

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK of ACTS of the APOSTLES

Inspirational and Life Applicable Lessons From Luke's Account of the Acts of the Apostles

JOSIAH OKHEAPE

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS Vol 1

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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

Christianity is gradually becoming a religion rather than what its originators displayed—a way of life. The first person's to be called Christians where seen in Antioch, displaying the life and character of Christ in all its anointed varieties.

However today, it is gradually becoming, a show of good works without its accompanied display of God's power. "These signs shall follow them that believe" is no longer our badge of identity, rather for many, they assume that the Era of signs and wonders are long gone.

But these are the days of the outpouring of God's Spirit, the days of God's end time army on the go. Turning many to righteousness, and establishing the kingdom of God on the earth over the kingdom of darkness. And if this reality must be established, it must happen by believers exhibiting God's wisdom and power.

Therefore, to ensure that the end time prophecies as written in scriptures come to pass in this generation, we must take a close look at how the first Apostles and Disciples practiced their faith.

That is what this book is all about. 40 lessons from the Apostles and Disciples life and times. The trials they faced, how they overcame them with faith, patience, good will, prayer, obedience, power, and much more.

Each lesson, portrays a problem and proffers an applicable solution and ends with a prayer of faith, for the believer to live the apostolic life, which the early disciples lived. In the book the author covers subjects on faith and its application, walking in power, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, prayer and its intended application, using authority, serving your purpose, what it entails, and much more.

God hasn't changed, neither has his principles shifted, if we must operate in the mode and essence that the life of Christ truly depicts, we must glean from the patriarchs who began the apostolic faith on the earth.

So read every lesson with an open heart of expectation, to see

and receive what the Holy Spirit wants you to learn, change, and apply to your life.

I see your life being transformed as you read through this book with a heart of expectation in Jesus name. Amen!

Scriptures Must Be Fulfilled

Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

If it doesn't happen with Moses, it will take effect with Joshua; it is inevitably impossible that the word of God should fail.

God is not a respecter of persons. These things I speak of can be found even from one generation to another. If a generation doesn't come to light with God's will, he'll wait for the next. He can kill three million Israelites to start afresh with Moses.

In the scriptural context of the text above, Judas was been spoken of by Peter: who showed us the principle, that "scriptures must be fulfilled." It is like something in the air looking for someone to fall upon—whether good or bad, righteous or unrighteous.

This is where choice comes in. The Bible shows us that whatsoever does not have a cause or reason cannot stand. So, if your life doesn't generate the reasons why you should be blessed, then your life can't attract blessings.

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

A prophet may prophesy to a large number of persons. Usually, you may be tempted to expect a manifestation in your life. But it is like programming, it will not happen by mistake. The Word sent forth will examine you and if your life doesn't bear an established reason for that word to be fulfilled, it will pass you by.

One of such covenant pulls to God's word is FAITH.

When God said that Jesus will be betrayed, there was no name tag on it. The Word would on its own find its right candidate.

Jesus's prophetic insight on the signs of the end time contains the fact that there will be a great falling away; because the love of many will wax cold due to the abundance of iniquity. That word doesn't have a name tag on it: it is you who must take responsibility for your life to ensure that Word doesn't light up on you.

How? By setting your gaze on the things above and keeping yourself in the love of God.

Yes! God's Word, cannot but come to pass, doing nothing will not exempt you from negative prophecies either. It is your responsibility to through faith claim and take a hold of whatever words he has spoken to you, whether through the word or his voice.

Prayer

Father thank you for your word to me is valid and can be trusted. Therefore I choose to rely on and trust in your word until it is manifested in my life. I refuse to give up on your words to me. I lay hold on faith to receive every promise you have made to me verbally and in your word, In Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

Many Are Called—Only a Few Are Chosen

Acts 1:21-22,24,26 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The subject of my lesson is painted vividly in the text above, and permit me to help you see it.

There were 120 saints altogether in the upper room as they all waited for the promise Jesus had told them about.

Peter who was now the leader, been led by God knew that the vacuum that Judas left had to be filled. Because a government stands on twelve pillars as seen in the nation of Israel with the twelve tribes.

Now they needed to pick someone. If you follow carefully, they

devised a parameter to ensure that this person was qualified both spiritually and in service. The parameter they set was so tight that only two men out of 109 people qualified. Although I must add here that the number of women who were with them was not specified.

Where were the rest? Was it only two men who followed Jesus apart from his disciples since the beginning of his ministry? I can bet they weren't just two men. Many always begin and fall by the wayside.

Following the next parameter, you will observe that as men, they set a physical parameter and left God to impute the spiritual parameter called heart check.

While I read and meditated on this, I concluded and then asked myself a salient question. If I was put before God with another individual, will the Lord look at my heart and choose me?

They cast lots and the Lord's choice emerged.

Out of 109 candidates, only 2 passed the men's test, and eventually, God chose one.

It is gradually becoming a cliché, "Many are called but few are

chosen." And so many people think it's even a question of grace and mercy. But here's the truth.

Of a fact, there is a place for grace in the subject of being called and chosen. But the place of grace is in the calling. If you will be chosen, then you must take responsibility to pay the price to be chosen. Being chosen is not a result of grace but a matter of your input after the call. See what Paul said through the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

So, instead of asking God to choose you, it is better to ask for the grace to pay whatever price it takes to be chosen. Jesus paid the price for your call, you must have to pay the price to be chosen.

Prayer

Father thank you, for the grace to be called unto all good works and for the opportunity I have to be among those

whom you desire to choose. I, therefore, choose to pay the price to be chosen among the many that you have called. I refuse to frustrate your grace upon my life to fulfill my destiny. By your strength and power, I will not fall off the mark you've set for me, in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

The Blessing

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

We are in the last of the last days. If the last days began with the Apostles, then it should tell you how far we have come. I am not trying to preach an end-time sermon, but rather to show you what the heart of the Lord is.

One major characteristic of these days is the outpouring of the Spirit of God: with the emphasis **"upon all flesh."**

I still find it terrifying to see that many believers who have genuinely submitted their hearts to God are yet to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And the major problem is that they are comfortable without him.

As long as you think you can live your Christian life without the Holy Spirit (I mean with the evidence of praying with new tongues) you have been short-changed. Now imagine a

wealthy man walks up to you and says he has a precious gift for you. Then you look him to his face and say well thank you, but I don't think I need it. You just closed a door of favor you should have left open, if not forever, at least for now.

That was on a lighter note. Now let's even make it worse. The creator of the Heavens and Earth says he wants you to have the gift of his own Spirit, and you are comfortable not having him (The Holy Ghost). As if to say that having the Holy Spirit is doing God a favor. If you are such a person now; may the Lord open your eyes.

We are in the days of prophesying, the days of visions, and the days of dreams. The reason you are comfortable being without the Holy Spirit is that you don't know what you are missing. We are in the days where not having the Holy Spirit is a disadvantage because that is how we see amidst the darkness.

Our life is in the spirit. And the Holy Spirit is called **"The Blessing"** because it is him we inherited as the Abrahamic blessing. The world is plunging into more and more darkness. And it will require those who have light to see.

for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Being a Christian alone doesn't make you the light of the world. Yes, I said that! You have probably been one for some time. Your light is buried in you. The Holy Spirit is he who will teach you what light you were given to shine. Through visions as you pray and dreams as you sleep and then through prophesying them (what you have been shown) when you go from day to day. Also, take action in line with what has been revealed to you.

This is how we take over in the last days. We rule by how much light we possess through revelations, and secrets as given to us to run with by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Father thank you for the blessed gift of the Holy Spirit to me. Glory to God, I have the blessing in me, therefore I am blessed. I see my future, I see his plans for me, and I walk in them. The hand of God is upon me so that his hand through mine will come upon my generation. I am above only and never beneath. Glory to God. Amen! God bless

you.	
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From A Fisher Man To A Fisher Of Men

Acts 2:38,41 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

It was to Peter and his brother Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The Holy Spirit had just come, and he didn't have to wait for one month or two to cause an impact. That same day, which was Pentecost, he won over 3000 souls.

When you look at a people and their civilization, you can guess the spirit component that is responsible for their advancement. So also, when the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, you don't need to be told what his agenda was; he showed it by what he began to do almost immediately.

Jesus had already told us, "When he comes he would convict the world of sin."

It is so surprising today that, what we claim we inherited from the fathers of our faith doesn't look like what the Holy Ghost had in mind. The end of the second chapter of Acts summarized the lives of the believers into four components.

They continued in;

- The Apostle's Teaching
- Spent quality time with themselves in fellowship
- Partook of the Lord's table often
- And spent so much time in prayer.

This was their life. You don't know the power in these components until you read the next verse. Something literally began to happen to them. They were enveloped in the fear of God and this produced an unusual level of love amongst them. That led many into giving off their precious properties for the work of the Lord. This shows the nature of the Spirit that we have received.

The Holy Spirit is still looking for men to turn into fishers of others today. But how he is going to get this done has not changed. You have been in Church for years but can the life of God's Spirit be traced in your life.

You should know by the way you live if you are ever going to become a "men's fisher" because you are either on the way getting there or you are out of the way.

If the Lord could turn Peter into a fisher of men, and permeate the entire civilization of the first disciples with a kind of life that was too obvious to ignore; he is still available to do the same with us today. But like Peter asked Jesus;

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

You don't end up a fisher of men without forsaking all and following Jesus. This is where it all begins.

Prayer

Father, you have called me with the Hope that I follow Christ and attain the height where my life can bring others to you. I receive grace therefore to set my gaze on you in learning and doing the word in all ramifications in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Faith In His Name

Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

There are many things we forget. And soon enough they just become religious activities. What makes a religious activity? For me, it is living a life of no expectation. A life of morality without spirituality (power). Christianity is not a religion, but rather a way of life. It is God, living his life through man. You can imagine what our lives should be.

Now, if God is indeed living his life through you, then there should be proofs of the God in you on the go. Calling the name of Jesus today has lost its power. For many it's just how we pray, we must call it to begin our prayers and at the end for closing it.

The Bible tells us that the name of Jesus is anointed. That is there is resident in that name—power.

Song of Solomon 1:3 ...thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

In the text for the lesson above, Peter explains how he performed the miracle of raising the lame man at the beautiful gate: 'his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong." He said he had faith in his name, and that faith he had in the name of Jesus quickened the man's feeble knees to walk.

What is faith?

It is expressing confidence in God and his word. This confidence will come as a result of the things you've heard and understood about the name.

For a name has been given to him which is above every name, the name that all things in heaven and on earth bow and answer to. Phi 2:9.

What have you used this name to accomplish? Do you know that the name has power in it? Do you have faith in the name of Jesus?

The truth is, it is to every one according to their faith. Peter's faith in the name raised a lame man. What can your faith in the name of Jesus do?

Don't just call that name religiously anymore, if you don't know what it carries. Go build your faith in the name of Jesus, and take responsibility to know what is in it. You'll be surprised by the mountains that should have moved out of your way if you knew that name.

Prayer

Father thank you for giving me the precious name of Jesus. That I live life to its fullest on earth. I ask that the eyes of my understanding be open to know the power in this name, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Faith In His Name Pt2

Acts 4:16-17 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

Every devil on this earth is after taking the potent and most powerful name of Jesus out of your mouth. Such that you can even call it, but because you lack awareness of its potency, it doesn't work.

If the name doesn't work, why is the devil after shutting it down in the world? In the text for the above lesson, they couldn't deny the miracle, but they said, "Let's still shut the name down."

I don't know who or what is trying to shut the name of Jesus out of your mouth or life. I don't know that mountain or situation that is claiming that it's bigger than the name of Jesus. But you must rise and use the name of Jesus.

The name of Jesus can shatter that shame, the name can

break that curse; the name can create the solution you seek, it can heal that pain.

The Bible says if you just had a mustard seed faith, it will still move that mountain. So, faith may not just be the issue, for some kind of life challenges will not go except by prayer and fasting. Some others will require your faith-patience and due diligence of asking, seeking, and staying there knocking to receive answers.

Whatever it takes, the name of Jesus works and is still working. Don't let no devil lie to you.

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

If the name isn't working with you check yourself, and ensure you are praying correctly. Have you obtained sanctification from your errors or sin? Are you praying to the Father in the name or through the name? Many think these things don't matter. Well, they do! We pray in the name of Jesus, not through the name.

When it comes to mountains, or serpents and scorpions. We have been given authority to trample them under our feet. For these, we don't pray to the Father. We rebuke them in the name of Jesus.

So, the disciples cried out, grant thy servants boldness and let more signs and wonders be done by the name of Jesus. And guess how the Lord answered—he answered by power. With more power in your vessel, the name answers more.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Prayer

In the name of Jesus, my eyes are open to understanding the efficacy and efficiency that is embedded in the name of Jesus. And as I do all things in this name, the name of Jesus works for me. Thank you father, glory to Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Discerning The Move Of God

Acts 5:4-5 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

There are seasons, and there are certain seasons. God is love, he is full of mercy, and he has compassion, but he is also a judge.

In the scriptural text above, when I think through what happened, it is obvious to find that there are worse people in the bible than this couple. They weren't witches, and neither were they the Pharisees. In fact, they were children of God, who missed it at the wrong time.

We are in such seasons as were Ananias and Saphira. When God is on a mission to judge. It will do you no good to fall on the wrong side of God's judgment at this time.

In a Prophetic season such as this, it's either you align to the demands of the season or stay away from earning the judgment of God, because you may go down with the season. No Prophetic season leaves you the same way. While it's a season of rising for some, it's a season of falling for others.

Speaking of Ananias and Saphira; they never had the chance to repent, they were slain to hell—straight. This is where discerning a move of God comes in.

Jesus taught that you can discern seasons by observation. But this observation cannot be done physically except in the spirit. Look at what's happening in the body of Christ, look at the nation where you are, and check out what God's prophets are saying. Even you can press into God on your own, to perceive the things God is doing in this season.

The Holy Spirit was so in love with the first church as they gave him their time and obedience; he was orchestrating their movement and was in charge of his church. It was a season of revival, a season of the move of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly a couple is inspired to bring a fleshly response to what God was doing and they paid with their lives and generation—totally cut off.

So, this is a very light admonition: don't be found among the rebels and murmurers at this time. Be wise and preserve your

life. You will see and hear many fall, but it shall not come near you. Amen!

Prayer

In the name of Jesus, I am spiritually sensitive to decern seasons. I don't veer off the path of righteousness into damnation or error in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you

Knowing God Behind Closed Doors

Acts 5:29-30,32,33 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Your secrets have been ordained to be brought to the open. It's a spiritual law, which cannot be revoked. It's the secrets of the night that the day reveals. What you don't cultivate in the secret will not show in the open; what you allow to strive secretly will come to the open—it's just a matter of time.

In the text for this lesson above, I saw the tenacious boldness of Peter and the Apostles in responding to the council of religious leaders who hated spiritual advancement, as long as it was not happening through them. They had built that which the LORD gave them in the secret.

The religious leaders who killed Jesus were at it again, and this time they also wanted to use the kill weapon. The so much

good the name of Jesus whom they hated was doing was a thorn in their flesh. But thank God for the Apostles, they had grown to become strong.

Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

However, my focus for this lesson is that the name of Jesus is still doing the marvelous things it's ever been known for today. And also the council of human leaders has not changed. They have only just decided not to be religious. I mean they are everywhere. Whether at work, business, or the market. All they seek is to take Jesus out of your mouth or life—at least for those who have Jesus as their only goal.

Wanting to serve the Lord is great. But we are in an era were serving God's purposes will fail without fire. If you are not fanning the fire of prayer and waiting on the Lord in this season. Your lack of a secret place will show. Because just outside your house these leaders are waiting for you. They'll challenge your faith, they will contend with your beliefs, and they'll challenge your integrity and ability to live righteously.

And I must tell you, a bold face will not work, if you don't

build tenacity from waiting in God's presence, you will give in, if you haven't already. Daniel survived Babylon, but many never knew how he did it. He didn't just make up his mind not to defile himself, he also prayed 3 times a day without wavering—even as a very high-ranking officer in the kingdom.

He knew the Lord, therefore, he could give us a prophecy about today;

Dan 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

It's a season to know the Lord, there is grace for intimacy now for you. Don't let it waste or let the chariot leave you behind. Jump in now! And grow yourself strong in the Lord.

Prayer

In the name of Jesus, I take advantage of the move of the Spirit for this season. I pay the price to build my faith and develop myself spiritually in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you

The True Characteristics of 'The Believer'

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

If you were asked the true characteristics of a believer, what would you say they are? Selah.

In the scriptural text above, the Apostles had a measuring stick for who true believers were. There was a problem in Church and they came up with a way to solve it. And they asked the entire congregation to pick seven men who had the true characteristics of a believer.

They requested men with Honest Report, full of the Holy Spirit, and Wisdom.

As simple as these three characteristics sound, they represent the measure or standard for what a believer in the days of the Apostles should possess.

Now to break down the meaning of the above I will just

explain them shortly.

Honest Report: This stands for character. Everyone knew them among over 5000 people and they had no record of either violence or misconduct.

Full of the Holy Spirit: This represents power. How did the believers know if you were full of the Holy Spirit? It wasn't by just praying in tongues, because they all did. Picking the seven was not difficult, because they had been exercising the power of God before then. They were known to cast out devils, heal the sick and do the things that required the power of God to be exercised.

Wisdom: It is a combination of knowledge and understanding. It begins with the fear of God but doesn't end there. It is your ability to produce results from your practice of the word. Remember we have been given the keys of God's kingdom by Christ. The prove that you are wise is in how much you can engage them to manifest the life of Christ. They were considered wise by their acts and the problems they had solved.

Having seen the above, you can examine yourself and know where you are. If the Apostles needed 100 men, these

standards wouldn't drop.

Therefore, if your character is still been managed, and others can't account for your practice of God's word. Or you say your own Christianity is personal and private, it means you don't have the character of a true believer. Having two of the characteristics isn't enough either. We must strive to walk in power, practice the word with proofs, and maintain a good report among brethren.

I perceive someone may ask, what if I am not been taught like the believers of old were taught by the Apostle. The answer is simple. Start from where you are now. If you begin to diligently do the word you already know, access to get those you don't know will be opened to you by God himself.

We have in our days what our fathers never had: access to so much information, whether through books or messages. The question is, are you taking advantage of these free resources with an open mind. The Apostles will only train you, Steven would have to by himself spend time with God, reading scriptures personally and praying so much to be anointed the way he was.

Nobody will play your role for you. You are singularly

responsible for the outcome of your life with God. Times may have changed, but what the Bible refers to as the true believer are those with Character, Power, and Wisdom. This will not change.

Prayer

It is my strong desire Lord to attain the posture of being a true believer, one who possesses the ability to exercise your power, live with an honest and good report, and master the mysteries of the kingdom. I receive grace therefore to continue in my fellowship with the Holy Spirit and brethren, praying, and doing the word in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

The Indispensability Of Men

Acts 7:24-25 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

In the above text, Stephen who had been arrayed before the Sanhedrin, began his lecture trying to educate his listeners about the temple they held in so high esteem; the man Moses they had idolized, and Jesus they had rejected.

I stumbled upon something, and it came with a question. I have heard it said that God is God and can use anyone for his purposes. Meaning men are **DISPENSABLE**. But then, here is my question:

Are all men really dispensable? Are there some people that are held in high esteem by God? Is it possible to navigate my way into that list, if such exists?

Among the many references, there may be to buttress my point, three people come to mind. Moses, David, and Stephen.

Every time 1 have read about Stephen, 1 have always admired the man. The Bible says he was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Who doesn't like that? He so walked with the Holy Spirit that at the beginning of the address to his captors, his face shone like an angel.

Many say, if he had chosen to live after his address, he would have, through the words he uttered. But one thing was obvious about his life even though he probably wasn't married, he was married to Jesus. He had sowed his life for Christ before death came. Death wasn't a factor, he was hinged on God.

On the other hand, is Moses, the man who would kill an Egyptian for the sake of his brother. This wasn't killing a fly, or sheep or dog—a man. And then God would have no better choice than him for the deliverance of Israel.

Some people refuse to do what God tells them and God seeks others to do it. There are those God compels to do it. Because he can't find anyone better. Which of these classes are you?

Moses told God to find someone else to go save Israel after solving all the excuses that he tendered. And God forced him to go. What makes a man so precious to God?

Lastly is the man David. Of all 1 can say about him, this stands out, he was a man God loved dearly. David walked with God to the point that God broke his laws for him. An adulterer should be stoned, but David didn't just commit adultery, he killed a man to cover it.

In God's judgment, he said;

And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. 2Sam 12:13

God put away his sin, and said, yes you deserve death, but I will kill other people for you. Others died for the sin they knew nothing about.

How does a man get to such a place in God? It is his heartbeat for God. A man whose life is sold out, laid bare on the altar to pursue after God and the souls of men. That is what they all have in common.

In the end, you can be tempted to pray; "Lord make me a man after your heart". But people who became such men, made that choice personally, to give their heart and life to seek God's

interest before theirs, which is what endeared God to them so closely. However, you make the choice but God supplies the grace.

Prayer

Father, I choose to willingly yield my body as a living sacrifice for your purposes for me to humanity. I, therefore, receive grace to stay committed and passionate in your assignments for me, so that I may grow to become a man after your heart in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

Encounters With God

Acts 7:55,59 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

While some of us seek job breakthroughs, some of us want marital breakthroughs. While some of us want business breakthroughs, some want academic breakthroughs. It's all needs, wants, desires and it all goes on.

Not that these desires are wrong, we need them. But is there something beyond this craving for satisfying one thing or the other? Everyone has a need only the Lord can meet. One good thing is that these needs bring us to God.

Many have even received these things and it has become why they are far away from God today. Many have had their prayers answered, which has become the reason for their excuses to seek the Lord. On the other hand, others have collided with God in their quest for answered prayers.

Whichever case is yours, it is a man's encounter with God that makes him relevant to the purposes of God on the earth.

If I may ask, in all of these needs, wants, and desires; can you say I know the Lord? Hmm... How many believers can say they know the Lord?

Every time 1 have read the above scripture, 1 have always wanted to be like Stephen. Not because he was martyred, but because of his relationship with God. Stephen knew the Lord. (A man full of faith and the Holy Ghost). This is it for me.

In the scriptural text above, Stephen saw the glory of God in the process of sharing God with men. No one else saw it. He told us what he saw, but he was the only one who saw it.

In your quest for having the things Jesus has paid for as our inheritance in God: can you add the prayer of knowing Jesus to it? In your zeal for serving in God's house and following God, can you ask to see the Glory of God? In all your attempts at fulfilling God's plan for your life, can you add the prayer to touch the things of heaven?

Stephen had no reservations left on earth, he was dead to this world, in fact, if he wanted to stay he could have. But after

seeing the glory of God he asked to have his spirit received by Jesus. It wasn't the stones that killed him. He saw something we haven't seen yet—the Glory of God.

If knowing Jesus is not the goal, a time will come when your needs, wants, and desires will become idols in your hearts. But before that happens, why not crave and ask for an encounter with God today.

Prayer

Oh Father I ask for an encounter with you that will add value to my life on earth to bring glory to your name, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

The Joy Brought By the Gospel Of Christ

Acts 8:6-8 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

Joy is not happiness. Whereas happiness is an emotion of delight that can be triggered by a piece of great or good news, joy is much deeper. While one is carnal and temporal, the other is spiritual and everlasting.

I have been saved for quite a few years now, but the joy of my salvation is still as real as it was yesterday. What made you happy 10 years ago may not sustain what it takes to keep you happy today.

In the scriptural text above, something happened in the city of Samaria. There was great Joy. Joy is proof of life (the life of God). Something beyond the ordinary entered their lives. The city had endured the so-called great power of Simon but they

never had joy. But when Jesus stepped in, he didn't just bring joy, he brought great joy.

It wasn't just about the miracles, or the signs and wonders. Joy is a natural content that follows the gospel of Christ. It stems from your spirit.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17.)

Sincerely, if the salvation you received didn't come with Joy, please it is not the salvation Christ brought. In my little learning, I have come to define Joy as a spiritual energy, which can keep you going in your walk with God—despite whatever happens.

There are many things that you may not understand, but if you have joy, it'll keep you going. Whereas, if the devil tampers with your joy, you lose everything. It is so important, that we lose access to the other blessings of God without it. (Isaiah 12:3, Joel 1:9-12.)

Whatever seeks to drain you of the Joy of the Lord is an enemy. Treat it as such. If you need to pray about it—please do. You

can lose your happiness and keep your joy, you'll be fine. But if you lose your joy, you'll slip into anxiety, unthankfulness, sorrow, sadness, and then depression. It doesn't end there, if you let it slip further you'll end up with an affliction—a broken spirit. It's the devil's specialty.

So, therefore, you must guard your joy. Whereas happiness is rooted in things that happen in and around you, joy has its anchor in God and His word. It anchors in the love God has for us. You can naturally just bask in the love of God, even when things don't seem right. Knowing what he has said he can do. Joy has its fuel on God's word (most especially to you personally).

If you aren't intimate with God, you may find yourself running out of Joy more often than not. Your relationship with the Holy Spirit is a huge determinant of Joy. For man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that God speaks to him. (Matthew 4:4). It is the word of God you have received that has capacity to stay in Joy.

Prayer

Father thank you for the joy that your salvation brought into my life. I refuse to let the enemy steal my joy in the

Lord. I guard my joy with diligence, knowing that with joy I have access to withdraw the other blessings that salvation brought my way, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

Winning Against An Adversary

Acts 9:1,3-4,31 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

The church was having a nice time, no one actually saw it coming—I mean in the scriptural text above. As powerful as the first church was, they were taken unawares by the devil. The death of Stephen gave the devil an upper hand to wreak more devastation to the church, more than could be imagined.

People had to leave their homes unannounced for the sake of their safety and the preservation of their faith. To go settle into new cities, homes, and means of livelihood. Things were hard.

However, even though they were part of the bones and flesh of

Jesus, nothing seemed to happen spontaneously to change things. They had the Apostles but that didn't change the persecution.

Suddenly, the devil thought he had found an Apostle of doom to use against the church. But here's what happened behind the scene. The people began to pray. Whether in little home groups or as individuals, prayer incense began to rise to heaven. As usual, persecution leads God's people to cry out. And so you can expect that God was working something fearful out for them.

The Lord is mighty, but he is limited by his word to intervene in any situation without our input of prayer. While some think that the job of prayer is for prayer warriors or church leaders, that's not true. We are a body and every part of your body functions to aid the entire well-being of your health. We are all called to the ministry of prayer to intercede for others.

Prayer is how we change things. Paul's mission to Damascus failed by prayer. In their fear and perplexity, they prayed, and then Jesus showed up.

The one who once opposed the faith became a general in the kingdom of God. Great things happen when we stay

consistently in prayers. This is how adversaries are brought down. Whether in your family, city, church, or nation. We stay consistent, calling on God, even if it takes us praying evening, noon, and morning. But one thing is certain—he'll show up for you.

Prayer

Father thank you for the grace and access granted me by the finished works of Christ, to be able to call upon your name without reservation. I, therefore, receive the staying power upon my life to persist on the altar of prayer until my change comes in whatever trials I find myself in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

We Are In A Fight

Acts 9:36-37 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

As children, we all had most things taken care of for us, so learning to fight may not have been necessary. But life is in phases. There comes a time when you'll have to face certain challenges that demand that you fight or you lose out.

You have probably dreamt dreams of having a glorious stay here on earth, just cruising and living a simple life, not looking for anyone's trouble, and attending church regularly. Paying your tithes and offerings, and living so peacefully.

Well, I am sorry to break the news to you; wake up sir, wake up ma, there is wickedness in this world. It's in your home, your street, your environment, your workplace, it is even in the air. Haven't you read that the sun can smite people by day and the moon by night.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

You don't have to be wrong or offend anyone, it must just come. It's just a matter of time. Just in case you think the devil will elude you, well let me also break it to you that God has an intention to build you up and make you strong, and he does this with a few processes which include temptations. So, he permits you to be tested.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

You will be a cheap believer without temptations. And we wouldn't find out how strong you are by what you say, but rather by the temptations you overcome. You would have deceived yourself if you thought you will escape being tempted and tested. The author of our faith wasn't exempted, the same goes for you.

On a lighter note, temptations are organized for your change

of level, just like you need to write an exam and pass before you change class. In the school of the spirit, overcoming temptations and winning battles is how we gain authority. Jesus came out of the wilderness with a change of level, after overcoming the devils' temptations.

In the above reading, Tabitha was full of good works. Probably better than you may be currently doing. Yet the devil got her dead with sickness. What if Peter wasn't traveling through the cities at that time? She would have been buried and then men will say, it was the will of God. Good works aren't enough to keep you from the devil. I established in previous lessons that the accurate believer has character, wisdom, and walks in power.

The grace we have as young people is that we have time on our side to build ourselves for the days ahead. You have time now to learn about God and cultivate his power in your life. Whatever came for your parents is waiting for you.

You don't pray away evil days, you prepare against them. For even scriptures say that **SURELY**, they shall gather. The right prayer would be, Lord put upon me the grace to labor and bear the burdens 1 must bear now in my youth. That 1 may

become a man of power and grace with God.

May your hands have been strengthened with sound knowledge from God's word and power with God to fight. Because as for fighting you must fight. We are in a fight, not knowing that you are in a fight doesn't exempt you from it, it just makes you a loser.

Therefore, get up, cast down those idle hands, pick up that book and read, get those messages and listen to them, and wake up to prayer. You are the overcomer, who has won through the blood of Jesus. But you can only establish the reality of your victorious life by paying the price to develop your spiritual muscles.

Prayer

Father thank you for the assurance you have revealed to me by your word that you'll always make a way out of whatever temptations I face. So I refuse to be cast down, knowing that temptations come to try my faith and allow me to rise in spiritual authority. Thank you, Lord, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Mystery Of Favour

Acts 10:1-3 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Being a recipient of God's favor is a thing of great joy; especially when you didn't need to ask for it. We all need to have favor accrued to us in all that we do. But favor is not luck, in fact, there is no such thing as luck in the kingdom. Favor is not cheap either. It's not going to come because you prayed alone. If it were so everyone should walk in its reality.

In the above reading, a man named Cornelius: who was a gentile is about to be the beginning of a new era for the gentiles. Amongst all the gentiles who were in Judea, Jerusalem, and Samaria, a man in Caesarea was handpicked by God.

The same thing goes for other examples in the scriptures.

Mary the mother of Christ was indeed highly favored, but you'll be wrong to think she was just lucky.

Looking at the life of Cornelius, you can agree with me that, the favor God showed him to pioneer the extension of God's grace to the gentiles was merited. His life and service to humanity sent an aroma above that heaven couldn't ignore.

What was his prayer life like? What was the content? He probably didn't know how to use the name of Jesus, but God heard him. He knew God enough more than many who claim to know God and are serving him. He was consistent with his actions, whether with prayer or alms giving. He caught God's interest.

As I thought about this, I asked myself a question, if the favor of God found Cornelius when he wasn't expecting such favor, would God choose to favor me unannounced when he has something big in mind? That's like saying: has my life and sacrifice of labor unto the Lord drawn his attention like that of Cornelius?

If the Lord zoomed in on my environment, will I attract his interest with my life and sacrifice? This is a great question.

You want others to give to you, what have you given others? Favor is a seed too, you can create a harvest of favor for your life and destiny by your seeds of favor today.

There may be other sides to it, I'll not be sharing here, but this is a good place to start. Let your life's sacrifice ascend as a memorial unto heaven all the time. Be the sister or brother they wonder at when you serve the Lord. Give serving the Lord your best. I tell you, He'll surprise you with his best.

Prayer

Father, according to your word, you honor those who serve your will wholeheartedly. It is my desire to be enlisted among those whom you must favor. So I keep serving your interest, I seek first your kingdom knowing that I'll have all other desires of mine added to me. Thank you, Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

God Has No Favorites

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

It took me a while to understand the truth: "God Has No Favorites." I believe if you have an open heart too, you can understand what it means as well. Back then before I understood this, I would think to myself, using Bible references like Esau and Jacob, Ephraim and Manasseh, to mention a few. To argue this truth about God, dealing with certain people specially.

It was Peter who finally could show us the other side of it as he perceived what God had decided to do with saving the gentiles—which includes me and you today.

God is not a Jew, and neither is he a Greek. God is not a man, who probably has an origin: so he has an affiliation to favor his own people. No! All men came from one man—Adam, so God couldn't have been tribal. Let me not dwell so much on this.

Now if you pick anything from Peter's discernment, you will probably say God accepts those who fear him and walk righteously in all nations. Well, that's correct but that's only a fingertip of what he said.

What did he really mean?

God was saying through Peter, I don't have some people whom I have destined to hit the top and some to scrape the average or bottom. No! Meaning if you can find out what made God treat any man specially and do the same, he'll do the same for you too.

In the scriptural text above, you'll find Cornelius, a gentile fasting and praying. Meanwhile, some believers can't fast today, and expect so much from God. What was his prayer life like?

Someone may say he gave alms because he was wealthy. What about the large number of people he gathered for this sermon. His life touched so many people, that he wasn't proud. Because of one man, everybody in that room did not need to confess Jesus as Lord before they received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

His humility was different. He was a Captain and yet bowed down to Peter. I can go on and on. But here's the lesson. You and I can gain heights in God like anyone, anywhere has, if we would instead of thinking they were special, find out what it was they did, and pay the price to do the same for the height we desire to attain in God.

God does not love anyone beyond another, it's either you don't know what sacrifices they have made or the sacrifices that have been made on their behalf. Either way, if you can perceive what is behind what any man carries, you can tap into their graces.

Prayer

Father thank you for this revelation, that you are not a God who has favorites. And that we all have equal rights with you to rise into greatness as we see in the lives of those who have gone before us. I, therefore, receive grace to pay the price for the greatness my heart desires in Christ Jesus. Thank you, Father, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you

What Have You Done With The Holy Ghost In You

Acts 11:15-16 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Religiosity can be so bad, that even an iron sponge may not get it off your heart, except the blood of Jesus. The early disciples had walked in love amongst one another for a long time and still yet when they heard that the gentiles had received the gospel through the ministration of Peter, they were upset about it.

Peter needed to explain himself like they had not heard what happened. In the end, they said they rejoiced, but whether they rejoiced or not—the Holy Ghost is here today with us. Left for the Jews, God was a Jew and they wanted to keep God to themselves alone. But glory to Jesus, whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Hallelujah!

In the scriptural text above, Peter said something that caught

my attention, "the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning."

Cornelius and his kinsmen and friends did not get a weak Holy Spirit. Or a Holy Spirit customized for gentiles. They got the same product.

We didn't receive a counterfeit Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that came on them is the same Holy Spirit that fell on the first gentiles and that's the same Holy Spirit that fell on me and you. And so, my big question.

What have you profited from the Holy Spirit?

If you received the same Holy Spirit in Peter, whose shadow healed the sick, what have you accomplished with him today? It is the same Holy Spirit, Paul who was an enemy of the gospel received that he became one of the greatest Apostles; that's the same Holy Spirit you and I have received.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17.)

The Old Testament saints had a veil that kept them from truly

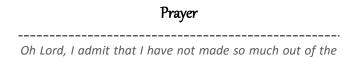
perceiving God. But not we, the above scripture says wherever the Holy Spirit is, there is liberty (access). Access to what? Access to God. Access to the knowledge of God.

However, while some engage all the necessary measures to exploit this access, others do not know how to exploit this access. And some do nothing about the access they have to God.

What are you doing with the free access you now have (as a result of your salvation) to God?

What are you doing with the God inside of you? Jesus exploited his access by praying so much. The Apostles gave themselves to the word and prayers. The early disciples gave themselves to the Apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. And a little while down the line we found people like Stephen, and Philip, just to mention a few.

If nothing much results from your walk with God, it isn't because you receive a lesser Holy Spirit, but rather you didn't make the most of his ministry in your life.



grace to access your presence as I should. Please forgive me. I make a bold choice to give myself to the things that please you. To set my affection on things above, and I receive your grace now in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Where Can You Be Found?

Acts 11:25-26 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Is there a place where God can find you every time he seeks to talk to you? If you were sort after unannounced, where can you be found?

In the above reading, Barnabas took a trip to go look for Paul in an entire city, without a contact to know where he lived. This means there was somewhere a man like Paul would be found apart from his home. Yes, and that was in the temple. Paul will definitely be found in the presence of God. It doesn't matter what happened or didn't happen.

Can this be said of you today?

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Most of us don't even have a secret place with God, let alone have left it. Others used to have it, but work and busy schedules have taken it from them. And so, God is asking, where can I find you, son? Where can I find you, my daughter?

We are in the fast lane days, where everything is fast-forwarded. And we want to apply the same principles to our faith. We want to pray a two-minute prayer and cover our life's on it. We want to do so little with God and get so much, believing that God understands. O yes! He does.

Everything is permitted to change, but God's word will never change—notwithstanding who is involved. You are either praying or you'll be fainting. You are either waiting on God or you'll be growing weaker and weaker by the day. God cannot be mocked.

It will demand that you go the extra mile by sacrificing certain things to maintain your spiritual life and your physical life as well. Knowing this truth that godliness (spiritual exercise) yields fruits capable of covering both the things that pertain to this life and the life that is to come. (1Tim 4:8.)

Things may not get simpler, but our value of God's presence is what drives us to do whatever it may take never to lose his

presence. The devil is succeeding in this generation to load us up with activities and showmanship even in Church and deny many of their secret place. You must know that you don't have what to show in the open if you don't have a secret place with God.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for reminding me that, you seek to know me in the secret place more than in the open. Lord, I ask for the grace to keep coming to you. I don't just want to come to my secret place with you, I want to dwell there. Thank you, Lord, for this grace. Amen! God bless you

Moving The Hand Of God Through Ceaseless Prayers

Acts 12:5,15 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

Who has believed our report and to who is the arm of the Lord revealed? (Isaiah 53:1). The hand of the Lord can only be revealed to those who believe in God. The proof of your belief in God is not in saying, "am believing God" rather you prove that you believe God by obeying what he says to do. It is your corresponding action to God's word and instructions that prove that you believe.

Various corresponding actions validate our belief in God. However, one of the principal acts of belief is **prayer**.

In the scriptural text above, James an Apostle and brother to John had just been killed by Herod. And Peter was taken next to be killed to please the Jewish leaders.

The Bible didn't tell us if the believers prayed when they

arrested James. They probably didn't think he would be killed just like that. However, he was. Wasn't God available? of course, he was, but it takes faith to move the hand of God. And so, the believers showed that they believed God could save Peter by going into ceaseless prayers.

They prayed until heaven responded. Even when heaven responded, they thought that they hadn't prayed enough yet. Their prayer for the release of Peter secured his release and went ahead to kill Herod.

Jesus asked us a great question.

Luke 18:8 ... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Will he find believers who still believe and would turn to ceaseless prayers?

The Devil has learned the techniques of discouraging us when our answers tarry. However, the proof that you believe is not in discouragement.

Whatever happens, let it meet you in prayer. When you are tired and don't know what else to do, let that tired state be

translated to God in prayers. Don't give up prayer for weariness, don't let the devil get into your heart.

It is in prayers you will find peace in the course of the storms. It is in prayers you'll ask the questions you don't have answers to. It is in prayers the Lord can easily meet with you. For though it tarries wait for it in prayers, and it will surely come.

Better yet, pray for others with the same trials, pray for the kingdom of God, pray in the spirit and with your spirit, deny yourself, and watch God show up. Whatever you do, never give room for prayerlessness. That's the target of the devil in the first place—to take you far away from God through discouragement, depression, and complaining.

Prayer

Father thank you, for, in every temptation, you have always made a way of escape for me. Therefore, I refuse to give in to discouragement. I refuse to give in to anxiety, but I choose to pray. I choose to call upon your name. For I know in you is my salvation. Thank you, dear Father, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

God Rules By Power

Acts 13:9-11 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

It is hard for some of us to understand how that, the God who is the God of love can also be the God of Judgment. Well, if I may simply put it this way. It is his love that creates room for his judgment. Or better said this way, it is his love that motivates his judgment.

In the lesson before this, we saw the believer's prayer, even though it brought deliverance to Peter, it was yet to accomplish its purpose. It got Herod killed for his role in the death of James.

In the scriptural text above, Paul who was first a major obstacle to the gospel becomes an instrument in the hand of

God to judge another man with blindness for a season. What an irony. He fell into the same sort of encounter on his way to Damascus, but rather than judgment, it was unto repentance.

Most of the time, even though you have received all authority to dominate your sphere, authority is not enough. God reigns by authority, but he rules by power. And that was why the disciples couldn't cast out the devil from the boy who was possessed. (Matt 17: 19-21.) It was a power factor.

If God rules by power, we aren't going to rule differently. Many situations will not bow to you without power.

The power of God is not just for some elite people who lead in Church. Jesus said, "...these signs shall follow them that believe..." So, if you aren't walking in signs, it's a power problem. You aren't living Jesus' desire for those who believe. Of a truth, our generation of believers have made it very comfortable to dwell in this place of powerlessness with good works. But don't forget, it didn't keep Dorcas from death.

Every one of us as believers have been given the power potential when we received the Holy Spirit. But power answers to a desire, a thirst—how much you want it. It is this hunger and passion, that will permit the Holy Ghost to drive you into

prayers for long hours—mostly in tongues. It is this passion that will permit the Holy Ghost to drive you into fasting. And the truth is God will not withhold power from you if you meet the demands. He is too faithful to fail.

Power is so important that even the answers to your prayers are affected by how much of it is at work in you. The things you have probably been distressed and kept praying about need power to change them.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **POWER** that worketh in us.

It's your choice to make it a priority in your Christian journey. Or to wait for others who have built theirs to help you out. Either way, if you must rule your world, you must rule by **power**.

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, drive me to my wilderness, that I may press in prayers by your grace into you to the end that your power will be made manifest through my life in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Leaning On the Wrong Side of God's Move

Acts 13:45,48 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Every time God moves, his move can move everything and everyone on its part forward. However, the move of God is not forceful by any means. It still requires your choice in it.

In the scriptural text above, God was working a new thing or move in Pisidia, but because it wasn't happening by the hand of the Jews, some of them decided to make the wrong choice in seeking to oppose it.

Every time this happens, God leaves you behind. I can't tell how many people God has left behind, I just hope you aren't one of them.

Resisting a move of God always begin from the heart. Having an evil heart of unbelief. You just lock your mind because of

one reason or the other. And so, the goodness, progress, and favor that God's move brings just simply eludes you.

God went ahead with his work, almost the whole city of gentiles believed. However, the cloud of the gospel passed by the unbelieving Jews.

We must be careful, therefore, to be able to discern the move of God anywhere and anytime to make the most of it. Failure to do this means you'll be left behind.

God has spent himself in the lives of many today to raise people who know the Lord in this season. If you have not discerned this work of God yet so you can plug in and develop yourself in God, the cloud is about to leave you behind.

This season in the body of Christ is engaged with souls being won to the Lord and the building up of the army of the Lord. However, wherever you are, you should discern what God's mind is and plug yourself into it. That's how to make the most of any season. I pray the Lord to give you understanding.

Prayer

Father thank you for the grace to be a part of what you are doing on the earth in this season. Thank you for not

leaving me behind. And so I choose to follow the move, to learn of you more, to draw others around me closer to you as we await your coming. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this grace. Amen! God bless you.

Overcoming Challenges on the Journey

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

There are certain things many believers may not love to hear, one of such is "Tribulation." However, the word means to pass through trying times or events. The Word of God is truth and just in case you didn't know this before, even Jesus had something to say about it.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

In the scriptural text above, even though God sent Paul and Barnabas on this mission they encountered challenges. Paul was beaten to the point of death, but then he didn't quit the assignment. Neither did he take a break. They only just switched towns.

As long as we are here on earth, trying times will come. But in Christ, we have overcome such trying times. There is an attitude that overcomes challenges. And there is another attitude that gives in or loses faith in the face of trials.

When the Lord said he has overcome the world, he meant he has done everything he must to ensure you win. For whatsoever is born or hails, or comes from God—as we do—overcomes the world and all its hurdles. But this victory is tied to your faith.

Friend, don't wait until trials come to be conscious of what this is all about. Life is a battleground. Trials are the battles; our faith is the tool for fighting and God's word calls it a **Good Fight of Faith.** Why? Because the outcome has already been decided—we win.

You may therefore ask, but I haven't been winning? Yes, that's because you haven't been fighting. Fighting is your responsibility, you have been given all the aid required. You have the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Whatever you do with them will determine your fate.

The way we fight is primarily through prayers. (Eph 6:18.) And if otherwise, the Holy Spirit will counsel you. Don't watch

this season run out on you, having done nothing about that challenge. Overcoming them is how you change your level of authority.

Prayer

Father, thank you for showing me what to do to overcome trying times. Knowing that in Christ I have overcome all trials. And so I choose to fight the good fight of faith. Knowing that in you I am an overcomer. Amen! God bless you.

Serving under Authority

Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

The kingdom of God promotes men as they give themselves to service. Jesus thought this principle in (Matthew 20:26,27.) However, despite the ranks of Paul and Barnabas at this time in the scriptural text above, and the pedigree that they had attained amongst the gentiles, they still humbled themselves to serve the people.

They were required of the entire gentile believers in Antioch to go to Jerusalem to confirm with the Apostles and Elders what they already knew was right.

They could have stood their grounds as servants of God, having received the right hand of fellowship for the work they had done. But they understood authority and were obliged to go confirm at Jerusalem.

You cannot be a successful servant in the service of the kingdom of God without being under authority. Paul who was an Apostle as well as Barnabas were humble and subject to the authority of the Apostles and Elders in Jerusalem.

The issue of authority is so broad, but in its simplest of forms, you cannot use authority when you aren't under authority. It's beyond a physical thing. It is a spiritual law. So the Centurion Jesus met, marveled him with his understanding of authority.

Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

You must be under authority to use authority. Being subject to authority means that if you aren't pleased with whatever instructions are passed, you still submit. Man, to God, wife to husband, children to parents, servant to master, and as it may apply to you. Except for instructions that are against the direct counsel of God—because he owns all authority.

Along with the many perks that come with authority is your ability to also exercise it. And it is followed and carried.

However, it requires the grace for humility to remain under authority. Jesus stayed under the authority of his parents and served under the authority of his Father without fail, that was how he could overcome his adversary—the devil.

It requires authority to put unauthorized devils to check. So whatsoever it is that you do, you must remember that your authority will not be enforced without you being under authority first to God, and those he may have placed over you.

Prayer

Father thank you for the privilege to be given authority as your child. I, therefore, ask for the grace to remain humble and obedient under your instructions to me, and to those whom you have placed over me in Jesus name. Thank you, heavenly Father, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Partnering With The Holy Spirit

Acts 15:28-29 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

God's desire for the believer is that he lives through us. And so even though no man can see him and live, he has by his wisdom given us his Spirit to accomplish this desire in his heart.

So, Christianity is not a religion, with myths and laws to keep, that cannot change the lives of those who practice them.

It is actually a relationship between God and man. It is God in Man, living his life through a human body. I believe this is simple enough to understand. So, God wants men (the unsaved) to see Him (God) through your life.

He wants you to be an extension of him on the earth. Men should perceive the love of God through you. They should see the power and prosperity of God through your life. Therefore, learning all the principles of walking with God isn't enough, because there is more. You will have to practically interface with God (The Holy Spirit) to be the extension of him in your sphere of influence.

In the scriptural text above, the Apostles and Elders had taken so much time to deliberate on what the decision should be, whether to enforce the laws of Moses on the gentile converts. And even though there were prophets there, the Holy Spirit didn't seem to speak by prophecy. However, they made a statement that is very important to note, if God must live his life through you; "it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us..."

They recognized him as the senior partner in their assignment. He leads the way. Even though they had their reservations, their reservations will have to bow to the will of the Spirit of God.

The question now is: Does it please you and the Holy Spirit? or does it please the Holy Spirit and then you?

There is a difference between the two questions. The first puts you and your desires before the Holy Spirit and the other puts the Holy Spirit first before you.

The truth is if God will make your life a wonder to your world and generation, then it is not optional. You must learn to recognize the Holy Spirit in every decision you desire to make.

You can't have decided on what to do and ask him to back you up when you never consulted him. That shows the value you have for him in your life. You can't know his will and ignore it and choose what you want and expect him to be there when you fail. Of course, he'll be there to comfort you.

The Holy Spirit is the one who makes our lives meaningful. He is the one that is called the blessing (the blessing of Abraham Galatians 3:14.) It doesn't matter what you think you can achieve on your own, it's not going to matter much without him. You would have presumably gained the world and lost your soul. Or you want to just move on with certain things without him on the journey with you, you'll find out that those things will not last so long. For without him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:3.)

God wants you great. In fact, that's how the world gets to see your light and give glory to the Father. But the Holy Spirit is the key. If there's anyone to know, it is him. The Bible says the kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a

man found and sold all he had to buy the field.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Amongst all the treasures of the kingdom of God: The Holy Spirit is our greatest treasure. He will give you all and much more if only you know how to partner with Him.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the gift of your Spirit in my life. Sent as my comforter, helper, advocate, counselor, and standby. I, therefore, affirm that I recognize the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life, and I humble myself to fellowship and partner with you Holy Spirit to make me what the Father already has in mind for me. Amen! God bless you

The Pain Of Separation

Acts 15:37-39 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Even though God desires and doesn't mind separating us from wrong relationships, there are godly separations that cause pain—if not now but in the future.

I have read the above text severally, and every time I did, I always felt this pain in my heart. Could anything have been done better? Why did the Holy Spirit not intervene? And the questions in my heart have always not been answered.

However, a thought came up, as I thought upon this matter again. If you have read the book of Acts, you would remember that it was Barnabas who brought Paul to the Apostles with a vote of confidence in him when he couldn't come close to them because of his past. It was Barnabas who was sent to Antioch

by the Apostles to the gentile believers there: who after perceiving the grace of God upon them went to Tarsus to find Paul.

These two men had come a long way and finally, the Holy Spirit spoke to set them apart for the Ministry by name. They both went for their first missionary journey and came back together to Antioch, even when John Mark left them.

God gave Paul a fellow minister to accompany him—called Barnabas, could it have been that Paul thought he could do without Barnabas in the Ministry? John Mark was a cousin of Barnabas; could Barnabas have let him go for their partnership to continue?

Well, I'll leave the answers to those questions to you. However, there are certain godly or divinely ordained relationships God has given to you and me which we must not joke with. Such relationships should be guarded jealously for the sake of making the most of our callings.

I would like you to look deeply around you, and try by the Holy Spirit to discern the relationships he has given you with some people you may not deem special and begin to cherish such relationships.

It should have been Paul and Barnabas all the way. Perhaps Paul wouldn't have had to suffer the way he did. Perhaps things would have turned out differently. As the book of Acts goes on, we don't find Silas with Paul anymore.

For me, this revelation broke me, and I am going back to cherish the relationships I have with those the Lord has given me. It may be your spouse, co-laborer in the vineyard of faith, or even at work. Discern the men God has put around you and cherish them. Two are better than one.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

Don't treat the graces you should gain from as though they mean nothing, you may still finish strong, but may have to suffer unnecessary hardships.

Prayer

Father thank you for the spiritual men and women, you have placed on my path. And so Lord I ask for the grace to discern these men and women and to love and continue to value and cherish them in my journey in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Mystery Of The Mid-Night Hour

Acts 16:25-26 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

If you pay close attention enough to scriptures, one thing you'll never miss are patterns that the Holy Spirit will show you. And with a little meditation, you'll be able to harness truths for your life and living.

In the scriptural text above, Paul and Silas were caught and beaten mercilessly and unjustly—without trial. For been led to cast off an evil spirit of divination who didn't see its doom coming.

Suddenly an uproar is stirred and this leads to the unjust imprisonment of Paul and his new companion. However, these men didn't react immediately. They should have probably used their spiritual and physical abilities to seek release from this detention. But then you must understand

what the Holy Spirit through Paul in (Ephesians 6:10) taught us; that we do not wrestle against mere men and that our warfare is against spirits that mostly influence people against us.

They waited patiently until it was midnight. Why midnight?

Now when God sort to bring the children of Israel from Egypt, the last mystery of the blood took effect from midnight. There are 8 watches of prayer every day, and midnight is the third watch of the night. All through scripture, this watch has been characterized by God avenging for his people. It is usually at these watch vengeance against powers, wicked people, gods of lands is executed or her Pharaohs judged.

Paul knew that the spirit they had cast out of that lady, was the one in charge of that city. And because they had cast it out, it had lost its power to exercise authority over the people through divination.

So, it starred up the people to beat and lock them up. But thank God for his wisdom, in their locked-up state the entire prison was won to Jesus: including the jailer and his family. The Devil never sees anything coming, he acted in anger, but Paul and Silas acted in wisdom and more souls were won.

This mystery of the midnight season is also available to you. However, what you do with it, is what you can take from it. Many are under bondages and they aren't aware. Until you by the Holy Spirit discern whatever issue that may be facing you, you may keep managing that situation.

However, my counsel to you is to GET UP. You aren't getting any younger, GET UP. Nothing changes until someone change it, GET UP. God can do exceedingly, abundantly and above all you can ask or think, but it will only happen according to the power you can generate.

Rise and ask the Holy Spirit for help, ask him to show you the cause of that issue troubling you. Ask him to teach you how to pray about them. And when he does, receive grace to fight the good fight of faith. It's a season of the Lord's vengeance against his enemies. Use it wisely.

Prayer

Father thank you for you are concerned about my well-being. Thank you for in you I have all it takes to overcome. I ask therefore that you open my eyes to see areas of my life I must fight the good fight of faith to the glory of your name. I ask that you also teach my hands to fight. Thank you, Lord, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

How To Grow In The Experiential Knowledge Of God

Acts 17:10-12 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

If asked, am sure everyone desires growth in their knowledge of God—not just about him. However, there is a secret that can aid this desire and that's what I'll be sharing with you now.

In the scriptural text above, it seemed that the devil just had a button of envy to always trigger the Jews to persecute the Apostle Paul in his assignment. Even so, he was chased from one city to another, and for the first time, we find a certain kind of Jews that weren't common in a city called Berea.

The same meeting place—Synagogue; the same people— Jews, but a different character. It is in this character that the secret to growing in the knowledge of God lies.

The King James translation calls it, "readiness of mind". And another translation, New Living Translation calls it, "An Open Mind". For the sake of this exposition, I will stick to the later translation of the word, which is to have an open mind.

Without an open mind to receive the word of God, there are many things the Lord can't reveal to you, even though you have the Holy Spirit.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

The above scripture calls it meekness. It's a disposition of the heart that portrays humility. The proof of humility is that you approach the word as one who knows nothing and is willing to adjust to whatever the author of truth is willing to share with you in obedience. Many suppose that they have an open mind to God's word, but never adjust to what the Lord is revealing. That's not humility.

The people of Berea were Jews too, but they had died to

traditions, self, and pride. Until you place the word of God above what you like or want, cultures, and traditions, there are many things you will never learn about God. The Word of God is our standard for living. If the word of God goes head to head with what you like, a tradition or culture, you must choose the word over such.

God isn't against human traditions; however, he is against any human tradition that defies and defiles his word. It doesn't matter how you paint it; God's word must be held in the highest esteem.

Now, won't you be challenged if you do this? Of course yes! You will. It's harder to swim against the tides. Will you be persecuted for it? Yes, you will! Then you must already make up your mind to choose God above all else, make up your mind to go down with God rather than shine without him.

This is how and what knowing God may cost you. But the truth is, you can't know God and be denied exploits upon the face of the earth. God seeks those to announce, those he desires to show himself mighty on their behalf. And you can be sure he will never fail—because men and their traditions will.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...

Prayer

Father, thank you for showing me a key to knowing you more. Which is to have an open mind towards every revelation of scriptures to follow and to do. I, therefore, ask for the grace to continue to come to you with an open heart to always learn and do your word, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

In Him

Acts 17:28-30 for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

As far as the heavens are from the earth, the scriptural text above tells differently about where we live—in him. For God is the God of all flesh, but only a father of spirits.

Thinking about this alone may get you confused, but it's a reality you can't fathom with your mind or reasoning. However, using your heart, you may observe that Paul meant we are surrounded by God or enveloped in him. This you must be conscious of.

Psalms 139:7-8 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

The Psalmist tried to say the same things in the above scripture.

Going forward, it even becomes closer and better for the believer. He is now also in us by his Holy Spirit. We live in him and now him in us. So, we can also say; "in us, he lives, in us, he moves and in us, he has his being."

Christ in us and we in Christ tells of an undefeatable entity. But you must live with this consciousness. I am in Christ, and Christ is in me. And whatsoever is born of God overcomes this world and all its vices. Greater is he that is in me than the powers in this world. In him I live, in me, he lives; in him, I move and in me, he moves; in him, I have all my being, and in me, he has his being—his existence.

Men can't know God apart from what I am able to display of him. For of Christ, the word says, "he was the complete expression of the Godhead." (Heb 1:3.) Our lives are supposed to express Christ in his fulness to a dying world.

Friend, we are in him. Nothing happens to you carelessly. For we are hidden in Christ and Christ is hidden in God—that's security. (Colossians 3:3). Your life shouldn't lack direction, he has a predefined part for your feet.

As I conclude, the reality of your life in God (in him) will not be realized away from the revelations you have from the word and your journey into the spirit through prayer. This is where your consciousness of this mystery will be formed beyond doubts.

Prayer

Dear father thank you for the grace to be called into fellowship with you. To know that I am born anew in you, that I live in you and you in me. Therefore lord I walk in this consciousness, that my steps are guided because I am in you, that I don't have to be afraid to miss it. After all, I am in you. Glory to Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Receiving A Word From The Lord

Acts 18:9-11 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Words are so powerful, that all things were made by them. Whatever was made even by men today began with words, which probably began as thoughts. You are who you are by the power of words. Your life revolves around the things you've heard, thought, and said. Words are how spiritual realities are translated into this world.

As powerful as a man's word is, it is unimaginable what power is embedded in a word that comes from God directly.

In the scriptural text above, Paul had gone about his business of winning souls to Christ both Greeks and Jews. And this time he was in Corinth, after his not-so-glorious time in Athens. He has passionately spoken to the Jewish people and was received by some and rejected by some as well. He then

decided to face the gentiles and the Jews who had believed and change his meeting venue.

It was in the process of things that the word of Jesus came to him. To strengthen his hand and quicken his faith.

Jesus said; "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city."

Now Paul on receiving this word stayed in Corinth for a year and a half. Doing God's work with so much zeal.

I have found out that the men that last in this race and maintain their zeal and zest for the Lord are those who receive a personal word from the Lord from time to time. Now, you may wait to receive a word from the Lord or you can trigger it by asking for it.

The Devil seeks to discourage believers in this end time, but a personal word from Jesus to you, either from his word or an encounter is enough to quicken you from death to life and last you a lifetime.

Therefore, it is wise to position yourself adequately to always hear a word from the Lord. Apart from direction and

guidance that the word brings. In (John 1:4) God shows us that; "In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

It is in this light there is found the strength to walk with God. Strength to do his will, and obey him. Strength to love, strength to give. It's all in this light. When you keep encountering his word, you keep changing gradually into the same image of the word you are encountering from glory to glory by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I pray the Lord to give you understanding in these matters.

Prayer

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus for encounters via your word, visions of the eyes, heart, and of the night that will add value and stature to me for my generation. Cause my ears to always hear your words for me in every season. Guide and guard my life by the power of your word, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

What's The Level of Your Faith in the Name?

Acts 19:13-14 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

Calling the name of Jesus at the beginning of your prayer or the end of it is not the trigger to the power embedded in it: the question is, do you have faith in the name? Or how much faith do you have in the name?

The scriptural text above has so many things to keep your heart pondering about, but this is what bothered me most.

Certain vagabond Jews had more faith in the name of Jesus that Paul preached beyond believers today. Yes, they were torn apart by a demon-possessed man in this last escapade. But they had succeeded in their previous ones. They had probably heard of or seen Paul cast out devils in the name of Jesus, and thought to themselves, "we can expel demons from people with this name that this man Paul is using."

Is the name of Jesus working for you? If it worked for the sons of Sceva who didn't know Jesus, why isn't it working in your hand?

It is these sought of questions that help to check if we really have faith in the name. Faith is beyond what people say, when they say, **1 believe."** The Power in his name is released to solve your issues based on your understanding of what it carries.

You may find that you have faith for healing, so anytime you use the name in that area, it works. But then you use it for some other issue and you don't experience the same result. Yes, your level of understanding of whatever challenges you may be facing is what activates the power in the name to solve that issue.

So, you see it is even deeper than I began with. Yes! you believe in the name of Jesus because he is your savior. However, you'll see the power in that name released to your demands based on what revelation you have about Jesus in that situation.

Then, what must you do now? It's simple and easier than it sounds. Pick an issue you desire to see the release of God's power. Develop your faith (through the word of God) in what Jesus can do in that situation and what your responsibility is

supposed to be.

Then take that faith to prayer, what will happen is your faith in Jesus in that situation plus prayer will release the power of God to work on your behalf. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding.

Prayer

Father thank you for giving me the name of Jesus to do exploits. As a child of God, the name of Jesus works in my hand. As I continue to grow in understanding in every area of life, I do exploits in the name of Jesus to the glory of God. Amen! God bless you.

The Gain of Serving God

Acts 19:24-25 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

You are either serving God or the devil and probably you haven't thought of what am about to say: whichever you serve has gains. One is temporal and deceitful, but the other genuine and eternal.

Using another Bible translation to buttress the scriptural text above;

Acts 19:25 ...Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. [NLT]

Demetrius understood that his service to Diana, the goddess of the Ephesians was all for gains. Now my question is, for what gains are you serving the Lord? Yes! You probably never saw this coming but listen, until you find the gains that are

available in Christ, serving God will be casual. Peter needed to know what the benefits were for leaving all to follow Christ, oh and yes! Jesus told him. (Mark 10:28-30.)

Jesus was the first to call serving God "a business."

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Until you see serving God as a business, where your life is sold out to make a profit for his kingdom for the rewards and promises he's made then you can't give it all up.

Jesus endured the cross and despised the shame for the hope (gain) that was set before him.

What do you want to become in God? Early when I gave my life to Christ, I learned that God had a plan for me, and his plan was all I ever wanted. Such as, the blessings of prosperity, wealth, health, peace, long life, joy, and perpetual victory over the devil. Then I said to myself. If I chased my plans, I wasn't guaranteed all these and even worse still I'll be the one to figure everything out. And would have the devil to contend with.

My decision was easy, finding his plan and running with it was the jackpot of life for me. So, I buried my head, and the blessings I had desired became the hope set before me, and I began to seek after God. The rest is history today.

God sowed Jesus to the earth to reap a harvest of souls. He had hope for me and you in his heart. Serving God is the greatest business on earth because it has rewards both on earth and in heaven.

However, I must define what serving God is. The ultimate of this is when you find God's plan for you and serve it to the world. This was what Jesus meant;

Matthew 20:27-28 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

His purpose was not really to heal the sick and raise the dead. He was the lamb prepared for the sin of the whole world. He found it and finally served his life on the cross for you and me. That's how he earned his place at God's right hand.

What is God's purpose for your life? If you are yet to find it, keep asking, seeking, and knocking. It is in fulfilling it that your greatness lies. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in these matters.

Prayer

Father thank you for the new light to give my service to you a business approach. I ask Lord for grace to stay fervent and consistent in this course. Open my eyes and heart to perceive the things you have ordained for me in destiny. Amen! God bless you.

The Power Of God Is In You

Acts 20:9-10,12 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

There is nothing like a particular power of resurrection in the scriptures. It is the same power of God that can bring that which is dead back to life. But you have to know it. You have to know the exceeding great power that God has made available to you. It is when your eyes are open to know this power that you can crave to have its workings in you.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of
wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
The eyes of your understanding being
enlightened; that ye may know... what is the
exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward
who believe... Ephesians 1:17-19

It is not available to only Apostles or the fivefold ministry gift. It is available to everyone who believes.

In the scriptural text above, Paul was under the Anointing to teach, and a meeting that had begun in the evening, which was meant to only break bread, lasted beyond midnight. And so, a young man among the people was very drowsy and because he was sitting on the window, fell from a three-storey building and died.

You must understand that death is not the end. Jesus is the beginning—ending: death is somewhere in between. So, death shouldn't stop anything, it can be reversed. Paul did not sweat it, he just went down and raised the dead man back to life. We weren't even told that he prayed.

It was the same power at work in the body of Paul, when the Jews had beaten him to death. That power quickened his body back to life. The disciples only gathered, they were still contemplating what they should do.

This power is to us-ward who believe. But until you know what this power is, you will not crave it. This power is what Paul was referring to when he said;

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Ephesians 3:20

God is not limited, but the power at work in you can limit his possibilities. If there is anything to crave for it is the power of God at work in your life. It does not matter if a man with power lays hand on you, you don't suddenly carry the power he does carry. He may leave a deposit, but it's your responsibility to build it.

We grow in power, as we continue to stir the gift (Holy Ghost) of God in us. It will require a routine of long hours in prayer. It will require a routine of fasting, to put your flesh under so the spirit can rise. The Holy Spirit is not power, power is one of his manifestations—his nature. As he is stirred up in worship, fellowship, prayers, and fasting, his manifestation or nature in and through you will keep increasing—of which power is just one.

Get messages or books on what it takes to have the power of God work in you. That's how faith for whatever the cost to walk in power comes. That's where to begin from 1 pray to the

Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father thank you for the gift of your Spirit in me, which gives me access to your power. So I refuse to waste this grace, I stir up the gift of God in me, for I have not received the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and a sound mind. Glory to God. Amen! God bless you.

You Have An Inheritance In Christ

Acts 20:31-32 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

There is an allotment for you in God. If earthly parents preserve for their children an inheritance; how much more does your heavenly Father.

However, inheritance is only given to those who have come of age in the kingdom, not children. In the above scriptural text, Paul knew by the Spirit that he wasn't going to see the disciples at Ephesus again, but he did something remarkable.

He commended them to God and to the Word of his grace. He said the word was capable of building them up. And not until they are built up can they be given their inheritance in Christ.

It doesn't matter what kind of service you render in Church, there is a qualification you must attain to be handed your inheritance in Christ. It's not enough to be good, or kind, or a

giver. You must be built up by God's word.

Our inheritances are not just about physical possessions or lands or properties alone. Our inheritance speaks of men and their territories. Yes, men!

When Abraham was 99, the Lord asked him for a close walk and gave him the token of his covenant—circumcision: to the end that kings and nations would come out of him.

Genesis 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

The inheritance willed by God to Abraham was not Canaan or landed properties alone, it was me and you. Today we through Christ are seeds of Abraham. We are the kings and nations that come off his loins. And the same goes for you today.

Until you are built up by the word, you don't get your inheritance, you will probably be inherited by those who have been built up by the word.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the

uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

We are to conquer lands and terrains for Christ, but it's really not about the lands we conquer, but about the men therein. That is when (Isaiah 60:22) will find expression.

Isaiah 60:22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

I would usually ask myself if a small one can become a nation; what will a strong one become? Friend, God is taking us to greater heights, but it's not about the lands, cars, or houses, but the lives of men that will see God through us.

So, pay the price, get yourself built up. There's an inheritance awaiting you, it's a covenant, so it'll never change. You just do your part and leave God's part to him. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father thank you for in you I have an inheritance already allotted to me in Christ. So I cast off the hands of idleness and I run the race that is set before me. I grow by the

word	to	possess	the	lands	you	have	ordained	for	те	in
Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.										

He Defends His Word

Acts 23:12-14 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

God's word has the capacity in it enough to defend itself from corruption, whether written or revealed. In the scriptural text above, Paul had received an encounter from the Lord about a future that must come to pass a night before. And in that same night some men, over 40 of them had another plan against his life.

I don't know what you may have heard from God. But if you haven't heard anything from him, this is where to labor. Labor to the point that God speaks a word over your life. Because if he does, he will defend it.

The sacrifice of these men against the life of Paul was gruesome. They said; "We shall not eat or drink until we kill

Paul." This was a sacrifice, and this was costly and meant to just kill a man.

Wickedness is in this world, and this is why you must labor to come under the protective shield of the Lord always. For it is he that dwells in the secret place of the most high that shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty himself.

They had to break that fast. Yes, they had to let it go. It doesn't matter the plots of the wicked and the sacrifices they may have to offer against your advancement. If you can secure a word from the Lord, that plan will fail.

This calls for sensitivity, you must be sensitive or alert to perceive God move over your spirit, so as not to miss Him when he desires to speak to you. You should become familiar with the way the Holy Spirit brings words to you or instructs you.

Sometimes it may be an instruction to prepare you against an attack, or a warning to guide you through a specific season against the wiles of the wicked. Whichever it is, you must be on the watch always.

Prayer

Father thank you for you honor your word above your name. Thank you for your word that guarantees my safety and protection. Therefore I take shield under your word that gives life and light. And I decree safety for me and all that concerns me, in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

Acting From The Place of Revelation

Acts 25:9-11 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me? Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

According to the words of Jesus, he assured us that when the spirit of truth comes, he will teach us all things, reminding us of all things and even show us things to come. Why? Because a revelation of the future in the right hands is a weapon for victory.

In the scriptural text above, Paul had already been told by the Lord that he would stand trial in Rome to preach the word to gentile kings. (Acts 23:11). So when he observed that his trial was about to take a turn against what he was told of the Lord, he moved by faith quickly to appeal to Caesar.

Without the foreknown revelation, Paul wouldn't have been

able to boldly appeal the governor's decision to go stand trial in Jerusalem. He acted from the position of the revelation he already had.

Today, the Holy Spirit hasn't changed, he still reveals to us things to come. To help us make plans and decisions in line with what he reveals. God has a definite plan for your life, however, his definite plans require your unwavering faith—which is a combination of your words and action.

You must move when you ought to when you have received a word from the Lord. This is where the subject of wisdom comes to play. Knowing what to do and doing it when it ought to be done. If Paul had delayed in his intervention for an appeal to Caesar, he probably would have been killed before time. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father thank you for you are the revealer of secrets. Showing us as your children the things which we need to triumph in life. Therefore I am active and awake to receive insights from you. And Lord I ask for wisdom to know how to apply the insight that you reveal to me every time in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Your Part In Destiny

Acts 25:24-26 And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him. Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write.

Destiny here refers to God's predetermined plan for your life; the truth is you have a big part to play in its coming to pass.

In the scriptural text above, an earlier scripture is fulfilled. That which Jesus said to Ananias concerning Paul.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: (Acts 9:15)

Paul stands before governor Festus, King Agrippa, and the

nobles of that kingdom to profess his faith. Knowing fully well that it wasn't really about his defense, but for the fulfillment of God's word over his life.

Paul could have paid the bribe expected of him by Felix and should have left confinement. But he stood with his integrity and righteousness. He would have found some way out but, he chose to submit to the will of God.

God's words have in them the capacity to come to pass on their own. But his word over your destiny depends on your obedience to see them happen.

It may take time to learn obedience, but it's the greatest virtue to learn and imbibe. I once heard a great man I love and honor say; "obedience may be costly, but its rewards are priceless."

Obedience will take away from you, certain levels of comfort to please God on certain issues. It all boils down to the words of Jesus to those who must follow him. They must deny themselves, count their cost, then take up their cross and follow him.

It may be sometimes hard on the flesh, however, if you lean on

God's grace, he'll empower your spirit with the strength to walk in obedience of faith, to see your destiny fulfilled.

Paul fulfilled his destiny, he suffered for a while in the prison, but he fulfilled the visions of God for his life. He took the gospel to the gentiles, even to the pedigree of kings and nobles.

Prayer

Father thank you for you have a plan for me, which is good to bring to pass an expected end. I ask therefore for grace to continue to play my role in obedience and diligence to see your plans fulfilled in my life. I refuse to take the grace you have given me for granted. I choose to forsake self and I lay hold of my cross and I follow you, in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.

The Help Ministry of The Holy Spirit

Acts 26:22-23 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

It takes a man who has failed enough to conclude that he needs help. The Christian walk is such that it is impossible to succeed without the help ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In the reading above Paul shares a secret to his success in life and the ministry. He said, 'Having obtained help first from God, I have continued..." So it is clear that he first sort help from God before he could continue.

The challenges Paul passed through were quite strange as he mentioned some of them in (2 Corinthians 11:21-27.) But he survived them all. How? By the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus already told us that he would not leave us without a comforter. And in this love he had and still has for us, he

prayed to the Father to give us his Spirit. And as always, the Father granted his request.

The question now is, how much of this "Help Ministry" are you taking advantage of. The Holy Spirit has a help ministry to render to every believer including you. But he doesn't force it on you.

This calls for you to acknowledge his help ministry, and then subscribe to it in close fellowship or friendship with him. He is concerned about your life. The Holy Spirit is God in you and with you to make you what God had purposed for you before the world began.

Just the same way you would relate with a close friend you love, you can relate with him. Talk to him, and when he helps you, recognize it and appreciate him. Make him feel welcomed.

Quit grieving or quenching Him. You may ask how? When he asks you to do something and you don't do it, you quench him. And when he tells you not to do a thing and you go ahead and do it, then you grieve him.

He's so gentle, and so he is so protected by the Father and the Son. He will not argue your choice or will with you. If you

remain adamant as to your will over certain things, he will let you have your way. However, I believe that's not in your best interest.

In my walk with him, I have found him to be so patient with me. He is very patient. But I have also found some persons who had his fullness and lost him. I mean, they could pray in tongues before but not anymore. In my wandering and questioning, I found out that they kept grieving him with sin until he left.

However, if that's your case. A heart of genuine repentance, which involves confessing and forsaking your past ways will be enough to welcome him back. Remember, he can see your heart. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the help ministry of the Holy Spirit that I have access to. I choose to acknowledge the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life. I do not take the Holy Spirit for granted anymore. I receive grace to grow in my fellowship and partnership with him to rise to the heights you have ordained for me, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

The Losses of Ignoring God's Leading

Acts 27:18-21 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Men suffer losses every day, including believers who should be led and guided by the Holy Spirit. Could these losses be avoided? Well, to say the least, if not all, most of such losses can be avoided.

In the Scriptural text above, Paul had forewarned the sailors of the ship he was on board, about an impending danger if they set sail, however, they failed to listen to him because they depended on their expertise and know-how to accomplish their goal.

The same thing happens in our everyday life. We fail to harken to the leadings of God through his gentle nudging in

our hearts. We ignore the absence of peace that crave our attention to observe and turn.

We are probably looking for a big sign or a loud trumpet to call us off the path of regret we may be treading on. The results are always the same, it ends in regret, losses, and destruction.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

That silent voice of your spirit by the Holy Spirit in your heart will save you a lot of misfortune and regret. However, you must learn and grow in your discerning and obedience to his nudging in your heart, to master it. It can determine whether you live or die.

What if Paul wasn't on that ship. They wouldn't have just lost their belongings or the ship, they would have lost their lives. Confidence in the flesh is a sure way to harness losses in life.

> Jeremiah 17:5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the

LORD.

The Lord may be so merciful as he has always been to deliver you from danger. But must we be in danger before we listen to His leading? He never intends to lead you into danger, so he can save you. He knows the plans of the enemy, and he always makes a way to escape them, by mostly leading you away from them.

Psalms 23:1-2 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He leads you beside still waters, not troubled waters or chaotic situations. It is my prayer that you be sensitive to never miss or ignore his leadings for your life in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father, thank you for of a truth you lead me beside still waters. I ask dear Father for grace to be sensitive to your leadings for me. Whether through your audible voice, dreams, visions, still small voice, or your nudging on my conscience. And I also receive grace to obey them. Thank you, Father, in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

Don't Show Up Empty-Handed

Acts 28:3,5,8-9 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

As a show of courtesy, it is accepted to take a gift to your host when you move from one place to another. And among many gifts one can carry, there is a gift that can cover for all things—the gift of the Anointing.

In the above reading, the entire members of the crew on board Paul's ship had gone without food for days. But their fast was not so productive, compared to that of God's servant Paul. Even though he probably also didn't eat, he came out from the shipwreck with fire.

The Devil who sort his life in Jerusalem wasn't near giving up. He followed him through the sea, and even after the

shipwreck bit him with a poisonous serpent. But glory to God, Paul didn't show up empty-handed.

He did not just shake off a viper into the fire. He healed one man and many others came for the same reason, and he healed them all. The town of Malta will never recover from the impact of Paul. They stayed there for three long months, which was enough time to preach to the whole community to Jesus before leaving.

I have heard this statement from a mentor, he said: **The Anointing is not just what makes the difference—it is the difference."** Paul brought the Anointing into the city of Malta, and the devil could not but bow. He didn't show up empty.

Now, it doesn't matter what you do, you must labor to carry the Anointing. The entire world is laden with so much wickedness, that it isn't even safe for you to go around empty. Think of the help you can extend to many by the power of God at work in your life.

It takes a combination of a strong desire, together with regimented prayer and fasting schedules with a good fellowship with the Holy Spirit to walk this path. As long as you have the Holy Spirit you are anointed. But the Anointing

is in levels, based on diverse input levels of knowledge and prayer. It is a gift you have access to, but you must choose to stir up.

A man cannot lay his hands on you and you inherit the years of prayer and labor he has walked in. What you'll get at most is a seed, you must cultivate and grow. If you will not pray regularly in the spirit or fast—spiritual things don't have shortcuts as physical things do—your desire for power will end at being a wish.

However, every price to grow in grace must begin with a choice, which will be backed up by a supply of grace from God. So, it isn't just you who wants to grow, God is interested in your growth too. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father thank you for the gift of the Anointing, which is an expression of your Spirit in me. I receive grace to continue to stair up your power upon my life to the point where I can become productive everywhere I go, making manifest the savor of Christ in me in Jesus name. Amen! God bless you.

It's All About JESUS

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Until you can find the reason why all things are, work, and will forever be, you may be missing the mark. Jesus is the center of gravity for us, if it's not about him then it's not about anything else.

In the reading above, Paul, God's servant, had finally arrived Rome. He enjoyed so much favor, that he was given the privilege to stay in his rented apartment as a prisoner and was given a Soldier to guard him.

Yes! It may not be the freedom he deserved, but it's not really about what we deserve or don't, but rather about Jesus.

On his arrival he made arrangements to talk with the Jews in Rome, to find out if his report and the allegations against him had gotten to Rome before his arrival. It may seem that that was his concern, but really it wasn't. Paul wanted to preach the gospel.

They gave him a date to talk to them on the issue, and in the end, he got some Jews saved. Paul was a prisoner, and as recorded he continued with the same routine of teaching and preaching Christ in Rome for two years without hindrances.

Today, what excuse do you have? What's your excuse for not making it all about Jesus? Remember the Lord's command to go into all nations and preach everywhere, making disciples for Him. Paul had found the one reason he lived for, or would die for—it was all about Jesus.

It doesn't matter what men know you for today, you can choose to make your life and time all about Jesus. Whether at work, the market, or on social media, and in all that you do, you must make it all about Jesus.

It's not about your looks or about being funny, if it's not about Jesus, it doesn't count.

The book of acts ends on this note: first, it was Peter who displayed the believer's life in Christ, and then Paul took the second part of the book. From nothing, he rose to become the

greatest of them—making it all about Jesus.

You can ask the Lord for ideas, he will grant you such, to make your life all about Jesus. That's what the Holy Spirit came to do, to make us all about Jesus to the world. I pray to the Lord to give you understanding in Jesus name.

Prayer

Father, thank you for this revelation, that all I live for and should ever live for is Jesus. So I ask that you show me ways to make my entire existence all about Jesus. Open my eyes to opportunities to share Jesus with my generation. Empower me Lord to take Jesus everywhere. Oh, I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen! God bless you.



Are You Born Again?

The content of this book is written to aid believers in Christ live the life of Christ in its totality. Displaying his life and character in all its anointed varieties to the world. 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. Amen.

About The Author

Josiah Okheape is a Christian blogger, a Teacher of God's Word, and a Youth coach with over 3 years of 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 Children's teacher in his local Church, where he currently still serves. He is also the author of the book, "12 Keys to Reading Christian Books." Which is available on Amazon, Kobo, and Okada books. And he lives in Abuja, Nigeria.

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The believers life is one you cannot live without a demonstration of your faith in acts. The book of Acts is a fragment of the heart and intention of God towards his children, to see them flood the earth with proof of Christs death and resurrection. "Lessons from the book of Acts" is a book with 40 life applicable lessons on the

secrets of how the early believers and Apostles lived to conquer their enemies, and at the same time fulfilling the will of the Master to turn many to righteousness.

The author carefully teaches each lesson, portraying a problems and proffering applicable solutions for living the Victorious life of Christ. In it he cover subject on faith, power, the Holy The Spirit, prayer, authority, serving, destiny and much more.

The author is a Teacher of God's word and Christian blogger, passionate about helping others see the hidden mysteries of God's word. He has had the privilege to serve as Youths leader, Sunday School Teacher, and a Children's teacher in his local Church, where he currently still serves. He is also the author of the book, "12 Keys To Reading Christian Books." Which is available on Amazon, Kobo, and Okada books. And he lives in Abuja, Nigeria.

