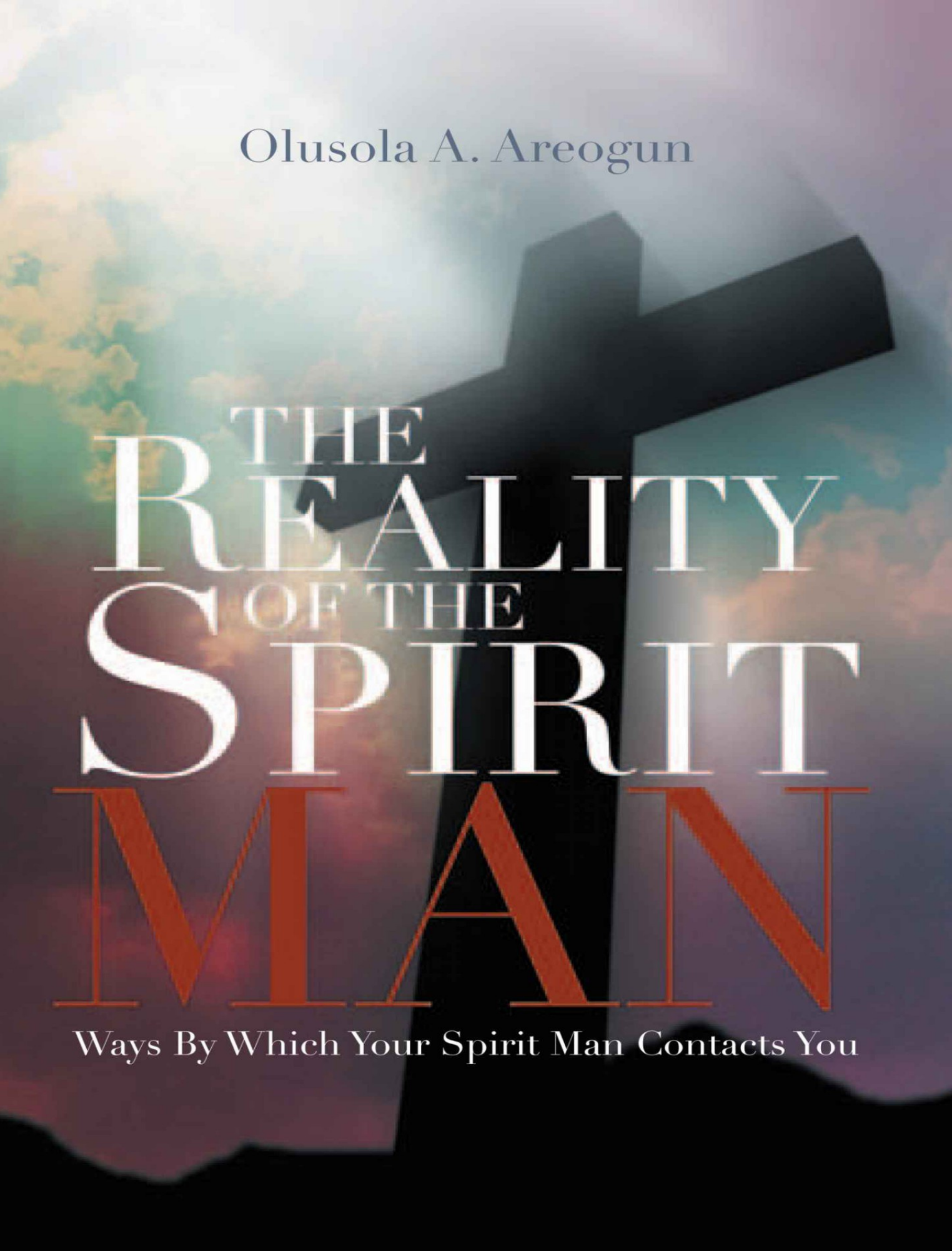

Olusola A. Areogun
THE REALITY OF THE SPIRIT MAN
Ways By Which Your Spirit Man Contacts You

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WAYS BY WHICH YOUR SPIRIT MAN CONTACTS YOU

OLUSOLA A. AREOGUN

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Dedication

To my beautiful wife *Oyenike*, who has gone through all the experiences with me. Thanks for believing in me.

To my son *Joshua*, for teaching us courage in life.

To my lovely daughter *Peace*, for teaching us transparency in life.

Preface

This book is a transcription of a series of teachings I taught the congregation of the Dream Centre of the Life Oasis International Church, Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria, in 1989 under the broad theme of Victorious Christian Living. It was first printed in 1993 and God has used it to bless the Body of Christ for close to two decades.

Man is a spirit; he has a soul and lives in a body. God has plans and purposes for you and He wants to communicate them to you. God speaks by His Spirit to man's regenerated spirit, that is, your spirit man. Your spirit man communicates with your mind to relay what the Holy Spirit is saying so you can apply it to your practical life.

Many people do not know when their spirit man is trying to contact them with a message from God and thereby fall short of kingdom experiences. Accidents, losses, and failures will cease if you would master how your spirit man contacts you. Your spirit man

can be years ahead of your mind in information gathering because the Bible says the Holy Spirit will show you things to come.

Whether for personal or group study, it is my sincere prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, will further use the material in this book to bless His people all over the world and introduce you to a life of abiding and consistent victory in Christ.

Olusola A. Areogun

Osogbo, Nigeria.

November 2010.

Introduction

There Is a Spirit in Man

You can live in such a way that you are not in the dark about what is happening in your life or around you. You can know things two years before they happen, by walking in the spirit.

There is a reality of the physical man, and most of us already know the ways of this physical man. We also know the reality of the soul in a measure; for example, when two students go to school, if they sit under the same teacher, receive the same lecture, and sit for the same examination, one may outperform the other. That is a factor of the soul; somebody's soul understood more than the other.

All these are things that happen in the realm of the soul. There is latent power in the soul that we are not encouraged to live by or even tap into. That is the kind of power that you find secret cults tapping and utilising. All those who do soul travelling, astral

travelling, Christian science, mind religion, and so on, explore the latent power in the soul. Some people say they can focus the energy of the mind and bend some metals. There is a latent power in the soul, but it is not spiritual, and we have to be careful that we are not walking *soulishly* because the soul and the spirit are very much alike but not the same. The Bible makes it clear that the Word of God can separate between the two (the spirit and the soul).

HEBREWS 4: 12

12. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

For example, there is a love in the soul that is like the original but it cannot stand the test of the original. There is the human soulish love that is different from spiritual love. God has called us to spiritual love, not emotional love. Most of what you see a lot of people practise is emotional love, but the demand of Jesus is that we begin to release the spirit man from the age-long captivity of the corruption that happened to the

soul at the fall of Adam and from the authority of the flesh.

The spirit man, though born again, may remain a captive. Not a captive of the devil this time, but a captive of strange thought patterns, a captive of an unrenewed mind, a captive of the undisciplined body. This body has some power, but it cannot work on its own. If you want to test whether this body can do evil, after you've been born again for fifteen years, just submit it to the devil and you will be surprised at the atrocities it will commit in a matter of two days. That is why the Bible says we should put our body under the spirit. God will not do that for you.

The Holy Spirit may be living inside somebody in His majesty and the greatness of God and the person may still be committing fornication. It is very possible, simply because the person has not learnt how to bring his body under subjection.

Some Christians don't believe in putting the body

under. Regular fasting and serious meditation on the Word of God will help keep the body under every day. Left to this body, it prefers to read newspaper every day. You won't see the body ever wake up and feel like praying or reading the Bible. It does not like spiritual things, and it was not that God created the body to hate spiritual things; originally, the body of man was made to walk and cooperate with the spirit in exercising might and authority. But immediately man sinned, the soul began to operate, and the soul is not spiritual. The soul is still a part of the world, so he trained the body to function and respond to worldly stimuli.

HEBREWS 5: 14

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

You can have this body trained to respond to the spirit. A lot of us have trained our bodies to respond to sickness and fear. Supposing somebody brings you some food and your mind says 'The food is poisoned'. If your mind has not been renewed by the Word of God, this is what is going to happen

(according to the Bible and in reality, you don't need to pray because it cannot hurt you; because Jesus said, "*these signs shall follow them that believe, . . . if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them . . .*" Matt. 16: 18), because your body has been trained to respond to fear. When you ate it, the body responds to that fear.

A lot of sickness that people have is not as a result of the sickness gaining control, but the body is just responding to what you have trained it to do. Just like I have trained my left hand to respond when you ask what the time is, it turns and I look at the wristwatch. When you change it to the right hand, it takes some time to get used to it and takes some training as well. This body needs a master to train it. If you train this body with alcohol, it will respond to it. If you did not train it in the way of righteousness, it will not behave righteously. It is your own responsibility and it is what you train the body to do that will affect your spiritual life. It can keep your spirit captive but you can be free.

We can, by the help of the Holy Spirit, find out ways by which our spirit man gets across to us. Your spirit man is on the inside of you. Sometimes we refer to your spirit man as the inward man. If you can understand him, he will help you and bail you out of troubles because he is the one that the Holy Spirit indwells and relates with. Just as there is the reality of the body, there is the reality of the spirit man but most of us deal and relate with people in the body. When you talk of somebody who has sense-knowledge faith, it is still a type of faith, but not biblical faith. It is a faith that this body is responding to: 'What I see, I believe.' Somebody points a gun at you and says 'I will shoot you' and your body starts to respond to that gun; rather, your spirit man will respond to angelic presence and the power of God. This knowledge of how your spirit contacts you is critical to the success of the Christian on the earth.

Chapter 1

Ways by Which Your Spirit Contacts You

1. Constraint and Restraint

The first way by which this spirit man ministers to you is by the experience referred to as ‘Constraint’.

> **ACTS 16: 7**
>
> **7. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.**

How do you know that you should or should not do something? There is either a *constraining* or *restraining* on the inside of you. It could be the spirit constraining you to go or the spirit restraining you from going. Constraint means to make somebody do something by force or by strong persuasion—something that limits one’s freedom of action. *Constraint* is a strong inner pressure to go ahead. Some versions of the Bible render constraint as compel; therefore, it is possible for your spirit man to

compel you to do something. *Restraint* is an equally strong inner pressure not to go ahead.

To constrain is likened to a man under pressure to go to the toilet; he is only relieved after answering the call of nature. The same way the spirit constrains you. You are refreshed only if you do what the spirit constrains you to do.

JOB 32: 18-20

18. For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me.

19. Behold, my belly [is] as wine [which] hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles.

20. I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.

It is as if you want to sit on a particular chair and you get a restriction or restraint in your heart as regards sitting on the chair. If you ignore that restraint in your heart and you sit on the chair, it may break; if the broken chair doesn't hurt you, it will take the mercy of God because God has given advance information. You are only refreshed if you

do what the spirit constrains you to do. You are preserved when you refuse to do what He restrains you from doing.

2. Perception

JOB 33: 1-4

1. Wherefore, Job, I pray thee, hear my speeches, and hearken to all my words.

2. Behold, now I have opened my mouth, my tongue hath spoken in my mouth.

3. My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.

4. The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

The word *'perceive'* physically speaking can apply to your sight. But we are not dealing with physical perception. It is never God's best way to minister to you in dreams. God is only forced to minister to you in dreams after He has ministered to you by the devil-proof method of ministering to your spirit man once or twice and you perceive it not. This is because the devil can also speak in dreams and you may have a dream due to much business you have been involved in during the day (Eccl. 5: 3); therefore, dreams are

not 100 per cent safe. Dreams are not God's safest way of leading you.

JOB 33: 15

15. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

To perceive something is to notice or be conscious of something, to be conscious of somebody in the shadows.

ACTS 14: 8-10

8. And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9. The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10. Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

That man's faith would have gone unnoticed if Paul had not perceived in his spirit and he would have left that meeting still crippled, but Paul perceived and

spoke the word that launched him unto his feet. To perceive is as if you enter into a room and somebody is hiding at the back of the door, but after sometime, you begin to perceive that somebody is there with you.

MARK 2: 8

8. And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

The best way to deal with the spirit of lies is through perception. In Acts chapter 5, Ananias sold a parcel of land and kept the remaining money. Peter became aware of it by perception and challenged him. Peter did not know of it before, but he just perceived it and spoke the word. Sometimes when you perceive some things in the spirit, you will need to stir it up until you hit a gift of the world of knowledge to give full details. Perception is not as detailed as word of knowledge. It is just your spirit giving you warning signals so you can prepare for things ahead. You don't have to suffer accidents if you will just follow up on your perception and pray through on it. People

suffer loss when you ignore divine signals.

Some people say ‘we are wiser after the event’, but that is not God’s intention for a child of God. The spirit inside you is to make you wiser before the event so you can handle it to the glory of God and for your good. If you pick up a perception, follow it up and do something about it. It is not a matter of being suspicious, but rather having a holy perception about things.

3. Being Grieved

ACTS 16: 16-18

16. And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

17. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Now this lady was under the influence of demon spirits. There was no way in the natural for Paul to discover this. They could have rationalised it that God had sent her. Many enter into alliance with occultic people or New Age movement by neglecting their spirits. The fact that someone is talking religiously and quoting scriptures does not mean God is moving through him. Paul was suddenly grieved. *To be grieved means to suddenly have a sinking sensation in the pit of your belly over a matter.* You lose all joy on the matter. An unexplainable sense of sorrow overpowers you concerning the matter.

Paul was so sensitive to the spirit man and suddenly realised that this was not a divine message. Only God can tell how many pastors have been deceived, seduced, and suffered losses because they did not follow that sensation before entering into alliances. Some other ministers err so much that they may immediately appoint that damsel as the prayer band leader. The spirit man contacts us through the experience referred to as *being grieved*.

4. Mental Impression

ACTS 11: 5-16

5. I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:

6. Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

7. And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.

8. But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

9. But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

10. And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven.

11. And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.

12. And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

13. And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

14. Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

15. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

16. THEN REMEMBERED I THE WORD OF THE LORD, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

One of the ways by which the spirit man brings mental impressions to you is by bringing things to your remembrance. This passage shows Peter when he was standing before the apostles in Jerusalem after he had gone to minister to Cornelius. They challenged and spoke to him that "We heard that you have gone in to the Gentiles and you did eat with them!" That is like religious-minded people: they will not talk about the miracle that occurred but they will talk about their religion.

The passage above is a report of what happened during the ministration. It was Peter's inner man bringing something into his mind. His spirit was bringing a confirmation into his mind on what was happening. Peter, on his own, would have doubted that they received the genuine Holy Spirit because he

had such a Jewish mind that when the Lord appeared to him, he was still arguing with the Lord. Here we see the spirit man brought into his remembrance, 'the Lord said it and this is what was happening'.

Remembrance is a factor of the soul and memory is also a part of the soul. Whenever the Bible says "I then remembered", we should ask 'who brought it to his remembrance?' That is to say, God contacts our soul in reminding us things that we forget. *Mental impressions are the superimposition of the thoughts of the Holy Spirit on your own thoughts or the injection of the thoughts of the Holy Ghost in your mind different from your own train of thoughts.* Pick up the thought you are remembering and examine whether the spirit man is getting across to you. Mental impressions also come to you as things come to your mind in a persistent manner.

Sometime ago, I was preaching in a fellowship and a particular incident suddenly came to my mind, and I have learnt from past experiences that it was the Lord bringing it to my spirit and my spirit contacting

me with the information. It had to do with a sister who got engaged to an unbeliever; I shared the story saying, “I believe there are people that have that kind of a thing because it is not part of the things I planned to say” and when I made the altar call, about fifty people came out, who had that problem. Now how could I have cooked that up? Peter said, “Then remembered I the word of the Lord”. Your spirit is not going to remind you of something that scares you. He won’t bring to your remembrance the threat that the devil gave you two years ago that you would die; he will not do that. Rather, your spirit would bring to your remembrance that which is of the Lord.

One of the ways by which this spirit man contacts us is through mental impressions—impressing his ideas, notions into our soul. It is usually not something you are thinking of; it may just happen in a flash and it is always in line with the word. Sometimes I am about to come up to preach and I’ve duly prepared, but suddenly something just begins to come to my mind that I’ve heard of some years ago, or something I have read or something in the Bible, and every time I followed that line of thought, the power of God came

down. When I pick up that impression and share along that line, the Holy Ghost moves mightily. However, if I say 'No, don't let me worry about that, let me do it this way', I would discover I had missed God. Your spirit knows the solution. Watch out for his impressions. A lot of Christians don't know how to relate with their spirit, but I pray for you that at the end of reading this book you will profit from following your regenerated spirit in Jesus' name, Amen.

As I share this truth with you, I know it is creating awareness in you, making you conscious of the spirit man inside, so that you will be able to focus on him. I am helping you to know that there is someone inside you that can lift you up, make you a winner, and make you succeed in all ramifications of your life.

We ignore our spirit man to our peril by walking after this man on the outside that is so open to the devil. Your spirit is not open to the devil if you are born again, but your spirit is open to God. Someone said,

'What about 2 Corinthians 7: 1 that says *"we should cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit?"* That scripture is referring to things that want to creep into your spirit. When you get born again, God gave your spirit a total washing; He didn't leave it filthy.

If you refuse to renew your mind and you choose to walk in the corruption of the flesh, that corruption will try to penetrate your spirit and like a fog it will block the arena of your spirit. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2: 20-21, 'But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. IF A MAN THEREFORE PURGE HIMSELF FROM THESE, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.' If you clean up the man on the inside and build him up, he will help you put the man on the outside under discipline, so that people will not look at you and say 'but he said he's born again, look at how he's behaving'.

The Bible says we are not under law, rather we are under grace. It is because we don't understand how to walk in the spirit that we have to set law, like 'Christian should not talk too much, they shouldn't shout, brothers shouldn't look at sisters . . .' and then you see a brother walking like a crab because he doesn't want to see sisters. A brother said to me, 'I hate talking to sisters', and I replied "don't you know that is a sin on its own? What have they done to you?' He thought he was being holy. That is part of the age-long problems of traditions that have kept women in the background in the church.

They have made women the object of sin, saying if a woman comes up to preach she would seduce the people. That is a carnal and sensual way of reasoning. Walking in the spirit as the Bible says doesn't have anything to do with whether one is a female or a male. It is all these negative traditions that crept into Christianity in the olden days. Why don't the sisters complain that when the pastor stands up, they feel sick? A brother said sometimes ago that one sister who leading choruses in a meeting he attended was wearing a sleeveless blouse and when she raised

her hand he saw her armpit and he backslid. I said, ‘What nonsense is that? Had desired to backslide before the incident and he shouldn’t use that one as an excuse!’

I’m not preaching dressing, because there is godly dressing and there is sinful dressing, but I’m encouraging you to be spiritually minded. Let us allow our spirit man to come up. Stop feeding the flesh nor sowing according to the flesh. Paul said to the Colossians that there was a religion of the flesh; that is, feeding the flesh; touch not, taste not, handle not. They thought they had a real worship, but they didn’t know they were feeding the flesh. And by doing that they were so conscious of the flesh; they were carnal. What I’m trying to get across to you is this: Let’s get spiritually minded and walk away from sin. The Bible says, “Awake to righteousness and you will not sin”. It is righteousness that could stop sin not the law.

GALATIANS 3: 21

21. Is the law then against the promises of God? God

forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life verily righteousness should have been by the law.

It is the consciousness of righteousness that stops sin not legalism. If you get conscious of the body, it will defeat you. The body knows how to trick you out of fasting. Make up your mind you are going to fast for three days straight and by end of the second day the body begins to react. You will be feeling 'heavenly' and begin to hear strange voices, not knowing it's the body speaking to you so you can feel your prayers already are answered and, then, you go to eat. The moment you take just a little bite, and you take some more, you have lost the battle to your body. You have allowed your body to conquer you. This body readily takes side with the flesh and we have to deal with it biblically. The only way to deal with the body is as the Bible says, *"walk in the spirit and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh"*. The way to stop the lust of the flesh is to learn to walk in the spirit.

GALATIANS 5: 16-21

16. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall

not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20. Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21. Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

All these works of the flesh can be stopped by walking in the spirit. How do you stop anger, for example? Will you simply say 'I won't talk' No! The Bible says *"Walk in the spirit"*, and you shall stop fulfilling the lust of the flesh automatically. Respond to the spirit man always.

Don't Base Your Leadings and Directions on Dreams

There is the story of a brother who was working

with a newspaper outfit. The newspaper outfit published a story that angered the authorities and security agents were sent to arrest all staff of the newspaper outfit. On the day they were to be arrested, the Spirit of God told the brother to leave the office, and as he was leaving through the back door, the security agents came in through the front door to arrest everybody. He would have been in the police custody had it been he was a dreamer; because he would have had to sleep before the leading would come but he would have been arrested and jailed by that time. In other words, don't base all your leadings and directions on dreams. Find better ways.

When I was still a young Christian, whenever I dreamt, the funniest thing is I would just forget the dream when I woke up, but I knew there was something to that dream that the Holy Spirit wanted to teach me. What I used to do was to bury my head under my pillow and speak in tongues, closing myself to everything around, and within thirty minutes I would have remembered everything in detail. I don't have to do that now, because I have outgrown that.

5. Revelation

To reveal means to allow to be made known. Let us look at this scripture:

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 9-12

9. 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.

10. But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

ISAIAH 64: 4

4. For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.

We need to pick things by revelation. Paul said the

gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was given to him by revelation.

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 6

6. For God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Revelation is like having a sensation like a light goes up in your belly on an issue and you just suddenly see the thing in its true colour. How are we going to discover hidden spirits? By revelation. A minister's wife once told me about a lady who came to see her husband. Immediately she saw this lady, she had a revelation that she was going to cause her husband to fall and she called her husband and told him. Thank God for women who can pick things. The moment you have a revelation about something, you should then handle it properly.

Jesus had known all along who would betray Him and He still went along with him. That is why the Bible says, 'A spiritual man judged all things yet he is

judged of no man' because he's flowing with everybody with revelation. Revelation is not something that happens for long. It just happens in a flash. We have to be alert to our spirit man to be able to track it.

6. Rest

This is one of the quickest ways to know if you are in the wrong place.

MICAH 2: 10

10. Arise ye, and depart, for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you. Even with a sore destruction.

If your spirit is not at rest where you are, begin to ask questions where you should go. If there is no rest inside your spirit, run, because it will destroy you. There is a rest in your soul and there is rest in the spirit. It is the rest in the spirit that determines where you should be.

COLOSSIANS 3: 15 (AMP)

15. And let the peace (soul harmony which comes)

from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your heart (deciding and setting with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state,) to which as (members of Christ) one body you were also called (to live). And be thankful (appreciative,) giving praise to God always.

It's that peace, a state of quietness. When it comes to decision making, which choice gives you the most peace within you? That's the right thing one; but when there is unrest over a decision, check it and be sure. You may be confronted with a business proposition that will earn you billions, but if there is no peace within you, don't follow it. Let the peace of God rule in your heart.

2 CORINTHIANS 2: 12-13

12. Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

13. I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

God does not expect you to disobey your spirit. He has several ways to get across to us. We don't have to respond to every call. That something sounds right

does not mean it is of God. Check the peace and the rest inside your heart; how much rest do you have over the issue? If somebody sends for you and says, 'Come and visit me' and you suddenly lose your peace over it, don't make the trip. When you see a man who follows the spirit, he is like a mad man to carnal people. Remember, God leads us beside the still waters or waters of rest. Look out for *rest* and follow the *rest* in your heart.

7. HEART STIRRING

ACTS 17: 16

16. Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

A heart stirring is a divine move in your heart—an excitement, feeling all jumpy inside, a holy enthusiasm, and so on. There is a stirring in your spirit that you must get, especially when you are to preach the gospel.

HAGGAI 1: 14

14. And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the

spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

We don't have to force ourselves. We should just allow God do the stirring and if there is a stirring follow it. Many times, we miss it and we move back when he stirs up our mind to share something. A man of God shared a testimony once that he dreamt that somebody went to hell and he wept and God said when he opened the door for him to share the gospel with the man, the man of God allowed fear to deny him. You may be the last chance that God has to get across to that person; when He moves on your heart, release the word.

I was in a meeting sometimes ago and a Muslim was sharing the testimony of how he became born again. He said that as the minister was making the altar call for people who wanted to get born again, a sister behind him tapped him saying he should go to the front. She was stirred up in her heart to do so. Meanwhile, the man had made up his mind to commit suicide that same day because he was jobless! You

don’t know who you will save from hell by just responding to a stirring in your heart. Some of us have difficult parents and, all of a sudden, you just feel moved to share the gospel with them; you must not hesitate because that may just be the last chance they’ve got to listen to the gospel.

If a young man wakes up his father and says ‘I want to give you the gospel today’, when God has not prepared the man, the young man may be in trouble. But there are times that God has prepared the man and you just feel a holy desire at that time to share the gospel with him (it could even be to your boss). Sometimes, you just have a stirring in your heart to preach in a commuter bus, you just give the gospel to them. You may even be surprised that you might occasionally find yourself flowing in any of the gifts of the Spirit because of your obedience.

When your heart moves you to do something, go ahead and do it. It may be to minister to the sick or something else, don’t hesitate. Just like the case of a brother who had headache; he was moved to tie cold

towel around his head and he did it. No sooner had he done this than the headache vanished. Let's learn to pick these signals from our spirit. Understand that God has a better way of leading you than just walking by your senses and experience.

It is possible for you to neglect the stirring of your spirit but you disobey your spirit man to your own detriment. God does not plan that Christianity should be a crisis kind of living; Christianity is meant to be lived on the platform of the supernatural. The supernatural is part of Christianity, but majority of Christians don't walk in it every day. The supernatural is what you can get by learning to follow the spirit that is inside of you, that is born again and recreated. Let's imagine you woke up in the morning and your spirit leads you to pray a particular prayer for some specific persons and you obey, that is supernatural! You don't have to see lightning from heaven before you believe God; that is to seek for the spectacular.

Chapter 2

The Power of a Clean Conscience

1 CORINTHIANS 10: 27

27. If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

2 CORINTHIANS 1: 12

12. For our rejoicing is this, THE TESTIMONY OF OUR CONSCIENCE, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshy wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you—ward.

These passages speak of the effect and power of the conscience in our walk on the earth. The conscience is a powerful tool that God implanted in the spirit life of everyman, whether born again or not.

ROMANS 2: 14-15

14. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15. Which shew the work of the law written in their

hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Reading this passage, you almost get the feeling that the conscience is a living entity on the inside of every man. I am sure you have heard such statements as these: 'He has no conscience' or 'that man has conscience', and so on. What they mean is that there is still within him a regulator of what is right or wrong. He does not have to be born again to have such.

The conscience has been proved to be the voice of the human spirit. It exists in different people in various conditions. The condition of a man's conscience will greatly affect his ability to walk in the spirit. The *Witness of the Conscience* is the safest means of divine communication available to a man. However, when a man is not born again, his conscience is not a safe witness or guide. That is why the state of the conscience is crucial to a successful earthly life and Christian walk. Let's look at some of the conditions of conscience in mankind. That does not mean his conscience is dead. It is just

not linked with God's life so it can't be relied upon when it comes to divine leading.

	Positive	Negative
1	Awakened conscience Acts 2: 37	Defiled conscience Titus 1: 15
2	Good conscience Acts 23: 1; 1 Tim. 1: 5, 19	Dead conscience Hebrews 9: 14b
3	Tender conscience 1 Cor. 10: 27-28	Seared conscience 1 Tim. 4: 2
4	Conscience void of offence Acts 24: 16	Condemned Conscience 1 John 3: 20-21
5	Strong conscience	Weak conscience 1 Cor. 8: 7, 10, 12

The condition of your conscience will largely determine the following things in your life:

1. The clarity of divine guidance you enjoy
2. The quality of peace you enjoy
3. The purity of fellowship you have
4. The strength of faith you release
5. The level of sensitivity your heart will have towards God, sin, worldliness, and so on (John 16: 7-11)

If there is something wrong with your conscience, the voice of the spirit man will not be clear. In fact, there is simply no way you can pick things from God if there is a problem with your conscience. If your conscience is faulty somewhere, whether you have a weak conscience or a condemned one, you can't pick things well and that's one of the areas that the enemy has concentrated his major attack. When the Bible calls the devil accuser of the brethren, he doesn't accuse your ears, but he accuses your conscience. He goes to slander us before God and comes to accuse our conscience.

Sadly, most of the time, a lot of Christians carry a condemned conscience before God after the devil has spoken to them! He tells you how bad you are; he reminds you of the sins you committed sometime ago and you still feel the pain. Some Christians undergo mental torture under the accusation of Satan. You are not to struggle against the sins of your past because God has washed them off. You are to stand on the Word of God and reject every remembrance of them. You are not to struggle against it; that is the devil's trick to imprison your conscience, which should not be the case.

Offence is a word in the Bible that affects the conscience—it means a stumbling block. A better translation of the conscience is awareness/consciousness. If there is an evil awareness somewhere in your spiritual or inner life, in that area you will stumble. Paul was talking here to somebody who has a measure of knowledge that he could eat something; but somebody else does not of reality have the same knowledge.

1 CORINTHIANS 10: 23-32

23. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

24. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

25. Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:

26. For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

27. If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

28. But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

29. Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

30. For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?

31. Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

1 CORINTHIANS 8: 4-7

4. As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

5. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

6. But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

7. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

It is not what somebody tells you that you know, but what you know in yourself that will rise to the surface in the crises of life. The Bible says he that believes the witness that God gave us—His son—has the witness in himself. That is why the Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, not with our body or mind, because that will be open to the devil. That's why dreams have a 30 per cent chance of accuracy and mistake. First, God can come to you in dreams; second, the devil can also come to you in dreams. Third, dreams also come due to the business of a

man's activities (Eccl. 5: 23). Consequently, a dream is not the best medium through which God communicates to us. This is because God doesn't like what the devil can interfere with so that you are not really sure of who is ministering to you.

1 CORINTHIANS 8: 7

7. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

When our ministry was still a missionary organisation, going to villages for mission work, there was a sister in our midst who said she would never eat the Muslim festival's meat, and that was an offence to her. And there are some of us Christians that some foods are offences to us; not that when we eat them they will offend our conscience but because of our consciousness to something evil, we open ourselves to demonic infiltration and attack.

At another point in our ministry outreaches, we killed a snake and brought it home. We had a brother in our

midst who couldn't stand our eating the snake because he thought in himself that if he ate the snake, it would become whole in him. He wasn't young, but that was an offence to him. He had not gained the knowledge of the deliverance in Christ to cross that barrier in the spirit. God gives accurate and correct knowledge to us so as to do away with offences in our hearts. This would bring us to a place where there is nothing of offence in us.

Nobody is perfect; we are all growing. There are Christians who believe that there are some family taboos that they can't touch. It's a conscience offence in which they need to gain victory over in order to reign in the full liberty that Christ has given them. Such a thing is not going to hurt you in reality, but because of the weakness of your conscience in that area, it affects your conscience and in that measure you won't be able to pick up the voice of God telling you that there is no problem about the thing. You are afraid that there is a problem and that you will be exposed to a demon. You are forced to think that the devil would come in and take advantage of you in that area.

The Bible says we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. The standard that you give your conscience is what it will relate with as the standard. The conscience helps us to establish reality or truth; that's why we need to soak ourselves in the truth of the New Testament so that our experience of reality will be biblical. Don't read the Bible with the consciousness or awareness of the devil and his power to hurt you.

A brother once said that in the book of Job, the Bible says when the children of God gathered the devil was with them; so he submitted to a belief that everywhere the children of God gathers, the devil must be there. No! That is reading the Bible with a faulty conscience and evil awareness. As the Bible says, 'their conscience, being weak is defiled'. Such defilement is a spiritual defilement and that word 'defile' means a blockage of the voice of God because the voice of God is reality to the believer. The voice of the spirit man is the reality and sanity of Christianity.

When the voice of God is not clear to a believer, sanity and reality in Christianity begin to disappear, and it is possible for us to get so far away from the voice of God that we are following ideas cooked up in our mind. That's why when you begin to preach the pure Word of God, some people run away saying, 'What are you saying?' A lot of these traditions and doctrines that are causing divisions in the body of Christ are just because of fear in somebody's conscience. People have fear of missing heaven and then cook up strange doctrines, thereby putting Christians in bondage under such things. However, it is a duty of every believer to ask the Holy Spirit what He feels about such issues.

Let's get liberated from all kinds of fear and walk in liberty; this liberty can come only as you allow your conscience to be cleansed by the Word of God. There are some things we need to deal with and get out of our system as Christians, some knowledge that we need to unlearn. For example, it is true that if somebody is not born again and eats in the dream, it is a negative sign but if you are born again, the Bible

says in 1 Corinthians 6: 17, *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit with Him",* and because of the deficiency of that revelation in such people's lives, the devil then comes in and begins to afflict them with lies, saying, 'It is a lie because of the dream'. No! You can't beat the Word of God. If you stand on the authority of the Word, it will work for you. It doesn't fail.

I believe in demonology and casting out of demons, but I believe in doing it scripturally. I don't believe in you following the same methods, simply because the last time you ministered to somebody with incision marks, the demon manifested and was cast out: it doesn't mean the next person with incision marks will have demons; no, it is not automatic.

It is a fact that when people have incision marks, they open themselves to demons. But the Bible does not tell us who is actually demonised out of them. You have to pick that yourself from your spirit or the Spirit of God. And if the Spirit of God hasn't revealed to you, you have no right to start using

methods. There are people who have demons, and if I'm not led to touch them, I just let them go. This is why when we are dealing with demons, we need to be sensitive to our spirit man because our spirit man is the only one who has the ability to receive from the Holy Ghost. The devil will out-think your mind. He is a dangerous thinker.

There was a time some brethren were casting out demons and they said, 'The Bible says at the name of Jesus every knee SHALL bow'. The demon said, 'We shall bow' and they refused to go. After sometime, one of them decided to listen to his spirit and got how the Bible said it. The Bible says, 'Every knee SHOULD bow at the name of Jesus'. *Shall* means in the future while *should* means now. And he came back and quoted the right scriptures. It is spiritual releasing of divine power in the Word that drives out the demon. We've got to flow with our spirit because your spirit will flow with the Holy Spirit. We miss God in some meetings because the person who started it didn't key in with the Holy Ghost.

1 CORINTHIANS 8: 8

8. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

It is not liberty from sin alone but freedom in our consciousness. When you look at the devil, you have an awareness of a defeated person. To lots of people, the devil is still somewhere hiding. He's still presenting a false picture to their consciousness because they don't study the Bible. We need to soak ourselves in the Bible, renewing our minds in the Bible and find out that truly the devil is a defeated person.

1 CORINTHIANS 8: 10-12

10. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

11. And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12. But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ

Demons get some people because of some issues on

which they lack revelation. You are doing yourself a favour when you soak yourself in the truth of the Word, in the truth of the revelation of who you are in Christ Jesus and begin to confess that. Whether you feel like it or not, you are, and the devil bows at it. Even if you come from a family that practices occultism, when you get born again the scripture is true for you. We don't have a separate Bible for people who come from occultic families and people who come from family that are not.

Some people do strange things; for example, some believe that, if your name is '*Ogun . . . [god of iron]*' you have to change it. That is not really biblical because you may be surprised at the meaning of some of these English names that people have. Knowledge borne out of revelation liberates you.

HEBREWS 10: 22

22. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

There is no way we can draw near to God in full assurance of faith until we wash ourselves of all evil conscience or evil consciousness. You sprinkle your heart by the Word of God and the blood of Jesus. The word is pictured like water and the blood becomes the blood of sprinkling by exercising faith in what the blood of Jesus means for you.

The devil succeeds in accusing the evil conscience. There is no demon of evil conscience; it is just a problem that all of us came in contact with because of the way we were brought up. When we become born again, we need to soak ourselves in the Word of God and be renewed in the spirit of our mind to know who we are in Christ Jesus. When it dawns on you that you are a new man in Christ, you will carry yourself differently. There's nothing as serious as having sound knowledge revealed to your heart. Jesus says it transforms and liberates you into being a new man.

Chapter 3

How to Train Your Spirit Man

There are different kinds of spirits: a weak spirit, a trained spirit, a sick spirit, and a spirit that is strong and healthy.

Different Types of Human Spirit

Positive	Negative
1. Strong spirit.	Weak spirit
2. Healthy spirit.	Broken spirit
3. Trained spirit.	Sick spirit
4. Baby spirit.	Wrong spirit
5. Mature spirit.	Wounded spirit
6. Contrite spirit.	Perverted spirit

I am concerned with the trained spirit that combines all the attributes of other positive spirit types. A

trained spirit is a spirit that has been exercised in the things of God to be able to pick signals from God. It can operate accurately in the spirit realm. In essence, you can train your spirit to pick every sign or signal from God. This body is the house of that spirit. Just as you can build up this body, develop, and train it, so also the spirit man can be trained; just as the body can be trained for sin, it can also be trained for righteousness.

HEBREWS 5: 14

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

You can train your body to respond to good things. You can train your body to respond to the Word of God. When somebody says a Christian is sick in the body, God's viewpoint in heaven is that the Christian is healed because everyone who is born again is healed. But what happens is that when we were not born again, the body had been trained to respond to certain symptoms of sickness, and anytime those stimuli come, the body still responds to them unless it is retrained. In the plan of salvation, the body is not

saved; it is to be *retrained* for righteousness.

ROMANS 6: 13

12. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

That is your responsibility, not God's. Therefore, when you lay hands on somebody and say, 'Be healed in Jesus' name', what your faith does is to force your body to respond to what your spirit believes and that body responds to health and healing. Once your body has responded to another power, that sickness cannot get the response of your body any more because the Bible says, 'We are not under the law, that sin should have dominion over us, that is, if we are dead to sin, how can we live in it anymore?" That is, sin is still alive but we are dead to it. Sickness is alive in the world, but if you are born again, your body should be trained not to respond to it. You can train your body to act towards sickness as dead. At least, if somebody is dead, sickness cannot touch the person again. In like manner, sin will not get a response in your body if you train your

body to respond to the Word of God, the things of God, and righteousness. So when I say, 'In the name of Jesus receive your healing', what you do is cooperate with that statement. If you can train your body to respond when somebody asks what the time is and, without thinking, you look at your left hand where the watch is, you should be able to train your body to the fact that you are holy and to respond to the fact that you are healed in Christ. We have to come to a place that we will train ourselves in the right things.

1 TIMOTHY 4: 7-8

7. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

8. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come

Godliness is God-likeness and worldliness is world-likeness. Worldliness is not what you can see. Godliness and righteousness are two sides of the same coin. Righteousness is the side that you turn to God, while godliness is the side you turn to men. Nobody can see your righteousness, but they can see

your godliness because your godliness is the physical manifestation of your righteousness. How many people knew that Elijah prayed? But the Bible says, 'Elijah was a man of like passion and he prayed earnestly that it shouldn't rain. The very answer to his prayer was a manifestation of his godliness.' People would say Elijah was a god, because he could command the rain not to fall for three and a half years, but it was because he knew and understood his righteousness and right standing before God that he could open his mouth boldly and speak to the God of heaven and lock up rain and the physical manifestation would occur.

PROVERBS 28: 1

1. The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Boldness is what you can see, but it is righteousness, and understanding of that righteousness, that gives birth to boldness. Boldness is God-likeness, the visible thing that people can see, which we manifest as children of God.

1 TIMOTHY 4: 7B

7. . . . exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Train your body to cooperate with your spirit because your spirit is born again and righteous. It does not need to struggle to be righteous; it is already righteous. But when the Bible says *exercise yourself*, it means training and disciplining your body to flow with the spirit man. It is a constant exercise. Some Christians have so trained themselves in the things of God that if they get into an environment that is full of sickness and infection, they will walk through it with, nothing touching them. This is because their bodies aren't responding to it. Yet it is possible for a born-again child of God with the Almighty Holy Spirit living inside him to contact sickness in that environment. Because though his spirit is all right, his body is responding to outside stimuli.

Our bodies are supposed to be trained to respond to inner stimuli from the Holy Spirit. Someone annoyed you and you want to say 'You are mad!' but something else within you says, 'Just keep it cool' and you chose to keep it cool. Somebody says, 'You can't do like your father' and you answer, 'Thank

God, which of my fathers?' There are two of them—the physical one and the Heavenly One. What will the Heavenly One do? If the devil says, 'God you are crazy', God will not get angry and say, 'Me!' He is big enough to allow the ranting of the devil.

Somebody may say, 'If God is alive, let Him come and kill me'. But God is not like that. If He gets bothered with all kinds of ranting like that then He's not a big God, but thank God we have a glorious God. He is so great that He can afford to accommodate all kinds of people in the universe. He doesn't panic like many of us do because He is still in control. The spirit on the inside of you is still in control, but most of the time, there comes a conflict between your spirit and your body.

GALATIANS 5: 17

17. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

It says there is a war constantly going on and the

man who gains victory in that war is the man who actually can live a triumphant victorious Christian life.

I had a discussion with somebody sometime ago, and I discovered that in the recent past, this thing has been coming on concerning Christians who are falling prey to generational curses in operation within their families. One day I decided to wait on God, and I said, 'God, I want to solve this problem. I want You to answer me and give me some insight'. So I started speaking in tongues and I got three solid answers from the scriptures as to why it was happening. What I am trying to get across is that you can hear God. He's talking; God is not dead.

Your will is a factor of the soul. Many of us think what we allow our bodies to do will not affect our spiritual sensitivity. It definitely will, and if you don't put this body under subjection, it will make you spiritually insensitive. A lot of people are judging their spirituality by how long they pray, but that has nothing to do with it, because over there in heaven they don't deal with time. It is your body that deals

with time; your spirit doesn't deal with time. It is your body that has a time limit to function and live well. After that, it begins to depreciate. That is what we call 'getting old'. But your spirit doesn't get old. The Bible says, 'Our inner man gets renewed day by day'. We have people who are poisoning their spirits and then wonder why they are manifesting like they are doing. God doesn't want poisoned children in His kingdom.

PROVERBS 17: 22

22. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones

This shows that what happens to spirit can affect your bones. A broken spirit, (there are spirits that are broken and once the spirit is broken), it dries the bone. A merry heart will do what drugs will do for the body, so that you won't have to take medicine again. All you need to do is to find out how to make your heart merry. Once your heart is merry, it will do good to your body like a medicine. There are some diseases called psychosomatic diseases. They cannot be cured because they originate from the soul and emotion and they affect the body. What happens in

the soul can affect the physical body. If somebody is sad, you will see it on his face. Just like when Nehemiah stood before the king of Persia:

> **NEHEMIAH 2: 1-2**
>
> **1. And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.**
>
> **2. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,**

This is because there was no reason for him to be sad. David said, *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance"* (Ps. 42: 5). He knew that the *Lord* who is a Spirit is the help of his countenance. What happens to the heart will affect the body. Some people try to lift up themselves by their efforts but, thank God, the Bible says a merry heart, a spirit that is full of joy, a heart that is always making melody, the devil cannot stand around such, because when

your heart is always making melody to God, the anointing keeps flowing around you.

We need to understand the protection that worship and praise give to us. You are very much protected when you begin to praise God. Some people say 'I don't feel like it'. Praise and worship have nothing to do with your feeling. Your body doesn't really like God and doesn't want to praise God until you train it. When you begin to pray and hunger hits you, you should say, 'Shut up body, I am going to eat when I am ready'. It is not your body that should tell you when to eat; you are to tell the body to eat when you are ready to feed it.

PROVERBS 18: 14

14. The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

The word 'infirmity' is not talking about sickness because God hates sickness, and if God is going to do anything as far as sickness is concerned, He's going to remove it. But when man fell, there were lots of weakness of personality and character flaws

that came into the make-up of a man. Some people have inferiority complex, but thank God for the Bible says the spirit of the man will bear him in any infirmity and make it seem as if it is not there.

There are some things that medical science discovered that are genetically transferred by parents to children, such as negative behavioural patterns, but thank God we can collect positive behavioural patterns from our spirit in Christ. If you are not born again, you have the behavioural pattern of the devil, but if you are born again, you have the behavioural pattern of Jesus Christ inside you. Those are the only two behaviours. If you are born again, you may have collected one emotional family trait, but you can operate in your spirit and it would seem as if that trait is not there.

ISAIAH 61: 1

1. **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are**

bound;

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 23

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

These two scriptures are talking about the same process of healing personality defects.

NUMBERS 14: 24

24. But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

God said, 'Caleb has followed me fully', that is, completely. He followed God spiritually, mentally, and physically. Caleb discovered how to bring his soul and his body in agreement with his spirit in following God. There are lots of things that the Word of God promises you that your spirit doesn't question; you accept it as fact and truth, which you then go to act on, but your mind finds it difficult to accept. If you are going to follow God wholly and have complete success in every way in life, you have to place your

soul and body in agreement with your spirit. Bring the two of them under the control of your spirit.

HEBREWS 10: 22B

22. ‘ . . . having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.’

This means bringing the senses of the body under subjection to the unadulterated, revealed Word of God. When you come to that place, the Bible says we can then come in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, which is part of the soul. Full assurance of faith is in the spirit, but until your body and the soul are brought into agreement with it, you won’t manifest full assurance of faith.

ROMANS 4: 20

20. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21. And being FULLY PERSUADED that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

When we study the life of Abraham, we will find out

that it is possible to stagger. Staggering is similar to the wavering that James spoke about.

JAMES 1: 6-8

6. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

This is something that occurs within the soul: your mind begins to tremble and stumble. Imagine a hundred-year-old man and a ninety-year-old woman that God promised they were going to bring up children from their loins. But the Bible says, Abraham brought himself to a place of persuasion 'and being FULLY PERSUADED'. Notice that word 'fully' is the same word God used to describe Caleb's walk with Him. That means Abraham was spirit, soul, and body persuaded—or convinced; he persuaded himself against some dangerous thoughts that kept on shooting up. The Bible says 'he considered not . . .' At one point, he stopped considering. The word 'consider' is something in the soul, part of the

reasoning faculty. He stopped considering his own body dead and the womb of Sarah dead. We have to bring the body and soul under one agreement; otherwise, we won't have hundredfold returns in faith.

PROVERBS 18: 20-21

20. A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

The power of the tongue can be death and it can be life. What you are speaking from your mouth will affect your spirit and because it affects your spirit, it will definitely affect your body and soul, and eventually, it will affect your whole life and existence.

JAMES 3: 6

6. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

You should be careful to make sure that you are not setting the course of nature or the course of your life on a negative fire that you will regret eventually. When a man says with his own tongue I use to have malaria every rainy season, he has set the course of his life on sickness for another season. Instead, you should set the course of your life on a positive fire of God's plan and purposes for your life.

Chapter 4

Speaking in Tongues

1 CORINTHIANS 14: 2, 4, 13-15

2. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

4. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

13. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

14. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

There is more to speaking in tongues than just warming your spiritual engine in the morning. There is the reality of the body that you can touch with your own senses. The body is solid and not floating because the material things that were used by God to make the body in the beginning were from this earth.

If this body should leave the earth realm, it will not be as tangible as it is now, because it is only when in contact with things that are solid that it is tangible. Many of us, because of the idea of a ghost that we have had, think in heaven, they just float and fly around, but no, there is tangibility in heaven.

Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 said there are terrestrial bodies and celestial bodies. Just as there is earthly tangibility, there is heavenly tangibility. Just as there is the reality of the body, there is the reality of the spirit man. The spirit man is a solid personality that this body is made for, as a uniform. So if my body has five fingers, my spirit also must have five fingers; they are using my physical hand as their gloves. My spirit must have a head. That spirit needs this body to function on the earth (it doesn't need this body to function elsewhere); it only needs the body to function in the earth realm. If the body falls down dead, the spirit will still function. In fact, at that time, the spirit man is more alive than when he was inside that body. When you spend time praying in the spirit, it builds up your spirit man.

ISAIAH 28: 11-12

11. For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

The rest is the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God and all that He brings. All the blessings of the kingdom of God are in His possession.

JOHN 16: 15

15. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

You cannot take it yourself, the Holy Spirit will show you. The things of the Father belonging to Jesus have been put in the custody of the Holy Spirit to be revealed in due season to the people of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 12

12. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

EPHESIANS 1: 3

3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

LUKE 17: 21

21. Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

The manifestation of the kingdom of God is the presence of the Holy Ghost.

1 CORINTHIANS 14: 21

21. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

This passage refers to speaking in tongues. Every believer ought to find out what the Bible says about speaking in tongues in order to enjoy and live an effective Christian life. A lot of Christians have no rest. The Bible does not call sleep rest. Biblical rest is energising yourself with life by the power of the Holy Spirit. The open door into all of the blessings of the kingdom of God, which are spiritual, is *speaking in tongues*. Don't belittle it. There are times that your

body does not like to pray.

Before you go to preach, if you don't know what to say or don't know the scriptures to quote, just spend time to pray in tongues; you will see a cool shower released to bless the spirits of the people. You may cram the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but there is a refreshing that comes only when you pray in tongues. The seasons of refreshing that God talks about are on the inside of you, and as you spend time praying in tongues, something bursts out of you. And you can keep on having seasons of refreshing as you spend time praying in tongues in your closet.

PSALM 72: 6

6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

Like the rain, the Holy Ghost will come down as you open your mouth wide. The baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues are just like the first rain after dry season, which turns the dry grass into green. When you are so tired and weary, just release yourself to speaking in tongues. By doing that, you

will arrest that wrong thing, and you become yielded to the Spirit and He will carry you along. You've got to be controlled and drunk with the Holy Ghost. You don't have to be baptised in the Holy Ghost to be a good Christian, but if you will be a strong, victorious, and spiritually powerful Christian, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It opens doors unto your spirit man. The Bible talks of Jesus the Lord and John the Baptist when they were young that they waxed strong in the spirit. That is how God wants His children to be: waxing strong in the spirit.

If the Holy Ghost is going to make you holy, He is going to need your cooperation. When a person is born again, the Bible makes us to understand that his spirit is recreated. That spirit is exactly like that of Jesus, but it is a baby spirit. When you are born, you grow physically. When you are born again, you grow up spiritually too. You can be seventy years old physically and be seven months old spiritually. If you are a spiritual baby, what you do is to accept that fact and grow up from there. A carnal Christian is somebody who doesn't understand that he is a spiritual being and he is living like a physical person.

God wants us to be filled with Himself.

LUKE 2: 40

40. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Wisdom is a spiritual quality of using knowledge accurately and to our advantage. If you don't grow up spiritually, there is no way you are going to grow in wisdom, and if you don't grow in wisdom, you are going to be on the losing side of life.

LUKE 1: 80

80. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

You can grow in the spirit to a stage that you are like a magnet and you begin to pull towards yourself all graces and provisions of God. You can come to a stage of financial liberty in spiritual development.

1 PETER 2: 2

2. **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

As you grow on physically, the influence of the body in conflicting with your spirit will be more severe. The same way your spirit can be developed and the presence and influence of your developed spirit will be distinctly felt. There is no stagnancy in spiritual growth; it is either you stop growing or you continue to grow. You can't stay neutral. The minute you stop growing spiritually, you start regressing. That is a fact you must settle in your heart.

The physical body is called a terrestrial body in the Bible and will remain so and cannot be fed with heavenly food. When you say my body is growing, it is growing in each of the components that make up the body. The spirit is more real than this body; the spirit man too can grow. It is sin that makes this body look ugly when people grow old. As real as the body is, so is the spirit inside. The spirit man is more real. There is a spirit inside you that you have got to develop. The fact that you are a male or female does not mean your spirit is also male or female. As I can exercise this body, likewise the component of the

spirit can be exercised. If I am going to feed my spirit, it has to be with things that are not of earthly materials.

You can imagine a Christian spending all his time reading newspapers: how much spiritual growth will he have? Also imagine a Christian spending all his time eating physical food: how much spiritual growth will he have? Your spirit doesn't sleep, but your body sleeps. Your body can be so strong and your spirit is tired at the same time. When you overstrain the spirit, you need to renew your spirit and refresh it. If there is no possibility of overstraining of the spirit, the Bible will not say there are times and seasons of refreshing.

ISAIAH 28: 11-12

11. For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

If God says this is the rest that is, He is talking of

rest that He has spoken to the children of Israel before, that they knew; and He was now giving further instructions on that rest. In fact, it is like amplifying and shining light to show them that this is the rest. This is the rest that Adam had been living in before he fell, and that was what Jesus was enjoying and experiencing when He came.

Everybody on this earth thinks of a time to rest, and many people think the rest comes at death. No! That rest is not idleness either. A state of rest is a state of quietness, a state of assurance. The Bible says if Joshua has given them that rest, then God could not have introduced another day in David. God is not calling you into problem or slavery; He is calling you into a rest. Jesus says as follows:

MATTHEW 11: 28

28. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Some of us think it is the rest of not working again, but no, that will be idleness. This rest, the Bible makes it clear that it is the presence of the Holy

Spirit. There is something in the heart of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They knew that the only way to bring man up to his original state and keep him from falling is if one of them will leave heaven and come to reside permanently on this earth.

In the Old Testament, the people were not born again, so their spirit was not in the position to be developed. Their spirit was not in the position to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but after Jesus came, man now began to get born again; that was when man began to enter into the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You can now imagine the joy in the heart of God: that what we have been seeking to do for this man, we now have chance to do it. The beginning of bringing the spirit of a man to the level of sonship is to get him born—again, put the Holy Spirit inside him and when the Holy Spirit comes in, speaking in tongues comes in. One of the surest things speaking in tongues does for the man is not just to warm himself up in the morning, but to create the awareness of the presence of God. The Bible says, 'In your presence there is fullness of joy and at your right hand, there are pleasures for evermore'.

Pleasure is God's original plan; it is in God's dream. We should not think of pleasure as an unbeliever's time-wasting exercise.

MATTHEW 9: 36-38

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

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

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

Jesus looked at the multitude and saw them harassed without a shepherd, but there were among those people rich men, there were also people who had everything going for them, yet Jesus saw them as scattered and harassed. Harassment is how you feel after four days of sleeplessness. In other words, that is the condition of every man on the earth who is not born again. And there are some people who are born again, but because they don't get into the experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit, they feel harassed.

Some are filled with the Holy Spirit, but because they are not taking advantage of what belongs to them in the Word of God, they are still being harassed. Some are Christians and are falling sick, though the Bible says 'the merry heart doeth good like medicine' and the spirit of a man will bear up with his infirmity. Many Christians are falling sick when there is *scriptoquine* for any kind of sickness; people are still going for psychotherapy where there is *scriptotherapy* and they are living like mere men subject to the same type of harassment that belongs to people who are not born again (*scriptoquine* and *scriptotherapy* are words coined to describe the Word of God as it deals with health disorders).

Some people say, 'The reason why I don't like speaking in tongues is because it has just three syllables'. It is not the tongues that give you the rest, but it is the presence of the Holy Spirit. All that speaking in tongues you do is to exercise your spirit to flow with the Holy Spirit and link up with Him, and when your spirit is refreshed, it carries your body. Every time a minister has to minister, he releases spiritual energy. The energy released is more

than physical energy released because everyone that is seated before him is drawing life from him. He needs to refresh himself by praying in tongues regularly if he is not to burn out. One thing about old-time prophets is that they prophesied, but their prophecies were different from that of the lay Christians.

A lot of the time, they were foretelling, that is, speaking things that will happen in the future. Somebody may say, 'What of people that prophesy and foretell without any knowledge about speaking in tongues?' It is possible to fulfil a ministry calling like evangelist, teacher, apostle, and a pastor without you being baptised in the Holy Spirit, but you will never have the supernatural element that baptism in the Holy Spirit brings. There are evangelists today who are not filled with the Holy Spirit or speak in tongues; when they stand to preach, you see people rushing out to give their lives to Christ. They have the power, that is, the anointing to preach to large crowds as if they are talking to one person to get born again. They have the gift to simplify the gospel for people to get born again. They have the salvation message, but you

hardly see superlative miracles that ought to accompany an evangelist there, why? The baptism in the Holy Spirit is what brings that aspect.

ROMANS 11: 29

29. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance

It is possible to focus on the calling and not develop the gifts. The gift has to do with baptism in the Holy Ghost but the calling does not. The baptism in the Holy Ghost brings deeper dimension into the calling. A teacher can still teach, yet he doesn't speak in tongues. This brings confusion to some people. I read a book by the leader of a ministry that is touching the whole world; he is a teacher and he was knocking divine healing, and yet when this man is teaching, you will know that he's a teacher, but because the baptism in the Holy Ghost is not there, he can't fathom how people are ministering divine healing: he can't understand it!

You must have a balanced Christian life. The only way you are going to prophesy as a believer is to get

baptised in the Holy Ghost. If you prophesy without baptism in the Holy Ghost, it is false prophecy. If you prophesy without baptism in the Holy Ghost, you will restrict God's entrance and communication to you. You will move down to the kind of ministry that they had in Old Testament days. If you don't get baptised in the Holy Ghost, you will narrow God down to minister to you in dreams. Paul had such spiritual power in his ministry, such as courage, endurance, spirituality, joy, and confidence that he said, 'I laboured more abundantly than the other apostles'. He also said, 'I thank my god I speak in tongues more than you all'. He was able to do this because he harnessed the power that flows from speaking in tongues.

If you don't harness electrical energy, you won't enjoy all the electrical gadgets you have; they will be wasted. But when people come to understand the laws governing electricity, they will be able to harness it and use it for valuable and beneficial purposes. The same way you can just speak in tongues and talk into the air and waste the power because you don't focus on things you should focus

on. You may not be harnessing the power in speaking in tongues to develop your spirit. Some people have never known what getting drunk in the spirit is like. One of the surest ways to get drunk in the spirit is to pray in the spirit. You will just bubble with might and power. You don't try to be joyful. The only way to be joyful is to pray yourself into joy.

1 CORINTHIANS 14: 3

3. **But he that prophesieth unto men, to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.**

Comfort means to emphasise, infuse with power, to enable. There is an injection of power that comes from speaking in tongues. If you feel tight, discouraged, and you get so down, don't go to see a psychologist. Lock yourself up in a room, open your mouth wide and just begin to speak in tongues. After two hours, you will wonder what the thing was that got you discouraged, because solutions will evolve—God will give you so many answers to handle that situation.

What made you to give up is that you didn't see any

option to handle the situation. But when you make the decision to speak in tongues, you will hear God. The Corinthians didn't know the purpose of tongues; that's why Paul had to write all these. God didn't say you should go around for exhortation; you have a resident counsellor within you—the Holy Spirit. Not that you should go and speak in tongues before people, but do it in the secret of your own room. As you speak in tongues, you get these four things: revelation, knowledge, prophecy, and doctrine.

1 CORINTHIANS 14: 6

6. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

As you speak in tongues, the scriptures you have read years ago get unfolded. Some hidden things unfold and revelational knowledge opens up to you. You begin to flow into prophecy, things that you never thought of will flow, and you'll begin to move into the realm of teaching and doctrine.

God will bless you before you can bless other people. God told Abraham He was going to bless him and make him a blessing. In blessing you, He gives you the ability to speak in tongues by the influence of the Holy Ghost and then you can be a blessing after you have done enough speaking in tongues. You can't bless other people if you don't speak in tongues long enough. When you speak in tongues, your spirit prays.

There are two distinct manifestations of speaking in tongues in the Bible:

1. There is the prayer language that is given to everyone and they are different.

ACTS 2: 4-5

4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

ROMANS 8: 26

26. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.'

2. There is the gift of diverse kind of tongues and can be the same with a known language of the earth or an unknown language.

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-11

4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10. To another the working of miracles; to another

prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Everybody has the prayer language, but not everybody has the gift of diverse kinds of tongues. If I am alone in the room, I can bless my food by speaking in tongue. Paul said he thanked God he spoke in tongues more than the Corinthians. Imagine people who are blessing their food with tongues, people coming to their houses with tongues, and yet Paul said he spoke in tongues more than them all. You may wonder where Paul got the spiritual reserves to go through the emotional crisis, physically exhausting situations, and the rigours of a travelling ministry.

There was a time they stoned him in a city and they thought he was dead, but then he was seeing a vision of heaven and, afterwards, he got up and went into the same city. There was no giving up in him.

That is why he said in **ACTS 20: 24** that

24. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

That is the same Paul, who wrote to the Philippians that

PHILIPPIANS 1: 28

28. And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

In essence, your confidence is to your adversaries a manifestation of their impending doom. Another translation says, 'Don't give a dime for the threats of your enemy. Look at them in the face and ask who they are'. It takes a spiritually strong person to refuse to be moved. The bible says " . . . having done all, to stand. Stand therefore . . ." One of the things you have to do before you can stand is to do sufficient speaking in tongues. Jesus was able to withstand the pains of the cross because there was an inner reserve in Him. One of the surest ways to have inner reserve

is to do sufficient speaking in tongues, for it is a spiritual weapon. It is a blessing and one of the key gifts we have as Christians to remove us from bondage in life. It will open doors for all the other gifts.

You cannot see a man who prays in tongues seriously who will not be submissive. One of the things you have to do to yield control to the spirit is speaking in tongues. The blessings of speaking in tongues are enormous. The Bible makes us to understand that the spirit man is the real man inside of us. And if we can learn to listen to this man, we will not make any mistake in life. In 2 Corinthians 4: 16, the Bible calls him 'the inward man'. In 1 Peter 3: 4b, he is referred to as 'the hidden man of the heart'. According to Job 32: 8, if you are going to have understanding, it is going to be something that your spirit gives to you.

Understanding does not mean collating facts physically. It means an insight into something—insight into how knowledge is arranged. There is nothing that happens to a child of God that is not

related to other things. Many times, we minister emotionally or carnally without finding out the cause of the problem. I went to preach at a choir retreat some years ago and I preached on ‘anointed service’. As I was praying, the Lord ministered to me to go to the meeting with olive oil. So when I got there, a brother was trying to tell me all the problems they had and I cautioned him and said, ‘I am only here for what God wants me to preach and not what you are expecting’. And by the spirit man, if I can only pick his impression and make use of them, I will not miss anything.

You are not to preach physically but you are to preach as a spiritual ministration. The expressions on the face of the people should not move you. There is no meeting that you plan that you don’t want people to be born again. But if you are not led by the Spirit to make altar call, don’t do it.

ISAIAH 55: 11

11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper

in the thing whereto I sent it.

Therefore, if you preach the word He gave you and you believe it, you will not be disappointed. If something is not revealed to you, do not minister it. Don't preach by your head. Don't try it on the pulpit of God; it is dangerous. There are some spiritual principles that God does not violate.

I was preparing for a Sunday service one weekend; I had prayed fervently but no message was coming. Then I began to get the sensation that I was not going to preach. On Sunday, there was no new face in the church until it was near the message time when a minister friend of mine came in. I was relieved and asked him to preach for me. Beloved, the sermon was a blessing to us. I could have said by tradition that I was going to preach at all cost that Sunday despite the fact that there was no message coming. I could have preached but people won't be blessed. There are different ways by which the spirit man contacts us.

There are three things that follow any leading that is

from the Spirit of God or the spirit of man who is born again. If you are not born again, these things that I will soon mention will not be there. This is how to know whether it is from God or the devil. If these three things are not there in the dream, vision, or supernatural manifestation, bind that devil behind it.

LUKE 17: 21

21. Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you

This implies the kingdom of God is within your human spirit. In Romans 14: 17, the Bible tells us the signs or characteristics of that kingdom. The things that come with the leading of the Holy Spirit or your human spirit contacting you are *righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.* Any prophecy that points to a man is never God. Any supernatural manifestation that will glorify or lift the man is never God, no matter how true. If any spiritual manifestation removes your peace or joy, watch it.

JOB 32: 5-8

5. When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the

mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled.

6. And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.

7. I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

8. But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

This is talking about the discussion of a man called Elihu. He was the only one out of the four friends of Job that God did not reprove. The rest of them were reproved and reprimanded by God, but Elihu was a spiritual man. He was speaking by the revelation of his own spirit. The same spirit that ministered to Jesus can minister understanding to your spirit man and you should do your due diligence to press into the inspiration and understanding that God has for you by speaking in tongues.

JUDE 20 (AMP)

20. But you, beloved, build yourselves up (founded) on your most holy faith (make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher), praying in the Holy

Spirit.

You can climb great heights in the spirit, seeing things that other Christians who do notlabour to speak in tongues cannot see.

Chapter 5

How to Deal With the Body and Soul to Develop the Spirit Man

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 24-27

24. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27. BUT I KEEP UNDER MY BODY, AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

If you do not put your body under, you are going to be in trouble and you are going to suffer for it. The Bible acknowledges the negative power that lies in the flesh of man, but the Bible does not leave us under bondage to that power. It tells us what to do to walk free of that power and dominate it. You can come to a place where you can train yourself to pick signals

from heaven very clearly. Most of the time, the problem is always with the receiver. God is always speaking, but the 'receiver set' inside of the believer may be at fault. If you cannot hear God, you should not blame Him. If you have been born again for thirty years and while on earth you never heard God for a second, God will tell you that He was always speaking but you were not listening.

God does not exclude anybody from His ministrations. There are some means of receiving that are *not* the best, for example, dreams. Joseph's dreams were a manifestation of a gift in itself. It is in a class of its own. Joseph was not born again and there was no way God could minister a safe method to him then. There are many people today who are worrying about finding the will of God. The will of God is not physical and cannot be found by physical means. The will of God is discovered only on a spiritual platform and if you don't know how to pick signals from the spiritual plane, you will never be able to know the will of God. If we reduce Christianity to a religion of outward appearance, it will give the devil the key to wipe the church out of existence. All he

needs to do is to dress his people up the way we believe and put them in our midst, and because we are dealing with physical things, we would be open to deception of the worst kind.

God does not want us to be a prey at all. He wants our spirits to be developed. It is only the scriptures, the Word of God, and the provisions of God that can build up the spirit man.

ROMANS 12: 1

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Some people think if you fast to the extent that you subject the body to the worst kind of distress and punishment, you will become spiritual. No, the Bible says that kind of religion gives us only a special way of being body conscious: taste not, touch not. Those kinds of things are a carnal way of behaving; they are not holiness. It is because of sin consciousness in people who are trying to be holy. Holiness, on the

other hand, is a natural outflow of a man that understands righteousness.

Holiness is a physical thing and righteousness is a spiritual thing. The body is an information-collecting vessel through the senses. All the information-collecting points are what God says you should submit. Without a body, no one can be a legal human being. The body was designed by God originally to cooperate with the spirit of man. Sin came in and twisted all the things that God put inside the body to help the spirit man function properly to now work against man. That is why the Bible says in Romans 6 that we should yield our body unto the Lord:

ROMANS 6: 16-19

16. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17. But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18. Being then made free from sin, ye became the

servants of righteousness.

19. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

We are stewards of our body. Demons are looking for bodies to inhabit because they need a vehicle to manifest their worst characteristics. That is why the Holy Spirit needs your body. The demonstration of the power of God can be seen only in a body. If you yield your body to God as a temple and He so fills it, you will lay hands on people and they will fall under the power of God. Healings and miracles, goodness and mercy will just flow out of you. It brings glory to God; that is why God needs your body. The devil goes to the body of man, but if he cannot get into a man's body, he uses the body of animals like snake, dogs, and cats, although he cannot manifest himself effectively in animals.

If the devil can get into the body of a human being and that man yields his body to him, that man becomes a vehicle of destruction. The devil begins to

carry out all his works of destruction through that body. The mind, body, and soul of the individual will be yielded to the devil. That was what happened in the book of Genesis chapter 6, where the Bible says men so much yielded themselves to the devil. What God created to be indwelt by Himself and yielded to Him was now yielded to the devil.

GENESIS 6: 5-6

5. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

PSALMS 72: 7

7. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.

ISAIAH 66: 12

12. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.

Violence is the opposite of peace. Peace will come as

a Christian yields his body to God and He fills him and spreads that peace all over the world and many more people get filled with the Holy Ghost. Peace will reign in the environment instead of violence. A man cannot just pick a gun and blow off the head of another man. It takes a demon living inside him to do that. In yielding your body to God, the body will be a vehicle of mercy and joy, a vehicle of healing, a machine of holiness, spreading peace and joy all over the place.

HEBREWS 10: 5

5. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

That body, referring to the Lord's body, was on the earth for thirty-three and a half years. When people touched that body, they got power and healing. His tongue was so yielded to God that he never spoke a negative word. He was always lifting people up, blessing people, and manifesting the glory of God. That is what God wants our bodies to be used for. A body so presented to Him that we know this is God's body, this is God's property.

Jesus once took Peter, James, and John to the mountain to pray with Him just before His crucifixion but He met them sleeping. This happened because they had not presented those bodies to God. If you want to pray all night and you don't do a presentation of your body, that is, a conscious, intelligent, and solid decision, your body will fall asleep. You will sleep off and that is the end of that all night prayer. At least your spirit cannot pray on its own without your tongue. We have got to learn how to yield this body for exploits. If you don't yield it, it will get so lazy that you will become a layabout.

If the body has gone so lazy on you, it will be very painful to get it to do anything, and if you will, your body must be disciplined and brought to a place of presentation. Does your body know its master? In some people, the body is the master. They feed it anytime it is hungry. Even if they wake up at six o'clock and the body says it is hungry, they would feed the body instead of praying. We have built up a special knowledge around the body that is just feeding it, dressing it, and so on. We answer the call

of the body every time. Let the body know its master. Don't feed it anytime it is hungry.

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 26-27

26. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27. But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Paul was using the Roman games as an illustration in this place. There used to be a man who will herald the next people to run and he is also one of the racers. If the time for his own race comes and he fails the test before the race, he will be put aside. He will not run the race, not to talk of getting any reward at all. You should remember that there is a reward at the end of this thing. Don't joke with the body because it will cut off your fellowship with the Father. There are some people who are still under the dictates of the body. If the body doesn't feel like praying or praising God, they will just sleep away. If the body goes on like that, it will separate your fellowship with the Father. A Christian can backslide this way because prayer will soon become so far

away and reading the Bible will become so strange.

After one week, you will discover that getting up in the morning becomes a problem to you. Let your body know its master and don't let it assume the place of a master over you; otherwise, you will have problems that you may not be able to solve. Jesus Himself said, 'No one can serve God and mammon'. Money itself exerts lordship, and there are wealthy people today to whom money is their god. Paul said there are some people whose god is their belly; that is, the body can equally take the place of God in your life, but your spirit will always give the place of God to Jesus Christ, the Father, and the Holy Ghost. However, your spirit still needs the body to manifest the fruits of the spirit.

ROMANS 12: 2

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

You prove God's will by submitting your body. In

proving God's will in marital issues, the body is presented and the mind is renewed. So also in all other areas like choosing a career. When David sinned, he was supposed to go to battle—that was God's will—but he stayed at home until he was tempted through the body and he committed adultery with the woman, which led to murder. David could have proven the will of God; instead, he obeyed the body and stayed at home.

When we obey the body, we obey the devil because the devil will find rest in the negative desires of this flesh. The Holy Spirit wakes you up in the night to pray; you pray only for some minutes and sleep off. Then the devil comes because you did not present the body at that time to God. Presenting the body means yielding the body to the demands of the Spirit of God and the demands of the Word of God. Whatever the Word of God commands, yield to it. If you must prove it and be sure it is God speaking to you, there must be the presenting of the likes, aims, desires, and ambitions of the body and the renewing of your mind by the Word of God. The more you do the presentation, the clearer the will of God becomes to

you. You will move from what is good to the acceptable and perfect will of God.

Some people finish their ministry without discovering the perfect will of God for their lives. They just do the things that are easy to the flesh and mind. The fact that something is easy doesn't mean it is the will of God for you. That the situation you are in is pleasant does not mean you are in the will of God. That you are having problems does not mean you are not in the will of God. Everybody who flows into the will of God will face one demonic opposition or the other because the devil's goal is for us not to get into the will of God.

1 SAMUEL 27: 4

4. And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.

When David left Israel and went to Gath (out of God's will and plan), Saul left him and then he was free of all oppositions, and hence he was made the special adviser to the king of the Philistines until they wanted to go to fight the Israelites and the Philistines

said he should not go with them. Saul was not troubling him any more and God was not talking to him. It is most dangerous when you don't hear from God or the devil.

If you are like that, get up today. Shake the dust from off your neck and go to seek God's face. It could be that you have missed the will of God. It is not that you must face oppositions from the devil every time, but there comes a time when you gain victory, when you have put the devil under your feet. There is peace of compromise, where you do not have the things you desire but you still keep quiet in pain, hurt, and servitude, and there is peace of victory. Be sure that the peace you enjoy is that of victory and not of compromise.

To get the will of God, we will need to delete all the negative information we have stored in our minds over the years. For every year that you have been living inside this body on this earth, this body has been gathering different kinds of information that have been affecting your mind and your present way

of thinking. From the time you became born again, you must subject your mind to treatment with the information that the Word of God is giving you. Your body has got a lot to do in your spiritual growth because you cannot see without your eyes or hear without your ears. The amount of power you get in a message depends on the amount of hearing put into it, and the amount of blessing you get in a preacher's ministry depends on the level of renewal of your mind. A mind that is renewed by the Word of God never discriminates on whoever is preaching.

HEBREWS 10: 22

22. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

That means a sincere spirit. A true spirit will be a spirit that is full of honesty, a spirit that is like God.

JAMES 4: 8

8. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Double mindedness is defilement on the spirit and you should avoid it.

EPHESIANS 5: 26

26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

The Word of God is the pure water.

EZEKIEL 36: 25

25. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

When it comes to the plan of God for his people, the Bible has always pictured the undiluted and revealed Word of God as the pure water that has the power to sanctify, wash, and clean up. Having your bodies washed with pure water means having the senses of your body subjected to the authority and domination of the Word of God.

When you have trained your body by constantly exercising and practising the word and by constantly

yielding and bringing this body to obey the word (whether it likes it or not, you force it to do so), it comes to recognise that the Word of God is the body's master. When your body progressively recognises the authority and leadership of the word over the senses, then you will be seeing the world through the lens of the Word of God. By that time, your body will be cooperating with your spirit and your body will be hearing from the spirit.

HEBREWS 5: 14

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

If something is not the will of God, it is evil; it doesn't necessarily have to be sinful.

1 TIMOTHY 4: 7-8

7. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

8. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Train your body with the Word of God. When you keep on obeying the Word of God, it will get to a stage that you wouldn't even know the time you got sensitised to the voice of God because you have consciously and unconsciously been practising the written Word of God, which is compatible with the present-day spoken Word of God. God can never speak anything to you today that will contradict the principles of the Bible. If you have been consciously exercising yourself in this word, you are in the best position to pick the voice of God. The best way to know the counterfeit is by studying the genuine so that when you see the counterfeit you will recognise it.

Just keep on hearing the voice of the shepherd, and when you hear the voice of the devil, you will know the difference. In essence, you can train your body to a place where you will know the difference between good and evil. Decide to deliberately practise everything you heard from the Word of God. As you are obedient to the Word of God, you will bring this body to recognise the mastery and the lordship of the authority of the Word of God. Your spirit does not

have any problem in obeying the Word of God because it was recreated by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is this body that is exposed to the devil that has a problem. As you keep on obeying the word and practising it, the voice becomes real in your life. It is your spirit that grows with the life of God. Your body grows with the life of this earth. The first asset that God gives a man for his earthly operation is his body. Without your body, you cannot be a legal human being.

The Godhead comprises three persons: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. One member of the Trinity cannot be God alone. So also, your spirit cannot be a complete man without your soul and your body, the same way your soul and your body cannot be a whole man without your spirit. However, your spirit does not need your body to function as an entity but your body needs your spirit to function. If you remove the spirit from the body, the body cannot function again, even though the body can affect the spirit.

If you don't master your body, it will affect your fellowship with the Father. All the members of the body of Christ are brethren and those who are not are Gentiles. There is a god of the Gentiles that is controlling them and directing their spirits and he is the devil. The Bible calls him 'the god of this world'. The devil is not the god of the church of Jesus Christ. It is easy for the devil to affect your body because your body is in the world and, especially, if you don't know how to bring this body in agreement with your spirit that is already saved and translated in the Kingdom of God.

For example, if you want to believe God for something, it is your spirit that does the believing. The faith of God operates in your spirit. The Bible says when Abraham believed God for a son, he considered not his own body. That is not to say the body was not an issue, but he refused to consider the evidence of that body. If you are ill and you consider the evidence of the body that you are still ill, it will cut you off from healing, which is a spiritual blessing. If you don't know how to bring the operations and functions of the body in agreement

with the operations and functions of the spirit, it will keep on short-circuiting you from getting the blessings of God.

EPHESIANS 1: 3

3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

If we are going to get all those things, we have to put our body in agreement with the operation of the spirit man, which can operate in those heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 2: 6

6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

If you don't bring the body to operate on that fact, this body will operate on the facts that it sees. That is why most of the time we deal with the devil as if he is somewhere in the mid-heavens and we are on earth. He is not a visible being but a spiritual being whose place of abode is the second heaven, but our own place of abode spiritually is the third heaven, the highest place. If we deal with the devil on the

physical plane, his antic is to get us to cooperate with the body, because when you cooperate with the body, you get off the Word, the Holy Spirit, and the provisions of God. You will then be operating in an arena that the devil has arranged and manipulated to his advantage and you will be at a disadvantage.

It is just like a swimmer; no matter how good you are at swimming, you will never catch a fish while swimming. Why? It is not because the fish is bigger than you or you are bigger than the fish, but you are operating in an environment that is to the advantage of the fish. Now bring that same fish to the grass, leave it for some time, and allow it to do whatever it likes. You can afford to sit down and watch it and you can catch it anytime you like, simply because the fish is in an environment where you are at an advantage.

The same way, when God put man on the earth, He never planned that man should operate from the body. He planned that man should operate from the spirit, but if He did not give you a body, there will not

be any evidence of the fact that man is reality on earth. Originally, the body that God gave to man was void of sickness and failure. The law was supposed to lift man to operate in life in the realm of eternal life, but there is a weakness in the flesh that came in when man sinned. The way this weakness manifests in people is different. That original body was a body that could flow with the spirit of a man. It talked in 100 per cent agreement with the spirit and the soul. The spirit was the leader and the soul was the intermediary between the spirit and the body.

The body will not compare itself with the water and say 'I am heavier than the water'. It just began to walk on the water. Jesus demonstrated this during His earthly ministry.

MARK 2: 11

11. I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

Imagine this paralytic man. If he had thought of his physical ailment, he would not have received his miracle because he would have listened to the body.

Jesus spoke to him on the level of faith. He did not ask him if he could walk. If you follow what the body says at that time, immediately you believe the flesh, you are cut off from the spiritual plane, and there is no way you can cooperate again with God.

If you are broke and God says, 'Begin to plan your wedding because you are getting married next month', if you start to search your pocket, the only thing you will bring out is your handkerchief so you would not go ahead to plan anything, but God has said 'arise and do it'. That is a spiritual language. As you arise and begin to do it, the spiritual forces are released and the finances will come, but most people don't understand that in order for faith to have its full expression; they have to bring every part of man into agreement.

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 23

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

It means that the totality of your spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless. All of them function together in order for you to walk in holiness. Many people try to walk in holiness with the body alone. That is why we find all these funny laws (don't shake a sister, sit on the right side, etc.). Holiness is a holistic thing that involves the spirit, the soul, and the body. Until you bring the three of them in agreement with God, you cannot function in biblical holiness. When you are functioning in the body alone, you are functioning in an environment that suits the devil and helps him to defeat you. Every victory that God will give a Christian begins from the spirit, but you have to make your body cooperate with the spirit if you will have your victory. Your spirit is never sick, but when you have a sickness on your body and you function from the body, then you pray as if you are really sick, which, spiritually, you are not.

Until you understand the state of being of a born-again Christian is a state of righteousness, you won't ever function in holiness. In the same vein, if you don't understand that the state of being of a born-

again Christian is a healed state, when you are praying for healing, you are likely to be praying for healing as if you are just trying to get it or like a sick man whom God has provided healing for. But if you are born again, you are the healed that the devil is trying to steal something from. You are not the sick trying to get healed; unbelievers are the sick who are trying to get their healing. Just like there is a difference when a sinner sins and when a believer sins, there is a difference when a believer is sick and when an unbeliever is sick. The unbeliever is sick from the spirit to the body. There is sickness in his spirit so he has no state of health in him. If somebody makes Jesus his Lord and Saviour, the state of sickness that we all inherited from Adam is blotted out for his sake.

Symptoms of sickness can be brought to the body, but the problem comes when we function contrary to our state of being. We are the healed that the enemy is trying to steal our healing. We are not the sick trying to get healing because sickness and healing are spiritual things, and from the spiritual plane, we are healed. That is our status. So if a symptom of

sickness comes on your body, you ought to deal with it in a different way from how the unbeliever will deal with sickness. An unbeliever with sickness will likely pray 'God heal me', and a believer dealing with sickness will say 'I reject this symptom in Jesus' name, get out! It is not mine. Go away in Jesus' name'. If however the Christian doesn't understand his healed state, then he's likely to pray like the unbeliever: 'God, heal me' or 'Man of God, please pray for me', trying to get healing!

The same thing applies to prosperity. Our state of being is that of the blessed. We are not trying to get blessed. We are the blessed, forgiven, healed, prosperous, and delivered. We are the ones that God has accepted. We are not trying to be accepted by God. That is why some Christians are not operating from their state of acceptance in the sight of God. The slightest problem they need to solve, they begin to feel unwanted, because they are not settled in the fact that as far as their state of being is concerned, spiritually, they are the " . . . accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1: 6). Once this is not settled, these Christians find it difficult to accept themselves.

In essence, if you don't bring this body in agreement with the spirit, it will separate the spirit from fellowship with God. Your body deals with feelings and most of us put the body first, so we deal with the feelings, but if you put the spirit first, you will deal with the facts first. That you are healed is a fact of the spirit and not a feeling. It is not even a promise; it is a fact of the Word! Your spirit deals with substance and you have to bring your body along with it and then the feelings of the body will line up with the facts. Whether they like it or not, they have to go.

When you are ill, you should not sit down. Get up and work because you have another God-inspired source of energy in your body. The reason why we sit down when we have symptoms of sickness is because we do not understand our status. That symptom has not got into the spirit yet. It is just something on the outside and the devil is trying to sell it to you when the body begins to react to it. Just keep on functioning from the spirit and keep going on; the body will come back to its master. Christians

have a lot of religious slang, like when somebody has headache and you ask what the matter is, he says ‘the devil has headache’; it is a lie because the devil does not have headache.

Your body should understand the status of your spirit man that you are born again. When you don’t act like who you are in Christ, you are operating counter-status, that is, operating like a carnal Christian. A carnal Christian is a Christian who is operating counter-status. He has the life of God inside him, but he is allowing the old life of sin to drive him all around. He is born again, spirit-filled, with holiness in his spirit; yet he is living in fornication, lying, and all manner of evil. That is a carnal Christian who is operating contrary to his status in Christ.

When you allow sickness and poverty to rule you and you allow yourself to be controlled by the same thing that is controlling the people of the world, you are simply acting counter-status! When the Bible says present your body as a living sacrifice, you do the presenting. This body is just a bunch of flesh that

needs the soul and the spirit to tell it what to do. It has desires of its own, but it cannot carry out these desires on its own until it seduces your will to agree with it. That is why the Bible says 'be transformed by the renewing of your mind'. If your mind is not renewed to the truth of your new status as a born-again Christian, your mind will be filled with the ideas of the old body to seduce you. If you are born again, your spirit is cleared, but your mind still has some of those wicked ideas and you need to do a continuous work of renewing your mind with the Word of God.

You have to renew your mind by information from the Word of God to the new status that you have in Christ so that on the outer surface, you will stop acting counter-status. If you don't do that, your mind will be a good ally to your body to imprison your spirit man. That is why we see some born-again Christians, spirit-filled, who are still living in some gross immorality. As far as their spiritual status is concerned, they are God's children, but they are not learning God's ways as they should and God is not interested in knocking them in the head. He is interested in leading them and helping them to be

what they should be.

HEBREWS 5: 14

14. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The senses of the body can be trained by exercising them on the word, consciously and consistently acting as if the Bible is true (and the Word of God is true). As you keep on consciously, consistently, and continuously practising the Word of God that says, 'Be ye holy as God is holy' and 'You are now the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus' as you keep on acting like a righteous man and operating in the status of righteousness that you have in Christ, the day will come when your body would have been brought into a state of holiness and you would have been trained to holy living.

Just like that, you can train the body to a state where it won't respond to anything called unholy. The Bible says, 'we are dead to sin'. As you keep on acting like that, true to the word, as you keep your spirit acting

on that, and as your mind aligns with the word, the day will come when the body would have been so trained that it will be dead to sin. Even when sin comes, it would not get any response again (like a housefly on a dead man).

What happens at that time is that you are now much more spirit conscious than you are body conscious. What happens when people don't shake hands with the opposite sex is that they are body conscious. Adam and Eve were naked in the garden and they were not ashamed. They were so spirit conscious that their fellowship was on a spiritual level. It didn't sound strange that they were naked! You can still train yourself to be like that.

JOB 31: 1

1. I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Job saw a maid but did not allow his flesh to respond. He just saw them differently. If this body is not properly trained, it will seduce your spirit from solid fellowship with God. In the book of **LUKE 21:**

34, Jesus said to the apostles as thus:

> **34. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares**

Nobody knows the day of the rapture, but our spirits can be so sensitised that we can know that the day is getting nearer. If you keep feeding this body uncontrollably, your spirit will be weighed down. The body of a man is so designed by God that the heart inside can carry only a specific weight. When you continue to add weight by feeding this body, the body piles up pressure on the heart, and so when you exercise the body over and over, the heart is overstretched. The same way the spirit of a man is designed by God to carry some specific load of the body. When man fell, sin came in as an excess load.

Love can be carnal or spiritual. There are four kinds of love. One is spiritual and the other three are physical.

1. Love between husband and wife.
2. Love between family members.
3. Love between friends.
4. Love of God (spiritual).

There are some people who operate on carnal love. If somebody does something that they don't like, it affects their relationship from then on.

We are told to love one another with a covenant love, God's kind of love. That love says, 'no matter what you do to me, I can't stop loving you and no matter what I do to you, it should not stop you from loving me'. That is Christian love and it does not have anything to do with the body. That is the only love that will stop us from having divisions, problems, and backbiting. That is the love that God recommends for His people, but until you bring your body in line with the spirit, it won't love that way.

ROMANS 8: 1-3

1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The Bible says there are two laws operating on the earth:

1. The law of sin and death.
2. The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

The law of sin and death by its origin and its mode of operation will always come in the flesh. Anytime you act in the flesh, you subject yourself to the law of sin and death. The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus functions on a spiritual platform. No matter what is happening in the physical body, if you decide to function on the platform of the Word of God and operate as the Bible says, you will always bring

yourself (spirit, soul, and body) to the platform of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The reason why we are baptised in the Holy Ghost is not only to speak in tongues, but also to bring to your body, what heaven looks like, and bring the presence of God into it.

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 4

4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

The groaning and burden God deliberately put there are to prepare you for the change. That change was spoken of by Apostle Paul that we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-53

51. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption,

and this mortal must put on immortality.

As long as the sense of that change is there, you will know that surely, one day, this body will be redeemed.

EPHESIANS 4: 30

30. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

We have redemption for our spirit; our soul is being renewed and our body will be redeemed, changed to immortality on the day of the rapture, but before that day, the Spirit of God is inside our body, through whom God will put life into this body. What that body will receive when it is fully redeemed, you can in a measure, by your faith, enjoy now in your body.

HEBREWS 6: 4-5

4. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5. And have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

That some people have tasted the power of the age to come is very possible. One man of God, the late Dr John G. Lake, an apostle of God to South Africa many years ago, experienced this bubonic plague that killed people en masse. The people were frothing at the mouth and he was ministering to them. They sent medical supplies from the UK, and when they got to him, they were surprised that the plague had not caught him. He said they should gather the froth from some of those people who had died; they watched it under the microscope and saw it teeming with viruses. He said they should put it on his body, which they did, and they watched it under the microscope and found that every single one of the viruses that touched his body was dead.

That is operating in divine life. We are getting to the time when this body will be so full of life (shortly before the rapture) and you will see Christians walk like Jesus did. Then, we will paint this world red with the blood of Jesus. Hallelujah!

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 17-18

17. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The weight of glory you will be able to carry will depend on the amount of your body you are able to put under. Discipline your body now and bring it to line up with the spirit. Train yourself to operate on the facts of the spirit, not on the feelings of the flesh. Keep doing this and you are driving your body to the place where you can carry heavy glory. Glory is waiting for us but we have to discipline this body. We have to get this flesh in line with the spirit. The body is supposed to be an assistant to the spirit, not vice versa. The body is the vehicle in which the recreated spirit moves around to show forth the glory of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 2: 9

9. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called

you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The spirit is going to show forth the praises of God in the body. The Bible says there is a change that this body has been prepared for. So don't worry yourself about going in the rapture. If you just put the body under and get it in line with the spirit, you will surely do.

Your body is the vehicle for the expression of spirits:

1. The spirit of man.
2. The Spirit of God.
3. The spirit of the devil.

You will determine which of these spirits expresses itself through your body. If you are not born again, two spirits will be expressing themselves through you:

1. The spirit of man.

2. The spirit of the devil.

If you are born again, your spirit that is recreated should express itself and the Spirit of God.

Chapter 6

The Sound Mind

ROMANS 12: 2

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The mind is a very potent weapon. Your mind can be an instrument of warfare. If it is so, it can be for victory or defeat in spiritual warfare. Spiritual victory, in its advanced form and in its basic revelational form, is developing your spirit to control your mind and your body. You have a well-founded understanding that the devil is a spirit that has been paralysed. You come to a place that your mind is acting as an assistant to your spirit and your body has no choice other than to line up in agreement with what the spirit dictates. When your spirit begins to operate under God's plan, you will discover that your spirit can act like a spiritual dictator that does not accept any nonsense from the body.

1 PETER 4: 1

1. Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.

PHILIPPIANS 2: 5

5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus

The mind of Christ is the kind of mind that has the opportunity to go the way of the world, the mind, the flesh, and the senses, but chooses not to go rather saying, 'Not as I will, but the will of God be done'. The kind of mind that after the doctor has said he has an incurable disease and unless he is surgically operated, he will die, but the person now says, 'That is medical report; I confess that Jehovah God is my healer'. That is the kind of mind that the devil doesn't know how to deal with, and it is the kind of mind that the enemy doesn't know how to handle. That is the kind of mind that God says should be in you. The mind that says, 'He that is born of God overcometh', a mind that says I am not going to lose the testimony I have gotten.

This kind of mind is soaked with the Word of God and it does not take information from the body. That was the kind of mind that Elijah had when he said, 'I hear the sound of abundance of rain'. It was his spirit that told him so, and he sent his servant to go to check even though he saw nothing until the seventh time when he saw a cloud arising like a man's hand. That is the kind of mind that God says if you have, the devil will tremble. It is the kind of mind that doesn't give up.

HEBREWS 12: 3-4

3. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Fainting and giving up occur in the mind. That is where the devil comes in. Your spirit is still standing with God, yet your mind has shifted. However, you can bring your mind to the place where it would just stand there, cooperating and agreeing with your spirit. In this warfare, if you don't take heed, your spirit wants to stand and get the victory, but your

mind will faint and give up and your body will have no choice but to go with the mind. The mind has a role to play in spiritual victories: a mind that doesn't agree with whatever you are seeing and will not accept failure, saying 'we have made a commitment and we are going through'. Until you have that kind of a mind, there will always be room for you to backslide. Not go out of the faith in the sense of going into the world, but backslide from the word.

HEBREWS 10: 38

38. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

The way of the sound mind means thinking the way the Word of God says you should think regardless of your feelings. When symptoms come into your body, as long as you are thinking about those symptoms, they would be there. Immediately you remove your mind from those symptoms and begin to think about what God's word says, the good outcome you are expecting and behave like Abraham who considered not his own body, the symptoms will eventually give way.

Consideration is a factor of the soul, dwelling on something, analysing, and calculating it. To have a sound mind is to come to a place that you can tell your mind not to think on the negative, but channel it to think the positive deliberately and it will. When everything is cracking to pieces around you, creditors are coming to knock on your door and you are still meditating on and confessing 'The Lord is my provider' and you say, 'No problem Hallelujah!'

2 TIMOTHY 1: 7

7. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

A spirit does something; it takes control, influences, and dominates. The extent of control that any spirit will have in your life would be determined by the amount of your yieldedness to that spirit. Jesus said, *"The prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me"*. He could not because everything in Christ was enfolded by the life of God. Therefore, the prince of death has no foothold in Jesus.

As you begin to operate in the Word of God, practising it and walking in its provisions, exercising the Word of God, growing and moving in the spirit every day, the life of God will swallow death in your life. How does the spirit of sound mind possess us? In the book of Acts of the Apostles, two words were used to describe the Holy Spirit dwelling within us:

1. Baptism in the Holy Spirit or reception of the Holy Spirit.
2. Filling of the Holy Spirit or controlled by the Spirit.

The passage above indicates that if fear controls you, you will yield to what God did not give you, it means somebody else gave that thing to you, and that can only be the devil. It also means that you can stop fear in your life because if God has not given you something, that thing will operate from a position of extreme disadvantage to get an advantage in your life. That is how fear is to you. Also God has given us the spirit of love, that is, divine love. You can be so yielded to the spirit of love that you can love in such

a way that will sound impossible to ordinary people. It is no more you, but that spirit of love that you yield to unconsciously overwhelms you and controls you. The same way the spirit of sound mind can take over your mind that your mind can think in no other direction than in the direction of the Word of God.

Steps to Developing the Sound Mind

1. Harness Your Mind

> **EPHESIANS 6: 14**
>
> **14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.**

The Word of God is just like a belt to gird up the loose ends of your mind immediately you get born again. If you do not do that, you will always be having problems in the Christian race. Therefore, the first thing to do is to harness your mind and train it. This involves your mouth. If you have to harness your thought, you have to break the line of negative thoughts by first speaking something positive from the Word of God and then you deliberately pick positive thoughts and you start meditating on them. You train your mind to think health by ceasing to

think of sickness and it begins the day you start to make confession of your healing in Jesus. Immediately you can break the thought pattern of sickness and bring healing thought into your mind and you consciously decide to mediate on healing, you have started harnessing your thought for healthy thinking.

This is the first thing to do if you want to harness your thoughts is to gird your mind with of truth and put on the breastplate of rightoeusness.

1 PETER 1: 13

13. Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

JOHN 17: 17

17. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Before you begin to stand, you must *gird up the loins of your mind*. If you are not going to stand on the Word of God, you will fall down. Either you get the truth by reading the word, or you come to where an

anointed minister is ministering the word or you combine the two. When you hear the Word of God, don't sleep until you do some meditation upon it. God wants us to be free in our thoughts to think after Him. There are only two types of thinkers in the world: people who think after God and people who think after the devil. There is no neutral thinker. If he does not believe in God or he does not believe in the devil, he is still on the side of the devil. It is either one is on the side of God or he is on the side of the devil.

2. Cast Down Imaginations

2 CORINTHIANS 10: 1-5

1. Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold towards you:

2. But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

5. CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, and EVERY

HIGH THING that EXALTETH itself AGAINST the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We have to stop seeing ourselves as walking in the flesh. We need to have the mind that we are spiritual, that we are living in a spiritual environment. There are different kinds of strongholds and there are men living in them: strongmen of negative thinking patterns. The Bible says who will come and deliver a captive if he does not first bind the strongman? There are dangerous reasons that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God when it comes to healing and deliverance. One man of God said, 'I see a day when healing would be difficult because men are having so many things to trust in for their healing and not God'.

Medical science is getting so sophisticated and advanced that the trust of a lot of people is in medical science but thank God, some may trust in chariots and horses, but we will remain steadfast and strong in trusting our God. I am not against medical science, but don't put your trust in it, rather trust God. When doctors say a case is terminal, the Word of God says it is not terminal (no case is closed with God). The

Bible says ‘with God, all things are possible’. Faith is just acting as if the Word of God is true. Instead of meditating on negative thoughts to bring you into captivity of death, use the weapons that God has made available for us: the name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit inside us, and the Word of God revealed to us to bring those thoughts into captivity, arrest them, cast them down, and pull them down.

JEREMIAH 1: 9-12

9. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

10. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

11. Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.

12. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

The Bible says Jesus cast out demons by His word. You can also bind the devil with the Word of God in your mouth. The passage shows us how God gave

Jeremiah the ability to root out, pull down, destroy, and throw down strongholds by the Word of God in his mouth. Use the rod of God in your mouth, which is your tongue.

PSALMS 8: 2

2. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Never in the Bible is it written that the devil is the cause of the defeat of the children of God. The devil is not your problem, but you. If you get defeated, blame yourself. So don't shift any blame on the devil for the Bible has not described him as a problem to the people of God. The problem is our refusal to follow the plan of God, our refusal to do the Word of God and act as God wants us to act. When the devil stands in your way, the Bible instructs us on what to do. It is when you fill your imagination with fear that you are full of what the devil can do so that when you want to stand against the devil, you begin to remember what the devil can do and fear him.

Stand back and spend your time in the Word. All you need to do is to believe the Word of God and confess it. The problem is that the devil has made you think that you are the one that is going to make your confessions come to pass. This is another trick of the devil. If he cannot stop you from confessing what the Word of God says, he goes on to make you think you have to make the confessions come to pass.

ISAIAH 57: 19

19. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

All you need to do is believe in the Word of God, confess it, and act like it is so. It is God who has the responsibility of performing His word.

COLOSSIANS 1: 23

23. If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Don’t be moved in your thought. Let your thoughts hang on God. Look at the areas where you know that negative thoughts have been ruling your life and begin to pull down the strongholds. The particular areas where you know that the devil seems to be beating you the most are strongholds. Pull them down. Defeat never comes from outside, but it comes from inside of you. Get into the Word of God and begin to apply every area of the Word of God into your thought. When you continue to do this, the spirit of sound mind will begin to take control of your mind. The way to do it is to go after the strongholds and apply the Word of God to them. Pull down those strongholds of the enemy then as you consciously practise the Word of God, the strongholds of the Word of God begin to build up in you. It is only then that you can start experiencing the full reality of the recreated spirit man inside of you.

3. Pull Down Every Stronghold of Evil

2 TIMOTHY 1: 7

7. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The spirit of sound mind is a spirit that can possess you. The Bible says it is a spirit of power, of love,

and of a sound mind. However, it is possible for the sound mind of that spirit not to possess your own spirit because you are not doing the things that you should do while you are doing things that you should not do. Note that it is possible for you to do certain things and not do certain things that will make the spirit of a sound mind possess you. The sound mind is of the mind of Christ. A mind that is wholesome. The first thing to do is to harness your mind. This is the kind of mind that says failure is not final. It is the mind that believes that the battle is not over until I win. If you want to get your mind to a place of peace and concentration on God, you have to give it something to focus on. Your mind has been designed by God to always focus on something.

Man's mind is not meant to be blank. That is the trick that the devil uses on some people that practise Yoga, Eckankar, and other Eastern religions. Meditation is something good and it is of God, but when you keep your mind blank, a demon will jump in. God does not want us to have our minds blank. He wants us to think positively, constructively, and in the direction that glorifies Him, because there is a latent power in

the mind. Your thought life will definitely culture you and mould you into what you become in future. You have to pull down the strongholds of the old way of thinking that has been inbuilt into your soul. Peace is not an absence of wars, but a state of the heart.

ISAIAH 26: 3

3. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

It is not easy to let your mind stay on God especially when you have problems. It takes committed practise. All the things we have been exposed to and our upbringing, our environment, our experiences, and the teachings that we have been exposed to, either in the place of work, school, or in relating with people, gang up to build dangerous strongholds into our lives, and make us what we are. You cannot just begin to confess the word because your confession is a product of your thoughts. What you believe, you say out, and what you believe is what you have been dwelling on in your thoughts and thoughts come from the strongholds in our lives. It is possible to have divine strongholds inside us. It is possible to have a stronghold of the name of the Lord in your

soul because the name of Jesus is a strong tower. Just like the Apostle Peter said, "*Silver and Gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk*".

At that time in Peter's life, the name of Jesus had taken on more meaning than just any other name. It had taken on flesh; in his mind it was as if Jesus himself was still very much around. Our own children in the next generation of the Third World nations will surpass us if the Lord tarries. They will do greater and better things than what we are doing because they have no stronghold of evil to contend with, like we had.

Your response in times of trouble will definitely be determined by the kind of stronghold that is operating in you. We can then imagine what our children will be, with no stronghold of evil in them, rather the stronghold of righteousness and peace in them. It is wisdom to spend your time in the Word of God to build up a stronghold of righteousness into yourself to displace all these dangerous strongholds.

2 CORINTHIANS 10: 1-4

1. Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold towards you:

2. But I beseech you,that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

The word 'stronghold' is translated as a 'fortress' or a 'tower', a place of defence in the Bible. The name of the Lord is a stronghold, and when you hold on to it, the enemy cannot come near because the name is shielding you. Just like that, the devil has built a lot of strongholds inside the soul of man, including born-again Christians. When the Bible says 'renew your mind', it is addressing the area of your soul that needs to be changed. Strongholds are fortresses in the realm of the soul of man where demon spirits hide. Strongholds are responsible for all un-Christ-

like manifestations that some Christians still exhibit. Our thoughts control us more than we think or know.

These strongholds are made up of some materials. There are certain ways by which the devil builds strongholds into man. In the kind of environment where you grew up, the dominant spirit has built up strongholds that will suit the operation of that spirit in the people. For example, some of us worry a lot today because our parents also worry. A lot of people have a stronghold of fear because they grew up in an atmosphere where fear was the dominant force. A lot of people today do not know how to handle marriage and matrimony simply because marriage and home life was not honoured where they grew up.

The following are some strongholds that we need to pull down in order to manifest fully as Christians:

1. A system of thought pattern that is difficult for somebody to break. These thoughts have

become a building. It is a stronghold that is built up of thoughts.

2 CORINTHIANS 10: 4-5

4. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

These are mighty fortresses that aid demonic manifestation. It does not mean that the person is possessed or has a demon living in him, but these fortresses of wrong and negative thoughts and evil thinking have been built in man and people find it difficult to get away from these thought patterns. Do a 'mouth watch' of yourself for one week and see how many times some words come out of your mouth.

2. Wishes, notions, feelings, intentions, and imaginations: these are all materials for the devil

to build fortresses that are mighty strongholds. It is difficult for some born-again Christians to practise faith because what you say is a product of the dominating thought pattern in you. Many people have unbelief as their dominating thought pattern. The dominating thought patterns in you may unconsciously be covered because they are strongholds that have become built up into a fortress.

So it takes time of applying the Word of God to tear away that fortress and build a fortress of the Word of God before the Word of God begins to roll out of your mouth unconsciously. As you meditate on the Word of God, focusing your mind on it and thinking on it, the Word of God begins to enter into you, affecting parts of that stronghold, pulling it down, and replacing it. If our minds will grow to a stage that the spirit of sound mind will possess us, we have to tear down those fortresses.

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 23

23. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;

and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To sanctify means to set apart. Your spirit has been set apart, but the more you grow in the Word of God, the more your spirit keeps on getting more set apart. The sanctification of your spirit is that you are set apart from evil in the world. As you keep on feeding your spirit on the Word of God, it gets more set apart under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. But your soul can imprison your spirit. Your soul can cause you to miss the blessing of redemption if it is not renewed.

3 JOHN 2

2. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

The level of prosperity or the health that you experience will be determined by the prosperity of your soul. You can never prosper beyond the prosperity of your soul. That is why the devil has come into this area. He has built such a system of thinking into the world system that makes it easy for

him to dominate man. You are never a failure until you agree that you are, and you are never sick or poor until you agree that you are. Even if poverty is in your sitting room and you keep confessing that according to the Word of God that your needs are met and words of faith are just coming out of your mouth to change the situation, poverty has no choice but to leave.

God wants you to set apart your soul wholly and the things He wants you to set apart are as follows:

1. Your mind. It must be set apart because it is the information storage centre of your soul
2. Your emotions
3. Your will
4. Your thoughts
5. Your imaginations
6. Your reasoning
7. Your desires

8. Your attitudes

All these aspects of your soul must be touched by God and separated from the way the devil has designed them to operate or behave. It is set apart as you keep on studying the word and cutting the soul off from the world system (1 John 2: 15a) and joining it with the kingdom system through practise of the word. Until you come to a place that you are thinking like Jesus and your desires are like the desires of Jesus.

The Bible says the desires of the righteous are right. Every time you feed on the Word of God, you will get stronger.

1 CORINTHIANS 7: 37

37. Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.

That is the picture of a man who has his will under

the control of God. There are so many strongholds that the Bible talks about:

1. *The stronghold of sin*: Besetting sins are a good example of a stronghold.

2. *Stronghold of fear*: This stronghold gives the spirit of fear dominion in your life. Superstition and traditions cause secret fears in your life. If one particular thing is mentioned and you develop fear over it, that is a stronghold that you need to apply the Word of God to pull down.

3. *Stronghold of lust and immorality*: Check what you are thinking and imagining. Your eyes are parts of the gate to your soul, so spend time on wholesome things.

4. *Stronghold of worldliness*: You must make sure that you are not becoming like the world even though you are in the church; let your choices and decisions always show that you are sowing according to the spirit and not according to the flesh.

JAMES 4: 4

4. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

This is just a sympathetic friendly feeling towards the world's way of doing things. That was what destroyed Demas. Bible shows us that he departed from his destiny training and went the way of the world because 'he loved this present world'.

2 TIMOTHY 4: 10

10. For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

1 JOHN 2: 15

15. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Some Christians fall into sin because of worldliness. Worldliness is a thing of the heart; it is not a way of dressing but a way of thinking. Independence is of the world. There is nothing like a '*shepherd-less* Christian'. Every sheep that Jesus Christ, the Chief

Shepherd, has must be in a sheepfold. Liberty is the power that God gives you to do what you ought to do while independence is a system of this world that is not under any law or authority structure. When you see a Christian who has the stronghold of worldliness in him, he is a candidate for influence by the spirit of the Antichrist. Christianity is manifesting Christ likeness and not a way of dressing. When you touch a child of God, there is a way of thinking that confronts the world and is completely against the world that you come in contact with.

6. *Stronghold of tradition*: Traditions of men make the Word of God of none effect.

MARK 7: 13

13. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

7. *Stronghold of deception.*

8. *Stronghold of unbelief*: There are people who

have a system of thoughts in them that make it easy for the spirit of unbelief to come in.

HEBREWS 3: 12

12. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Every opportunity that you have to use your faith and you do not use it, you allow the stronghold of unbelief to be strengthened in you.

9. *Stronghold of religion*: This is common among the people of the world who are 'having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof'. When it comes to allowing the power of God to work in their lives, they deny it. It is an unconscious thing, which has become part and parcel of them. This is a man-making human effort to reach God while disregarding God's own demand and principles.

10. *Stronghold of failure*: Makes a man feel he

cannot succeed at anything he set himself to do; this stronghold makes a man overwhelmed with the negative outcome.

11. *Stronghold of sickness*: Some people have the stronghold of sickness. They just believe in sickness coming on them, but when you begin to build up yourself in the Word of God and you practise it, you will come to a stage that you would have built on such a stronghold of health inside you that you don't fall sick again. The words of healing will be rolling out of your spirit like bombs against sickness. You need to start waking up in the night to study the Word of God.

The Word of God is not supposed to be in your head but you have to step out in faith, practising the Word of God and using your faith so that it can get into your heart, and before you know it, you will notice a new transformation in your life. If you see somebody who was born again years before you and he is not practising the Word of God, do not follow him. Just

overtake him and continue to practise the word. There is no queue in the kingdom: make your own progress.

Prayer is taking the Word of God like a sword, piercing and breaking down thoughts and tearing strongholds. You will then see yourself coming to a place of liberty and victory. You can build yourself to a place that you begin to act like Jesus. Some people believe more in the wickedness of the devil than the goodness of God. They believe that the devil will get at them, not thinking that God will rescue them. It is not their fault; it is because they are contending against a stronghold. Spiritual warfare is not fighting with demons that are in the heavenlies, but it is here on earth when we have to bind thoughts, cast down imaginations, and pull down strongholds.

12. *Stronghold of bitterness*: Some people have strongholds of bitterness and they go through hardship every day, and instead of growing better every day, they are growing bitter.

MATTHEW 15: 12-20

12. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

13. But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

14. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

15. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.

16. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?

17. Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?

18. But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20. These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Watch what is on your heart. Do not get carried away by them; cast them out if they are crazy

thoughts. Demas did not backslide in a day. The Bible says, 'the backslider in heart shall be full of his own ways' (Proverbs 14: 14). Backsliding starts in the heart, not when you stop coming to church. There are lots of Christians who are in churches today but are already backslidden. They have stopped practising faith, the word is not sweet to them again, and prayer is not delightful any more. They are already backslidden, but they are still in church. If you do not break that stronghold, you may find yourself graduating into the level of saying 'God, I don't want you again'. Some sisters fantasise about men of God, wishing their husbands will be just like that man of God. No! Bless God for the man He has given you. Kill that thought before it graduates.

JAMES 1: 13-14

13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Deal with all these areas, because sin germinates like a seed. It may take up to ten years for sin to

germinate, but when it germinates, it brings forth death. We have to tear these strongholds down and walk in liberty. Blessed is the Christian who does not have a stronghold for the enemy to come in. As long as you have a stronghold in your life that you don't deal with, you will have a lot of trouble in the flesh. The Word of God is working in Nigeria as it is working in America, but we have to do extra work because of the kind of tradition we are born into. It means we have to take the Word of God more serious. Practise the Word of God in your life and hand it over to your children so that they will have the right stronghold in them. When there is a stronghold of righteousness, health, and victory, we would stop sinning. As we pull down these strongholds, we would be crowned with the spirit of victory.

The way to pull down the stronghold of the enemy and build the stronghold of the things of God within yourself: it is not enough to simply search the Word of God and meditate on it; you need to deliberately, consciously, and consistently practise the word.

Dealing With the Strongman in the Stronghold

There is a strongman in every stronghold. He is a defeated being but he wants to deceive the child of God to believe he is a strongman. Who is this strongman? His name is the devil, his name is deception, his goal is destruction, and his strategy is oppression, frustration, and bondages. You can deal with him and enjoy your peace in Christ.

MATTHEW 11: 28-30

28. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

This is rest from sin, deliverance from sin.

PHILIPPIANS 4: 6-7

6. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your

requests be made known unto God.

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

God is under no obligation to keep your heart in perfect peace if your mind is not stayed on Him. He says you should ‘be anxious for nothing’ and then ‘you shall find rest for your soul’. There are two different levels of rest in this case. The first level is the one He gives you; the second is a higher level of rest, the one you find by following him, by learning and applying his principles. These two levels are available to everybody. The first one is free of charge, everyone born again has that, but not everybody is finding rest for their souls.

There are still Christians whose souls are troubled. This should not be so, for the Bible says, ‘Take my yoke upon you’. The yoke of the Lord is the thing that he demands from you that keeps you from doing your own thing. He also said, ‘Learn of me’. If you are going to find rest for your soul, you have to learn of Jesus.

MATTHEW 12: 43

43. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

The demon gets rest in strongholds of evil. You can find rest only in a place of security, and until you begin to build a stronghold of righteousness and right standing with God, you won't find rest. Demons also find rest in some people's lives because there is a way of thinking that demons have built inside those people that makes them to be at rest.

MATTHEW 12: 44

44. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

LUKE 11: 22

22. But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

The armour is the thing that one uses to shield himself for protection. Those are the thoughts, ideas, emotions, and imaginations that the Bible says we should cast out. You may notice that after you got

born again and have been practising the Word of God, there are some ways you used to think before that you find difficult to stop. It is because you have not bound the strongman of that particular stronghold. Ruffle the wings of that strongman by taking the Word of God and practising it. It is not meditating in the Word of God alone that will totally pull down this stronghold, but practising the Word of God and acting on it.

Chapter 7

Dealing With Wounded Spirits

PROVERBS 18: 14

14. The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

This passage makes it clear that the foundation of man's earthly existence is his spirit life and condition. If the spirit is wounded or if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? Today, many people are in serious problems because their spirit man has been injured in life situations. A wounded spirit cannot hear God accurately. However, there is healing for wounded spirits.

ISAIAH 61: 1-2

1. The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and

the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Manifestation of Wounded Spirits

1. A poor self-image that persists even after being born again and filled with the spirit, for example, Moses.

EXODUS 3: 11

11. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

2. A contentious personality that spreads strife and trouble everywhere.

HEBREWS 12: 15

15. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

3. A manifest spirit of fear and cowardice.

4. Problems in relationships—inability to enter and maintain healthy relationships.

5. Inability to flow in the things of the Holy Spirit—dullness of perception in the spirit, hindered hearing of the voice of God, inability to maintain focus in the spirit.

6. Lack of peace within and without.

7. Inability to break forth into your prophetic destiny.

8. Unexplainable infirmities of the soul and body.

9. Pride, arrogance, dominating personality.

10. Always living with a desire to prove a point, comparing yourself with others, very competitive; if you are not number one, you are not okay. All these are signs of a wounded spirit.

11. Lack of true honesty. Always covering things up, keeping secrets unusually, pretence, etc.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

There are two prescribed biblical cures for wounds in the spirit. These are forgiveness and reconciliation. In this chapter, I want to examine these sensitive issues. I practically dealt with both of these issues

and I have seen others deal with them as well. Some preachers have tried to gloss over it and say, ‘let us just forget the hurt and go on as if nothing happened’. Such false medicines do more damage than good to the people who have been really hurt.

I will make references to the book *Living with Your Dreams* by David Seamands. He truly dealt with this issue in the wisdom of God. It is important to note here that *forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation* nor vice versa, even though forgiveness makes reconciliation possible. Reconciliation is the ultimate goal of healing of internal hurts and bitterness. However, forgiveness is always possible. *Forgiveness* involves the human part and the divine part. It is between the offended person and God. Our part in forgiveness is to make a decision to forgive the offender and to let go of the man who has hurt you.

Many people have been in the following condition: you have sincerely forgiven the person who offended you according to the demand of the Bible. You do not see the offender for a number of years and you are at

peace in your heart over the matter, doing fine. Three years later, you are at a conference, enjoying yourself when you suddenly meet the offender face to face and all the old feelings of pain, resentment, and so on, come rushing back, shattering your peace and harmony. Questions start arising in your mind, 'Did I truly forgive him?' 'Am I still harbouring unforgiveness in my heart towards this fellow?' You then start the forgiveness all over again or try to ignore the feeling, only to discover that it is getting stronger. What do you do?

If this scenario describes you, don't be discouraged; there is help for you in the truth of God's word.

What Forgiveness Is Not

1. *Forgiveness* is *not* overlooking or ignoring the wrongdoing or offence.

This is a false doctrine. True forgiveness is based on justice, which may lead to true reconciliation. Where the issue of justice is not properly addressed, there can never be true reconciliation. This is why Jesus

had to die on the cross, to satisfy the claims of God's justice against man and so that God can truly forgive man on the basis of His mercy and then bring perfect reconciliation. Man was not in the position or condition to satisfy the claims of justice against him. God had to send His own son.

Now, if someone offends you and says 'if God could forgive us sinners, you too should forgive anyone', that statement should be carefully scrutinised. God did not cancel our offence by decree. God did not overlook the offence or its effect on Him. He demanded for repentance before forgiveness.

JOHN 3: 16

16. 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.

ACTS 2: 37-38

37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Now, if justice was not satisfied, there may be forgiveness, which is a fruit of the will but there cannot be a total reconciliation, which is a fruit of the feeling and emotion.

EPHESIANS 2: 4-7

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ

6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us through Christ Jesus.

Notice that the goal of verses 4 and 6 was verse 7, that God in ages to come might be free to show us the full extent of His kindness, which is reconciliation. What does God demand from man? *Repentance.*

What does repentance involve biblically?

1. To be sorry for the very fact and act of sin.

2. To be sorry for the effect of both fact and act of sin on God.

3. To make a decision to turn from sin based on the depth of feeling you have of the pain it caused God.

4. To practically stop that act.

Let me ask some questions here:

1. Can God truly forgive and take to heaven, an unrepentant sinner?

2. Can God forgive and save a sinner who does not ask Him for it?

3. Can God forgive and take to heaven, a sinner who asked for God's forgiveness, but keeps doing over and over again, the very act for which he is asking forgiveness?

Certainly, the biblical answers to these questions are *no*. The scriptures say in

HEBREWS 10: 26

26. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

The Bible also says we should 'forgive our debtors as our Father in heaven also forgave us'. If that is so, God's forgiveness was meant to lead to reconciliation with the entire human race but not all men are reconciled to God today.

Thus, we see the following:

1. God has forgiven all men their sins.
2. God is not yet reconciled to all men.
3. The reconciliation is not due to God, but man,

the offender.

4. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation.

5. Reconciliation may not be possible if the offender does not accept the forgiveness or make changes to bring about reconciliation.

6. You can forgive and be okay without being reconciled.

7. Forgiveness is demanded of the offended party. Reconciliation is demanded of the offender.

8. Many Christians have truly forgiven, but the devil brings them under condemnation for reconciliation, which is not their own responsibility but that of the offender.

Many ministers do not have this clear understanding and they try to produce a false peace based on injustice or unsatisfied justice.

ROMANS 5: 1

1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This peace we have with God was based on the perfect satisfaction of the justice of God by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross; only after this were we able to feel that peace and accept it by faith.

1. God does not harbour ill-feelings towards us as individuals but He hates the acts of sin.

PSALMS 7: 11

11. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

The reason for our preaching the gospel is to effect reconciliation, to tell man that God has forgiven him and he can now come to Him. This means you can truly forgive a person and be reconciled with him not because of you, but because of him. In such cases, what can you do? Walk in love, refuse condemnation, clarify the issues at stake, and refuse to be defeated by the devil. You can love with the love of God without 'goody-goody feelings'. That is how God feels to every human being in the world. He loves them.

Release all feelings of vengeance to God. Commit the matter to God, who judges righteously. Many people have not truly forgiven the wrong. They are only trying to overlook or ignore it. That is why they have such problems. Don't pretend it never happened. It did!

2. Forgiveness is *not* making right the wrong.

You cannot truly forgive biblically when you make excuses for the wrong or the offender. God did not make excuses for Adam and Eve in the garden. When people try to effect reconciliation by making excuses for the wrong or the offenders, they only make matters worse. A classic example is the saying 'society produces the criminals', that is, a lie. What it does is to absolve a man from the responsibility of his actions in life and before God. The Bible says that each of us shall give account of himself before God.

For a rapist to say '"it was because you were so

beautiful", "your dress was skimpy and the TV adverts had been glorifying sex", "I really couldn't help it, it was not my fault" . . .' is an absurd thing. If the girl raped was your only daughter, would you accept such explanations? Why don't sinners who die in their sins receive blanket forgiveness from God? Why do they still go to hell? After all, we can extend that line of reasoning further by saying 'it was not really their fault, the devil made them do it'. What that would imply is a question on why did God allow the devil to tempt them at all? Can you see how absurd it is? Forgiveness is not and cannot take place where the offence is whitewashed or excused and the blame transferred. We must have the moral honesty to deal with the issues at stake and not whitewash them.

3. Forgiveness is *not* the same as understanding.

Trying to understand why a person did something that hurt you can help you forgive but it is not the same as forgiveness itself.

4. In the name of being spiritual and loving, forgiveness is *not* taking the blame for someone else's wrong on yourself.

A mother can say of a criminal son, 'If only I had trained him right, he would not have done that'. A wife may say, 'If I am truly a Christian, I must take all the indignities my husband is throwing at me. My trying to raise it with him is what is aggravating his temper and making him violent'. That is nothing but a false messianic complex that can keep a Christian bound for life. Please note that nothing short of *truth* will bring biblical forgiveness.

I use the word 'biblical forgiveness' in the context of many counterfeits. For example, when I was growing up, if an older person does wrong against a younger person and the younger complains, the elders still blame the younger and conclude by saying, 'you don't blame the elder for the younger'. That is not based on truth; it only leads to later problems. The same can take place in a marriage in which some people claim 'you don't blame a man in

the presence of his wife'. Call a spade a spade and bring the healing to the wife he has abused.

5. Forgiveness is *not* a denial of the pain caused.

In fact, the pain is what has to be dealt with by the pill of *truth* and *justice* or else, it will become a festering sore. You are a tripartite being with feelings and emotions. You must not deny that you have been hurt or else your spirit will never be strong enough to flow with God. You only need to read the Bible to see how sin brings pain to God's heart.

6. Forgiveness is *not* a denial of your resentments and memories.

You are a human being. When treated badly, you feel bad. Face all those feelings of resentment against the offender and deal with them. God had to deal with His own feelings of resentment. It took the blood of Jesus to clear it. Look at how the Bible puts it, 'Their

sins and iniquities will I remember no more'; God had to deal with them and you will also have to deal with them.

What Exactly Is Involved in Biblical Forgiveness?

What can a child of God do to enter the reality of true forgiveness that is required of him by God and that will bring him real freedom?

1. *Accept the fact that no matter what someone has done, you can forgive the person but you may not be able to effect reconciliation.*

Stop confusing the two. God demands forgiveness of you and reconciliation where possible. To say you cannot forgive someone is not correct. To try to get on with an unrepentant person can hurt you more if you don't know how to biblically forgive.

2. *Forgiveness is an act of your will.*

You have control over your will and your will have control over your feelings. You can exercise your will to forgive someone just as you exercised your will to accept Jesus as Lord. Notice that when you accepted Jesus as Lord, you did not do so because your feelings were first good, but after you exercised your will to accept Him, your feelings started to change. It is the same with the issue of forgiveness.

3. When you have exercised your will to forgive a person, look at the exchange that took place on the cross for God to forgive us and do the same.

(*a*) Release the person from all obligations of their offence against you just as God in Christ released us from those obligations of our sins.

(*b*) Release all the pains you have felt unto God, who alone can bear them and replace your pain with joy.

(*c*) Release all your resentments to God. Once

you have made the choice to forgive, you gave up the right to hold on to those feelings. Release them to God without fear.

Unless you do this, the door for reconciliation will not open. Ask the Holy Spirit to come to your aid in going through this. Now, we come to the issues of reconciliation. Notice that the world now is not looking for forgiveness from God. He already had done that. What we are coming into with God is actually reconciliation, restoration of relationship. Please note that true biblical forgiveness is the open door to true reconciliation. A lot of relationships that were disturbed in the past don't go back to their original strength because all the issues involved in true forgiveness were not dealt with and so there is no total reconciliation. There have been many sincere Christians who after forgiving the wrongdoers try to attempt reconciliation and they run into all kinds of horrors and emotional damages when the wrongdoers were not willing to accept their responsibilities.

Note again, you can biblically forgive a wrongdoer whether he accepts his wrong or not, but you cannot be biblically reconciled to a wrongdoer if he does not accept his wrong.

Imagine a sinner who wants salvation but claims he was not really a sinner. Can he ever be truly saved? Therefore, don't rush into attempts at reconciliation immediately. Let God work it out. Keep praying for the offender. Now, you can really pray for him from a clear heart and conscience because you don't have those pains, memories, and resentments any more. The more you pray for the person, the more your heart loves him and the stronger your spirit gets.

Finally, don't assume responsibility for reconciliation. You are responsible only for forgiveness. No one can make heaven with unforgiveness, but you are not responsible for the feelings of someone else towards you. Forgiveness is a one-way affair in this light, which is between the offended and God, while reconciliation is a two-way traffic involving two human persons, the offended and the offender. That

is, you can forgive in isolation of the other person but you cannot reconcile in isolation of the other person. This is written to help countless Christians who are struggling with very deep-seated problems along these lines to come into a place of freedom. This will help you so that even if biblical reconciliation is not possible here on earth (which is very rare), you can maintain a conscience void of offence towards God and man and be free of satanic condemnation.

In conclusion, I have observed three major ways by which Christians deal with these issues of hurt, forgiveness, and reconciliation: withdrawal, toleration/pretence, and confrontation. Let us look at each closely.

Withdrawal—No healing

This is not the best. It reveals that the person is weak in the love of God. I am talking of the offended person. Forgiveness always should make us stronger in the love of God. Even if the offender does not do acts that promote reconciliation, you can still maintain a Christian love and relationship.

Toleration/Pretence—False Healing

If you ever had a sore that did not heal properly before a scab covered it, you will quickly appreciate the danger of pretence in relationships. When the sore breaks open later, it will be terribly painful. In Christian circles today, there is a lot of pretence and hypocritical love. When the offended pretends as if all is well and carries on in hypocrisy, such a person sincerely damages his own ability to discern truth and it becomes easy for such people to promote ostentation or 'eye service', which makes God's people open to demonic infiltration. This is what is most common today among many people. The agape love of God is not the same as *toleration* of misbehaviour and sin. Jesus spoke in **Revelation 2: 20**,

> **20. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

Pretence is not the way out to true Christian fellowship and growth. It is gold plated, not golden.

Confrontation—True Healing

The biggest weapon of sin is secrecy. When the works of darkness are exposed, they loose their power. When Christians avoid confrontation, we delay our healing and freedom. The Bible tells us that the way to true reconciliation is to ‘confront the offender’ (Matthew 18: 15-17). When we confront our hurts, we open the door to our liberty from the hurts. When we confront those who hurt us, we show them our willingness to be reconciled. If the offenders accept their fault and acknowledge the wrong they have done us and are willing to make amends and we are still unwilling to reconcile, then we are in bondage.

Confrontation is a great strength of true love. In Africa, we have a saying, ‘the medicine of friendship is “you offend me, I confront you about it”‘. If after confrontation, the offender still goes on in his misbehaviour and antics, then the matter is between him and God. You are free and you should go on to enjoy your Christian walk. You will notice that confrontation makes you stronger, freer, and more

sensitive to God and the needs of people. When I speak of confrontation, I am not speaking of accusation, condemnation, or attacking the persons; these are negative. Don't feel that your raising the issue in a spirit of love and humility is a sign of weakness or lack of manliness. The truly strong people in the Bible are those who allowed God to fight their battles for them. Just smile and hand over to the Holy Spirit and love the person anyway.

Understanding and Responding to True Deliverance Ministry

There are two extremes you can take on the subject of deliverance. The first is to overemphasise it and the second is to ignore it altogether. A close study of the problems of the human race will very quickly reveal that many people are grappling with superhuman problems whose origins are in the demonic realm. You cannot apply a natural solution to a supernatural problem. A close examination of the ministry commission of the Lord Jesus will reveal that He came to minister to the following categories of people:

1. The poor
2. The broken-hearted
3. The captives
4. The bound

The poor and the broken-hearted are those who, given the right materials, can take care of their conditions. The captives and the bound are those who need a superior power to be free and break into their divine destiny. We must not transpose solutions for one group to the other. It won't work. There are cases of insanity that medicine can cure while there are cases that only deliverance ministry will heal. The same applies for health, marital, financial problems, and so on. In fact, all problems can be grouped into either natural or supernatural cases. Dealing with supernatural cases responds only to one thing, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

ISAIAH 10: 27

27. And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder,

and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

LUKE 9: 1

1. Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

ACTS 10: 38

38. 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.

JOHN 8: 32

32. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

All these scriptures reveal to us that the power of the Holy Spirit is the only superior force that can liberate man from the grip of demonic powers. How do you get in touch with this power? The Bible tells us that Christ has given gifts unto men. There are servants of God who carry the anointing of God to effect deliverance for suffering humanity. Go to men of God who are experienced in *biblical* deliverance ministry. Note that I emphasised the word 'biblical'. Why? This is because there are errors in a lot of deliverance and demonology teachings and practices.

There are people who see a demon in everything and so relieve people of their human responsibility for their lives and there are people who don't believe in the reality of demonic activities and as a result they are prey to the worst kind of oppressions while looking for and insisting on natural explanations for their problems. There is a middle-of-the-road that is safe and that is the purpose for this book.

ISAIAH 61: 1-3

1. The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Notice it does not say, 'He has sent me to pray

deliverance to the captives'. We proclaim deliverance! We announce an already accomplished fact with the authority of Jesus Christ against the illegal rulers in the lives of people. Jesus said, 'If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God . . .' so it is by the Spirit of God that we cast out demons, not by experience, not by mental exercise. Some poor Christians have become customers at many night vigils for deliverance when they could be helped by simply hearing the truth taught and applying God's wisdom practically to their lives.

However, errors apart, there is the genuine deliverance ministry where captives are liberated, the oppressed are set free, and curses are broken. While no one can say for certain that if a certain set of conditions exist in some person's life, it means conclusively that a demon is operating: those sets of conditions can also reveal demonic activity. Therefore, we need to depend on the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Stay close to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, associate with a church where the full gospel is truly believed and demonstrated. The anointing alone destroys the yoke.

It Is Well!

For further help,

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