AMBASSADORS OF HEAVEN



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All scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible except otherwise indicated.

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INTRODUCTION

We are Ambassadors of heaven. An ambassador is an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country; a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity.When Jesus rose from the dead and commissioned us in John 20:21 saying, ***"as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*** what He was doing was making us representatives of the Kingdom. He had already pointed out that, we are not from this world even though we are in it. John 17:16.

When we gave our lives to Christ, He could have taken us to heaven where we belong, but He chose to leave us here as Heaven's representatives. An ambassador of any nation is taken care of by that nation, protected by his nation and lives off the economy of that nation. Therefore God left us here to live like Jesus lived where He had His needs met by Heaven. When He was born, because He would have to go sojourn in Egypt, God made wise men from the East bring Him gold. When He needed money for taxes, He got it in the mouth of the fish that He made Peter go to catch. He assigned people who ministered to Him out of their substance. When the storm was boisterous, instead of crying or being afraid, Mark 4:39, ***"He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."***

Beloved, so does God want us to represent Him. In 2010 we held a campaign at a town in Aflao, Ghana. The Paramount King of the place was at the meeting from the first night of the campaign. On the third night just before I was introduced it started to drizzle. Note, firstly, that traditional rulers in such places are not supposed to be beaten by rain, since it would be gross abomination against the royal stool. So when the clouds looked like it would rain cats and dogs, everyone started pleading with His Excellency to get up and leave. He however insisted that from what he had witnessed the previous two nights, he would not go anywhere. I therefore took the microphone as a representative of Heaven and said "In Jesus' name I command the windows of heaven to shut and there will be no rain till after my campaign according to my word." Immediately the rain stopped. On my way back to the hotel in the next town, though, we discovered it had rained all around the city!

Let me now illustrate with another testimony what it means to be representatives of Heaven. In 1993, I was invited by Rev. Isaac Paul to the town

of Chengham, in Tamilnadu State of India. The pastor had told me that, for 150 years no one had been successful in holding a crusade, because the Hindu monks would cross their legs and levitate or suspend in the air at any attempt to do so. On the first night after I had been introduced I made a declaration: “I am not here as an economist, nor a politician, neither a banker, but as an Ambassador of Heaven, with the authority of Heaven behind me; and anyone who attempts to suspend in the air will remain there.” To glory of God, no one attempted to suspend in the air. I asked my host why nobody attempted to suspend in the air and he said “No one ever spoke with such authority in this place.”

In this book my desire is to help the reader to Heaven with the awesome power that God has committed into our hands. May this book stir in you the knowing that we are who He says we are, that we have what His word says we have, and that we can do all He says we can do. Read on and rise to your fullest potential as an ambassador of Heaven.

1

Origins Of Spiritual Warfare

1 John 5:19-20 ***"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."***

Behind every evil condition there is a spirit

Man was originally made to rule the earth but he unfortunately lost that right to Satan through sin. Since stealing authority from man, Satan now controls the world directly in opposition to the will of God. He is the originator of evil in the universe. That is the reason why men fail trying to stop evil solely by human effort. Many human problems unfortunately defy human solution. Many helpless drug addicts can't be helped even at our rehab centers. It is most obvious that there are spirits responsible for many conditions we suffer. Medical equipment doesn't solve spiritual problems. The supernatural is absolutely superior to the natural. There is always more to what we see than commonly meets the eye. Many natural conditions are direct reflections of the supernatural. If you don't appreciate this important fact, you are bound to struggle all your life. Spiritual forces are mainly responsible for many adverse conditions we suffer.

Moral Darkness in the world

Over the centuries, the world has been turned into a zone of spiritual and moral darkness by the Devil. Moral decadence, political corruption, ideological fanaticisms, wars and all have become the common lot of mankind. Suicide bombings in Iraq, ethnic cleansing in Rwanda, Southern Sudan and elsewhere are without doubt spiritual orchestrations playing out in the natural. A world with gun-wielding, condom-clutching and tattoo-bodied children walking the neighborhoods posing a threat to life and property are all works of the Devil. Politicians and policy makers can't be solely relied upon to fix these problems for us. The hydra-headed ills of the world are beyond the capacity of politicians and policy makers to sufficiently resolve. If we don't rely on God through prayer

and the word, we are helpless. Rape, teenage pregnancy, child prostitution and violent crime are just but a few of Satan's handiworks.

Many educational institutions have become breeding grounds for drug addicts and sex-maniacs masquerading as scholars. Recent incidents of homicide on some American school campuses are a matter of frightening concern. In some societies, Bibles have been removed from schools, hotels and other public facilities as a way of ensuring religious equality. Satan is solidly behind all these unfortunate developments. Paul speaks in Eph. 2:2 of ***"The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."*** Satan is overtly or covertly behind all sinful activities in the world. The Devil and his agents create conditions that contradict the will of God. Our present circumstances and stations in life are determined by what happens in the spirit world. The spirit behind prostitution, homosexuality, murder, blasphemous faiths, etc is not the Holy Spirit but the Devil. And when through ignorance we allow Satan to control us, we are bound to struggle. That is why Satan is able to molest some people today, because they don't know how to walk in victory through Christ. Victory in the heavens leads to victory on earth and vice versa. The Devil and his host can be overcome in the power of the name of Jesus. Armed with the truth and biblical strategy, we always prevail over the Devil. Therefore, in this book we shall identify and deal with the spirits behind evil in the world, and shall learn how to defeat the forces of evil in our world through the power of the name of Jesus.

Let's not be deceived into thinking that the Christian experience is without war. In fact, the moment a person is born again he enlists in the army of God for a life of unending warfare. And to be effective representatives of the Kingdom we simply cannot avoid this battle.

The Two Realms of conflict

There are two realms in the spirit world, namely: the realm of God, and the realm of Satan. Sin, wickedness and evil have their roots in the realm of Satan. Life, righteousness, glory, goodness, power, peace and the like have their root in God. These two realms are in a never-ending conflict. They are each opposed to the other.

The Realm of Light and Darkness

The realm of God is the realm of light and is superior to the realm of Satan, which is the realm of darkness. As light and darkness never coexist, so God and

Satan never coexist. Similarly, as light is stronger than darkness, so God is supremely stronger than Satan. The presence of God connotes the absence of the Devil. On the other hand, the presence of the Devil signifies the absence of the manifest presence and power of God. There is a difference between the manifest presence of God and the omnipresence of God. God is present everywhere but He doesn't necessarily manifest himself everywhere.

Conditions for His presence and Power

Conditions must be created to attract the manifest presence of God. God is everywhere but he is not manifestly present everywhere. We create conditions through prayer and obedience to attract the manifest presence and power of God. On the other hand, there are behaviors and attitudes that put the Devil in charge. Some attitudes and practices, on the contrary, disable Satan. The seed of Abraham (Christian) is empowered in Christ to effectively deal with the Devil (Gates of Hell).

And yet, even having been supernaturally empowered in Christ, the believer still has to engage in warfare.

Eph. 6:12 ***"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."***

The Origin of warfare

Spiritual warfare began in Heaven. That was when Satan and his host rebelled against the rule of God in Heaven.

Rev. 12:7-9 ***"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."***

Spiritual warfare did not start on earth and certainly did not start today. It originated in Heaven before time began. Satan introduced disharmony into a hitherto peaceful universe when he rebelled against God. God sent Michael to quickly and easily quash Satan's rebellion as seen in the text above. He was however allowed limited room to roam the earth (universe) awaiting his final

judgment as seen in the scripture below:

Job 1:7 ***"And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."***

Now an outcast from Heaven, the devil roams the earth. The bonafide right to rule the earth was originally given to man but he lost it to Satan through sin.

Gen. 1:28-30 ***"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."***

At creation, man was made the ruler of the world. He was to rule the world in submission to God. The rule of man continues as long as he lives in obedience to God. When man disobeyed God he lost his power and authority to the devil. This is how the devil became the god of this world.

2 Cor. 4:4 ***"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"***

Having taken power from man, he turned the world into a theatre of war and chaos. The mutiny he started in Heaven is now carried on in the earth. He therefore uses everything at his disposal to fight the will and plan of God. Whatever and whoever represents the will of God becomes Satan's target. This has been his practice since the fall of man.

SATAN'S WEAPONS

Satan's modus operandi is to design weapons to fight the will of God for man. Man is the image of God, so in fighting man he in turn fights God. He employs the weapons of death, theft and destruction to fight against man.

John 10:10 ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."***

Over the years he has used these three-fold weapons to fight against man. He

steals the life and glory of man in many ways. He kills the purpose and glorious destinies God has for man. When Jesus died and rose again, He lawfully took away from the devil the authority Adam gave him in Eden. Whatever man lost in Eden was taken from him and restored to man in Christ. The power of death over those in Christ was taken away from him.

Dominion is Restored

Col. 2:15 ***"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."***

The words used in this passage are military. The idea is that Christ has completely subdued man's enemies by His death. A total victory was won by His death; so that every thing in the universe is now subjected to Jesus. The principalities and powers referred to, are the formidable enemies that held man captive since the fall. These are the evil spirits, which had dominion over the world on behalf of Satan. By death, Jesus took away the dominion from them. In ancient times, a conqueror, returning from war, would display in a triumphal procession the kings and princes taken in war. The prisoners of war would be proudly led along in the train of triumph. This was done openly on a given day.

In His death and resurrection, Christ led Satan and his hosts in a victory procession in the presence of the spiritual universe. Every spirit being in the universe saw and knows about this grand victory over Satan. It was not done in the natural world; it took place in the spirit realm. All Christians have become owners or beneficiaries of this victory. What belongs to Christ belongs to the believer. It is because of this truth that the believer's victory over Satan is certain.

Devils still rule over some people

Satan and his demons are defeated and disarmed but they continue to fight. The defeated Devil exerts power and authority over fallen mankind despite the defeat at Calvary. This is due to the presence of two classes of men on the earth. Defeated Satan rules over fallen humanity. Salvation is only available in to mankind in Christ; those whose sins are washed in the blood of the Lamb enjoy freedom and victory. Satan also has another degree of power over those in Christ but live in ignorance of the benefits of the cross. Whilst Satan rules over the unbeliever through sin, he rules over the believer through ignorance and habitual sin. In this case, whatever happens to the unbeliever can easily happen to the

ignorant believer. The greatest weapon of the Devil against the Christian is ignorance and habitual sin.

Hos. 4:6 ***"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."***

An ignorant and willful 'sinner Christian' is as weak as an ordinary sinner. This explains why many born again tongue-speaking believers are still dominated by the Devil. Witches and wizards destroy, kill and steal from them just like the rest of men. They suffer poverty, disgrace, lack and the rest of them. They live as if there are no blessings available in Christ for them.

SATAN'S ARMY

Eph. 6:12 ***"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."***

Satan's kingdom is well organized and structured. It is not a disorderly kingdom. The Devil is well organized by all standards. There are ranks, grades, designations and a well laid out command structure in Satan's administration. Jesus says the Devil is not divided against himself.

Luke 11:17 ***"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub."***

Members of Satan's kingdom operate by a hierarchical order. The first citizen in the satanic kingdom is Lucifer. He is the highest-ranking officer in Hell. Below him are other ranking powers that take ultimate orders from him.

PRINCIPALITIES

Arche is the Greek word for principality in the New Testament. It refers generally to men in authority. A principality is a ruler over large territories. In Satan's army, principalities are spirit beings next in rank to the Devil. They are set over nations and large areas. Some also rule over spheres without definite geographical description, like prostitution, pornography, witcraft, apostate religion etc. The Devil is not omnipresent so cannot be at all places at the same time. And yet he has arranged his forces in order to establishe his presence and

influence in the whole world. These powers represent the rebellious rule of Satan. The prince that Michael fought in the book of Daniel was a principality spiritually appointed over the empire.

Dan. 10:12-13 ***"[12]Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.***

[13]But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

I believe that in every nation there is a satanic principality assigned to rule in the interest of Satan. Their power is not a physical power. It is a legal power lost by man to the prince of the power of the air. The legal basis for this power can only be challenged through faith in Christ. God has sovereign authority in the universe. The death of Christ restored authority to all men of faith.

I learnt about principalities experientially. When I began my ministry in 1983, I did not know by any book or material that when you are going to any city you have to pray and take over the principalities that rule the place. Before I went into my first major crusade in March 1985, the Spirit of God gave me an experience. The Holy Ghost led me into fasting and prayer for three days. As I fasted and prayed one afternoon, I began to see into the spirit with my eyes opened. I found myself fighting with a python that had 12 heads and another head on top of the rest. This serpent coiled around me and began to squeeze the air out of me. I began to bind the spirit in the name of Jesus for a time. Gradually, the snake began to grow weaker and weaker till it released its grip on me and fell off.

I came back to myself and immediately the Holy Spirit told me, "That was the principality that ruled Asamankese" (the town I was going to). I therefore went into that meeting without posters or handbills. The town was literally turned upside right for Jesus. We had 21 days of miracles, healings, signs and wonders. In fact, *The Mirror,* a weekly newspaper, thought the meetings were newsworthy and reported how the daughter of one journalist was healed.

I have also learned that the principality that rules a city can at times indwell a particular human being. When I prepared for my Akim Oda (a town in Ghana) Miracle Crusade, two weeks later, in a dream, I saw a woman with a very beautiful face but the hairs of whose head were serpents. We began to fight till

she was overpowered. This made me know that, that was the principality that ruled the town.

I went into the town for a 10-day power packed meeting. One afternoon, a lady came to visit me in the mission house where I was staying. She was a very prominent personality in the town. When I came out to meet her, the face was the same as the lady I saw in the dream and the hair was also plaited in small bits. (This does not mean hair plaited in small bits indicates snakes). When our eyes met, we both knew we not strangers to each other. We had met in the realm of the spirit. She requested that I pray for her but the Holy Spirit ministered to me that, because she had failed spiritually, she wanted to harm me physically by making me lay hands on her head. Paul said to Timothy in 1 Tim. 5:22,23, ***"Lay hands suddenly on no man nor share in their sins."*** He told me not to be afraid, but said to Lay my hands on her head to prove to her that in 1 Jn.4:4. *"Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. "* I did, and nothing happened to me, and from that day it was as if the heavens were opened. We had miracle upon miracle in the meetings.

It was these experiences that explained what happened when Daniel was praying. There was a principality that ruled the place, i.e. the prince of Persia. Before I went to Akim Oda, I spent three days in fasting and prayer. I did not have time to fast again and I went to another city called Ewisa. I had a successful crusade there. After that, I moved to another town. For about two months without another fast, we were going from town to town holding crusades and I experienced the divine power of God; because in every town I would go, I would pray and take authority over the principalities and pull down the strong holds that ruled the place. We saw results and we experienced miracles, signs and wonders like never before.

In a typical crusade or city-taking event, we researched and asked for the spirits that ruled the place, checked the state symbol (because there are times it helps you understand the principality that rules the place), the habits of the people, and the social implications on the people. E.g. in Lome, the national capital of Togo, before our crusade in 2001 we found out that;

a. The people paid homage to marine spirits, or spirits in the rivers, fertility gods and goddesses, gods of divination, rain, and protection deities. They also depended on lucky charms, and ancestral spirits were worshipped for their daily existence. They worshiped and feared the gods of vengeance

and retribution.

b. The state symbol situated at their Independence Square, which was a state monument, was the image of a naked woman seated on a traditional throne. They called it the spirit of the sea (Esprit de Sirène des Eaux).

c. The people were discouraged and disappointed because of political and economic challenges facing the country. There was confusion also about Christianity because some people who practiced occultism disguised it as church and were exposed.

d. Because there was no fear of God and the people were frustrated, they lied to succeed; corruption was everywhere; and prostitution had risen to high levels. Even though a small country of almost 5 million people in West Africa, it had the second highest cases of HIV/AIDS. A week to the crusade I had a dream in which the President of the nation had bowed and was kneeling before me. I woke up knowing the principality that ruled the nation was subdued.

We held a four-day Gospel Crusade and three-day School Of Ministry for pastors and church leaders from 18th to 21st December, 2001. We recorded over 2,000 leaders daily for the School of Ministry. The first night of the crusade we had seven deaf and dumb persons and two blind people healed, four cripples walking and many other notable miracles taking place. On one of the days an HIV/AIDS patient carried to the grounds went back home walking and running by herself.

Behind The Curtain

I knew by precept in the word that the angel had told Daniel (Dan 10:13) that he had to battle with the prince of Persia. I have also learnt by experience that principalities rule localities. You can even identify a principality that rules a place by the most prevalent lifestyle and habits of the people.

In the city of Tamale where I was the founder and senior minister in the church, it was said that a church could not grow beyond a certain number. Before I arrived there, I identified the principalities that ruled the city and did warfare with those spirits. We became the fastest growing church and largest single congregation there. To God be the glory. Today, there are so many independent churches in the city. Thank God.

At times, the principality that rules a particular locality may indwell a river, stream, hills or even mountains. Israel went to battle and when they overcame the Philistines, the Philistines said, in 1 Kings 20:23 ***"Israel's God was the god of the hills."*** A typical example is the principality that ruled the city of Koforidua, the capital city of the Eastern Region of Ghana. It indwelt the hills of Obuotabiri and also operated through dwarfs. At one point in time, Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke had bought new sound equipment which he outdoored in Koforidua, On the first night of his crusade bees from the Obuotabiri hills just flew straight into the speakers and there was no sound for two days until Bonnke cast them out. He therefore named his crusade the Citadel of Satan is Broken.

The principality that rules Tarkwa (a town in western Ghana) is also in the stream *Patangye* which means *"does not accept pacification."* In my crusade there in 1985, on the second night, I had finished preaching, had prayed for the sick, and had taken testimonies. Suddenly, I saw a commotion behind me and when I turned it was this woman who was with her son insisting I pray for him. Everyone looked on very concerned and I said to her, "Say to your son, 'Lift up your hand in Jesus' name'". Immediately she said that, the son raised his hand. Then she testified that she was the fetish priestess of Patangye but her son was born with a limp hand and was eighteen years old without being able to lift the hand. She said she heard of the crusade and how God was meeting people at the point of their need and so she came; and here she was, seeing firsthand that, what her god could not do, Jesus had done it. From that night there was a breakthrough for crusade and the news travelled far and near.

There are times the principalities even indwell trees. It was said that a certain tree by St. Martin's Secondary School used to have some small Kaliko around it, which turned into a tall human being at night and went round overseeing the town of Adoagyir. It was called Kwasi Tenten (or "Tall Kwasi"). Many people claimed to have met him so many times.

POWERS

The spirit world is a very dark and deep place such that, in order to land safely, we need navigational light – the light of the word – so we do not get off the bend.

Isa. 8:19-20 ***"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that***

have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

To the law and to the testimony [the word or scriptures]: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (brackets mine).

The word used for powers in the text Ephesians 6:12 is Exousia. It stands for a ruler of a district or region. Powers are the demons in charge of religions and cults etc. It also connotes a magistrate in Romans 13:1-3. When applied to spiritual beings, it connotes a leading and powerful potentate (Colossians 1:16). These are the spirits immediately next in rank to principalities. These are over smaller territories in jurisdiction. They correspond to state governors in the US and Regional Ministers in Ghana. However, their activities ensure Satan's influence over the nation as god. They facilitate the activities of witchcraft, idolatry, immorality and so on. These also correspond to such offices as Minister of Agric, Minister of Finance, etc. who don't rule over a geographical territory.

There was a family I used to visit in 1983/84 for fellowship. There was a young man in the house with whom I used to share room when I was in that house. This young man did not want to have anything to do with the gospel and was practising Transcendental Meditation, while also being in the Rosicrucian AMORC and other occult practices. As we slept one night the Holy Spirit woke me up and said, "Charles, this guy is practising astral travelling, so take control of that power". I therefore prayed and said, "You foul spirit of the occult and astral travelling (a spiritual occult practice in which the spirit leaves the body), I bind you and call this young man's spirit and soul back into the body and I sever every relationship he had with you, in Jesus' name!" The young man immediately breathed and gave a sigh of relief. When he woke up the next morning, the first thing he said was, *"Charles, I will go to church with you"*. We went to church that morning, and he gave his life to the Lord, and has not gone back since.

If we would deal with the powers behind our unsaved relatives, they would turn their lives to the Lord. If we would win those from other religions let us deal with the powers that rule behind them. We can get them converted if we apply the weapons of our warfare to see them liberated and delivered.

Rulers of the Darkness of This World

The world rulers are the translation of the Greek word, kosmokrátoras. These satanic personalities rule under the supervisory authority of the powers. These are local area rulers more in touch with the area of operation. They are lower-level authorities that work to effect the dominion of Satan in local areas.

These are the spirits that prevent people from getting saved. One day, as I prayed for my sister who comes directly after me to get saved (because she was going around the discos and dance halls), the spirit of the Lord whispered to me to take authority of the ruler of the darkness that was preventing her from getting saved. I had been fasting and praying for her for three days. When I just acted out the word that evening, she was dressed for a disco and I was also dressed for an all-night prayer meeting; but even without invitation, she said to me, “Charles, I will go to church with you”. We went, and she gave her life to the Lord and has not gone back to the world since then. If we would take authority over these kinds of spirits, we would stop crying and going to the pastor, saying, “It is my husband…he beats me”, and the eyes of the unsaved would receive illumination and conviction would fall on them.

Spiritual Wickedness in High Places

Pneumatika tēs ponērias is the Greek word for this class of spirits. They constitute the lowest rank of forces in the universe. They can be appropriately called the foot soldiers of Satan’s army. They are assigned numerous tasks to carry out on earth. They seem to be different from each other in terms of level of destructiveness and power.

Their names reflect what they do: they are set for wickedness. They are in charge of sins of various kinds: rapes, murders, thefts, abortions, drug abuse, accidents, catastrophes, plagues, different weathers and their corresponding diseases, deformities, sickness, witchcraft, soothsaying, voodoo, black magic, etc.

Eph. 2:1-2 ***“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;***

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now

worketh in the children of disobedience"

Eph. 6:12 ***"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."***

1 John 2:15-17 ***"[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.***

[16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

[17] And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

In Tamale, every type of weather had an accompanying disease. For example, the rainy season went with malaria and dysentery, whereas the hot season went with cerebro spinal meningitis (CSM), etc. In our localities, at the start of a certain season, we could corporately pray and bind these foul spirits that went with the weather and it was well with us.

As I preached in a town in Ghana called Tarkwa, I taught on the power of the blood of Jesus. After prayer a lady came out to testify, who said everyday as she slept she would see a big serpent come to lie on her chest and have sex with her. This lady was very beautiful and light skinned. This brings to mind the common notion in deliverance camps that if a lady is light skinned, then she has a marine spirit; and that if she is a half-caste, then she has to be going for frequent deliverance. But this is a lie. It is just that the devil likes to use beautiful people, so he takes advantage of these nice creatures of God. Anyway, this lady said that, after she went home that night, for the first time she slept without this sexual encounter, which had happened to her for almost twelve years. Any man who came into her life left without any explanation. As she slept the following morning, she saw this serpent dressed like a police man this time, and it came to stand by her bed, explaining to her persuasively that they had been married a long time and pleading that she not divorce him. She narrated that twelve years ago, when she began to have these experiences, she and her parents went to soothsayers and people of the like to see if she would have deliverance. At one particular place she was told that while in secondary school, one day she was bathing outside and the god (or spirit)

that ruled that locality was passing by and got interested in her and so spiritually married her. It was therefore that spirit that was dressed like the policeman. She therefore told him that she was now married to Jesus and so did not belong to him anymore. Then this foul spirit left after pleading and not being accepted.

In Africa these things are real, where people sleep and dream that they are having sex with someone and at times they reach orgasm while waking up. Others also dream they are swimming every night, and that often means that marine spirits come and inhabit them. Some of these are common because in Ghana, for instance, when a child is born, during the naming ceremony the child is dedicated to demons as the relatives pour libation and invoke familiar spirits. For example, they say something of this nature: “Nananom nsamanfo, mongye nsa nnom”, etc. which is translated as “Spirits of our ancestors, receive drink”. They believe the spirits of the ancestors are still moving around and always should be given drink; and at times during festivals (Akwasidae) food sacrifices like mashed yam with palm oil and eggs are given to the gods. When someone dies and they think the cause of death is not natural, they go to the soothsayer and then the spirit of the departed possesses someone and starts talking and acting like the deceased, and would say who or what killed him/her. This is all the work of familiar spirits.

Familiar spirits are demons that are around us all the time and are familiar with the voice with which we speak, how we behave, etc. They are therefore able to impersonate by using our tone of voice, etc. they even at times manifest with human faces when they have sexual intercourse with folks in their dreams. Due to some of these invocations of evil spirits frequently by our relatives and also our going to fetish and juju men of all sorts, when one becomes a believer, one needs to be delivered. But deliverance should be conducted just like Jesus did it. Some even tie people for days and torture them to “deliver” them, forgetting that the problem is not the human being but the demon using that person. When you therefore slap the person, the demon does not feel it. The problem is not your old grandmother in your hometown who has one tooth, but rather the demon that is using that person. Just cast out the demon in Jesus’ name. do not forget you would also grow old!

In one meeting too, a young man came while I taught on the blood and

said, “I gained admission into the university. When I was just getting ready to attend, I felt as if I was carrying a bag of flour (50kg), and I could not read anymore. So I could not attend the university. Just around the same time too, I felt as if female fingers were always massaging my manhood. This has happened for 15 years but after the teaching and prayer tonight, I am delivered, the load is lifted off my head, and I do not feel the pressure on my manhood any more”. To God be the praise!

Luke 11:24-26 ***“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”***

These spirits take residence permanently or temporarily in men. They take their names, so to speak, from their activities. Spirits that bring dumbness are called deaf and dumb demons.

Mark 9:25 ***“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”***

It is therefore appropriate to call the spirit that causes cancer, the cancer demon; the one that brings witchcraft, the witchcraft demon. There are multitudes of demons in the universe. We saw thousands of them living in one person in the book of Luke.

Luke 8:30 ***“And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.”***

With this well organized arrangement in place, the Devil carries out his evil agenda in the world. Anything in the world that is contrary to the will of God has the Devil operating through his demons. All these spirits have been stripped of power through the death of Jesus. They were thoroughly destroyed as seen in the book of Colossians. They are spoiled or disarmed. Where sin reigns, however, Satan is lord and powerful. He can kill, steal and destroy sinners at will. Where the kingdom of Satan holds sway evil prevails. These include sicknesses, poverty, immorality, etc. Through his network of spirits, he gives expression to his diabolic nature as the archenemy of God. He works in such spheres as the human, systemic, institutional, cosmic and the spiritual.

d.

2

GATES OF THE ENEMY

Gen. 22:17 ***"And thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies."***

In this section I will elaborate on key words in the above scripture to teach very important lessons in spiritual warfare. The words are gate, enemy, possess and seed. This will help us have a fuller grasp of spiritual warfare.

WHAT ARE GATES?

A gate is a door or opening in a fence or wall through which one enters or exits an enclosure. It is not possible entering or exiting an enclosed area without going through a gate. In its figurative sense, a gate connotes access. The person through whom you gain access to another person or opportunity can be called a gate person. In the same way the means by which something is done may be termed a gate.

GATES IN BIBLE DAYS

In Old Testament days, gates were very important structures of governance and national security. In those days most nations were just single city nations. Sodom was both a city and a nation. Most cities were walled to ensure security. Leaders of ancient cities held court at the gates. They deliberated on matters of law, custom, commerce and national security at the gates. Ancient cities were thus ruled or governed at the gates.

The city gates represented governmental and military power. Every visitor coming to town had to go through the gates to be screened or identified. As an entry point, gates were the most fortified parts of any city in ancient times. The city was held strongly together at the gates. A strong gate means a strong city. In war a city falls when the gates are taken over by the enemy. Dr Cerullo says that all truth is parallel, and as such, the natural corresponds to the spiritual. If we have gates in the

natural, we also have gates in the spiritual.

The Gate of the Enemy

If enemy forces break through a gate, national security is breached. When security is thus breached it is said a nation's gates have been possessed or taken. The collective energies of the elders or rulers of the city determine the strength of the city. The gate is therefore more than the physical structure. The gate is the collective intelligence and resourcefulness of the best brains of the city. The gate of the enemy in the above text refers to the collective abilities of the persons that constitute the domain of our enemy. A gate in that sense isn't an ordinary point of entry but personalities whose actions create conflicts and contradictions for us. In the common usage of the word in relation to spiritual warfare, a gate represents satanic opposition.

Gates Of Hell

We can take our cities and towns for God if we would do warfare with the principality that rules the localities dealing with the thrones and dominions ruling the place. O. J. Smith said "Unfavourable conditions in evangelistic work can always be changed by the power of prevailing prayer" It is said of Charles Finney that "When things were slack and would not move he and Rev. Nash (popularly called father Nash) will wrestle in prayer till God poured out His Spirit upon the people and sinners were converted.

God said to Abraham in Gen. 22:17, ***"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. Jesus also said in Matthew 16:18, And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."***

If "Gates" means the place where decisions are taken, the place of authority; and the elders in the Old Testament sat at the gates of the city, then by prayer, warfare and force, we can possess the places of authority as shown by this scripture: Matt. 11:12 ***"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."***

We can take any city for Jesus. I do not believe that there is any city that cannot be taken for Jesus. When we apply the needed spiritual pressure, the spiritual gates and walls of the city will fall and we can go in and possess the souls that belong to us.

Possess

To posses simply means to subdue or overpower. It also means to exercise control over or to dominate an enemy. The seed or children of Abraham were billed to subdue, overpower and defeat their enemies. When it becomes necessary God Himself will move into battle to fight on behalf of Abraham's seed. It is not going to be possible for any foe of Israel to dominate her. That was a covenant blessing God promised the children of Abraham.

The Enemy

Eph. 6:12 ***"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."***

An enemy is basically an adversary or one who opposes. He is someone who inflicts pain or injury on you. In another sense, anything that fights against you is an enemy. Things that fight progress in marriage, finance, health and career are enemies. It is unfortunate how some Christians have the mistaken view that they have no enemies. Some also have unbiblical concepts of the Devil as an enemy. They so magnify the Devil to the point where he is made to even look bigger than God. Man's key enemy is Satan. He began his business as the enemy of mankind from the time of man's fall. His threefold activity is to kill, steal and destroy. His activities in the Old Testament weren't so obvious. In those days he worked mostly through human instruments. We saw him working through the Amalekites, Philistines, Moabites, and Syrians.

Man isn't an Enemy

Satan uses people, systems, and nature to carry out his activities. Human beings aren't our enemies per se. The devil, however, uses men among others to fight Christians. Failure to disengage demons behind

some activities of men is mainly responsible for many failures and defeats we suffer. These spirits are behind several ministry, marital and business failures. The old relative back in the village isn't your enemy. That is not to discount the fact that witches and wizards do exist. The human being is not the enemy, but the spirit that may be working through him or her. You don't fight the human being but cast out the spirit that is at work through him or her. Jesus never majored on exposing witches or wizards. He simply cast out the demons out and set the victims free. Satan may be doing his worst in people's lives, but God is always in charge. Satan may have some power over some folks but that is nothing compared with the power of God at work in the life of the Christian. The new creation is superior to the Devil.

THE SEED

Gen. 22:17 ***"And thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies."***

From the immediate context of the text, "thy seed" refers to the descendants of Abraham. Bible days were days of war, conquest and expansion. Nations went to war with the intention of expanding their territories at the expense of other nations. Victory over hostile nations was a big issue in those days. As a result of Abraham's obedience, God promised his descendants victory over their enemies. In the entire history of the Jews they experienced victory over their enemies. Defeat only became their lot when they disobeyed God. The seed of Abraham is therefore an indomitable seed.

THE SPIRITUAL SEED

Gal. 3:29-4:1 ***"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."***

Rom. 4:16 ***"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."***

Jews are not the only seed (descendants) of Abraham. The spiritual seed of Abraham is the Christian. The Jews are the biological seed, whereas the Christian is the spiritual seed. By faith in Christ, Christians become spiritual descendants of Abraham. The enemies of the spiritual seed are

spiritual. The Devil and his host are the enemies of the believer. They work through human agents, institutions, systems, cultures etc. But through faith in Christ, the Christian can overcome the Devil. Difficult ministry environments, marital conflicts and intractable financial difficulties are due to satanic activities. When the Church and the individual believer engage the gates of hell through prayer, victory is assured. As the spiritual seed of Abraham, we are empowered to posses the gates of our enemy. This is possible through the correct use of the weapons of war.

WARFARE IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE VICTORY

In the real world what belongs to the Christian is only taken through war. We can't go through life without fighting. One common thing about life is conflict. Israel had to fight the Canaanites before occupying the Promised Land. We can't take what we fail to fight for. Warfare is one of the significant realities of life. A Christian can't make any meaningful headway in the world without a fight. Every territory we take in life is taken by war. A territory we don't fight for we cannot take even with the best of efforts. The glory, power and progress in this life come through warfare. Somebody once said, "Until you fight you are finished".

THE DEVIL IS DISARMED

Satan is forever defeated and stripped of power and dominion over the man of faith. Col. 2:15 ***"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."*** The devil and his host are effectively disarmed. His power to kill, steal and destroy is destroyed. This does not mean the Devil is no more a danger to man. We are admonished to put on the whole armour of God. Eph. 6:13 ***"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*** Without our armour, we stand no chance against hell, despite the fact that Satan has been defeated. Those who do not put on the armour of God re-arm the Devil. An unarmed Christian is no match for Satan. After redemption, the only weapon the devil has are tricks. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph 6:11. The ignorant Christian is his own enemy. Ignorance

arms Satan against the believer.

d.

3

WARFARE AND CHURCH GROWTH

Matt. 16:18-19 ***"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."***

The Church is a nation at war. War is going on all around us. The whole Church world is a war zone. We may not be seeing physical or military warfare in our communities but in the realm of the spirit war is ceaselessly raging. The first rule of warfare is location of the enemy. If you can't locate your enemy you stand no chance against him.

Eph. 6:10-13 ***"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

There is a definite relationship between church growth and spiritual warfare. The Devil hates the Church since the Church is the Bride of Christ who defeated him at Calvary. Satan's hatred for God is transferred to the Church. Dealing with demonic gates is absolutely necessary for Church growth. It isn't possible to have ministry success without warfare. There is more to what happens naturally than meets the eye. A lot of things that defy common sense in ministry have their source in the supernatural.

THE OPEN HEAVEN FACTOR

Luke 3:21-22 ***"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,***

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon

him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."

Ministry success is a product of the open heaven factor. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Whenever God opens the heavens over our lives we receive the blessings of God. If the heavens are closed over our ministries the blessings of God don't flow. When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan He went into intensive prayer as seen in the text above. *"And praying, the heaven was opened."*

Jesus Prayed the Heavens Open

Many people were baptized on the day but the heavens didn't open for them. Jesus alone experienced the open heaven phenomenon. This is not because He was the Son of God - intensive praying after the baptism was responsible. Ministries and ministers who don't pray never have open heavens.

The Closed Heaven Factor

When you operate under a closed heaven your ministry suffers. A closed heaven can be likened to a blunt instrument. You put in much energy for minimal results when you live under closed heavens. It is possible to be in the same city with others who are experiencing a boom whilst you are having hard times. It takes prayer to have an open heaven. The ministry of Jesus was a prayer powered ministry. It is under the open heavens that ministry doors open for us.

Pray the Heavens Open

It takes prayer to open the heavens. A prayerless pastor will have the heavens shut over his ministry. Ministry doors are shut when we don't pray. Closed heavens make it difficult to make good use of opportunities that God brings. Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 16:9 That a great and effective door was opened for him but there were many adversaries. Enemy forces are always making sure that we don't enter our destinies. Ministry doors don't shut by themselves. Business doors can open to us and we may have resistance. God opens doors for us but the Devil can make sure we fail to enter. It must be realized that Paul who wrote this

text was not a novice in ministry. The Devil fights anyone irrespective of his level of anointing or experience.

1 Thess. 2:18-19 ***"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."***

IMPOSSIBLE ?

"Praying men know nothing like it cannot be done, and those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those praying."

The story is told of William Bramwell, how that during the Methodist revival there was a certain city that no preacher could open up to the gospel. Five preachers had already gone and returned without success. The leaders of the Methodist movement were contemplating closing that place down when Bramwell asked to be given a chance to try, and if the place did not open up, they could write it off. But a few miles to the city was a forest. And Bramwell was given the green light, and it is reported that, with his horse, he entered the forest and lay by a fallen tree praying hours on end. At a point, he was heard saying, "God, you cannot refuse me this city, it must fall to your Spirit." Later they could hear shouts of "The city is fallen, it is fallen, it is fallen." Bramwell rose up, rode into the city and experienced a revival, leaving behind him a thriving Methodist Church.

Today, we have very few people who shed tears for revival. In Psalm 137:1-4, the people were grieved when they remembered the glory of Zion, a burnt-out temple and beloved city run down by the heathen, who had at times ravished their women. In despair, they hang their willows, because they no longer enjoyed the glory of the Lord and had become a reproach to their enemies. Jesus wept that instead of His Father's house being a house of prayer, where the blind, deaf, dumb would come and be healed; it had been turned into a place of thieves. Matt. 21:13,14.

Revivalists have always been public reapers because they have been great private weepers. Dr. Lovelace of Britain said, "Where prayer is, revival cannot be far behind." We need a generation of preachers and congregants who will pray desperately like Jeremiah prayed in Jer. 9:1, ***"Oh that my head were waters and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people."***

Today, for every aid the Muslim countries give, they add mosques. These are dotted all over Africa. In Europe now, there are uncountable mosques. In England they sell churches to Muslims. They would rather sell them to a Muslim than to a Pentecostal or independent Charismatic Church.

It is time we prayed taking authority over the spirit of Islam, breaking its hold over the world. The last great power that must come down is Islam. While we are having parties instead of prayer meetings, over a billion Muslims are fasting 30 days every year and praying and bowing to "Allah" 5 times a day and bowing to the same 1855 times a year. No wonder this religion is a force to reckon with.

The church today should heed Joel's call, which is in Joel 2:15 –17: ***"Blowing the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children … Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar and let them say, spare thy people, O, Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them."***

We need men and women who can put angels on assignment and also rock earthquakes in hell. We need those who can travail to win whole communities for God. People with little closet prayer make long ramblings in public prayer. Leonard Ravenhill was recounting how in 1933, a preacher put a notice outside his church which read, "THIS CHURCH WILL HAVE EITHER A REVIVAL OR A FUNERAL." The church had a revival.

THE UNSAVED FOR YOUR INHERITANCE

Friend, God is looking for an intercessor. Isaiah 59:16 ***"And he saw that there was no man and wondered that there was NO INTERCESSOR."*** (Capitals mine)

He has given us a promise in Psalm 2:8: ***"Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen (unsaved) for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."*** (Brackets mine). When you bind the principalities, you can then claim the souls of the men for their salvation. It takes a passion for the people and the community to be able to pray prevailing prayers for it. When you look at the statistics of the world

today, it demands praying men and women who will ask for the lands to be swept over by the fires of revival. Then the scripture can be fulfilled that says that, in Isaiah 11:9 ***"The last days the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."***

The following 2010 statistics for the various continents as released by Operation World are disturbing.

REGION	POPULATION	PERCENT OF POPULATION UNREACHED	
South Asia	1.3 Billion	87.9	1.142 Billion
Central Asia	414.8 Million	78.7	326.46 Million
Northeast Asia	1.5 Billion	75.5	1.13 Billion
Southeast Asia	577.6 Million	86.1	497.89 Million
Eastern Europe & Eurasia	336.2 Million	25.7	86.4 Million
Middle East & North Africa	294 Million	61.2	180.05 Million
East & Southern Africa	427.3 Million	25.4	108.5 Million
West & Central Africa	402.9 Million	82.5	80.6 Million
Western Europe	390.3 Million	20.2	78.8 Million
North America & Caribbean	490.5 Million	10.1	49.0 Million
Central & South America	432.7 Million	8.5	36.8 Million
South Pacific	34.1 Million	1.8	0.613 Million
TOTAL	**6.6 BILLION**	**49.0**	**3.7 BILLION**

John Knox prayed and cried, *"God, give me Scotland or I die."* It is said that Mary the Queen of Scotland in her days feared the prayers of John Knox more than she did the armies of Scotland. David Brainerd coughed blood from his tubercular lungs as he prayed in the snow for the salvation of the native American Indians. Jesus wept over doomed Jerusalem. Paul prayed, ***I wish I was accursed for my brethren the Jews to be saved.*** Moses stayed forty days and nights in fasting and prayer that God would have mercy on Israel and would not wipe them away from the face of the earth. Before we can effectively put in the sickle to harvest, let us saturate the city with prayer and release the spirit of conviction over the people.

A man who engages successfully in evangelism must be a man who knows how to pray. It is said that the Apostle James at his death was found to have his knees calloused like a camel's knees because of much praying. Gordon Lindsay said:

God calls men for different tasks. They should stay by what God has given them to do. When a man is called an evangelist in most cases it is going to require his full attention to keep that special anointing of God upon his life. Moreover of all men, he becomes the special target of the enemy. As Peter and John, he should set and maintain an hour of prayer. Act 3:1. He should allow nothing, be it ever so pressing to interfere with that hour.

It is said about John Welch, nephew of John Knox that, "His custom was to go to bed at night laying a Scots plaid above his bed-clothes, that when he rose to his night prayers, he might cover himself therewith; for from the beginning of his ministry till his death, he reckoned the day ill spent, if he stayed not seven or eight hours in prayer; and this the boy did not forget even to his old age."

John Wesley also spent two hours daily in prayer. He thought prayer to be his business more than anything else; and E. M. Bounds tells us what one said who knew him very well: "I have seen him come out of his closet with a serenity of face next to shining"

Invisible War

Beloved, there is an invisible war out there, and that war is won by those who know that things happen behind the curtain. In the book of 1 Kings 22, the Bible tells us how King Ahab invited Jehoshaphat to go and help him in battle against the Syrians who had attacked Israel. When King Jehoshaphat came, he asked whether there were no prophets. Ahab called his prophets, who came to prophesy that they should go for the war and that they would win. Jehoshaphat knew that the prophets were not of God. He therefore requested for another prophet and Micaiah was invited. When he came, he gave an exposé of what was to happen in the battle. He said in 1 Kings 22:19-23, ***"And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of***

all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee."

By reason of this prophetic word, when they went into battle Ahab decided to let Jehoshaphat dress like the king and he disguised himself. Meanwhile the Syrian king also told his people not to fight anyone except the king of Israel. Someone drew an arrow wanting to shoot Jehoshaphat and he screamed. The Bible says in 1 Kings 22:34,35 that, ***"A certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot."*** The statement "drew the bow at a venture" means someone just randomly shot an arrow. In fact the New King James Version says, ***Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel."***

There was no way the one who shot the arrow would have known that that was the king. An unseen guiding hand led the arrow straight into the heart of Ahab. There are things behind the curtain that we have to deal with. When Deborah and Barak won the victory for Israel, Deborah, being a prophetess, described how the battle was won. She said in Judges 5:20 that, ***"The stars in their courses fought against Sisera."*** It means Israel did not only win the war by physical means because, ***how shall one chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight except their rock had given them up.***

There are things that happen on the face of this world that do not just happen.

We know that the Bible calls the devil the ***prince of the power of the air.*** He rules in the heavenlies and we need to deal with him in order to chalk the victories we need.

Nobody is more powerful than his prayer life. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Thess. 1:11, ***"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power. I have said that***

power comes from prayer." You can have a lot of faith but if you do not have prayer power to back it, you will speak and the things would not come to pass. I have seen so many people, who can quote the Scriptures, but when they make declarations, instead of the things coming to pass like they should, nothing happens. They have not sought to pray like they should. I have seen over and over again that prayer brings the breakthrough that you desire. Spend some minutes in prayer and daily ask God to touch your life and make your prayer life more like Jesus'.

I have encountered doctors who told me, "Bishop, this situation you are seeing now is not physical any more. What you are seeing is not scientific anymore; it is more than science can handle." I am sure you have heard that before. There are times people would go to the hospital and the doctor would say "As for this one, we have done all medical science can do, we don't have a clue to this thing". There are things that happen from the realm of the spirit; so when you start praying and you want to see answers to your prayer, you have to get into prevailing prayer because from the time you start praying, God gives the answer, but there are princes, powers, spiritual wickedness in high places, and there are witches and wizards who would like to stop that miracle and breakthrough from coming to you. If you will stay at it, you will always see a breakthrough. When we get to heaven I believe many will see undelivered parcels with their names written on them simply because the angel that was sent to deliver them had hindrances on the way, and the saints stopped praying, and so finally the angel had to return with the parcels undelivered.

Daniel prayed 21 days with fasting and there was a breakthrough and he prevailed. May you prevail even as you come against every hindering spirit. May you prevail even as you come against every barrier in your life. May you prevail as you come against all the things set against you to stop you from going forward and to frustrate you. May the power of God that causes His people to run through their troop and to leap over their walls come upon you. May God teach your fingers to fight and may He teach your hands to war. May you be seasoned in battle. May you be called a warrior, a mighty man or woman of valour, someone who can possess his or her possessions, and someone who would go on without giving up so that you can say. Psalm 144:1 ***"Blessed be the Lord my strength who teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight."***

Spoiling The Strongman's House

When we go into a crusade or church planting effort, no matter how difficult the place is, and no matter how the deep into all kinds of things the people are, we can take charge in the realms of the spirit, move in there and set the people free because we have dealt with the spiritual realm. If you would prevail in prayer, your unsaved ones would be saved. The yokes in their lives would be broken and there will be a breakthrough for them to enter into the kingdom of God. In our crusades, we bind the (strong man) principality that rules the city (Matt. 12:29) and go in and get souls saved and the sick healed and delivered. You will notice in the context of the above Scripture that Jesus was talking about casting out devils and healing the sick. In our crusades, we bind some of these spirits: sin, unbelief, religious spirits, doubt, opposition, violence, misunderstanding, unconcern, lack of concentration, dullness, sleep, heaviness, witchcraft, occult powers, humanism and apathy as well as the principality that rules the place and its attendant demons. We also bind the spirits indwelling the trees, rivers, and hills depending on their relevance and render them powerless. We then begin to bind the spirits behind various diseases and sinful lifestyles like adultery, drunkenness etc.

We also loose the spirits of conviction of sin, salvation, healing of specific diseases, faith and expectancy, and the spirit of revival etc. When we do this, we go into the place and souls get saved and the sick get healed. Some time ago, we had to go to Ukraine at the invitation of Pastor Sunday Adelaja, who pastors one of the largest churches in Europe. When we went for the visa in Conakry, Guinea (because that was the only country in West Africa with a Ukrainian Embassy), we encountered so much resistance; but the morning before we went, I sensed the journey would be with much hindrance, so I instructed my teammate and we fasted and prayed for seven hours nonstop. We got to Conakry and on three occasions were refused the visa. Each time we would return to the hotel, call Ukraine, asking that they call the Embassy, and then we would pray and pray. The fourth time, we got it! Space will not allow me to talk about the flight cancellations to make sure we would miss our flight to Ghana en route to Ukraine at the right time.

Finally we got to Kiev, Ukraine, prayed up and the power of the Lord was present to heal, save and deliver. According to Ed Dickson, a

missionary from Canada to Ukraine,

I have been in this country for seven years. Within this period there have been crusades but in none of them did we see a cripple jump out of a wheel chair like when you came. You have brought a well to fill our cups.

Multitudes of deaf and dumb were healed, and many cripples walked to the glory of God. Some preachers from Western Europe who were in the conference said if God could do it in Eastern Europe, He should do it in Western Europe too. So they invited me to speak in their churches in Western Europe with much demonstrations of power.

The Unjust Judge

Let us look at a woman who got what she wanted because she kept on asking and knocking. She received what she asked for and her door was opened for her. Many of us stop after a little delay, while others totally give up on God. Some even go as far as saying, “God always delays”. God does things in His own time, He is never in a hurry and never late. He is not subject to the tyranny of time.

In Luke 18, Jesus talks about a certain woman. At times, some women feel that the Bible does not mention women much, but it does. The Bible has a lot to say about women who succeeded and prevailed in prayer. In the ministry of Jesus, there were two people whose faith astonished Him. One was an army officer (some also think soldiers cannot be good Christians or that they cannot worship God effectively, and yet Jesus commended an army captain at whose faith he marveled when he showed how faith works in Luke 7:9). The other was a Syrophonecian by birth (Mark 7:26) who came to Jesus for help. Jesus at the end of their discourse looked at the woman and said, ***Woman, great is your faith.*** If you are a woman, I want to assure you that your faith can be so great as to bring every breakthrough you need.

After Jesus died and the curtain in the Holy of Holies tore from top to bottom, God tore the partition between men and women. On the day of Pentecost, 120 were in the upper room and the women were counted amongst them. Acts 1:13-14. Before this time women were not counted in the Bible. Even on the day when Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fish, the Bible gives the number of the men and continues to say beside women and children. In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female, and

neither Jew nor Greek; we are all accepted in His sight.

Jesus said, ***Men ought always to pray and not faint.*** People should not stop praying. When they start praying, they should not give up. In 1 Thess. 5:17 we read, ***Pray without ceasing.*** If you read the Bible, you will find a lot about praying without ceasing or about prevailing and persistent prayer. Eph. 6:18 says, ***"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance. The Bible is indeed stressing on praying always with all perseverance,"*** which means you have to persevere till you see the manifestation. Roman 12:12 says, ***"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer."*** In Col. 4:2 it adds that, ***Continue in and watch in the same with thanksgiving.*** The Bible says explicitly that we have to continue in prayer.

In Luke 18:1-5 Jesus said, ***"There was a widow who would go to the judge who was wicked and unjust."*** The Amplified version says, ***"This man had no regard for God and no respect or consideration for any man."*** That man did not have any bowels of compassion, and this was the kind of man to whom the woman went and said, "Look, I have a case against this man". The Amplified Bible says the woman said to the judge, ***"Protect me, defend me against my enemy and give me justice against my adversary'. Yet the judge would not do anything, so the woman kept on."*** Then one day the judge said, "The way this woman has been coming to me, if I don't do something about it, she would weary me; so woman, this is your judgment."

Jesus used this to illustrate prayer and asked, Luke 18:8 ***"When the son of man comes will He find faith on earth?"*** Will He find people who are this persistent, insistent, consistent and staying in prayer? God has called us to a place where we have to stay till we get a breakthrough. We have to resort to prevailing prayer to get things changed. I believe in the prayer of faith. I believe that when you have to pray for a sick person you do not have to resort to prevailing prayer; it is the time to pray the prayer of faith and tell that foul devil to leave that person and let him/her go free. But when you are not getting the breakthrough you need, you have to stay at it till there is a breakthrough. The unjust judge finally gave judgment for the woman; she persisted and did not stop until her victory came.

PRAYER AND FASTING

One of the catalysts to prevailing prayer is fasting. Daniel fasted twenty-one days for a breakthrough for Israel. Dan. 10:2-14. There are some things that do not budge except by prayer and fasting. Matt.17:21 reminds us, ***Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*** I am preparing a whole book on fasting.

Fasting is the abstinence from food and pleasure. There are three types of fasting:

e. **Absolute** – without food and water. This should not be undertaken for more than three days.

f. **Normal** – this is only without food but water can and must be taken and it can go for forty days.

g. **Partial** – not eating all that you want to eat.

In four of the major churches that I have been instrumental in planting, I had to undertake a serious fast. Before we started the Tamale Church (Ghana) in February 1987, I fasted with a team for seven days with water mixed with honey. Before our first Sunday morning service in our Accra Church in September 1994, I fasted with a team with only water for three days and continued alone till the seventh day with only water. Before we began our Amsterdam Church, I fasted with someone in Amsterdam for two days and I continued for five days alone.

Every January, I spend at least two weeks indoors fasting and praying for part of the time and studying for the rest. Before our La Church (Ghana) began in January1997, I fasted seven days with water mixed with honey, went in and held a crusade which saw over 13 cripples healed the second night, over 19 deaf and dumb people also healed the first night, a dead person raised, and multitudes being saved. No wonder it is our third largest church in the city of Accra.

The longest fast I have been privileged to undertake is ten days with only water. This was in 1998 when in January I had to prepare for us to move to our own bought property (Dzorwulu - Accra, Ghana.) because the street in front of our property was believed to carry a curse, where every week there was an accident and somebody died. If our headquarters church (which I pastor) was going to be there, people could not be dying there like that. Since we moved there in 1998 none of our members have died on that road and the accident rate

has dwindled to about 5% which I can attribute to careless or drunk driving.

I was privileged to fast for twelve days in 1999 with water mixed with honey. I am awaiting the time when God will grant me the grace to do twenty-one days with only water. I have not done too many long fasts because as a young believer, I fasted 24 hours with only water every Tuesday and Friday and also did three days with water or water mixed with honey every month for almost twenty years. However I cannot relate here the benefits of all my seasons of fasting and prayer.

I will never forget the benefits I derived after a day's praying and fasting prior to our fund raising towards our headquarters church property in 1997. I was so energized that the fund raising sent ripples through the nation because until then, as the newspapers reported, "No one had been able to raise that amount of money for a church before." Before most strategic steps in my life, I spend time in prayer and fasting. I have even noticed that all my three children were conceived after my January fasting – Selasie and Francis were both born in October, and Charlene in September.

At our Denu Crusade, I had the privilege of fasting for less than twenty four hours before the meeting. On the first night we had twelve totally deaf and dumb people healed, as well as three people deaf in one ear, two stammerers, four cripples and other people with incurable diseases. One cripple who crawled on her hands and feet was made every whit whole and stood and walked upright. The third day we had 10 cripples walking and so many other healings. This reminds me of my early days in ministry when, one day in my prayer, God changed my understanding about why I should pray. I was complaining in my prayer when I said, "God, why do I have to fast and pray before you heal the sick and save the lost?" and the Holy Spirit said to me, "Charles, you don't have to fast and pray before I heal the sick; Jesus already died for the salvation and healing of the people. I allow you to pray so that you can feel a part of what is happening." Thank God for making us partners with Him! I have preached in healing services where I did not have time to pray before and during the meetings, and yet I have seen incredible and notable miracles, because God works even when we are sometimes not faithful to meet our appointment.

However, prayer makes all things possible. During our crusades, we see basically three things: the airport, the hotel and the crusade/conference hall (except when I have to pay courtesy calls on leaders in the land). I spend sometimes three to five hours everyday in prayer asking God to meet the needs

of the people. Note that I do not fast during my crusades, for I need the physical strength to preach, teach, pray and cast out devils; therefore I do my fasts before the crusade. After lunch I lock myself in the room, from 2.00pm I rest, study and pray till the crusade begins; and when I get unto the platform miracles just take place at the mention of Jesus' name.

Struggling Churches

Matt. 16:18-19 ***"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."***

For the Church to do well as she ought she must pull down the gates of hell as seen in the scripture above. I have come to realize that where the Church is not doing well, demons are mostly responsible. Europe used to be the international centre of missionary endeavors in the past. The situation is completely different today. The Church in Europe is almost extinct. Islam and New Age faiths have taken over Europe and much of the developed world. Until the Church rises up and fights, her fortunes will keep dwindling. The expansion of the Church affects the kingdom of the Devil. He therefore does everything to fight the Church. The fact that Jesus Himself is involved in the business of building the Church doesn't mean Satan has given up the fight.

Only 20% of Churches are above 200

Only 20% of Churches are making headway by way of growth. In my book *From Small To Medium To Mega Church*, I have outlined some factors that affect growth in the Church. One important factor that facilitates church growth is prayer and warfare. Jesus says He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Our Church in Accra grew from 70 people to about 3000 in one year. A key tool employed in growing our Churches is prayer and warfare.

Ministry growth and Speech

I used to boldly declare how I would be pastoring one of the biggest Churches in Ghana. I also used to tell my friends about my desire to preach in the then Iron-curtain nations as well as Islamic nations. It wasn't even allowed to hold gospel programmes in those countries. I am glad to announce that I have held major out-door gospel crusades in places like Pakistan, Bahrain, Ukraine and the

rest. I also used to tell my friends that I was called to preach to kings and presidents. By the grace of God I have so far preached to eight presidents and still counting. For your Church to grow you have to start declaring it by faith. There is some correlation between ministry growth and speech.

1 Sam. 17:45-46 ***"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.***

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

In spiritual warfare speech plays a great role. What we say is what we receive. David told Goliath he was going to kill him and give his body to the birds. That was exactly what happened to Goliath. Ministers must learn to silence the devil with bold faith talk. It isn't possible to talk negative about your ministry and expect it to do well. I must however add that it takes more than talk to grow churches. After we have done our faith talk we need to get down to business and work to ensure growth. I recall how Dr. Mensa Otabil of ICGC used to share his desire to build a Christian university. Given the size of his ministry and the legal regime of the time it wasn't possible for that dream to come to pass.. It is however; most refreshing that today he has built one of the best and much sought after universities in Ghana. Speech plays a key role in determining performance in ministry. What we say shapes our life for the better or for the worst.

4

PROPHETIC WARFARE

Gen. 22:16-19 ***"And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:***

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Prophecy plays a great role in spiritual warfare. This is very clear in the roles that prophets play in some of the wars of Israel. The above text is one of the most important promises God made to an individual in the Bible. God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants in many ways. He was doing so based on "for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son": Abraham's actions provoked God's blessings. I have observed that significant blessings in scripture happened to people after some sacrificial acts. Certain realms of breakthrough belong to people of sacrifice. For offering his only son in obedience to God, Abraham qualified to receive a blessing that transcended generational barriers. He moved from the realm of blessing by addition to blessing by multiplication. It isn't possible to have a breakthrough blessing without sacrifices. Without a sacrifice we can't move from the place of common blessing to the place of uncommon blessing.

PROPHETIC GIVING

I am a strong believer in sacrificial giving. One of the things responsible for the blessings of God on my life is sacrificial giving. I have made many sacrificial offerings to God on many occasions. My wife recently took all of her entitlements as a minister in our church to buy property in her hometown Anloga, for a branch of our Church. She did that at the time that our family needed money to meet many needs at home. Such sacrificial offerings go a long way to opening great doors. I call it the Prophetic giving. It becomes necessary

at times to make certain sacrifices either in obedience to the voice of God or just as a way of honoring God if you want to experience certain dimensions of divine power. It is not possible for people who withhold from God to walk in special dimensions of favor. People who don't habitually give to honor God always struggle in life. It takes the hand of God to be blessed. That is no license for laziness, though. Apart from the need to work hard it takes the power of God to be truly blessed. Certain realms of victory are not possible without sacrificial giving.

Some enemies will be too strong for people who can't connect to the power of God. The descendants of Abraham were promised victory over their enemies on the wings of the offerings that Abraham made. It is God who cuts asunder the gates of iron and breaks down the brazen gates to give us victory. There are spiritual gates that stand in our way to prevent our miracles. It takes God either by His word or angelic intervention to open these gates to reach our inheritance.

The Prophet and Victory

Sometimes God directs his children to undertake certain exercises, which might have no physical bearing on the challenges at hand. Obedience to such instructions results in the intervention of God. This is called a prophetic act. It is a natural act with important spiritual effects. Elisha told king Joash in 2 Kings 13:14-19

Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.

And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have

smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

Elisha tells him to shoot an arrow in the direction of Syria. The shooting of the arrow was a prophetic act that would give victory to the king in future.

Before God does intervene on some occasions He talks to His servants the prophets. What it means is that the blessings of God that must come to you is deposited in the mouth of the prophet. Prophets are sometimes custodians of the blessings of God. A prophet can become a spiritual custodian of the blessings of God to the people. The opening of his mouth releases the blessings of God on the people of God. A prophet in this context is the minister that God has set over his people either in a local church or denomination. Some blessings will never come to you without the input of the prophet (servant of God/pastor). God doesn't release certain blessings unless His servants declare them.

Hos. 12:13 ***"And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved."*** Certain dimensions of the believer's breakthrough are directly linked to the ministry of his pastor or prophet as we may choose to call him or her.

Moses and Joshua

Ex. 17:11-13

"And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."

In the above passage God planned for Israel to defeat Amalek. The victory in that encounter was prophetically put in the hands of Moses. The prophetic act of lifting his hands resulted in victory for Joshua. If Israel failed to support him to lift his hands, their enemies would overcome them. Similarly some dimensions of the believer's victory are deposited in the hands (mouth) of the prophet. Certain acts of honoring or giving to the prophet/pastor bring victory. Until your pastor is given his rightful place of honor in your life you will be denying yourself some kingdom privileges.

The Cosmic Dimension of Warfare

Judg. 5:20-22 ***"They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.***

The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength."

These are the words of Deborah the Judge of Israel. She was not only a Judge but a prophetess as well. Israel had just defeated Sisera in a great battle. The prophetess Deborah commented on the spiritual dimensions of the war. In her commentary she said the victory was due to the involvement of the stars fighting on behalf of Israel. Even though Israel stood on the grounds of battle it was the stars of Heaven, which were actually fighting for them. Stars represent angels in the Bible. Sometimes a star is just the normal star in the Bible. Since God controls the universe He can position the stars or heavenly bodies in a particular way to give advantage to Israel in a battle situation. The battle between Israel and the armies of Sisera was actually fought in the heavens. Whilst Israel was on the battlefields angels were dispatched to fight for them. Cosmic conditions were programmed to give victory to Israel. The victory was determined from heaven. To be victorious on earth one needs to be victorious in Heaven. In the daily battles of life and ministry we need Heaven to fight on our behalf. Solely relying on the arm of flesh to make it in life and ministry is impossible. We need the definite involvement of Heaven to break through on earth.

Deut. 32:30-32 ***"How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?***

For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges."

When the heavens to fight for us, our effort is magnified to the extent that one person can take on thousands of enemies. The Bible says one will chase a thousand. We are not called to live life solely by our natural abilities. There is a divine dimension to life and ministry, which comes by reliance on God. Sometimes reliance on the power of God is facilitated by the prophetic. We need God's involvement to deliver a successful ministry. Before Jesus commenced His earthly ministry He went into a fast for forty days in the wilderness. He went to spiritually programme Himself to succeed in ministry. Without success in the spirit it is not possible to succeed in the natural. When we win in the spirit it is

very easy to just take the spoils of victory in the natural. When we have not broken through in the spirit we only experience trickles of victory. The uncommon outpouring of victory is a product of victory in the spirit, which happens by obeying spiritual principles.

The point of prophetic Fulfillment

Dan. 10:12-14 ***"Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.***

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

When prophecy is about to be fulfilled satanic opposition begins. We sometimes experience a lull in our fortunes just when the promises of God are about to be fulfilled. I have realized what God says doesn't just happen. We need to use the prophecies on our lives and pray them into fulfillment. Satan does everything to prevent the fulfillment of prophecy. The Prince of Persia resisted the answer to Daniel's prayer for the release of the Jews. On the first day of his prayer and fasting God sent the answer to him by an angel. The prince of Persia intercepted the answer for twenty-one days. The battle raged for twenty-one days before Michael was commanded to intervene. Similarly many battles may rage on when prophecy is about to be fulfilled. Unless we intensify our prayer, we are not likely to have a breakthrough due to satanic opposition.

Selaise's experience

My elder son was admitted to medical school in Ukraine. He had to go to the Ukrainian embassy in Italy for his visa. I took him to Italy on our way from the US with my wife for the visa. Strangely enough my wife and I had our visas but he wasn't given his visa. We waited for about two weeks in Rome to take the visa, but to no avail. We decided to come to Ghana after all the effort to have the visa released proved a fiasco. Back in Accra after waiting for almost two months my son decided to do a three day fast. A day after he broke the fast we received a call from Rome that his visa was ready. I believe that if he hadn't done the three days fast Satan could have succeeded in denying him his chance to go to school that particular year.

Victory in the spirit translates to victory in the natural. Charles Finney used

days of praying in the forest to open the floodgates of revival in his ministry. I had my own breakthrough in ministry through prayer. Just after I got born again, I spent long hours alone praying for the Lord to empower my ministry. No man can have a breakthrough in ministry if he doesn’t regularly spend time alone in prayer.

5

Heaven's Representatives

It takes faith to receive from God. In other words, faith is the hand that takes from the hand of God. Nobody moves the hand of God without prayer. If you want to move the hand of God you must pray.

Different kinds of Prayer

Eph. 6:18-19 ***"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"***

From the scripture, we observe that there are many kinds of prayer. Failure to understand this makes prayer fruitless. All prayers are not the same. There is the prayer of worship, thanksgiving, consecration, faith, petition, supplication and many others. We need to apply these techniques for our paying to be effective. When going to minister we pray a prayer of dedication or consecration. In difficult times we pray a prayer of faith or what is also known as commanding prayer.

The Kingdom of God is in Power

The Bible teaches that the kingdom of Heaven involves casting out of devils, healing the sick, setting the oppressed free and taking territories for God.

Luke 11:20-21 ***"But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you."***

The kingdom of God is not in food and drink, but in power and the Holy Ghost. The kingdom of God is about the demonstration of power as seen in the scripture above. To encounter the kingdom of God is to encounter the power of God. The Church needs power to grow and expand. Much of the negative happenings in the world aren't natural. Spiritual problems are not solved with natural means. We need to exercise power over human problems to set captives free.

Matt. 16;19 ***"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and***

whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matt. 18:18-20 ***"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Devil Had Power In This World

2 Cor. 4:3-5 ***"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."***

It isn't natural for people to deliberately reject Christ. They do so because of the blindness brought on them by the god of this world. The Devil, as we already know, became the god of this world when Adam disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. That is why Satan told Jesus that the world had been delivered to him.

Jesus didn't argue with him because what he said was a fact of history. If the statement had been a lie Jesus would have pointed it out to him. There is a spiritual darkness over many nations of the world that makes the spread of the gospel difficult. This is especially true in many so-branded advanced countries.

We Need To Locate The Enemy

1 John 5:19-20 ***"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."***

We are told in the book of Ephesians that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood. We are instead fighting against principalities, powers, world rulers and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. This is confirmed in the book of 2 Corinthians that we aren't warring in the flesh. We are not just dealing with physical entities in this life. There is more to what we see and experience than meets the eye. One fact about warfare is the need to locate your enemy. If you can't locate your enemy, you are in great danger of being slaughtered.

2 Cor. 2:11 ***"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."***

Ignorance spells doom for any believer in battle. In conventional warfare, nations have developed sophisticated weapons to keep ahead in the arms race. Knowledge about enemy weaponry and strategy is critical in any warfare. Similarly Christians also need to know the devices of their enemy. We need this knowledge to wage a victorious warfare. As all truth is parallel, God also gives weapons to the Christian soldier with which to wage war. The same way Satan has weapons, so God also arms believers against Satan.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 ***"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:***

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

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;"

Satan is out to Steal, Kill, and Destroy

It is important to recognize the reality of satanic activity. Failure to acknowledge this amounts to a deadly mistake. Satan and his forces are out to kill and destroy. They sometimes use people, institutions and systems to fight against the will of God. Satan sometimes causes laws to be promulgated to fight the realization of the will of God. It must however be quickly pointed out that Jesus gives us power to overcome him. There is the power of God at work in the life and ministry of the believer to fight the Devil.

The Christian Is Loaded With Power

Eph. 3:20-21 ***"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"***

God lives in the Christian and he can draw on His power on the inside to overcome. The believer is a habitat of divine power. The Christian carries the power and presence of God wherever he goes. That explains why John says greater is he that is in the believer than he that is in the world. We are far greater than any power prevailing at this point in time anywhere in the universe. No demonic power anywhere in the universe can defeat the Christian who knows his

place in Christ.

Slessor And Mckeown

Mary Slessor, the English missionary who came to West Africa in the 19th Century was warned not to venture into the midst of cannibals along the banks of the Niger River. She exclaimed that God was with her and no evil would overtake her. She pointed out to those who were expressing fears for her safety that one person with God was a majority. If God is in you, you have nothing more to fear. Rev James McKeown, with the help of God, single-handedly popularized Pentecostalism in Ghana. God doesn't need a crowd to pull down the structures of evil in the world. When we connect to God by faith we can spread the fragrance of His knowledge in the world.

Binding The Strongman

Luke 11:21-23 ***"When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:***

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 Christian is the strong man in the world. It is true that the Devil has power to blind the world, making it difficult for people to accept Christ. However, don't forget Jesus overcame him on the cross and said in Matt. 28:18, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. The Devil is no longer the strongest person in the universe. The stronger man is the Christian who knows his place in Christ. Jesus delegated His power to us when He sent us as Kingdom Ambassadors. Mark 16:15 says, ***"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.***

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Satan's works can be bound, and people set free to live victoriously. There are strong men (demonic spirits) in the world. But these satanic strong men are not stronger than the Christian in whom dwells the Holy Spirit. Christians are

stronger than principalities and powers. These demonic forces influence decisions and laws that work against the will of God. But in Christ the Christian is stronger than these strong men. As men yield to God, He uses them to destroy the hold of Satan over people and change lives for the better. Satan and his hosts of strong men have been defeated over 2 000 years ago through the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Pakistan Campaign

Christians have a share in the victory of Calvary. The victory of Christ is effectively the Christian's victory. Spiritually there is no difference between Christ and the Christian. It was normally impossible to hold open-air gospel crusades in Pakistan just like any Islamic nation in the world. This is one of the workings of the satanic strong man assigned by Satan to rule over Pakistan and other Moslem nations.

In 2007 I went to Pakistan to hold a Gospel campaign dubbed Miracles, Healing, Signs and Wonders Festival. We held the open-air meeting, and over 100,000 people attended this mammoth meeting in the city of Karachi the first night. Over 90% of the number was Moslem. 22 deaf and dumb people were healed by the power of God. The power responsible for this breakthrough came through the many days spent in Accra praying for the crusade. Thousands of Pakistanis prayed the sinner's prayer. The strong man responsible for the enforcement of evil that prevented open-air gospel meetings had been arrested and rendered powerless for the time of our crusade.

The Gospel In Bahrain

We were once in the Islamic kingdom of Bahrain just across the Saudi border. Many Moslems were bused across the Saudi border to experience the power of God by receiving both healing and salvation. When we walk in the power of the name of Jesus, laws can be set aside. We always bind the spirits behind the enactment of these laws before embarking on our trips to preach the gospel.

Christians Are Empowered To Destroy Evil In The World

The Christian is empowered to tear down the foundations and structures of evil in the world. We are called to be the salt and light of the earth. Our lives and

ministry should both preserve and light up a dark and doomed world. It is not by accident that we find ourselves in the world today. We are here by divine design and plan. We are not accidents of history just adding up to the number. Christians are direct extensions of the hand of God to pull down satanic structures in the world.

Satan Is An Accomplished Trickster

The Devil tasks his demons to destroy the foundations of righteousness in the world. He's been doing this for the 6 000 years of man's existence on earth. He is a veteran in the war game. He employs numerous strategies against mankind in general and the people of God in particular. It is interesting how Satan once succeeded in provoking David against Israel.

2 Sam. 24:10-11 ***"And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly."***

Satan sometimes tricks undiscerning people into committing costly blunders in life. Prophetic insight and clear understanding of scripture is therefore needed to outsmart him. One of the chief weapons in his arsenal is trickery and deception.

6

Evil Spirits And Angels

Heb. 1:14-2:1 ***"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"***

Angels and Demons

John 4:24 ***"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."***

The Bible teaches that God is a spirit. The Devil is also a spirit entity just like God. God and the Devil are however opposed to each other in nature and character. Behind everything good and righteous is the Spirit and power of God. Similarly, behind everything evil are the Devil and his demons. They have been given the responsibility of tearing down the foundation and structure of good. We are not dealing with men or political ideologies. Our political leaders are most of the time so confused that they cannot seem to agree on anything.

Demons are evil whereas God and His angels are good and righteous. God uses angels while the Devil also uses demons to carry out his purposes in the universe. The book of Hebrews says that angels are ministering or servant spirits of God. As serving spirits in the government of God, angels minister to Christians among others. All Christians have the right to angelic ministry.

Remember that behind every problem or solution is a spirit

Angels Wait On Christians

Angels are like waiters at an eatery, restaurant or hotel. All visitors to the restaurant qualify to be waited upon by a waiter. All Christians similarly qualify for angelic ministration. Sometimes angels fight against evil spirits on our behalf. Sometimes too they bring answers to prayer from Heaven to the Christian. An important art all Christians need to learn is the art of binding demons and releasing angels of God. The Christian has authority to bind demons and release angels.

Matt. 16:19-20 ***"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:***

and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The scripture above means Christians have authority to bind or restrain Satan and his demons. He also has power to invite angels to work on his behalf.

Good Spirits And Evil Spirits

Neh. 9:20 ***"Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst."***

In the above scripture God gave a good spirit or an angel the task of instructing or guiding Israel in the wilderness to the Promised Land. The good spirit in this context is an angel of God. Just as there are good spirits there are evil spirits as well. Angels are good spirits whereas demons are evil spirits. Evil spirits create dire conditions while good spirits bring good to mankind. Below are some evil and good spirits.

Spirit Of Fear

2 Tim. 1:7 ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."***

Behind the deadly emotion of fear is an evil spirit released from hell. Fear is one of the evil spirits the devil uses to visit evil on man. This lends credence to the fact that behind every negative condition is a demon. The opposite counterpart of fear is boldness, which is also a spirit. Good spirits come from God whereas evil spirits come from Satan.

Spirit Of Faith

It is interesting to note that faith is also a spirit. By the spirit of faith God helps people to accept the word of God.

2 Cor. 4:13 ***"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;"***

I always make it a point to release the spirit of faith on my meetings before preaching. That in part explains why we have many people accepting Christ in our meetings. We also release the spirit of healing and miracles upon our meeting before we go into our crusades. We also bind evil spirits of doubt and skepticism and loose the spirit of faith and the free-flow of anointing on our meetings. By the time the crusade starts the influence of the doubt-creating

demons would have been effectively restrained. The power behind ungodly attitudes of unbelievers comes from demons and needs to be bound for the gospel to have effect on them. When these doubt-creating demons are bound, it becomes easier for people to believe.

Ministers must spend time praying and releasing the spirit of faith, obedience and acceptance upon worshippers. They must also pray to release people from the hold of demons that cause unnecessary absenteeism, sleepiness, unbelief, resistance and the like in Church. These must be completely overcome in prayer for the Church to freely experience the power of God. It is possible to determine the spiritual atmosphere in a meeting through the prayer of binding and loosing.

Demonic spirits are always sent from hell against our churches and meetings and must always be held bound. When we locate and bind them, the power of God is released on our meetings for great results.

Spirit Of Heaviness

Isa. 61:3 ***"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."***

In the passage we see that emotional heaviness is a spirit. Demons can drain away our peace and joy thus rendering us depressed. People become terribly troubled under the demonic influence of the spirit of heaviness. I once had to minister to a lady who lost the husband whilst she was away in the US. It was very difficult for family members to break the news to her on her return. The two of them enjoyed a deep emotional attachment whilst the husband was alive. Together with my prayer warriors we prayed, binding the spirit of sorrow and heaviness over her life. When later the news was broken to her on her arrival, she didn't go into shock as many thought she would. This is because the spirit of heaviness and depression had been bound in prayer.

Spirit Of Pride/ Humility

Prov. 161:8 ***"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."***

The haughty spirit in the passage means pride. Pride is a demonic spirit that is released from hell. The opposite of pride is humility. For every negative spirit there is a positive counterpart spirit. If there is a spirit of pride from the Devil,

there is a spirit of humility that comes from God.

Prov. 16:19 “Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

The Bible talks about the spirit of meekness, wisdom, knowledge etc. The spirit at work in the life of a person determines what he or she will do under any given circumstance.

Isa. 11:2-3 ***“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”***

Spirit Of Jealousy

Num. 5:14-15 ***“… and the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be defiled: or if the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be not defiled:”***

Destructive emotions of jealousy and envy are spirits that can come upon a person, causing him or her to behave wrongly.

Wounded Spirit/Broken Spirit

Prov. 18:14-15 ***“The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?”***

Prov. 15:13-14 ***“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”***

Prov. 17:22-23 ***“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”***

Wounded or broken spirits are very difficult to heal. Satan uses these spirits to oppress people, making it difficult for them to live joyously. Until these spirits are dealt with in prayer it is not possible to release their victims. A broken spirit makes his victim constantly wear long faces. This leads to several health problems with grave consequences.

Spirit Of Truth And Error

1 John 4:6 ***“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”***

Spirit of Truth - John 15:26 ***"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"***

Where the spirit of error prevails people will find it easier to believe error than believing the truth.

Spirit of Meekness – 1 Cor. 4:21 ***"What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and [in] t he spirit of meekness?"***

Wrong/Right Spirits - Psalm 51:10 ***"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."***

Spirit of Wisdom - Deut. 34:9 ***"And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses."***

Exo. 28:3 ***"And thou shalt speak unto all [that are] wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."***

Spirit of Confusion - 1 Cor. 14:33 ***"For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."***

Spirit of Divination - Acts 16:16 ***"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:"***

Spirit of Misunderstanding - Jdg 9:23 ***"Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:"***

Spirit of Counsel and Knowledge - Isa. 11:2 ***"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;"***

Wounded Spirit - Prov. 18:14 ***"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?"***

Broken Spirit - Prov 15:13 ***"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."***

Prov. 17:22 ***"A merry heart doeth good [like] a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."***

Spirit of Holiness - Rom 1:4 ***"And declared [to be] the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"***

Spirit of the World - I Cor. 2:12 ***"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."***

Eph. 2:2 ***"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"***

Lying Spirit - 1 Kings 22:22 ***"And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade [him], and prevail also: go forth, and do so."***

Spirit of Bondage - Rom. 8:15 ***"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***

Spirit of Liberty - Psalm 51:12 ***"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit"***

Hasty Spirit - Prov. 14:29 ***"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."***

Patient Spirit - Eccl. 7:8 ***"Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."***

Spirit of Slumber - Rom. 11:8 ***"(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."***

Other Demonic Spirits

The following are some other spirits the devil uses against people: spirits of slumber, unclean spirits, deaf and dumb spirit, spirit of infirmity, spirit of blindness, lameness, suicide, blasphemy, spirit of paralysis, etc. These are the spirits we need to bind. We also pray to activate angels of God to take charge in our ministries.

Acts 10:38 ***"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."***

In the Old Testament sickness is called 'bondage' whilst it is called in the Book of Acts, oppression. In the Gospels Jesus calls sickness bondage to the Devil. In these instances, there isn't the remotest allusion to sickness originating

from God.

The only thing we need to understand is that God is able to use everything, including sicknesses, for our good, or to teach us valuable lessons. In fact, that is what makes Him God. That, however, does not mean we should gladly put up with any sickness that ails us. Some believers even go to the extent of personalizing their ailments by making statements like “this sickness of mine ”. The moment we personalize sicknesses God may not take them away.

There Were Demons Behind Most Of The Diseases Jesus Healed

Matt. 8:16 ***“When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick”***

In the above text, we see just one group of people brought to Jesus. They were all possessed of demons. Some demonic cases did not manifest as sicknesses, whereas others did. The text says He cast out demons out of some while He healed some. It is very evident that those who were sick had demons behind their sicknesses.

Matt. 9:32-33 ***“As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.”***

The condition of the deaf and dumb man in the passage is attributed to the activities of demons.

Several Deaf And Dumb People Healed At A Crusade In Nigeria

I once preached at a Four Square Crusade in Nigeria. Many deaf and dumb people were healed in that never-to-be-forgotten meeting. The first person healed had been deaf and dumb for almost twenty years. His healing interestingly set the tone for a ‘free for all’ healing of the deaf and the dumb. It would have been a very dull uninspiring meeting if the first deaf and dumb man had not been healed. When the first man was healed, the ground came alive with expectation among the crowds. Like the man in the passage, many of these people were demon possessed. As the demons were cast out, they were healed.

Lunatic/Unclean Spirit Healed By Jesus

Mark 1:23-25 ***"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying,***

Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him."

It is very clear that behind the lunacy of the man were demons, which were rebuked by Jesus. Many cases of madness are demonic cases. That explains why many mental illnesses are not healed in the psychiatric facilities. Suppressants will not get rid of demons. Drugs have no effect on demons.

The Lord Taught Me To Heal Since 1983

I discovered how to heal as far back as 1983 and that has been a turning point in my healing ministry. That is not to say that I had not heard of people in Ghana work miracle healings. Many great ministers of the Gospel before me had been healing the sick and casting out devils in Ghana. The only issue is that I did not have the opportunity to see them perform such miracles, I was never in heir meetings they did not write books for me to see nor were here videos then. God therefore had to take me through the scriptures to personally teach me about healing from the examples of Jesus Himself in the Gospels.

Peter's Mother In-Law Healed Of Fever

Luke 4:38-39 ***"And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.***

And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them."

The Lord did not rebuke Simon's mother in-law; instead, He rebuked the fever (spirit). This means, what is called "fever" in biological terms has a spirit behind it. The fever was not just a common medical condition. It is a spirit entity manifesting as fever. Doctors can only diagnose a germ but God sees a spirit of infirmity coming from the Devil. Medical practitioners are not trained to see disease-causing spirits. They are only trained to see disease-causing pathogens that the evil spirit uses to create medical conditions for men. The woman who was bowed for eighteen years may have been suffering from arthritis but Jesus

saw a ‘spirit of infirmity’. The ‘medics’ may have their terms for sicknesses but behind the medical condition, we always have a spirit. Whatever sicknesses there are, there is always a spirit behind each of them. When the spirit is cast out, the sickness goes and the victim is healed.

Spirit Of Infirmity

Luke 13:11-16 ***“And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.***

And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

In the above passage, Jesus calls the situation of the woman ‘bondage’. From the perspective of God, the sickness is ‘bondage’. Through sickness, Satan bound the woman for eighteen solid years. The Bible does not call sickness a gift of God. This does not mean that God cannot allow Satan to afflict people with sickness as judgment. In the case of Job, God allowed Satan to bring the sickness as a way of trying his faith in order to boast about him. God only allowed it but did not send it Himself. The Holy Spirit, writing by Dr Luke, calls sickness an oppression of the Devil in the text above.

Dumb Spirit - Mark 9:17 ***“And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit;”***

Deaf Spirit - Mark 9:25 ***“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, [Thou] dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”***

Spirit of Infirmity - Luke 13:11 ***"And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up [herself].***

Spirit of Grace - Zech. 12:10 ***"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."***

The Tip Of The Iceberg Is Only 10% Surface; 90% Cannot Be Seen

There are spirits in the air (all around you) ruled by the prince of the power of the air Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

You can have victory in your Christian life if you accept that just as there are good spirits there are evil spirits. Sickness is a spirit just as healing is a spirit. Sin is a spirit just as salvation is a spirit.

Bind the spirits of sin, unbelief, doubt, violence. false religion, spirits that control religions, and instead release good spirits.

Binding The Strong Man In Tamale

When we started our Church in Tamale we prayed through town in the night binding demons that caused people to shun the Church. We also invoked ministering spirits of God to influence people to come to Church to get blessed and stay. This is how come our Church grew phenomenally in Tamale. Our Church became the fastest growing Church in the northern part of Ghana. At one point you only needed to write my name on a letter and it was as good as delivered.

Binding the strongman in an Indian town

As I briefly shared in the introduction, I went to Chengham, Tamil Nadu State, India for the first time in 1993 to preach the gospel. Before the trip to the subcontinent, I prepared myself in days of fasting, prayer and warfare. I took control of the Hindu influence as well as other demons that ruled the nation. I

bound them in the name of Jesus and released the spirits of salvation, healing and miracles on the land. On my first day in India, I issued a command to the Hindu monks never to attempt to practice their arts during my ministration. I warned that anyone who disobeyed would remain permanently suspended in the air.

To the amazement of many, no monk could levitate or disrupt the meeting. The spirits that specialized in disrupting and causing confusion at crusades had been bound in our prayer meetings in Accra prior to the trip. Satan’s ability to carry out his assignment had completely been disengaged. Since 1993 to date I have been having successful Gospel campaigns in India.

Conclusion

What is the conclusion of the matter? We have seen that there is an ongoing war which is not physical, but spiritual; a war between the forces of light and darkness. If the will of God is the welfare of humanity, then it does not please Him that the devil is ruling many lives with unclean spirits and spirits of sickness and infirmity. By Satan's legitimate right as god of this world, he has caused the propagation of wickedness and sinfulness in the earth. And that is why God has appointed the believer as His representative or ambassador on the earth, to proclaim total liberty to those who are bound under Satan's power.

And yet, to be effective in engaging in this spiritual warfare, it is important for the believer to understand firstly that his enemy is the devil and his minions, not man; secondly, that the devil's army is well organized in rank and order, and therefore one cannot just fight without knowledge and spiritual tact; and finally, that the Christian can only enforce the defeat of the strongman (Satan) by binding his demons and his works through serious prayer and fasting, as well as by prophetic warfare. Only then can he take his rightful place of dominion and authority on the earth.

In the 40th Morris Cerullo World Conference in Orlando, Florida in 2011; just before I was introduced to speak someone said "In America we cannot get miracles because they belong to the mission field like Africa etc." I had bound the spirits of sickness in the meeting so when I gave the command for healing 23 people who walked with the aid of their sticks handed them over to me healed. We have the authority to release people from their oppression by the devil.

Having these keys, therefore, let us step up as ambassadors of heaven and ensure that the kingdom of God is established on the earth. May we effectively drive away the powers of darkness from our communities, in order that the gospel of Jesus Christ can reach the world. We are victorious, praise Jesus!

About The Author

Bishop Charles Agyinasare is the presiding bishop of Perez Chapel International and associate independent churches. He is the senior pastor at the Perez Dome, Dzorwulu, Accra, Ghana reputed to be the largest auditorium in Ghana. He is also the president of Perez Ministerial College. He is regarded as one of the national Christian leaders in Ghana. In addition, Dr. Agyinasare is a recipient of the Ghana National Honours Award, in the category of Member of the Order of the Volta, for Championing African Excellence.

Charles had a divine encounter in 1983 when he heard the audible voice of God twice in four days commission him saying, “My boy Charles, I send you out as I sent Moses; go, and I will put My words on your lips, and reach the world for Me,” and “I give unto you power over demons and principalities, heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the kingdom”.

Since then, he has shared the whole counsel of God in seventy-eight (78) nations, including the following: the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, France, Italy, Ukraine, Israel, India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Kingdom of Bahrain, Japan, and many other countries in Africa. His gospel campaigns have recorded over 300,000 people in a single meeting.

He has a mandate to lead God’s people into their breakthrough by preaching the kingdom of God through miracles, healings, signs and wonders, success, prosperity and favour, wisdom, leadership, excellence, integrity (holiness), family life, last days and spiritual impartation. Through his teaching and preaching many people who once were sick, alcoholics, and drug addicts have been set free in his meetings. Many have also been raised from nobodies to somebodies.

His television channel Precious TV reaches many across the globe.

He is a graduate of the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute, Benin City, Nigeria (Charismatic Studies); Vision International University, Ramona, USA (Philosophy of Theology); Ghana Institute Of Management and Professional Administrators (GIMPA), Ghana (Chief Executives Programme); Haggai Institute of Advanced Leadership, Hawaii, USA (Leadership); and he had a two year stint at Law with University of London and GIMPA Law Schools.

He is married to Rev. Mrs. Vivian Sena Agyinasare, the co-founder of Perez Chapel International, and they have three adult children and one adopted daughter: Dr. Selaise Esar Agyinasare, Francis Nyamekye Agyinasare, Charlene Sena Agyinasare, and Clementina Quarshie.

If this book has been a blessing to you or you need additional help, you can contact the author on the following address:

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Other Books From The Author

- **From Small To Medium To Mega** – how to grow your church
- **Miracles, Healing, Signs, And Wonders** – Here is a valuable source that will help you receive healing, and initiate and release you into the supernatural ministry.
- **Rooted And Built Up In Him** – This 487-page teaching manual will help equip you to stand as a Christian and to effectively work for God.
- **It's Miracle Time, Volume 1** – This book teaches you how to receive your miracle, why some do not receive their miracle, and what divine healing is all about.
- **It's Miracle Time, Volume 2** – This book teaches you how to maintain your healing and provides keys to help you bring healing to others who are sick.
- **Now That You Are Born Again** – Discover how to leadsomeone to Christ and help new Christians understand what and why they believe.
- **New Testament Ministers Manual** – Use this book to learn how to perform pastoral duties, such as officiating weddings, dedicating buildings, and many other functions made easy.
- **Power In Prayer** – This book contains keys regarding how to pray and how to apply pressure to get answers to prayer.
- **Celebrating The Pilgrimage Of Life** – Takes an intimate look at the life of Bishop Charles Agyinasare. It is filled with never-before-told stories of his first 40 years.
- **The Impact Of Prayer** – Learn how to pray with more fervency and consistency in order to receive answers to prayer. This book is your source to help you win the invisible war.
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- **Breaking The Power Of Alcohol, Drugs, And Tobacco** – This book will enable you and your loved ones to break the power of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and find deliverance from these evil habits.
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