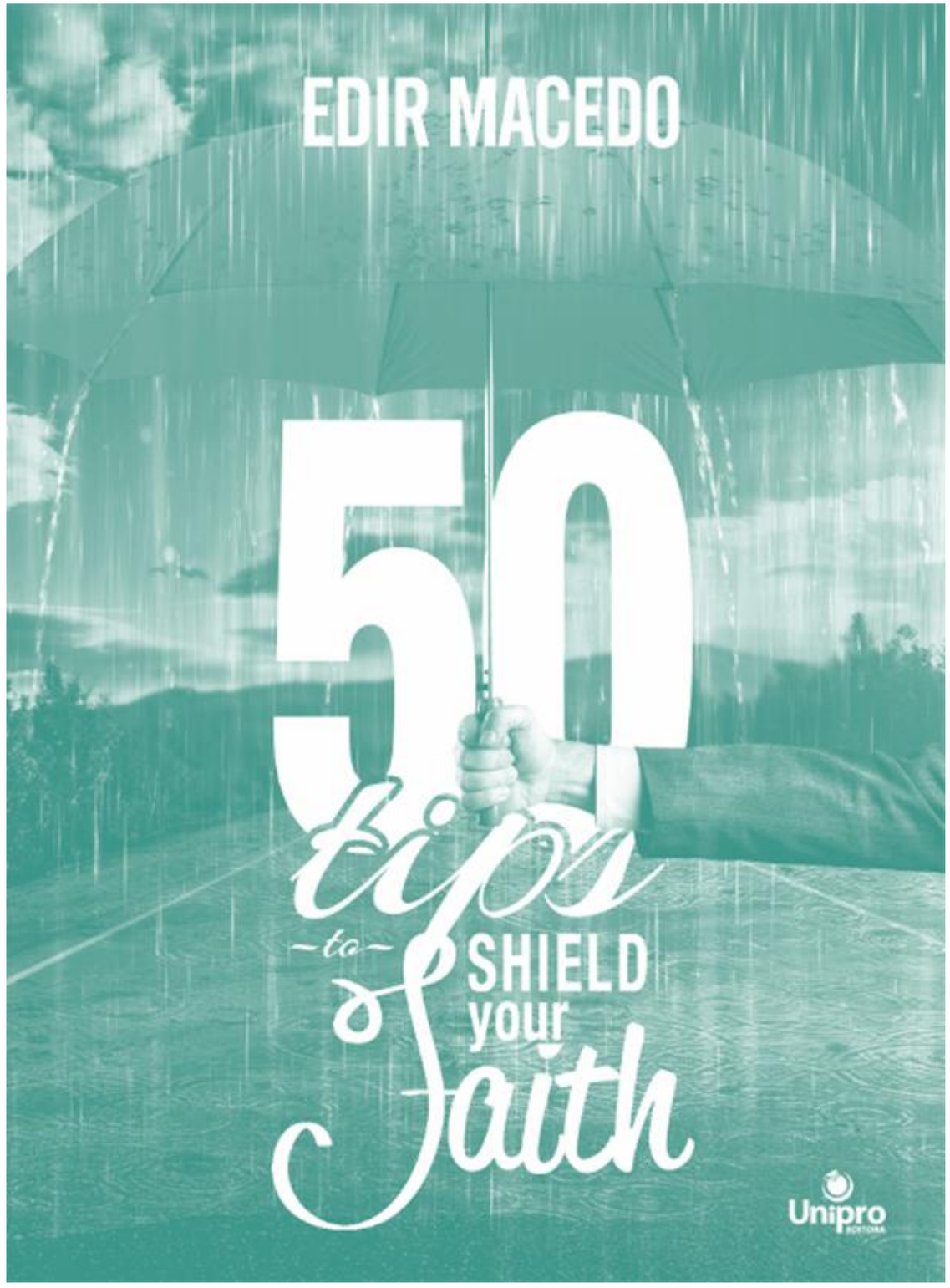

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50 tips to SHIELD your Faith

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TIP 1 Invest in your salvation above all else

It's now been fifty years of faith for me, not to be mistaken for fifty years of religiosity. Faith has nothing to do with religion. Faith is life. It's been fifty years that I have experienced true life. It's never been easy, but this faith has sustained me and made me see the impossible. I've been through many deserts, just like you, just like all of us who are born of God.

We were freed from slavery, just as the people of Israel were delivered from Egypt and headed towards the Promised Land. But to get to the Promised Land, they had to cross the desert. Likewise, we've been delivered from the bondage of sin and we've headed towards eternal life. But to get to eternal life, we have to cross the desert, which is life in this world. We're in the desert now. To cross it, we have to have loyalty and character. Our faith can't be just theory, but be lived out on a daily basis. This requires total commitment.

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about things we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). This assurance is so important in the life of a Christian that the Lord makes a point of saying, "My just shall live by faith" and "if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38). It's living by faith. In other words, without faith, you cannot live. You can't complete your journey with God without this assurance—it should be your oxygen.

Many people can manage to keep their faith in high gear for some time when they start attending church. But soon doubts and the cares of this life suffocate their faith and they grow cold. Some even say to me, "Bishop, I wish I had the faith that you have," as if it were an unreachable goal. But anyone can develop a strong faith.

During my walk through this desert, I've been to the depths of hell—a kind of suffering that many people would not be able bear; but my faith kept me strong. I don't consider myself better than you. On the contrary, I am fully aware of my shortcomings and I've never hidden them from anyone. So if I've managed to stay strong throughout these 50 years, you can too.

This book is a collection of practical tips that clearly express the attitudes that have helped me shield my faith, to ensure the salvation of my soul. I'm glad for the initiative that has made these teachings accessible in a practical way to those willing to deny themselves and follow the Lord Jesus. If these tips, which are based on what we have gone through and taught all these years, serve to save a soul, it will all be worth it.

If you put these tips or lessons into practice, they will certainly help you follow the apostle Paul's advice: "Work out your own

salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

May God bless you.

Bishop Macedo

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, Bishop Macedo celebrated his half-a-century journey with God. The challenges he faced could have knocked him down had he not understood the importance of taking care of his faith and drawing strength from it early on in life.

It was this strength that helped him endure persecution and slander from the media, which intensified after the purchase of Record TV in 1989.

And it was by faith that he endured the injustice of being arrested for preaching the Word of God and still found the strength to take this Word to more people around the world.

But how has he managed to remain firm for decades with the same confidence and perseverance he had when he met God, despite the tribulations, slander and persecution?

TURNING WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTH

Imagine yourself in a maternity ward waiting for the birth of your second child. You expect a healthy, perfect child, but the baby is born with a defect that will bring much suffering to her and the whole family.

Would you, as a faithful Christian who fulfils all his obligations, think that God had abandoned you, and in turn abandon Him as well? Or would your faith be strong enough to sustain you?

When the second daughter of the then civil servant Macedo was born with cleft lips and palate, his world turned upside down. What for many could mean the end of a covenant of trust became the spark of a revolution that would transform the lives of millions of people around the world.

Instead of blaming God for the suffering and sadness he was going through, he found in his faith the strength to channel all his anger to change his situation—and not only his, but the struggles of millions of people since then.

This quality of faith, able to endure any struggle and tribulation and come out the other side stronger, is what separates those who seek God from those who seek only the benefits that He can give.

It's common to see people seeking God because they are suffering, but after receiving the solution to their problems, they gradually forget Who it was that helped them. They become merely religious churchgoers.

And when struggles and persecution come, they abandon their faith.

In the last weeks of 2013, the bishop taught on the necessary attitudes to have this quality level of faith—these are the secrets to his fifty years in the presence of God.

These attitudes are available to anyone, and are essential if you want to remain firm for the rest of your life.

This book contains the most important on his list, which will

make all the difference if put into practice.

SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT

Bishop Macedo never tires of teaching that in order to enjoy the fullness of life with God, we first need to seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit with all our strength.

We can't seek Him as if He were a trophy to put on a shelf, or because we want to speak in tongues, but because this baptism is God Himself coming to dwell in us.

It is He who gives Christians the power and the courage to overcome not only themselves, but the world as well. It's through Him that we find the courage to face the devil, destroy his works, and rescue souls that are lost.

But if you thought that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the end of the line, you're wrong. This baptism is only the beginning of a true life with God, and the only guarantee of your salvation is in winning the daily battles that keep your faith alive and strong until the end.

MARRIAGE SHOULD BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT OF THE PROBLEM

Make your choices with your head, not with your heart. Bishop Macedo spent seven years searching for a partner who would be a true helper and would give him the ability to always keep his faith healthy. He preferred to be alone than to jeopardise his salvation. And so, he waited until he found the ideal one for him.

The rush to get married causes many to hand their lives over to others who have no real interest in serving God. Sooner or later, they end up growing cold and depart from the way. But on the other hand, a marriage to someone whose heart is loyal to God sustains and strengthens your faith.

DO YOU WANT MORE TIPS?

We'd all like to know how to have a long and healthy life. We follow tips from the experts; we want to know the secrets of those who have succeeded. Yet far more important than living a hundred years is holding onto your salvation until the end.

You must take care of your faith more than anything else, more than your health, your finances, more than your own family. Nothing in this world should be placed above your faith, for your salvation depends on it.

To help you on this journey, this book has compiled fifty tips to shield your faith, originally published as a series in the UCKG's weekly newspaper, Folha Universal.

The tips are all based on what Bishop Macedo has taught and practised during these past five decades, and will help you fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith.

Stand firm in your walk with God!

This introduction is an extract from the article titled,

“50 Years of Faith”, published in issue 1128 of Folha Universal.

TIP 50



"Beware of the company you keep"





BEWARE OF THE COMPANY YOU KEEP



Hearing and practising the Word of God are essential for keeping the faith. Stay close to those who have the same understanding. Don't think twice if you have to avoid certain people and places. It's better to be alone than in the company of people who will cause you to stumble.

TIP 49



"Reject bad thoughts"



REJECT BAD THOUGHTS



Keep your thoughts connected to the thoughts of God by occupying your mind with His Word, systematically eliminating all that is contrary to faith. Whenever you have a bad thought, rebuke it immediately and react by worshipping Jesus. Don't let bad thoughts take root in your mind. If you reject them, they will leave.

TIP 48



"Fight against doubts"



FIGHT AGAINST DOUBTS



Don’t listen to what puts you down. Doubts produce fear, insecurity, worry and anxiety. Faith is essentially positive; whatever is negative neutralises faith, while the positive strengthens it. Faith represents God and all that comes from Him. Doubts represent the devil himself and his kingdom. This is why a single ounce of doubt can contaminate all your faith.

TIP 47



"Be generous"





BE GENEROUS



“The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself” (Proverbs 11:25). Those who give will also receive; this is a law of God. Likewise, you can’t reap what you haven’t sown. No matter what it is that you want to receive, you have to give first. If you want to receive love, you have to give love. If you want respect, you have to give respect. If you want honour, you have to give honour.

TIP 46



"Keep your faith pure"





KEEP YOUR FAITH PURE



Even if people around you set bad examples or offend you, fix your attention on the positive. God urges us to have good eyes, always looking at the good side of others. It's not our place to judge anyone, much less contaminate those who are around us. Spitefulness destroys faith and throws you in the darkness. Keeping a sincere faith and a clear conscience is key to being unshakeable.

TIP 45



"Sacrifice"



SACRIFICE



The Bible teaches that God's Kingdom is taken by force (Matthew 11:12). No one said it would be easy. It demands self-denial, courage, and a willingness to do battle. God doesn't seek out perfect people to use; He looks for people who surrender their all, fight with all their strength, and have nothing to lose.

TIP 44





"Keep your partnership with God"







KEEP YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD



Never forget that once God created man, everything He did on earth from then on was done in partnership with humanity. God will not take the initiative to change your life, however bad your condition is. You can't do anything that is beyond your capacity by yourself. To see God work in your life, you have to have a partnership with Him. So always be connected to God, meditate on the Word, and put what you learn into practice. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5,6).

TIP 43



"Don't follow your heart"



DON’T FOLLOW YOUR HEART



God is Spirit, and He speaks to us through our spirit, our intellect—not through our emotions. Use your head first, in all matters—espe-cial- in your love life. The heart is stubborn, proud and unstable. To overcome struggles and challenges, faith needs stability, which can only be achieved by the use of our intellect.

TIP 42



"Never stop winning souls"



NEVER STOP WINNING SOULS



"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). It doesn't matter what position you have in the church, how many souls you've won, or how many responsibilities you have—a person who is saved always wants to save others. When you're willing to let the Holy Spirit use you, He'll use you at work, at home, on the streets... You will be an ever-flowing fountain.

TIP 41



"Preserve your mind"



PRESERVE YOUR MIND



Choose well what you allow into your home, into your mind, and into your life. Whenever we read a book or watch a movie, we drink from the spirit of that author or screenwriter. The same principle applies to listening to the news, soap operas, songs, and so on.

TIP 40



"Remember that you're just a clay vessel"





REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE JUST A CLAY VESSEL



It's God who is to be glorified, not you. As time passes, many people who carry a treasure inside of them—the Holy Spirit—get carried away by a false sense of superiority, assuming that they're more than mere vessels. Little by little, they stop being servants and eventually stray from the Way. "'But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24).

TIP 39



"Everything you do,
do for God"



EVERYTHING YOU DO, DO FOR GOD



It doesn't matter whether people consider your work important or if it goes unnoticed. Do your best as if you were doing it directly for God, with all your strength. You are serving the King. Never do anything haphazardly.

TIP 38



"Let God take care
of your affairs"



LET GOD TAKE CARE OF YOUR AFFAIRS



Take care of God's affairs and He will take care of yours. Hiring an experienced and trustworthy lawyer to handle a legal case gives you peace of mind. So why not be at peace even more when trusting your requests to God? It's written that the Lord Jesus is our Advocate (1 John 2:1) and we are more than conquerors through Him (Romans 8:37). Strive to obey God and take care of what is important to Him, and you will have not only the best Lawyer on your side, but the Judge Himself.

TIP 37



"Don't try to find out what other people are saying about you"



DON'T TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT YOU



Do what God expects of you and let people say whatever they want. The Lord Jesus already warned us that those who follow Him will suffer persecution and injustice for His name's sake. So don't worry about these conversations. And if by any chance you do hear them, don't set your heart on those words. Whatever takes your attention away from God weakens your faith.

TIP 36



"If you've made a mistake,
ask for forgiveness
and move on"



IF YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, ASK FOR FORGIVENESS AND MOVE ON



Becoming a new creation doesn't mean not making mistakes. You're still human. The difference is that now you hate sinning against God, for His will is more important than anything else. Stop bringing to mind the sins that have been forgiven, which eat away at you and cause great pain and distress. Go forward and turn away from evil.

TIP 35



"Always forgive"



ALWAYS FORGIVE



Don’t expect to feel like forgiving, because your heart just doesn’t have this desire. Forgiveness is a choice, a decision. It’s an attitude that’s based 100% on reason. If we aren’t willing to forgive those who offend us, we can’t be forgiven—or saved—by God. We’re all sinners before Him. And the Lord Jesus made it clear that only those who forgive would be forgiven.

TIP 34



"Have a spiritual view
of the world"



HAVE A SPIRITUAL VIEW OF THE WORLD



Don't make decisions according to a natural view of this world. If you make judgements and decisions based on what you see and think you understand, you'll make a lot of wrong choices. Base your faith on God's promises; trust that He will give you inspiration and guide your steps, and even if the logic of this world tells you to do differently, believe in the Word and go ahead. Those who live by faith believe and then see. It's the only way to see God work.

TIP 33



"Learn to demand from God what He's promised"



LEARN TO DEMAND FROM GOD WHAT HE'S PROMISED



God is honest, and if He pledged to do something in His Word, He'll do it. If this were not His desire, He wouldn't have promised it. As for our rights and duties, the Law of God works just as the law of man does: if we fulfil our commitments, we can demand from God the fulfilment of His promises.

TIP 32



"Let money be your servant,
not your master"



LET MONEY BE YOUR SERVANT, NOT YOUR MASTER



"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). Many have lost their salvation because of uncontrollable ambition, because they love money more than they love God. We obtain God's promises through faith, and He blesses us so that His name can be magnified. We should never make the mistake of allowing these blessings to be placed above God. More importantly than gaining material blessings is finding the salvation of our souls.

TIP 31



"Don't try to hide
who you are from God"





DON’T TRY TO HIDE WHO YOU ARE FROM GOD



What moves God’s hand towards us is our sincerity. If the greatest sinner in the world comes before God with sincerity, He will hear and answer him. On the other hand, even the most religious person on earth who fulfils all his obligations in church will receive no response if he is not sincere. When praying to God, open your heart and expose all that is hidden inside, whatever it is, because He knows who you are.

Your sincerity is what shows your humility.

TIP 30



"Have balance"





HAVE BALANCE



“Do not be overly righteous, nor be overly wise; why should you destroy yourself?” (Ecclesiastes 7:16)

If you demand perfection from yourself and from others, everything will seem wrong to you. An innocent joke will become a scandal, and you will begin to judge and condemn everything and everyone around you. This is an easy way to abandon faith and destroy yourself. Remember that we are imperfect and live in an imperfect world. When we don’t consider ourselves righteous, but strive to walk in God’s presence by obeying the Word, we become perfect in His eyes. Justice belongs to Him and is in Him, not in us.

TIP 29



"Bless your enemies"



BLESS YOUR ENEMIES



“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (Romans 12:14). Never forget that our fight is not against people, but for them. Many who preach the Gospel today were once its enemies before they were blessed with the truth. The Lord Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who slander us, because by doing so we give them an opportunity to know God and be saved.

TIP 28



"Don't listen to words of defeat"



DON'T LISTEN TO WORDS OF DEFEAT



When you begin something big, you can be sure that you'll hear many negative words that try to make you give up. They'll point out problems and difficulties to make you feel afraid, to doubt your faith and to doubt your God. Don't give in to pressure, but hold on to your faith and you'll succeed. Your testimony will glorify God's name, and those who doubted will see that He really is with you.

TIP 27



"Know when it's time to pray
and when it's time to take action"



KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO PRAY AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION



Faith is an assurance, and assurance comes from knowing the will of God. If you don't know His will, pray until He shows it to you. If you already know, then take action. Many grow cold in their faith simply because they don't make a stand, even though they know what to do. Years go by and everything stays the same, and then they get discouraged.

Others grow cold because they don't make decisions based on God's assurance, but on what they see and feel. When everything goes wrong, they get discouraged as well. Learn to discern what is required of you at each given moment—to pray, to take action, or both.

TIP 26



"Depend only on God"



DEPEND ONLY ON GOD



Don’t put your trust in people or situations to get what you need. Depend and trust only in God, whatever the cost. Believe that He who made promises is faithful to fulfil them. By doing so, you will show God that your faith is in Him and that it’s genuine. Then He’ll fight alongside you in your battles, and you’ll overcome all of them.

TIP 25



"Understand the Word,
don't just memorise it"



UNDERSTAND THE WORD, DON'T JUST MEMORISE IT



"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all" (1 Timothy 4:15). Don't rush when reading the Bible. Meditate on what is being said. They're not just words, but food for your spirit and strength to your faith. Just memorising them won't bring you any benefit. Understanding and practising them will change your life.

TIP 24



"Keep your mind in the present"



KEEP YOUR MIND IN THE PRESENT



"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34). Don't dwell on the past or obsess about the future. This only brings sadness and anxiety and weakens your faith. The past and the future are not in our hands. Fix your attention on the present because this is where you are and this is the time when you can do something. Sow today what you want to reap tomorrow, for the right time is now.

TIP 23



"Reject anxiety"





REJECT ANXIETY



It's impossible to believe and be anxious at the same time. Anyone who thinks otherwise is fooling themselves, for the root of anxiety is doubt. When you put doubts aside, anxiety also goes away, and then God can take care of your life and fulfil your needs.

TIP 22



"Take responsibility
for your life"



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE



Don’t try to justify your failures by pointing a finger at others. If your life is not the way you’d like it to be, the responsibility is all yours. Make the right choices and you’ll reap good fruit. Your choices determine the kind of life you lead.

TIP 21



"Beware of the
enemy's proposals"



BEWARE OF THE ENEMY'S PROPOSALS



Focus on what God has been teaching you and say no to anything that tries to divert your attention from Him. We are constantly being propositioned and solicited, and those invitations may even seem good or innocent, but if they go against God's guidance, they're traps. Cut them off at the root.

TIP 20



"If God is your Father, listen to Him!"



IF GOD IS YOUR FATHER, LISTEN TO HIM!



"He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God" (John 8:47). The verb "hear" can mean to audibly notice a sound made by someone or something, or to listen and comprehend. This means that you can either just notice God's words with your ear, or you can listen, believe and obey His words. When Jesus spoke, He made it clear that to be considered a child God (and be saved), you must listen to His Word.

TIP 19



"Take possession of God's promise"



TAKE POSSESSION OF GOD'S PROMISE



"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). This is the prophecy of the Lord Jesus for all of us, but to take possession of it, you need strength and courage. God didn't hand the Promised Land over to the Israelites on a silver platter. They had to take it from their enemies by force.

Yet they had God on their side, and no matter how strong their opponents were, the Lord would deliver them into their hands. Because they believed in the promise, they became strong; and because they had courage to go to battle, they overcame.

TIP 18



"Believe without a doubt"



BELIEVE WITHOUT A DOUBT



“I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry” (Psalm 40:1). For God there is no such a thing as “trusting with reservations”. It’s all or nothing. Trust that God has heard you, because you have His promise that you will be heard when you cry out and trust Him.

TIP 17





"Be willing"





BE WILLING



God uses those who make themselves available to be used, and it doesn't matter whether you have the right abilities or skills. When you make yourself available for God, He gives you the skills you need—you just need to be willing. "Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work" (Exodus 36:2).

TIP 16



"Don't panic
because of persecution"



DON’T PANIC BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION



People who are born of God have the Spirit of God. The children of the world hate the children of God because they are possessed by the spirit of the world. So whenever you are persecuted and insulted because of your faith, hold onto it even more. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11,12).

TIP 15



"Be God's image
in this world"



BE GOD'S IMAGE IN THIS WORLD



"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6). Whatever you have inside of you that resembles the world must be put to death. If you've become a new creation, people should no longer see your former self; they must see Jesus. This is our responsibility when we know and live the truth. And there are no two ways about it—if the Spirit of Jesus is inside of you, you become a copy of Him.

TIP 14



"Watch at all times"



WATCH AT ALL TIMES



Don't be distracted by the things of this world. It's easy to lose our focus on God when we're bogged down by the cares of daily life. There are so many things pulling and competing for our attention that many forget what really matters, and end up growing cold in their faith. Stay connected to God, meditate on His Word continually, and always make time to go to church and pray.

You have the time; you just need to make God your priority.

TIP 13



"Be faithful in tithes and offerings"



BE FAITHFUL IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS



"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8). Do you want God to fulfil His promises? Then keep your commitments to Him. Our relationship with God can be compared to a marriage. Faithfulness is an obligation of both parties. If someone calls themself a Christian but puts aside their faithfulness to God, they break their relationship with Him and become common thieves in His eyes.

TIP 12



"Honour your word"



HONOUR YOUR WORD



“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37). Everything that exists was created by the Word, which God’s honours so much that not even He can go back on what He has said. As a Father, He expects His children to act the same way. Therefore, honour your word before others. Fulfil your promises and always speak the truth.

By doing this, your mouth will not give evil an opportunity to work in your life.

TIP 11



"Be like a child"



BE LIKE A CHILD



"...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it" (Luke 18:17). Most people refuse to believe and trust with the simplicity and purity of a child. A toddler will jump into his father's arms if he tells him to, even from a great height. God asks us to jump into His arms like children; but how can we behave like children if our hearts are filled with spitefulness and our eyes are evil? Reject these things. Don't let them prevent you from entering the Kingdom of God.

TIP 10



"Don't let your anger
turn against you"



DON'T LET YOUR ANGER TURN AGAINST YOU



"'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26,27). It's only natural to get angry now and then. This doesn't affect our relationship with God, as long as we don't allow this anger to overtake us. If we allow our hearts to be filled with grudges, revenge, and other destructive feelings, we give evil free access to do what it wants. If your anger has made you sin, repent, forgive those who need to be forgiven, and start keeping watch over your thoughts again.

TIP 9



"Beware of false Christians"



BEWARE OF FALSE CHRISTIANS



Don't listen to people who say things that are contrary to your faith. Even within the church, there are those who try to divert your attention from the Word. They are wolves in sheep's clothing, mixed into the fold. They distort God's teachings, convince many, and turn them away. Stay away from these people.

TIP 8



"Don't attempt to widen the gate"



DON’T ATTEMPT TO WIDEN THE GATE



The things of God are not easily attained; so don’t expect to receive what He has prepared for His children without having to deny your own will. The gospel of a wide gate, where people can do whatever they want and still receive the Kingdom of God as a reward, is a lie from hell and a deadly trap for many. Don’t be carried away by the easy path.

TIP 7



"Don't be afraid
of the enemy's threats"



DON’T BE AFRAID OF THE ENEMY’S THREATS



It’s the devil who behaves this way, so don’t accept it!

Who can curse what God has blessed? If your life is truly in God’s hands, then envy, the evil eye, or any other curse cannot affect you. The devil has to go through God before he can get to you. How could he do that? Balaam was paid to curse Israel, but all he could do was to bless them even more. The secret to this immunity to the devil’s threats is a life of sincerity and obedience to God.

TIP 6



"Stop coping with problems"





STOP COPING WITH PROBLEMS



And strive to abandon your bad habits. God does not torture His children to test them. If something bad is happening in your life, you can be sure that there are forces of evil at work. God allows us to face challenges so that we'll revolt against that situation. That's the way we find victory and grow even stronger in our faith. It's never God's will to humiliate or destroy us.

TIP 5



"Don't let your tongue
make you sin"



DON’T LET YOUR TONGUE MAKE YOU SIN



“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3). David knew that every word carried a weight and that his tongue could either bless or curse him, so he asked God to give him control over his words.

If your tongue is always eager to talk more than it should, do what David did and ask God to give you control over it.

TIP 4



"Please God, not people"



PLEASE GOD, NOT PEOPLE



“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). Do God’s will, even if this means having enmity with many. We cannot have two masters. When we choose to do God’s will, the whole world turns against us. There’s no way to reconcile the Truth with the way the world does things, because they oppose each other.

TIP 3



"Test God"



TEST GOD



"'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,' says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it'" (Malachi 3:10). God invites us to test Him. If you are faithful, you have the right to see this promise fulfilled in your life. Don't fold your arms and wait for the blessing to just fall into your lap. It takes faith and action to test the Word. Go ahead with the assurance that God is with you and He will honour your actions so that His Word is fulfilled.

TIP 2



"Acknowledge God in all your ways"



ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IN ALL YOUR WAYS



Always keep in mind Who it is that is guiding your steps. Many people come to church with nowhere else to go and on the verge of death, but after being blessed, they grow cold in their faith and turn their backs on God. Soon they are back to where they once were. Be careful not to be impressed by your achievements and give all the credit to your abilities. It's God who sets us on the right path and paves our way and keeps us steadfast in it.

TIP 1



"Invest in your salvation above all else"



INVEST IN YOUR SALVATION ABOVE ALL ELSE



God invites us to live with Him for eternity as His children. There is no greater honour than this for a human being. It's the only treasure worth fighting for with all our strength until the end. Every effort and sacrifice becomes insignificant in light of this reward. Let absolutely nothing in this world, NOTHING, take you away from your faith and from God. And if you haven't yet received the Holy Spirit, seek Him above all else, for through Him you find strength and courage to overcome yourself and the world, and have your name written in the Book of Life. May God bless you.

JUST THE BEGINNING

Now that you know these 50 tips, you have in your hands a basic guide to preserve your faith. And one of the biggest secrets of salvation is to never relax. Those who truly want to live in a pure and living faith must fight every day to overcome all the battles that arise along the way. And when things seem peaceful, they should be on the alert even more, making use of all of their spiritual resources to stay strong and productive.

Faith is an antidote to all the evils of this world. Faith is the antidote to anxiety; faith is an antidote to depression; faith is an antidote to failure; faith is an antidote to loneliness; faith is an antidote to everlasting suffering. Faith is the channel of communication between God and His children. It's what brings us close to Him and guarantees that we live according to His will. It's what keeps us believing in what we cannot see.

Now that you're aware that it's only through faith that we can achieve everything we need in this world and beyond, you can understand the importance of doing whatever it takes to keep faith strong. So in addition to using this book as a reference, make sure that you invest in your personal relationship with God every day. Going to church is important, as long as you go there to meet God, listen to His Word and seek Him in an environment of faith. It's something that should be between you and God, and not a mere religious obligation, or it will be good for nothing.

Your faith should be rational, and you should exercise it every day by meditating on the teachings of the Word of God and putting into practice what you learn. And don't forget, this is something you have to do for the rest of your life, with the thirst of a man crossing the desert. Like we said in the foreword, this is the place where we all find ourselves.

But here is a warning: if you still can't be resolute in your journey with God and have been living a spiritual roller coaster, falling more often than standing on your feet, it means you need to seek the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit—regardless of how long you have been in church. A person who is born of God overcomes the world. It's the first step to be considered a child of God. Without the new birth and without being baptised in the Holy Spirit, it will be hard to follow these 50 tips for life. So if you don't have Him yet, you should seek Him with all your strength, and with all your faith.

And then the prophecy will be fulfilled, which says, "'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you'—this is the Lord's declaration—'and I will restore your fortunes…'" (Jeremiah 29:13,14 HCSB).

To help you not only become a child of God, but to hold true to the way until the end, I'd like to invite you to read the daily messages posted on my blog— bishopmacedo.com—then we can walk the narrow path of salvation together.

Books to build up your faith

The Supernatural Power of Faith



Unleash the supernatural power of faith and learn how to make it work for you. You'll be amazed at how much you've been missing!

Gideon and the 300



You will be amazed at how God does the extraordinary through ordinary people!

The Faith of Abraham



Read "The Faith of Abraham" and find out how you can achieve a life of distinction through a close relationship with God.

The Real Meaning of the Cross



Your Christian life will receive strength and inspiration when you read this book.

Change Your Life Through Your Sacrifice

Understand why an offering is much more than just money, and when it has nothing to do with money at all.



Are We All God's Children?

The biggest and most convincing lie of all times is the belief that we are all God's children.



In the Footsteps of Jesus

"In the Footsteps of Jesus" will not only help you find the way out of your problems but also teach you how to get the most out of life.



Life More Abundant

In "Life More Abundant", Bp Macedo explains what more there is to life, as well as thetrue meaning of abundance.



40 Secrets for the Single Woman



In "40 Secrets for the Single Woman", Nanda Bezerra draws on her own experiences and offers valuable tips.

Revival



In this book, you will find a declaration of love for the spiritual growth of the children of God.

Forgiveness



A straightforward manual for people who need to cleanse themselves of the weight of bad memories—and start a new life.

The Character of God



The words of life, wisdom and guidance contained in "The Character of God" will enrich your spiritual life and allow you to bask in the blessings of divine justice.

Sin and Repentance



In this succinct but clear booklet, Bishop Macedo helps you understand why you need to rule over sin and teaches you how you can break free from it.

The Works of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit



It's a fascinating book that will help you understand the nature of good and evil.

The Mysteries of Faith



Learn how you can benefit from faith and, as a consequence, start a new chapter in your life.

The Master and the Servant



This is a must-read for all who yearn to serve and please our Lord, and to establish a strong relationship with Him.

How to do the Work of God



The aim of this book is to clarify the position a servant should occupy before his Master and before the world, as well as to define his role in the body of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit



"The Holy Spirit" is a detailed explanation of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity as well as a practical guide to people who truly desire to know Him.

The V-Woman



The modern woman is out of fashion. Here comes the V-Woman! Cristiane Cardoso journeys into the past to uncover 20 secrets of this woman.

Better Than a New Pair of Shoes



This book is NOT about buying new shoes. But it does an even better job at helping women look and feel great about themselves.

Nothing to Lose - Vol. 1



In the first of three proposed books, Bishop Edir Macedo describes some of the amazing revelations that have shaped his life.

Nothing to Lose - Vol. 2



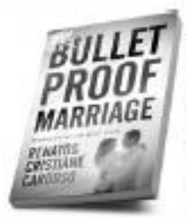
The never-before-revealed memories of Edir Macedo continue with striking examples, poignant reflections, and controversial recollections.

Bible Studies



In this book the author addresses questions in a simple and straightforward manner, helping you discover the hidden treasures in God's Word.

Bulletproof Marriage



In this book, Renato and Cristiane Cardoso offer solid guidance to those who appreciate the value of their relationship and want to shield it against the risk of divorce.

The Profile of a Man of God



The Lord Jesus said that many are called but few are chosen. But who is chosen? How are they identified? Why were anointed men of the past different from men today?

The Profile of the Youth of God



In fact, the teenage years are the best time to know God and make a covenant with Him. When this happens, everything is possible and defeat is nowhere to be found!

The Profile of a Woman of God



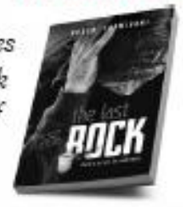
In a very simple and straightforward way, he speaks about a woman's family, marriage, character, love, passion and spirituality.

The Profile of a Family of God



A must-read for couples as well as singletons who desire to build their families based on God's principles.

The Last Rock



The eye-witness testimonies spread throughout this book will give you a good idea of who Roger was and how he stepped into the unthinkable world of drugs.

Possessed Believers: Twelve Signs of Possession or Oppression



In this book, the author chronicles the events that led him to Africa and the amazing miracles he witnessed there.

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