about giving, but is still not a giver. But when the understanding of what giving entails gets into his spirit, you will not be required to tell him about giving. He will naturally give.

It is at this point of understanding that you can say, "I see." You don't see, not until the word enters your spirit.

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*From (Habakkuk 2:1) "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will*

*watch to see what he will say unto me..."*

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The prophet said he was going to watch what the Lord will say, meanwhile he was supposed to hear. You hear what people say, but when you can see what they have said, understanding has been gained.

Until the word journeys from your mind to your spirit, understanding doesn't dawn on you. This is why we read the Bible again and again: and even why we read the books of those who have obtained rewards for those things that we seek. So, we can gain sight from what they have seen already.

The process of getting God's word from our mind into our spirit is through what is called **MEDITATION** or **PONDERING** upon the word—to think upon the word until you see what God is saying to you.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### ***Develop Your Action Plans***

Action points are the specific things you have found that you need from the book you have read. On the other hand, action plans are how you must go about effecting these points into your life.

So that you can apply the lesson you have learned from the book you have read. It is not just a vague step you memorize; rather you must pen down and plan out.

#### **Write it down**

Whatever you cannot write down you will not practice. It is not enough to have it in your mind. If you don't write it down, you may start practicing it for some time but will lose it shortly.

Writing is very important. You aren't just writing for the sake of it, writing allows you to see and count its cost.

### *Develop Your Action Plans*

When you write, you then have the opportunity to see and evaluate what you've written with questions such as:

- Is this point possible for me?
- How can I get this done?

These thoughts lead to the next phase of planning. This plan as well shouldn't be in any case done in your mind. You must write it down. Whatever you cannot write down you will not do. And what you don't do cannot change your life.

Whatever you don't write down, you will forget. If you don't write down your action points, you will forget them with time. The same goes for your action plans as well. There are probably certain characteristics you should have imbibed by now, but because you never did take them down or plan on them, you couldn't work on them.

God made the mind to temporarily not remember everything at once. They may be in your subconscious mind, but because you don't have an immediate need or use for them, you may not remember them.

Using paper and a pen will help you remember anything

at any time. And today you may not need paper and a pen. If these items are not available, you can write on your notepad as I have explained earlier. Whether at the end of your book summary—on your notepad or on a book reserved for that purpose. Write a subheading—Action point. Then put them down. And another subheading—Action plan and plan their execution out.

You must write them down because whatever you don't write down you can't use. Whatever you don't write down, you will forget, and whatever you forget, you can't apply. Writing is so important that you can use it to appraise yourself after some time on your progress with whatever plans you decided to engage in.

### **What Must I Change**

This refers to your action points: how to create action points from a book you've read. Your action point must be based on the change you desire to see in your life, based on the new knowledge you just acquired.

Let's say you just read about building your faith: what are the things you must begin to do now that you weren't doing before? Whatever you identify as what



## *Develop Your Action Plans*

you must begin to do, as learned from the book you've read, form your action points.

Another thing to note is, that listing a long list of points may scare you away from trying to plan and working on them. However, the length of your list notwithstanding you must take them one step at a time. With this, you'll find that you are at ease to practice these changes gradually as your plan will allow you.

### **What Must I Do**

So, you have identified what you must change, how do you go about effectively, enforcing these changes to your life as simple as possible? This answers the question of planning your action point. It involves breaking down your action points into practicable steps and routines.

Let's say one of your action points is to pray consistently. How do you plan this, into your daily routine, such that it is doable? Planning involves thinking, questioning, and getting the best resolve.

Questions like this will come up; when did I pray before? Do I have prayer time? What hindered me from praying

consistently? That is if you have tried before. Answering these questions will help you plan your new prayer life.

## **How to Make It Work**

Now that you have action points and your points are well planned out, it doesn't end there. You have probably at some time planned to do certain things that were never done. Walking in the spirit goes beyond just planning. There's more to making your new plans work.

### **1. Make up your mind**

If your mind is not made, then you already fell before you began. Every great feat begins in the mind. If you lose it in there, you will lose it on the outside. Are you serious about changing your life on that subject? If you are, you must be determined to practice what you have planned, it is your determination that will keep you from giving up.

I must say that it's not against God's word to miss it at the beginning, but your determination picks

## *Develop Your Action Plans*

you up to begin again. Remember, you are just getting started. Greatness is not the absence of mistakes at some point. It is what your mind is made up to achieve that counts.

### 2. Pray on Your Action Plans

I mentioned somewhere earlier that walking in the spirit goes beyond planning and also a determination of heart—even though they are very important. You need the help of the Holy Spirit to live the life of Christ which you have made up your mind to live. And how do you get the Holy Spirit's help? By asking him for it and in prayer.

You must take up your action plan and ask the Holy Spirit to help you run with them as you have determined in your heart. Man is a bundle of infirmity—weaknesses. Purposely made by God, so we must need his help.

This was how Daniel survived in Babylon. In the first chapter of Daniel, we saw that he purposed in his heart not to eat the king's meat.

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*"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore, he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)*

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This was the first point I raised. But then it is also written that flesh and blood cannot please God. That is why we require the help of God's Spirit. In a later chapter of the book of Daniel, you'll learn that Daniel kept a very demanding prayer life, despite his routine. This was how he survived the iniquity of Babylon.

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*"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." (Daniel 6:10)*

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## *Develop Your Action Plans*

All your points and plans need the help of God's Spirit. With humility, you go to God and say;

*"Lord I have learned what you've allowed me to see through the book I have read. And I desire to apply these principles I have outlined in this book. I need your help, and I receive it by your Holy Spirit in me. Therefore, I am strengthened to do all that I have made up my mind to do, that my profiting may appear to all, in Jesus name. Amen!"*

We are creatures of limitations without a connection to our source, God made it so. It's either you depend on the Holy Spirit or a demonic spirit. So, you must prayerfully commit whatever plans you have made for effecting a change in your life to God.

## **Engage an Accountability Partner**

Let's say you want to pray more than you used to. If you are married, you can inform your wife of your new plans, and tell her to be your accountability partner, as I have mentioned earlier in this book. If you are single,

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am sure you must have a godly friend you can ask to be your accountability partner.

Why is this important? This principle comes from the scripture, which says;

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*"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12)*

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So, when you involve a third party after asking for the Lord's help, it breaks the yoke of secrecy. Whereas you could stop your planned action because you alone knew about it.

When you have an accountability partner, he or she holds you responsible and accountable for your words, and so you are encouraged to do whatever it is you have planned in the first place.

This is going a step further to encourage you. It is difficult to un-tell whomever you have told to not remind you anymore—it keeps you going.

## **CHAPTER 8**

### ***Speaking Your Action***

You just learned in the previous chapter to pen down your action points and plans, and some steps to making you work them out practically. Now, this chapter follows directly with another step to making your action plan work—turn them into confessions of faith.

Speaking your actions is obeying the second law of faith. You believe in your heart and you confess what you have believed in your heart with your mouth.

To confess means to acknowledge faith in, or to profess belief in. Whatever you confess, you acknowledge faith in: even though it may not stick to your mind immediately, it goes to your subconscious mind.

The same with the words you hear. Even though it may seem like you weren't listening or what was said had no connections with you. They are recorded in your subconscious mind.

When for example you keep telling yourself; "I cannot fail" what happens is your mind picks it up, and tend to program you with that mindset. Such that when you want to take steps that may cause you to fail, such as being lazy to work, it acts as your reminder of the things you had said about not being a failure. If you tell yourself; **"I'm a winner"** your mind also gradually picks it up to guide you through the path of winning.

When you turn your action points and plans into confessions of faith, even though these things are new to you, you are indirectly programming your mind to accept them. And as you take steps to practice them, your mind gradually lives in the reality of the things it has received from your confessions.

### **If You Can't Say It—You Don't Believe It**

Whatever you can't say or confess is proof that you don't believe. Confession is the first proof of believing. According to scriptural principles whatever you claim you believe in your heart you must confess with your mouth. (Romans 10:10).

If you believe it in your heart, you will confess it with



## *Speaking Your Action*

your mouth. The proof that you believe anything is that you can say it. If you cannot confess your action points, for example; "I'll pray every Thursday at 3 pm or I'll fast every Friday" it means you don't believe it.

The opposite of faith is fear. When you can't confess what you have made up your mind to do, it means you are afraid you won't do them. Which automatically causes you to lose the battle in your mind.

However, when you keep confessing your action plans, you may miss it sometimes at the beginning, but don't stop. The goal here is, that you want to do them. You have made up your mind, you have prayed about them, and now you are confessing them to yourself to have your entire being (spirit, soul, and body) accept this new life you want to live.

If it's a wrong habit you are working to quit, every part of your being keeps hearing you say, for example; "I am not a liar, therefore I don't tell lies again." when next that urge comes to tell a lie, you will observe a strong resistance against it, which will leave you to either tell a lie or choose to tell the truth.

## **Speak to Yourself According to God's Word**

Now, this is important to note, that turning your action points and plans into a confession of faith isn't just about saying or confessing things. No! It is about speaking to yourself. Your body can hear you, your mind can hear you, and so also your spirit.

Unlike other confession exercises which most people engage in to motivate themselves to do something, this is different. Confessing your action points or plans isn't trying to motivate yourself. You are working to enforce a change within you, which will in time show forth outwardly.

And nothing changes a man like the word of God. Your confession of faith (action point and plans) must be based on God's word.

Taking my earlier example of working to quit lying, you can say to yourself, "I don't lie anymore for in me is the Spirit of truth, which is the Holy Spirit of God. The devil is the father of lies and I am a child of God; therefore, I won't lie anymore."

You are talking to yourself, and doing this by the word of God; which is alive and sharper than any two-edged

## *Speaking Your Action*

sword. The word can build you up into what you weren't used to before. It can change you.

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*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit..." (Hebrews 4:12)*

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This is what I mean by speaking your action points and plans to yourself based on God's word. If it's not in the Word, it cannot bring lasting change to your life. And this is what makes it different from speaking to motivate yourself. Because the word of God has much power to effect whatever change you desire to see.

You can keep saying, "I am a winner." but how? What proof do you have to challenge the devil with on that confession? Add the word to it, "I am a winner because I am born of God. For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world." That's how to do it! Your confessions must be rooted and grounded in God's word. That's where the power is.

## Get Scriptures in Line with Your Action Points

What makes your confessions filled with Bible-based expectations, is the word of God you have contacted about such issue(s). So, it's your responsibility to get scriptures on such subjects.

Sometimes, you may have them from the book you have read. That is, the author adds them to support his message. So, you can use them and more as you can lay your hands on them.

This is where your scriptural versatility will come in handy. You must be a student of the word of God. We don't read the Bible because it's a religious activity you must keep. Rather you do it to get your heart flooded with the word of God for use anytime.

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*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." (Colossians 3:16)*

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The word is meant to be in your heart. The sword of the spirit is God's word, but unlike the physical sword you hold with your hands, this is rather held and released through the mouth.

*"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword,  
that with it he should smite the nations..."*

*(Revelation 19:15)*

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However, perhaps, you are a believer and are yet to have read the Bible so much. You can ask a godly friend who has learned more of God's word about what scriptures you can use on certain subjects.

There are scriptures on every human subject. There are also scriptures about everything you may be going through now. So, if you can't find them for yourself, ask someone about it. You should have such people or friends if you attend a Bible-believing and practicing church.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### ***Act Now***

God is a God of the now; even though he is the God of the past, present, and future. The future is yet to come, so he is in the now. Therefore, if you are learning about all of this now, the best time to act on them is NOW.

The kind of action we are referring to is a response to whatsoever you have learned. A corresponding response, not a negative action.

### **Faith without Works Is Dead**

You have paid the price to read a great book. You have followed all the steps I have outlined in this book up until now. Yet if you will not move in line with what it is you have learned or have planned to do, then you have created a loophole in the cycle of bringing the change you desire in your life to reality.

## *Act Now*

I gave an example in the previous chapter about being a winner. Now, what are the steps a winner must take? Depending on what it is you desire to win at; but whatever it is, laziness can't be part of it, nor procrastination.

Winning entails that you must work, you must be diligent with your assignment. If commitment isn't part of your plan and action to win, then you may have just wasted all the other steps you took to get here.

So, it's like a cycle of different steps, all contributing to the end product. Missing anyone may abort the entire process. Faith, even though it begins from your heart, with a confession from your mouth, requires certain corresponding actions as allocated by God to different subject matters about your life to produce its effect.

So also, whatever it may be that you have read and you desire to appropriate into your life, character, and growth, you must take action and take it now. All the action points you put down, yes! Faith demands that you engage them now.

## **Strike While the Iron Is Hot**

Every time you learn a new thing, faith is developed in your heart to respond to what you have learned immediately. However, if you delay in responding immediately, the faith that was developed in your heart will wane (will reduce in its driving force to produce its effects).

Faith can die, that is: you will lose the faith you generated from that book to engage in the actions necessary for your change of story.

For example, you have written certain action points (these are the areas of your life that require change), and then you've turned them into plans (this is how you are going to get these things done) on how to engage them.

The Faith you need to kick into action is in you already. If you don't start applying yourself to those plans after three days, after one week; the faith you generated from the book you've read will diminish or wear off. So, you'll lose the strength or force to engage them.

It is important to strike now, while the iron is hot. The blacksmith doesn't wait to let the iron cool off before



## Act Now

he strikes. If he does, he would have wasted the heat generated from his oven.

Take that action now, don't wait until tomorrow. You must do such things that you must do now. You should act now and miss certain things than allow the faith you have mustered to waste (that is do nothing at all).

It is better you start now and improve on your actions as you go on, or do little now and improve on the little you've done, than to wait until the perfect time or when you have all your needs supplied.

In my little experience, I have learned that whatever God wants you to do, you may not have all you need at hand before you act. But you must start from where you are now. You've learned that you need to add fasting to your Christian walk. Don't postpone it to next month, fix a day for it now, and engage it while the iron is hot.

***"I am fasting on Tuesday till 3 pm. I have not done this before but I am taking action now."***

You have taken a step. You do it again next week, and follow it up in the upper week. You'll find that there's been grace all this while to wait on the Lord in a fast. As time goes on, you can then increase it to twice a week

or a full day fast. But what's important is to strike now—act now.

If you wait till next month like your flesh wants you to, you'll find that next month you'll have no faith anymore to engage as you would have if you engaged immediately when you got the knowledge from the book you read.

The rule is, don't wait until you have grown to take the action. Take the action and then grow on it.

### **Procrastination**

Procrastination is saying you would do tomorrow, what you can do today. And every time you push into tomorrow what you can do today, what you should have done tomorrow will get pushed into the future. What this means is that you keep denying yourself the value of your time.

Time is of the essence, time is your life, and it is of great value. If you must maximize your time, you must quit procrastination. Whatever seeks to steal your time is an enemy you shouldn't take lightly—speaking of procrastination. It is an enemy of time.

## *Act Now*

If you must have to change what your environment feels like to enable you to quit procrastinating the actions you should take for the lessons you are learning, please by all means do it.

If you need to call your accountability partner now to help you be accountable for an action you desire to take, do it now. If you need to discomfort yourself to escape procrastinating the actions you have planned to take, please do it by all means.

It is just for a while. If you need to pray seriously about that wrong habit, please do. Procrastination is a destroyer of destiny.

Procrastination kills, it'll deny you of your time, or your future, so that when you should have become a helper to others just joining the faith in their Christian walk, you are not anywhere yet on your own. You should have fasted enough to teach someone how to make the most of fasting.

You should have grown in prayer to intercede for others now. But you are still seeking God for things, and having others turn you to a prayer project.

You should have known the word of God so much by

## *12 Keys to Reading Christian Books*

now, but you kept postponing your study time with the Holy Spirit. It will rob you of the future you should have. When you should have been settled in most spiritual virtues, principles, and physical needs, you find that you aren't there yet, because you enjoyed procrastinating the needful.

It is so dangerous, that it is an enemy of faith. Remember in the previous subheading; when you leave striking now, faith wanes. So, procrastination kills dreams, it renders vision useless.

You think you'd do it tomorrow, but the goal of procrastination is to make you never get it done. It will kill the dreams of God in your heart. For when the faith to carry out an action dies, it will take a supernatural supply of the grace of God to go back to such things.

You never know what you are worth, not until you put commitment into that action plan now. Imagine you had engaged commitment in all that you had learned from the books you have read before now—that is if you read books before now.

That's the only way you'll know how much you should have grown through commitment.

### *Act Now*

So, do it now! Yes, you've not done it before, but you have learned that it is possible from that book you read. So, take a step of faith, do it now—quit procrastination.

## CHAPTER 10

### *Why You Should Share*

There are so many wonderful promises in the Bible for those who give willingly. Such as;

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*"The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he  
that watereth shall be watered also  
himself." (Proverbs 11:25)*

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One may ask, how does sharing relate to the promises of giving and receiving? Now to share is a whole lot. After dedicating your time to read a book which I can say is demanding. Then you have to share the profits with someone who hasn't given himself to reading?

Well not necessarily. It does not have to be someone who doesn't read, but rather the goal is to have someone with a listening ear, who loves to learn too.

Sharing connotes giving to others. It is a hidden

## Why You Should Share

platform to gain more. I have heard this statement that,

*"if you have a great idea and can't explain  
it to a 5 years old kid, you don't understand  
it."*

Understanding is like the digestion process. With sharing you want to be sure that you've understood whatsoever it is you have learned from the book you've read. As you endeavor to share your insights, you'll be sure that you've understood them.

Apart from understanding what you've read, there are spiritual benefits of sharing I'll like you to see.

## Other Side of the Coin

Something happens when you share knowledge with others. When you read a book, everything about the book you have just read is explained to you, based on the level of revelation you have at that moment by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not show you depths beyond what you can handle or your mind can carry.

If he does, it will all just be a waste, because you aren't going to understand it anyway. This is where Jesus would say to his disciples, ***"there are many things I can***

***share with you, but you can't handle them now."***  
***(Emphasis added John 16:12).***

The Holy Spirit is not trying to prove a point to you that he is God. So, as you learn, he uses your current level of revelation to interpret things for you per time.

Now, I have said all of that to say this, when you share your knowledge from reading with others of like minds who are also striving to grow and develop their knowledge too, they have different experiences from you.

This gives the Holy Spirit another opportunity to interpret the things you are sharing with them differently through their revelation of God and diverse experiences.

What happens is, when you engage them with such conversations: apart from adding to their knowledge, they help you see the lessons learned in different ways. Which helps establish the reality of the knowledge gained in your heart. Remember it says in the scriptures:

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*"...In the mouth of two or three witnesses*



## **Why You Should Share**

*shall every word be established." (2  
Corinthians 13:1)*

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There is the other side of the coin you can't see because your experiences are limited to you. In my experience, I can say you'll gain more than they will have to gain from your sharing with them. Because while engaging in this process of sharing, your understanding blossoms.

As you share your part, they also share what it is they understand, and then you add up their side of the coin to your side of the coin. You'll observe that you increase in understanding. This will happen with as many like-minded persons as you engage in sharing with.

## **Giving Begets Receiving**

As I mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, how that sharing may seem unfair to you from your senses. However, it's a kingdom principle. You don't receive to give, instead, you give to receive. What does this mean? Your increase lies in your ability to both gather and disperse.

I have observed that I love to share the things I learn

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when I read books or the Bible or listen to messages with others. I believe this character is the working of the love of God in me. Now beyond my expecting to learn from those I share with.

I have observed that while I share, there are certain things that I never presumed to say that I add when am speaking. The Holy Spirit just talks through me that I learn something new, that I never knew before.

One thing about spiritual things is, that you may hear certain things several times, but you haven't still been able to grasp all that there is in the same subject of learning. Not until it dawns on your heart, is your spirit yet to receive the revelation nutrient or insight embedded in them. So, when you share, it is a very good opportunity for you to understand the things you are sharing.

Knowledge is different from understanding. That you are sharing something doesn't mean that you understand it. So, for me, many times while I share with my brethren, some things I have learned, certain new light just comes. I suddenly understand what I am sharing better than I used to.

Giving precedes receiving. The Holy Spirit will bless you

## *Why You Should Share*

with more insight for always seeking to share his revealed truths with others. So, this is pretty simple, if you want more understanding, share more of the things you have learned with others. You can see this truth from this scripture:

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*"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." (Proverbs 11:24)*

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If you keep holding back, you'll only keep what you know. And not give room to the Holy Spirit to bless you with higher levels of understanding. The natural man is self-driven. He is selfish, so he thinks holding back gives him more leverage over others.

Here's what happens, the Holy Spirit will keep certain things from you. There are many things the Lord has taught me, which I never read in books. I may not be writing on giving, but it's a virtue you must learn. Learn to give what you read. And allow the Holy Spirit to multiply those things back to you.

The most gruesome implication of withholding more

than is necessary to withhold is that you'll end up losing most of the things you've learned.

## **How to Share**

Different methods come in handy with this subject. However, I have laid the principle, so you can ask the Holy Spirit to show or teach you what will be more applicable where you are.

Below are some of the few platforms you can use for sharing:

1. Family Setting

As a family, you can have a reading and sharing time set up, when you can all come together to discuss lessons from reading books or even the Bible. This will enhance your growth and relationship together as a family.

2. Peer Group

If you have a group of friends that have an interest in reading. You can have a set time when you come together either physically or online to share with yourselves what you learn from the

### *Why You Should Share*

books you read. You may decide to read the same book or different books on one subject. Whatever the case is, it is wise to read either the same subject or the same book for uniform growth.

### 3. Book Reading Groups

I belong to such a group as this. We review a book or two every month. Our review days are Fridays of every week. It's been fun and wonderful to have to commit to it. It keeps me reading every week and every month. We use a social media platform to communicate and it has been working thus far.

There are many such social media groups you can join and commit yourself to be a part of. Make inquiries, and search for them online or on social media handles like Telegram and Facebook. This is not compulsory but can help you keep up with your reading habit.

## CHAPTER 11

### *Read Again and Again*

There are many things I have personally labored to understand in the faith, which I am yet to fully come to the knowledge of. I may have read more than one book on that subject, but I am yet to fully produce the effects of such understanding.

Jesus taught in the parable of the sower, that those who understood the word, produced 30, 60, and 100 out of the word they understood.

What this means is, that your level of understanding of any subject of faith determines what you can produce from it. Whether it's 30%, 60%, or 100%. The proof that you have mastered any subject of God's word is that you can produce it, and reproduce it again if necessary.

So, let's say, I have read three books on the subject of faith, but I am yet to produce the results of faith to the degree of 100%; what then? Do I then stop reading or

## *Read Again And Again*

learning? Do I assume that I know everything about faith now? Do I give up? Not at all!

If you cannot produce it, then you have not mastered it, and the more reason you have to read again and again. There's something you are yet to find out.

You may choose to read books from different authors on the same subject or you can choose to read the same book again and again. If you have followed this book until now, you can choose to read the excerpts you collected while reading—that's what I do. Whatever it is, the goal is to be able to produce the word in your life.

It is a kingdom principle, "the again and again effect." The Lord looks at your desperate attitude toward what you are seeking, to open up more insights to you. It may be that when you read it at first, your heart could only pick things faintly, then with the second touch, things open up perfectly.

You would observe this mystery when Jesus healed a blind man in the scriptures;

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*"And he took the blind man by the hand,  
and led him out of the town; and when he*

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*had spit on his eyes and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that, he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly." (Mark 8:23-25)*

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How then do you go about practicing this process, to the point that you make the most of it.?

### Faith Comes by Continuous Hearing

Yes! The faith to get healed didn't come through the first book you read. But it's not a waste. You have added to your knowledge through the examples and realities shared from it. Then you pick up another book on healing, and while reading with the Holy Spirit, suddenly he opens up your eyes to see a revelation you have never seen about healing; and straight away you engage it to receive healing.

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*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans*



Faith has an inherent nature of its own to come to anyone who gives himself to God's word. It may not be on the first approach but God's word never fails. The above scripture talks about two hearings. The more you give to either reading, studying, or listening to God's words, your understanding is being enlarged to produce.

This is why in Jesus's parable of the sower, those who understood the word produced at different levels. (Matthew 13:23). As you receive faith and apply it, it grows—the same with your understanding. Understanding doesn't come at once.

When you give yourself more to listening, reading, and learning, a time comes when on that subject of faith, you've given yourself to, you'll come into rest from labor—this is that 100—fold measure.

Each level of understanding: that is, the 30, 60, and 100-fold measure of faith is developed. No one just gets to any level without the basic process of hearing the word and practicing it. Why the reading, "again and again," measure is most important with the previous

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instructions of taking notes while you read, is because as you read widely, your knowledge increases.

Then when you pick up an excerpt from a book you've read before, you will observe that what you thought you learned will seem new. Why? This is because you were at a lower place of knowledge and understanding when you read the book. And now because you have understood some more things, your insight increases.

It will take your conscious time and effort to read again and again to move from the 0 - 30 level of understanding. And am sure this shouldn't be enough, so you keep at it—I mean reading.

Then you move from 30 - 60, but you aren't at rest yet, but 60 is good. If you can pay the price to continue, God isn't tired of rewarding you with brighter light to take you from 60 - 100 fold. A scripture comes to mind:

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*"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

---

## *Read Again And Again*

We keep growing from glory to glory in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. You'll move from just learning to the point where you teach others to become the things you have learned to become in Christ. How wonderful!

### **A Desire for More**

Desire talks about how much you want something. And in the kingdom of God, we pay for the spiritual substances mostly by our desire. Another word for it is thirst: you have a great desire in your heart for a thing, that you are willing to go the extra mile for it.

If you don't have a desire to change the level of your understanding, it will be difficult to read again and again. It is the desire to produce the evidence of scriptures that keeps your heart panting for more understanding. A man without desire can say he is tired or has come a long way or that he knows enough. But scriptures warn us against such a mindset;

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*"And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he*

*ought to know." (1 Corinthians 8:2)*

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So, the Holy Spirit as long as you give him access and have an open mind to learn keeps stirring your heart with the desire for an ever-increasing depth of knowledge in God.

## **The Word Is New Every Day**

There are two animals in the scriptures, used to either represent God or Man. They are the Lion and the Eagle. These animals among their various characteristics have one thing in common: they don't feed on dead meat, but rather on fresh meat.

In the Old Testament, when God fed his people in the wilderness, he instructed them to only take the manna enough for one day, as he rained fresh manna for them each day. Except for the day before the Sabbath when they had to take enough for two days. That symbolism of manna above is God's word.

There is always a fresh word from heaven each day for you as well as for every individual. It doesn't matter if you are reading the same book, a dose of fresh insight

### *Read Again And Again*

is always available for you. I have been reading my Bible for quite some time, and the more I do, I keep finding things I never had found previously.

Like I have said before in previous chapters, the Holy Spirit unveils mysteries to us based on our level of understanding per time. Except you aren't growing in understanding; if you are, then there are new insights that the Holy Spirit can't withhold from you anymore because your ability to understand them is available.

The word of God which produces faith is new every day. The Holy Spirit probably has something he didn't bring to you emphatically the last time you read it, so as you read again, new interests are generated that your heart can perceive and believe to empower you for better understanding.

There is no limit to the understanding a man can have in God's word. The more you've seen, the more there is, that you are yet to see. The knowledge of God is past finding out, our minds can't harness all of it. This should create a room in you for more. And as long as you consistently come with an open heart to learn, you'll always receive more understanding.

## Come with an Open Heart

God sees your heart. That's where he looks at; for while men look at appearances, he looks beyond that. Many persons approach God's word or books that they read with the notion that they already know so much.

With such a mindset, I'm afraid you'll miss out on so much, even though you read. No teacher that I know will be willing to teach you with a posture that depicts that you already know what's going to be taught to you—let alone the Holy Spirit.

So, you need meekness to learn, and meekness is a fruit of the born-again human spirit.

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*"The meek will he guide in judgment: and  
the meek will he teach his way." (Psalms  
25:9)*

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There is no point in reading a book without meekness, you most probably wouldn't gain anything from it. The Holy Spirit will only teach the meek. You must be a student, who is willing to go to school and sit down to learn from the Holy Spirit. You can't be a student and expect to be taught when you sit at home when others

are in school.

That you see open revelations and can interpret dreams, doesn't make you a master of all things. That you have wisdom in one area doesn't mean you have mastered all areas of human endeavors in wisdom.

Peter had to learn through perception for the first time, that God has no respect for persons in Cornelius's house. If he didn't go there his vision at Joppa would have been meaningless.

Some people say they love to read for the fun of it. Well, there are many fun books to read, such as; comics, science-fiction, and more. There is no point picking a Christian book with the notion of having fun as your predefined goal for reading it.

That will be a waste of time. You need your heart as well as your mind, will, and emotions to access the mysteries in any Christian book.

That you have read this book to this point shows that you are willing to really learn, and not just reading for the fun of it—fun wouldn't get you this far. And I'm sure you must have observed that this wasn't any fun—learning generally isn't. And I pray that the grace for

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meekness will continue to increase in your life.



## **CHAPTER 12**

### ***Diligence: The Mystery and Mastery***

Having got here, you must have learned most of the keys you must engage to make the most of every Christian book you read, including the Bible. The principles I have shared in this book, if learned and practiced can help you gain access to wisdom from God's word too. However, there is one more principle to go—diligence.

Diligence on its own refers to the ability to be constant, to persevere in an assignment, to stay on course without wavering. To stay with the same attitude you began with, through the middle and up until the end of a set goal or assignment. It is also the ability to stay consistent.

## **What Is the Mystery of Diligence**

As it pertains to spiritual things: diligence is how you produce whatever the word talks about. It proves the depth of your faith in whatever you have found and believed. You may have begun to take steps as proof that you believe what you found from reading, but without diligence, you'll never become them.

A mystery on the other hand is something not common to all. It is hidden from many. The mystery therefore of diligence talks about the benefits of diligence in your general Christian walk with God and in reading Christian books.

Now that you have read this book, you have taken down some action points, and later, you can put them together into plans. Then you engage in the confession routines. You may also have found a sharing partner, and made plans to read again and again.

All of these put together, you must imbibe and embrace the principle of diligence because that's the only way whatsoever you have learned will show up in your life.

Paul's letter to Timothy in the scriptures points to this same reality;

*"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." (1 Timothy 4:15)*

---

Here, Paul says to Timothy, you are going to profit from all I have said to you to the degree that you give yourself wholly or completely to them. This is what makes diligence a mystery hidden from many. You never know how great you would have become, not until you stay on those things you have learned and keep doing them until they manifest in your life.

It doesn't matter if it seems not to be working or probably the signs aren't revealing themselves yet. You will never find out if it would have worked without passing the test of diligence. So many are in a hurry, they can't stay on one thing for some time. They are so anxious that they miss out on the best God has for them. Meanwhile, diligence proves your faith, it validates your belief.

## **The Mastery of Diligence**

It takes time to master diligence. Diligence on its own

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requires mastery; it doesn't just happen. It will require you to be patient with yourself and the learning process. Even God is not in a hurry with you, he is patient as well.

Often than not you may begin to practice what it is you have made up your mind to change through your learning. However, you may miss it, or find no zeal to engage in them anymore.

But then you don't give up, because you have a goal in mind. What's that goal? You want to become what the word talks about in that particular area of life. How else will it happen? Only through diligence.

You have missed it, yes you have, you broke the routine, and yes you did. But what's different now? You understand that it takes time. It takes time to master diligence, it takes time coupled with patience to master doing a thing consistently.

First, the flesh wants to rebel against whatsoever it isn't already used to. The flesh wants the convenience it used to enjoy. The flesh wants to rebel against the glory of God in you. And so sometimes you are weak in yourself but thank God for the help we have in the Holy Spirit.

## *Diligence: The Mystery And Mastery*

So, you don't stop because you missed it; No! You don't give up because it's getting difficult; No! What you do is continue. You said you were going to keep up a prayer routine, and then something happened that you missed it—continue.

You said you were going to keep up your word reading or study routine, and then it's a week now and you haven't done it again, don't give up—continue. To master diligence, you must always rise again, and again, against all odds. The Bible says;

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*"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again..." (Proverbs 24:16)*

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To master diligence, you must take advantage of the liberty you have in Christ to rise again and again to do the word of God until you master it. In following the instructions, you have received by faith from that book you've read, you must rise as often as you miss it until you master diligence.

## Setting A Hope Before You

The Lord knows that as men, we may not be willing to go all the way, especially if we are comfortable with what we may have achieved. However, Jesus got to the cross and endured the shame and pain not because he was immune to them, but because he had help and also a hope set before him.

---

*"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)*

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This right here, I mean above, is the power of a set hope. Jesus had a hope that is described in this scripture as joy. If you do not have a hope set ahead, you might as well not continue or exercise diligence. Without the joy Jesus had set before him, he might as well have given up before the cross experience.

So, when it looks like, it's just too difficult to pull through a new activity for so long, your set hope keeps you diligent. When you remember that the Word works

and that all you have to do is get the word into your spirit, you'll endure waking up early.

When you look forward to the hope of being anointed with God's power; and all the benefits you'll enjoy, you'll be encouraged. When you truly find the enormous ease at which things answer to you, you'll despise the pain of praying and fasting when it's inconvenient.

A time comes that in your diligence, through the hope set before you that you'll find grace so available to do those things that had seemed so difficult at first. You begin to latch on to the grace of God to become what was impossible for you to become.

Most often than not, the grace doesn't come before you begin, instead, it meets you there. When it seemed, you couldn't go any longer and then all of a sudden, you find out you've prayed for two hours beyond what you've ever done.

However great your desire or goal is, it is your hope or expectation or the joy set before you that steady's your feet in diligence until you can master it by the grace of God to become what the Word talks about.

## **Grace is Available to You**

Grace is available to you through the finished works of Christ. As defined in an earlier chapter, "Grace is an innate or indwelling spiritual ability, supplied from the throne of Christ (through his finished work) to the life of a believer, as an aid to living the victorious life of Christ."

Jesus on the mission to the cross saw the suffering ahead, and sought the Father's permission to let it pass over him. But something happened as he prayed. He found out that he had to carry out the gruesome task.

At the end of his continuous prayers, an angel was sent to minister to him. (Luke 22:43). There are two mediums through which the release of grace is possible for the believer. The first is through knowledge and the second is through prayers. (1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 4:16). There is a point to which knowledge can take you because we are at this time carrying 'flesh.'

This is where the empowerment of God is inevitably important. Which can be derived as we behold him in prayers. He'll show up to empower you to stay diligent on that goal or hope you have set.



## *Diligence: The Mystery And Mastery*

I have said previously that when you choose to continue, you give God the go-ahead to supply the grace for the journey. It was Paul who showed us how he was able to continue, despite all the persecutions he faced.

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*Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue to this day, witnessing both to small and great... (Acts 26:22)*

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He had obtained help from God, that's grace. Grace is available to you for mastering diligence. All you need is just to receive it.

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*...much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (Roman 5:17)*

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This is what you do when it seems you can go any further—receive grace.

## You Are Born of God

If you are born again, then you are born of God. Why is this important? It is important because you need to be conscious of what this means.

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*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh  
the world... (1 John 5:4)*

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That is; whatever comes from God cannot fail. If you can understand this, that in you is an immune system against failure, you would jack back up when it seems you are almost giving up.

Whatever is born of God doesn't give up. If there was no strength in you, there is a strength you haven't tapped into in the spirit. If you didn't know what to do, the Holy Spirit knows what to do. All you have to do is get him on the scene. Activate the gift of God in you.

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*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that  
thou stir up the gift of God, which is in  
thee... (2 Timothy 1:6).*

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Paul taught Timothy here to activate the gift of God inside him. The last time you missed an instruction, it wasn't because the Lord wasn't available to help you. Rather it is always because we have not known or practiced the act of stirring the God in us—which is the Holy Spirit.

You are born of God, He is in You, He is with you, and He is ready to help you through. However, it's your responsibility to stir him up. If you would do this each time you feel like giving up on diligence, I can tell you that you will continue.

### **Stop Reading & Stop Growing**

You may be tempted to quit reading, that's if you haven't mastered diligence with reading yet. But I most assuredly tell you that, you can't quantify, what's happening to your mind and how renewed your mind is getting by just sincerely picking this book and having read it to this point. Let alone all that is up for grabs in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom as you keep developing your spirit through reading.

Take me for example, I can't tell you how much I have

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grown in just a few years from reading Christian books and doing other spiritual things that enhance my growth in God.

You can't stop reading now! Whatever you begin to do in the kingdom of God which you observe to be a blessing to your walk with God, you can't afford to stop. If you do, in no time you'll find yourself being a slave under the devil again.

You'll lose the grace of God you use to enjoy. It'll begin with weakness in your spirit, which automatically gives the flesh the upper hand to rule you (even though you are dead to it in Christ. Roman 6:6). This will end you up in sin and sin will eventually lead to death—separation from God to the free destructive hands of the devil.

If growing in the grace of God is what your goal is, you don't stop reading. For grace is first delivered into your spirit through knowledge. It must be registered in your heart. My zeal to never quit reading has become part of my confessions, it's too late to be ignorant. Without such a decision you may be tempted to become complacent or lascivious.

## **Make Up Your Mind about Diligence**

You must make up your mind to continue. You must agree spirit, soul, and body that you'll continue. It's not enough to understand the mystery of diligence.

That is: how we become what the word of God talks about, through doing and applying God's instructions and principles continuously and consistently. That's not enough! You must add to it a mindset that is made up.

Everyone who fell at some point, fell because they stopped being diligent in what they had begun to do in their walk with God. It happened to David when he refused to go to war because he had well-trained warriors. (2 Samuel 11). He fell to the sin of adultery and went ahead to kill an innocent man to cover it.

It can happen to anyone under a slip-off in diligence. David slipped right into adultery, then to murder, then straight into God's judgment upon him and his family.

What are you going to do with practicing or doing the things you are learning or already know? You must make up your mind to imbibe diligence!

Making up your mind as I have also mentioned in a previous chapter isn't enough, but a very good place to

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start. Making up your mind is like making a choice, it is this choice that invites God to supply his grace. So, you make the choice, and then God supplies the grace. God has nothing to work with without your definite choice.

This is what fuels the release of grace. Grace is released by two simple processes; first as I have earlier mentioned by knowledge. You have read this book to this point, you now know what to do. The other aspect of grace that keeps you sustained in doing what you have learned to do is supplied on the altar of prayer.

For everything you'll learn in God's kingdom, you'll require these two aspects of grace, knowledge that has no limits, and understanding. The more knowledge of God you give yourself to, the more understanding you'll have.

Then empowerment which makes it easy to continue is released upon you as you give yourself to prayer.

Not to forget that this grace is supplied to your spirit by Christ through the Holy Spirit and becomes effective as you learn to walk in the spirit—allowing your flesh to be ruled by your born-again human spirit.



## **ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

The content of this book is written to aid believers in Christ make the most of their time and resources, when they read Christian books. However, if you are not born again or haven't received Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior: the principles shared in this book may not work for you.

If you aren't sure or are yet to make this decision, please pray the prayer below with all your heart.

### **Prayer of Salvation**

Heavenly Father, I believe in Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. I believe that he died for me and I believe that God raised him from the dead. And he is alive today. I declare with my mouth Jesus Christ is Lord of my life from this day. And by my faith in his name, I receive eternal life into my spirit. Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. I have eternal life right now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



## About The Author

Josiah Okheape is a Christian blogger, a Teacher of God's Word, and a Youth coach with over 3 years' experience, working with young people in his local Church. He has a passion for teaching the word and writing. He has had the privilege to serve as Youth leader, Sunday School Teacher, and a Children's teacher in his local Church, where he currently still serves. He has been privileged to author other books as well, which you can find in the web address below. And he lives in Abuja, Nigeria.

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# 12 KEYS TO READING CHRISTIAN BOOKS



Josiah Okheape is a Teacher of the word, Christian blogger, Writer, and Youth Coach. With a passion for young folks, he is devoted to mentoring youths into Finding, Following, & Fulfilling God's plan for their life's, though the aids of teaching, counseling, writing, and prayers.

In this book titled, "12 Keys to Reading Christian Books." Josiah Okheape explains practically how to practice 12 different principles that begin from "how to select the right book" to "how to become what you read" from each book. To the end that you become the best from the knowledge you acquire from each books.