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In Pursuit of VISION

Exploring The Virtues Of Divine Guidance

IN PURSUIT OF VISION

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Introduction

Salvation or the new birth confers a glorious destiny on everyone that has been redeemed. We have been redeemed as priests and kings, and God's plan for us is that we reign on the earth (Rom. 8:29-30; Rev. 5:10). We have also been called unto glory and virtue (2 Pet. 1:3). But how do we access this heavyweight dimension of glory reserved for us?

Knowing what is yours but not knowing how to get at it can be very frustrating. Isaiah 2:2-3 and Micah 4:1-2 makes it very clear that the unfolding of God's ways is what will bring down

His glory upon the Church. The quality of revelation the Church has access to is what will determine the quality and weight of glory that she is able to enjoy.

A discovery of vision and its pursuit is the gateway to the actualisation of our glorious destiny in Christ. Equally very vital is the place of divine guidance in the pursuit of vision, because only those that are led by the Spirit of God can truly manifest their sonship on the earth. It is divine guidance that makes the journey of life great, as you cannot operate by the ways of God and not cause waves on the earth. The Bible says, "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so*

are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:9). When you walk by the higher ways of God, you become a high flyer in life.

The Bible unfolds the unlimited realms of glory that God has reserved for His people in Deuteronomy 28:1-13. Much more important to note is the secret for accessing it, which is revealed in verse one:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

The glory packaged for the end-time Church is rooted in His voice; it is rooted in hearkening to the voice of the Lord, which is divine guidance. When harkened to, the voice of the Lord will always culminate in a glorious experience. The voice of the Lord, therefore, is the master key to the dimensions of His glory in our lives. He leads us in the path of profiting by His voice. We are told in Isaiah 48:17:

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Everyone who harkens to the voice of His leading will end up being

distinguished. Following His leading is the guarantee for the fulfillment of vision and destiny, because the leading of the Lord is what makes great leaders. Speaking about the Holy Spirit, the Bible says:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:13

The Bible also says in Isaiah 49:10:

They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of

water shall he guide them.

The Church is programmed to be a leading Church, because it is led by the Spirit of the Lord. Man is limited as a human being. In fact, I told one of my sons recently, "Your mind is too poor to be followed." This is why we will always need divine guidance. Our thoughts are not His thoughts. His thoughts on any issue of life are higher, and, therefore, lead to the highways of life.

You need to be divinely guided in life, as one wrong step can wreck a whole destiny. No matter how colourful your vision is, misdirection can lead to many years of set backs, and can even wipe out a man's destiny.

Many have traveled out of their countries to other countries and have become worse off, because the answer to any man's problem is not in a nation, but in God. Others have embraced seemingly open doors in business which have ended in grave loses, ruin and bankruptcy.

So, if you want to enjoy and experience the glory reserved for you as a child of God, then you need to be sensitive to what He commands. You are supernaturally in command when you operate as commanded, because the Caller backs you up, to ensure that what He has commanded you to do is accomplished.

Christ was crucified to connect us

with the Abrahamic covenant of honour and dignity (Gal. 3:13-14). Isaac, our covenant brother with whom we share a common heritage, was also envied by all those around him (Gen. 26:12-14). So, every child of God carries an enviable destiny; we are to be envied and not pitied. As I have so often said, men only pity those that are in the pit. We are not meant for the pit; rather, we are a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

This is the reason for this book. It is packaged to provide scriptural details on the vital subject of the pursuit of vision. Also discussed is the subject of the virtues of divine correction, as divine guidance is not

complete if you are not open to be corrected by God. All these are to enable you and me fulfill our destinies in a grand style. Therefore, come along as we walk through the spiritual signposts on the highway to the fulfillment of destiny.

Chapter 1 -Vision And Divine Guidance

It will perhaps be good to start off the discussion of the pursuit of vision by explaining what vision and divine guidance means. An understanding of what these two terms actually means would help us see the need for them in our lives.

Vision

Contrary to what some believe, vision is not that dream one has in the night. Neither is it what transpires in a trance or what obtains in moments of ecstasy. A true vision is the unfolding

of divine plan and purpose. Every one is created to fulfill a purpose here on earth, just as every manufacturer creates a product specifically to fulfill a purpose. A discovery of the purpose for which you are created is called vision. It is the unfolding of divine plan as it relates to a nation, a group of people or an individual.

God revealed His purpose for creating Prophet Jeremiah:

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

He also had a purpose for Apostle

Paul:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen…

Galatians 1:15-16

Jeremiah's purpose was to be a prophet and Paul, to preach to the heathen. You also have a purpose for being here on earth. Do you know what it is yet? Vision is knowing what you are here on earth for. It is a divine insight into God's plan for your life, and is very important that you discover what it is, as it puts an end to a life of struggles. You will keep struggling

when God's plan for your life is unknown, because you are designed to perform best at that assignment you are created to perform, just as any product only functions optimally when used for what it was specifically designed for.

Divine Guidance

One of the greatest tragedies of life is to lack the knowledge of where you are going as well as not know how to get there. So, having discovered what you are here on earth for through a discovery of vision, the next thing is to know how to accomplish the task you have been sent to perform; that is, the pursuit of vision. This is where divine guidance comes in. Since God created you to perform a specific task, then He

should be allowed to show you how to do it. A manufacturer is the only one who knows best what he designed a product to perform, and that's why every product comes with a manufacturer's manual that tells you how to use it.

The quality of how well you pursue your God-given vision and fulfill destiny is a function of the quality of divine guidance you are exposed to. While vision shows you the promised land, God's guidance is what enables you to arrive there. Taking the children of Israel out of Egypt, God took them through the Red Sea on purpose – so they would arrive at the Promised Land:

And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 13:17-18

Every man on a journey, but who does not know the way to go, must of necessity seek to be directed if he ever hopes to arrive at his destination. Since it is God Who made us and not we

ourselves, it is essential that we look up to Him to show us the way to the actualisation of the purpose for which we are created. So, until you are guided by the One Who knows the way, your life purpose may never be realised.

The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12:

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

This same scripture is repeated in Proverbs 16:25. In other words, man will keep getting frustrated in his pursuit of vision, except he is able to lay hold on divine guidance. It is God's leading that makes the journey of life great. The Bible commands that we walk not by sight, but by faith (2 Cor.

5 : 7) . That means, if you are determining the way to go by what you see, you will be utterly limited in life. The greatest leader that ever walked the face of the earth, Jesus Christ the Son of God, said, *"I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just"* (Jn. 5:30). When you are committed to His leading in your pursuit of vision, then you are on your way to becoming a generational leader.

Worthy of note is the means through which the Lord led the children of Israel through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar

of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Exodus 13:21-22

They journeyed forty years through the wilderness by divine signal. The Bible tells us thus:

And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning.

So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.

At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents.

And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not.

And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle;

according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed.

And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed.

Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed.

At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 9:15-23

The Israelites only moved by divine signals; is there any wonder then that they arrived at the Promised Land or that there was not one feeble person among them in forty years of travelling through rough terrain?

God is committed to guiding us, if only we are committed to following Him. But note that He will not force us to follow; He leaves it to our choice. We find a typical demonstration of this

in Luke 9:57-62. Jesus did not force anyone to follow Him. Those who offered to follow Him but who gave conditions, He simply showed the right path and left them to make the ultimate choice by themselves.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead

bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

Following God's guidance is a choice. But I believe that when you know the benefits of following Him, you will be able to make the wise choice to follow His leading for your life. He knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:9-10), and because

we have no access to the end, we need to plug in to the One who does.

We struggle a lot because we think we know the way. But one wrong step can wreck an entire destiny. Only God knows it all. We may know only some bit about the past, and a little about the present, but only God knows everything about the future. So, we need to plug in to the One who knows tomorrow and the end.

Correct Timing

We need to be divinely guided in the pursuit of vision so that, like the Israelites, we can move at the appointed time into every phase of our vision. Every vision is for an appointed time. There is a right time to step out

in the pursuit of every vision, because He makes all things beautiful only in His time (Eccl. 3:11).

Whatever God has shown you to do also has a time He wants it done. So, you must not only locate the content of your assignment, but must also find out the execution time. Otherwise, there are certain things you may step into doing today that may cancel the glory that awaits you tomorrow, because it was wrongly timed. For you and me to enjoy the fullness of His glory, therefore, we must learn to operate or step out at His own time, which of course is a function of divine guidance.

Located in ***Canaan Land*** (the international headquarters of our

ministry) is the ***Faith Tabernacle***. Though God spoke to us about building a 50,000 capacity auditorium in 1982, it wasn't until 1996 that He showed us where it would be built. He gave the signal to begin construction in 1998, so we broke ground; and to His glory, the Tabernacle was dedicated in 1999! The ***Faith Tabernacle***, which was listed in 2008 in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest single church auditorium in the world, was built within one year debt-free and with no foreign aids whatsoever!

It took us seventeen years to carry out what God had instructed, because it was so programmed by Him. If we had attempted the project earlier, we would

all probably have crashed under its weight. But when we followed His time, He made it a reality, without anyone being put under any form of pressure!

Another reason we need guidance is to avoid overstaying at a phase. When one overstays a phase in the pursuit of vision, one may eventually lose one's place. God said to the people on three different occasions:

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

Micah 2:10

The LORD our God spoke unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long

enough in this mount:

Turn you, and take your journey…

Deuteronomy 1:6-7

Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.

Deuteronomy 2:3

We need to be sensitive to divine plan and programme, so we can keep pace with God. That way, we won't overstay in a phase and stand the risk of losing our place. Our path in life is ordained to shine brighter and brighter (Prov. 4:18). That means we are expected to move from phase to phase in our journey in life. But we may be tempted to stay in a place longer than we should, unless we allow the One who knows the agenda for our lives to

direct us.

We took off in full-time ministry in 1983 in Kwara state, and on a particular day, God said, “Arise, and get down to Damascus,” which He revealed to be Kaduna, in the core north of Nigeria. Just as we were trying to settle down there and to enjoy God’s beauty and glory, He said, “Arise ye, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people.” Glory to God, we began to do what He said we should do, and God began to move in our midst. And again, when we thought we had settled on our own property, with a tower built to match, and everyone passing by the tower saying, “I thank God,” God again said, “I will yet relocate My Church.”

Then we got to ***Canaan Land***, and He said, “This is the place.”

Many have settled at a transit location, mistaking it for their final bus stop. God has moved us from place to place, with every new place outshining the previous one in glory. If I didn’t understand that God’s agenda is in phases, there is no vision that could have moved me out of Kaduna, where we were having the best of time. We had the respect of everybody, including devils. When we spoke a word, heaven backed it up, and everybody kept quiet. Yet He said, “Arise ye, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people.” We are glad He led us, as over 24,000 people worship in the Kaduna church today.

Whatever you have lost to spiritual insensitivity, I decree a season of restoration for you now, in Jesus' name.

Security Of Destiny

Why do we need divine guidance? For security of destiny! Your destiny remains utterly vulnerable when you are walking outside divine plan. For the forty years that the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness, none among them was feeble, and their legs were not swollen. This was because they were constantly moving with the cloud, which was their covering during the day and a pillar of fire in the night. As a result, no killer beast could dare come near them. Not even mosquitoes were able to bite one out of the three million people that traveled!

Not one person was feeble among them, because of the cloud of glory that guided and covered them! According to Numbers 9:15-23, the cloud moved from day to day. Every time the cloud moved, the people moved, and wherever it stopped, they stopped. In the same manner, keeping pace with the movement of the cloud is the only guarantee we have for the security of our destiny. Note that it is not enough to get results; it is much more important to secure your destiny.

Following God's leading also defines the limit of our destiny. God said if you will diligently hearken to His voice and observe to do all that He tells you to do, He will set you up on

high above all nations of the earth (Deut. 28:1). This is provided you walk intensely in His plan as it is unfolded to you phase by phase. God said to Abraham in Genesis 13:14-15:

…Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Where you are now is not your end. He said you will still bring forth fruit even in old age (Ps. 92:14). That means God is not done with you until you draw your last breath. I don't know where you are today, but God is asking

me to tell you that you are due for a move onto the next level. Abraham might perhaps have died as a pauper if God did not guide him on how to expand his vision. God's leading always lands one on the high places of the earth. In Deuteronomy 32:9-14, the Bible says:

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

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

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them,

beareth them on her wings:

So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

They got to the high places of life not by following the vogue or by zeal or passion, but by the leading of the Lord. Jesus said, "*I can of my own self*

do nothing.” Two thousand years after, because He was led by the Lord, He is still leading the world today!

On October 1, 1983, I went to a youth camp ground to have a quite time with God. As I worshipped Him in the Spirit, lifting up holy hands in worship, the Lord said to me very clearly, “I am the Lord that leadeth thee. I am committed to leading you, if you will only be committed to following Me.” I said, “Lord, I am committed to following You, so keep leading me.” I then closed my Bible and went home. And like a sheep, I have kept following Him ever since. You have to become like a sheep before you can be shepherded.

There is a high calling upon your life; God has reserved the high places of the earth for you. All you need do to arrive there is to subject yourself to His guidance. Too many are busy leading themselves; no wonder they suffer crises upon crises. *"He led them about…"* For over twenty-seven years, I have allowed God to dictate every step of my life. I have never been attracted to do whatever He has not commanded.

Following divine guidance supernaturally distinguishes the follower. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, ***"Follow me, and I will make you..."*** That is, "Your making is in following Me. Allow Me to lead you, and I will

make you what I have created you to be." When you are following His plan, you commit His integrity to back you up, because ***"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it"*** (I Thess. 5:24). When God is backing you, the front is where you are headed for, because it is the backing of the Lord that makes front liners.

"How does following God distinguish the follower?" you may wonder. The Bible says in Exodus 23:20, "*Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.*" When you are following His plan, His angel is assigned to accompany you; he is to keep you on

the journey, so that no assault of the enemy comes near you or molests you. As a result, things go marvelously well with you.

The truth is that God had a plan for your life before He ever formed you in your mother's womb. He set you apart for a divine purpose on the earth even before you were born. However, you only stepped into that divine plan after you were saved. In God's plan, not everyone is designed to be in business; neither is everyone expected to be in government or ministry. God has a unique plan for each one of us, and our destiny is anchored to that plan. Whatever God has assigned you to do holds a future and is what will bring

you utmost fulfillment. So, locate and enjoy it.

I once read about the owner of *Service Master, Inc.* He was quoted as saying, "I believe *Service Master* is a ministry." The company has about 200,000 employees! No wonder the Bible says, "*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper*" (Ps. 1:3).

God is saying to you now, "Whatever I have assigned you to do has a future, whether as a business person or an academic; all you have to do is settle down and work with

excitement!" When you obey this injunction, a time will come when God will make you a man that generations yet unborn will celebrate.

Business was my choice before I heard His call into full-time ministry. I would probably never have made as much mark in the business world as I have done in ministry today. That is the beauty of divine guidance. When you follow your choice instead of His will for your life, rather than end up in glory, what you get is shame and lack of fulfillment.

In Joel 2:2-8, the Bible describes the emergence of an end-time army, a group of people that cannot be stopped or resisted. It is an assault group

handpicked by God to operate here on earth. Enlistment in this army is by vision. Knowing your assignment determines your attainment in life. It is, therefore, imperative that you discover the particular assignment God has for you. The Lord said to me sometime ago, “If you don’t live for something, you don’t become something.” He was emphasizing to me the need to be single-eyed. To live for one purpose is to become outstanding. That purpose to live for is wrapped up in divine plan, which only God can unveil to you.

Yes, God has a master plan for each one of us; but it is our responsibility to get the details of the plan from heaven

at every stage that we get to. This is because vision is unfolded in phases. God rarely shows all that there is to His plan at once.

Vision For Exploits

Knowing where you are going and what to do to get there generates confidence in you. It makes you a man of extraordinary strength, a man of exploits; a visionary who have sought for God and received His plan for your life. You are now being led by the Lord and so know where you are heading. You know the end from the beginning, causing you to run like horsemen and leap like chariots, just like the end-time army in Joel 2:1-8:

God has a special package of glory for the end-time Church, which is composed of men and women that are

divinely guided. Everyman runs in his own path, with none breaking ranks because they have all located where they belong in God and are walking in it. One word comes to mind at their appearance: warriors. Their faces are set like flint before them, and their eyes fixed on a particular target in the future. They neither turn to the right nor to the left. To them, the sword is a play-thing. Pestilence cannot hold them bound; neither does famine know their address. Their presence sets confusion in the enemy camp.

These are mighty men of exploits; mighty men of valour. They were once ordinary men that were transformed into extraordinary men. Their status

changed when they laid hold on an extraordinary vision from God and dared to step out. They stepped out with their vision in sight and their God inside them. They know both their vision and their God.

When you know God, you lay hold on strength, and when you have strength you do exploits. Your vision gives stability to your life. You become immovable if you can locate the direction God is guiding you to and know where you are heading. With a goal in mind, you walk towards your goal with strong and purposeful strides, not as one beating the air. Your attitude and action change. Others might bow to any wind of doctrine and do whatever

they like and succeed greatly in those things, but you are not moved or swayed by them. Your vision prevents you from going anywhere you like or following after what others are doing. It gives you a definite focus, making you conscious of the fact that you are on a divine mission.

Note that no man gives himself a vision, as every true vision comes from God. Let me draw a line here between vision and ambition. Vision is God-given, whereas ambition is man-made. Vision is from above, while ambition has its origin here on earth. Ambition is born out of an earthly drive to do it better than others. It springs mostly out of envy and a desire for power and self

recognition. These desires run so deep that men fix their eyes on their target and go all out to achieve it, using all means, including all manner of evil machinations. Men driven by their ambition can kill, destroy nations and cities and pull others down, just to achieve their goal.

Hitler was a man driven by ambition: he wanted to rule the world. He wanted the German nation to bear rule over the whole world and felt that the Jews were in the way of his actualising this, so he decided to exterminate them. Hitler had an ambition and nothing was too evil for him to do to achieve it. But the great man of faith, George Muller, had a

vision, a heavenly dream.

He wanted to put a smile on the faces of all the orphans left by the war. He gave up everything he had to start an orphanage, looking unto God alone for help. He didn't have to steal, kill, defraud or beg people for sustenance. He was an ordinary man who had an extraordinary vision and believed God to carry out the extraordinary task, and so dared to step out in faith. This is a vision from God. He gives the vision and enables the visionary to bring it to fruition.

Note that vision is designed for enlargement and growth, and it does this only when diligently pursued. In spite of how much Paul the Apostle

accomplished, he said, “Not that I have accomplished, neither am I perfect, but I’m pressing towards what I can see ahead of me.” There is always something next to be done; there is always a next level.

Every vision is designed to grow. You were created to fulfill a specific purpose on the earth, which you probably have located. But until you apply diligent pursuit to it, it may end up a waste. It is a known fact that every object maintains a state of rest until a force is applied to move it. Even though God had given the land of Canaan to the children of Israel, they still needed to diligently follow the path He had earmarked for them to

arrive there.

They once got to a comfortable place along the journey and decided to settle there. But God showed up with instructions for them to move (Deut. 1:6-7). Every vision is designed to be pursued in order to be realised or accomplished. The beauty and colour of your vision will only be seen as you pursue it. The Bible says, *"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men"* (Prov. 22:29). It is diligent pursuit that enhances vision, so get back on your task and make the most of it.

Worthy of note also is the fact that every vision is a divine deposit. When

you locate God's plan for you life, He expects you to do some form of trading with it. That is, He expects you to try to maximize what the plan contains. When He comes to check on you to see how you are doing and finds you faithful, He multiplies His deposit in you, just as in the parable of the talents Jesus told in Luke 19:12-26.

The nobleman gave his ten servants a pound each. One went forth and traded with it and returned with ten more. Maybe another went and returned with eight, and another with seven. Every vision has the capacity to grow, but the growth is determined by the visionary. When you are judged faithful with the deposit in you, you are

qualified to enjoy more deposits from Him. In Matthew 25:21, the Bible in reporting the same parable says:

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

God checks on you annually, to see how you are faring with His plan. If He is satisfied with what He sees, He will move you higher and come again to check on you. But if not, He will do to you what was done in Luke 13:7, *"Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the*

ground?" He keeps checking and moving us further and higher as He sees us faithful in the pursuit of our vision. Vision is, therefore, not a once-in-a-lifetime issue; vision multiplies with diligent and faithful pursuit.

Not everybody in a class is moved or promoted to the next class. In every school, you write promotional exams, and when you are considered promotable you are moved to the next class. To move to the next one after, you still have to write an exam. God checks us out annually in like manner. My prayer for you is that He will find you worthy of His promotion.

Our ministry began by teaching at both weekly meetings and seminars,

and then we moved on in time to the church ministry, and then it was time to spread out. Then the time came when the harvest of Africa was overripe for harvesting, and we were sent into the African continent. From a little seed some years back, we have grown to establishing the Covenant University today. Can you imagine if what God said to me in 1981 is all we are still running with today? We would have been very limited.

But after He is satisfied with you at one point, without destroying what He said to you before, He builds on it and releases more deposits, and on and on like that as you continue in the pursuit of vision. Then you find the single, tiny

seed just growing branches, which are the proofs of its growth. A little kiosk today has the capacity of becoming a major network of shopping malls tomorrow, depending on how diligent and faithful you are in the pursuit of your God-given vision.

A vision that is not growing is a dead vision, because every living thing has the characteristic of growth, and it won't grow until you are judged good and faithful where you are and qualify to be moved on to the next level.

You Need Sensitivity

We need to be sensitive in the pursuit of vision. This is because vision and divine guidance are spiritual seeds and can only be accessed through a spiritual channel. Your spirituality is what guarantees your access to divine guidance, as God's plan is mainly communicated to our spirits by His Spirit. Divine Guidance is essentially the Spirit of God conveying the mind of God to us through our spirits. It has both a divine and spiritual root, as God is a Spirit. Only spiritual men can connect with divine plan.

The Bible tells us that God is a

Spirit, and that all who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). Jesus also said in John 3:6 that he that is born of the Spirit is spirit, and he that is born of the flesh is flesh. When you are born again, you are born of the Spirit, and, therefore, are a spirit. It is with your regenerated spirit that you connect with the Spirit of God in contacting divine guidance. A carnal man cannot receive spiritual signals; it takes only a spiritual man to access the leadings of the Spirit. The Bible tells us this in 1 Corinthians 2:11-14:

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God

knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

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.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The things of God are in the

custody of the Spirit of God. Just as a man has no ability to become pregnant with child, so also a carnal man has no capability to access the plans and purposes of God. Therefore, we must be spiritual to be able to receive divine signals and access divine plan and purpose.

It takes a robust spirit to be sensitive to divine guidance. When your spirit man is starved, it is insensitive to whatever God is saying. Its ability to see and hear is impaired, and your comprehension is tampered with. So when you are not spiritually well-fed, divine signals will pass by you unnoticed.

Just as physical food keeps your

physically alert, spiritual food is what keeps you spiritually alert. Remember that the Bible says man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. So, we need to be spiritually updated daily; we need to truly pray for the spiritual food: “Give me today my daily bread, as I don’t want to starve my spirit man, so I don’t miss Your specific plans for my every step.”

Somebody asked, “Does God still speak audibly?” and I replied, “Yes, He does.” God still has an audible voice, but a hungry soul cannot hear it. It takes a robust spirit to be sensitive to divine signals and to receive divine instructions to move from one level to

another in the journey of life.

Meekness

It also takes meekness to be guided by God or to qualify for access into divine plan. The Bible says, "*The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way*" (Ps. 25:9).

Just as admission into any school has its fundamental requirements, the fundamental requirement for enjoying divine guidance is meekness. God is not committed to leading every child of His; only His meek children. So, until you are free from pride, you are not a candidate for divine guidance.

Moses was a man who tremendously enjoyed divine guidance,

and the Bible describes him as the meekest of all men that were on the face of the earth (Num. 12:1-3). He had unusual insight and was super sensitive to God's leading. The Bible records in Psalm 103:7 that whereas God showed the children of Israel His acts, only Moses knew His ways. He heard God's specific directions on every issue. It takes meekness to walk in divine plan and programme and to fulfill divine purpose.

Divine guidance is designed to be progressive, because wherever God leads us into is packaged to speak at the end. The Word says:

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall

speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Habakkuk 2:3

By spiritual sensitivity and meekness you locate what God has created you to fulfill on the earth, which is vision. But it takes following consistent direction to arrive at that colourful end. Trying to step on a high platform with no respect for the steps will be an effort in futility, as you will never arrive there. While vision defines the ultimate, guidance helps to define the steps as you move from phase to phase towards the accomplishment and fulfillment of that divine plan.

You must learn to commit your

ways unto the Lord, so He can direct your path. Not every open door is God's open door; many are traps in disguise. That is why He says we should commit our ways unto Him. Don't rush into every business that comes your way. The story is told of how John D. Rockefeller's organization won the insurance bid for the Titanic, but the Spirit of the Lord told him not to go into it and he obeyed. Few weeks later, the ship sank. That would have been the end of the John D. Rockefeller empire. But by being guided by the Spirit of God, even though he is now dead, he is still speaking today.

You can never outgrow the need for divine guidance.

Chapter 2 -How God Leads

The leading of the Lord, not the strength of a man, is what makes great leaders on the earth. When your destiny is divinely guided, you will end up supernaturally distinguished, because following God supernaturally distinguishes the follower. But how does God guide or lead His people?

By His Word

We are guided principally by scriptures, because the Word of God is the custodian of our destiny. The Bible calls it "*a more sure word of prophecy*" (2 Pet. 1:19). The Bible says:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

The Word of God directs you on how to go about your job or any assignment committed into your hands. Before I set out in the pursuit of the ministry God gave me (to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil

through the preaching of the Word of faith), I had located all the steps I needed to take from the Word of God. I got to know that as I went, I am to take no bread and money in my purse. How did I know that? From Mark 6:8:

And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

I also found out from the Word that I was to greet no man on the way. That is, I shouldn't surrender my ministry to any man's authority or lobby men for supplies, otherwise I would frustrate His intentions. Jesus said, "*And as ye go, preach…*" I am to preach to affect men. "*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers,*

raise the dead, cast out devils.” That is, go and preach to impact lives (Matt. 10:7-8). He went on further to say, *“For the workman is worthy of his meat”* (vs. 10). That is, the labourer (not the supervisor) is worthy of his wages.

As I searched the Word further, I discovered that my labour was not in carrying cement and blocks for building projects, nor to sit down as an executive, signing papers all day long. My labour was to be in the Word, and to affect lives by it. If a woman is afraid to labour to bring forth the child she has carried in her womb for nine months, she will never have the child! So, I got my calling right and very

clearly too: I am called to labour in the Word of God.

“How do I get paid? Who pays me?” I further asked. I found also from the Word in Romans 15:27 that if I ministered spiritual things to people, then I was bound to enjoy material blessings from them. As long as I sought to make spiritual impact on those that listen to me, God would command material blessings to flow in my direction.

All these bits and pieces offered me the steps I required for my ministry to be realised; and I found them all from the Word of God.

When the Lord called me, my initial understanding of the mandate

was that I was to start a global outreach, not a church. The mandate said: "*The hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil through the preaching of the Word of faith; and I am sending you to undertake this task.*" I was shortsighted, so I could not see where the mandate suggested starting a church. Instead, I had planned to go from place to place teaching and preaching on crusade grounds, casting out devils and dealing with every evil one. But one day, as I was studying Luke chapter one, the Word of God came alive to me, saying:

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a

declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

It seemed good to me also…

Luke 1:1-3

I heard the Lord say to me, "Although there are all kinds of churches and everyone needing a spiritual awakening, I'm commissioning you also to pioneer a church ministry." This was clear guidance from scriptures.

We set out in church ministry, and at a point the church was not growing. I went to the Lord, asking, "God, why is

this happening?" God's Word came again, saying, "Keep sowing the seed, and as the grass grows, the sheep will come for it. Keep the grass green and the sheep will lie down there." Two scriptures came alive in me: "*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"* and "*The seed is the word of God"* (Ps. 23:3; Lk. 8:11). These two scriptures are the bases for the dynamic growth of our church ministry. You will find people in all our churches with a pen and paper constantly taking notes during church services, writing down what the Lord is saying to them.

Somebody once asked me, "What is the secret of the amazing things in this ministry?" and I replied, "Absolute

dependence on God." The Lord again said to me from Psalm 34:5, "You have two eyes; can you make one look up and the other look down? As long as you are looking unto men, never claim to be looking unto me." The scripture is: *"They looked unto Him, and they were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed"* (Ps. 34:5).

Every great future is rooted in discoveries made from scriptures. It is our principal guide. Therefore, any guidance you receive, bring it back on the balances of scriptures to see whether it is right or wrong. The scripture is the acid test for whatever guidance you receive. That is how to tap into scriptural guidance in the

journey of life.

You need to pray this prayer now: "Lord, as I go through Your Word from today, open my eyes to locate directions at all times. Help me to encounter light in my own area of calling, so I will always know what steps to take. Thank You Lord Jesus."

Proverbs 22:29 says:

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

You can receive direction from this scripture to stay with your assignment. The scripture means you shouldn't be ashamed of your assignment. Like Paul, you should be able to say about your assignment, "*Woe is me if I*

preach not the gospel.” To stand before kings, all you need is to settle down on your job and behave as though it is the only job in the world and the only thing you are living for. That way, kings will begin to desire your presence!

Bill Bright is called to minister to students, and he has become a celebrity in America now. All this by simply staying on his job, ministering to students who don’t have any political power! Jamie Buckingham is an editor of a Christian magazine. He is such a celebrity that when he had cancer the whole world knew! The whole world knew when he was healed also, because he sat at his job. “*Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand*

before kings…”

I received this instruction to stay with my job from the Word, so I organised my life to live for my job only. I have stayed on it for many years now without the thought of taking a vacation, and I am having the best of time. When I came into full-time ministry, I vowed that no man doing it part-time would beat me in it, as I would consider myself a failure if they did. I have given my entire life to the pursuit of my ministry; I’m giving it all the push required. I have laboured in the Word and have been able to prove that hard work doesn’t kill, it only refines. A wise man, “The earth’s natural resources are depleted by use,

but man's natural resources are depleted by failing to use them."

In 1984, I also found in God's Word where it is written:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:1

This inspired me to declare, "It is impossible for me to preach underground in the world." I saw myself getting to wherever the greatest preachers in the world get to, since I hearken to His voice and obey His

commandments. The Bible also says, *"In all labour there is profit…"* (Prov. 14:23). This gave me the assurance that my labour would never be in vain. Also, the Bible says:

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

Hebrews 12:15

John added:

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15

From these, I knew that no matter how much anyone plans to hurt me, I

must refrain from hatred, if I must retain God's blessings. When you walk in hatred, you walk in lack. Anyone who lives in hatred is a dead man, and dead men don't take anything to the grave. I discovered from the Word that hatred or bitterness never promotes; it only destroys. So I never stand on the pulpit to castigate other ministries or men of God.

These are all guidance that determine the output of one's labour, and they are from the Word of God. So, even if you never get to hear any voice from heaven telling you what to do, you can still receive direction for your life as God speaks to you from His Word. If you are a Word-lover, you

will never lack guidance.

Divine guidance comes through the Word of God; and who is the Word? Jesus (Jn. 1:1-3). In Luke 5, we are told that Peter and his men laboured through the night but caught nothing. Then Jesus came on the scene and said to him, "*Launch out into the deep for a catch.*" He gave them an instruction; and when they obeyed, they pulled in a great catch! You will always locate the right side from the Bible. It tells you what to do through instructions, which serves as guidance. Second Timothy 3:16 says:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for

correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The scriptures is one of the avenues through which the Lord fulfils His promise in Isaiah 48:17, to lead you by the way that you should go.

The Voice Of The Spirit

God also gives guidance through the voice of the Spirit. God has a voice, and He still speaks to people today. God gave people direction through His voice in the following scriptures:

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Acts 8:29

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Acts 10:19

When Peter was reporting his encounter to the other apostles in Acts

10, he said:

And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting...

Acts 11:12

The voice of the Spirit, which is the voice of the Lord, is a majestic voice! It breaks the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon and divides the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord is full of power and majesty (Ps. 29), and is very essential in every major step you take in life. The voice of the Lord is mightier than the voice of many waters; so when you hear from heaven, every other thing becomes subject to you. You can no longer see impossibilities when you have heard from the God of all possibilities.

Thank God for the Word, but thank God also for the voice of the Spirit. The voice of the Spirit gives definite instructions that guides. Names of cities like Lagos or London are not in the Bible, so how would you know for instance, when you are to go there? It is by the voice of the Spirit. If somebody comes to you in search of a job in your establishment or ministry, how would you know if he is the right person to employ? It is by the voice of the Spirit, which many of us know as the witness of the Spirit. The Spirit witnesses to you by impressing something on your spirit.

The voice of the Spirit is the cheapest way up. I pray that your

spiritual ears will pop open, so you can hear Him. The Bible says in John 16:13:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

The Spirit speaks, and it is in your interest to heed His voice. If you have ever heard God speak to you before, then you have heard the voice of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit speaks to us either by an inner witness or an outer audible voice.

Paying attention to the voice of the Spirit is a great step to achieving

success in life. Being sincere in whatever you are doing is not enough to guarantee your success, because you can be sincerely wrong. That is why you must know what God's will is. I was reading Kenneth Hagin's book, *Following God's Plan For Your Life*, and I saw something that beautifully illustrates what I am saying here. He said:

"One morning, at 5:45, I sat straight up in bed. The Lord said to me, 'An economic crunch is coming to the nation. Get ready for it. If you'll do what I tell you to do, you'll feel the effects of the crunch, but it won't affect you as it does other people.'

"I wrote down exactly what the

Lord instructed me to do. The Lord said, 'Number one, stop operating in outreaches I never told you to get involved with in the first place. Number two, trim your payroll by laying off this many people from your staff (and He told me exactly how many people to lay off). Number three, cut back on expenses. Operate the ministry on ninety per cent of your incoming cash flow and save the other ten per cent.'

"I immediately set about obeying the Lord's instructions...We laid off the number of employees the Lord told us to. We also got out of the various outreaches the Lord never told me to begin. Because I obeyed the Lord, everything worked out well."

This was after twenty-six years in ministry; showing that you will always need direction all the days of your life. In June 1984, I wasn't sure whether God wanted us to be in Kaduna or to be operating from Ilorin. So, my wife and I set a day aside, to ask the Lord what He would have us do. The Lord spoke to me very clearly and straight: "Arise and go!" Even though it didn't sound like the most reasonable thing to do, we obeyed Him and left; and God honoured His Word. Also, in the early hours of one day in July 1989, the voice of the Spirit said to me, "Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people." The voice of the Spirit is a great asset for triumph in life and

ministry. It is the clearest form of direction, and the Word further authenticates and confirms it.

To many, ministry is a big burden, because they have gone off track by chasing the immaterial. For instance, when God wanted the first tabernacle to be built, He commanded it. Moses came to the people and told them, *"...These are the words which the Lord hath commanded..."* (Ex. 35:1). You don't need to kill yourself under a building project. If God has not commanded it, leave it, as God won't finance what He has not commanded. When it is commanded by God, He will perform it (1 Thess. 5:24).

Nobody is going to write about the

projects you accomplished or built in your biography; it is irrelevant. The only thing that will be recorded against your name when you are gone is the impact you made on the lives of men, so why must you die with the immaterial? When our foreign mission work was to begin, God said to me, “The harvest of Africa is overripe; rush in and preserve it from decadence.” I had only visited two African nations before then. But after I heard the voice of the Spirit, without any feasibility studies telling us what the cost of living was like in those countries or how much money we needed to go there, we stepped out!

God spoke, and the men moved;

and in ten months, we had spent over twenty-two million naira! Why? The voice of the Spirit offered direction and God backed it up with divine provisions. The voice of the Spirit is one of the greatest secrets for kingdom advancement.

I heard the voice of the Spirit for the first time in July 1976, after the Lord popped my spiritual ears open. Since then, I have never ceased to hear that voice. I command your spiritual ears to also pop open in the name of Jesus, so you too can begin to hear His voice! I also curse every blockage that has hindered you from hearing the voice of the Spirit and has blocked your ability to locate precise and

definite direction for your life.

I command your ears to be open now! From now on, you will never take any wrong step. The God of heaven will guide your feet, so that you will always locate the profitable and productive steps to take at every point in your life.

The Witness Of The Spirit

The healthier your spirit, the stronger the witness it can receive and relate with. We already said God is a Spirit and can only communicate with your spirit. Therefore, the healthier your spirit, the more sensitive it will become to the movement of the Spirit of God.

One way the witness of the Spirit operates is that whatever does not create liberty in your spirit is a constraint of the Holy Spirit against the step you are about to take, for the Bible says wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there's liberty (2 Cor. 3:17). Paul the

apostle was a man that enjoyed this ministry of the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:6-7 records this about him:

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

The Holy Ghost said no to their moves, not by speaking to them, but by constraining them. So, whenever your spirit man is gagged, withheld, resisted and choking, be cautious, because it might be the spirit of God constraining you against the step you are about to

take. Many are insensitive to this, and still forge ahead anyway. In following divine guidance, you don't always need to hear a voice from God showing what way to go. The Holy Ghost bears witness with your spirit, and when there is no liberty or release, it means He is placing a check on you or the move you are making or are about to make.

The release of the Spirit is an acid test in the area of the witness of the Spirit. When the great man of God, Oral Roberts visited Nigeria in the eighties, I was one of those to welcome him. As I was about to leave for Lagos I had a constraint in my spirit at the airport in Kaduna, and I told my

companion on the trip, “I’m not going on this trip; I have no release.” But he said, “Sir, we have to go. Everybody is waiting there, and we have to be a part of it, otherwise it might be misinterpreted as pride.” Even after I got on the plane, I said, “Can I have my bag please, I’m no longer going.” But again, my companion said, “No sir, please; please, no sir.” So, he forced me to continue on the trip.

Our plane took off from Kaduna, but we were unable to land in Lagos due to bad weather. Rather than take us back to Kaduna, we were taken to Ilorin, where we waited for about six hours. The plane took off for Lagos again, and we arrived at about 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, the event we were going for had taken place at 11 a.m.

A flight for Benin was scheduled to leave at 5 p.m. Since Oral Roberts had moved to Benin, we decided to join them in Benin. But at five o'clock, the Benin flight was canceled. I think the devil then took over at this point, as I said, "We must get to Benin today by all means." I told my companion, "Get a taxi that will take us to Benin at any cost." As we put our bags in the car and were about to shut the door, the taxi driver said, "I'm not going again." I then asked him, "Can you get us to any Benin motor park, as we must get to Benin now?"

We again took off for the Benin

motor park, where we got a rickety 504 station wagon car that agreed to take us. But as I was about stepping into the car, the voice of the Lord came to me saying, “If you move one more inch, you’ll be a dead man.” So, frustrated and dejected, we returned to the airport. We took off for Kaduna at 11 p.m. and arrived at 12 midnight. I knew I had been walking in disobedience and had paid for it. May you not end your journey in frustration.

A witness of the Spirit is as strong as the voice of the Lord, so don’t despise it. May be you are about getting into a business, but there is no release in your spirit, but you are still going ahead with it simply because

your friend has asked you to. Stop right now; otherwise there will be a crisis.

Maintain a healthy spirit. When your spirit is not celebrating a particular step you are taking or about to take, then watch it, as God may be sending you a signal to stop. I'd like you to watch out for liberty in your spirit in any deal you are getting into. For instance, if you are buying a plot of land, watch out for liberty; otherwise, you may pay for the land but never possess it. Watch out for liberty in your spirit in every step you are about to take, so you don't keep choking rather than flying.

Vision

Visions are spiritual pictures painted by the Holy Spirit in charting a path into our future or in unfolding the plans and purpose of God for our lives. The 18-hour vision I received in 1981, which culminated in the liberation mandate that was delivered to me, has not diminished ever since, because it is engraved in my mind and settled in my spirit. It has become my thought pattern and life style. We are in the days of visions, so set yourself for them.

The vision Peter received in Acts 10:9-20 was what led to the spread of

the gospel to the gentile world, proving that Jesus is Lord of the whole earth and not just Lord of the Jews. Peter's vision was so graphic that he couldn't but obey it. Apostle Paul also received a vision that showed him what next step to take:

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:9-10

God is committed to leading you, if only you are committed to following Him. The truth is this: it is the right of every child of God to be led by Him. God has a settled plan for all His children. All you need do is recognise it to be so, and reach out for it. Come on the correct platform for getting it, and then tune up to the voice of the Lord through the guidance of the scriptures, the voice of the Spirit, the witness of the Spirit and the visions of heaven. When you operate as commanded, you remain supernaturally in command.

Chapter 3 - Foundation For Divine Guidance

God is committed and ever ready to offer direction to as many as are willing to be led. However, His guidance does not come cheaply. It requires diligence and a business-like approach. You have to consciously programme yourself to hear His voice.

Just as you need to be tuned to a particular frequency in order to pick radio signals, you need to be correctly tuned to heaven's frequency to hear God's voice of direction; and this requires a definite determination on

your part.

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21

Every marvelous act of God is a proof of His voice giving instructions and directions. Whatever God commands, He commits Himself to perform, because faithful is He that calleth thee, who also will do it (1 Thess. 5:24). The voice of the Lord is the master key to a life of distinction. No one can enter into the fullness of His glory without being able to hear His voice and operate accordingly.

To access the high places of the

earth, you must be able to hear the voice of the Lord and obey His instructions as commanded. Ezekiel 37 gives us a very graphic demonstration of what happens when we hear and follow His leading.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones…

And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest…

So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together,

bone to his bone.

And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them…

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Ezekiel 37:1, 3, 7-8, 10

Ezekiel simply prophesied as he was commanded, and as he beheld, there arose a mighty host unto God from a valley that was hitherto full of dry bones! Note that he didn't do any additional thing to what he was commanded; he didn't have to push or gather the bones together by himself.

They came together by a supernatural hand, in response to his obedience! In the same way, no matter how dry your life might be right now, the voice of God will bring out the greatness in you as you do His bidding.

Our deafness to the voice of God is the reason many are stranded today. We do only what seems right to us, and not what He has commanded. But what seems right is not always right. Everybody writes what seems right to him in an examination, yet quite a lot of people still fail. It is because we know in part, but when the perfect comes, then the imperfect will give way. There are no feasibility studies that will ever compare in value with

the voice of God. You need to be able to catch His voice to become a voice on the earth. Until you catch His voice, your voice will only be a noise, because there are voices and there are noises.

When God called Moses, He said to him, "*My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest*" (Ex. 33:14). When He called the apostles, the Bible says they went every where preaching the Word, and the Lord was working with them (Mk. 16:20). So, when God commands, He commits Himself to perform what He has commanded, and that is what makes the calling glorious. Until you are on course with divine commands, you are not really in

command.

However, you must know that God does not lead just everybody on the earth. No! Not everybody is entitled to His leading and guidance. There are certain conditions that must be met before you can be divinely directed. Let us look at some vital requirements for gaining access to God's voice of direction.

Be Born Again

The first prerequisite for enjoying divine guidance is that you must be born again. You must be a covenant child of God before He can lead you.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

For God to be committed to directing you, you must first be His child. He has given power to become His sons only to those who receive Him.

But as many as received him, to

them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:12

Every child naturally recognises the voice of his parents; he doesn't need any form of education to understand it. Jesus speaking about the shepherd and the sheep said, "*And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers*" (Jn. 10:4-5). Knowing and understanding the voice of the Shepherd will only come naturally when you are His child.

Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is the ticket for divine guidance, as divine direction is the heritage of only the sons of God; it is your birthright.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

Direction is the birthright of every believer; it is your heritage in God. You are entitled to God's guidance the moment you give your life to Christ. He commits Himself to leading you in the way to go. That is why you do not need to run helter-skelter in search of

any prophet or seer to tell you what the future holds for you. You can get this directly from God your Father, as it is yours by right. The Psalmist echoes this truth in Psalm 32:8:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

When God says, “I will”, that means He is determined to instruct you, He is committed to guiding and teaching you the steps to take to get to where you are going. Life then becomes very colourful and pleasurable, because you can trust Him to lead you aright. You don’t have to be like the horse or mule that has no understanding, going by trial and error,

working by guesses. It is God's will to grant you direction at every stage of your journey in life.

Jesus, the pattern Son, had access to divine direction. He said, "*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge...*" (Jn. 5:30). Hearing from God secured His destiny and preserved His ministry. If God led Jesus, then He is committed to leading you too. Remember Jesus said, "*As my father hath sent me, even so send I you*" (Jn. 20:21). This means that you have the same heritage as Him, you have the same right before the Father as He does. Therefore, you too can hear from heaven explicitly as Jesus did.

The Bible says:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14

One of your rights as a son of God is to understand His leadings, without which you may be regarded as a child, not a son (Gal. 4:1-3). One of the hallmarks of sonship is the ability to be led by the Spirit of God. Therefore, until you grow into sonship, you do not differ from a sinner, and you will suffer the same confusions as they do.

The realisation of God's ultimate plan and purpose for you depends on your maturity. Until you develop into sonship, the dominion God has reserved for you will never materialise.

Remember the prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah 9:6? Until He became a Son, the government could not be placed upon His shoulder.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

God has committed Himself to your guidance; you must take advantage of i t . When He says, “Go in that direction”, He goes before you to make the crooked paths straight.

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight...

This is one of the benefits of direction. But when God has not sent you and you go, you will surely be confronted by crooked paths, which you don't have the power to make straight, "*for by strength shall not man prevail"* (1 Sam. 2:9).

Isaiah 45:1 says, "*Thus saith the Lord to his anointed…"* That means when ever you are called, you are anointed to function in that calling. When God called Gideon, He said to him, "*Go in this thy might…have not I sent thee?"* (Jud. 6:14). As soon as he received the call, the might to run with it came. So you are the anointed God is talking about.

Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Isaiah 45:1-3

When the anointed locates

direction, the crooked places are made straight and the gates of brass are broken in pieces. Much more, the hidden riches are made available and supplies never cease. Would you pay for a job you didn't assign anyone to do? Of course not! But that's what we expect God to do when we run off on our own programmes, without first clearing with Him. But Lamentations 3:37 asks:

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Any step you take that wasn't commanded by God will always end in futility. Try as hard as you may, nothing will work.

Be In The Spirit

A continuous fellowship with the Holy Spirit is another requirement that must be met, if you desire divine direction. You need to be born of the Spirit, for he who is born of the Spirit is spirit. A spiritually dead man cannot perceive the things of God, because the voice of the Lord is the voice of the spirit; only men of the spirit can connect with it. God leads only His sons, not the sons of men or the sons of the devil (Rom. 8:14).

Be in the spirit and you will not miss the voice of God. A carnal man cannot receive the things of the spirit

neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. John the beloved said in Revelation 1:10-11:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last…

Being in the spirit was what delivered the liberation mandate to me in 1981. I had gone to visit a friend that lives out of town. He had just been married, and I wanted to find out how they were doing. He was not home when I got there. A note on his door said they had traveled out of town. There and then at his door, I said to myself, "All things work together to

the advantage of them that love the Lord.” As I turned to leave, I heard the voice of the Lord say to me, “Seek a quiet place, I want to talk with you.”

I saw a man by the way and asked him if there was any hotel on the outskirt of town, and he described how to get to one for me. When I got into my hotel room, as I knelt down to pray, a mandate that will chart the course for my destiny was delivered to me in an eighteen-hour encounter. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard Him speak to me. What had seemed a disappointment turned out to be a divine appointment. I moved by the Spirit of the Lord to that hotel, and an eternal mandate was delivered, which

has since decorated my life and that of many others.

God is still speaking today, but you must be in the spirit to hear Him. The Bible says:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

John 16:13

The Holy Spirit shows you the things to come. But before He can do that, you first have to know Him and enjoy communion with Him. You also have to be conscious of His indwelling presence in you. The Holy Spirit is a

Person, so you can cultivate fellowship with. You can talk to Him, ask Him questions and seek His help.

Be Willing To Be Led

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19

God's commitment to guide you will amount to nothing if you do not commit yourself to being led. This is the other side of guidance. It is one thing for God to want to lead you and an entirely different thing for you to want to be led.

This is why many are suffering today. They are men of "themselves" and rely so much on themselves that they have missed God. We often forget that our ways are not His ways, neither

are our thoughts His thoughts. There are things you may want to do that are not in line with His thoughts for you. That is why you must seek direction. You must seek to know what His thoughts for you are, because your security is in God, not in yourself.

This brings to mind the story of my trip to Japan. From what we saw there, it was obvious that there was a dire need for the gospel in the land. When I saw the spiritual depravity of the people, my heart longed to be a part of bringing about an awakening there. As a matter of fact, in the course of my message, the interpreter burst into tears, because she had never heard what I was saying before.

The Mayor's wife was in our meeting and a key government official was healed, so you can imagine the waves that permeated the city. There were clear indications that our ministry was needed there. A property had been freely given to us for use, so I felt, "Why not, we can be there." I said to the Lord, "This is a place where what we are doing is needed." The pastor who accompanied me on that trip was to return and head the mission there. Aboard the aircraft on our way back home, we spent about thirteen hours putting all the plans together. We went as far as discussing the courses to be taught in the Bible School. Everything appeared okay.

But when we arrived Nigeria, the Lord said to me, “Even though there is a need in Japan, you are not the one I am sending there.” The moment He said that, I cancelled all our earlier plans and preparations, because I knew that there is no regret in following divine plan. That is why Jesus said, *“...Follow me and I will make you...”* He knows that your making is only guaranteed by the extent to which you follow Him. People may mock you as you follow Him, but God will make you. Speaking further in John 12:26, Jesus said:

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve

me, him will my Father honour.

Honour is reserved for all who will follow God's leading. People may pity you initially, but at the end, you will become a man to be envied. When God called me to ministry and I decided to pursue it full-time, a group of concerned friends gathered together to pray for me. They felt that I must be confused, since most pastors then were in ministry part-time and I was leaving my job to go full-time. They thought I would starve to death. But today, my testimony is far from that of starvation as a result of being divinely led! When you submit to God's guidance, He leads you into glory and honour, not shame and reproach.

Be Meek

You also need a meek spirit to be guided or directed by God. David said in Psalm 25:9:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Meekness of the heart must be in place, before God can show you His ways. The Bible described Moses as the meekest man in all the earth, so he had access to the ways of God (Ps. 103:7). But note that there cannot be meekness without the fear of the Lord first being in place.

What man is he that feareth the

Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Psalm 25:12

Be Joyful

Another fundamental requirement for being divinely guided is that you must be joyful. The Bible says:

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12:3

If you are not joyful, your access to God's voice of guidance will be blocked. Being joyful is a great secret for triumph, as it takes joy to gain access into the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Joy must be in place before you can understand the things of God, for it is with joy that you draw revelations and instructions.

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the mighty One of Israel.

And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard...

Isaiah 30:29-30

It is only when you come to Him with a song and with gladness of heart that He will cause His glorious voice to be heard. If there is no gladness in your heart, you will be deaf to the voice of God. But when there is gladness in your heart and a song in your mouth, then the Lord causes His glorious voice of direction to be heard.

Somebody once said, “Happiness is not found; it is created.” If you are not a happy son of God, you will never be a winning son (Deut. 28:47-48). Let nothing take your joy from you; hold fast unto it. It is compulsory to be happy. In fact, it is dangerous to be sad or gloomy! If you must win in life, you must be joyful, because every time you are broken, you lose very precious things such as divine guidance; Satan steals it from you.

Until there is a song in your heart, you will never hear the sound from heaven. So, destroy whatever causes sorrow around you; they are out to destroy your destiny. Sorrow won’t let you be joyful or allow your song to rise

up to Him. And until your song rises, His voice of direction will not come down.

A major thing that causes sorrow is remembering the irreparable past. But Apostle Paul advises us to, "*Forget the things that are behind*" (Phil. 3:13), and Isaiah said, "*Remember not the former things*" (Isa. 43:18). God said to Moses when the people were before the Red Sea, "*Tell them to go forward*" (Ex. 14:15).

If you do not free yourself from the sorrow of failing an examination, you will never pass it, no matter how many times you repeat the exam. Allow the irreparable past to be past, or you will pass away with it. If you have lost your

job, look for another one. You car had an accident and it can't be repaired? Believe God, work for more money and buy another one. Receive the kind of joy that buries the past and looks forward to the future right now, in Jesus mighty name!

Nothing makes life more colourful than the voice of God, so don't miss it! Don't let any devil suppress, oppress or depress your soul. It takes a song from you to hear a sound from heaven. The Bible says, "*Blessed are they that hear the joyful sound.*" When you hear a sound from there, it comes with a blessing for you, leading you in the way to go, directing you on the steps to take. Somebody said, "I have never

heard the voice of God." That is because you have never been joyful or had an acceptable song. When you begin to sing acceptable songs of praises, with gladness of heart, the sound from heaven will become your heritage.

After the very colourful commissioning service on the day I was commissioned into full-time ministry, I went to the Lord in praise and thanksgiving, thanking Him for the glorious day. We were headed for Jos, to start the work there. But while in His presence, the Lord said to me, "You are not going to Jos; it was not Me you heard. You heard your desire that had been there since 1974." His voice was

so clear! I said, “Lord, I’m sorry,” and asked Him what I was then to do. He instructed me to remain in Ilorin until He told me what next to do.

If I had not gone back to Him joyfully that day, we would have gone to the wrong place. We had been sent forth to Jos that morning at the commissioning ceremony. In fact, some members of staff were already in Jos, waiting for the take-off of the ministry there. Thanks to joy, we would have taken a wrong step right from the beginning.

Stop running about like the horse and the mule that have no understanding. Your destiny is tied to your ability to hear God’s voice of

direction from heaven. He said, “Lo, I’m with you always.” How can He be there and you can’t hear Him? It is because you have not created a suitable environment for hearing His voice. Make it suitable right now by being joyful always!

David enjoyed triumphs in battle because he never missed God’s guidance. He never had a scar on his body, because he would always go to the Lord to ask, “*Shall I go up? Shall I not go*?” And the Lord would say to him, “*Go*” or “*Thou shalt not go; but when you hear the sound of the mulberry tree, thou shalt compass them from the other side; and I will give them to your hands.*” David was an

ever joyful man; no wonder his access to the voice of God.

Whenever you are at a cross-roads and don't know which way to go, the way out is prescribed in Isaiah 30:29-30: *"Ye shall have a song ...with gladness of heart...and the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be hear..."* When they are about to take very serious decisions in their lives, many say, "I'm going to fast." That's not always the way out. A sure way out is: "You shall have a song." You need to become a psalmist before the Lord; then will you always hear His voice.

When Elisha needed direction, he said, "*Bring me a minstrel...*" (2 Kgs. 3:15). The psalmist always heard God's

voice because he was addicted to praising God. You won’t miss your way anymore. Heaven’s telephone line will never be through to you without melody in your heart; so, be ever joyful!

Be Quiet

You need quietness to enjoy divine guidance also. Not just a quiet outer environment, but much more, a quiet spirit. Avoid a rowdy spirit, for God is a Spirit, and He communicates with your spirit (Jn. 4:24). Since your fellowship with God is via your spirit, you need to create quietness around you, so you can have sweet fellowship with Him. That is when you can hear Him when He instructs you in the way to go.

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and

in confidence shall be your strength...

Isaiah 30:15

Great strength is released to you when you are quiet, as a calm spirit enhances hearing from God. God's voice of leading is, in most cases, a still small voice, not an earthquake (1 Kgs. 19:11-12). You, therefore, need quietness to pick it. A quiet environment can be of help, but inner quietness can be cultivated even in the hustle and bustle of a noisy outer environment.

Chapter 4-Accessing Divine Guidance

Divine guidance is what gives direction to life, as you cannot get your bearings right without it. That is why it is imperative that you search diligently until you locate your place in God and let the light of God shine on your path. God does lead us, but man has a part to play in order to be led by Him.

A man who seeks to be guided must reach out to God to receive it, just like the man who desires the gift of salvation has to step out and confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Predestination is real, but it has to be discovered in order to be actualised. Just as precious jewels are not found on the surface of the earth, so it is with divine guidance. The man who desires to enjoy God's guidance has the responsibility of separating himself to call on the name of the Lord, asking to be guided, because it is only him that asks that will receive.

Realise Your Need

What you do not need, God cannot supply; He will only supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (Phil. 4:19). Only a fool will despise the need to be guided, because the Word of God clearly spells out the consequence for the lack of it: "*Where there is no vision, the people perish*" (Prov. 29:18). A lack of vision and guidance in its pursuit can bring ruin to a whole generation, and can lead to the destruction of the saints of God. It is not God's wish that anyone should perish; rather, He wants everyone to enter into His Canaan. Only vision can

take one there. So, there is a need for every believer to have a vision.

Vision is the gateway to greatness in the kingdom. Jacob was a trickster and a usurper until he met with God at Bethel on his way to Laban (Gen. 28). This was the turning point in his life. His personal encounter with God turned him into another man: the usurper was gone, the trickster was buried. He made a covenant with God, and a new life began. Though he arrived at Laban's place without a vision, he now had a determination to live right.

However, this was not enough. For fourteen years, he sweated and laboured for the woman he loved, but

he was cheated and relegated to slavery. At the end of fourteen years he only had two wives and a battalion of children to show for his sweat. He had no substance and future.

Then a need arose, and He remembered his covenant with God. He asked for and received a terrific insight into cattle rearing, which he promptly put to work. He pursued it and prospered by it, and the scripture says concerning him in Genesis 30:43:

And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

The potential for greatness was in him all the while. But until he saw the

need for insight into the ways of God, he never received it. Divine guidance causes positive changes in a man's life. See the need for it, and you will be prepared to receive it.

See God's Willingness To Reveal His Plan

God is always willing to reveal His plans. He didn't make His plans for Himself, but for you and me. He devised them so that through them we can arise as stars and bring about the re-establishment of His kingdom on earth. I use the word "re-establishment" because Adam transferred the dominion of the earth to Satan at the fall.

God is eager to see the re-establishment of His power and authority on earth. That is why He is

eager to reveal His plans to man. He said:

I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

God has taken upon Himself the responsibility of leading you into your destiny. How does He do this? By revealing His plans to you and showing you your own little portion in His master plan. God is eager, so don't waver. He is waiting for that moment you will step out to receive directions from Him.

Seek God In Prayer

Prayer draws the hand of God into a situation. It is the link that connects man to the throne room of God. If you want to know the ways of God in any situation, you must pray and ask Him for direction.

The man Daniel was a man of visions and revelations. He was also a man of prayer. He received his vision and revelation mostly through prayer. A time came when he discovered the set time for the captivity of Israel. He then took it upon himself to seek the face of God in prayer concerning the restoration of Jerusalem. He prayed

and God unfolded His plans to Him in a vision (Dan. 9).

God only reveals His plans to those who ask Him. If you will not ask, you will not receive. Prayer is a means of receiving God's plans. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, God said:

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

Every showing must be preceded by a calling. No calling, no showing. The word "shew" means revelation. In this context, it can be called guidance, as He will reveal what you need to do to you. This can only come to you through

prayer. This call is resounded all over scriptures. God has been saying it, in case you have not heard: “Call on Me, ask of Me.” So, ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

“Come Up Hither...”

You need to be correctly positioned to see what God is showing you, to hear what He is saying to you and to catch His vision for your life. There is a need for a repositioning for us to hear God accurately and distinctively, as connectivity is not possible on every platform. There is a correct platform for divine connectivity.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be

hereafter.

Revelation 4:1

A climbing up is needed to hear from God. It is an uphill task, though the joy it brings outweighs the price that is paid. "*Come up hither...*" That is, "Come away from all those things keeping you on the floor." There is no connectivity on the floor. A separation is needed to hear from God and to receive instruction and direction from either His Word or voice.

You don't necessarily have to go up to a physical mountain to hear from God as Moses did. What is actually required in "coming up" is a separation unto God, in which you create a conducive environment for your spirit-

man to be able to communicate with God. This can be done even in your room or house, where you have a quiet place and time to talk with God, with no interferences or disturbances.

I went to the Lord for final instructions before our ministry took off. I reasoned that since the disciples stayed ten days in the upper room, waiting for the explosion that came on the day of Pentecost, that God would likewise deliver to me the final instructions for the work He had called me to do. So, I separated myself to a room in Jos, determined that before the end of ten days I would receive His instructions. And on the fourth day, the heavens opened and God's voice came!

I came out of that encounter with a powerful insight. It was there that God said to me, “I have sent you forth as a prophet to nations.”

You need to be willing to pay the price of separation, if you want to hear His voice. When God called Paul, he spent some time in Arabia, receiving insight and revelations from God (Gal. 1:15-18). *“Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”* A separation unto God is to your own advantage, as you cannot hear the voice of God when you spend all your time roaming about in “earthly places.” So, come out of tradition, and camp with God. Take grace from Him, to be able to separate yourself and go

up to the mountain of voices.

Rise Up Early!

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Isaiah 50:4-5

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

Psalm 19:2

For everything, there is a time and a season (Eccl. 3:1). Broadcast stations

have programme schedules for all their programmes. If the prime news hour is 7 a.m. each day and you tune in at 8 a.m. you can't catch the news. All you can do then is to settle for second hand information, which is not the same as hearing it by yourself. So also does hearing from God have its own time and season. If you know when He attends to people, wisdom demands that you go to Him then and it will be cheap to receive direction from Him.

The exploits in Jesus' ministry was founded on, *"As I hear, so I judge..."* But how was this possible? He had an understanding of times and seasons. He knew when best to get His Father's attention.

"He wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." I call the early hours of the day "Heaven's Radio Hour." That is the time when instructions are passed down to those who are tuned to it. It is heaven's radio hour for the wise. Those who tune in at that time catch the news from heaven, and they go forth to make news on the earth! His speech drops upon people as the dew; and as you know, dew falls in the early hours of the morning.

God is on line to all who care to listen to Him in the early hours of the morning; it is when He reaches out for the ears of the sons of men. A study of those who have received major

instructions from God shows that they hit it in the early morning hours. The vital pillars of my life and ministry were delivered to me in the early hours of the day. For instance, the eighteen-hour long vision I saw, and which culminated in the mandate I received for ministry began in the early hours of May 1, 1981.

When we were to move from Ilorin to Kaduna, the instruction was given to me in the early hour — 5:30 a.m. God said to me, "Arise, get out to Damascus, and there it shall be told you what things are there for you to do." My wife and I had been worshipping before Him, asking Him whether to move on to Kaduna or

continue in Ilorin. Then He asked me to pick up my Bible, and when I did, that Word came up. It was also in the early hours of the morning in 1989 that I received the instruction, “Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people.”

I was having a nice time, enjoying fellowship with Jesus one early morning in 1983 when I received the commission for our publishing house. He said to me, “The words that I have put in your mouth, the same commit into writing, and I will cause the same unction upon the spoken word to rest upon the written words, bringing about the same effect.” To further confirm what He had told me, He said, “What thou seest, write in a book.” Now, by

the grace of God, we have a very successful publishing house, that has printed and dispatched books all over the world.

God is best heard in the early hours of the morning, so tune in for His instructions then. That is the time He opens up, and His speech drops as the dew upon people. Jesus would always get up *"a great while before dawn"* everyday, to receive instructions from the Father. You cannot be a heavy sleeper and expect to be a star at the same time. You have to choose one. You are either a sleeper or a star. Sleeping till 6:30 a.m. and stretching at 7 a.m. is not the way up. Nothing corrupts destiny like sleep!

I read about a man who grew to be a very great businessman. He was always up between 2 and 5 a.m. daily, to map out his strategies for the day. This man had investments in one hundred and sixty countries spread over five continents! You are loaded with great potentials, which I pray sleep will not destroy. You don't have any other enemy than Satan, and all he does is to steal, kill and destroy. Sleep steals and destroys destinies and crowns. People who should be kings are dying as mere men, because of too much sleep.

Too much sleep kills great destinies and dreams. It frustrates men and destroys them spiritually. It is my

prayer that you will receive strength this hour to put the early hours of your day to maximum use, standing before the Lord to hear what He would say to you.

All through scriptures, you will discover that the great men who had encounters with God did so in the early hours.

And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord:

Genesis 19:27

And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand

the two tables of stone.

And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

Exodus 34:4-5

Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai as the Lord had commanded. He went there to keep an early morning appointment with God, and the Lord descended and stood with him there.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord…

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven

times...

Joshua 6:12,15

They rose up early and compassed the obstacles about, and they gave way! If you are observant, you will discover that most instructions you have received from the Lord came in the early hours of the morning. Every time you are at a crossroads, just get up early and meet with Him in worship. Don't ask Him for anything; but just worship Him. In the midst of your early morning worship, He will cause His glorious voice to be heard, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 8:17

Many of us just need one little instruction to step into the great destiny God has for us. All we need do is to locate His pathway to it, which is delivered by instruction. There is no shame, the Bible says, for them that wait for Him. That is, to them that get Him at the time He is on duty, so that He can pass necessary instructions to them, which will lead to their distinction on the earth.

It is your heritage to hear Him, it is your birthright to know His voice; so don't sell it off to sleep! No one succeeds by accident. In Kenneth E. Hagin's story I told earlier, you will recall that he said he sat up in bed at 5:30 a.m., and God began to deliver to

him specific instructions that saved him from what could have been a major embarrassment in ministry. The Lord gave him details of how to escape the impending economic crunch.

No amount of revelation can take the place of instruction. Divine instruction is what tells you what to do to get to your high places in life.

Be Watchful

Another thing to note also is that divine guidance is received during watchful moments. You make yourself available to receive God's plan through watching. The prophet Habakkuk said:

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me…

Habakkuk 2:1

Watching and praying are two different things. Prayer is calling upon God, while watching is conditioning your spirit man to receive from God. It involves getting your spirit man linked with heaven in order to receive

heaven's signals. It is clearly different from praying, though the two go hand-in-hand. The Bible says we should "watch and pray." The prophet Habakkuk prayed to God and then set himself to watch to see what God would say. He had to quit praying in order to watch.

Most people who talk about receiving God's plan did so in moments of watchfulness. Note also that God's plan could be revealed to you at any time – while going about your daily affairs, behind the wheels of a car driving, etc. As long as your spirit man is tuned to receiving from God, His glorious plan will drop upon you. The light comes; light so real and

vivid, that you cannot deny.

The vision for our ministry was received through watchfulness. As I earlier said, it came when I traveled to see some friends. Though I didn't meet them, I was not angry or disappointed. Rather, as I turned to leave, the Holy Ghost said to me: "All things work together to the advantage of them that love the Lord." It was a flash into my spirit man. A flash so sweet, it made me relax. I could have missed it if I were not watchful.

That word was undoubtedly from God, as I had never heard that interpretation of that verse before. It was very clearly and vividly put. I repeated it and told myself that the

situation was to my advantage and watched for further instructions, which came shortly after. The Holy Ghost told me to seek a quiet place for a private discussion with Him. I checked into a hotel, knelt down and did not move for the next eighteen hours!

Being watchful in the spirit is very important, if you want to receive from God. You may pray all you want, but if you are not watchful, you will miss your vision. Very often, spiritual truths are sent forth as tiny seeds that can be ignored if one is not watchful. So, watch and lay hold on God's plan and direction for your life.

Be Free From Cares, Worries And Anxiety

To gain access to His voice, you need to be free from whatever causes you to fear or bring sorrow and anxiety. Fight them as though you were fighting against sin! You must deal with worries and anxieties as if you were dealing with adultery. This is because they rob you of your access to the voice of God, which is your secret for sweatless triumphs. Sorrow of heart has very devastating effects on your spiritual destiny.

When Dr. Frederick K.C. Price

visited Kaduna in the late 1980s, he said he had never been bowed down once in the last twenty years! That is, he had not been cast down or burdened for twenty years! Likewise, nothing in the world has ever succeeded in destabilizing or casting me down. I also don't allow unhappy people around me, because I cannot stand them looking cast down. I feel it will drive away God's presence from around me.

Heaviness is a spirit (Isa 61:3). It is one of Satan's strategies for stripping God's people naked. He knows that God is absent wherever heaviness of heart is; and when God is absent, you become a cheap prey in his hands. No

reason is strong enough to cast you down, as whatever casts you down has succeeded in making you a failure.

The devil steals people's joy so he can make victims of them. But you have the gift of joy from the Most High God. Heaviness takes you out of your Father's house (like the Prodigal Son), and places you where the enemy can flog you. But if you can see a glorious tomorrow, no devil can cast you down. If you can see what lies ahead of you, you can afford to insult the devil and slap his face!

Concerns, burdens and anxieties deafen the ears. Jesus said something very serious in Matthew 6:25:

...Take no thought for your life,

what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on...

Jesus knows the things people worry themselves over. People think on the wrong things, that is why Jesus told us what we should concern ourselves with instead.

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

Matthew 6:33

Nature abhors vacuum. Your mind is never on break; it is either charged with concerns for the things of this life or overtaken with affection for the kingdom of God. If your mind is not charged with the concerns of life

(which make you a concern in the world), it will then be overtaken with thoughts of the kingdom of God. So, rather than be a concern to the world by being anxious, be concerned with the things of God and of His kingdom instead, so every other thing can be added unto you.

People don't know how to be free from anxiety and why they must be free from it, which is why they are being held down by it. I made my choice a long time ago on what to think on. In 1976, I said to myself, "Let Him be Lord of all or not Lord at all!" The way out of anxiety is to be addicted to God and His kingdom. Being hooked to God and His kingdom doesn't make

you irresponsible; on the contrary, it makes you very responsible. You cannot be hooked to God and fail. No! His Word becomes a lamp to your feet and a light unto your path, guiding you in the way to go.

Understand that nature does not permit vacuum. The brain is always engaged, either positively or negatively. All you need do is to make your choice on what occupies your mind. Praying to be free from anxiety is an exercise in futility. Rather, take the steps He has told you would free you from anxiety — *"Take no thought for your life..."* In charging Timothy, Paul said:

Meditate upon these things; give

thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Timothy 4:15

"*Meditate upon these things night and day,*" otherwise, something else would take over your mind. Paul further admonishes us thus:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Your access to God in prayer begins with "*Be anxious for nothing...*" Your prayers will not be answered when it is said in anxiety. Don't allow little, little foxes such as concerns for what to eat, drink, where to sleep, and

all that make the Word of God of no effect in your life. If you continue worrying about them day and night, it becomes impossible to walk in the Spirit. John the beloved said in Revelation 1:10:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.

Jesus said something in Matthew 6:27 that will help you overcome anxiety. He said:

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

That means it is madness to be anxious, as anxiety has never solved any problem. It is a destroyer, not a builder. Jesus went on further to say

you shouldn’t allow tomorrow to bug you down. The challenges of a day are enough for the day (Matt. 6:34). Many are so bothered about tomorrow, that their today has no meaning anymore.

When you bug yourself down with unnecessary fears, worries and anxiety, you tune yourself off from hearing God’s voice of direction.

Chapter 5 - Ascertaining Divine Guidance

In a world where several forces compete and contend for a man's attention, seeking to lead him, it has become imperative that we be able to identify which leading is of the Lord and which is not.

Man, even at his best mental state, is incapable of making reliable and durable decisions. This is because, like I said earlier, man's mind is too poor to be followed. He may lay all his cards on the table or weigh his decisions on the scales of intellectualism, events

and facts. His colleagues may even approve of his ideas, which "*seemeth right*" by their assessment, but, "*the end thereof is the way of death.*"

No human effort can ever match or even serve as a substitute for God's guidance! I believe that is why, for double emphasis, the writer of Proverbs repeated this warning:

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

Proverbs 14:12

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

Proverbs 16:25

We are in the era of exploits made

possible by vision, which is the unfolding of divine plan and purpose. Vision is what gives us access to the “manual” that guides us on the path of the fulfillment of destiny. The purpose of any product is not determined by the product, but by the manufacturer of the product. It is, therefore, only the manufacturer that can tell how the product is to be used and handled for maximal and optimal profit.

The prize for every direction of the Lord that is adhered to is enthronement. God never leads to the low places of the earth. Every time He guides, it is because He desires to lead you to your place of enthronement in life. It is, therefore, important that you

ascertain the leading you receive per time, to determine its genuineness before launching out in its pursuit.

Absalom, David's son, had a desire - he wanted so much to become king that he couldn't wait for his father to die first. His comportment and appearance gained the people's approval; and being urged on by his own selfish ambition and the people's desires, he declared himself king. He was not guided by God. It was sweet for a while, but sudden destruction overtook him (2 Sam. 15-18). Just as every leading by God leads to glorification, every leading that is not from God also leads to destruction. In order to be sure of how we are being

guided, the Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21:

Despise not prophesyings.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

This is because not every idea is God's idea, and not every voice you hear is God's voice. There are two voices recognized in scriptures: the voice of the Shepherd and that of the stranger. You need to be able to prove which voice you are hearing and following. In John chapter 10, the Word says, *"The voice of the stranger they will not follow."* The Bible did not say they will not hear the voice of a stranger. They will hear it, but will discover in the process of proving the

voice that it is the voice of the stranger, and not that of the Shepherd.

How then do we prove the validity of guidance? What is the acid test for knowing which voice is from the Lord and which one is not? The Bible said, *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass"* (Ps. 37:5). That is, "Commit whatever you hear from anywhere to the Lord, to certify that it is from Him." Man's heart devices his ways; but God must be allowed to direct his steps (Prov. 16:9).

Our focus in this chapter is to learn how to determine a genuine leading from God apart from a fake one. The Bible quotes Habakkuk as saying:

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:1-4

One major characteristic of a divine guidance is that it has its source in God. It is God's revealed plan, and, therefore, must be traceable to Him. Any guidance that does not have its source in God will lead to destruction. It might flourish for a while, but sudden destruction is inevitable. So, don't go running with just anything you receive. Prove it first. How do you do this? How do you determine the accuracy of the leading you have received? Let me show you.

God's Word

God's Word is the surest tool for proving a vision. When you receive any guidance, first illuminate your spirit in God's Word for a backing, before you step out in its pursuit. By so doing, you have the double assurance that it is from God, because God will only back up what He has said.

A young pastor was praying one day, and a word came to him, saying: "You are the Elijah who is to come before the Saviour comes back." It seemed so good and real to him, and he was excited. Then the thought came that he should get a scriptural backing

for the revelation. He went into God's Word and got to the place where Jesus told His disciples that Elijah had already come in the person of John the Baptist. He then went to his pastor for more illumination and was told the same thing. Then he knew that the word he had received was not from God. The devil also knows the scriptures and quotes them to confuse people, so beware.

Jesus, the Son of God, was faced with this trick of the devil on the mountain of temptation (Matt. 4:1-11). The devil quoted scriptures to Him, but He was not moved, because He had the right scriptures to set the devil running. Therefore, wisdom demands that

before you start running with a leading or any word you have received, first subject it to biblical examinations. Check out its accuracy, sieve off the unwanted elements and hold on to the substance. Even God's Word had to be tried seven times (Ps. 12:6). If the Word of God could be subjected to testing, then every leading or revelation you receive must be properly scrutinized also. Compare scripture with scripture, and unravel the truth behind the vision.

Identify The Personality Behind The Voice

Another way of proving the vision or word you have received is by determining the personality behind the voice. This is because there are many voices all around seeking to grab man's attention. Since divine guidance involves communication, it has become necessary to ascertain the personality behind the voice you have heard.

Not all voices are God's voice. There is the authentic voice of God, the voice of your spirit man and also the voice of the devil. Only one of them is

reliable and dependable, and that is the voice of God. I once heard something, which I thought was from God. The Lord later questioned me about it, and I reminded Him that that was what He said. But He said to me, “No, that was the voice of your spirit man; you heard yourself.”

The voice of your spirit man is not absolutely reliable. It may be biased because it might have some element of carnality in it. This is where you must watch it. You might easily be able to detect the devil’s voice, but your own voice is not that easily exposed. Why? The ways of a man always seem right in his own eyes. Your voice always seems to be saying the correct thing to

you, so it is important that you identify the voice behind your vision, so you are not led into error.

Ascertain The Content Of The Voice

The content of every leading must also be scrutinized and verified. Get a good understanding of the content of whatever leading you have received before you start running with it. God has no pleasure in you being confused; rather, He is excited at your being correctly directed. So, when you receive a leading, get back to Him, and ask for further illumination on the content. As you engage yourself with Him, He will sort everything out. His assurance and further revelation will

give you the courage to run even more effectively.

After I was called into ministry, I needed some clarification on some issues, so I took the matter to God. I asked, “Lord, are You asking me to start an independent ministry or to serve under an existing one?” All I wanted was His will, so I committed my ways to Him and relaxed. Then the answer came: I was to start off a new ministry. A time also came when we needed to set up the operations headquarters of the ministry. Ilorin looked very attractive, and as far as I was concerned, it was the ideal spot. However, my wife and I committed the matter to God. We threw it open to

Him, ready to obey whatever He would say. The Lord spoke, saying, “Arise, go to Damascus.”

The Lord made it plain that Damascus stood for Kaduna – the city of persecution. Getting there, therefore, to witness islamic uprisings was no news to me. I was well acquainted with what my role there would be. No force on earth could stop me from playing my part, because it was what I was anointed for. God’s voice helps you to operate under an extraordinary confidence.

Be inquisitive. Ask Him about everything, including the minutest detail. Get Him to give you a good understanding of the content of your

vision or leading before you step out. When Moses was called to go and deliver Israel from Egypt, he asked all manner of questions, and there was no question he asked that God did not answer. He asked for proofs and got them. He asked for a mouth and got one. Moses got a better understanding of his mission and how to go about it by asking God questions. You would do well to do likewise.

So, ask that you may receive direction. The prayer of enquiry is the prayer that offers direction. This is a major tool for determining direction in life. Every time you come to a crossroads, make enquiries. David never took God for granted; he

constantly made enquiries (2 Sam. 5:19-23).

In 1981, I went into seclusion for three days with a question on my heart: "Lord, show me the secret of kingdom prosperity." I took two books along with me - Kenneth and Gloria Copeland's books: *The Laws of Prosperity* and *God's Will is Prosperity*. For three days I was checking through my Bible and those books. And on the third day, His voice came through! He said: "Prosperity is not a promise; it is a covenant. You cannot claim it in prayers, and it has no respect for fasting. You have a part to play, and until your part is played, I am not committed." Then the Word of God

came alive in me:

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

Deuteronomy 8:18

I knew I had heard from heaven. The Word of God opened up like wild fire in my spirit, and I stood up and screamed, “I can never be poor!” That was the end of poverty in my life and ministry. Every time you enquire of the Lord, He is committed to speaking to you. Remember, only those who ask questions are entitled to answers.

You need God’s direction in every venture you are embarking upon. Ask

Him for direction by committing your ways to Him, and He will direct your path. He knows the end from the beginning, and before Him all things lay bare. You can’t do greater exploits than the accuracy of the content of your vision. God’s voice offers strength, which leads to exploits.

Acid Tests

Let us now discuss what I call the acid test of divine guidance. They are what you naturally experience as you follow His leading, proving to you that you are on course with destiny.

The Peace of God

A key acid test for determining the voice of God is His peace. All God-given guidance is characterized by His peace that follows. Guidance and peace are covenant partners; so when you

receive guidance and rest is driven from you, then re-examine the guidance. Abraham was a man addicted to God's guidance. After waiting twenty-five years for his son, Isaac, God instructed him to sacrifice this same son to Him, and Abraham was at peace, knowing that God was able to raise him up again from the dead (Heb. 11:19)

Peace always accompanies a leading that is from God, because He always speak peace to His people.

I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

Psalm 85:8

God's voice ministers peace to the people to whom it is sent. If peace is absent after a leading, then watch it; it must be that the stranger is hiding in a corner to rob you of what belongs to you. Since there are several voices clamouring to get man's attention, there must be a way of determining which one is genuine and which is counterfeit. Here is the simple way of knowing: when you are apprehensive or upset, it is the enemy planning to crash your destiny. The Bible says that out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, every truth shall be established. Here is what God said to the children of Israel concerning His leading:

Thus saith the LORD, thy

Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Isaiah 48:17-18

God said their peace would have been like a river, if they had hearkened unto Him. That means the leading of the Lord brings you into the realms of peace like a river; an ever-flowing peace, not temporal peace. The Psalmist also said in Psalm 23:2 that *"he leadeth me beside the still waters…"* Peace is the proof of

genuine guidance! When God the good Shepherd leads, He always leads beside the still waters, which connotes peace and rest.

When we were moving our ministry's headquarters and church from the heart of the city to what seemed like a forest then (it has now been transformed by heaven and called ***Canaan Land***), every time I went to the site, I felt such an inexplicable peace, that I kept telling my associates then, "I can feel God here."

The peace of God always trails His leadings in our lives. Whenever the peace of God eludes a believer in the pursuit of a "purported" leading, there is need to check it out, because except

God is actually involved, no leading can be accomplished. The Bible states in Zechariah 4:6, "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*" This is reiterated in Psalm 127:1: "*Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.*" What more shall we say? "*For by strength shall no man prevail*" (1 Sam. 2:9). The Master Himself concludes it with a seal of finality thus: "*without me ye can do nothing*" (Jn. 15:5).

It is clearly evident from scriptures that every guidance requires the direct involvement and intervention of God to be accomplished and fulfilled. We are told that, "*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*" (1 Thess.

5:24). In the final analysis, it is God who works in the vessel to accomplish the task He gives (Phil. 2:13).

However, for God to work in man, man must first be at rest. We have this blessed assurance in the Word that we need not be otherwise: *"The Lord will fight for you (while) you hold your peace"* (Ex. 14:14). If God must take over, then man must hold his peace. God does not take over our battles and pursuit until we hold our peace. This is because He does not share His glory with anyone (Isa. 42:8)! Another reason also is *"That no flesh might glory in his presence"* and more importantly, *"Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the*

heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps. 46:10).

The truth is that until you are at rest, God cannot be at work. If you must see God at work in your life and on your behalf, then you have to be at rest. This is the secret behind the peace that attends all heaven-borne leading. With peace in your heart, triumph in your pursuit is guaranteed.

Pleasantness

When God is leading you, because His wisdom is also at work in you, He guides you in paths of pleasantness.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness

, and all her paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:17

God's ways are ways of pleasantness; it is full of refreshing and is tension-free! That is why the Psalmist declared that He led him besides the still waters and refreshed his soul (Ps. 23:2-3). God's leading is always very refreshing to the led. It helps you go through the paths He is leading without any feelings of suffering, as He specially refreshes you in the process, so that when others think you are suffering, you are actually enjoying the beauty and challenges that line the path to where you are going.

Someone asked me many years ago,

“Brother David, do you ever have problems?” I replied, “May be it came and I didn’t know.” W h y ? “*He refreshes my soul...*” It was a wonderful day the first day my wife worshipped in the young church I was pasturing in Kaduna. The church was “so full” that day: we were about twenty-one people in church! She actually thought the service was yet to begin when it ended! By the refreshing I came home with every time I returned from Kaduna, she thought the church members were over 500.

But the reason for my excitement then was this: the Lord at work in our midst was what was bringing the increases in worshippers. Therefore,

what a joy if we saw nine people four Sundays ago and it grew to fifteen a week later, and then to sixteen and later to eighteen! Today, we were twenty-one in church! I better jump and dance, because He refreshes my soul!

His leading is full of refreshing. All Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. God guides us by His wisdom, because He knows the end from the beginning. Can you imagine Jesus smiling on the cross as He spoke with the thief by His side, saying to him, “Today, you will be with Me in paradise.” That was because of the refreshing He was receiving, which subdued whatever physical sufferings He might have been going through.

So, in trying to verify whose voice of leading you are following, note that when you are tensed up, it is not God's voice, but that of the stranger you are hearing. There is nothing that moves me except what God tells me to do. As a result, I am constantly being refreshed. And the more refreshed you are, the healthier you become, because only a broken heart can break the body. The state of your inner man is what determines the state of your body. You cannot carry a broken heart and not suffer a broken body. The Bible says "*the spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a broken spirit who can bear*?" (Prov. 18:14.)

When you are led by God, you are

led in paths of refreshing.

The Joy Of The Lord

You can identify and be sure that the Lord is the One leading you by the joy of the Lord that accompanies His leadings. The voice of the Lord inoculates you with His joy.

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.

Psalm 89:15

His voice is a joyful sound. When it comes, it pours and stirs up the joy of the Lord in you. So, when you cannot find that joy, then be careful, as it

could be the stranger's voice you have heard. The voice of the Lord turns something on inside you. Even when the task seems very demanding, the joy of the Lord inside you enables you to subdue the demand.

How else can you know whether the voice you are hearing is the voice of the Shepherd or the stranger's voice?

Supernatural Enablement

Everywhere God leads you, He provides supernatural enablement that empowers you to go on that way. The Bible says:

And the Lord looked upon him,

and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Judges 6:14

God said to Gideon, "…*Go in this thy might.*" Everywhere God leads, He supplies the might to match the assignment. Anything He leads you into doing, He gives you the strength to accomplish it, including the physical strength required. Speaking about Jesus and His mission, the Bible says in Hebrews 10:5:

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

This means that your body is prepared to match the plan of God for your life; He gives you the strength to match the task He has appointed you to do. So, whenever you lack the might required for an assignment, check whether it is His plan you are running or your own.

Supernatural Light

When God is leading, He supplies the light and insight you need, to walk the path He has charted for you.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit,

which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

Every leading defines your destination, but it is revelation you engage to move from leading to actualisation. Light is required, and that light is supplied in adequate dimensions when it is God leading you. The reason the Covenant University is not like any other university is simply because we are working by His light for the realisation of His plan. Everything that was said in the various speeches that I was privileged to make to various bodies was as prophetic as the vision of the university itself, and virtually every aspect has come to pass.

It is by His light that you can actualise His purpose. He teaches you the way to go, in other to actualise His plan and purpose for your life. He sends His light by directing you to materials to read, and by showing you what steps to take, so that you are not working by guess work.

His light validates His plan. If you lack His light, then check, whether what you are following is His plan or yours.

Supernatural Favour

Another acid test is the favour of God, which always trails His plans.

Nehemiah burned with passion for the work of God, as a result he enjoyed supernatural favour. The Bible tells us:

And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Nehemiah 2:8

Every plan of God enjoys the good hand of God upon it, which provokes the favour of God from strange quarters. Can you imagine that Nehemiah was allowed to build the walls of Jerusalem with treasures from

Israel's captors, who destroyed the walls in the first place? That is supernatural favour! It is because when it's God's plan, divine favour answers on its own.

The favour of God was also what gave us the land upon which ***Canaan Land*** is built, because there is no human mechanics you can use to purchase 530 acres of land from the Aworis, the original owners of the land. God's favour was at work, so everyone, including muslims and pagans excitedly sold us their lands for building the house of the Lord. They knew we were going to build a church on it, yet they were very happy selling it to us. What's more, majority of them

now worship with us. That is what happens when you are led by the spirit of God.

Liberty Of The Spirit

When it is the Lord leading you, you will also enjoy liberty of the spirit, for wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17). So, you must always watch out for the liberty of spirit when pursuing an assignment. Paul's experience is worth mentioning here. He said:

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Acts 20:22-23

Paul still went to Jerusalem in spite of these warnings, and so walked into all that later befell him. Every time your spirit man is not released, withhold your action. As anointed as Paul was, because he missed it at that point, he suffered a lot of amazing set backs, including going to prison. So, every time your spirit is not free, withhold your action.

Many years ago, there was a fifty-acre piece of land that was out for sale at the same time that we needed a large place, so we went to look at it. But as I

walked on the ground, my spirit man was not free, so I said, “Let’s go.” I didn’t hear any voice of direction, but my spirit man was not free. But when we came to where ***Canaan Land*** was eventually built, I could feel the liberty of the spirit inside that forest. The liberty of spirit is not a function of what you can see, but a function of the witness of the Holy Spirit inside you.

So, watch out for the liberty of spirit, as God does not force a man into anything. He said, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me*” (Rev. 3:20). That is why you need spiritual robustness and

sensitivity to be able to pick divine signals released by the Holy Spirit. This has helped me a great deal. I have been following God's leadings for over thirty years now, which I believe is enough experience to be able to help others who are just trying to start. It is very rewarding and most refreshing to walk in divine plan.

In trying to prove the leading of God, ask yourself the following questions: "Do I have peace deep down in my soul? Am I truly refreshed? Do I have joy unspeakable, that is full of glory, divine strength, divine favour and divine light? These are all ways by which God validates His leadings in our lives.

At the press briefing held to mark the 25th anniversary of our Commission, someone asked me, “Have you ever thought of retracing your steps since God called you?” My reply was: “Not once!” I have never felt or asked, “Why am I doing what I’m doing?” I’m just enjoying my job, which is so soothing and refreshing. I don’t have any strains whatsoever. Doing what I’m doing is like eating food; and it’s all because I’m walking in divine plan. You have suffered enough tension; it is now your turn to enjoy true pleasantness.

Things To Guard Against

There are, however, certain things you must guard against when verifying the leading or voice you have received or heard.

Fleeces

One of them is asking for direction by the use of fleeces. By fleeces I mean saying something like this: “Father, if I go to see my pastor and the first thing he tells me is, ‘Jesus loves you’, then I know You are the One speaking to me.”

You cannot use this method to get clarification on your vision, because the Word of God says that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Rom. 8:14), not as many as are led by fleeces.

You may argue that Gideon used this and it worked for him. Gideon was under the old covenant, when they had no indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. You are of the new covenant and have the Spirit of God in you. He is there to lead you, so ask Him for illumination instead.

People's Confirmation

Another thing you must guard against is seeking people's confirmation. This is not wrong in itself, as God can use people to help you. But you need to be careful how you rely on this, as a lot of them will end up leading you into confusion. When I received my vision to go into ministry, I told a great man of God, who told me that God had not called me! If I had not heard God clearly, this would have sent me off track. But I knew I had heard God, so I stuck to my calling.

Nehemiah could not have succeeded in his mission if he had revealed it to people for confirmation. He did the surveys by himself and gave the people information on what they

were to do. If he had asked for their advice, he would have been led off his path. Also, Paul said:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

Galatians 1:15-17

Look unto God alone, and He will verify your plan for you. I once thought a successful ministry was only possible

in America, so I decided to start the ministry there. I was looking to America, instead of to God, and He said to me: “Son, you have two eyes; can you make one look up and the other look down at the same time?” I wondered what He meant. I tried looking up with one eye and down with the other but couldn’t. Then the message sunk in. I can’t look to God and America at the same time. Successful ministries are founded in God, not in America. Beloved, look up to God and hear His voice. He alone is able to lead you in the path He has chosen for you.

Chapter 6 -The Pursuit Of Vision

There is a physical law that stipulates that all objects assume a state of rest until a force is applied to it. The same goes for the spiritual. Nothing will happen to a situation, desire or vision that you do nothing about.

No matter how great a farmer's dream for a prize-winning harvest, if he would not take a farm land, secure implements to clear the land, plough, hoe, ridge and sow seeds of desired crops, his dream will be useless at the end of the day. His fantastic vision will

follow him to the grave if he does nothing about it. In like manner, God's leading without pursuit is mere wishes; and someone once said, "If wishes were horses, beggars will ride."

Faith is dead without action, as positive action is the only authentic evidence of faith. Apostle James said:

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James 2:14-18

"I will shew you my faith by my works!" Men of action are men of exploits. The Bible is loaded with demands for action.

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:1

God says if you will hearken diligently to His voice (which includes divine guidance), to observe (analyze and appreciate) and to do (act upon) all His commandments, then He will ensure your lifting. He will set you "*on high above all nations of the earth.*"

Action is the proof of faith. If you believe in His leading, then act it out! No action, no accomplishment. Actors are winners, and winners are kings. Yes, great is your vision; but equally great must be your drive or pursuit of it, otherwise your great vision will lead to great frustrations. Those who do nothing to accomplish their goals groan at the end. Therefore, no reason should

be strong enough for your inaction. The Bible says:

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Proverbs 20:4

There is no challenge-free track on earth. Whatever reason will not let you take steps in pursuing the guidance you have received from God will ultimately rob you of fulfillment in life. For every divine plan, there is a divine provision, for God will not reveal a plan to you without providing the resources with which to accomplish it. This is why I believe that every guidance man receives from the Lord is packaged with all it takes to accomplish it. God's

commandments are not grievous; He will not send a man on an impossible mission. That is why God said:

…Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Habakkuk 2:2

God is in other words saying, “I have shown you what to do, and you have received from Me what it takes to accomplish it, so run! Take steps in the pursuit of your vision; for it is within your reach.”

Now, let us consider the things that will help you in the pursuit of your vision and the divine guidance you have received from the Lord.

Your Gift

A man is worth nothing except by virtue of what he has received from above. It is the gift of God in man that makes him what he is. Here is what the Bible says about a man's gift:

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Proverbs 18:16

It is neither man's strength nor his smartness, but the gift of God in him that gives him value and worth. When you receive a vision from the Lord, the task you are called upon to undertake is a spiritual one. Therefore, God's gifts within you set in motion spiritual

forces, which create a way for you to accomplish the assignment.

As you embark upon God's plan and purpose for your life, do not trust in your physical abilities to get the job done. Rather, whatever He has called you to do will be accomplished by the gift He has deposited in you. God's callings are associated with His gifts, which He doesn't withdraw from you (Rom. 11:29).

When God calls, He endows you with what it takes to stand in that office. Remember Gideon. He described himself as the least of the least in Israel. But God said, "That is why I have chosen you; so you don't rely on your own strength." There is a

divine strength needed to accomplish a calling, and God is its Supplier. You cannot do what God has assigned you with your own strength, so look unto Him and believe Him for His strength, and then His gift will go into operation to produce the needed results. That is why the Bible says:

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Romans 9:16

So that you can say like Apostle Paul, “I am what I am by the grace of God.” What makes a man is the grace of God, which is a free gift. It is an unmerited favour from God; you don’t qualify for it. God’s strength is made

perfect in weakness. When you are weak in your own self, then you are strong in God.

In the callings and elections of God, your human qualifications are your disqualifications, whereas your natural disqualifications are what qualify you. This is because He chooses the base things, the weak things, those without reputation, and He makes them.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak

things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

I was the least qualified for a preaching ministry in my eyes and in the eyes of the world, because I was very slow-tongued. But the situation has changed now. God's enablement has made the difference, such that people sometimes complain that I speak too fast. In his own eyes, Moses was the least qualified. But God knew

that no matter how qualified he was naturally, he would fail in his assignment. So God told Moses, “I am your qualification. Go in My name and might, and get your job done” (Ex. 4:1-17).

God is your qualification for whatever task He has given you; without Him you can do nothing. Battles are won by the grace of God, and feats are accomplished not by power nor by might, but by the Spirit of God. Each time Samson fought and won, it was always preceded with the phrase, “And the spirit of God came upon him.” Samson did not pay anything to get it. In fact, he did all he could to lose it through promiscuous

living. The only time he failed and was captured, it was recorded, "...*And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him* (Judg. 16:20).

When God leaves you, your nakedness is revealed, because it is God that gets the job done, not you. No wonder the Psalmist said:

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

Psalms 127:1

God is the builder of your destiny. He is the One who gets the job done, not you. He calls you and also does the job through you.

Faithful is he that calleth you, who

also will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The Lord sent me to set up a Bible training school, yet I had never been to a Bible school. I settled down with Him and He showed me what to do. He gave me everything I needed, including the course titles and their outlines. Some of the courses offered there are not found in any other Bible school in the world.

All your strength is equal to nothing without God. If you must succeed, you must go along with Him. To be able to forge ahead in the pursuit of your assignment, you must be mindful not to stray from your calling; let your eyes be single and be steadfast

in its pursuit. Peter admonished the Church thus:

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

2 Peter 1:10

Be sure to keep to your calling. Avoid distractions, and keep your eyes fixed on the pursuit of your vision. Do not deviate to the left or to the right. Apostle Paul knows the importance of staying focused. He wrote to Archippus:

…Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Colossians 4:17

Crowns can be taken, so take heed lest someone else takes yours.

The Place of Planning

No venture can be productive without planning. Even in the physical, there must first be a plan before you can build a physical structure. Your vision is a kind of building, and it calls for planning in order to fulfill it. Paul likened his assignment to construction. He said:

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Corinthians 3:10

Whatever your calling may be, it is a contribution to the kingdom, and we are all called to build wisely upon the foundation which Christ has laid. Planning is, therefore, necessary in pursuing your God-given vision. Planning is not optional, but obligatory, because excellence is a product of good planning. It is written about Jotham:

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

2 Chronicles 27:6

Unfortunately, a great number of charismatics have undermined the place of planning in the name of being led by the Spirit. While it is true that

we are to be led by the Spirit, it is equally true that whatever the Word commands is the Spirit's command. And the scripture says:

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1 John 5:7

Jesus also said:

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

John 6:63

Therefore, if God in His Word commands that we plan, the Holy Spirit cannot lead us to despise planning. When God Himself had the vision to create this world, He engaged the

weapon of planning to make His vision a reality. The Bible says:

The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Proverbs 3:19

Again, we are told in Psalm 104:24:

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

The world we see today is the proof of God's vision, which was activated by wisdom and made manifest by quality planning. All creation operating in their perfect order is an evidence of wisdom at work. There has never been a need to revert His creation. Truly,

wisdom produces perfection.

A visionary is a builder, for it is written:

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

-Proverbs 24:3-4

As earlier stated, it takes planning to build, and the quality of your planning is what determines the quality of your final outcome. The Living Bible brings the truth of Proverbs 24:3-4 out much more beautifully. It renders it this way:

Any enterprise is built by wise

planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully, by keeping abreast of the facts.

This is a very exciting translation. The objects of this translation include: *"Any enterprise"* – every area of human endeavour, all callings. *"Is built by wise planning*" implies that wise planning is required to accomplish any given task. *"Becomes strong through common sense,"* that is, the application of all forms of acquired knowledge. *"Profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts"* tell us that there are related facts to every given task.

There are, for instance, facts about driving, which includes a working

knowledge of the gear system, the steering wheel, brakes, accelerator, clutch system, the lighting system, etc. If one is called to preach the gospel, it becomes relevant in his planning to know what message he is called to preach (Isa. 40:6). A messenger without a message will never make impact. If anything, he will only end up frustrated and confusing.

One of the foremost facts required for a successful preaching ministry is to know what message you have been sent to preach. The next very important fact is to know where you are sent – the city and people you are sent to. When Jesus sent His disciples out, He told where to go.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 10:5-6

When God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and he headed for Tarshish instead, he paid dearly for it. Vision is a divine plan, hence divine (scriptural) facts are required to accomplish it. God sent Paul to the Gentiles, and he had a very profound ministry to them. All the humiliations Paul suffered were inflicted on him in Jerusalem. Why? God did not send him to the Jews! In Acts 20:22, he said:

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there.

And you know that wherever the Spirit of the Lord is (leading), there is liberty. Paul had no liberty in his spirit to go to Jerusalem, because God had not sent him there. God has a place of execution for whatever assignment He gives you, and it must be located for a life to be fulfilling.

The Appointed Time

The time factor in the pursuit of vision is also very important, as an understanding of God's time schedule puts you in the centre of God's programme. Every vision from God has a divinely appointed time of execution. The time you receive a call may not necessarily be the time for its take-off.

The Bible says, "*For the vision is yet for an appointed time…*" (Hab. 2:3). The word "yet" means the vision is not for now. The prophet Habakkuk sought a vision and got one; but the Lord told him, "Don't except what I have told you to happen now. It will

surely happen, but its' time is yet to come."

All visions have their appointed time of fulfillment, which is determined by God alone. God's time is the time of safety and miraculous (divine) provisions; it is the time of favours for accomplishment. God's time is the time when He goes before you to make the crooked places straight.

An understanding of the time schedule in fulfilling vision is a sign of maturity. Children hear things and want them immediately. They keep pestering their parents until they wear them out. But maturity is having an understanding of all the intricacies

involved in whatever you have heard. When understanding comes, caution is exercised, and a lot of sweat is avoided. Maturity calls for working in the centre of God's programme for your life as well as abiding in His divine timing.

There is always a time for the showing forth of every calling of God. John the Baptist had to remain in the desert until the time of his showing to Israel (Lk. 1:80). If He had stepped out a day before the appointed time, He would have wrecked his mission. Jesus also spent thirty years at the carpenter's shed before stepping out in the pursuit of His mission of saving the world. The Son of God was carrying wood and mending broken tables and

chairs for 30 years! He knew who He was right from the beginning. He knew His mission and voiced it out at age 12: *"…Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"* (Lk. 2:49). Yet He had to wait for His appointed time.

He heard John preaching the gospel of repentance, but He didn't rush out to start off His ministry; He exercised caution, He waited. He humbled Himself, and then the heavens opened! The beginning of His ministry was declared, and He came to Cana in Galilee. The wine ran out at the marriage feast, and Mary His mother asked Him to intervene. He made a statement that everyone should bear in mind. He said:

Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.

John 2:4

Timing is very important in the pursuit of any leading. This is because when you miss the right timing, you will fall flat on your face. After the Lord called me into ministry, I didn't step out in pursuit of my assignment until after many months. A time came when I began to sense it was time to step out, and I decided to go to God, wanting to receive a marching order from Him. I separated myself to ask for His timing, calling upon Him in prayer. When I opened my eyes after several hours of praying, I saw a bright light fill the room. It was as if heaven's

musical gadgets were tuned on to release heaven's music. The sound I heard that flooded the room was, "Be in time, be in time."

This brought tears to my eyes, and I found myself weeping. God had sounded it: the time was ripe and everything was set. I left there with a commissioning programme set in my mind. I knew who was to do the sending forth: it was a pastor I had never met before. I got the name of his ministry and his address and wrote to him. He initially wrote back, begging to be excused, because he had another engagement lined up in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, on the same day as my commissioning. Unperturbed, I wrote

back to him, telling him that the Lord said that his Port Harcourt meeting was his personal meeting, whereas my commissioning ceremony was His own assignment. I had just sent out my letter when I received another one from him saying that the Lord had instructed him to put off the Port Harcourt meeting in order to be at my commissioning! We met for the first time at the commissioning ceremony!

"*For the vision is yet for an appointed time.*" There is an appointed time for take-off, an appointed time to move from one phase to another. There is an appointed time to be at a particular place. God is a perfect planner; He has a time frame for

everything He has ordained. There is an appointed time for the moon and the stars; there is a time for rain and another for sunshine. There is an appointed time for everything.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

In 1985, I thought the Lord wanted me to reach out with the Word to different cities in the country, so I mapped out a plan and pasted it on my board. One day I looked at it, feeling quite pleased with myself. But the Lord said to me: “Take off that plan from the board.” When I asked why, He replied: “This is not My plan for you

now. I want you to do further digging in this place where you are. It is time for you to get your root deeper into the land and bear more fruits. When it is time for you to reach out I will let you know."

I removed the plan from the board and asked Him for another plan for the year. He gave me a growth plan through a sound teaching of the Word. And in 1986, we recorded a 91% increase in church attendance! "*For the vision is for an appointed time.*" Every phase in ministry has its timing. If you miss out on the timing, you will miss out on God; and when God is not with you, sweat results, making it appear as though you were not called by God.

God is very particular about your working with His schedule. When it was time for our ministry to open up a branch in Lagos, the Lord spoke to me early one morning as I worshipped at His feet. He said: “Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people.” That same day, I dispatched my staff to Lagos to locate a place where we would start off. When God speaks, the anointing for breakthroughs follow. Without sweat, we found a suitable location for the church and offices and also got residential houses nearby for the pastor and other staff – all at give away prices!

Lagos is one of the most difficult places in the world to secure an

accommodation. But working in God's timing made the difference. Working in God's timing reduces tension, and produces instant results instead. Working in God's timing is the only way to guarantee success in life and ministry. There is a place to preach per time and there is a word for each place. Don't go rushing everywhere, just because others are doing it and are successful. You must respond to the time nudging of the Holy Spirit.

If you are not sure of His timing, ask Him and He will tell you. You are a solider in the army of God; don't go marching at your own orders. Wait for the Captain of the Hosts to give His orders and then follow. Listen for His

marching orders before you move. Obeying God's timing leads to sweatless triumphs. Joshua experienced this at the fall of the city of Jericho. He obeyed God's marching orders and the city of Jericho fell.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Joshua 6:20

If he had told the people that there was no point marching around the city

seven times on the seventh day, and that they should do it only once, they would have faced the greatest defeat in history. Not being obedient to God's timing may put a seal upon your doom.

Learn from King Saul. The set time for him to wait for Samuel to come and offer sacrifice to God was seven days. But Saul waited till the seventh day and lost his patience. He couldn't wait for the day to end, to see if Samuel would come or not. He decided to offer the sacrifice. But as soon as he was done offering the sacrifice, Samuel arrived!

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for

now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 Samuel 13:13-14

Saul's impatience put an end to his reign. Don't be like Saul; avoid haste. Listen for God's marching orders, adhere strictly to them, and you will prosper.

The Appointed Place

Every vision given by God has a physical location for its fulfillment as well. It is true that God is the God of the whole earth, but there is a portion of the earth He has set aside for you. God's miracles, supplies and encounters will only meet you when you are in His chosen location. Every commission has a base, and until you locate your base you will continue to struggle. Always obtain your proper location from God, otherwise you will wallow in sweat and poverty.

Remember Jonah? God sent him to Nineveh, but he decided to go to

Tarshish instead. For punishment, he found himself in the belly of a fish, where he languished for three days and three nights. He was vomited on the shore when he came to his senses (Jonah 2:1-10). Know that God's thoughts for you are always good. As such, wherever He sends you must be considered the best place for you. He must have seen a need there and has equipped you to meet the need.

I had every reason on earth to refuse to go to Kaduna when God gave the word. I knew it to be an islamic stronghold and the mafia headquarters. Despite all these, I was not moved. Only one point was constant in my mind: God has sent me there, so no

devil can be against me. In the final analysis, this is the only thing that matters in the choice of a location. Has God sent you there? If you can answer this question in the affirmation with all sincerity, then you can go ahead.

God is concerned about location. That is why you must also take note of the subject of location when you analyse your vision. This is one of the things you must be very precise about in the pursuit of your vision. Get the precise location for your vision from God, because the rate of success at any location is determined by the degree of location precision. When God sends you to any location, He goes before you to straighten out all the crooked places

(Isa. 45:2). He makes His supplies and provision available to you at the location He has sent you, and He prepares the people to receive you there. If it is where you have been sent, you will come out with resounding successes where others have failed and are withdrawing.

Where God says “Go” is where your prominence will rise from. If God says move to Katsina but you remain in Lagos, you will die of hunger and thirst in Lagos. Even though Lagos may be a land flowing with milk and honey, the good things there will not flow in your direction. The place may be filled with your relatives and friends, but God will not lead any of them to help you.

When God cuts a covenant with you, it also has a particular location where it will work. So get up, leave your people and go on to the land *"I will show you"* (Gen. 12:1). Studying the life of the covenant fathers, you will notice that whenever they left God's location, they fell victim of one thing or the other. When you go to a location appointed by God, your success is guaranteed and your protection is sealed, because that is where the angels of God will ascend and descend, attending to you.

When I moved to Kaduna, people tried to discourage me, but I was not moved by any of them. I knew it was God's city for me. So when asked what

I thought of doing in such a place, I would reply: “To take the city.” They would then go on to say: “Look, Brother David, this city is impossible to take. If you make too much noise, you face being driven out by the Islamic vandals.” This motivated me the more to make all the noise I could. I was ready for anything.

A day came and some men were shown into my office. One of them said, “We have an order for you to move your church from here within seven days. It is a residential area.” I stood up from my seat, looked at the man straight in the eyes, and said with authority, “Are your mosques in the bush? All of you involved in this plot

will be dead in seven days." The cigarette in his mouth fell immediately; he was shaking so much, he could hardly pick it up and find the door. He got to the road and came back begging, "Please sir, I was sent; I am only a messenger." That was the end of that matter!

God fights for you at your location. He sets His angels there to fight on your behalf, and every pronouncement you make there comes to pass. Apostle Paul was commissioned to go preach the gospel to the Gentiles, and his location was whichever city of the Gentiles the Holy Spirit directs him to per time. Your location could be a place, a person or a mission.

Your location is very important, so get it from God and be satisfied in life; as satisfaction only results when you are in your correct location. Before you move, understand where you are headed for. Don’t let pride decide your location. If you do, you will end up in the pit. Let your location be by God’s direction alone, and your satisfaction, upliftment and future will be guaranteed.

The Place of Persistence

Consistency is the mark of champions. Everyone that desires to win requires persistence. Challenges of life are many, but all that will dare to stand in spite of all odds will make it. All the covenant fathers had to contend with challenges and strong oppositions in the pursuit of their visions. But they overcame through persistence.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us to recognise the place of pressing in kingdom and in vision pursuits.

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the

kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 16:16

Anyone who must successfully pursue his vision must accept this as part of the deal. Pressing is not often convenient, as you will be squeezed, roughened up, etc. But that is a certain route for anyone who must win the prize. Consider Apostle Paul. He walked in the light of this revelation in the pursuit of his vision. He suffered hunger, shipwreck and imprisonments on several occasions. At a time he received thirty-nine strokes of the cane. He went through a host of other terrible experiences that would have frustrated and discouraged any man; but not Paul.

None of these things moved him! He had the courage of a winner. Rather, he pressed towards his goal. In Philippians 3:13-14 he revealed his secret for winning:

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and REACHING FORTH unto those things which are before,

I PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Pressing implies consistency. Many lose too cheaply because they quit too soon. The name of the game is consistency. That is your guarantee for triumph and excellence in the pursuit

of your vision and in following divine guidance.

Benefits Of Divine Guidance

Following divine direction has benefits. The Bible says:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:1

Hearing and hearkening to God's voice of direction will set you on high above all nations of the earth, because God only leads a man into profitable paths. He leads him into honour,

beauty, dignity and glory; making him the envy of other men.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

There are countless benefits of following divine direction. Let us identify some of them.

Divine Presence

The immediate benefit of following divine direction is that you enjoy divine presence. God is always with you and goes before you when He leads. Jesus was divinely guided all through His earthly life, and He had this to say:

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

John 8:29

Jesus always did what pleased the Father, so He reaped the benefit of having His Father with Him always.

Every time God leads you, He goes before you, causing obstacles to give way before you.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

John 10:4-5

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed…

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

Isaiah 45:1-2

God was in the midst of the children of Israel when they journeyed through the wilderness, on their way to the Promised Land. This is how the Psalmist described that journey:

When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;

Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like

rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalm 114:1-8

Divine guidance entitles you to divine presence. His presence is guaranteed because God assures us that He will personally instruct us with His own eyes (Ps. 32:8).

Divine Protection

Being divinely guided in the pursuit of vision also entitles you to divine protection. You are entitled to angelic watch. God told the children of Israel:

Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

…If thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the

Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Exodus 23:20,22-23

When God leads you in a particular direction, He takes the extra step of dispatching His angels to protect you along that path. No force in hell can stop a man who has discovered the plan of God for his life and is pursuing it, as angelic forces are on hand to fight on his behalf, to cut off any adversary that dares to come near or tries to hinder him.

The job of the angel assigned to you is to keep you in the way and to bring you into your destiny. He

monitors the divine plan handed down to you and ensures that it is realised by clearing off any opposition that may want to obstruct you. But if you are not divinely guided, you are not secure.

Also, the devil is rendered helpless when you are following divine plan. The Psalmist said:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:1, 5

Following God's plan for your life renders the devil helpless over you. You become unbeatable and a man

respected by hell. Why? Because God cannot send you on a mission and Satan hijack the mission on the way. He may attempt to by causing uproars and confusion, thereby blocking your access to God's voice. But if you refuse to be distracted, Satan cannot stop you.

Divine Helps

God is behind the execution of every divine plan. That is why Paul said:

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Once you locate His plan for your life and are following it, He stands strongly behind you to accomplish it. That is why to wander out of the course He has charted for you is to live a miserable life. We discover in Joel chapter two that the glory of the end-time army lies in each one locating where he belongs and abiding there. That way even if they fall on swords,

they will not be wounded, as there is a divine hand guiding them.

Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

Joel 2:8

These men will rise to great heights, become prominent and make waves on the earth. They will outshine the earthly stars, all because of the mighty hand of God behind their operations.

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

Joel 2:7, 10

To enjoy divine helps, you must be on course with God's divine plan. Divine guidance guarantees "divinely programmed" prominence. Nobody that locates God's ways and walks in them will ever end up a loser. If you allow God to lead you, He will take you to high places in life.

Zerubbabel was on course with divine plan, so God sent a message to Him thus:

…This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by

might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

The assignment was to be done by God's Spirit, not by Zerubbabel's might or power. The same thing goes for you when you are pursuing His plan. The Bible says no man can prevail or succeed by his strength (1 Sam. 2:9). It is God's help that makes all the difference, and you are guaranteed of His help when you follow His leading.

All you really need to make a mark on the earth is to secure God's help and backing. If you have God's backing on any project or assignment, no opposition can withstand you. God at

work on your behalf is what makes things work marvellously. The secret of Jesus' ministry was that He did nothing of Himself, but as He heard from God. As a result, He could not be obstructed and His ministry has made and is still making untold impact in the lives of men.

You Experience Ease

Divine direction also eases life for you. You find that accomplishment is cheap for you because you are following divine plan and enjoying divine backing. People see you as being an extraordinary person, not knowing that what you are enjoying is actually the extraordinary backing of God. See what the Psalmist said about a man that is divinely guided:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way

that he shall choose.

His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 25:9, 12-13

Once you embrace divine plan, you dwell at ease. Many run from pillar to post, chasing after their own plans. You should rather chase after His plans, because everything that makes for life and godliness is contained therein. I am absolutely restful, because I am right at the centre of divine plan. Before I make any move, I check with the Lord over and over again, just to be sure that I'm not deviating from His plan.

Divine guidance makes a man look extraordinary amidst his peers. While others are struggling to make sales, for

instance, God, through His angels, is busy directing customers to buy up the goods of the man that is walking in divine plan. That is why if God directs you into a particular business venture, even if others in the same line of business are frustrated, you will prosper in it, because you will enjoy God's favour doing it.

To further illustrate the ease you enjoy when you are pursuing divine plan, I remember that when God said to me in 1989, "Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people," I sent somebody to Lagos that same day. Two weeks later, all the property needed for the work there to start had been secured with all ease. We got a place that had

not been inhabited for seven years for the church building and another property nearby, which had also not been inhabited in five years for residential quarters! This is in Lagos, where it's so difficult to find accommodation! But because we were in His plan, He went ahead of us and secured a place for us in good time.

When our missionaries arrived in Bangui, in the Central African Republic, they discovered that God had told a woman about their coming two days earlier. He had told her: "Two missionaries are coming from Nigeria in two days time. Go and pick them up from the airport." She told her husband to help her pick them up. God sent us

to reap the harvest of Africa, so He went ahead of us, to ensure that our team sent to carry out the task was not stranded.

Remember that it is God's will to lead you to where the pastures are green, and that He is committed to leading you to where your profiting lies (Isa. 48:17). But to enjoy His leading, you must be a committed follower.

Chapter 7 -The Virtues Of Divine Corrections

God does not only speak to direct us; He also speaks to correct us. God corrects us when we misinterpret His direction or misunderstand His plan and are open for His correction. In the school of divine guidance, twenty-five percent of God's guidance is in giving directions, whereas seventy-five percent of the time is spent in putting us right.

God furnishes and decorates us not only through His principles, but also through His reproofs, corrections and

instructions. Unfortunately, the Charismatics are only committed to the principles and ignore corrections, and as a result, many are victims of frustrations.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The scriptures have a four-fold ministry: it gives doctrine, reproofs, corrections and instructions. When we

talk about divine direction or guidance, we are talking of the plan, the reproofs that come along the way, the corrections that are released to you and the instructions that you must follow. His doctrine unfolds His plan, His reproof charges us for taking a dangerous step, His correction sets us on the right path to go and His instruction guides us every steps of the way.

You cannot successfully pursue your God-given vision without a good understanding of the virtues of divine correction. Whereas it takes wisdom to enjoy direction, it takes meekness to receive correction from the Lord. You will soon become a victim of life if you

are not open to divine corrections. In order to be thoroughly furnished and fulfill destiny, you must be open to the Lord’s principles, reproofs, corrections and instructions.

Why We Need Correction

We need corrections because the Bible tells us that "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Prov. 14:12). There are things that you like to do, but the end of that road is death. That's why you and I need to be open to the Lord's corrections.

Many destinies have been crashed as a result of people going on a wrong route. They have lost the vitality of life because they went off course. Unfortunately also, they have made up their minds to continue in their mistakes. They have said to

themselves, “This is what I must do.” And God doesn’t waste His time speaking to someone who will not be corrected. That is why He only corrects the meek (Ps. 25:9).

Remember the story of the three kings that came to Elisha, seeking direction in 2 Kings chapter 3? Elisha said to the king of Israel, “*As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee*” (2 Kgs. 3:14). This is because Elisha knew from past dealings with the king of Israel that he doesn’t take advice or listen to instructions.

God does not waste His words; He speaks only to those who will value it. When your mind is made up, He leaves you to lead yourself. But when you are meek and are truly open to His guidance, He steps in to correct you every time you are off track. Since there is no error-proof man in the world, all we need do is to open up for His corrections, and He will always be there to make it happen.

I am a beneficiary of divine corrections. I don't know where I would have been without God's corrections. For instance, when the Lord called me into full-time ministry, my idea was that since Paul the Apostle spent three years in Arabia (where I

believe he contacted the heavy weight revelations that he operated in his ministry), then I would need to be trained outside my native country also, in order to be able to fulfill my calling in ministry.

America was making a lot of waves spiritually at that time. Using scriptural interpretations, I felt that since I had no theological or Bible school training of any kind, and God was calling me to affect the world, then I needed to be out in America, to sit at the feet of the great Bible teachers there.

Someone who said God had spoken to him back in 1968 that he would one day sponsor a missionary was to sponsor the trip. So, everything was set

for me to travel to America. Just before leaving, however, I went up to the mountain one day to worship the Lord for the open doors, and God said to me, “My son, David, the things you seek come not from abroad, but from above. You are not going to America.” I didn’t read it from a book, but heard it directly from the voice of the Spirit, and immediately, my interpretation was put right. I have had no regrets for not going to America.

Also, after I was commissioned into ministry in 1983, I went up to the mountain again, to give the Lord thanks. I loved going up to the mountain in those days. I do not know where I got it from, but I went up to the

mountain for anything I wanted to do. So, I went to the mountain to give thanks to God for a successful commissioning ceremony earlier that day, and the Lord said to me, “My son, it was not Me you heard tell you that you are going to Jos; you heard yourself.” He went on further to say, “Remember in 1974 when you were playing table tennis in Jos, you desired in your heart that if there was a choice of where to live in future that Jos would be your choice. That was what you heard, not Me.”

Man will always need correction because he is liable to misinterpretations and errors. Somebody once asked me, “Have you

ever been wrong?" and I replied, "I think I have been more wrong than I have been right, but He helps me not to stay with my wrong. He corrects me most of the time at the eleventh hour, so everybody will know this boy is stupid." I always accept His corrections.

When I was being taken to inspect the piece of land upon which our ministry base is now built, I fought the people all the way there, because it was located right in the jungle. I said to them, "No, it cannot be here; let's turn back!" But the person who rode with me said, "Let's go on sir, we will soon be there." Thank God there were four cars on that trip, and if we turned back

then, we would cause confusion. So, we drove on. Shortly after, I said, “Are you sure we are not there yet?” The reply was, “We are not there.” “How can you come here for God’s sake? What’s wrong with your head?” I asked.

The reply I got was, “Please, let’s just get there. If we don’t get there and we need the people to help us find another place, they will be weary.” When we got there, for formality sake, I said, “Okay, let’s give thanks to God for all the efforts thus far.” We joined our hands together to give thanks to God, and the Lord said to me, “This is the place.” I was the one making all the noise on the way there, but I said to the people, “God just spoke to me now, and

He said, 'This is the place.'" Everybody smiled.

You know why He corrected me? First of all, He knew that I would not pretend not to have heard Him. He also knew that I would obey Him. God delights in speaking to those who will obey Him. When your mind is made up, He leaves you to lead yourself. But when you are meek and are truly open to His guidance, He steps in to correct you every time you go off course. Until you are ready to be corrected, you are not a candidate for His glory. God does not waste His words; He speaks to only those who will value it.

Canaan Land is a product of divine correction. I was wrong; my little

knowledge of geography was disturbing me, and church growth principles were influencing my thinking also. I felt God did not know enough geography, because you can't possibly locate a church in the bush! If you're in Nigeria and you knew the traffic problems in Lagos, you can't tell us to take church into the jungle. But God knew that I was speaking within the limits of my knowledge, but that I was at the same time open to His correction, so He stepped in to say, "That is the place I have ordained for this ministry." May you be open for His corrections!

God has corrected me in many difficult circumstances, and I chose to

obey Him with delight in all those circumstances. See where correction has brought us to today! Imagine what would have become of our ministry today if we had missed moving to ***Canaan Land***. The church would have probably died a spiritual death, because we would have been off divine plan. ***Canaan Land*** is what it is today because God was allowed to correct my shortsightedness, my limited knowledge and my wrong and stupid conclusions. The Lord stepped in to restore what could have been lost.

You cannot remain on course with divine plan and not find your way to the top.

Qualifications For Divine Correction

The principal factor that qualifies you and me for correction is meekness. You must be tender in heart in your walk with God. He must recognise that He has an unimpeded access to putting you right, no matter how far you have gone on the wrong track. You cannot possess an open heart and still suffer a closed heaven, because your open heart puts you constantly on course, which is what entitles you to enjoy an open heaven lifestyle. The Bible says, "*The meek will he guide in judgment: and*

the meek will he teach his way" (Ps. 25:9).

Many are in business just because it is the vogue. Before they know what is happening, all their resources are gone. But the Bible commands us to, *"Commit your ways unto the Lord, trust also in Him…"* (Ps. 37:5). You have a responsibility to bring every idea before Him, so He can put you right wherever you are going wrong. That way, you can remain on course with divine plan.

I am glad that I am right in the centre of God's plan; this knowledge gives me an unfathomable sense of fulfillment in everything I do. *"Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in*

Him and He will bring it to pass.” Trust that He knows what you don’t know, and that He has what it takes to put you right. That is when you will find His Word coming to pass in your life.

Note that it is never late to be right. There is no way a wrong track can ever lead you to a right end. A story is told in 2 Chronicles 25:5-10, of how king Amaziah accepted divine correction and retraced his steps from a wrong decision. We were told that he had hired one hundred thousand mighty men from Israel, and had actually paid them one hundred talents of silver. But there came a man of God to him, saying:

…O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

But if thou wilt go, do it; be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

2 Chronicles 25:7-9

Amaziah listened to the man of God and sent the armies of Israel back. He went to the battle with his own

soldiers and won. No matter how much you have invested on a wrong course, when God steps in and says don't do it, retrace your steps, otherwise you will lose everything. In the early morning of March 5, 1985, the Lord said to me: "Do what I say, no matter how much you have invested doing what is wrong."

We had invested so much time and money in the "Harvest Basket" project in Lagos. Out of concern for the people, we wanted to have something like satellite churches, which would bring church closer to the people. We had acquired several properties in town, ready to take off. But God's hand was not in it, so we abandoned the

project and forfeited all the money spent in acquiring those properties.

Some have stepped out of their nations into other nations and discovered the same day they arrived there that they were wrong, but they are too proud to retrace their steps. Rather than retrace their steps, they say to themselves, “But I’ve told everybody, so there’s no way I’m turning back.” They spend the first year there, the second year, third year, and on and on until their destinies are completely buried, simply because of their big headedness. Amaziah said to the man of God, “What of the hundred talents of silver we have paid?” and the man of God replied him, “God is able to give

you much more than this."

To access divine correction, you need to be meek and to commit every step you are about to take to the Lord. The Bible says, "*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps*" (Prov. 16:9). So, no matter the plan, commit it to God for His direction, reproofs, corrections and instructions, and you will find your way to the place of distinction.

I never thought our ministry would have a church base. Since I was called to liberate the whole world from the oppressions of the devil, my understanding of the mandate was that it was going to be an outreach ministry. As a result, I was anti-church in my

understanding of the mandate, until one morning when God said to me, “Even though there are all kinds of churches, I have ordained you to set a pace in the church ministry.” That canceled my preconceived concept and understanding of my calling.

I already told you how I thought that the city of Jos was going to be the base of our ministry, and had actually been commissioned to take off from there. Our address read Jos, and we had a post office box address also, all reading Jos. We had even sent members of staff to Jos a year ahead, for the commencement of ministry there. But when God said, “You didn’t hear Me, you heard yourself,” all

previous arrangements were cancelled, and we stayed put in Ilorin.

Our movement to Jos had been announced to the people, and everybody had prayed about it; but God said we were wrong. So, I either pretend not to have heard Him and go ahead to Jos or choose to obey Him and let anybody say whatever they liked. One wrong step can wreck a destiny; that is why you need to be open to divine corrections.

When the ministry's base was in Kaduna, a time came when the people we leased our first church property from refused to sell the property to us at the expiration of our tenancy. We had started construction work at a site

where we had worked for about thirteen months, and the natural thing was to move there. But God said to me, “Should the church move to that property, that would be the end of the ministry.”

Guess what I did after God that? I asked them to remove the fence and cut off the iron rods that were extending from the pavement. I won’t tell you how many pillars we had planted there; it was enormous! But God said, “You are wrong.” For me, it was better to lose the pillars than to lose the ministry. Thank God I obeyed Him instead! The size of that property is less than one tenth of what ***Canaan Land*** is today! God is a humorous God!

One day, we were on our way out of the country in our plane. As we flew over Port Harcourt, the Spirit of God said to me, “Turn back.” I immediately asked the pilot, “Can you turn around?” While they were waiting for us to arrive at our destination, we landed back in Lagos and arrived home in peace. You ask, “What would have happened if you didn’t turn back?” I don’t know, and I don’t want to wait to find out.

We had a mission somewhere outside the country and had worked there like jackals. I had been there with my team thrice and had held very powerful crusades there, but there was no open door. When I walked to the

place where the church was located, I said, “This is not our church.” It lacked dignity; some fellows were selling rice at the entrance and some others were buying coconut. I said, “Lord, what’s happening?” and He said, “I am not there.” Very simple words! This was after we had laboured there for about seven years! I said, “You are not there? Then what am I doing here then?”

I immediately told the people, “God just spoke to me, and He said He’s not here. Come home or stay here.” It will take more than eternity for the one who stayed back to tell the story of his experience there after we left. He was indebted to the neck; he lost dignity, credibility and everything,

simply because God was not there.

Many don't know what they stand to benefit from His corrections; that's why they want to pose like men of their words. You hear them say things like, "I've told my wife." And so what? In 1991, we had a terrific open door in Japan. All the doors and gates of that nation were lifted; it was so exciting. We walked in with dignity. The emperor of the city had benefited from our ministering there, so there was excitement in the air. A property had been freely given for a Bible School to be opened; but God said, "Although there is a need in Japan, you are not the one I'm sending." Case closed! That was the end of our mission to Japan!

After we had planted some satellite chapels in Kaduna years ago, some unsavory things began happening with some of the pastors. I went to God and said, “Lord, what’s happening?” His reply was, “Did I send you?” Guess what I did! That same day, I sent vehicles to remove the pulpits in all the satellite churches! One of the churches had almost 2,000 worshippers - the Expressway Chapel. But because God said “Did I send you?” I will never lose a man because of what I think would be convenient for others. So, we shut down the five satellite locations in one day!

Today, the Kaduna church is the biggest and largest church in northern

Nigeria, with over 24,000 worshippers at every service! All because I responded to His corrections! If we had continued with the satellite chapels and probably had about 20 to 30 more locations, there might not be 10,000 worshippers there today, because we would have been off divine plan.

I want you to be open to His correction. There's nothing about our ministry that came out of a council decision in terms of where we are going; it all came from heaven. God is no respecter of persons; we all, as children, have the same access to His voice and corrections, if only we would care to be correctly positioned through the spirit of meekness and by

constantly enquiring from Him on the steps we are about to take. As you ask, He will keep telling you which way to go. You are too precious to God to toy with your destiny.

Jesus said, "*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just*" (Jn. 5:30). The anointing is no substitute for divine direction and corrections. You are bound to regret going to wherever God has not sent you, as His backing will not be with you, and you will soon become empty. He corrects us, He reproves us, and then of course, instructs us. The instruction aspect of God's voice is the key to our access into the realms of unlimited glory -

“This is what to do, this is where to turn.”

When I was about to be commissioned into ministry, the Lord said to me, “I would not have you go as others have gone, but I would have hands laid on you after the order of Deuteronomy 34:9, and you shall be filled with the spirit of wisdom.” I was sitting at my dining table when He said this. It was a very soothing command. I have never heard that kind of thing before. I asked Him, “Lord, who is to lay this hand?” and He said, “Send for my servant Adeboye. I would have him lay hands on you, and you shall be filled with the spirit of wisdom.” Precise instructions! This is so that I

won’t need to go through what others go through.

I told you earlier how God arranged for Pastor E.A. Adeboye to come and lay his hands upon me, and how the wisdom of God began to answer in my life at every stage of the journey. Bless God for the instruction from on high; nothing compares with it.

After the Lord said I wasn’t to go to America, I asked Him, “What then would You have me do?” My wife and I began praying, and one day He said, “Stand up.” I stood up and asked, “Lord, what shall I do?” And the Lord said to me, “Arise, get down to Damascus, and there it shall be told thee what thing is there for you to do.”

Very precise command! That was how He moved us from Ilorin, Kwara state, up north to Kaduna. As we were settling down in Kaduna, enjoying a great time in God's presence, one day the Lord said to me, "It's time to spread out." This was on the Saturday of our 1987 Easter Convention. That was how our church network up north began with five churches. Time to spread out!

We began to have a great time, with God multiplying everything we were doing. Then to move us to the next phase of glory, in July 1989, the Lord said, "Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people." God delights in moving us from glory to glory. He

never leads backward, but forward always. Remember when the children of Israel were faced with the problem of crossing the Red Sea, with Pharaoh and his armies hot in their pursuit? Moses asked, "What do we do, Lord? He replied, "*Tell My people that they go forward"* (Ex. 14:15). God always leads forward, never backward. So, whatever brings you backward is not from God.

When God told us to move from Kaduna to Lagos, there was nothing comely or desirable about Lagos. Doors were opening wide for us up in the north, with everybody celebrating God in our lives. The ministry was causing waves everywhere, and had

become a rallying point. Then He said, “Arise, get down to Lagos.” “Lagos! To do what?” “Raise Me a people.” “Are there no people here? Many people are here, even greater people!” “Arise, get down to Lagos, and raise Me a people.” We did just that, and bless God for His glory as we followed the movement of the cloud.

We were having a great time in Lagos, when the voice of the Lord came again in 1994 with another instruction: “The harvest of Africa is now overripe; rush in and preserve it from decadence.” We started the African Gospel Invasion Project (AGIP) immediately. The command came so strong. You hardly can forget

any instruction God gives you; it is always as though it was yesterday any time you remember it. When God speaks, it sticks, because the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

From that phase, He moved us into ***Canaan Land***. Today, with joy, and to the glory of His name, we celebrate that movement. God is still God, and He still speaks today. In directing us, He shows us what we should do; He corrects us when we misunderstand His leading, and reproves us when we refuse to refer back to Him. Then He instructs us, showing us the high way to His glory. God has not changed.

Abraham's Example

Abraham was a man that successfully pursued vision to the end. He was also a man that was both divinely led and corrected. Let us learn some lessons from him.

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bore you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

For the LORD shall comfort Zion:

he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 51:1-3

The Bible says if you want to enjoy the Abrahamic order of blessings, then look unto him and Sarah. If you take the same steps they took, you too will get on the same kind of flight, with the same kind of effect. Abraham's journey into greatness began in Genesis 12:1-3:

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy

father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

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

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

Verse four says, "*So Abraham departed…*" Abraham did not only catch a revelation of God's plan for his life, but also stepped out in its pursuit. God is saying to you, "Look unto Abraham thy father and unto Sarah that bear thee; I called him alone and blessed him and increased him. For I

am committed to blessing Zion after the order of Abrahamic blessing, to turn her wilderness to Eden, and her desert to the garden of the Lord." But how will this be possible?

"*Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.*" Your appointed place is your place of security; that is where God will make you. You cannot be displaced when you are in your place. That is why the Bible says, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law (vision), happy is he*" (Prov. 29:18).

God had an appointed place where Abraham was made, just as he has a

place for your making. It's important that you be very sensitive to know your place and abide there. Many are displaced when they fail to discover the place of their making and to abide there.

Genesis 22:2 clearly reveals that there is a specific place to offer the burnt offering that will connect us to God's blessings.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Abraham trekked three days to locate the place of worship, because

that is where his sacrifice would answer. This truth is further confirmed in Deuteronomy 12:13-14:

Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

It's not your duty to choose your place of worship; God chooses that for you. In our early days in Kaduna, I used to tell people, "If this place is not meeting your spiritual needs, relocate; as you don't have a spare life." Some of our pastors were very disturbed, but

the truth is that in order to successfully pursue and fulfill vision, you must locate the place where your flourishing is guaranteed and abide there. You better find it and stay there, even if it takes three days of travel to get there. People travelled all the way from Makurdi and Kano to attend services at our Kaduna church in those days.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land…

Jeremiah 3:15-16

By God's grand design, you only

multiply and increase in the land under the pastor appointed over your life. So, don't waste your time jumping about; rather, locate your place of worship, where a priest has been placed over you. A brother shared a testimony in church of how when armed robbers attacked him, he "went for his armory" by chanting the name of his pastor and the robbers fled. Can you imagine armed robbers running to escape from a man who was not holding a gun? This is because he located his place of worship. I'm flourishing under my pastors. Unfortunately, however, many Christians have no pastors, no wonder they are messed up.

Your place of worship is as chosen

by God, just as your spiritual fathers are appointed by Him as well. You don't choose your biological parents, do you? God chooses your pastors (spiritual parents), whose language you will understand, and who will feed you with wisdom and knowledge. Being connected to them is what will cause you to be multiplied and increase in the land.

The Lord called me into ministry, and when the time for me to be commissioned came, He said to me, "Now, send for My servant; I will have him lay hands on you." That is, "I'm connecting you to him, because I have put inside him the things you need to make your journey great."

In order to live a colourful life, God must also be allowed to determine your place of your abode.

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

Genesis 12:10

Abraham's dignity was eroded when he went down into Egypt. Abraham, God's friend, lied in order to stay alive! For fear of being killed there, he told his wife to lie that she was his sister, because he was in the wrong place. But thank God for corrections, he found his way back to his place. "*And Abram went up out of Egypt…and Abram was very rich in*

cattle, in silver, and in gold” (Gen. 13:1-2).

In Isaac’s time, the Lord said to him in Genesis 26:2-4:

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

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

God said to him, “Abide in this land; this is where your destiny is.” Many Nigerians are dying across the nations of the earth, including vibrant Christians; their light has gone out, because they are struggling for survival in a land where their destiny is not secured. They are not mindful of their place in God. But when Isaac abode in the place where God had appointed for him, he sowed in the land and received in the same year a hundredfold. God blessed him so much that the Philistines, in whose land he abode, envied him!

There is also a place of assignment. *“And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold”* (Gen. 13:2),

because he located his place of assignment. No matter how great a fisherman Peter would have been, he would never have occupied a place in history like he does today if he had not discovered his assignment. As anointed as Paul was, he could not stand in Jerusalem, because his assignment was to the gentiles. Jerusalem was not his place of assignment. You can't use anointing to disorganise divine agenda.

In order to live a fulfilling and fruitful life, you must discover your geographical place of location, place of worship and place of assignment. That was what made Abraham. God led him to his place of abode, career and worship. God is saying to you now: "I

want to bless you the way I blessed Abraham, I want to comfort all your waste places. I want to make your wilderness like Eden and your desert like the garden of the Lord, if only you will look to Abraham and position yourself accordingly.

It's never late to be right. Some have wandered away from their God-ordained careers, roaming the streets to grab what their mind is saying. I said to one of my sons one day, "Your mind is too poor to be followed." There is a way that seems right unto a man in his mind, but the end thereof is the way of death. The Bible says, "As many as are led by the spirit of God," not by their minds. If you follow your feelings, you

will fall, but if you follow His leadings, you will never lose your place.

You need to engage your spirit in your search for divine guidance, as your mind is too poor to be followed. Many are stranded by the operation of their minds. If I had engaged my mind, I would never have connected with my pastor. If Abraham had followed his mind, he would have been grounded forever, without a name. How can you tell the father of the house to get out to *a place that I will show you* at age 75! God has an appointed place for you; it's your place of security:

Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their

own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.

2 Samuel 7:10

"I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them." When you are planted by the Lord, you become the envy of your world: "*that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified*" (Is. 61:3). You are only planted in your appointed place; you will always be in transit anywhere else. So, in case you are struggling for survival where you are now, wake up, carry your bags and recover your destiny. And to those that are packed and are on their way to the

wrong places, grace to unpack and settle in your appointed place where you'll no longer be disappointed, receive it now, in the name of Jesus.

You can retrace your steps back to God. You can say to Him: "Lord, show me Your appointed place for me, Your assignment for my life and Your appointed place of worship for me. Lord, grant me grace to abide there."

Be committed to a discovery of God's plan for your life. For those who feel they have discovered something, be committed to a re-affirmation of your place of dwelling, assignment and worship. Abraham ended as an all-round blessed man, you too will end your journey on earth as an all-round

blessed man/woman, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 8 - The Exploits Of Vision

Divine guidance is the launching pad into a world of exploits. When divine guidance is located and diligently pursued, it births great exploits. The simple reason is that God has designed us to excel and be distinguished in a particular field of life, and He gives us all that we will ever need to be stars in that field. Jesus, the Bible says, is the bright and morning star; and just as God has sent Him, so has He also sent us. Therefore, by destiny, we are also sent as stars to our generation. But our

stardom is designed to shine brightest at the place He has appointed for us.

Let me conclude this book by taking you through a little bit of wildlife science. Using the eagle as an example, let me show you how aligning yourself with God and His leading will help you pursue vision and maximize your place in destiny.

God likens Himself to an Eagle in Deuteronomy 32:9-14. If you are His child, and like begets like, then you too are an eagle. God brought Israel into his high places by leading and instructing him.

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

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

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the

breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

Every eagle begins its journey as an eaglet. The father eagle goes out to hunt for food, while the mother eagle stays in the nest to watch over the eaglets. When food is brought, mother eagle tears up the food for the eaglets to eat, and this practice continues only for three weeks. After the third week, the eaglet is expected to tear up the food by itself when it is brought in. Within the first three months of an eaglet's life, it undertakes its first flight, and is expected within six months to be able to go out by itself and hunt for its own food.

“How does the story of the eagle relate to the subject at hand?” you might ask.

Annual Renewal of Strength

The eagle is a symbol of courage and power, because of its large size, superb aerial skills and the inaccessibility of its nest. You can hardly find its nest because it goes up to the top of high trees and mountain tops to build its nest. Today, most nations have adopted the eagle as their national symbol because they too desire to soar high like the eagle.

We are also told that the eagle takes time off for forty days once every year, when it feeds only on water and honey where available. This is when the eagle sheds off its old feathers and

grows new ones in its place, in order to remain air-worthy. That is why the Bible says:

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:30-31

Once an eagle is not always an eagle! The eagle must go for an annual renewal of strength in order to maintain its' glory and colour. Every eagle must subscribe to the demands of an annual renewal of strength by

shedding off its old feathers and growing new ones, ready to fly better and higher in the new year. Likewise, in order to successfully pursue vision, you too must subscribe to an annual renewal of strength. You need to, so your spiritual ears can be tuned to hear the voice of the Spirit as God leads you. That way you won't be misguided.

Unfortunately, however, many never renew their strength or feathers in many years; no wonder they are no longer able to perform. You must be able to clip your feathers and make it airworthy for great flights. If your strength is not renewed, you will never generate the impact you were created to generate. You, therefore, need to set

time apart to renew your strength spiritually, intellectually and emotionally, through reading, meditation and the application of discoveries made.

Flow with the Wind

We are also told that the eagle is capable of soaring to unbelievable heights. It does not hide from the storm, but rather rides on it. It does this by not flapping its wings, struggling against the storm, but by locking it and riding upon the storm. The eagle first watches to be sure the wind is going in its' desired direction, then it locks its wings and rides upon the storm! It takes advantage of the storm for a sweatless flight. The same wind and storm that destroy other things and birds gives the eagle a colourful flight.

Likewise, you too can take

advantage of divine guidance for a smooth journey here on earth. All you need do is to ride on God's instructions to your high places in life. The journey becomes sweatless and struggle-free when you are led by the wind of God, which is the Holy Spirit.

Accept Responsibility

The eagle is a very responsible bird. Eagles are not created to be liabilities, but royalties. They are instructed on how to enter into their realms of royalty. Like the eagle, therefore, you too must accept the responsibility of being led; you must seek divine guidance.

The eaglet is taught to fly by its mother, who takes it out for a ride on her back. At a point in the flight, when the eaglet is enjoying the ride, mother eagle slips from under the eaglet, forcing it to take its first flying lesson. The eaglet begins to fall. In its'

struggle to remain in the air, it frantically flaps its wings in fright. But just as it is about to hit the ground, mother eagle is there to pick it up.

The eaglet's first flying lesson is a risk, but it is a path it must tread on the way to growth and maturity. The mother eagle continues to give the eaglet flight training lessons, until the day that rather than fall in fright, the eaglet spreads out its wings and rides on the wind to safety.

You will be taught how to hear the voice of God and how to be led by Him. But much more, it is your responsibility to stay tuned to His voice of direction and to sharpen your ears so you can hear very clearly what

you are being instructed to do. Time is required to do this. You must be willing to set time aside to train yourself to hearing God's voice.

Time, we all know, is a common denominator in the pursuit of vision. Everybody is allotted the same twenty-four hours daily. But whereas one squanders his by roaming the streets and going window shopping, the other invests his towards achieving his targets and goals. It is my prayer that you will invest your time wisely, and not squander it.

One of the reasons the eagle locks her wings in flight is to make it airtight, preventing the wind from going through. In the same manner,

you too must lock your wings by declaring an eternal war against leakages of time, resources and reckless and impulsive spending like the Prodigal Son.

An understanding of the eagle's lifestyle will help you in accepting responsibility for divine guidance. Like the eagle, learn to determine the direction of the wind of the Spirit and flow with it, for that is what will establish your dignity here on earth. Diligently following the leading of the Spirit of God guarantees the security of your colourful destiny. Remember that the mighty rushing wind that came down on the day of Pentecost was what launched the apostolic Church into

existence. From that mighty rushing wind and cloven tongues of fire that landed upon each of the disciples in the upper room erupted an army of eagles that the entire world could not stop. You need to look out for that wind, for the Bible says that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the ones that can fully manifest their sonship.

The full manifestation of your sonship will be determined by the quality of the leading of the Holy Spirit you receive. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. You have to be led by the Spirit in order to fulfill destiny in a grand style. Only those who are thoroughly led by God can

ever take the lead in the race of life. This is because when God leads you, He backs you up, to prove to you and the world that He is the One leading you. Faithful is He that calleth thee, who also will do it (1 Thess. 5:24). It is God at work in you that makes you look like a wonder among men. Note that no matter how unpopular His leadings may seem, it is your pathway to your high places in life.

After six months, we are told that an eaglet leaves its parent's home to build one for itself if it wants one. An eagle's nest is not easily located, as they don't live in the open like other birds. In a study done in Ohio, USA, an eagle's nest was found to be well

padded and 12 feet high and 8 ½ by 8 ½ feet on all sides. The minimum height of an eagle's nest is about three feet. Eagles always need their own nests to marry. Studies also show that on locating its mate, an eagle stays with that same mate all its lifetime, which is between fifteen to twenty years.

Like the eagle, you must possess a sense of responsibility that would not allow you to do things only when they are convenient, but as demanded. You need a sense of responsibility, so you do not die as a liability. Former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, said, "*Responsibility is the price for greatness.*" So, the earlier you learn responsibility, the better for you.

The Power of Foresight

The eagle is a visionary bird. An eagle's vision is said to be eight times stronger than the human vision, as an eagle is able to sight its prey from one mile away. It is able to see very far ahead to be able to take the appropriate steps into the things that lie ahead. That is the power of vision - the ability to see into the future with definite clarity. That is why the Word says in Proverbs 29:18:

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

After the Lord called me into full-

time ministry, my eyes were very focused on my assignment. As a result, I told the people as far back as 1984 that I would consider it a demotion to be invited to be President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This was when the church had less than one hundred members. Why could I say this? I knew then that that was not where I belonged. If you want to see my weakness, take me away from what I am doing now.

Only fools market their weaknesses; wise men market their strengths. Your strength is in the plan of God for your life, so reach out for it. What is at stake here is not the money or position, but the fulfillment of

destiny through a hot pursuit of vision. Though your journey into being divinely guided began as an eaglet, it is up to you to accept the challenge and responsibility of growing into a full-fledged eagle. That is the beauty of divine guidance. I have been happy and fulfilled for over twenty-seven years because I am in the centre of God's will for my life. May you also find fulfillment in life!

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