

Winning The War Against Poverty

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

Introduction

Poverty stinks!

Poverty bites!

Poverty humiliates!

It makes her victim vulnerable to sicknesses and diseases.

Poverty kills!

One of the most destructive social vices is poverty.

Eating well makes healthy! Eating well makes strong! Eating well guarantees long life! But eating well takes good money.

The psalmist says:

He has satisfied my mouth with good things so that my youth is renewed like the Eagles.

Psalm 103:5

Of a truth, no one truly enjoys poverty.

All over the world, every man wishes another long life and prosperity. No one wants to be wished long life and poverty.

Poverty has no friend! Poverty has no brother! Poverty has no parents!

Poverty is an orphan and no one wants to identify with her. No one in his right mind wishes to be poor.

A poor man is an orphan indeed.

In fact, the Bible defines poverty as a curse.

But thank God. The curse of poverty was averted on the cross, among others.

Come along with me as we wage war against this killer disease called poverty!

CHAPTER 1

FORCES OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The world today, lives in the midst of such an economic recession in the history of mankind that has left no nation untouched. The economic crises in some nations can be likened to the days of Joseph, when the Bible records that money failed in Egypt. Even the supposed first world nations are without exemption.

The harder men try to come out, the deeper they are plunged into it. Poverty today seems to be the norm among nations, rather than the exception. It has no respect for sex, race, colour or creed.

This is in fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 60:2:

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

But what is the origin of poverty?

In Genesis chapter 1, we see the very graphic description of creation. In the beginning of all things, God created a very rich, prosperous earth, with everything reproducing after its kind, and man, made in the image of God and put in charge:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Genesis 1:26-30

To wrap it all up, the Bible records in Genesis 2:8-12:

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

Man lived in a garden of affluence and abundance of all things, and was given everything freely to enjoy. So, wealth came along with creation and was equally distributed to every part of the world. As a matter of fact, up until 1400, the whole world was said to be at the same level of civilization and development. So, what happened to us?

The Bible says: “***And there was war in heaven:***” (Revelation 12:7). The subject of war is not new to man. If the devil could organize to fight in heaven, where he knew for a surety that he would fail, how much more would he fight with men, taking advantage of their ignorance.

It is a basic science law that every object remains at rest until a force is applied to it. So also, every change of position calls for the application of relevant forces. Certain forces must come into play, before any object can change from one position to another. It will not change position because it has to change or it is programmed to change; it will only change if the relevant forces are applied.

Money failure is not new, but then, recovery is also not new. There was a time recorded in scriptures, when money failed in Egypt and men offered themselves for sale in exchange for food.

And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth.

Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.

Genesis 47:15,19

Economic recovery is a universal possibility, and it has been proved in several parts of the world. History records that the nation of America went through a great time of economic depression, yet today, the world's economy is determined by the value of the American dollar. China has become a nation to watch today, because it is now gradually taking over economically after a process of recovery. It is taking over not because of its population, as it has always been highly populated, but because there is an economic re-awakening that is repositioning her in the forefront economically. At independence, Singapore was assisted by Ghana. But today, see the gap between Singapore and Ghana; it cannot be measured. The G8 is powerful, not because of its political system, but due to its economic power.

Winning the war against poverty begins with a correct diagnosis of what causes poverty. When you begin at the beginning, you are too sure of the end. Often, particularly in the developing nations, it is wrong diagnosis that causes the death of patients. A man may be suffering from cancer of the lungs, but he is being treated for a common cold. After his death, the doctors see the need for a postmortem, to try to find out what actually killed him. As long as the diagnosis is wrong, you cannot hope for economic recovery.

Until you change the way you think, you cannot change the way you live. The cause of poverty is more of the mind than it is of the hand. It is more of mentality than it is of activity. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Likewise, until your mentality is healed, your recovery is not in view. It is your mental picture that determines your actual future. The mind has to be re-positioned before a recovery can be experienced. Therefore, it takes possessing a possibility mentality to recover your economic dignity.

It is important to recognize that nothing erodes human dignity like poverty. Poverty has no honour or dignity whatsoever attached to it. Today, the world has no regards whatsoever for any input in world affairs from Africa, because of her poverty. Africa has no voting power, our large population notwithstanding. Population-wise, Africa is about twice the size of the United States of America, but

our almost six hundred million population is of no consequence to the world. Why? Like the Bible says, “...***The voice of a poor man is not heard and his words are despised***” (Ecclesiastes 9:14-17). Even though his wisdom will deliver cities, no one knows anything about that poor man. He is an employee, so the employer takes the glory.

Though Africa’s input in America’s sugarcane plantation as labourers was part of what helped in revitalizing the economy of America, the African is still not considered as any creation of relevance, because the voice of a poor man is not heard, and his wisdom is despised. So, no matter what we know as Africans, until we recover our economic dignity, we will remain the footmat of the world. That is why economic recovery is a must. Our human dignity as a people must be recovered.

Economic failure or depression is no news, just as economic recovery is no news either. All it takes to recover from an economic depression or failure, is to know where to begin from and start treating the disease from there. Mentality!

I was privileged to be at the Oral Roberts University in America some years ago. I walked around the campus ground, admiring all I saw there. As I walked around the campus, I found myself saying, “This is God; but it can happen anywhere else.” That is the kind of mentality that brings about a recovery: “...but it can happen anywhere else!”

I know that in my lifetime, Africa will start causing the same positive concern that China is causing the world today. No longer should Africans rush abroad to continue the slavery of our forefathers; we should all remain at home, and with our individual vision and mission, begin to make contributions that will move the continent towards economic recovery. With all of us pulling our resources together, very soon we will cause an eruption that the world cannot ignore. Very soon, it will be Africa’s turn for an industrial revolution!

The economic dignity of this continent will be recovered. You may choose to be a part of it or be somewhere else on a slave trade trip and be hearing of what is happening back home. It is a choice you must make. You will need to wake up and subject yourself to the reorientation and reconstruction of your thinking process, in order to regain your human value. By this I mean, a reconstruction of your value system, such that your life is value-driven, not possession or comfort-driven. A value-driven lifestyle is a state where what to add becomes your concern, not what to take from a system.

Former American President, John F. Kennedy, in his historical speech said, “*It is time we stopped thinking of what America can do for us; rather, let’s start thinking of what we can do for America.*” That is what brings about a change. It has to begin with the mind. Until there is a positive change within you, there cannot be a positive change around you. It is the change within you that provokes the changes around you.

One great author said, “Wealth is essentially a product of man’s capacity to think.” If I may add to that, I would say, “Wealth is essentially a product of man’s capacity to think right and think possibility.”

The number one cause of poverty is possessing a poor man’s mentality. You, like most other people, may perhaps be saying, “What can anybody do under these circumstances? I don’t think in our generation we can really effect any change, because the situation is so bad. What can one person do? Look at the population of Nigeria for instance, what difference can I make? I mean let’s be frank, what can I do?” But God used one man, Joseph, to recover the dignity of a whole nation. What if there are 10, 20 or even 100 Josephs in our country or continent? That would be too much for Africa! Has God changed? He used only one Joseph, one tiny Joseph, with a very poor CV, to rewrite the destiny of a whole generation. I have no doubt that you are one of the Josephs this continent is waiting for.

Until your poverty mentality is healed, your prosperity is not in view. Whatever makes you feel

poor or sorry for yourself, where you have found yourself or how you are created, places a limit on you and on your destiny. But you can change that.

Let me say a few things that will help you. There is no racial discrimination in the field of sports. Every participant takes off from the same starting point, whosoever gets to the finishing line first is the winner, whether he is black, yellow, brown, white or green does not matter. There is no major team on earth, today, that has no black player. Why then have the blacks succeeded in competing favourably in sports, but not in any other area? His poverty mentality is responsible! There are many industries with no blacks on board, because of the black man's poor mentality.

The law or concept of equality of destinies, is the cheapest way to maintain a healthy mentality. It will ginger you to refuse a position of degradation and deprivation. Physiologically, there is no difference between races; every human is essentially made up of the same thing. That is why the organs of a white man can be used for a black person. Indians are noted for their free donations and sometimes sales of kidneys for money. These kidneys are preserved and transported to areas of need, like America, Australia, Canada, etc., and are transplanted into people of various skin colours. The kidneys are the same, irrespective of race and colour. Hence, they can be given to anybody.

The same thing is applicable, the human brain! All brains are the same, your skin colour notwithstanding. What makes the difference is how it is put to use. How you programme or position your brain is what determines the gains it will bring to you. If it is positioned to think poor, it will lower the level of gain, but when it is appropriately positioned, it will enhance the level of gains it delivers to you. There is really no difference between you and the wisest being on earth. What makes the difference is the use to which you put your brain.

This concept of equality of creation has helped me greatly in life. It helped to free my mind from every sense and notion of dependency and feeling of inferiority. This is where to start in our quest for economic recovery. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, the black and the white, ***“for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him”*** (Romans 10:12). God has an equal economic agenda for all. He distributes His wealth equally, because there are treasures even in the desert sand. But because the people who live in the desert don't know that there are treasures in the ground, they continue living with the poverty their forefathers left them.

Peter said in Acts 10:34-35, ***“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.”*** And the rule says, ***“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he”*** (Proverbs 23:7). So, until you reconstruct your thinking pattern, you cannot change your environment, as your environment is subject to what goes on within you. It does not have to be white to be right.

The economic recovery process of our great continent can never be by the efforts of foreigners. History shows that every recovery process was engineered by the nationals of that country, not foreigners. There is no way a family can be the force behind the economic recovery of another family, as destiny is essentially a race of personal responsibility. ***“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender”*** (Proverbs 22:7). The poorer the poor nations become, the better for the wealthy nations, because the slavery of the poor nations to the rich nations will continue. Therefore, each people or nation must accept responsibility for their desired change.

A change of perspective is the cheapest way to experience a change of position. The healing of your mentality is the beginning of the recovery of your dignity. This is because the quality of your mentality is what defines the quality of your destiny.

Sometime in 1985, I said humorously that poverty is not a native of Africa, but a traveler that stays only where it is welcomed. How you welcome it is what determines how long it settles. So, it is

time to tell poverty, “You are no longer welcomed in Africa.” Let’s react! When anything makes you want to feel poor, react violently against it, as black is not synonymous with lack. You have to fill your heart with a sense of dignity, so much that when anyone attempts to erode your dignity, you react sharply against it.

Seeking a means of livelihood is the only goal of slaves, whereas value enhancement is the leading goal of all leaders. They are always asking, “*What am I to add? What am I putting into the system? What can I make happen? What is my mission here on earth? What contribution am I here to make?*” That is what makes great leaders.

Your performance is a function of your perspective. A poor outlook is what makes a poor output. With a poor perspective, you are sure to have a poor performance. Your mentality is what defines your destiny. Nature is God’s creation, environment is man’s creation. Recreate your perspective to recreate your environment.

Chapter 2

FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Economic depression is not new; it has always been. Economic recovery is no magic either; it is a process which, when engaged, must surely deliver a recovery.

A very disturbing verse of scriptures is found in Proverbs 23:4:

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Unfortunately, most people labour to be rich. Crazy things happen when your mission is to enrich yourself. You go to any extent to achieve your goal, including getting rich “by all means.” What actually enriches is not your target for wealth. Labouring to enrich other lives is what makes rich, because you are enriched in the process of enriching others. Your value is enhanced as you labour to add value to others.

When enriching others is your purpose for living, it helps you to maintain decorum and integrity, because you are not looking for anything for yourself primarily, but are seeking to enhance the value of others. God knows what He means when He says, “Labour not to be rich.” The futility of doing so is as a man on the ground chasing after a bird flying in the air. The Bible says in Proverbs 23:5:

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

That is why God said, if you make riches your target, you will labour in futility, as you will be chasing it for eternity. Tell me, when can the fastest runner on earth ever catch up with a flying eagle? But when your mission is to add value to others, you will enjoy a stress-free life - you are just cool and calm, with no apprehensions or rising blood pressure level.

The value of money is the use to which you put it. When it is used in enriching others, you are enriched, at peace and healthy, as you are not chasing after the un-catchable. ‘*Riches make themselves wings,*’ so if riches are the reason you are living, then you are already in prison, because you will never find any moment of refreshing. You should not live to yourself, but to enhance the value of others. That is the source of true riches.

Every economic recovery in history has its root in morality. By morality I mean a commitment to the wellbeing of humanity. There is something in man that helps him seek the good of others. The most enduring civilization on earth today, was birthed on a spiritual platform. The technological advancements in North America and the industrial revolution in Europe have their roots in reformation.

The industrial revolution in Europe that was responsible for their economic recovery, and which gave them their place as world leaders in the 14th century, was a direct product of the Martin Luther reformation. See how enduring that was. Recently, the world celebrated the hundreth year anniversary of the Azusa Street Revival in California. The emergence of the American nation began from there. That great awakening that also gave birth to the healing revivals was what birthed the industries, which led to microchip technology, which is what we are celebrating today as IT.

From the Wright brothers’ air balloon that looked like a coffin flown lying down, we now have

planes that can carry about 500 people at once for long hours. Today, people journey to the moon, stay there for about six months and return to earth, as though they went on vacation.

At the root of these major moves is deep morality, which stemmed out of some connections with the Creator by a process of spiritual awakening. When the spiritual fire began to go down in Europe, it began to lose its economic power and, finally, lost it to America. What we have in China today, is only an importation of technology, which they committed themselves to and have attained. The problem is, the bulk of the technology is transferred and the cheapest way to bring them down is to short-circuit that technology and redesign it. Only self-discovered technology can be sustained. Every original invention always has one kind of connection or the other to the Creator. Definitely, there is the finger of God at the root of every revival.

What is so unique about the spiritual dimension of economic recovery? It is always dramatic; it breaks a lot of natural laws in birthing its product. The spiritual root expresses itself in your thought pattern. With divine illumination, what takes others years to attain will not take you that long to accomplish.

Think of the conversion of wealth in Egypt; it was dramatic. One episode alone transferred the wealth of Egypt into the hands of slaves. Why? God's hand was in it. When God wants to revert a situation, it is always dramatic. After over 400 years as slaves, the story changed overnight, such that they carried money as luggage. They became multi-millionaires overnight by the hand of God! They could freely give gold and silver for the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness because they had more than enough.

When there was a terrible famine in Second Kings chapter seven, and there was no way out, with a noise God caused the enemies that had gathered to assault His people to flee, leaving behind their horses and wealth. According to God's Word, food became extra-ordinarily abundant in Samaria the following day (2 Kings 7:1-18). There was a dramatic recovery of the dignity of the people.

Secondly, the spiritual dimension of economic recovery is always accompanied by divine speed. In 1 Kings 18:46, Elijah, by the hand of the Lord outran the chariots of Ahab to the gates of Jezreel. That is, when God's hand is involved, you cannot scientifically analyse the process.

Thirdly, when God's hand is involved, it is enduring, because whatever the Lord does, it shall be forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14). The speed of Elijah - the divine speed that Elijah enjoyed to outrun the horse and the chariot, the dramatic conversion of the wealth of Egypt in Exodus 12, and the dramatic intervention of God in recovering the economic dignity of His people (2 Kings. 7), all point to the fact that your own platform is unique. Your responsibility is to ensure God's hand does not go off your life because there is no comparing the speed and the dramatic dimension of glory and honour with the natural.

The greatest hand on earth will never compare in quality and delivery with the hand of God. No matter what a man possesses, that will never be comparable to the eternal quality in God. So, it does not require a century to effect a change, it requires the active hand of God at work in the life of a man.

Every nation runs on a definite and well defined policy that is not designed to favour everybody; it is designed to favour the nation state and you have to align with it. Nature is God's creation; environment is man's creation. No great nation is made by a great government; every great nation is a product of the great people. So, it is the input of the individual great people that culminates in the greatness of their nation. Those who observe the cloud will not sow; those who study the wind will not reap. Circumstances will not always be favourable, but your commitment will subdue circumstances.

So, it is not so much about the government in place, it is so much about the perspective of the

people within a society that makes the difference.

The Dream Factor

The next vital key after mentality is dream. That takes me to the foundation for economic recovery. It is important to know that possibility mentality is the birthing ground for life-transforming dreams. Without a possibility mentality, even when an idea strikes, it is rejected.

You have what it takes, God has put that in you, and your redemption puts you above your peers. It is that far above mentality that makes you a dynamic dreamer. Whatever you cannot dream, you cannot dare and whatever you cannot dare, you never deliver.

What are dreams? Dreams are mental pictures of the future relating to your quest in life. That is your goal, your objectives, the things you see happening, the things you see delivered.

What are dreams? Dreams are imaginations of your set destination. Imagination is a compound word coined out of image and formation. So, a dream is an image formation of your set destination. Your affection and commitment to the cause becomes the driving force of your life. That is, it gives you the end picture of where you are going and that becomes a compelling force for your drive towards it.

What are dreams? Dreams are strong desires with well-defined products. They are tangible ends that come out of an inner crave to see it happen. Thank God He gave me a vision, but long before then, I hated poverty in the Church with a passion and I wanted to be part of the people who would enforce a change. How it would be, I didn't know; but I hated the proverb 'As poor as church rat.' By my own understanding, it is an insult to God and His people and I had that burning desire to live to see a change; bless God, it didn't take that long, the change is obvious today. Churches in Nigeria today are so rich, they have become a concern to the government by reason of the traffic challenges they pose to the authorities.

In my growing up days, church designs did not make any provision for car parks because nobody was coming to park a car there; only the pastor had a bicycle, which took the elders a lot of time to generate the money to buy. When the tyre went flat and they needed to buy a new tube, it took about five, six weeks to raise the money to buy it. So, one plot or land was considered more than enough for any church building. Today, some churches need as much as sixty acres of land for parking. That's a change of story.

Dreams are not idle thoughts; dreams are concrete pictures, just like they are painted on the mind. All world changers are notable dreamers. Ultrasheen was a black shoemaker, polishing shoes, and in those days, most of the shoes were black. Back then, there was need to look for the best way to treat the hair of black people. He asked himself: this thing that is being used to treat leather, is there any much difference between the hair and this leather? It can be converted! What an industry Ultrasheen is today!

Think of Martin Luther King Junior, who hated the racial discrimination in America with a passion. He said, "*I have a dream ...*" and that dream is fulfilled today. Today, you see white and black now embracing themselves, marrying themselves, living together, using the same toilet, etc. In those days, America had black toilets, white toilets, white churches, black churches, etc. Crossing over was an offence, not that there was a white God and a black God! I mean, it was bad, and here was a preacher who said, "Look, this can't continue. There is no difference between the Jews and the Greeks; He is the same Lord over all of us; this must not continue." It was strange; how could this minority make a change? Martin Luther King Junior carried a dream of a change and for a change. That dream began to drive his life and, bless God, it is there today.

All world changers are known to be notable dreamers - they see a picture that they cannot

disconnect from and that picture keeps driving them until it is accomplished. Dreamers are world changers, dreamers are path-finders, dreamers are pacesetters, dreamers are trail-blazers, and they always leave footprints behind them that show the root of their activities and the reasons behind their output that cannot be ignored. It is dreamers that give shape to the shapeless world.

Let me outline four great people in scriptures, who were notable dreamers.

God called Abraham and said, "Lift up now your eyes and see northwards, southwards, eastwards and westwards for all the land which ye see, unto you will I give it." That is, set your imagination, how far can you see? Set your imagination, what do you see? All you can see is all you can attain unto. The Bible charges us in Isaiah 51:2-3, to ***"look to Abraham your father and to Sarah that bear thee, I called them alone and blessed them, for I the Lord will comfort Zion, I will comfort all our waste places and turn your wilderness into Eden and your deserts into the garden of the Lord."*** So, there is a recovery when you are able to capture the kind of principles that Abraham engaged. Among those principles is the power of imagination - being able to set your imagination to capture whatever you can see as a picture.

A world without dreamers is doomed. If you want a change, then dream of one. The revelation of scriptures is there to stretch your imagination. I am not begging for provisions today, because I couldn't imagine Jesus begging and as the Father has sent Him, so has He sent me. I have been bouncing about like football over the years because I could not imagine Jesus, my living example, stretched on an hospital bed and nurses, doctors, everybody running around and pricking Him on all sides. I couldn't! That is an imagination provoked by revelation, and it is a reality today. So, I am talking about imagination with substance, and God's Word is the eternal substance for His creation. So, the revelation of God's Word is packaged to stretch your imagination.

It is not just "freelance" thinking; it is a controlled thinking pattern that is tied to the revelation of scriptures, so you have an anchor. When you have challenges, you are not moved because there is an anchor - a revelational anchor to your imagination. So, lift up now your eyes northwards (Genesis), southwards (Malachi), eastward (Matthew), for the sun rises from the east and He is the sun of righteousness and the sun sets in the west (Revelation). God began in the north, the city of the great king, in the beginning, God - Genesis and traveled by Himself down to Malachi. Then He handed over the baton to His Son - in Matthew. Whatever you are able to capture from Genesis to Malachi, Matthew to Revelation, all you can see is all that is obtainable. That is the concept from Genesis 13, 14 and 15 and the product is in mass recoveries (Isaiah. 51:1-3).

Taking a cue from the Abrahamic order of blessing, it is the revelational imagination designed to bless your world that God is committed to bring to pass. ***"... and thou shall be a blessing"*** (Genesis 12:1-3) was the platform upon which Abraham's dream became a reality. So, it is the life-touching, life-lifting, life-transforming dreams that matter most to God. Those are the dreams that have a future and commit God to keep enriching the world through you and in the process, also enriching you because no water-bearing pipe ever becomes thirsty. Every water-bearing pipe is free from thirst. When you are a channel through which God is blessing people, you are blessed in the process.

In 1997, I was in the United States of America and we decided to take a walk to the zoo where I saw an elephant and decided to read the story of that elephant. On the board they said, this elephant consumes 140 pounds of straw per day. 140 pounds of straw that is a lot, but it discharges 100 pounds of manure per day. So, it is not permitted by nature to retain more than 40 of the 140 pounds. That is, it is not safe for the elephant to retain beyond 35% of its intake. So, for you to become a human elephant, you cannot afford to keep beyond 35% of all you have. When an elephant start discharging below that, it is on its way to the grave.

I sat down there and I said, “Oh, so this is what makes it an elephant; that is, discharging to enrich the earth.” So, it is by all of those things that they discharge that the grasses in the wild are kept and that is the only way they can find something else to eat. If there is no discharge, there will be no manure; so the thing will run dry and then they will also die.

We again saw the power of imagination in Genesis chapter 11 the people said, “We don’t want to be scattered all over the earth. Let us build a tower which top will reach unto heaven.” God came down to see the tower that the sons of men built and God said, “... ***Behold, the people are one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do***” (Genesis 11:6).

Imagination engenders innovation. That was when they knew how to make bricks and how to burn them thoroughly. They knew how to make mortar and how to use that in fixing their bricks and their building. They were proposing to build a tower, not a bungalow, and God had to come down as the only practical way of stopping them. Imagination!

Imagination engenders innovation; it builds determination and compels motion. So, the builders of the tower of Babel had God’s confirmation of the power of imagination. ***This they begin to do; and now nothing can be restrained from them which they had imagined to do.***

Whatever is too big for your mind, is too big for your hand. Whatever your mind cannot accommodate, your hand cannot accomplish. If it is not in the mind, it never gets into the hand. That means everything your hands will handle tomorrow, your mind is already celebrating it today. That is why I said imagination is what sets the pace for your destination. The reason their dream was thwarted in Genesis 11 was because, it was not targeted at blessing people, but at making a name “...***and let us make us a name.***” If your purpose is to make a name, you may end up lame.

JOSEPH

Then came the great dreamer - Joseph. “***Behold the dreamer cometh***” (Genesis 37:19). If you look at Joseph’s dream, you will see the justification, at the onset, when Joseph told what he saw. One would think that his dream was about position, but that is not true: it was about contribution. At the end of the journey he said:

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

That was the time he should have reacted to the maltreatment they gave him. Rather, he gave it an interpretation that God was going to make him the breadwinner for their household and this is what has come to pass today. His dream was about preserving people, a posterity, and a generation, not about position. When you are position-driven, you will soon become tired and frustrated. But when you are contribution-driven, you find life opening up to you wider by the day. It is a world of difference. Joseph was not a position seeker, otherwise, when the story changed, he would have dealt with his brothers harshly rather he said, ‘***I knew God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity.***’

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 45:7-8

And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:

The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.

Genesis 47:5-6

So, Joseph's dream was a value-driven dream and see how that turned the fortune of a whole nation, and then preserved another generation. The entirety of it depended upon the hand of God on Joseph. For thirteen years, he was busy gathering foods and storing them, he prescribed an accurate scientific preservation process that kept that food for 14 years. They kept distributing and distributing and distributing, with no chemicals added. It is all about adding value, not just taking titles and occupying position. It is about adding value.

We live in a title-seeking society and that is why you must be task-driven. It is not the title we bear that matters, but the task we get accomplished. Joseph said, "This is it. I now can understand why God took me through all these situations. It is so I could fulfill the dream I saw at the beginning that the time is coming when I would be the breadwinner for the whole nation."

So, it takes you seeing possibilities of your own input in the economic recovery process, to become relevant at all. You must have a dream of where you come in. The more dreamers a nation has, the faster the recovery process. Therefore, begin to look at how you will be helping the needy; begin to create discharge channels, how to flow out, and you will find God adding more and more to you, not just in material returns, it will come in every area.

God's blessings come first and foremost with showers of ideas. God will open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will be not enough room to take it (Mal 3:10). When the windows of heaven open, it is the rain of God that falls and that rain talks about the rain of the Holy Spirit. When He comes, He quickens your understanding, He showers you with heavenly ideas and you just find yourself skipping heights without sweat. That's what He does. This is vital, this is crucial; you need to create a discharge channel to become an instrument in the hand of God in this recovery process.

DAVID

The last person I will discuss is David. Solomon reporting in 1 Kings 8:17-19, said:

And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.

God said, "Although it was in your heart to build me a house, thou didest well that it was in your heart.' You know, dreams are of the heart. It was a hot desire inside him: "How can God be dwelling in a tent - the Ark of the Lord under the tent and I live in this building?"

When you go over to 1 Chronicles 29 and verse 1 to 5, you see the enormity of the personal wealth of David.

Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers

colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

1 Chronicles 29:1-5

Every authentic kingdom dream, qualifies you to become an economic power. An authentic kingdom dream, is all that David used; it was in his heart to build God a house. Even when God said you won't build this house, he still went ahead to gather the materials for building it. He began gathering materials, and we are told that what came out of the personal treasury of David was much more than what came out from the entire nation of Israel. There are individuals like that, who will not just be personalities, but institutions by virtue of their kingdom connection and addiction; men that when you mention their names, it is like you are mentioning a nation.

So, we find those various levels, one of it failed because it was after making a name; the others worked because they were people-oriented: *"I will bless you and you will be a blessing. I'm sending you to preserve God's people's posterity and to save them by a great deliverance; It is in my heart to build you a house, I cannot stand in my house and watch the ark of testimony under the tent"* and God said: *'I am going to enlarge your personal treasury'* and He began to enlarge it. It takes you and me having a healthy mentality and a people-oriented dream to end up on a journey to a dramatic, speedy and lasting recovery.

Please say with me, *"I can never be poor. I am an agent of God's prosperity; I can never be poor. I am not running after riches. I have a mission to enrich men and I must succeed. Amen."*

CHAPTER 3

THE REALITY OF SUPERNATURAL SUPPLIES

The first assignment ever given to man, after creation was to keep and dress the garden God placed him in. Keeping a garden is a process that requires a farmer to dig around the plants, as he prunes and tends them. This garden was not ordinary. The Word of God described it as full of treasures:

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

Genesis 2:8-12

What is a treasure? It is a highly valued object, which you can trade with to make great profits. This means that there were highly valued objects in the garden that man could trade profitably with, to bring him out of the realm of the natural into the supernatural, out of lack and want into super-abundance, and out of problems into fulfilment.

But when man disobeyed the only check on his absolute freedom, he immediately suffered mental poverty. The only thing Adam could think of to cover his nakedness, occasioned by his fall, were leaves.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. Genesis 3:6-7

One would wonder, how long did Adam think leaves would suffice to cover his nakedness? How far could he imagine he could hide from the Lord before whom all things lay bare? That was the beginning of mental poverty. That dimension of mental perversion, to a very large extent, is the reason why many people are wallowing in poverty today. They lack the mental strength to come out of the situation in which they find themselves. Like Adam did, instead of accepting responsibility for the events and happenings in their lives, they seek to find some excuses for their failures. Some one said, *“You are not a failure until you find someone to blame for it.”*

Some people have something, but they consider it too little to turn their situation around. I say often, if you can think enough, what you have is enough to give you the turn around you desire. But

because of mental poverty, people blame their governments, the global economic situation, and the uncle who refused to help, among several excuses to explain their poverty.

After the fall, God drove man out of the garden to toil before he could fend for himself. Man, therefore, began to engage in hard labour before he could see any harvest. This is also another reason for poverty today. Many people want to prosper, but they are not willing to give it what it takes. They want to live in the world of “manna”, with everything dropping freely for them without labour.

As men multiplied on the earth, more hardship began to befall them. Famine became a common experience. The Bible record in Genesis 26:1 reads:

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

Abraham, in spite of the covenant, experienced famine. Isaac, the child of promise also passed through a time of famine.

The good news is that though famine is real, God always makes a way of exception for the redeemed of the Lord. He gives to every child of God a covenant exemption by His supernatural supplies.

SUPERNATURAL SUPPLY IS A REALITY

Supernatural supply is real. It is not a religious doctrine. It is tangible and touchable and it is still available today. Poverty is a disease - a killer disease; it kills people. But Jesus said, “***I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.***” Poverty is not in His plan for you.

God has the power to turn your lack into plenty. Israel was living in abject poverty in the land of captivity in Egypt and God said, “***And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty***” (Exodus 3:21) and “***And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians***” (Exodus 12:36).

God supernaturally intervened in the affairs of Israel, through the instrumentality of divine favour. There was a transfer of wealth. God is still in that business today.

I Kings 17: 8-16 tells the story of the widow of Zarephath:

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

The Bible recalls that all through the period of famine, the pot of flour was never wasted, and the cruse of oil never failed. God met her need supernaturally. The last meal went through months and years. God said, “***I am the Lord, I change not.***” He is still prospering people supernaturally today.

Also, in 2 Kings 4:1-7, there was a widow whose husband was a prophet. The prophet had died

because of debt. He used his two sons as collateral; and I guess that when the day was approaching; the prophet could not bear loosing his two sons to the creditors, he died. This widow ran to Elisha and he asked, "***What hast thou in thy house?***" She said, "Nothing, except a little bottle of oil." He said, "Get as many barrels as you can, shut the door against you and pour oil into each of them." What happened? All the barrels were filled with oil. Elisha told her to go and sell them in order to pay her debt, and then live on the remaining. God is still intervening supernaturally in the material affairs of men up untill now.

Remember also in 2 Kings 7:1-20, there was famine in the land, and Elisha said, "By this time tomorrow, there shall be so much abundance that it would look as if there was never famine in the land; food will be cheaper than before the famine began." One technocrat on whom the king leaned said, "***Even if God opens the windows of heaven, shall these things be?***" Elisha answered, "You shall see it, but your mouth will not taste it". It came to pass when the miracle took place that they trod upon that man and he died. It was the amazing intervention of God bringing about an amazing turnaround for His people.

At the marriage at Cana of Galilee in John 5, their wine finished and they needed a fresh supply. They ran to Mary, the mother of Jesus and she said in verse two, "***Whatever He tells you to do, do it.***" Jesus said to them, "fill the water pots with water; take a cup of it and give it to the governor, the chairman of the occasion" and they did; and behold, the wine was sweeter than the one they bought with their money (Jn 2: 1-11). God supernaturally intervened to terminate their shame. I see my God terminating shame in your life today!

In John chapter 6, Jesus was going to feed five thousand men minus women and children with five loaves and two fishes and "***Jesus knew what to He would do.***" God always knows what to do to have your needs met. He took the five loaves and two fishes, lifted up His eyes, gave thanks; and it multiplied supernaturally. The five thousand men, minus women and children, ate and were all filled and then gathered twelve baskets of remnants. God is still intervening supernaturally today.

Jesus entered into Peter's boat in Luke 5:1-11,

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

God's Word is God's instrument for intervention in our material affairs. He intervened in the business of Peter, who came and fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Depart from me oh Lord, I am a sinful man; this is too much."

In John 21:5-6, Jesus, after His resurrection, met His disciples and asked: "Children, have you any meat?" They said, "No." He told them: "***Cast your net on the right side,***" They did and caught a great multitude of fishes.

God still intervenes supernaturally today in our finances. Jesus demonstrated this in Matthew 17:24-27:

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or

tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

God is practically involved in our material wellbeing.

Supernatural supply is a reality. Ecclesiastes 11:5 says:

As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Position yourself to enjoy His amazing blessings. His Word says, “***Prove me now if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing until there be not enough room to take them***” (Malachi 3:10). Paul the apostle prayed for the Macedonian Church in Philippians 4:19 - “***But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***”

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT KINGDOM PROSPERITY?

There are quite a number of other ways of getting rich, but there is something unique about Kingdom prosperity.

In Luke, chapter 12, there was a man called the rich fool. He attained unto abundance through hard work. He told himself, “My field has produced amazing harvest, I need to pull down my old stalls and build bigger ones; and say to my soul you can rest; you have enough to eat till you die”. He was able to acquire abundance through hard work. But the Bible calls him a fool because he was not rich towards God.

Through hard work, you can gather some dimension of wealth. You can also gather wealth through fraud.

Jeremiah 17:10 says:

As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

Also, in Luke 16:1-16, we saw the story of the unfaithful steward, who engaged in changing records. Jesus, in that parable, said the children of this world are wiser in their own generation than the children of the Kingdom. You can also gather riches by vanity; I mean lotteries, pools, bribe, etc. The Bible says, “***Wealth gotten by vanity shall diminish; but he that gathers by labour shall increase.***” You can gather wealth by vanity, doing nothing, just looking for cheap money through any means. Most people in this category end up with unbearable regret.

Talking about bribes, the Bible says, “***In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes***” (Psalms 26:10). All of these have their own way of enriching their perpetrators. But I am glad to let you know the Bible says, “***The blessings of God makes rich and he adds no sorrow to it***” (Proverbs 10:22). When it is the blessings of the Lord, the Bible makes us understand, it is for ever. In fact the Bible says in Psalm 112:2-3, “***the generation of the upright shall be blessed; wealth and riches shall be in his house.***”

Our covenant practice does not stop with us, it continues to flow into our children, and our children’s children in their generation. God’s blessing upon father Abraham is still speaking today in the land of Israel. They command such economic power that gets them respected in any nation where they are found.

Wealth outside God is full of uncertainties. Malachi 3:10 makes us understand that God puts the devourer away from your tabernacle so you can enjoy whatever blessings He puts on your life.

In I Timothy 6:17-19, the Bible says,

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Riches outside of God are full of uncertainties and you won't have to look too far before you will see many ex-wealthy people who are present day beggars. Those who have eyes to see can see that riches are full of uncertainty; they all have wings and fly out at will. But the Bible says, ***“Whatever the Lord doeth it shall be forever.”***

I will illustrate this with the story I came across in 1988 of the one time nine most powerful Americans as we have it in history. These nine men met at the famous Hedge-water Hotel, Chicago in 1923. The nine men put together, commanded more wealth than there was in the United States treasury at that time. They were the greatest financiers of the world, yet, they ended in a most miserable way.

They were Charles Swart, the President of the largest independent steel company, Samuel Insole, President of the largest utility company, Howard Hopson, the President of the largest gas company; Arthur Carlton, the greatest wheat speculator, Richard Whitney, he was the President of New York Stock Exchange, Albert Fore, a minister in the President's cabinet; Jesse Luminant, who owned the greatest beer industry on Wall Street; Lesser Frazer, who was President of Bank of International Settlement and Ivan Kruglar, who headed the world's greatest monopoly.

How did they end their journeys? History has it that after living on borrowed money for five years, Charles Swart, President of the largest independent steel company died penniless; Samuel Insole, President of the largest utility company died a destitute in a foreign land; Howard Hopson of the largest gas company in the world died insane; Arthur Carlton died penniless and his company insolvent; Richard Whitney died in prison; Albert Fore died in prison; Jesse Luminant committed suicide; Lesser Frazer committed suicide and Ivan Kruglar committed suicide. The nine ended miserably.

What is unique about kingdom prosperity?

It is generational: you can be sure of its tomorrow.

It is sorrow-free: you live a tension-free life.

It offers impregnable protection: *“I will rebuke the devourers for your sake.”* (Malachi 3:11) *“The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee: send thee help from the sanctuary... Remember thy offerings, and thy burnt sacrifices”* (Psalms 20:1-3) God defends people that work in the covenant. That is what is unique about it.

In Psalms 41:1-3, this is what the Word says:

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

That is what is unique about Kingdom prosperity: you are divinely protected. In Job 22:25, the Word of God says,

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

It offers divine health: This is so as to enjoy His blessings in your life. And He adds no sorrow to it.

Malachi 4:1-2 says:

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it

shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

When you are a covenant practitioner, you enjoy the covering of the Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings. You are not allowed to go down; He keeps you up supernaturally. Look at Psalms 41:3. He said, “***The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; He will make all his bed in his sickness;***” You are not permitted to be sick, because you are in the covenant. God makes His bed, and when God lays your bed, no sickness can lie down on that bed. Remember that God is ever-mindful of His covenant. When you are in the covenant, your health is guaranteed.

It offers peace: Israel returned to the covenant in 2 Chronicles 15:1-19, verse 12 says, “***He gave them rest roundabout.***”

Covenant prosperity confers peace that passes human understanding - peace like a river.

Imagine generational blessings, joy unspeakable, protection, health and peace. These are not things that money can buy.

I am very confident that your tomorrow is better than your today, if you are a child of God, “***for the path of a just man is as a shining light that shines more and more unto the perfect day***” (Proverbs 4:18).

You need to get back to the right path. Anything you acquire without God will disappear before you know it, but whatever “*the Lord doeth, it shall be forever*” (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

CHAPTER 4

What is Money?

There is nothing magical or mystical about money! Money is essentially a medium of exchange for goods and services. If you are not providing goods and services, you are not entitled to financial returns. Therefore, it takes practical involvement in goods and services to be entitled to rewards.

Money is only a blessing, if you have it. It becomes a curse if it has you. Money in the hand is a blessing; but if it is in the heart, it is a curse, because the love of money opens you up to all kinds of evil. It is a form of cancer in the body. Money is placed in your hands to enlarge your distribution to your world, not to enlarge your possessions like the rich fool.

The wealth you will not distribute will soon destroy you, as it did to King Solomon. After building the temple and his house, we are not told that he ever gave money to anybody or anything. Rather, he kept on collecting from foreigners and visitors, like the Queen of Sheba. He never distributed his wealth for any good cause. Instead, we are only told that he married many wives and had many concubines.

If you do not have a working knowledge of your blessing, it has the power to undo you. Money is for doing good and for being rich in good works, for distribution, not for accumulation. There is one thing you cannot over-do, it is called “good”!

It does not matter how much you have, if you do not know how to use it, it may soon destroy you. You are required to be a blessing to the world according to the level of your blessing. The bigger your capacity to bless, the greater the level to which you will be blessed. That means you are the one who determines the extent to which you will be blessed. When you dream genuine financial stewardship dreams, God is committed to continually building you up. But if you don't have a right perspective to money, you are likely going to become its victim.

Money without financial intelligence is money soon gone; so get informed of its uses. The Bible is the most informative text on money and financial management, more than any business school in the world.

Money, The Crave Of THE Average Man

In this world, money represents power. The Bible says:

For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence...

Ecclesiastes 7:12

Jesus called money the “unrighteous mammon.” People who are outside God search for money day and night. Everybody is looking for who to take advantage of and grab something from.

Money is the target and life dream of an average natural man. He is after it day and night! But Jesus says:

For your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of these things.

Matthew 6:32

God is saying, “I know you need these things — clothes, shelter and food. But you do not have to be anxious at all for them. There is a settled plan to get your needs met — a struggle-free plan and

strategy that will always work - anyday, anytime, anywhere.

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The things that the Gentiles seek for is summed up in “mammon”. It is the very essence of what the Gentiles are living for. But for you, God has promised in Malachi 3:17:

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

For everyone that will care to serve God today, the whole world will see the difference tomorrow. God says He is going to distinguish those who serve Him. He is saying, “If you serve Me, money will serve you. If you serve money, mourning will become your companion.” Money without God makes mourners. God you to honour you. When God becomes the supplier of the money in your hands, you will remain the envy of the world around you, ***“Because whatever the Lord doeth, it shall be forever.”***

Only the blessings of God maketh rich and addeth no sorrow to it. The blessings of the devil maketh rich plus plenty of sorrows. This is what Satan does. Everyone he lifts ends up destroyed — he lifted Pharaoh and then destroyed him; he enriched Judas, but he ended up in suicide. Jesus, speaking of the devil, said that he only comes to steal, to kill and to destroy, no matter what he pretends to have come to do (John 10:10). Whatever he pretends to be doing to help you, is only a strategy to hurt you. But when it is God that lifts you, He lifts you to honour you.

There is nothing that life demands that is not in God. All things that make for life and godliness are packaged in redemption. You carry the greatest treasure inside you; Jesus is His name!

When you start measuring your life with a sinner’s life, it just shows that you lack understanding. By destiny, the world is to envy you. When you begin to envy the world instead, you have lost your identity.

You, just like Isaac, who became the envy of the Philistines, are a child of promise. Your nation and all the nations of the earth, wherever you step into, are to envy your personality.

But your thoughts and attitudes affect what you get from life. You need to change your thoughts and attitudes towards money, if you desire to get maximum yield for your seeds sown. Change your position and God will change your situation.

Here are some truths about money, which you need to imbibe, in order to change your attitude.

It Is Not The Root Of All Evil

Many folks say money is the root of all evil and think they are quoting the Bible. Money is not the root of all evil; the Bible does not say so. What it says is:

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

I Timothy 6:10

Money is not evil in itself. It is the love of it that leads to so many evils.

You serve the one you love. If you love money you will serve money and do anything to acquire it. Money becomes your master. Unknowingly, you begin to worship it. It becomes the deciding factor in any step you want to take in life.

Money is only a blessing if it is in the hand; it becomes a curse when it gains access to your heart. Anyone who wants to get it by all means ***“fall into foolish and diverse lust that draw men into destruction and perdition, but oh thou man of God, flee these things, but follow after righteousness. For the love of money is the root of all evils”*** (1 Timothy 6: 10).

When money becomes your greatest consideration in every affair in life, then know that you are very far from God. Jesus said you cannot serve God and mammon (money). But if you serve God faithfully, you will have money, which God created for use. He created the silver, gold and every precious stone, and the Bible tells us they were very good.

Don't Deny Your Need For Money

... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:32

The subject of money is an all-important subject, except to hypocrites in Zion. You cannot do without money daily. The Word of God says:

...Money answereth all things.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

There is nothing that can get successfully done on this earth without money. All transactions on earth are programmed around money. Everything you need in life answers to money: food, clothes, shelter, and everything that makes for a living. Jesus said:

...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

Everything on earth, plus eternal life, is what makes up abundant life. Stop pretending that you do not need money. Admit your need for it and you will have it, because God only supplies your need.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The need for money in good measure cannot be over-emphasized. You not only need to have it, you need to have it in abundance. It is the abundance of it that is relevant to your welfare and that of others. Don't let hypocrisy rob you of your heritage.

Money Is A Defence

The Bible tells us that money is a defence (Ecclesiastes 7:12). It keeps one from the harassments of life. No matter how spiritual you are, you cannot stay in a house without paying the required rent.

A poor man in any society is not treated the same way as a rich man. Without money, you are socially defenceless. There are countless multitudes languishing in various prisons today, who have not been told the offence they committed. It is only people without means who fall victims of such treatment.

Money Gives You a Voice

Money gives voice to wisdom.

There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

Ecclesiastes 9:14-16

The wisdom it took to deliver a city was not remembered, because it came from a despised poor man. No matter the wisdom a poor man possesses, no one considers him for election as the president of a nation.

Money gives voice to the gospel. Without money, the gospel cannot be spread all over the world. It is the wheel upon which this end-time wisdom of God will ride.

There Is Only One Way To Get Money

The practice of the covenant is what qualifies you for His riches.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deut 8:18

When you obey what He commands, then you are empowered to experience what He promised. The Bible says: ***“If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures”*** (Job 36:11).

What is the demand of this covenant? Giving! The only way to get is to give away what you have. For you to have money, you must make giving your way of life. Give to God and the brethren in need. This is the only way you can have money. Holding tight to what you have leads to poverty and lack.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Proverbs 11:24

When You Give Money, You Are Not Helping God

When you give to the work of God, you are not helping God. This is an attitude, which has robbed many believers of their inheritance in God. God does not depend on you for food; the cattle on a thousand hills are His. He cannot depend on you for money; the silver and the gold are all His also (Haggai 2:8).

In fact, Psalm 24:1 tells us:

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...

God does not depend on you to sustain His kingdom. He can do it all by Himself. The reason He allows you to be involved is because He wants to bless you!

God does not need your money. Giving is a channel which God has opened for man to receive His blessings. When you give, you are only building your destiny, for you are too small to help God.

Poverty Is Not A Sign Of Righteousness

Poverty is not a sign of righteousness. The Bible says that Jesus is the righteousness of God. Jesus, the righteousness of God, came down to earth in the form of human flesh. By the records we have of His ministry, He was not poor.

He had so much that, He needed a treasurer to keep His money. He ate whatever He wanted and whenever He desired it. He lived in a place that commanded envy, because John's disciples who went to see where He lived never returned to their master. They remained with Jesus.

Now, Jesus was not only righteous, He was the expression of the righteousness that God demands from us. So, if you walk in poverty, you do not look like Jesus. We are representations of Jesus, so we should be an expression of Jesus to the world, the same way Jesus was of the Father.

Lack Is A Curse

A good look at the curses of the law listed in Deuteronomy 28 shows that the most prominent among them is the curse of poverty. Lack is embedded in almost every curse enumerated.

The curse of the law is a reverse of man's welfare. Poverty is a curse, not an influence of the economic situation of the world. The day you start to see it that way, you will be free from it.

One of the reasons why Jesus came was to bring man into a covenant link with God. God called a man named Abraham and used him to prove His purpose for man, by releasing blessings upon him and his generations to come.

The Bible tells us why Jesus was crucified:

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written,

Cursed is everyone 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.

Galatians 3:13-14

Jesus, by His death on the cross, rendered the curse of the law that was upon us null and void, and brought us into the Abrahamic covenant of blessings.

The Abrahamic covenant of blessings grants you access to an unlimited supply of money, until you become the envy of your generation.

CHAPTER 5

GATEWAY TO PROSPERITY!

Every door in life is designed to be operated by keys. When you do not have the key to a door, you are frustrated and humiliated. Often times, the key looks very small and insignificant in comparison with the size of the door, yet without it, the door will be non-functional. Gaining access through that door will be with struggle and much effort and sometimes, even simply impossible.

I had a humbling experience, while growing up with my grandmother. When leaving for the market one day, she locked the room I was sleeping in, unaware that I was inside. When I woke up and found the door locked, I kicked, cried and did all manners of things to open the door, but to no avail. There was no one around to come to my aid, as everyone had also left for the market. I finally fell asleep exhausted. Until my grandmother returned from the market in the evening, because market days then, lasted all day in the village, I was held captive in that little room. Then I understood the importance of having a key. I suffered all day just because of one tiny key I did not have.

In the journey of life, you need keys to operate. When you do not have them, you are frustrated. But when you have the keys, you determine the happenings in whatever area you are holding the key. Until you hold the key of prosperity in your hand, the door to prosperity remains shut.

We live in a Kingdom that operates on keys. Jesus said, ***“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...”*** (Matthew 16:19). In Matthew 16:18 after Peter confessed Jesus as Lord and Saviour, He said, ***“neither flesh nor blood has revealed this unto you but my father which is in heaven, and I will give unto you the keys of the Kingdom and whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”***. So, when you are born again you become entitled to the keys, and you are granted access into the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus, speaking to the lawyers of His time, said, ***“Woe unto you lawyers! for you have taken away the key of knowledge”*** (Luke 11:52). The working knowledge of the truth is what is defined as keys of the Kingdom. When you possess the working knowledge of any truth of Scriptures, you hold the key in that area.

The keys of the Kingdom are wrapped up in mysteries and only those who are born again have access to these mysteries. To those that are without, all these things are in parables. The Holy Spirit empowers your access to the deep things of God and this helps you locate the working knowledge of the key that you desire. When you find that key, you will know it and it will mark an end of a life time of struggles.

What, then, is the key to supernatural prosperity?

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

It is clear from this scripture that God has made provisions for supernatural prosperity for us through redemption. Redemption does not only rescue our souls from hell, but also rescues our social

life as well.

Jesus exemplified the reality of supernatural prosperity in every way. He had a treasurer, who was a thief and yet, did not feel the impact in His finances. When they were going to feed the 5,000 men in John chapter 6, the challenge was not where the money was going to come from, but where to get the required number of loaves of bread needed to feed that large number of people. Remember when Jesus asked the large upper room to be prepared for the celebration of the Passover feast. That is what is called the Penthouse in today's language. He was traveling by sea in Mark 11, and had a convoy of other ships with Him.

Jesus showed us that supernatural prosperity is a reality. It is not a function of salary. It is a function of the blessings of the Lord that makes rich and adds no sorrow. As no one can tell how bones develop in a child in the womb, so one does not know the ways of God that makes all things. When God says He will bless you, leave Him to it; He knows how to bless you!

Understanding Your Prosperity Root

As a child of God, you need an understanding of your root in supernatural prosperity, to fully enjoy prosperity here on earth. We have lived so much in the natural that the supernatural becomes a problem for us to identify with, yet, that is our true status; that is where we belong. When you understand your root, your fruits naturally follow; if you remain connected to your root, you will command fruits without stress.

Your Covenant Root

Your covenant root qualifies you for abundance. God said to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3:

... Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

...And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

"I will bless thee" means 'I will prosper you; I will cause you to flourish; I will make your name great and thou shalt be a blessing.' *"I will curse"* there means 'I am committed to protect the blessings.' And *"in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"* that means, 'I am committing Myself to your prosperity, not just for your lifetime, but for posterity. I am committing myself to your generational prosperity.'

The Abrahamic covenant, which you and I belong as a result of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection, gives you a covenant root that qualifies you to be a blessing to your world, and not a burden among men (Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 22:16-18). In Abraham, you are either a nation or a king (Genesis 17:6-7).

Everyone in that covenant has a covering of relevance and dignity.

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Galatians 4:28

Just as it was with Isaac in the covenant, the least you can be is a personality and at most, a nation. You are not an ordinary person. You have been empowered by God for prosperity, to fulfill the covenant God cut with our father Abraham (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Your Prophetic Root

The Church of Jesus has been destined to be a showpiece to the entire world. The prophecy is found in Isaiah 2:2-3:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow

unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

It is also repeated in Micah 4:1-2:

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

The world is expected to look up to the Church for answers, as God has prophetically packaged the Church to lead the world. The end-time Church is to meet the needs of the world. God has packaged you and I as solution providers for the world. We are prophetically programmed to prosper.

Prophetically, you and I have been packaged and programmed for unusual supernatural prosperity. Everything glorious and gorgeous will emanate from the Church; the Body of Christ will become the global solution centre for the crises of the world. The highest honour on earth will be reserved only for those who identify with God (Psalms 87:1-7).

Your Redemptive Root

Just as Jesus was sent to the earth to be great, we are also sent here to be great (Luke 1:31-33; John 17:18; 20:21). God has not programmed us to be up at one point in time and be down at another. The scriptures guarantee that the path of the just man shines more and more unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18).

Just as the Father sent Jesus to be great here on earth, so has He sent us. You must, therefore, clear your mind of every mediocre thought and mentality. Be conscious of the reality of your greatness in redemption. Until you can clearly see this picture, you cannot enjoy your future of prosperity.

Everything that is in Christ is available to you. The Bible says in Revelations 5:10 that He has made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth. Of course, kings are the custodians of prosperity and the economy of any nation here on earth.

With this sound understanding of your root in God, how then do we tap into supernatural prosperity and abundance?

Your Apostolic root

Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns.

And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.

And the Lord shewed me four carpenters.

Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.

Zechariah 1:18-21

The horns in this scripture represent the acts of the wicked. The horns were there to scatter the people, so that none of them is able to raise his head.

Hitherto, the devil had loaded the Church with dangerous doctrines that terminate in mediocrity. All that people had to show for their Christianity were pious looks. The saying, "As poor as a church rat" was the common adage. The Church was a committee of humiliated men. Consequently,

everybody despised the Church and began to look at Her with pity.

Every time God wants to bring about a change, He raises men to scatter what the devil is doing. The carpenters here are human instruments, who have come to terrify the horns. Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread. He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance: To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom. Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies. Psalm 105:16-24

Every time calamity is at the door, God sends tried tested and proven people for the purpose of redeeming His own people. Joseph said,

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 45:7-8

God says, ***"I am the Lord I change not."*** Every time there was an impending calamity, God had always prepared people whom He sent for the rescue of His people, to preserve them in famine. The Bible says:

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy: To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalms 33:18-19

The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

Psalm 37:18-19

God will always send someone for the rescue of His people.

With all humility, I boldly tell you that God sent me to preserve life. I remember very clearly in 1987, I was in the United States of America for a meeting, when the Lord said to me, "Get down home quick, and make My people rich." They were very strong, compelling and powerful words. So, I abandoned everything I was doing, cancelled all my engagements and rushed down home immediately.

God showed me something from 2 Corinthians 6:10:

...As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

This scripture gave me courage. The Lord told me, "Even though you don't look rich, just go and do what I say you should do. No matter how you look, just go and do what I say; I will prove it."

The Bible says:

...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2 Chronicles 20:20

Who confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers...

Isaiah 44:25

Some years back, I was in Ethiopia for a seminar. As I was preparing for the meeting, the Holy Ghost spoke to me that there was a plague of poverty upon the nation. When I got to Ethiopia, I anointed the ground. I cursed poverty there and then I said, “Beginning from the Church, Lord, turn the destiny of this nation.”

After I taught the people, “God wants you to prosper, stop seeing yourself as poor”, the offering of the church multiplied by 300%!

There are God’s carpenters on the earth. Their mission is to terrify the wicked and stop them from oppressing the innocent.

I am glad to tell you that the four carpenters are for the four corners of the world. We have men commissioned to terrify the kingdom of darkness and rescue God’s people from bondage - men sent by God to stop the Pharaohs of this world and say to the Red Sea, “Enough is enough!”

Come into the grand design of God for escape. God has marked out a grand strategy for your escape.

The prophet Elijah visited the widow of Zarephath. He told her, “I bring you a way of escape. Make for me first what you wanted to make for you and your son, and you will never lack throughout this famine.” She embraced this way of escape and entered into the ark of mysterious supplies!

God’s programme for man is always executed by men, whose faithfulness has been proved by God in the particular area for which the men are being sent. I am sent for your rescue, and the fact that you are reading this book is proof that you are one of those to whom I am sent!

CHAPTER 6

Need For Empowerment

Every provision of the kingdom requires the operation of God's power to be actualized, because of the contention that operates in the realm of the invisible against your rights in God. It takes power to subdue your enemy under your feet; it takes power to be healed. It takes power to be free from demonic oppressions and it takes the power of God to prosper.

The Bible says in Deuteronomy 8:18:

“For thou shall remember the Lord your God for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth.

God empowers His people to access their heritage of wealth. Wealth is not just a product of efforts; neither is it a product of skill. The Bible says, ***“It is the blessings of the Lord that maketh rich, and it adds no sorrow to it”*** (Proverbs 10:22).

Wealth is not, as it were, a product of hard work. There are many hard workers, who are perpetually financially hard-up, ***“For except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that builds it and except the Lord watches over the city; the watchmen are awake but in vain. He said: it is in vain you got up early in the morning and go to bed late in the night eating the bread of sorrow for so He giveth His beloved sleep”*** (Psalms 127:1-3).

The Bible says: ***“It is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy (Romans 9:16) and by Strength shall no man prevail (I Samuel 2:9). Solomon the wisest man said, then, I saw and behold under the sun, I saw that the battle is not to the strong, neither yet the race to the swift, neither yet favour to men of skill”*** (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

So, it is not your strength and it is not your swiftness; neither is it your skill that determines your lot. It is God that determines the lot of every mortal man. When it comes to the subject of wealth, it has to be the blessings of God, or the struggle will be forever.

Effort may take you up, but it takes God to keep you there; men may help you up, but it will take God to keep you up. Nothing is permanent except it is from the Lord: ***“For whatever the Lord doeth; it shall be forever”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:14). Nothing outside of God is automatically forever. We have seen many rich people of yesterday, who are low, low-downs today.

God does not only guarantee a lifetime of prosperity, He makes provision for generational prosperity - the kind that Israel is enjoying today; the one that passes on from one generation to another.

Whatever the Lord doeth, it shall be forever, nothing can be added to it, nothing can be taken away from it, and God does that, that men might fear before Him.

Ecclesiastes 3:14.

When it is from the Lord, it is permanently permanent; that is why you must seek the prosperity that comes from God. The one that comes from other sources will be short-lived, but the ones from God are as eternal as God Himself.

Empowerment is all about enablement. It is the ability to perform. It is the ability to deliver, to

get things done as desired. It is about being enabled to accomplish set goals.

In basic science, it is said that “An object assumes a state of rest until a force is applied to it.” So, there has to be an application of relevant forces, to see and actualise the prosperity that you desire. Empowerment is the only guarantee for the fulfilment of your mission here on earth. But you must also understand that challenges line up the path of champions. To overcome these challenges, therefore, you need to be empowered.

Poverty is a spirit. The fight against it, therefore, is going to be tough. That explains the need for empowerment. To destroy poverty and install prosperity in its place, you and I need to be empowered. Power is the only language the enemy respects and understands. We, therefore, need to be empowered in order to subdue the enemy of poverty.

The Church of Jesus Christ must arise and wipe off poverty from its midst. But the question remains: what is the key for opening the door of prosperity?

Empowerment for wealth is all about turning poverty into plenty, turning lack to abundance. We have struggled for years to make it happen through the energy of the flesh. The struggle has been so intense, but the result has been so minimal that you can hardly see it. But a change has finally come!

The Source Of Empowerment

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the original source of empowerment. That is why Paul said in Romans 1:16:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

When you believe the gospel of Jesus, you are empowered to live a triumphant and victorious life. This is because God sent Jesus to the earth to restore mankind back to dignity; and Jesus did this by destroying the power of sin and empowering people to live a triumphant life. Therefore, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is the gateway to power.

Sin has robbed us of power; only the righteousness of Christ can restore us back to power, including economic power. Salvation is our gateway out of frustration, as peace with God is the guarantee for a fruitful destiny.

True empowerment begins with the new birth. Jesus said in John 1:12:

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

Adam was an empowered personality until sin came. He lost his power to sin and as a result, began to run away from all those animals that were placed under him. He became afraid of them. But Jesus came to restore power to His righteous people. He took away our sins, so we can be empowered and be in charge once again.

How God Empowers

But how does God empower His saints for a triumphant living here on earth? How does He empower them to live above poverty and chase it away from wherever they find it?

The Knowledge Of The Truth

The Bible says in Hosea 4:6: “***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.***” That is, they have no resistance against the destroyer for lack of knowledge; they are captured helplessly by their destroyer for lack of knowledge. This is also re-echoed in Isaiah 5:13, where the Bible says: “***My people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge.***” A hitherto very enviable destiny turned into a pitiable destiny because of lack of knowledge. Their honourable men lost colour and became famished. They went into captivity because they lacked knowledge.

But Jesus came up and said: “***You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free***”

(John. 8:32). That means the truth will empower you to enjoy liberty. The knowledge of the truth has enough power within it to set you free.

Therefore, the secret of empowerment, true empowerment: I mean supernatural empowerment, is the working knowledge of the truth. But what is truth? That was the question Pilate asked Jesus, but never waited for an answer (John. 18:38).

What is truth? The answer to this question has two dimensions. Jesus said: ***I am the way, the truth, and the life*** (John 14:6). Jesus is the truth. Jesus also said, “***Whosoever has seen Me has seen My Father.***” Jesus is the truth, and God is the truth. In other words, you shall know God, and the knowledge of God shall set you free.

The second dimension to that answer is found in John 17, where Jesus prayed for His disciples. He said, “***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.***”

God is truth, and His Word is truth also. No wonder, the Bible said, “***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made***” (John. 1:1-3).

Therefore, in order to be empowered for wealth, you shall know the Word (the truth), and the working knowledge of the Word shall set you free. The knowledge of the truth is the real secret of empowerment. You gain access to the truth by being born again, by walking in the fear of the Lord and by the helps of the Holy Spirit.

Through Faith

Another way God empowers us is through faith. Hebrews chapter 11 is a catalogue of the accomplishment and exploits of men. The force behind their accomplishments was also revealed faith:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

- Hebrews 11:1-3

The Church has always thought that we are empowered by the Holy Ghost. That is true, but it is not the whole truth. The Holy Ghost is a means to an end.

How does God empower His saints for triumphant living? We saw the accomplished Church in Hebrews 11; we saw accomplished destinies there too. We also saw the force behind their accomplishment properly defined. “***Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for.***” That means without faith, your hope is void of substance; without faith, vision lacks substance for actualisation; without faith, your dream is doomed. “***For by it, the elders obtained a good report. Through faith, we understand that the world was made by the word of God; and the things we see now do not come out of the things which do appear.***”

Faith is God’s mystery for empowering the saints. When you believe the Word of God, it is converted to power. That is, when faith comes alive on the content of the Word you have received, then power is released to actualise it. That is why Jesus said, “***But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.***” When you receive Christ, and believe His Word, you are empowered to manifest as a son of God; you are empowered to display the son of whom you are, wherever you are found. Outside of faith, God’s Word is impotent, as it is faith that guarantees performance (Luke 1:45). Until faith comes alive,

God's Word remains dormant.

Faith is not just believing that God can do something, as even unbelievers believe that God is the Almighty. Faith is obeying God's Word, to prove that you believe Him, so as to commit Him to perform it. When you do whatever He tells you to do, His integrity is committed to confirm His Word. Faith is also not just confessing the Word, as it is not a mere confession; faith is professing the Word. It is living by the Word as a lifestyle and behaving the Word.

To arrive at faith, you need understanding. Understanding helps us to see what God is saying. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to open our understanding, so we can see what God is saying. His mission is to open us up to the Word of God, which provokes faith, which in turn empowers us to accomplish our purpose. So, what the Holy Ghost does is to show you what to do in the Word, to commit God, to deliver His promise.

God is the only hope, and in fact, He is the last hope for the Church. Whatever will take God will require faith, for without faith, it is impossible to move God. Faith has the power to re-write any man's destiny. Understanding (by the help of the Holy Spirit) is what begets faith, and faith delivers the victory.

It is time to get back to the root (the Word of God), for it is God's power bank, His faith bank. Every wise saint must get more addicted to the Bible, as it is our link to power, which will in turn provoke a dramatic turnaround and supernatural breakthroughs for the Church. Faith in God is our only guarantee for this great future we desire.

The Lord said to me on August 26, 1987, "Arise, get down home and make My people rich." I saw a dramatic display. I saw Christ being nailed to the cross; He was striped naked on the cross, so that you and I will not be naked again. He was thirsty on the cross, so that you and I will no more suffer thirst. He was poor so that you and I can end our lives in dignity.

The Bible says, "***He became poor, that we through His poverty can be made rich.***" The knowledge of the Word of truth, and faith in it, is the answer. Knowing what to do from God's Word is the key to every breakthrough we desire.

Why God Empowers

The outpouring of God's blessings is for a reason. But, Dr. Myles Monroe once said, "When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable." Until you know the purpose why God prospers or empowers financially, you may not be a partaker of such grace. God will only empower you financially when you understand the purpose for His blessings upon your life and are ready to align yourself with it.

God wants to prosper you the same way he prospered Abraham; but He says for you to enjoy Abraham's kind of prosperity, you must first look unto Abraham to see how he arrived there (Isa. 51:1-3). God wants to bring Africa into an abundance that will convert our desert into the garden of the Lord, and will turn our wilderness into Eden. But He says we have to look at Abraham to see how he got there.

Why did God bless Abraham? Genesis 12:1-2 tells us:

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

God blessed Abraham so he could become a blessing. He blessed Abraham, not so he would become a consumer, an accumulator, or a possessor, but so he could be a blessing. It is your commitment to being a blessing that determines the level of blessing that God can ever place on your

life.

The reason a lot of people are so down is because we have waited for the government to do everything. Private initiative is near zero. But it is time to wake up, because you have a destiny of greatness that is not tied to the government. The government only provides the enabling environment for its citizens to engage in their initiatives. It is your commitment to being a blessing that qualifies you for God's blessings.

Your dream has no future, if it is all about you alone. Someone who is dreaming of how to be part of solving the unemployment problem in his nation is opening the door of God's blessing into his life. Anyone that is sincerely concerned about the plight of the homeless (a genuine concern, not just so that he can be known and seen by everyone) and is working towards providing a permanent answer for them is set for God's wealth.

In verse 3 of Exodus chapter 12, God said, "***And I will bless them that bless thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***" Our readiness to be a blessing is what determines the level of blessings that God can ever entrust into our hands. This places an unlimited responsibility on us.

The reason many in the Church are going through financial crises, is that they do not know why God blesses. Most people are looking for blessings so that they can live totally, absolutely and forever in comfort. But this is a wrong motive and that is why they are stranded today. Since they are not willing to let out His blessings in their lives, He regulates how much comes in to them. We are blessed with countless natural resources, yes. But because He knows our hearts, that we are not willing to bless others with His blessings in our lives, we are unable to transform these rich resources to wealth.

Why would a man keep his wealth that can eradicate unemployment in one swoop in private foreign bank accounts, instead of using it to set up industries in his nation that will create jobs for the poor and jobless? It should rather gladden your heart that many are able to feed themselves and their families from working in your industry instead of that, you have so many millions and billions kept "safely" abroad, doing nothing but enriching another man's country and continent. No wonder, such wealth is often later used to treat sicknesses, diseases, and plagues of all kinds. Many have ended up like the Rich Fool in the Bible.

It is only being a blessing that qualifies you for a continuous flow of God's blessings. That is God's cardinal purpose for empowering His people. So, if you want a transformation from poverty to supernatural prosperity, you need an ever-enlarged heart to be a blessing to others. You need a heart that is enlarged to being a blessing to humanity.

Until we are all out to help the helpless, and our hearts are open to being a blessing, the heavens over us will not open to pour blessings upon us in a way that our room will not be big enough to contain it.

God blesses to make the blessed a blessing. Any blessing that is not a blessing to others will soon be turned into a curse. The level you are willing to discharge determines your ultimate size in God's blessings. You need this picture if you must win the war against poverty. Every living thing contributes to staying alive. When you stop being a blessing, you are on your way to the grave of poverty.

God blesses to make the blessed a blessing. You must begin from where you are and then move on to your nation, then to all the nations of the earth. A wise man said the best place to begin is at the beginning. Start from where you are. God is not convinced when you say, "I will be a blessing as soon as You bless me." In reply He says, "Start from where you are, and I will know how ready you

are to being a blessing.” It is time to wake up from thinking poor, because prosperity is yours in God; but the largeness of your heart to being a blessing is what determines the dimension of His blessing that can be entrusted into your hands as a person.

CHAPTER 7

The Covenant Platform

The covenant is God's wisdom for winning the war against poverty. An understanding of the covenant will make you prevail on the earth against all odds. The secret card for winning the war against poverty is this: you must be an Israelite (i.e. born again) and you must also have a working knowledge of the covenant.

With all humility, I am glad to tell you that I contacted a working knowledge of the covenant and I knew when I did. Many years ago, I was studying the Word and waiting on the Lord. Suddenly the key to kingdom prosperity was delivered into my hands. I took hold of it and declared, "I can never be poor!" That was not an empty or fake confession. I knew what I was saying, and what had been delivered to me and it has never failed once!

The covenant will distinguish you, no matter the degree of poverty that is prevailing on the earth. A very clear understanding of the covenant will make you great on the earth. This is the difference between the winning Christian and the losing one.

You are chosen, yes! But are you walking in the covenant? If you do not have a working knowledge of the covenant, you will not be different from the world.

Poverty is not for you. It is not your destiny. But you have to begin to hunger and thirst for the revelation of the key that will bring you out of the clutches of poverty.

THE MYSTERY OF THE COVENANT

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

A land of wheat, and barley and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:18

WHAT IS THAT COVENANT?

There is what is called "power to get wealth," "power for wealth" or "divine ability for abundance," otherwise known as divine providence, which operates on the platform of the covenant.

It is not a promise you claim in prayer. It is not a desire you enforce by fasting. It is an agreement you enter into with God, which gets Him committed to your needs. Wealth in the kingdom only answers to a qualitative covenant walk.

There is a land in the spirit world, where there shall not be lack of anything and where you shall eat bread without scarceness. A land of brooks and fountains that spring out of valleys and hills, full of treasures, whose stones are iron, and out of whose rocks you may dig brass (Deuteronomy 8:9).

There is a land of plenty in the Kingdom of God, a spiritual land that you enter into by covenant, by understanding the agreement that makes it work. It does not answer to prayer. Long fasting does not move it to work for you. Nor does concern of the brethren affect it. The subject of wealth in the kingdom only thrives on the covenant.

Jesus came here on earth eating butter and honey (Isaiah 7:14-15). You are not sent to eat sand

and gravel. Jesus could say, “*Woe unto you Pharisees*” because He did not need their money. He was not looking up to them for anything. He was connected to a never-ending source.

The Bible said of Him prophetically in Psalms 45:4:

And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Jesus was riding prosperously and in majesty when He was on earth. Citizens of the covenant world are prosperous people. I have seen people who are celebrities in the teaching of prosperity, yet victims of poverty. They are professors, not professionals. They have no working knowledge of the covenant, so they are not working it and consequently have no results to show. “Good understanding giveth favour” (Proverbs 13:15).

In Genesis 12, when God told Abraham to get out of his country and from his kindred and his father’s house, unto a land that He will show him, He promised him that:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:2-3

Then we are told in chapter 13 that:

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:2

Riches, is the will of God for you. It is a covenant, with a full package of blessings that continues in a cycle. You will be blessed and you will be a blessing. So, the blessing is continuous, as you increasingly multiply in blessing others.

You can only prosper by reason of your covenant walk with God, not by a chase after men and money! Lay hold on the covenant. Men will be dethroned, businesses will crash, money will fail, but the covenant cannot crash! It can never fail! God has said:

If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.

Jeremiah 33:25-26

As long as the day and night continue to exist, recognise that God’s covenant with His people is effectively in force.

Wealth is with God, but He has given men the power to get it. Therefore, the key that unlocks God’s treasures has been given to men. All those who operate it have testimonies to show for it.

Covenant wealth is not an issue of luck or chance. It has no bearing with the country you live in. The economic policy of the nation has no relevance to it. It has to do with your willingness and obedience to the terms of that covenant.

No matter how dry the land becomes, your covenant land will keep on producing. It will remain like brooks and fountains, giving out honey and oil ceaselessly.

WHAT IS THE GUIDING LAW OF THE COVENANT?

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

There is a law that guarantees peace and the release of goodness and mercy. There is a law that connects you to the source and moves God in your favour, to release the goodies of heaven for you.

Law that makes living comfortable for you and makes money lose value to you, by reason of its abundance. This law does not only bless you, but protects the blessing as well.

It is the law of seedtime and harvest. Genesis 8:22 is where the covenant of exemption from poverty all began.

And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more...

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest...shall not cease.

Genesis 8:20-22

Only those who sow seeds shall have a harvest. In chapter three of Genesis, He cursed the whole earth after man fell. He said to Adam:

...Cursed is the ground for thy sake...

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground...

Genesis 3:17-19

But after Noah's offering and sacrifice in Genesis 8:20, when God smelled a sweet savour, God said He will no longer curse the earth anymore. Instead, He decreed that seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, cold and heat, shall not cease.

That is the law. Harvest responds only to seed, not to prayers, fasting, human connections or positions. Only seed sown produces harvest. Until seed is sown, harvest is not in view. That is the law of abundance.

The Bible says in John 12:24:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit

God is not in need and can never be. So, whatever He is saying is not to His benefit, but for yours. His commandments are not to grieve you, but to groom you. They are not to hurt you, they are to help you; they are not to pull you down, but to build you up.

As long as day and night exchange positions, cold and heat exchange their seasons, summer and winter exchange their times, seedtime and harvest remain in force. It is a covenant and not a promise. A covenant has a stronger force with God than a promise. He said:

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Psalms 89:34

The law became a covenant in Abraham. There is what man must do for God to act. God is not committed to bring increases until man has committed himself to sowing seeds. If there must be harvest, there must be seed sown.

That is the law, and the scriptures cannot be broken. Neither prayers nor fasting can break it and tears or prayers of agreement cannot either.

COVENANT EXERCISE

There is something to do in the secret, in order to shine in the open. There is the place for exercises for every championship. Before you become a heavyweight champion, you need to engage in heavyweight exercise and practice first. You will never taste championship status, until you believe in the law of rigorous exercise.

You do not become a star in sports just because you have the natural potentials, rather, it is through the principles of rigorous exercises. Similarly, you cannot become a star in the kingdom, until you begin to exercise yourself in the covenant.

There are demands in the Bible that require rigorous exercises before you can attain the promises. For example, we are all potentially seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. So, potentially, we are all first class citizens. But we need first class exercises, to attain to that position in the physical.

In 1 Timothy 4:8, the Bible says: “*For bodily exercise profiteth little...*”

Records and proofs abound of sports stars all over the world. They live in the best houses and ride the best cars. They belong to a special class. However, none of these athletes achieved stardom without a commitment to physical exercises. Yet, the Bible says that is little, compared to the profit that accrues from godly exercise!

...Exercise thyself rather unto godliness. ...Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

This is the missing knowledge in the Church. We wait for God to do it. Can you imagine a sportsman waiting for the day God will make him a champion? He will never become one. If you sit down waiting for the day God will make you a sports star, you will wait forever and your generation after you will never see a sports star.

God says you should exercise yourself unto godliness, for bodily exercise profits little compared to the profit that comes your way through godly exercises. You do not have to wait for opportunities; you go in search of them.

Let us look at the following illustrations in Deuteronomy 32:9-10:

For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

That means, in the midst of those exercises, He saw to it that he did not perish or get destroyed. By such training and exercises, He made him ride on the high places (verses 11-12).

To ride on your high place, you need to take instructions for your upbringing. You need to be subject to the referee of your life, which is God's Word.

If the eaglet is never trained to fly, it will die up there in the nest. So have many Christians died in their nests, while they are yet alive. They have never exercised themselves unto the high-flying status of life.

You will never become a financial star, until you engage in financial covenant exercises. You will never smell plenty; you will keep struggling with scarcity.

It takes the eagle's game to become a ten thousand feet high-flying eagle. Eaglets are born, but eagles are made. We are not all children of God. There are sons out there and so are there men of God; but there are also friends of God in the order of Abraham.

There are disciples and there are apostles. It is not about title, it is about status. Titles are mere identities, but status is an accomplishment. It is worked for! You can call yourself by any name, but only your status reveals your actual worth, accomplishment and capability.

It is time to fly out of your nest, and take part in the game of the eagles.

GREATNESS IS PREPARED FOR

Concerning Jotham, the Bible says in 2 Chronicles 27:6:

Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.

Greatness is prepared for. It is not jumped into or stumbled upon. Nobody succeeds by accident. Every great sportsman made some great preparations to attain his greatness. He created avenues for exercises; he did not wait for them.

You need spiritual exercises to attain your inheritance in life. Can you imagine a sportsman aiming at a championship and all he does is fast and pray? He will never get there.

The demands of championship do not reckon with fasting and prayers, but with rigorous exercises. Exercises first, then fasting and prayers later, for the attacks that may come against you on your way to making the championship.

You need to put your muscles under the correct tension through exercises, so you can go through the contest. You cannot become a star by wishing, nor do you become one by waiting. You become a star by working. Therefore, “lift up the hands that hang down.”

The greater your preparation in any area, the greater your results. He that prepares sparingly shall reap sparing results and he that prepares bountifully, shall reap bountiful results.

There is need to prepare your way before the Lord. You must exercise yourself to your rights and inheritances before you can realise them. In Proverbs 13:11, the Bible says:

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

We need to understand the type of labour the Bible is talking about here.

Think of the prodigal son - he never worked for anything. He just collected everything his father had for him and it did not take him time to squander it all. That was because he never worked for it, so he did not have the capacity to retain it.

This is the case with many children of the wealthy, who simply inherited large fortunes they never laboured for. This natural phenomenon also has a parallel in the spirit realm. Only he that gathereth by labour is permitted to increase. What is this labour?

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that, we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:27-29

This is a call to labour - to stand on the Word of God, in spite of the events, contrary circumstances and opposition. This is the kind of labour God has commissioned you into.

Labour for the Word of God to be effectual in your life. Give it what it takes to stand on the Word, by the Word and for the Word. In I Timothy 5:17, the Bible says:

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

This is referring to those who work the work of God. That is, those who do and see that the Word of God is carried out as commanded. God says, “*Count them of double honour.*”

It takes covenant exercises to become a kingdom high-flyer. As long as you remain a collector, you will die a beggar. It is time to exercise yourself unto the covenant to bring out the star in you.

IN TIMES OF FAMINE ...

The covenant works! The covenant distinguishes! Let us look at how four characters in the Bible passed through famine without feeling its pinch, and why they were distinguished.

ABRAHAM

And there was famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

Genesis 12:10

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:1-2

In spite of the famine prevailing in the land, God provided a way out for Abraham. The Bible says that the famine was very grievous, but it also goes on to say that at the end of the day, Abraham was very rich. Is that not a paradox?

Friend, you serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. You do not have to die a victim. There is a way out for you!

ISAAC

There was a severe famine in the land. Kings and subjects alike were affected. King Abimelech and all his experts saw no way out in sight. The ground was as hard as a rock and there was no sign of rain in the near future.

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham...

Genesis 26:1

In that same land lived a man called Isaac. He was a covenant son of God, a bona fide son of Abraham. He looked at the situation and his first reaction was to flee. "Egypt is the answer", he thought. But God said to him:

...Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and bless thee...

Genesis 26:2-3

Isaac heard the Word of God and obeyed. He remained in the land of the Philistines, but the situation did not change. Then he remembered the covenant. "I must sow some good seeds", he said to himself. "But the conditions are terrible. The ground is so hard! Can any seed survive in this soil without rain in sight?" he wondered.

All the same, Isaac sowed in the land. It was one of the most difficult and painful experiences of his life. But God blessed his seed.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.

Genesis 26:12

Isaac despised the famine. He sowed in the land and received in that same year, a hundred-fold, and the Lord blessed him.

And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

Genesis 26:13

Isaac, the son of Abraham, did not become great because of Abraham's wealth. He did not become great because God had said He would bless him. He would have perished like the Philistines, even though God had spoken to him, if he had eaten up his seed. He became great because he operated God's covenant of abundance. He despised the climate, operated the covenant and escaped the humiliation in the land.

The covenant works!

Besides, Isaac also had a store of servants, each one handling a specific duty. The one that carried water was different from the one that cleaned the shoes, and the one that cooked the meals was different from the one that dry-cleaned the clothes.

It is interesting to walk in the covenant! The Bible says in the Book of Galatians 4:28:

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Abraham and Isaac experienced famine, and so must every one at one stage or the other. But, as we keep on obeying the law of abundance, we shall be distinguished.

Isaac received that SAME YEAR, a hundredfold returns! He became an object of mockery. There was no rain, so he had to break the hard ground. But because you cannot break the covenant, God honoured his covenant sense.

Never mind the environment, rather mind the instructions from heaven and you can never be stranded or become a victim, in spite of this looming poverty.

Isaac became the envy of the Philistines. I say by word of prophecy, that as you walk in the covenant, you shall be the envy of your countrymen.

JACOB

When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons:

...Get you down there and buy for us from thence...

Genesis 42:2

He did not say, "Get ye down there and beg for us." No! In spite of the famine, Jacob had means. Joseph's brethren had the means to buy grain.

In the time of famine, Jacob had the best fruits in the land in his house.

And their father Israel said unto them, if it must be so now do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down to the man a present...

Genesis 43:11

Fruits are usually taken as dessert. In times of famine, do people talk about dessert? Yet, nuts, almonds and myrrh, were in the house of Jacob in the time of famine. He had all these in abundance while the famine was "very sore".

A look at Genesis 43:12 shows that the money in the sacks held no attraction to Jacob.

And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:

There is a level of lifting you experience in God that makes nothing in the world hold any attraction to you any longer. While some Christians are struggling to take bribes, Jacob was rejecting gifts.

He gave his children double bundles of money, plus the other bundle they had on them, making three bundles per person.

As the famine was heightening, Jacob's sufficiencies were increasing. Since inflation had caught up with supplies, they had to carry double money. Prices had increased by a 100 per cent, yet Jacob was not moved.

You will never beg!

And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Genesis 43:15

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saw famine. It will be no strange thing, if there is famine in our days. Abraham overcame, Isaac became the envy of the Philistines and Jacob had no attraction for anything outside what God gave him. He was able to rise with the inflation and buy at any cost. As you also walk in the covenant, while others are hiding, you will stand out!

God has not changed. Isaac was a stranger in the land of the Philistines, and he became an envy in their land.

JOSEPH

Never mind where you are now. Joseph was in prison, and overnight, he moved to the palace! If you will practise and operate on the covenant platform, God will lift you up into a new realm. You will become a supplier of the needs of the people, just like Joseph did.

And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt were ended.

And the seven years of dearth began to come...

Genesis 41:53-54

The years of dearth do not come overnight, they “*begin to come.*”

And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:56

Today, Jesus is our Joseph. He came before us to prepare a way for us.

OTHER EXAMPLES

There was a widow who had two sons. Her husband was a prophet of God. But he died leaving a great debt behind. The woman was being harassed and she risked losing her two sons. She ran to Elisha, having heard proven testimonies of His access to God. The man of God looked at her and asked her a question:

...What hast thou in the house?

2 Kings 4:2

The woman wondered what kind of question that was. “Nothing”, she answered. Then the man of God must have said, “If you have nothing, then there is nothing I can do to help you.”

The woman knew she had a pot of oil reserved, but it was a very precious commodity to her. She was hiding it from everyone. It was her last resource. But when she offered it, the Word of the Lord that guaranteed her freedom from debt came.

She obeyed the Word and her abundance was released. She paid off her debts and had excess with which to live (2 Kings 4:1-7).

You can be a man of God and be neck-deep in debt. Your way out of predicament is operating the covenant. When the covenant is operated, mysterious forces are set in motion to cause your blessings to come, exceeding and abundantly more than you asked or thought.

There was a time we needed baby food in our home. It was a period of great scarcity in the land. Basic food items were very difficult to come by, even when you had the money. Everyday there were long queues at supermarkets and government distribution centres.

One could queue for a week, without getting anything. I didn’t have the time for all that. I was going about my business — God’s business.

My wife came home one day with her monthly salary. As she brought it home, the Lord told me to give it as a seed, which we did. The following Sunday, someone drove to our home with 24 cartons of baby food! 24 cartons, not tins! I operated the covenant and that provoked God’s response. We became a blessing to so many other families in this time of famine. When God called Abraham, He said, “If you do what I tell you, I will bless you and you will become a blessing to others.”

There was yet another widow, who miraculously survived famine in the Old Testament. The widow of Zarephath was in a most pitiable condition. But she gave what she had to Elijah the prophet, and she was blessed with abundance.

You, too, can escape famine. You can escape lack and demotion. You can win the war against poverty. God has given you the power; use it to your advantage.

REST BY THE COVENANT

If there is any rest you need today, it is in the area of finance.

The noise and rattlings keep announcing greater uncertainty. The economic policies have several loopholes that can never be filled. The global economic system is crashing down before our eyes. If there is anywhere we need to enter into, it is His rest.

There is how to contact the rest of God.

And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, he will forsake you.

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

2 Chronicles 15:1-3

When you are without law, you remain low. God is a strategist. He is not an ordinary God, He knows what He wants.

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

2 Chronicles 15:5

Seeking the Lord is work, not fun. It is time to believe God, in order to renew the altar of your life.

So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

And they offered unto the Lord the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

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

That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

And they sware unto the Lord with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.

2 Chronicles 15:10-15

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

2 Chronicles 15:19

For 20 whole years, Asa lived in the Covenant boom.

...Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts...

Malachi 3:7

Financial hardship comes your way, when you walk away from the covenant. When the covenant no longer makes meaning to you, you enter into financial hardship with your eyes wide open.

For 15 whole years, Israel had no rest! But when they entered into a covenant with God, everything turned around!

The covenant walk is the sweetest adventure in life. I don't get excited when people give me things. Rather, I am excited when I am able to give out. I have been taught by the Holy Ghost that my supply is dependent on my giving and not on my receiving. Jesus the Great Shepherd, never turned to any man for help.

Somebody once asked me, "Sir, I want to know, is your financial blessings from books or tapes?" I asked him whether he wanted to know the truth and he said, "Yes". I told him that I am yet to receive the first one Naira as royalty from all the books I have been privileged to author since 1985. Yet, they are selling at home and abroad.

As long as money is your focus, you will mourn! Money is a speed machine. No one who chases it ever catches up with it. But when you are a God-seeker, goodness and mercy will be running after you. This is the truth. It works anyday, anytime. How? God says He is the One that will add it to you.

I would like you to know that God is no respecter of persons. How long you have been doing what you are doing is not important. It is how well you have been doing it that matters.

The work to make you enter into your rest was finished, before the foundation of the earth. God has finished His part, leaving you and I to do ours.

It is time to cease from your struggles and enter into the rest that is prepared for you (Heb. 4:1-12). Verses 11 and 12 suggest that we labour to do what the Word demands. Give yourself over to the demands of His Word and you will enter into His rest.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:11

Chapter 8

Access To Financial Dignity

Financial liberty is a cheap possibility - if you can locate the access route to it. There are access roads to every proposed destination in life. Until you are able to locate the route that leads to the place you desire to go, frustration remains the order of the day.

The Bible says:

The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Ecclesiastes 10:15

Not knowing the way to where you are going results in weariness. The same goes for the covenant that establishes you in financial liberty.

In Proverbs 16:25, the Bible says:

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

The length of time you travel on the wrong path will never bring you to the right place you desire to go. If you will take the bold step to make a turn and choose to follow in the right path, you will arrive at the liberty you desire.

There are covenant practices that help to boost your seed sown to produce maximally.

THE KEY OF SERVICE

As long as you live unto yourself, you give yourself unto the enemy. But when you live unto God, no devil can touch you.

Satan came to God, the Father, and said, “*Doth Job serve God for nought?*” (Job 1:9)

We can see clearly that whatever Job became, it was through service. The Bible said Job became the greatest man in all the east. How did he get there?

It was through the mysterious ladder of service. When you are genuinely committed to the service of the Lord, you have the potential of being the greatest man in your generation.

Until God becomes the centre of your life, everything keeps falling apart! Until you are ready for God, you are not ready for good! Serving God is your insurance against bondage, lack, shame and penury. Serving God is profitable! If you are set to serve, He can even give men for your sake (Exodus 4:22-23).

Your commitment to God will provoke heaven's commitment to you. Your liberty is tied to your readiness to serve Him! He is set to free those who are willing to serve Him. If you must be free, you must be ready to serve Him. Not just for the sake of freedom, but to be a part of the kingdom programme on earth.

When you are unreservedly sold out to God, you will be distinguished in your generation. Be consumed with God - not with your business or your money. If you carry God high the way you carry that business of yours, you will be transformed to a high flying Eagle.

When you do the right thing with your ten Naira, it will become one hundred Naira. When you do the right thing with your one hundred Naira, it will become one thousand naira, and when you do the

right thing with your one thousand Naira, it will become ten thousand Naira, and when you do the right thing with your ten thousand Naira, it will become one hundred thousand Naira. By the time you do the right thing with your one hundred thousand Naira, it will become one million Naira. Do the right thing with one million Naira, and it is on its way to becoming one billion Naira!

That is the way it works. You do not need prayer of agreement for this. All you need is to agree with yourself to serve God.

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

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

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

Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

Job 22:21-25

There is a pathway to plenty. It is to return to the Almighty. God said to me: "Tell them your secret and leave them to make decisions."

I would like you this day to enter into a covenant to seek the Lord with the whole of your heart and desire. When that is in place, you will no more be a beggar on the earth.

Stop living for things, start living for God!

The enemy is out to contest for your destiny! Do not sell your birthright like Esau did. Your birthright is so glorious! It is so enviable! Do not give it out!

The unredeemed world (in Adam) is the elder brother of the redeemed world (in Jesus). By destiny, therefore, the unredeemed world is to serve the redeemed world.

But there is a secret to it. If you must multiply, it is by consecrated and committed service. If you must have rest round about, give your heart to Him today, so that your heartbeat will be towards heaven.

Your destiny is in your hands.

SATAN WILL NEGOTIATE YOUR COMMITMENT

When the Israelites wanted to go, and God's hand of judgment began to rest on Egypt, Pharaoh's hitherto hard heart began to weaken. He said to Moses in Exodus 8:28:

I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away...

Satan is out to negotiate your liberty by advocating a moderate Christianity. He cannot stand the truth and he knows that your destiny is anchored on your commitment.

Once he can negotiate for moderate commitment, he has made you a mediocre. Your destiny anchors on your commitment to God, not on your energy and sweat. I have proved this truth in my own life. I have watched God promote me to higher grounds, as I committed myself the more to His Kingdom work. The quality of your commitment determines the quality of your destiny.

What could negotiate the commitment of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? They took their lives in their hands and went into the fire. Nevertheless, they did not come out of it the same. They came out of the fire as rulers!

The king could not negotiate Daniel's commitment. He (Daniel) was not afraid of being thrown into the lion's den for praying to his God. He came out of that den the most honourable man in the whole world. Satan is out against your destiny and until he can cut down your commitment, he cannot tamper with your future.

Be Ready To Serve God With Your Treasures Too:

In verse 24, he came again with another proposition:

Go ye, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed...

There are many that are serving God with all their hearts, but without their purses. That is the devil's last negotiation. But Moses said:

Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord; until we come thither.

Exodus 10:26

Satan was negotiating their serving God with their treasures. That was the final test of their readiness to serve God.

Your treasures are your substance of worship. Your platform for freedom is your readiness to serve God with all that you are and all that you have. When you give yourself over to God, the difficulties of your life will come to an end. You will keep smiling all the days of your life.

Those who do not serve God will end up serving men. They will dance to the tune of men, because they refuse to dance to God's tune.

I have never begged any mortal being for anything, since I came into the ministry. Those who serve God do not beg men! The dread of them is upon every man.

Until you are committed to serving God, you will keep serving men and circumstances all the days of your life!

Your best qualifies you for God's best, and God's best is more than enough for you. Serving Him with all that you are and all that you have, qualifies you for all that He has; and all that He has is more than enough for your life.

Do not let Satan put the Egyptian mark on you. I mean the task master's mark - the mark of slavery and poverty. Refuse his negotiations!

When you truly begin to look for God, you will not look for other things before they are added to you. An unreserved, uncompromising commitment will put you into the struggle-free zone of life.

Anyone who cannot give his money cannot give his body. Anybody can dream in the night and say God called him. But if you cannot give your means, you are not a candidate for giving your life; you are a self-deceiver. God cannot, for example, call someone who does not pay his tithe to come and pay his life. In Job 36:11, He said:

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Will you obey and serve Him today? There are many whose offering was ten naira five years ago. God has multiplied them twenty times over and yet their offering remains permanently at ten naira. All they are waiting for is for God to come and reduce them! If you will not serve God with your means, you will end up serving your means. Those who refuse to place their gold in the temple, will turn it to idols.

Don't let the blessing upon your life become a curse. It is time to place kingdom budgets as priority over your own budget.

Worship God with your means and free yourself from the tension of the hour. The life of the tight-fisted man is a high temperature one.

Jesus said:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

This is the big bang that will grant you eternal access into sweatless supplies. God is saying, "With the same zest and vigour that the Gentiles are using to pursue money, pursue My Kingdom, and I

will add unto you all those things they are running after.”

This was my liberating scripture. It turned my life around!

As long as you are contributing to the tensions of other people, you are sowing a seed and you too will not be free from tension. Whatsoever a man sows, that he shall also reap. God is not mocked.

What some people call business is imprisonment. It's like doctors giving people drugs that do not have any relevance to the sickness, just to collect their money!

Seek ye first the kingdom of Heaven! He did not give us two things to seek after, before other things shall be added.

I am only doing kingdom covenant business. Have you not heard that whosoever will not work should not eat? Giving is not an activity, it is work. Only those who take it as work eat by it. It is neither a hobby nor a religious activity. David said:

Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God... Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

1 Chronicles 29:2-3

Kingdom addiction establishes covenant distinction! I have seen the reality of the booties of the covenant. This energises my spirit-man to walk in the covenant.

The Bible says:

By much slothfulness the building decayeth: and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

You don't have to watch your destiny decay. It is time to work! The time has come for you to walk out into eternal financial liberty; if only you will concentrate your might and desire on the house of God. There is no man whose might and desire are on God, who will not have his “own proper good.”

David said, “...***The house of my God.***” As far as he was concerned, it was his own house. The three thousand talents of gold of Ophir that he gave represents five hundred and seventy-six million dollar, while the seven thousand talents of silver represents fifty-six million, nine hundred and sixty thousand dollars!

All these came out of one man's own proper good! He said, “***I have of mine own proper goods, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God...***”

These things are written for our example.

How did David contact that level of wealth? He said, “With all my might I have prepared for the house of my God, and with all my affection I am focusing on His house.” These were his own personal gifts.

The only business that gave David his proper good was kingdom addiction. Make all your might available for the lifting of His kingdom.

When you are serving God, there are certain things that money cannot buy that come your way. He blesses your bread and your water. That means, it never finishes! He takes sickness away from you. He sees to it that you are neither barren nor cast your young in the land. He fulfils the number of your days (Exodus 23:25-26).

There is no drug for long life. There is no drug for total health. It has its source in God. That is what you get when you are given up to God. There is a future for you, but you need a correct heart to get there.

If God can trust you on what you vow on any business that comes your way, He will make sure

that businesses do not stop coming your way.

Do you know why many people make vows and yet do not get anything? They say, "Oh God, fifty per cent of every profit I make from today, goes to Your Kingdom. I mean it!" But God cannot trust them. He has checked their hearts, and He knows they will not do it.

Hannah said to God, "Give me a man child and I will give Him back to you." God said, "Is that right?" He checked her heart and it was correct, so He gave her a man child (I Sam 1:20). She kept her vow and God pursued after her with more honourable sons coming out of the same womb. May God be able to trust you.

THE KEY OF SACRIFICE

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

Psalms 126:1-3

Nothing turns financial captivity around like sacrifice. David was constantly sacrificing, and God kept on turning his captivity.

Sacrifice is the master key that turns the captivity of people's finances anyday, anytime; it is the key.

God has programmed to bring you into a financial dreamland. This is the hour that your captivity must be turned. All the sinners in your home and neighbourhood will know that something has happened to you!

A gentleman came into our Church premises, he was a muslim. He had watched his tenant, who is a member of our church and who could hardly get food to eat before, now buying land. He then said to himself, "Something must be happening in that Church." Again, he saw another couple, whom he directed to our Church jobless and could not pay their rent, and not long after, the wife got a job. The husband began to do one thing or the other and in a very short space of time, he bought a Mercedes Benz car and could even throw a birthday party for his wife. It was too much for him to comprehend. He then decided, "I will go there myself!"

The Word of God says in Psalms 126:2:

...Then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them.

The time has come for the Lord to turn your captivity, like the streams in the south.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalms 126:5-6

This is sacrifice! The secret is "sow in tears." Then, no devil can stop you from reaping in joy!

There is nothing that you plant in the kingdom for which you will not receive manifold more of now in this life.

Covenants are ratified by sacrifice.

Gather my saints together unto me, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

Psalms 50:5

In May 1987, the Lord instructed me to offer a particular sacrifice. My wife and I did with excitement, as the Lord commanded. It was a Mercedes Benz car.

On my way going home at the close of work that day, I heard the voice of the Lord say to me "My son David, even if you do not want to be rich, it is too late."

Sacrifice will always bring about outstanding and instantaneous positive turnarounds.

PUT AWAY THOSE IDOLS

Is there anything around your life that God cannot touch? That is an idol; it is your disqualifier. Whatever God cannot touch in your life for the promotion of His Kingdom, is an altar that must be destroyed. It is like an idol in the grove of Maachah, the mother of Asa. It must go or you must go! Make your choice. Nothing else is worth living and dying for, except Jesus.

Any desire you have that becomes a contract, like when you say, “God, if You don’t do this, I will go”, God will not do it. You can neither increase nor reduce God.

ENTER INTO A COVENANT WITH GOD

I want you to contact the easy life that Jesus has offered us. I want you to experience it. I want you to stay on it.

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

2 Chronicles 15:12

Will you enter into a covenant with God, to be the best in His service? Will you make your best available to His service at all times and at any moment?

When God called me, and there was pressure on me not to heed, I said to God, “Should I pretend not to have heard You, see to it that I do not succeed in any other thing I do.”

When you serve Him, it is to prove you for what next place to put you. He said to Abraham:

...For now I know that thou fearest God

...In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven...and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...

Genesis 22:12-18

You are a king! If you die a slave, you are to be blamed. Service is the king’s highway. It is the royal expressway. It will guarantee your liberty.

And they swore unto the Lord with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath...

2 Chronicles 15:14-15

May you come under the arrest of commitment, whereby you will never be free from all the days of your life. It will guarantee your liberty eternally.

OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD

You are meant to escape the financial holocaust coming upon the earth. You are not expected to fall when sinners are falling. There is great hardship coming upon the world, but God has created an escape route for you. You have a way out.

He said:

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.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There is a way to escape in God. You can count on God’s faithfulness. Your way out of financial predicament and embarrassment is through responding to the infallible Word of God. If you must be named among the stars in this end-time, then you must react promptly and positively to the Word of

God.

God's Word is going to be the only authentic lifting force in the world. Your sweat and toil will not lift you. The word "sweat" connotes struggle and survival of the fittest. Your expertise and strength will all be in vain. Only your positive response to the Word of God will shoot you up to triumphant living.

Jesus said:

...The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

The Word of God is a living force. It is the most powerful living force at work in the world today, and will soon become the only proven force at work on earth. All sinners shall run to it. Responding to the living Word, is the only way you can enjoy the blessings of God.

Peter was a highly experienced fisherman. He had everything going for him. He had the strength of an ox. His experience and expertise as a fisherman was well acknowledged. He was bold and fearless. He went fishing under the best fishing conditions. But all these could not get him even a shrimp.

He put all his fishing techniques to work, but the Bible tells us that he caught nothing! His expertise could not help him. All of his toiling was in vain. Then the Word of God came:

Launch out into the deep, and let down your net for a draught.

Luke 5:4

Here was Peter, a frustrated fisherman. He had just returned from a very disappointing fishing trip. He had washed his nets and all he wanted was to get back home to recount his tale of woe to his wife.

But then, an order was released. He sized up the One who gave the order, and came to the conclusion that He doesn't speak idle words.

How did he know this? The man Jesus had just finished holding a crusade on the sea shore, using Peter's empty boat as His platform. Peter had heard the graceful words, which flowed from His lips, piercing the hearts of His listeners. Peter acknowledged, "This man speaks no idle words. But before I obey, I must explain my predicament to Him!" So he said:

Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Luke 5:5

Peter decided to switch over from toiling to the Word. Professional fishermen always go fishing at night, but here was a man telling the greatest expert of them all to let down his fishing net in broad daylight. Stupid? Yes! Crazy? Of course!

With all the facts available, it seemed impossible for Peter to catch any fish at that time of the day. But there is something greater than all these established facts. It is the living Word of God!

At the release of God's Word, every contrary situation fades away to pave the way for the manifestation of the Word. Peter recognized this. I am sure he must have been a bit shaky about it. But he was determined to obey the Word that had been released.

He obeyed the Word and caught more fish than he had ever done in all his fishing experience! Obedience to God's Word bailed Peter out of his predicament.

Obedience still remains the principal instrument that will rescue any sinking saint, out of the waters of uncertainty.

The same way that God's Word prevailed, contrary to all fishing laws, so also will it prevail contrary to all the economic laws of the time.

“WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU TO DO...”

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a marriage feast one day. It was a very joyful occasion and the mother of Jesus was there too. Everything was going on fine. Then the enemy struck. Darkness loomed. The supply of wine was exhausted! But all the wedding plans had been sufficient to entertain the crowd! Things, however, went contrary to expectations.

The bridegroom was perplexed. Shame was imminent! He had invited Jesus and His disciples to the feast, but He didn't know where to go for a solution.

Thank God for Mary, the mother of Jesus! She was involved and she knew where to turn. She first turned to the Word, and later went to the servants and said, “Stay by this man. Whatever He tells you to do, do it without asking questions. Do not move away until He tells you what to do.”

Mary provoked the Word. She stirred the waters and the Word was released.

Fill the waterpots with water.

John 2:7

When they were filled, Jesus said:

Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.

John 2:8

What an instruction! But the servants obeyed, and the blessings of God were released. Shame was driven away!

Shame is imminent for the world. Only obedience will lead to abundance. Obedience releases the blessings of God packaged in the Word.

If you do whatsoever God says you should do, you will experience what He has promised. God is no respecter of persons, in any nation, anyone who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted with Him (Acts 10:34-35). The Bible says the proud and the wicked are put together. That means that the proud Christian, who disregards God's Word will suffer the same calamity that the unbelievers are going to suffer.

May you never have your portion with the wicked!

In this Kingdom, you only make it by TRUTH. There is no other way to deal with darkness outside of light.

In the same way, there is no other way to deal with hardship, but by the knowledge and practice of the truth. There are many that have some knowledge of certain things, but not all that have the knowledge practise it. It is the practice of the truth that equals success. He says:

If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments...

Deuteronomy 28:1

“To observe” means to check through the notes, to try to find out what it exactly means. “And to do.” Then:

The Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth...

Blessed shalt thou be in the city and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body and the fruit of thy ground...

...Thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath...

Deuteronomy 28:1-13

When you have received and applied the Word, you must succeed. Until you joyfully receive the Word and forcefully apply and practise it, success is not in view. That is the key.

If you are keyless, you are hopeless. There is no method or amount of muscle that can get you through a locked door without the key. It takes the key to gain access to the realm of sweatless success.

It is the same key that guaranteed Jesus a sweatless success, all through His earthly ministry. Consequently, He was always unruffled. When He was told that Lazarus His friend was dead, He said:

But I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

John 11:11

When He was faced with the feeding of five thousand people, He simply lifted the five loaves and two fishes up to heaven and gave thanks, and that great multitude was fed, with 12 basketfull gathered as leftovers!

He has the keys, so He just manifests His Sonship. May the Lord place the keys in your hand!

Struggle will not cease, until you contact the truth that relates to that area of struggle. Some degree of light has come my way that makes sickness subservient, it must obey when told what to do.

If we join the world in the struggle for survival, we will fail the way they fail. The knowledge and the practice of the truth makes you a sweatless winner. They open every prison house that has locked you in. It takes knowledge to become free from sweat.

Not all winners sweat to win. Sweating is a curse. It symbolises struggles. Until you go for the truth and practise it, your freedom is not in view; the struggle continues.

IT IS ONLY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD CAN MAKE RICH

It is the blessings of God that make rich, without adding any sorrow. They are released through obedience. Your expertise will not make rich. Your sweat and toil will all be in vain, for except the Lord blesses you, you cannot be blessed. The Word confirms this:

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth His beloved sleep.

Psalms 127:1-2

There is good in the land, but it is for those who will be willing and obedient.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Isaiah 1:19

The only way you can escape the frustration and undue hardship coming upon the world, is by obeying the Word of God. Everyone standing on the Word will experience the supernatural confirmation of it.

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

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

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

Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brook.

Job 22:21-24

God's Word is your access to abundance and plenty, in the time of lack and want. Lay hold on it and do what it says.

GET CONNECTED TO THE SOURCE

There is a war-free zone in Christianity! There is a lack-free zone in redemption! There is an all-round triumph zone in Zion! You must find it. You must apply yourself to it, before you can stand

inside it.

Whatever you are looking for and have not found is because you have missed its source. Every time you look for much and you can't see it, you have missed the source. God said:

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of host...

Haggai 1:9

When you miss the source, you miss the prize.

I would like you to know that every time Israel came under affliction, it was because they missed the source. No source can be truer than God, because He is the Truth, He is the Life and He is the Way. He is everything.

When God was not given His rightful place, Israel was plagued. These things are written for our examples. You need to be connected to the source of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Romans 10:12

If any Greek cannot contact riches, it is not because he is a Greek. Rather, it is because he is not connected.

Therefore, you are not in lack because you are black, you are in want because you are unconnected. You are not down because of the economic situation in the country; you are down because of your wrong positioning in the covenant.

It is your Word position that determines your position in life.

YOU NEED AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

You need an understanding heart to get connected. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:27 could not get at salvation. He had a knowledge (he could read), but he had no understanding. Thus, he could not lay hold on salvation. Salvation was in the passage he was reading. Salvation had taken effect from where he was coming, but his understanding was inadequate to tap into it. The Bible says:

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of the transgressor is hard.

Proverbs 13:15

That is, the way of those who lack good understanding will be hard.

So, hardship is a function of ignorance or inadequate understanding. Those who don't have understanding will suffer hardship. It takes understanding, therefore, to escape hardship.

Good understanding releases life, but lack of it creates hardship. It's time to be free! You need to ask the Lord for an understanding heart, capable of comprehending every truth that has to do with your inheritance in Christ.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.

Psalms 25:14

When you have a heart for God, you are set for a revelation. God reveals things to people who reverence Him, not to everybody; but only to those who take Him as their only source for an intervention.

Before every flood, God prepares an Ark. You can't beat God to it. He is always ahead. I believe that before Daniel got into the lion's den, the angel of the Lord was already there waiting.

Before the three Hebrew boys arrived in the fiery furnace, the "fourth man" was already there. There is no way He could have arrived later, they would have been completely burnt.

God always prepares an ark of safety, before any flood is allowed. Those that fear the Lord will always see His salvation, no matter how terrible the situation.

At a time when even a king was crying during an excruciating famine in the land of Israel, the widow of Zarephath had more than enough to eat.

If the whole earth burns like an oven, who shall escape? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Who can stand if lions invade the city? Daniel! If the flood come upon the earth, who shall escape? Noah and his household!

All these people had one thing in common—they feared the Lord!

CHAPTER 9

Maintaining the Flow

Everyone believes in success and everyone wants to accomplish his mission in a grand style. Success is desired and loved by all, and hated by none. No one really, truly hates success. Every reaction against success is nothing but an expression of envy. Success has no real enemies; she is only a victim of envy, in most cases, by victims of failure.

Though everyone wants to prosper, unfortunately, not everyone knows the way to it. Unfortunately too, the few that know the way to it have, perhaps, not cared to give it all it takes.

Success is not a matter of luck; it is a matter of choice. If you choose to diligently hearken to what God is saying, and you observe to do it the way He said it should be done, you have committed God to set you up on high above all the nations of the earth (Deuteronomy 28:1).

Success is a great plan, which places a demand of great responsibility on everyone who wants to see the plan work out in their life. The Bible contains all it takes to make your way prosperous and to have good success.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

Inside it is packaged infallible success strategies for life. If you will diligently hearken to what God is saying, and observe to do the same, then the Lord will set you up on high, above all nations of the earth.

The Bible is all it takes to make the most of your life. It is the oldest, yet the most current and most published book on earth. The demand for the Bible is growing daily, all because of the breath of God on it.

You do not need to go to Harvard School of Business to be a success in life. The Bible is an encyclopedia of success stories from which you can draw practical lessons for your life.

Jesus is, beyond any iota of doubt, the most successful being that ever walked the planet earth! He is, without controversy, a huge generational success. Posterity is still resounding the outstanding success of this man, who only sojourned this earth for thirty-three and a half years, but whose influence and effect is still very strong in the world after over 2,000 years that He physically departed from it!

Jesus is the most talked about and celebrated personality in the world, and He commands the greatest following among the human race. Surely, you can learn the secret to true and lasting success from such a man. What is His secret? How did Jesus make it to this enviable peak?

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luke 22:24-27

The most successful man in history said of Himself, ***“I am in your midst as one that serves.”*** Jesus identifies service as the secret behind His success. His prescription for outstanding success is entirely different from what the world knows; it is a total departure from the world’s system.

He said success has its demands in God’s kingdom. So, before you start knocking your head and suffering sleepless nights in a bid to make things work, this is one crucial question that must be considered: Are you out to be served or are to serve? Are you out to service the needs of others or are you out to service your own needs?

Covenant prosperity is one of the manifestations of success. But if your success begins and ends with you, then it is a failure in disguise.

God’s intention is for you to become rich in good works. Does it move you when you see people sleeping under trees, rather than in houses? The Bible says concerning Jesus:

Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Acts 14:17

He did good! The good you do is your most authentic witness or proof of your love. It is the authentic evidence that you are a disciple of Christ. The Bible also records that Jesus went about doing good.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

He went about helping the helpless, giving food to the hungry and healing all that were under the oppression of Satan.

In Galatians 6:9-10 we read:

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Riches are for doing good. This was what Jesus came for and mankind is still celebrating that noble mission till date.

Labour not to be rich

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Proverbs 23:4

What are you living for? Prosperity or posterity? This is crucial, because the world today is made up of possession-crazy people, who eventually end up in frustration, which, in most cases, degenerates into hypertension, and ultimately cuts short the life span of its victims. That’s why the Bible says:

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

1 Corinthians 6:10

There is a deadly crave for possessions today, like never before in history. But I strongly believe that there is more to life than buying cars and building houses. Meeting the needs of humanity is what

gives dignity to destiny.

Blessings will surely be added to you, but Paul said:

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

1 Timothy 6:17-18

These are people who celebrate their investments, by promoting the destiny of mankind. They celebrate their riches by putting smiles on the faces of others, creating jobs for the jobless, and giving shape to shapeless lives. They do not celebrate their possessions, but their contributions.

Jesus came and poured Himself out, and by so doing, He keeps influencing humanity for generations. This same Jesus said, “***Follow me and I will make you (what I am)***” (Mark 1:17). He also said that a servant who is perfect will be like his master.

Have you not heard that it is more blessed to give than to receive? Paul said:

I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35

When something is given to you, what a blessing, but there is more blessing in your letting it go. You can not lay down your life for His cause and not live for posterity.

God has not changed. When you stop being a blessing, your blessings are reserved. Living for posterity is the rule of the game, not living for prosperity.

WHAT ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING?

Contribution is the valid evidence of life. Life is much more than drinking and eating, wearing clothes and riding cars. Life is about the enhancement of value and enriching the lives of others.

In basic science, we have living things, which consist of plants and animals, and non-living things. Plants and animals are both sustained by contribution. Plants, for instance, can never be tired of producing oxygen, which humans and animals take and must, in turn, give out the much-needed carbon dioxide for plants. If plants refuse to give out oxygen, they will die; the same goes for humans and animals, if they hold on to carbon dioxide.

Contribution, therefore, is the valid evidence of life. Every living thing lives to contribute, so as to sustain its life. What contribution are you making to life? The title you wear is not as important as the task you perform. Someone once asked me, “Are you a pastor, a teacher, prophet or an evangelist?” I told him I didn’t know, because when God called me He sent me with a task, not a title.

On May 2, 1981, when the vision of the great Commission God gave me was delivered, God said to me, “**The hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the word of faith; and I am sending you to undertake this task.**” He did not send me to wear a title. I am an undertaker, a messenger carrying out an assignment.

Whatever vision gives you a title and not a task is a deception of the devil. When God called Paul, He told him, “I will show you what you will suffer for me by preaching the gospel round the world.” When He sent Jeremiah, He said, “I am sending you to nations, to pull down and to root out. They will abuse you, but go!”

God does not send anyone with a title. All that He sent were to accomplish a task. The questions now are: Which task have you been sent to accomplish? What is your assignment?

You must not sell your birthright for personal comfort. Until you are contribution-driven, you remain a victim of frustration. Life thrives on contribution, as life terminates where contribution stops.

Some people even dream of the car they want to own – the colour, the seat, etc. Wake up! Enough of balloon dreams! Jesus said:

For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Luke 22:27

Your destiny anchors on service – your availability to minister to the needs of the people to whom you are sent. Life is not about sitting down, neither is it about status, nor is it about possessions. Life is about service; it is about contribution. Multitudes are living for what to consume, but it is time to start living for posterity.

Esau sold his birthright for a morsel of meat, just as many businessmen have sold off their colourful destinies because they now have enough to eat, wear, and to buy their dream cars! Most of them never think about leaving legacies, and so, at the end, they die without any further reference to them.

May I emphasize again that your worth is in your contribution, not in your possessions. Your actual worth in life is not in what you have; your actual worth is in what you make happen for others.

Whereas Esau sold his birthright for a morsel of meat, many are selling theirs today for family comfort and personal affluence. They have adopted the, “Me, my wife, and my children; everybody else can go to blazes” attitude.

There are many who have been ordained to employ thousands of people, but who end up with just about four. Why? They have spent all they would have invested in buying new suits, new cars, and living in big houses, not minding anything about their purpose on earth. So they become an abuse, a menace to the society, and a risk to humanity.

There is one question you must begin to ask. It is: ***“Lord, what is my mission on earth! What am I created to accomplish? What is Your ultimate purpose for sending me to this world at this time?”*** This is because it is He who created us, not we ourselves (Psalms 100:3). No product determines its purpose; the manufacturer does.

You are not to be bothered about what to eat; you should rather be concerned about what to do. It is the discovery of what to do that will determine what you become. So, sit up and discover the Creator’s purpose! It’s only a discovery of divine assignment that guarantees a meaningful life. Without correct bearing, life remains a burden.

Impact begins with finding out what you are created to do. You are at your best where you are created to be. Accomplishment begins with purpose. Life is a journey and only those who know where they are going ever record progress. Only those who are going somewhere ever get anywhere. Anyone going everywhere gets nowhere, because there is no such destination as “everywhere.”

As a child of God, you are destined for a glorious place in life. But a discovery of God’s purpose for your life is the beginning of a meaningful life.

Life is much more than eating, drinking, wearing clothes and riding cars. Life is about enhancement of value; that is, adding value to others.

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Proverbs 28:27

I cannot tell you how many people have aches in the Body of Christ, because they are only giving so they can prosper. Many have no passion whatsoever towards the needs of mankind, and that is why they are like stagnant waters - they stink!

You cannot understand this thing I am talking about and not celebrate opportunities to minister to the needy around you. It will always be a delight to you.

What you have does not hold a future; what you give is what secures your tomorrow. What you wear is not as important as what you put on others. That is what determines your worth. What you make others eat is what determines your true value.

Why are you giving and nothing is happening? It is because you are a consumer - only giving to acquire. Consumers are limited to bread; only distributors have access to seeds.

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10

It is seeds that guarantee the continuity of fruits, while bread just goes into the stomach and ends up in the toilet. Your capacity to be a blessing, therefore, is what ultimately determines the capacity of God's blessing that can be entrusted into your hands.

You have a heritage of abundance with God, as long as you are ready to be a distributor. Things never cease to be tight for the tight-fisted. God said to Abraham, ***"I will bless you, and you shall be a blessing, and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed."*** That means, as you open up to the families of the earth, He will keep His heavens open in your direction.

A CHANNEL OR A CONTAINER?

If you must enjoy the showers of God's blessings, you must become a living channel of His blessings. The blessings of God are not for containers, they are for distributors. But until you become a channel, you are not entitled to their release, as the covenant of abundance hinges on your being a channel. The showers of God's blessings remain the reserve of distributors.

Get one thing clear: your business is not crawling because you are a Christian. Job was a man that feared God and eschewed evil, yet he was the greatest man in all the east (Job 1:1-3). Failure to distribute is the major hedge many people are breaking, which is why their businesses remain in hell.

Many businessmen are only concerned about their immediate families. Remember the rich fool in the Bible? He was a container, who got so full he burst open one night. God said to him, ***"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"*** That was his end.

If you want to enjoy the showers of God's blessings, you must become a channel of the same blessings. This is the covenant that guarantees a continuous release of His showers.

Note that you do not become a channel of blessing just because you have plenty, but because you make a choice to be one. If you want to see blessings in your life, not only in showers, but in torrents, you must become a living channel.

You do not go about with your millions secured in banks, whereas, someone is dying right next to you and crying out for your help, but getting no concern or attention from you. That is why you never have enough!

Nehemiah was enjoying the beauty of the palace, he was comfortable. But when he heard that the remnant of the captives were suffering and in great affliction in Jerusalem, he broke down in tears, wept and fasted many days (Nehemiah 1). Then God said, "I will make you a governor over them." That is how God establishes people in leadership.

You must be amongst others as one that serves, not as one that usurps. Long for the needs of others to be met, and you will enjoy beauty and colour. Always look for how to improve the lot of other people.

Please understand what I am saying. To become a commander of wealth, you must become a committed distributor. Distributorship is all it takes to occupy your position of leadership in destiny. You must always be out to serve the needs of others.

BEGIN TO FLOW OUT!

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be...ready to distribute, willing to communicate.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

Covenant prosperity is rooted in your commitment to servicing the needs of mankind. Jesus said that in order to qualify for true and lasting prosperity, you must be committed to servicing the needs of humanity. It is more blessed to give than to receive. ***There is one that scatters and yet increases, and there is one that withholds more than is necessary and he tends more unto poverty.*** He becomes a failure in the process (Acts 20:35; Proverbs 11:24). This is one great secret in the school of success.

In my view, you are not a millionaire just because you have a million dollars; you are a millionaire by influencing a million people. Otherwise, there are rogues (I mean rogues who rob organizations and institutions) who may have millions stacked away in their banks. Would you call that success?

So, do not just desire to be a “paper millionaire”, instead, become a “people millionaire”, desiring to influence millions of people positively. Be committed to seeing that they are well, and that things happen for them and in their favour. That is what makes a millionaire. I am believing that in your own lifetime, hundreds of thousands, even millions, will trace their success stories to you.

I clearly recall one day back in 1987, while going to teach at a seminar of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship meeting in Aba, Nigeria, the Lord said to me in very clear terms, while meditating on certain scriptures, “My son, don't raise money; raise people and you will have more money than you will ever need for ministry.” The more people you influence, therefore, the greater your destiny becomes. Rather than live for money and position, start living for people.

Whatever made Jesus to weep because someone was in affliction, must have meant a lot. He came down to earth and gave again and again, until He gave His life. He was constantly giving and distributing. See where He is seated today, at the right hand of majesty on high, far above all principalities and powers, and has been given a name above every name!

I once said, “It is impossible for me to lack food, because of the few people I have been privileged to put food on their tables.” It is impossible! Just flow out, and see how God's blessings will begin to flow in to you. That is what it takes!

Crave to be a blessing, and the blessings of God will never stop flowing into your life. This is very vital. All those “get-rich-quick” games played all over the world today are so sickening. Refuse to be part of it. Whenever you are thinking of investing, please do so in an area that will bless people. That is the way up - think people! This is your season for going up!

God said, ***“If you hearken to what I am saying to you, you shall be the head and not the tail, you shall be above only and not beneath.”*** I believe it is your turn for a turn-around!

ENLARGE YOUR HEART

Only those who think of others become leaders, while those who think self end up as slaves. Jesus, our worthy example, said your level of commitment to serve is what determines your level of success in life. The Bible reveals that He received a name above every other name, that at the mention of His name every knee should bow.

We can change the image and identity of our nation positively, if we start thinking others. The philosophy of self has had such a firm grip on this part of the world that nobody cares what happens to anyone else. But your commitment to meeting the needs of others, is what makes you a great leader. If indeed success implies taking the lead, setting the pace, and blazing the trail, then you must know

that it is rooted in your commitment to servicing the needs of mankind.

As a businessman, begin to rejoice in how many people are under your employment. Begin to think industry. Think of how to help more people have food on their tables and you will find God enlarging your coast to match. I have seen people whom you may term successful, but who as soon as they are gone, everything goes and there is no remembrance of them anywhere. That is not success; it is forgery!

Please think others! Success will ever remain a daydream that never comes to light, if all you do is think self. On the other hand, God keeps enlarging your coast without sweat, when you are constantly thinking others. Keep thinking of what to add to others, what to invest into people, and what to make happen for them. Think others!

These are not just things I was told or read about; they are things I have seen, touched, and my hands have handled. I know what it means, and can open you up to it.

You need to start spreading out. You are too closed in, so God is afraid of enlarging you. Many stack their money in banks, only to end up using it to service their health needs and all kinds of calamities.

Every self-centered dream is a balloon dream that hardly comes to pass. The more you dream such dreams, the more you drown. But when you keep dreaming of reaching out to others, more grace keeps flowing in your direction, enabling you to fly higher by the day.

I read a story of some great American Christians in the Charisma Magazine of December 1995. It was an article written by Jennifer Ferranti. The report was about six successful American business leaders, who said their greatest joy in life was not in accumulating money. Rather, they enjoyed sharing their wealth with others at Christmas time and all through the year.

One of them, Donald Soderquist, Vice-Chairman of the Wal-Mart stores, said, "The reward in giving isn't something you put upon a wall in your office. It's a feeling inside." Wal-Mart stores employs about 650,000 people! Imagine what will happen when you rise to take your place in the covenant, and God begins to enlarge your coast!

It was the largeness of their hearts that afforded God the opportunity of enlarging their coasts. They were constantly thinking of whom next to bless, or what to do that would further bless humanity. As they thought so, God kept backing them up to actualize their dreams.

THINK GENERATIONAL THOUGHTS!

Jesus placed you on the earth to influence it for Him. You are here as light, to terminate and shatter the darkness of poverty and despondency that is in the world. You are ordained to show them the way out of the gross darkness in which they find themselves. Light is a great asset in times of darkness, and it wields an overwhelming influence over obscurity.

You are also here as the salt of the earth, with a mission to both preserve and add flavour to the world. Salt holds a generational influence on human life, not just for taste, but also for preservation. Therefore, you are sent here to preserve your generation.

This is why you must stop thinking private, personal, family-sized thoughts, and start thinking generational thoughts. Begin to break out in your mind to the right and to the left. Start thinking of how to be a blessing to people, and the blessings of God will never stop flowing in your life.

If hard work alone makes high-flyers, then there would not be as many people on the ground as we have today. Thank God for the principles, but they cannot produce any results except you embrace them with the right attitude. Living just for you and your family, looking for what to grab or get is not life; rather, thinking of what to give and how to make others happy is what gives real value to life.

The "what will I make from it" syndrome is the reason why many are unable to think industry.

That is why the whole world is buying, selling, and contracting. Nobody is thinking industry. All the warehouses are gone, all the factories are gone, because everybody is thinking of what to make, not who to make. The love of money has finished most people, and pierced them through with many sorrows. But the love of people will always make great destinies. Let us return and begin to do the first works.

SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

Abraham, the father of faith, whose prosperity defied old age, was always quick to recognize and seize opportunities of being a blessing to others. He ended up becoming the friend of God as a result. What an enviable lifting!

Job, acclaimed to be the greatest man of his time, consciously sought avenues of living for others. He carried everyone's problem on his head. It is no wonder, then, that the Almighty God Himself boasted of Job! He was proud of him.

As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;

When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:

Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

Job 29:4, 11-13

You must equally lay hold on this secret that made great men out of these ordinary herdsmen. Search your village, the neighbourhood where you reside, including your local church community, and begin to think of areas where you can be a blessing, then watch how God will begin to bless your life!

It is very important for you to understand that you are your own limitation. God won't let you consume anymore than you are willing to discharge. Therefore, your influence on earth is a function of your willingness and commitment to share, to let go, so that more may come in. Then you shall emerge as another covenant elephant! Say, "Lord, help me to locate where I belong in servicing the needs of humanity."

SELF MUST DIE!

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...

1 Corinthians 9:27

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...

Galatians 2:20

Until the self in you dies, the leader in you will not come alive. The death of self is the manure that nurtures the leader in you to fruitfulness. A seed of dominion was planted inside you at creation. God told Adam to have "dominion." To Abraham, He said, "***Kings shall come out of thy loins.***" And when Jesus came, He was called the King of kings - "***And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth***" (Revelations 5:10).

This implies that there is a royal seed in you. But until the self in you dies, that royalty in you will not come alive. If you must take your place in destiny, that enemy in you called "self" must first die! You must be willing to lay the self in you at His feet, so that the leadership seed in you will "come alive."

You were crowned with dominion from creation. In the covenant God made with Abraham, He said all the families of the earth shall be blessed by his (Abraham's) seed. This means that you are a creature of influence, a king meant to reign on earth. Therefore, I believe that as the self in you gives up, your throne will emerge.

Start thinking people and you will see how strange the hand of your God will be on your life.

Refuse to be satisfied with just having food to eat, clothes to wear and a car to drive. Refuse to be satisfied, until you are a true influence to the world around you.

You remember the man Nehemiah? He was comfortable in the palace, but he could not stand the horror of the report from home. He broke down in tears at a very risky time. To be sad before the king was always read as rebellion, which was punishable by death. But he was ready to die for his people. As a result of his show of selflessness, God made him their leader, and Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in a record time of 52 days! He enjoyed unbelievable favour. He spoke to his enemies face-to-face, challenging them, and, yet, they could not handle him, because of the overshadowing presence of God with him.

Gideon sat under that tree wondering how long his people would remain under oppression, when the angel appeared to him with that strange salutation, “***O thou mighty man of valour.***” The greeting perplexed Gideon, because he never saw himself as being qualified to break the arm of the oppressor. But through the hand of Gideon, God wrought victory for Israel.

By your hand, God will bring salvation to many! By your hand, many who would have died of hunger shall find solace! By your hand, many who would have committed suicide shall find jobs.

Nehemiah and Gideon were thinking about people, and God found them; He will find you too! God will soon announce you as the greatest in your endeavour!

JUST DO IT!

Living for others to live is the key to outstanding success in the Kingdom. This is practical Christianity.

However, obedience is the strength of the Christian faith. In John 2:5, Mary, the mother of Jesus, told the men, “***Whatever He tells you to do, just do it!***” When you do it, you won’t have to struggle anymore, for He makes it work. God delights in the obedience of His children.

Every seed you sow into the lives of others in making things work for them, will lead you to a season of harvest that will cause everything you do to work in your favour. This is practical Christian living, living in truth and in love for others.

RECEIVE GRACE!

Let me say this at this point: you need to pray for grace to be a servant indeed on a daily basis, because it takes grace to make yourself of no reputation and stoop down to serve. Everyday before you set out, take grace from God to be a servant, indeed, in your pursuit. In a world where everybody is living for self, but you are committed to living for others, you need grace to be able to maintain this cause to the end.

Grace in this context simply means divine help. God’s success manual says in John 15:5, “***For without me ye can do nothing.***” The same manual calls the help of man vain, meaning it can accomplish next to nothing. No wonder Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:8:

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Grace from God fills you with power and enables you to lay down your life for others to live. You can do anything, when grace is released.

In the school of success, divine help, which is one of the expressions of grace, is a major requirement. When you hook up to His help, you qualify for “much fruit”, which translates into covenant prosperity.

It is important for you to understand that you can go nowhere without the help of God, for “***by strength shall no man prevail.***”

I believe you need His help so desperately, if you must fulfill this mandate of living for others.

The release of His help is the stretching forth of God's hand in your direction. It is the hand of God that fills every vacuum in your life, as it is His help that makes high-flyers in the Kingdom.

And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.

And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

2 Chronicles 26:7-8, 15

The altar of prayer is your point of encounter with grace.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Prayer is a spiritual device, through which you can provoke divine help.

I see that unique grace that enabled Jesus to lay down His life for you and I without a second thought, working for you from henceforth! As you receive that grace, your stories of kingdom prosperity will never end. Please say this prayer from the depth of your soul:

“Lord, I know I'm here to influence my world for You. Help me to play my role, and to occupy my place in You satisfactorily. Lord, give me direction on how to maximize this privilege on earth, in Jesus' precious name!”

Chapter 10

Operational Guidelines

There is no short cut to abundance! It is not just enough to operate the law of seed time and harvest. There are other laws, guidelines and instructions that make the law of prosperity effective and they must be followed for you to actualise it. God's intention is to make you cease from struggles, so He gave you the law.

That you are committed to planting seeds is not what makes you a successful farmer, rather, it is a good working knowledge of the modalities that makes for a good yield. You need to be conversant with the regulations that govern the seed you want to plant. For instance, the climate that is most conducive for it, the appropriate fertilizer to apply, the planting season, weeding period, etc.

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

If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up...

Job 22:22-23

When we are talking about abundance, we are talking about the one you contact from heaven, which brings with it divine protection that makes you enjoy it. God does not bless a man and collect it back through sickness. He does not bless a man and expose him to robbers or set his house on fire. No!

The blessings of God makes rich and does not add any sorrow. He cuts off anything that causes sorrow. That is why He said: "...***Thereby good shall come unto thee***" (Job 22:21). So, anyone who operates this covenant of abundance automatically lives a healthy life. Unlike the blessings of the world, which are temporal, whatsoever the Lord doeth shall be forever. When it is from the Lord, it stays.

Whatever you go through the back door to collect will finish when the source finishes. But I am introducing you to a very stable and consistent source that never disappoints.

"PROVE ME NOW"

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME NOW herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:10

Everyone who got into this abundance, proved Him to get there. Abraham proved Him and God said: "***Now I know that thou fearest me...In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed...and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed***" (Genesis 22:12, 17-18).

Solomon proved Him. He sacrificed one thousand burnt offerings. Consequently, God unleashed such wealth upon him that no man has ever handled.

David also proved Him. The Bible tells us that even before David was old and well-stricken in age, God had blessed him with honour and riches in every way (I Chronicles 29:28). Why did God bless him so? Because he had with his might, prepared for the house of his God.

They all proved God before they were placed and lifted by Him. It is your turn to prove Him!

IT BEGINS WITH LOVE

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

I Corinthians 2:9

Everything that is genuine has its root in God. The foundation of God stands sure, therefore, everything that is sure has a foundation in God.

You cannot love mankind indeed, until you first love God indeed. It is the overflow of your love for God that flows out to mankind.

Your love for money disqualifies you for His provisions; it is love for Him that qualifies you for His abundance. Showers of blessings respond only to the intensity of the love of God in your heart. That same love is what destroys the barrier that stands between you and the showers.

When you enter the love realm, you step out of your struggles. As you are possessed with His love, He makes you a possessor on the earth. Everyone who is possessed by God ends up possessing abundance. Things work for you only to the level of your love for God. All struggles come to an end in the face of love.

MORE THAN YOU LOVE YOURSELF

God expects you to love Him more than you love yourself (Matthew 22:37). The larger your heart for God, the greater the mark you make on the earth. But, too many are in church for the wrong reasons, and it always shows eventually.

Now is the time to lose self and gain God. There is a spirit of love, “***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind***” (2 Timothy 1:7). It is this spirit of love that gets you addicted to God, and makes you a man after His own heart. I want you to ask to be possessed by this spirit of love. It will eradicate selfish love in you.

Stop craving for money; it’s risky! Rather, keep thirsting for Him to fire up His love in your heart, and you will go places!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

God so loved the world, He gave again and again! In fact, He is still giving over and over again till now! We respond to His love by giving. Giving shows that we know what love really means.

DISCOVER LOVE

The greatest discovery of all times is the discovery of the truth and the greatest discovery in the truth is the discovery of the mystery of love. How far you go in life is love-determined.

There are three powerful forces in the kingdom – faith, hope, and love.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Faith is a very powerful weapon and vision naturally defines destination, but none of them compares in potency with love!

Many Christians struggle day and night. I have often said, “You don’t know my secret until you have discovered my heartbeat for God.” With an established heartbeat for God, you simply become a high-flyer in the race of life.

You need a heartbeat for God. He must be the greatest mover of your life; He must become the greatest motivator of your steps in life.

People do not really know what they need, that is why they are in need. You cannot find this one

thing called “Love” and miss any other thing.

God is emotional. Jesus wept, (John 11:35). It is time to please God with your love and stop serving Him mechanically. Service is barren, when it is not love-motivated.

If I offer my body to be burnt, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

That implies that all things only work on the platform of love. It is the love platform that determines your output in every other kingdom endeavour.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:36-40

Do you really love Him? That was the same question Jesus asked Peter thrice (John 21:15-17). I would like you to ponder on this question: “Do I really love Him? Where is the proof of my love for Him?” John said we are not to love in words only, but much more in truth and in deed. Where is the proof of your love for Him?

It is time to stand out as a confirmed lover: dead to self, alive only to God; moved by nothing else but Him and ready to die for nothing else but God!

LOCATE A GOOD GROUND

The parable of the sower clearly tells us that not every ground is a good ground. There is the ground by the wayside, open to vandalization by passersby. There is the stony ground and then the ground of thorns. All these are not profitable for quality harvest.

Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Mark 4:3-8

You must locate a good ground, a fertile ground where the seed planted will flourish. Look for a church where the full gospel of God’s salvation in every area of life is being preached. There are countless number of these churches around. Locate a good ground.

Ask the Lord to direct you. He will lead you to a good ground, a place where He has stamped His name. It is only there will your seed yield a harvest

GIVING IS WORK!

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

Except you do the work of giving, you cannot enjoy the grace for additions.

Giving is not for fun. It is work and will produce anywhere, anytime and forever. It is not just doing the work that makes it work, it is doing it with the right attitude.

God is not calling for your help, you are the one calling for His help. Your giving is God's strategy for your sustenance and the realisation of His destiny for you. If you do it by force, you will not get a thing out of it.

Do not let anybody force you to give, otherwise your giving will be lost. Never give under duress, it will keep you down for life.

QUALITY SEED FOR QUALITY HARVEST

When we were children working on the farm, we used to wonder why our parents would not let us eat the best of the yams, maize and other crops from the farms. This puzzled us until we grew up and understood that they were merely obeying a rule that would affect future yield.

The quality of your seed determines the quality of your harvest. Many children of God in the Church today are eating up the precious seeds, which are supposed to be preserved for sowing.

Long ago, two men brought their offerings before the Lord. One was Cain and the other was Abel. Abel presented the best he had before the Lord. He carefully planned what he would offer to his God and did it with all reverence. Cain on the other hand presented whatever came within reach. To him, anything would do. But see what happened:

And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But unto Cain and his offering he had not respect.

Genesis 4:4-5

God rates our offerings. The quantity does not move Him, but the quality does. Quality seed yields quality harvest. God rates your offering in proportion to what He has blessed you with.

Somebody who sows a seed of ten naira at each service may be worth more in the sight of God than someone who sows one thousand naira as seed. Remember David the king said:

...Neither will I offer burnt offering unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

2 Samuel 24:24

How dear your seed is to you, determines its quality. The Bible says:

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.

Proverbs 3:9

This is what you should do. Your offering should honour God. One of the reasons why God was angry with the Old Testament priests was because they offered contemptible offerings before Him. Here is what He told them:

A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar...

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1:6-8

"Honour the Lord." This is the key. Give an offering that honours God.

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Proverbs 3:10

SOW WILLINGLY

Your offering must flow out of a willing heart. You must not be coerced into giving. If you are obedient without being willing, you will not eat the good of the land. The two must necessarily go together for the good of the land to find its way to you.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Isaiah 1:19

The Lord once commanded Moses:

Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord...

Exodus 35:5

And verse 29 says:

The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.

You see, the Lord had commanded it alright, but it had to be a willing offering, before it could become acceptable. Apostle Paul gave us the same admonition:

For if I do this thing willingly, I have reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

What is my reward then?...

I Corinthians 9:17-18

A quality offering flowing from a willing heart has a reward.

DO IT CHEERFULLY

Your offerings must be given cheerfully. We have a stern warning from His Word:

Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

Therefore thou shall serve thine enemies, which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things...

Deuteronomy 28:47-48

Your lack of cheerfulness in giving, can turn your blessings into curses.

GIVE BOUNTIFULLY

Also, let your giving be bountiful.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

- 2 Corinthians 9:6

Note that God is not mocked; whatever a man sows that shall he also reap. Bountiful giving will produce a bountiful harvest, while sowing sparingly will produce only a sparing harvest as well.

Give in Faith

Let your giving be also done in faith. The Bible says that whatsoever is not done in faith is sin (Romans 14:23). For your giving to prosper, therefore, it must be done in faith, believing that God is up to what He said He would do. James 1:6 also emphasizes this subject of faith.

Give Tirelessly

We are also expected to give tirelessly.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9

If you faint, you fail.

FILLING UP THE CLOUDS

...Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing...

Malachi 3:10

When the windows of heaven open, what you have coming down is rain which automatically brings about a refreshing, not only on your person, but on the environment too.

But there is really nothing called rain in the atmosphere. What becomes rain by condensation, is what evaporates from the face of the earth. What goes up is what comes down. So, if no moisture goes up, no rain comes down.

If I may say this: it is evaporation before “raining”. Something must go up, before anything pours out. When nothing goes up, nothing is permitted to come down.

For the windows of heaven to pour out a blessing to you, the storehouse of heaven must first receive your seed. Until something evaporates from you, nothing “outpours” to you. Nothing! So, if nothing is going out from you, nothing is permitted to come down to you. That is the law.

If I pour out 10 buckets of water on you now, is that equal to the kind of refreshing that rain brings? Only your body is cooled, but your environment is still hot. But when rain pours out, both your body and the environment are refreshed!

There is nothing that can come from man to you that is equal to refreshing. If it is not coming from above, you remain choked and tensed up and the heat continues!

It will never rain, until you allow the evaporation. If the earth refuses the evaporation process, it will remain without rain. If you refuse the law of evaporation, you have nullified the law of refreshing. They go together.

May the God of heaven open your understanding and get you out of that cocoon, where you have been over the years, to the limelight of refreshing! This is the will of God for you.

If you cannot serve God with your means, you will end up serving your means. The gold you cannot use to serve God will soon become your god.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:25

Do not live for gold, live for God!

The law requires your working it out, before you can see results. You must work it out yourself; no one can do it for you.

Miracles do not just happen; they are worked out by you doing whatsoever He tells you to do, no matter how absurd it may appear.

Let me say this with all authority: you don't need to know any person more than this God, to get to the topmost top on earth. You don't need to be connected to one man under heaven to get there, because no one can put you higher than where he is. Seek God's connection more than your are seeking human connections.

They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

Psalms 34:5

If you do not want to see shame, look to God. He is the source.

Possess A Right Mentality

Mentality also plays an important role in the school of prosperity. The Bible says, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he*” (Proverbs 23:7). You cannot be thinking poverty and expect to be rich. You cannot also think rich until you start giving. There is no shortcut; every attempted shortcut

may cut you down.

Prosperity Is Entrusted

The genuineness of your commitment towards giving is your covenant qualifier for God's blessings. Over time, the Church has become so pre-occupied with the subject of abundance that it is now running in the same direction as the world. That is why it has become hard for God to prosper many people. Prosperity in the Kingdom is not an achievement; it is only entrusted.

So, until you can be trusted with God's resources, it is not your turn to be blessed. In the Book of Luke 16:11, the Bible says, ***"If therefore ye have not been faithful in the righteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"*** True riches are only committed to those that can be trusted with it. Supernatural prosperity is not achieved; it is entrusted to you.

Correct Covenant Alignment

We have over-blown and over-emphasized the issue of giving. Many are giving, but nothing is happening. That is because there is more to it than just giving.

We are told that the moon has no light of its own, that it only aligns itself at a particular angle to the sun, and reflects the light of the sun. So, what we call moonlight is only a reflection of the light from the sun. The moon has never failed to come out at its due time, simply because it is properly positioned. The moonlight has such a global impact, yet the moon generates no heat whatsoever in producing this great beauty. The moon enjoys global glory by a correct positioning to the sun. In the same way, when you are properly positioned with God, you prosper naturally. His glory of prosperity reflects on you automatically, when you are correctly aligned with Him.

Where you live is not as relevant as how you live. Our ministry is one of the most prosperous in the world, yet it is located within a depressed economy. We have got more superior sense. We operate on higher principles; we have access to higher sources. This connotes that the thickness of darkness enhances the glory of light.

Please embrace the truth, because if you operate by tricks, you will soon be trapped. We have not triumphed by tricks, but rather by the truth. Your God is still Jehovah Jireh - your provider. All you need to do is to learn correct covenant alignment that will help you reflect the glory of the El-shaddai God. He is real!

THE FORCE OF DISCIPLINE

No one ever gets distinguished in any field of human endeavour without the virtue of discipline. Actually, it is discipline that begets distinction. If you must be distinguished, then you must be disciplined. Discipline is simply, by my definition, operating as demanded, not as convenient.

One of the greatest lawyers that ever walked the ground of our great nation Nigeria, with international acclaim and with economic dignity to match, was the late Rotimi Williams, popularly known as 'Timi the law.' Rotimi Williams exemplified the virtue of discipline to the core and I will give you a run down of some aspects of his life.

Once he was asked, "Why don't you appear in naming ceremonies, and all such social events?" He answered and said, "What you know today takes care of today, what you needed tomorrow has to be gathered afresh." If you must enjoy manna, God's instruction is to gather it daily: ***"And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted"*** (Exodus 16:21).

Here is Timi's concept: when you sleep eight hours a day, your tissues begins to decay without your knowledge. He disciplines the number of hours he sleeps and close observers said he hardly had five hours of sleep a day.

One of the catalysts of poverty is uncontrolled sleep. The Bible says, in Proverbs 6:10-11,

repeated verbatim in Proverbs 24:33:

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

All through his career, he never went late to court. The latest time he could get there was 15 minutes before court session begins. They asked him, "Why do you get in so early?" He said 'I am not coming to meet the judge; justice sits at the time that is set. It is the judge who administers justice, who may come at his own time, depending on who he is.' So, by quarter to nine, at every court session where he needed to appear, he was always sitting down. There is no glory without a story behind it.

Discipline is operating as demanded in the pursuit of your goals, not as convenient. Your diligence in study and searching and sourcing information gives you knowledge and discipline helps to give value to that knowledge, because it ties you to the obligations of the information you have acquired. Behind every great story is great discipline in different measures.

A young man here in our church was a clerk and had his job of cleaning and setting every place okay among others. He was constantly getting to duty on time; everybody would meet him there because he heard something said someday while he was in church and that began to drive his life. One day, the foreign general manager came and said, "We are trying to fix up this room, we are bringing furniture in. So, he started doing all of that and after everything was done, the manager invited him and said, "You are now promoted to manager and this is your office."

Your disposition is what determines your ultimate position. Rotimi Williams commanded economic dignity by his obvious display of discipline as a way of life.

I did a quick search on MKO Abiola sometime ago from a research work on him published in Tell Magazine in 1992. I made the following findings because, even in the faith, you are told to learn a lesson from the fig tree, so you can draw lessons from anywhere.

This man happened to be one of the most powerful business gurus that Africa has ever known. One of his virtues was: he was a determined and focused man. He was also said to be a master strategist, investing time in planning out his steps, looking through the content, analyzing, diagnosing, inferring, drawing conclusions, making decisions in building his massive business empire. He had investments in 160 nations, spread across five continents. His investments included great shares in Chemical Bank in America, which is the sixth largest bank in America, Dutch Bank, which is the number one bank in German, Rotterdam Bank which is number one in Austria. How did this man succeed in building that kind of massive business empire? Let's look at his story:

As a growing up boy, he was a son of a goldsmith and his mother was so poor. At the age of 19, he lost her because of the inability to pay five shillings medical bill. He did odd jobs, such as selling of firewood to go through primary school and to buy exercise books. He joined the Rack tag Jordanite Band that played at various local ceremonies just to raise money.

So, at the age of 19, he was a pauper from a pauper's root, losing the life of his mother just because they could not afford five shillings to buy drugs, but at 35, he owned his own jet. It doesn't take a century to effect a change. Now, let's find out some vital elements of his private life.

MKO was always up between 2 and 5a.m everyday, everybody in the world is asleep at that time, to map out his strategies for the day and for the future. He was taking advantage of the coolness of the day because day unto day utters speech, but night unto night shows knowledge (Psalms 19:2). The day speaks, the night shows! So, he was investing in the night seasons, where you are open to unlimited realms of inspiration and insight.

He was said to possess an unusual sense of mission that has no room for distraction. He hardly

slept. That is how it was put there. He was able to discipline his sleep, so as to accomplish his mission. Sleep is a trap from where everyone needs deliverance. Overdose of it reflects itself in poverty, lack and want. Sleep is required for a refreshing, but excessive sleep is an enemy of destiny.

TIMING

Time is for investment, not for squandering. Time is an asset of equality; no one has anymore number of hours than another. The problem is that most people spend it, very few invest it.

Discipline demands investment of time towards your set objectives. It takes discipline to invest your time appropriately. The Bible says, making the most of the time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-17). He said:

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Col 4:5

The word '*Redeem*' means to buy up. Now, put money down for what will take your time because your time is more valuable than money. Buy up the time. Buy up your time because the enemy is looking out to rob you of it. Time is an asset of equality; the rich and the poor have the same number of hours. The poor squanders his time, but the rich invests his qualitatively and that makes all the difference.

You need to place appropriate value on your time, because your time is your life, that is why they called it 'lifetime.' Tie your time to issues, so that when people come, your time is not available.

One of the greatest proofs of a disciplined life is the quality of your time investment, what you do with your time. When you get up in the morning, do you really have a mission for the day? Any day without a mission is missed. It is time we began to explore strategies for time investment. You need to define your mission for each day, lest anybody comes across and robs you of your precious hours for nothing. Become an addicted time investor and watch what dividends that will bring you in your future. How much you are willing to invest is what determines how much is waiting for you tomorrow. Please mind your time because your economic dignity is tied to it; you cannot go far without minding it.

At the time when kings went to war, David was idling about in the top of the building, and he caught sight of Bathsheba. He was arrested by the devil and he paid dearly for it. His time was let loose and the enemy crept in because the days are evil.

The more that is loaded into your time, the freer you become from satanic interferences. It is commonly said that an idle hand is the devil's workshop. Give no place to the devil. That means fill every place and leave nothing empty for the enemy to fill.

Your Spirituality Matters

It is also important for you to know that your prosperity is a function of the quality of your spirituality (3 John 2). God cannot bless you materially above your spiritual stamina. Your spiritual balance is what qualifies you for the level of blessing that He can entrust you with. Note that God will not prosper a liar, a schemer, or a cheat! Iniquity must be put far away before prosperity can come (Job 22:21-25; Psalms. 92:12-15).

The Bible says:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

A walk with God is not a game. You are either ready to be straight or you remain dented. Get out of error, or you die in horror. God will not bless you on your own terms, but on His terms. As long as you celebrate iniquity, you are not a candidate for His prosperity. The Bible says, Job was a perfect and upright man that feared God and eschewed evil, and he became the greatest man in the east (Job 1:1-3). God is more than enough; don't ever try to out-smart Him, otherwise you will end up smashed.

Until you straighten up, you are far from prosperity. Only the righteous is permitted to flourish. You must be clean financially, before you can enjoy financial supplies. According to Malachi 3:1-3, there is a strange fire burning on the earth. People are working, but nothing seems to be working for them. Only those who offer sacrifices in righteousness will escape the horror.

You need a foundation in righteousness and financial integrity to be able to enjoy financial prosperity. The quality of your covenant walk will determine your placement in supernatural prosperity, as covenant abundance or prosperity is beyond giving; it is all about living the covenant life.

The world has perfected the art of stealing and lying, that is why many are sinking and stinking. It is time to get set for a change, because iniquity is a covenant disqualifier for prosperity. If you must prosper, then you must put iniquity far from your tabernacles. When God prospers you, it is forever; but when you corner it, it is for a short time (Ecclesiastes 3:14). Let your motto be, "God, whatever You cannot give me, may I never have it. Wherever You God cannot take me, may I never get there. Whatever You cannot do Lord, let it remain undone."

Many are indebted, today, because they lack patience. To them God is too slow. When God becomes your heavenly banker, you are set to go bankrupt. But when He becomes your heavenly Father, your needs will always be met. God is too faithful to fail.

Remember, the moon has no light of its own. It only reflects the sun's rays. The sun generates all the heat, and the moon simply reflects the light. Likewise, you don't need to generate the heat in this race of prosperity. All you need is to position yourself at a correct covenant angle, and you will soon begin to reflect the light from the Sun of righteousness. While Jesus will be generating the heat, you will simply be reflecting the light. It is God's ability that brings about prosperity, not man's struggles.

WHEN YOUR BLESSINGS COME, GIVE GOD THE GLORY

In heathen cultures, you see them having great celebrations every harvest time. These celebrations are not for fun. They are special days set aside to thank their "gods", who they claim had given them an abundant harvest.

The Ibos in Eastern Nigeria celebrate the New Yam Festival. No one is permitted to eat of the yam harvest, until a portion of it has been sacrificed. So also it is during the Argungun Fishing Festival in Sokoto, where no one eats of the fish, until the best of it is sacrificed.

If the heathen can take time to give honour to dead gods, how much more they who are serving the living God, the Almighty God, who holds the reins of heaven and earth in His hands.

God said:

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of Hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings...

Malachi 2:1-2

Do you now see how important it is for you to give glory to God for your blessings? The heathen must have been inspired from the Bible.

You must lay it to heart to glorify God, each time your harvest comes in.

Chapter 11

How God Prospers

Now that we have the operational guidelines in our hands, we need to know how God prospers, that is, through what channels God's blessings come, so we can be rightly positioned for it.

The Works Of Our Hands

The number one way through which God releases His blessings upon us is through the works of our hands. The Bible says, "***And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper***" (Psalms 1:3).

The works of our hands are the primary channel through which God blesses us. So, if you are not a worker, you are not a candidate for His prosperity. If your hands are idle, God has a problem of finding how to bless you, no matter how much you give. This is because it is working hands that qualify you to enjoy God's prosperity. It is the channel through which His blessings will flow down to you. Even though God had promised to bless Abraham, he still had to work by rearing cattle. That was the channel through which God's blessings came down to him.

This is a major reason for the poverty in the world today. Many people do not possess working hands. There is a saying that one rich man in the midst of six other poor people, makes seven poor people. Why? The six poor men will eat up the riches of the only rich fellow among them and very soon, they will all become poor. When you have one working man in the midst of six non-working people, they will eat up his labour, and they will all become poor together.

No matter what you multiply by zero, it still equals zero. The Bible says in Psalms 1:3, "***Whatsoever he does shall prosper.***" That is, I will multiply its effect. But if a man is not doing anything, what will be multiplied? There is nothing to multiply, of course! The book of Proverbs 14:23 says:

In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

God blesses the works of our hands, not just the talk of our lips. We need to create avenues through which God can bless us. Even Abraham had to go to work at age 75! He had to work his way into God's promised prosperity. No wonder Proverbs 10:4 says:

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Doing nothing makes you poor, whereas, doing whatever your hands find to do and with all your might, makes rich. Even Jesus the Messiah said, "I must work"! And He said, "Follow Me." If the Messiah must work, why then are you sleeping? Proverbs 20:4 also says:

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

If you fail to work today, you will beg tomorrow. Any wonder, then, that Africa has virtually become a beggar continent, since we have refused to work? It is time to work. Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might. That is the way to bring down God's blessings upon your lives, and to eradicate poverty from the nations.

Flow Of Divine Ideas

Another way that God blesses is through the flow of divine ideas. The Bible says in Malachi

chapter 3 that when you give your tithes, God opens the windows of heaven and pours down His rain of blessings upon you. The rain that is poured down is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. When He comes, one of His functions is to quicken your mind and open you up to divine ideas for exploits. He quickens your understanding, firing into you divine ideas that show the way to the blessings. Thus, God can make you supernaturally creative through your giving.

The release of His rain provokes divine ideas. That is, wisdom, which we all know, is the mother of wealth. Wealth is a product of wisdom and the Spirit of God is a Spirit of power and wisdom. So, when the anointing comes down, it opens you up supernaturally to see precious things in the midst of trash. That was how Abraham became rich in gold, silver, and cattle. Whereas, every other animal farmer was leading their cattle and sheep to the water streams, Abraham got an idea to dig wells of water with which to water his cattle.

And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

Genesis 26:18

As a result, his cattle were fatter than the others, because they were not going up and down, looking for water everywhere. He, therefore, became the biggest animal farmer in his time through divine ideas.

Through the release of divine ideas also, Isaac became wealthy, to the point that he was envied and feared by nations. Isaac dug more wells to water his crops, instead of waiting forever for rain that was not forth coming in the time of famine. Isaac, therefore, became the first irrigation farmer. While other Philistines were waiting for rain to fall, Isaac was busy watering his crops through irrigation.

Every business empire is built on ideas. Divine ideas are superior to intellectual capabilities. When they come, they are like rain. A divine idea will help you to see treasures in the midst of trash. Everyone needs divine ideas to come out of the doldrums of life. It was a divine idea that enabled Jacob to breed animals of his choice, long before the discovery of veterinary medicine.

And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.

And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.

And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.

Genesis 30:37-39

Divine Favour

God said concerning Israel, ***“And I will give this people favour in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that when they leave, they shall not depart empty”*** (Exodus 3:21). We saw this fulfilled in Exodus 12:36, when they spoiled the Egyptians as they left Egypt!

Divine favour always terminates emptiness. It was what turned Jacob’s captivity in the house of Laban. Even though Laban had changed his wages 10 times, God favoured him by giving him a divine idea to breed animals of his choice, by causing them to mate before the poplar trees he placed before them. This idea helped him to outwit Laban, who wanted to cheat him again. But God’s favour caused him to prosper instead. My prayer is that you enjoy divine favour from now on, in Jesus’ name.

Patience

It is important to mention that seed plus time equals harvest. You cannot put your seed in the

ground today and expect your harvest tomorrow. The seed has to take its natural course, before it can produce a harvest. No matter how slow the process may seem in your eyes, the harvest shall appear. It does not matter where other people are running to, in the end it shall speak. God is not slow and He is never late. When He appears, it happens.

Luke 8:15 says we should “...**bring forth fruit with patience.**” You need patience not to miss God. He makes all things beautiful in His time; not in your time or my time, but in His time. The Kingdom of God is likened to one who sows his seed in the ground and goes to sleep. The seed grows, but he knows not how. It brings forth first the blade, then the ear, and the full corn.

So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Mark 4:26-29

It will take patience for you to enjoy your harvest. Patience will always make your faith produce. The Bible says, “**Be ye not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise**” (Hebrews 6:12). The patience of faith will bring you to the fullness of God’s promise.

Faithfulness

The Bible says that **if you are not faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who shall entrust into your hand the true riches** (Luke 16:11). Supernatural riches are riches that come out of the truth of God’s Word. You must understand that wealth in the Kingdom is entrusted to men by God. That means it is given only to those who can be trusted to use it the way it is intended.

Can God trust you with the empowerment for wealth? If He can, then He has no problem releasing His wealth to you, since the silver and the gold are His (Haggai 2:8). His desire is for everyone to be up. He says if you do what I say, I will set you up on high above all the nations of the earth, and you shall lend and not borrow (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

There is nothing we draw from heaven that affects who God is. God has more than enough for everybody. In fact the Bible says: **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:** (2 Corinthians 9:8). He desires that you should have all sufficiency in all things.

He has not designed some to be rich and others poor. God is no respecter of persons; there is neither Jew nor Greek, white or black with Him. The same God is rich unto all that call upon Him. There is no difference between you and other nationalities; there is no difference between the east and the west. God is looking unto you to change your world.

Chapter 12

Covenant Fringe Benefits

The practice of the covenant does not only guarantee material returns, but it offers such blessings that money cannot buy. When you are in the giving covenant, you not only enjoy divine prosperity, but other additions that come along with it. These other fringe benefits come, because the Bible says God's blessings make rich and adds no sorrow with it.

So many have wrecked their, otherwise, glorious destinies in their pursuit of wealth. But God's own kind of prosperity offers you certain fringe benefits that are not found anywhere else. His blessings makes rich and add no sorrow with it. Let us consider some of these benefits.

Divine Protection/Deliverance

When you walk in the prosperity plan of God, you are protected and shielded from all the arrows of the wicked one. The Bible says in Psalms 20:1-3:

The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;
Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice;

Your giving qualifies you for supernatural deliverance in the day of trouble. When you walk in God's prosperity plan, you are also defended against the wiles of your enemies. The Bible says in Psalms 41:1-3:

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

This simply means that God will defend you. So, when you walk in God's prosperity covenant, you are protected free of charge. Protection is very important in our present world. You know that no one can ever really pay for all-round protection, especially in this wicked world, where all manner of evils prevails. There is no level of physical security that can guarantee your protection, as presidents of great nations have been assassinated, in spite of their tough security. But when you walk in God's prosperity plan, God Himself protects you. He builds a wall of fire around you like He did for Job in Job 1:9-10:

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

He even promised in Job 22:21-25:

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

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

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

Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

When the Almighty becomes your defence, you and all that you own are truly defended.

Divine Health

Health, it is said, is wealth. It is your most valuable asset on earth. Many healthy people do not appreciate the value of health, until they lose it. All of the assets a man portends to have will suddenly lose value, when his health is challenged. One sickness is enough to wipe off a man's lifelong savings.

In Malachi 4:1-2, God says:

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

And in Malachi 3:17-18 He says:

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

That is, when plagues visit the earth, and all the proud who do not care about God's plan and purpose are burnt down without root or branch, they that fear the Lord and walk in His prosperity covenant by serving Him with their resources shall come under His wings and enjoy His health.

When you practice the covenant of prosperity, you come under the healing wings of Jesus, and you are kept healthy in a world ravaged with sickness and disease. In the same way, John 15:2 says:

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

God takes care of every fruit-bearing branch. When you are a seed-sowing branch, you are entitled to become a fruit-bearing branch. God becomes your personal physician and your health is guaranteed always. No covenant practitioner in scriptures was ever a victim of disease. The one that was, came out of it. Job was smitten by the devil, but because the covenant cannot fail, the covenant brought him out. The Bible says: ***The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness*** (Psalms 41:3). So, God made Job's bed and brought him out of sickness, and gave him twice as much as he had before.

But when you walk in the prosperity plan of God, one of the benefits of that covenant is sound health. That is why you cannot find where it is written that Abraham was sick and Isaac was dying, or that Jacob was buffeted. The covenant of prosperity that they walked in forbade that affliction. Even when one is unfortunately afflicted with sickness, this covenant guarantees the release of the healing virtue.

Peace

The prosperity covenant also guarantees peace, which is not sold in any market. When Israel returned back to serve God in 2 Chronicles 15, the Bible says He gave them rest round about. Before then, for a long time Israel was without the true God, and without a teaching priest. As a result, there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations was upon all the inhabitants of the earth. But when they in their troubles returned unto the Lord God of their father, and offered unto Him a sacrifice, He had mercy on them, and gave them rest round about (2 Chronicles

15:3-19). No wonder Job 36:11 says:

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

People do not know what certain instructions offer, that is why they are skeptical in applying themselves to them. When God gives you rest, no man can cut it off. Up till now, I have never had a sleepless night on account of the ministry God delivered to me. You ask, "Were there challenges?" Yes, quite a number of them. But I am fast asleep on the pillow in the midst of every storm and the storm clears off by itself, because when He gives you peace, no one can cut it off.

The Bible says in Job 34:29:

When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?

The peace of God is one of the amazing benefits of the covenant of prosperity, particularly in this part of the world, where we live under a lot of wicked activities.

Aversion Of Curses

Another benefit of the prosperity covenant is that it averts all curses. The first curse came from the mouth of God in Genesis 3:17:

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

But the first time Noah presented an offering to the Lord in Genesis 8:20-22, God said in His heart, "***I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake.***" God reverted the curse via the mystery of the covenant. If you can avert the curse of God with your sacrifice then, it would avert any other curse.

Tithes and offerings, among other things, are designed to avert the curses of God from your life. He said, you are cursed with a curse; this whole nation, bring your tithe into the storehouse and I will avert the curse and turn it to blessing.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:8-10

So, giving averts curses. The curse of witches cannot stand the blessings of God for a covenant practitioner. Even the curse of God was averted at the altar of sacrifice that Noah reared. David stepped out of bounds by numbering the people and God allowed a plague to ravage the land. Following the instructions of the prophet Gad, David reared up an altar of sacrifice to the Lord and the plague was stayed.

And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel. **2 Samuel 24:24-25**

2 Sam 24:24-25

So, your giving averts curses, no matter the cause or origin.

Longevity

Longevity is the heritage of all who walk in the prosperity covenant. It is one of the fringe benefits of the prosperity covenant. The Bible says that the reason Jesus died, among other things, was to connect us to the Abrahamic order of blessings. In Galatians 3:13-14, we see Christ redeem us from the curse of the law and connect us back to the Abrahamic fountain of blessing. What do we see in Abraham?

Abraham lived for 175 years (Genesis 25:7); Isaac lived for one 180 years (Genesis 35:28); and Jacob lived for 147 years (Genesis 47:28). The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is still your God, so all who walk in the giving covenant can also enjoy longevity. No devil can cut short your life.

At my fiftieth birthday in 2004, the young man who preached at the Sunday thanksgiving service was 104 years old the previous month of August. His bedroom is still upstairs, and he still comes down the stairs to see his guests. He also still goes out to keep appointments and still ministers every Sunday morning in his church. What is his key? He is still giving up till now! The outfits my wife and I wore on my birthday was given to us by him.

Has God changed? No! Longevity is the heritage of all that walk in the prosperity covenant. If you are Abraham's children, then you will do the works of Abraham. You will live long to enjoy the fruit of your labours. By your giving, you can wipe off the low life expectancy rate on the earth today.

God has promised in Isaiah 65:19-23:

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

All I am trying to do is to market the truth of God's Word to you, so you can know what to expect, when you begin your covenant walk in the school of prosperity. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:9:

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

That is what Jesus did for us! He did not come just to redeem our souls from hell, but He came also to enrich our lives on earth. A prosperity covenant practitioner is not expected to be sick, neither is he permitted to be stranded. In whatever trouble he may find himself, God is committed to deliver him. You cannot pay for protection, but covenant practice guarantees it.

So, when you hold back at any giving opportunity that comes your way, you are not depriving that poor person, but yourself, of all the benefits that giving carries.

Chapter 13

Vital Links

In the practice of the covenant that grants you access to the power to get wealth, there are certain issues to consider that help to enhance your rate of results. In the parable of the sower, as told by Jesus in Matthew 13:18-23, you will discover that there were different rates of results obtained. While some had a hundredfold, others had sixty and yet some others thirty.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:23

They all heard the word, they all were good ground and fruitful. What made the difference in their rate of production? These are the things I will be showing you in this chapter.

In this present age, where everybody is seeking for position fame and self gratification, these things have been forgotten and the struggles have continued! No one can break scriptures. These things are part of the demands that make the covenant produce maximally.

God abides faithful, He cannot deny Himself. If you are a covenant practitioner and you are not enjoying the benefits of the covenant, then something must be wrong along the line. John Avanzini said: "Walking with God is not a simple process, it is a complex one." Various factors come together to make the whole. So, you must be sensitive to identify which one is missing per time, so you can increase your rate of fruitfulness.

"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER"

Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right

Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:1-2

There are too many people today, who are paying tithes and giving offering, but it is not well with them, because the major covenant is out of place. They eat everything they get, without remembering that they have a father and mother.

It is your job to honour your father and mother. You cannot change your father; it is too late! Neither can you change your mother either. When you stop honouring them, God says, "I will dishonour you." You cannot be eating turkey, beef, chicken, fish and all kinds of delicious meals, while your parents are out there virtually starving! God said it will not be well with you!

You say, "But I give my tithe." Yes, but the scriptures cannot be broken. It is the scripture you are breaking that is breaking you! There must be a change! We must respond to the demands of the covenant.

Remember the same Ephesians 6 verse 3 says:

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

This is an assurance, a guarantee, that accident cannot claim your life, nor can witches and wizards, because you are on a covenant wavelength with God.

Proverbs 20: 20 says:

Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

I know many of your parents must have done certain wrong things in the past. Forget that and do what God tells you to do. Even if your parents have done you any harm, that does not give you a licence to dishonour them.

Many of you, your parents have never seen your one naira. No wonder, you are struggling and sweating! If things are not well with you, that might as well be the reason. You are eating so well and enjoying yourself, while your parents are back there suffering hunger and deprivation. Watch it! It may be well for a season, but not for all seasons. There is something in parental blessing, so you better go and look for it.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered...

1 Peter 3:7

Dwell with your wife according to knowledge, otherwise your heaven will be closed and your connection with God could be disconnected.

If you have a leaking store roof, you cannot put precious perishable items under it. If your family life is leaking, it is not conducive for harvest no matter the quality of the seed sown. It is important, therefore, to disallow any leakage in your home, or the heavens will withhold their rain.

Dwell with them according to knowledge...

What is this knowledge? Ephesians 5:25 says:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

That is the knowledge that will check leakages in your family, and help you experience harvest. You must not open up your home to malice. You must not allow discord to enter into your home. You must not give the devil a place, or your access to heaven will be blocked.

...Giving honour unto the wife...

That is against the average masculine mentality of most cultures. In a car crash, who do you interview - the passenger or the driver? Who should be blamed; the passenger or the driver? When the “Eden car” crashed, who did God go looking for?

Genesis 3:9 says:

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

No matter your theology, if there is any problem in your home, you (the man) are the number one suspect. That is the truth!

When your knowledge of the family life is inadequate, what you have are eruptions in your home. But you can avoid problems. You can subdue them. You can overcome them. You can prevail over them if you will open up to God’s wisdom.

The Bible says in Heb 12:14

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

You have the responsibility to ensure that there is peace by all means in your home. That way, the flow of heaven’s blessings will remain open over your home.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

Paul the apostle came by a very strong revelation in 1 Timothy 5:8:

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

The responsibility of providing for the home is the man’s job, otherwise, he will live a life

worse than the sinner's life. When the earth is burning like an oven, he will also be burnt.

No matter the volume of tithes and offerings a man gives, the Bible says he has denied the faith. That is, he will suffer what unbelievers suffer.

When you embrace the Word of God, your destiny is established. To provide for your family is your duty as a man. It is your responsibility, which must be joyfully accepted and excitedly executed.

You must be concerned about your wife and children's welfare. You must be concerned about the clothes your wife wears. It is your job, so that you won't be disconnected from eternal life. As you accept these covenant responsibilities, you will fly to untold heights by them.

LET GO AND LET GOD!

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 18:23-35

If anybody owes you, and you know he is not in a position to pay, just say, "I forgive you." God has more for you than what any man owes you. Forgive the person, then watch to see whether God is more than that or not.

Do not bind your brother or sister because he or she is owing you. Don't make them live under tension. Perfect love casts out fear. Fear has torments.

Now, tell me, if that money was taken by your son and he is not able to pay you, would you disown him? Jesus said, ***"So shall the Lord do to everyone of you, if you will not from your heart forgive your brother."***

When the person is not in a position to pay you, do not become possessed with the situation. Every form of hatred has torments! Today, that brother or sister needs help, but tomorrow he can become a source of help, even to you!

God is faithful! You can let go today.

PAY YOUR WORKERS WELL

...For the labourer is worthy of his hire...

Luke 10:7

If you are in a business where you hire labourers and people work for you, and yet, you are living in splendour without considering them, then you are a fraud! Your business will not flourish! That is the Word of God and the scriptures cannot be broken!

To put a secretary on seat to work from morning till late at night, and all you pay her is peanuts at the end of the month is wickedness. If your business is not buoyant enough to pay wages then you do not need a secretary. Carry a pen and paper and write down whatever you want by yourself!

I am glad to tell you God pays His people. He is a rewarder of those who diligently serve Him. If you are not in a position to pay your workers, let them know and give them a chance to choose to resign or to stay. May you allow people under you to grow!

Pay your workmen or do your work yourself! You go to Sheraton hotel to squander money hosting friends and so-called business associates, and you pay your workmen 1,000 naira a month! You are a wicked fellow!

Mind you, a houseboy today is not going to be a houseboy tomorrow or forever, so do not look at him as a slave. Remember Joseph! Your Father in heaven is a loving Father.

You will eat all the fruit of your labour. From today, you shall be reckoned with by all around you as very great!

These are all hidden covenant mysteries that make one's seed to bring forth in hundredfolds, now, in this time and in the world to come.

Thank God for all that you have given in the Kingdom. Thank God for all your tithes and offerings. But there are other covenant responsibilities that make one's seed produce.

When you have taken heed to these other vital links, it becomes time to invite the harvest.

TALK BIG! TALK WEALTH!

Speaking about the wisdom of God in Job 28:9-10, the Bible says:

He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.

He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing.

Rivers here represent God's pleasures, that is, supplies and provisions. God is able to make you enjoy pleasures in the midst of hardship. This is what is meant by "***He cutteth out rivers among the rocks.***"

In spite of economic troubles, you can still enjoy divine supplies. "***He overturneth the mountains by the roots.***" That is, He humiliates opposition, barriers and obstacles.

HOW?

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.

Mark 11:23

Jesus came to show us the path of wisdom. When you know the path that others do not know, you will definitely get the results that none of them get. When you have discovered what no natural man has access to, then you must experience and encounter what no natural man has ever experienced. Nothing comes to light until it is declared. Genesis 1 is full of this wisdom of God.

The earth was without form and void, darkness was upon the face of the deep. There was utter confusion everywhere! Then wisdom stepped unto action:

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

Genesis 1:3

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

Genesis 1:6

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

Genesis 1:9

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Genesis 1:11

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

Genesis 1:14

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

Genesis 1:20

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

Genesis 1:24

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26

Then, in Genesis 1:31:

And God SAW EVERY THING that he had made (with His mouth), and, behold, it was VERY GOOD...

Everything that happened at creation responded to what God said.

No matter the state of your finances, the mystery behind creation can restore order and dignity to it. You have seen the strategy God employed. To be wiser than God is to be a big fool! What you will never say, you will never live to see. The ONLY WISE God needed declarations before He had manifestations.

“And God said...” not fought, cried, wished or just believed. If you want the mountain of financial hardships overturned by the roots, you must engage in the kind of strategy God used.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

You cannot experience the benefits of what you believe, until you say it. For it to work for you, you must declare it.

You will never see wealth, until you start talking it. You will never enjoy abundance, until you declare it with absolute confidence.

Many were angry at my declarations in the early days of the ministry. It was strange to them to hear me say, “I cannot be poor!” This was because, at that time, from all natural and physical indications, poverty was my next door neighbour. But I kept to my declarations: “I cannot be poor.” Now it is undoubtedly evident.

When the man of God, Kenneth Copeland, first started preaching the prosperity message, he was a laughing stock, as he was not in anyway a representation of his message. However, it was in his heart, and since he truly believed it, it was mandatory that he declared it.

Today, he is an enviable figure in the world. Presently, he has given out three jets! At Eagles' Mountain, where his office is, he has an airstrip where his jet lands every morning and he just walks down to his office. He is not in any other business other than the covenant business!

In Proverbs 12:14, the Bible says:

A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth.

What you do with your hands will always be rewarded by what you say with your mouth.

The leadership of your country is not why you are breaking down. If you talk the way they talk, you will suffer the way they suffer. Consecrate your lips for covenant use, for the time has come for you to enjoy plenty.

There is no place your mouth cannot talk you to. When you talk mediocrity, it will become your garment; when you talk lack, you will have it until you become lack yourself! You cannot be too gentle and become a conqueror. It takes boldness to subdue opposition.

If you want to have a living financial experience, speak life to your finances.

WATER YOUR SEEDS

Many people are suffering under covenant drought, while many others have destroyed their seeds in the earth, all because they do not know what it means to water them.

I have planted, Apollos watered: but God gave the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6

No matter the level of your obedience to the law of seedtime and harvest, you need to also know the Word that makes the law produce. Job 22:21-28 says:

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

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

Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee...

What you will not decree will not be established. If you are not a talker of abundance, no matter how much you obey the law, you will live in scarcity. Your mouth is the instrument that gives God's wisdom expression through you. Luke 21:15 says:

For I will give you a mouth and a wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist.

There is always a planting and a watering before God brings the increase. Your seed can never become fruit without water.

God's Word is that water. Since we are created in His image, the words we speak, therefore, are also water. If you put a mirror right before your face and speak, no matter how civilized you are, you will see water, in form of mist, formed on the mirror.

To see the mountain of poverty overturned by the roots in your life, speak to it! Open your mouth wide and comply with covenant demands. Nothing finishes until you finish it with your mouth! Every time you say, "There is no rice," rice finishes. Many have destroyed their financial destinies and welfare in Christ, through the careless use of their mouths.

Every time a covenant child contravenes the details of the covenant, he loses like a natural man would. Follow God's approach and experience His blessings. Let us go outside the gate bearing the reproach and declaring our possessions in God.

Your inability to talk about your returns with confidence is proof of your doubts. If you believe that when you give sacrificially, God turns your captivity, declare it so that God can perform it. Don't

lose your heavenly identify. Don't join the heathen to talk woes and failures. ***"Let the weak say, I am strong"*** (Joel 3:10). And Isaiah 8:12-14 says:

Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.

Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel...

Consecrate your lips for covenant use!

DILIGENCE

There is no affluence without input. The Bible says in Proverbs 13:11:

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

At creation, we saw God as a worker. Jesus came, and we saw Him as a worker. Abraham, at 75 years, was a worker too. Isaac and Jacob were workers also. Your fore-fathers were addicted workers; you, therefore, have no excuse for idleness. Idleness is a self-inflicted curse.

Greatness never comes by accident. In Proverb 22:29, the Bible says:

Seest thou a man diligent in his business ? He shall not stand before mean men.

There is dignity in labour! Jesus said, *"I must Work..."* Paul the Apostle, in 1 Corinthians 15:10, said:

...But I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

There is no future for the idle in the Kingdom.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 says:

...If any would not work, neither should he eat.

The prosperous Church is a doing Church. The prosperous Christian is a doing Christian. The Bible says, ***"...And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper"*** (Psalms 1:3).

Proverbs 13:23 says:

Much food is in the tillage of the poor...

If the poor man will choose to cultivate and till the ground, he will discover much food where he had been suffering hunger. Jesus said:

...My father worketh hitherto, and I work.

John 5:17

Your Father is working, your Master is working and you are sleeping! How will you escape? A wise man once said, *"There will never be another you, so make the most of your life. There will never be another time, so make the best of it today."*

Many of us have sown a lot of seeds, but have not created avenues for returns, because our hands have not become working hands. ***"In all labour, there is profit..."***

"Labour" is the word! It is time to start working! If your Father is working and your Master is working, it only makes sense for you to be a worker.

A wise man once said that people who think they are too big to do little things, are perhaps, too little to be asked to do big things. Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises and I say that smallness is the sure foundation for greatness. The longest journey is made step by step.

You have a great future, but the scriptures cannot be broken. You cannot continue in laziness and idleness and expect greatness. If it comes by any mistake, it is a trap. Remember, ***"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished."***

Labour is the pathway to increase. Dr. Fredrick Price said, "We have not succeeded by

accident.” If wishes were horses, all beggars will ride. Stop wishing and waiting! Great is your future but increase comes by covenant labour.

We must ensure that our children are no longer idle. Show them by example that there is dignity in labour. When you work, God is committed to make you fat, and fatten your work, finances and health also.

When the Lord called me into ministry, I told a friend, “You know the reason I’m going full-time? It is so I can go full length.” I told him that I am determined that nobody doing ministry part-time will match me in the race. It is impossible!

You cannot be tired of hearing me, because I am not tired of working. I study, I meditate, and I document! I also write. I know my job! I am doing my job! So, I must be paid by the One who employed me. I do not have any other interest in town. My job is the only reason I am here. I am a labourer. I am a “gospeller”. I am staying with my job. Stay on your job, or you will lose colour!

You have only one shop and you are never there. What kind of a trader are you? You say, “My clerk is very bad!” It is because you are also very bad!

There is no staff with me today, who comes late to work and is comfortable around me for the whole day.

Thank God for grace. But thank God much more that we are able to use the grace for labour. May the Lord give you understanding!

There is dignity in labour! Stop eating your uncle’s free food. The Word of God says:

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Isaiah 3:10

It is time to do something! You can do something! Today, I work 18 hours on the average per day. Yet it does not show on my body. No idle man can survive around me. Nobody can work with me and enjoy life without working. There is something we call “*labour baptism*” in our ministry. When you come in, you lose weight.

You have wished enough, now go and work. If you are a groundnut (peanut) seller, be “the groundnut seller”. If you are a labourer on the field, be “the labourer”. Joseph prospered as a houseboy. He prospered as a prisoner. He was an excited worker. You are a covenant child; you must prosper!

Jacob was a stranger in the house of Laban and he was very prosperous. He became the envy of Laban. It is time to work! If you are a giver, much more so, must you be a worker. There is enough in the covenant to make things work for you.

Even in famine, you can make it. In Genesis 26, the Bible records that there was famine in the land. For others, it was a time to complain, but for Isaac, it was a time to work like never before. Consequently, he went forward, became very great, and the Philistines envied him!

The Bible says:

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

Proverbs 6:6

They do not have a guide or a leader, yet they make their houses and prepare there food. You don’t need supervision to work. You just need covenant intelligence. All you need to do is to work, and God’s business is to prosper you.

There is a future in what you are doing. You do not need to run away to any other country. There is nothing anywhere else that cannot be found where you are now. You are not created to be a beggar.

GIVE IT ALL YOU HAVE GOT

Black has nothing to do with the colour of your skin. Slothfulness and lack of commitment to

your job, business and responsibilities is what makes you black.

Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.

Songs of Solomon 1:6

There is enough to do in your own country that will bring you lifting. May you find it! God has delivered you, so do not put yourself back in chains.

Never mind the retirement age of the government. At 75, Abraham was still a worker. At 92, he led an army out to war. He was a cattle-rearer and became very rich in silver and gold.

Listen to me, if you have retired at 50, it is for a new chapter to open in your life. If you go to sit down at fifty, you will decay before you are 60!

If Abraham was strong at a 100, by the time you are 100, you will have the strength of a 40 year old. Caleb said, “***Forty years ago, I came out here and forty years later my strength is still intact.***” That shall be your testimony!

Put in your best where you are working. Even though they do not appreciate it now, they will later. The covenant will locate you, your lifting will be effected and your future, secured. Give it all you have got!

Solomon said:

Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might...

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Be known with your job. Stop doing trial and error. There is enough time to be the best God has created you to be. Have joy in the work you are doing. Be excited about the labour of your hands! Never be idle for one whole hour. There is a future in it.

Chapter 14

Covenant Insurance

You can maintain the flow of God's blessings and remain permanently established in wealth.

ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

The man Abraham was a man greatly blessed by God. He was called in Genesis 12:1-3 and in chapter 13 verse 2, we were told:

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Abraham had obeyed God in departing from his old ways. His obedience was greatly rewarded by God. But, Abraham did not become permanently entrenched in his blessings until he took another step, which must have been revealed to him by God.

In Genesis 14, we see Abraham being established in God's plan and purpose. He went out to battle against the kings, who had taken his brother's son, Lot, captive.

He defeated the kings and returned with a great spoil. As he was returning from the battle front, Abraham met Melchizedek, the king of Salem, the priest of the Most High God.

We are told in Hebrews that this Melchizedek was Jesus, our High Priest. It was one of the Old Testament appearances of Jesus. Jesus appeared as a priest to Abraham and Abraham gave Him a tithe of all the spoil. Melchizedek blessed Abraham saying:

...Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.

Genesis 14:19

Remember the Lord had only promised to bless Abraham when he was called in Genesis 12. But now the Lord pronounced Abraham blessed, when he paid the tithe. Thus Abraham was permanently established in his blessings through the tithe. It was only when Abraham had paid tithe that the other aspects of his blessings began to appear.

WHAT IS TITHING?

Tithing is the release of a tenth of all your increase to God. The tithe means one - tenth, or ten per cent.

God has made it clear that tithing is not giving. It is a special portion of your increase, which God has reserved for Himself. He tells us in Leviticus 27:30:

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy UNTO THE LORD.

This portion does not belong to you. It belongs to God and must be given personally to Him as soon as your increase comes in. It is not yours to give therefore, it does not constitute as a part of your giving.

The practice of tithing had existed before the law was given to Moses. Jacob practised it. God had told Jacob that He would be blessed, but Jacob did not get established in that blessing, until he made a vow at Bethel to pay his tithe.

And he called the name of that place Bethel ...

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go,

and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:19-22

I am sure Jacob, in his characteristic usurping way, had been withholding his tithe. When he made a vow to be serious, God took him and planted him in his blessings.

To further emphasize the importance of tithing, let us look at what God told Jacob when He instructed him to go back to his father's house. God said:

I am the God of Beth-el, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowest a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

Genesis 31:13

God did not tell Jacob, "I am the God of your fathers." Rather, He told him, "***I am the God of Bethel.***" This shows the importance God attached to the vow of tithing which Jacob had made.

This practice has not changed. The coming of Jesus has not abolished it. He is our great High Priest and is still receiving our tithes, even as He received Abraham's thousands of years ago. Jesus said:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 23:23

He thus, put a stamp on tithing as a New Testament practice. God has not changed. He uses the tithe as a means of establishing individuals in their blessings. He is still doing it today.

This is the key to financial stability.

TITHING IS DIVINE INSURANCE

A woman in one of our chapels had a mysterious experience. She was used to paying her tithe. A day came when she decided not to pay. Consequently, mysterious rats invaded the bonnet of her car and ate up all the wires! She got the car fixed, but the rats appeared again and ate up all the new wires. This continued, until her eyes were opened. She rushed to the office to pay her tithes and the rats mysteriously disappeared!

Those were not ordinary rats. Those rats were devourers. They were sent on a mission from the devourers' agency.

God has promised the tither:

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field...

Malachi 3:11

The devourer can come in various forms. Frequent car breakdowns, losses, sicknesses and so on, are all manifestations of the devourer. You can put an end to the devourer's harassment by paying your tithe regularly. Tithing is your insurance cover against destruction and disruption of all forms.

Tithers and givers in the Kingdom of God have literally been waiting for treasures to drop down from heaven. They have been waiting for houses, lands, cars, money and so on, to drop down on their heads from heaven. They are ignorant of the forces that are released when they give. It is important to know what happens, when you pay your tithes and give your offerings.

THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN OPEN

The first time this word appeared in the Bible was in the days of Noah. The Bible recalls:

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month...the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Genesis 7:11

Remember also that God swore after the flood, never to destroy the earth in that way any more.

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

Genesis 9:11

In Malachi 3:10, God promised the tither this:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

What does this promise from God represent? Now listen: cars are not going to drop down from heaven. Food, shelter, and clothing will not come tumbling down from the sky either. But God has said we will be blessed with great abundance.

How is He going to do this?

THE RAIN OF IDEAS

Rain is released through the windows of heaven every time your tithe and offerings ascend there and they are accepted by God. But this is not literal rain. It is not a destructive rain. It is the rain God spoke about in Zechariah.

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Zechariah 10:1

This is a rain of refreshing. It is the rain of the Spirit of God, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is the rain that produced unimaginable abundance in Joel chapter 2.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Joel 2:23-26

This is the rain that God is going to release through the windows of heaven. How?

Talking about Jesus, the Word of God says He will operate in the Spirit of the Lord. The major attributes of the Spirit are outlined.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1-2

This analysis of the Spirit of the Lord simply stands for wisdom and power. The Spirit of knowledge, counsel, understanding and the fear of the Lord are all elements of wisdom. This Spirit of the Lord that was upon Jesus was essentially the Spirit of wisdom and power. This is why I

Corinthians 1:24 clearly states:

...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

By opening the windows of heaven, God pours out His wisdom and power upon the giver.

What is wisdom? What is power? Wisdom is simply the ability of God in a man, which enables him to know what to do at every point in time. A friend of mine described wisdom as the knowledge of what next to do. Power is defined as the ability to do work.

What your giving releases from heaven, therefore, is a rain of ideas and the power to carry out those ideas. This is what makes for riches.

Prosperity is rooted in what to do, and you are not told what to do unless you are a giver. Giving releases divine direction and the ability to pursue that direction.

TAKE OFF THE FOXES

In the pursuit of your God-given idea, there are some little things, which go unnoticed, but which are very vital to your growth, especially in the area of abundance. These are the little foxes mentioned in Songs of Solomon.

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

Songs of Solomon 2:15

A man of God once said, "Our attitude determines our altitude." I have seen men who are dedicated Christians, but who seem to be going around on the same spot. I have wondered and asked the Lord what could be responsible for this. He opened my eyes to a few things, which I am going to discuss here.

COMPROMISING YOUR INTEGRITY

The things that trouble men are in hidden places. The diseases that afflict men are inside of them. It is only the effect you see on the outside. The same thing occurs in the world of the spirit.

The things that make men stranded, stunted and unable to move forward are all in hidden places. It takes the x-ray of God's light to expose them.

The world lives for money. It is their god. They run after it. They seek after it without any reservation. A natural man's thirst for money is insatiable. He wants more and more of it. They are like the grave that is never satisfied.

But, if you must have money in abundance, never let it become your idol. Don't let it become the most important thing in your life. If it does, then it has become your god.

Money should be an instrument for worshipping God. It should never be allowed to become your master. It must be kept as your servant. The moment money begins to direct all your affairs, you are doomed. Jesus Christ said:

...Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Money is the greatest contestant for the place of God in a man's life. There is a tendency for men to worship money instead of God. Many have cast their vote for it and have been snared away from the truth. Beware!

God wants you to prosper. He wants to bless you financially. But He does not want you to pursue after money the way the sinners do. He wants you to pursue after the things of God. This is the only way the true riches of God will come to you. He said:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

The only acceptable foundation for abundant living, according to the Word of God, is the pursuit of God and the things that please Him. Find out what pleases God and seek to please Him in all your dealings. This is your foundation for supernatural additions in life.

God has reserved an Eden of abundance for you. It is your inheritance in life. Integrity will take you there. Integrity will keep you there. Outside of integrity you do not have a financial future in the Kingdom. This truth is unfolded all over scriptures:

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

Proverbs 11:3

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:7

Integrity is a seed from which your children's children can draw.

Righteousness does not dry people up. It establishes them and causes them to flourish.

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Psalms 92:12-15

Right dealings do not reduce men's height, they promote and sustain it.

Jesus Christ said in Luke 16:10-11:

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?

The way you handle your financial dealings determine greatly what happens to you financially. Many things that afflict men are traceable to their monetary dealings. False financial dealings can open doors to inexplicable afflictions.

Why must you buy your goods at thirty Naira and say you bought them at three hundred Naira each, just because you want profit. You are free to sell your goods at whatever price you desire, but you do not have to tell lies to do so.

Even in the church today, you have to cross-check almost everything that is being purchased, because you are not sure of the integrity of those involved.

God is calling His people to order. He is saying that if you are not truthful in your financial dealings with your neighbour, you are corrupting your future and exposing yourself to unnecessary afflictions.

If you are in a business that will not allow you to be straight, leave it and start another one. Unrighteousness will keep a man on the same spot for life. You cannot get people saved, when you engage in what they do.

Something happened some time ago, that involved this ministry. A Christian brother from our church in Kaduna went to Lagos to buy some things. On his way back, at the Lagos airport, he discovered that he had underpaid for the goods he bought, to the tune of ten thousand naira. The calculation on the receipt was wrong. He left the airport and went back to the office to explain what

had happened.

The chairman of the company could not believe it. "Are there still Nigerians like this around?" he asked. The brother explained that he was a Christian and couldn't take what didn't belong to him. The chairman wrote me a personal letter, thanking me for bringing up men like that.

It was in that man's power to take the money, but he chose to please God. His testimony affected lives for Jesus.

Cases abound all over scriptures, of men and women who missed their destiny in God, by running after unrighteous gains.

Gehazi was a man who, by virtue of his position, could have stepped into the shoes of Elisha. Elisha served Elijah faithfully and received a double portion of his power (through his mantle). Now here was Gehazi, Elisha's servant, who purchased leprosy for himself and his generations to come. Why? He ran greedily after unrighteous gain by collecting from Naaman the Syrian the money, which Elisha, his master, had already rejected (2 Kings 5).

Look at Balaam. God told him, "Do not go." But the lure of the money offered to him to curse God's people was too strong. He went and he perished.

What about Achan in Joshua 7? He was the champion of the accursed things. He stole and hid what God had clearly instructed against. He wanted to get rich very quickly. But he died very quickly, along with his household.

Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 had a good project in mind. They sold their land for the sake of the gospel, but they agreed to withhold a part of the money. When confronted, they told a lie. They died the same day.

Unrighteousness is a destiny destroyer. Don't walk in the way these people have walked. We are in a very tempting period in world history, but you don't have to be crooked to make it. It is the blessings of the Lord that will make you rich, not your "smartness or crookedness". God is out to bless His Church, but He will not do it through perverseness.

COVETOUSNESS

Beware of covetousness. Life does not consist in the abundance of the things you have, but your possessions with God.

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

Luke 12:15

God is the source of every good and perfect gift.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

If you have God, then good things should not be a problem to you.

Do not envy sinners. Their riches are but for a moment. They never last. Don't let material things blind you to your privileged position in God.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6

The great gain that you desire comes only through godliness with contentment.

DISCONTENTMENT

Be contented with the placement of God in your life. The way it is now is not your end. The best is yet to come. Integrity will procure it for you. Those who live for money shall fall into temptations, snares and foolish, hungry lusts, which draw men into destruction and perdition, for the love of money

is the root of all evil.

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

I Timothy 6:11

God is saying “Don’t live for money. Live for Me and you will enjoy all that I have, money inclusive.”

This is the secret of financial buoyancy and social peace.

Chapter 15

TESTIMONIES OF FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGHS

Financial Breakthrough!

“Last year, Shiloh 2004, I could not come here. I watched it through the satellite viewing centre in Gusau, a state in the Northern part of Nigeria. There was a call for sacrifice and Bishop said we should give our best. I had just finished a small building, which I wanted to rent out to tenants. Right in the church, I told my wife and we gave it out. I want to appreciate God because as a result of that sacrificial offering, He has blessed us with two houses this year (2005).”

- Ndundi O.

Zamfara State

FROM POVERTY TO RICHES

“I joined the Commission in March, 2001 by marriage. I couldn’t come to Shiloh 2004 because I did not have the transport fare: so, I watched through satellite. One of the days, Bishop asked for sacrificial offering, saying ‘Whatever is in your heart you want God to do for you, you should tie the offering to it. That December, no land, no single block and we were believing God for a building-our family house. I gave my best that day. It was an asset, I disposed of and I paid the vow. By March 2005, we bought about eight plots of land, three in Lokoja and two in Ayangba, which is my village. Before November ending, we completed our mighty building in the village, a three-storey building in Lokoja and a mighty mansion in Lokoja as a family house. For all these, I have come to give all the glory to God. Secondly, in October 2005, by reason of the sacrifice, God opened a business of over four million naira for me. I have come to return all the glory to God for all these.”

- Julianah Cole

LFC, Lokoja

SUPERNATURAL TURNAROUND!

I joined this Commission in 1999 in Abuja and our pastor then said, “The ground is a good ground, sow into this good ground and your life would never remain the same. The secret of this Commission is that whatever you see them doing, apply yourself to it’. I am a volunteer driver and a sanctuary keeper. I graduated in 1995 and in my career, I have been struggling. In our year of Supernatural Harvest, precisely in June 2004, God gave me a job in MTN – a Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) service provider, as a facility engineer and I was deployed to their Ibadan office. They started me with a salary scale of 1.8 million Naira.

In January 2005, my confirmation letter came. When Bishop David Oyedepo declared the year opened, I only caught one thing. He said, ‘This year shall be to you, a year of supernatural turning point, everything will be turning to your own favour and it shall be a tearing point for your enemies’. In February my salary was increased from 1.8 million Naira to about 2.1 million Naira.

In May, there was a call in Ibadan church for a facility upgrade sacrifice. The pastor said, ‘If you key into this sacrifice, you will never be at the same level again, I actually wanted to give 10, 000 Naira, but the Holy Spirit said I should give N12, 000. When I asked why, He said 12 represents the

12 tribes of Israel, and that through this giving, He would connect me to Abrahamic blessings.

Then I said, ‘God, as I give this sacrifice, upgrade me in my place of work.’

Shortly after that, there was a vacancy at my work place, and I prepared for the interview. Then, I remembered that Bishop Oyedepo said the Holy Spirit is a speaking Spirit and the Spirit of wisdom. I requested the Holy Spirit to show me what I needed to do. He said I should go to the interview with a marker. I asked Him what was I going to do with a marker? He said, ‘When you enter into the interview, there will be a board there; when they ask you questions, tell them you want to explain on the board’. I got to the interview hall, and behold there was a board there. The expatriate started asking me questions. I asked if I could explain on the board, he said I should go ahead and I started lecturing them. Already, there was somebody, whom they had tipped for the job, but the expatriate said, ‘We need an extrovert for this job; this man,’ referring to me, ‘is the right man’ and the job was given to me and my salary was increased from 2.1million Naira to 2.75million Naira.

Also, a relocation to Lagos allowance of almost 500, 000 Naira was given to me. Now, I am back in Lagos. I give God all the praise.”

• ***Davis, T. O.***

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS!

“I am a village head teacher. I was qualified for a car loan that could not even buy me a Starlet. Actually, we needed a car, but I was believing God for a very beautiful 2.0 station wagon car. In my meditation, I inquired of God on how I would be able to buy my choice car with this insufficient amount. In my meditation, God referred me to the example of the widow of Zarephath. I said, ‘yes, the widow had almost nothing yet she gave to the prophet at his request.’ Then I said to myself, the prophet of our time did not request for anything. What should I do? Then I remembered the saying that every opportunity is for lifting and when there is no opportunity around, you create one. I love the ministry and the ministration of our Bishop; therefore, I set apart certain amount as prophet offering out of this insufficient money. Immediately the loan was released, I removed the prophet offering, dropped it and took a step to go and buy the car. In fact, the remaining money could not buy the car, but I was so surprised that God was able to raise 150, 000 Naira above the money I was carrying and I bought the car. It is right here with me. I thank God for that.

Another testimony is that I have a poultry farm that I started on a rented apartment with about 21, 000 Naira. I asked my wife to let us evaluate the farm, because I was preparing to come and give testimony. We did the evaluation and we discovered that the farm is now worth over 850, 000 Naira. I give God all the glory.”

- ***Oduroye, A.***

BUILT A HOUSE IN RETIREMENT!

“I want to thank God for what he has done in my life. I joined this Commission in 2004. I told God that this year 2005 pass me by without a testimony. I just thank God for what He has done in my father’s life. Throughout his stay in the military till the time he retired in 1991, he could not build a house for himself or anybody, yet, all his mates built their houses. When my father travelled to his home town in Benin, his brothers were mocking him. They even threatened to kill him. He did not even believe that he could build a house, but today, he has completed a house of his own. I just give the Lord all the glory.”

- ***Oluwafemi M.***

DRAMATIC TURNAROUND!

“I joined this Commission in Jigawa State, where I was doing my NYSC (National Youth Service Corp.) A message came from the altar then that we should leave our place of abode and stop being local champions. I left Jigawa State for a new place. There was no sign of success written on me at all, but, to the glory of God, I came to Lagos by air. When I came to Lagos, I had accommodation problems. Feeding was difficult; sometimes I ate once a day - just 10 Naira beans. It was terrible for me, but to the glory of God, Bishop David Oyedepo declared on this altar, that *‘you’ve been jobless, you will get a job before the end of the first quarter of this year, 2004, that will surpass your imagination.’* I keyed into it. I believed God, and I started declaring ‘There is no carry-over with God’.

No job came, so I made up my mind to go and make preparations for my wedding. I got back to the north; people mocked me saying that since I chose to join this commission, Bishop Oyedepo should pay my masters’ degree school fees and my dowry, since I didn’t have a job. I went to church, seriously bleeding in my heart, and crying, but I said, “God there is no carry- over with you’. Two days after I got back to Lagos, I received a phone call, that I have been given a job with six digits salary that surpassed everyone’s imagination. People that turned me down, that they would not contribute to my wedding were now clamouring to participate, asking that I should bring my request, because they were ready to assist me. Glory be to God.”

- Olatunbosun, D.

MIRACLE HOUSE!

“We started business over 10 years ago and unfortunately, we started with a debt of 1, 000,000 Naira. I came in contact with this Ministry in November, 1994 and God began to teach me the principles of doing business properly. I learnt about giving my tithes, offerings, kingdom investments, being thankful and speaking right. As I began to apply those principles our business began to grow.

June 1, 2004 was the 10th anniversary of our business, so we closed shop and praised God. As we were praising God that day, the Word of the Lord came that. In your 10th year, you will be in your own house,’ referring to the business. God helped us, from that 1994 to date, and our tithes, offerings, and kingdom investments have never failed even once.

My wife and I were expecting that the house would cost about 10 million Naira or so, but when the offer letter came, they said the house would cost us 25million Naira. We began to think and fret and for a while, we did not know what to do.

We took the offer letter to the Bishop and he prayed for us and said it shall be actualized. We went back believing God. Every morning, we went to the office praising God, expecting something to happen. After a while, nothing happened, so we went back to the Bishop. He said we can declare the Word, but it is only God that performs it and after that day, I left everything to God. I had an appointment with my son in America, so I took him there. The little money I had was depleted after that. But before we came back from America, the money was made available and then we paid for the house according to the Word of the Lord. We are still in our 10th year now and we are in our own house”.

- Dr. Emeka, C. I.

FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH!

“I joined this Commission in 2003 when I was living in Nigeria. Through the prophetic declarations on the altar by Bishop David Oyedepo, I was blessed with a Ph.D opportunity in University of Oxford. I have been in the UK and God has continued to bless me so much that I enjoyed the Shiloh 2004 via the internet ministry of the Commission. Every Sunday and Wednesday, I follow

the services of the Ministry on the internet and I have not missed out, in spite of the distance.

I want to thank God for financial breakthrough in the month of January, 2005. Being a Ph.D student and not working fulltime, it's usually almost an unwise thing for one to bring out huge sums of money from one's bank account to pay for the Shiloh 2004 sacrificial offering, but I believed the words of God's servant and did that, even when my friends considered me as stupid. I stand to testify that God gave me, just in the month of January 2005, such a large sum of money - over 4,500 Great Britain Pounds (over one million naira). I did not expect it at all. I was paid monies due me to the tune of 150% increase and I give God all the praise for that. It's only Him that can do that.

Also, I want to thank God that ever since I stepped into my research group in University of Oxford, the Lord has continued to bless my supervisor with such enormous research grants that recently, he confided in me that it has never been that rosy with him and he could not explain why God has chosen to bless him. As I thought about that, God assured me that He had made my case like the case of Joseph in Potiphar's house and because I am part of this man's team, God would enlarge his coasts and he must come to know that there is a God in my life. I give God the praise for all these.

I also experienced such breakthroughs in my research work that I have become an Icon of Excellence, even in this land and I give God the praise. Thank God for His favours and may His name alone be praised and glorified.”

- Okereke, M.

DIVINE INCREASE!

“I am a baker by profession. I joined this Commission in 1999. I have been working assiduously, since 1995, but I realized in 2000, that I could not save 20,000 Naira in a year.

As time went on, my eyes of understanding began to open. In 2002, I resolved that I would save at least 20,000 Naira. I began, but all to no avail. In 2004, I started a monthly contribution, which would amount to 20,000 Naira by November.

On a Sunday morning, I had dressed up to go to school, where I run a part time programme and the Holy Spirit said, ‘Go to the Church,’ I obliged. When I came, Bishop David Oyedepo called for a provoking open heaven sacrifice. I looked at myself and said, I have nothing to offer. But the Holy Spirit said, ‘You have something’. I tried to argue that ‘how could I sow the N20,000 that I have been labouring for?’

But the Spirit of the Lord prevailed and I wrote 18,000 Naira, for the sacrificial offering and the remaining 2,000 Naira for my tithe. Then, in September, I redeemed the vow. To the glory of God, I now make over 30,000 Naira a week in my business.

Olawole, S.

... IT CAME TO PASS!

“I am a civil engineer by profession. I had a contract with a bank in Delta State to renovate three of their branch offices. I did that and was paid a good percentage of the total money. When I raised a cheque to withdraw the remaining money, I was told I had no money left. This was in August 2002. Since then, I have not operated the account.

However, when the Covenant University vow was made, I made a vow of 10, 000 Naira and on the last Sunday of the month of July, I redeemed it. On that Sunday, Bishop Oyedepo said, God is going to visit us, people would send for us and we would be given parcels. He just made a declaration of blessings for everyone redeeming it.

On Monday, I did not go to my office, but when I got there on Tuesday, my secretary handed me an envelope, which was a statement of account. It was brought all the way from Ughelli in Delta State. When, I opened it, it was about 100,000 Naira with some fractions. This statement of account

came on Monday after Bishop Oyedepo made that declaration on Sunday. Indeed, it came to pass.

The amazing thing is that, I had not operated this account for three years, because I have an account with two other banks. It was as if the account was dormant and closed. I give God the glory.”

- Obaro A.

HIGHLY FAVOURED

“I share this testimony to the glory of God and thank Him for sending our way a Prophet that hears from Him directly and releases what he hears to bless us.

On Saturday December 11, 2004 during Shiloh 2004, when the call for the sacrifice towards the Covenant University Project Phase IV was made, I gave my all and God dazed me with a new car worth 3.2 million naira sold to me for only 1.6million naira, with the opportunity to pay in two installments. Not only that, God has also created an opening for a multi-million dollar job for my company. Blessed be the Lord our God for daily loading us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.”

- Falana, D.

Friend, there is no short cut! Any eaglet that must become a full-grown eagle and a high-flyer must submit to the demands of rigorous exercise. It is exercise for a change of status. That is the way it happens.

If you must enter into the covenant of financial rest, labour in the Word. Labour in your belief of the demands of giving.

It is time to keep on pressing and pressing, until you press your enemies out through the gate! I have discovered this and I have held on tightly to it all my life and have vowed to stay with it. Here I am today, and I have never suffered financial lack.

I am not a waster! I am simply an excited, intelligent investor. I use all the potentials of God inside me to locate investment avenues and exercise myself in them. This is my secret.

There are times you have to “fearfully” sow, but fearful sowing results in “fearful” harvests!

ENTER THE ARK!

Noah was preaching, warning the people that the flood was on its way coming, but everybody was laughing at him.

It took him 120 years to prepare the ark. Only those who hearkened to his warnings and entered that ark survived the flood.

God had been building an ark for the past few years now - an ark of rescue that appear stupid to some people. It is no longer stupid! An imminent economic collapse was a prophecy before, now it is a reality.

People are exchanging property for food. They are selling their television sets to eat and their cars to pay their house rents. Landlords have become tenants!

Friend, this seemingly foolish ark is your only way of rescue. The COVENANT is the New Testament ark for rescue in the time of famine. You either enter inside it, stay there and be preserved or despise it and be destroyed.

God will not allow any flood, until an ark is set. For 120 years, Noah was building an ark and nobody thought it would ever be of any use. But the day came, when the ark became the only way of rescue.

God is preparing an ark for your financial safety right now. If you mock it, you will be carried away by the plague of lack and want.

God has promised He will never fail! We can trust Him. We can take Him at His Word. He is always ahead for the safety of His people.

The world is coming under the greatest plague of lack and want. It is so clear in God's prophetic agenda (Isaiah 60:2-3). When God speaks, whether it has ever been or not, you better shiver, for it is coming to be! God will not bend His Word because of you.

There is surely a flood of economic collapse coming upon humanity! Only those who stay in this ark shall be rescued.

God will not feed on your tithe, He created you. Out of His fullness, He gave you just a tip of the iceberg. He cannot be envious of you. Your position is irrelevant to God. The whole earth is like a drop of water in a bucket to Him. You are not even an electron. You are just like the ant in your house. Salvation is the only thing that gives you value. If you despise it, your value is lost!

God knows only Christians. He said, I know My sheep and I call them by name (John 10). You do not have a name outside salvation. God does not know the people in power in your country, if they are not born again. Their names are not on His list. They are too short for God to see.

All the things that look important to you here are nothing. This ark of safety is filling-up already and the flood level is rising. It is time to flee to the covenant mountain, where there is rest.

I am sent to tell you an ark is being prepared, and wise men are entering into it. Do not be the last to enter. The gates may be shut at any time!

God sent Joseph to tell the children of Israel that they do not have to die in Canaan, because there is room for them in Goshen. So, Jacob and his sons crossed over from Canaan of dryness to the Goshen of milk and honey. May you cross over, before the gate is shut!

Suddenly, the ark they had mocked began to float! For 120 years, they had mocked Noah.

I sat down one day and said to myself, "Where are my mockers?" They are nowhere to be found! They are all in hiding. They were very many! Where were Noah's mockers when the flood began to rise?

I entered the ark of the covenant when everybody thought there was no wisdom in it. I entered the ark of sacrificial giving, kingdom addiction, selfless service and living a life that is solely unto God. Now, it has paid off. Following God does not reduce anybody.

I would like you to be sold out to God. You have started in this race, do not let anybody outrun you. This seemingly stupid ark, is the only way of rescue. You cannot despise it and survive the flood. To despise the ark means to go with the flood. The ark is where the key is!

Jesus gave and gave until He gave His life! When the flood of death came, He rose above it and it could not swallow Him!

The covenant is your only way out of this flood of financial, social and business death. You will rise above it, as you enter and remain in the ark of the covenant.

There is unemployment in every nation of the world today. The Church of Jesus I grew to know was a very poor one. But I kept telling the people that a time was coming, when it would be a shame not to be a Christian in Nigeria. It is happening already!

The covenant-keeping God has drawn a time-table for His covenant children and as long as you are a covenant keeper, you cannot be out of it. His glory will be seen upon you, and your enemies will go into hiding.

As you stay on in this ark, the flood will no longer be a threat to your life!

Can you picture Noah, his wife and children peeping through the window and seeing floating dead bodies? They must have said to themselves, "Lord, You are wonderful! We were stupid enough to follow our Father."

Every time you stay on in the covenant, you end up with a song in your mouth!

ENTER THE ARK!

It takes that entrance to escape.

I am sent to you for your escape, having escaped myself. I am sent to you for your healing, having been healed myself. I am sent to you for your protection against the arrows of the wicked, having escaped them myself.

All you need to do is to step into this ark and abide therein.

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