
Praying into
GREATNESS
A Sermon by Apostle Joshua Selman
ANTHONY IJERE

BOOKS BY ANTHONY IJERE

SHADOWS AT MIDNIGHT
TWELVE HOURS
ALTARS IN THE DUST
SHOW ME MERCY
QUENCH THE FIRE
MINISTER ELIAS PART 1
MINISTER ELIAS PART 2
MINISTER ELIAS PART 3
BLOOD COVENANT
SPIRITUAL SENSATIONS
GAME OF FAITH
CHAINS OF GRACE
PRAYING INTO GREATNESS

Praying into

GREATNESS

A SERMON BY APOSTLE JOSHUA SELMAN

Anthony Ijere

Copyright © 2026 by Anthony Ijere

All rights reserved. Written permission must be secured from the author to use or reproduce any part of this book, except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles.

Published in Nigeria by
Anthony Ijere
Ahoada, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

DEDICATION

To the One who calls into greatness not by might, nor by power, but by the quiet surrender of a praying soul.

Jesus Christ, our King and Redeemer.

May every reader be drawn deeper into His presence and find strength to pray courageously and live faithfully.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I give thanks to Almighty God for the privilege of being a steward of His mysteries. Without His grace, mercy, and the deep encounters He has graciously allowed me to experience, these pages would have no substance.

My acknowledgement also goes to my father Apostle Joshua Selman of whom I drew this inspiration from.

PREFACE

I grew up in Nigeria with a hunger for God that could not be satisfied by mere church attendance or ritual religion. Though I read the Word and loved the Lord, my prayer life was inconsistent and often shallow. I prayed when I needed help, but not when I should have depended on God. I spoke, but I did not hear. I asked, but I did not wait. This book is the result of that long journey from seeking prayer to becoming a person of prayer.

Over the years, I have come to realize that greatness in God is not earned, it is accessed through the prayer that resonates with heaven. This book was written to strengthen that space in the believer where prayer becomes a lifestyle. It is written for those who desire depth and transformation.

Each chapter will lead you deeper into communion with God, into surrender, into obedience and into a prayer life that draws heaven close and calls destiny into manifestation.

Walk with me in these chapters and see greatness manifest from within you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication…….....5
Acknowledgement…….....6
Preface…….……7
Introduction……...……9
Chapter 1: Praying into Greatness…….....12
Chapter 2: Destiny is given, Access is Contended for……..17
Chapter 3: Prayer and Divine Timing…….……..…22
Chapter 4: Aligning with your Divine Purpose…..……...…25
Chapter 5: The Altar that Sustains Destiny…..……..……29
Chapter 6: Building a Lifestyle of Persistent Prayer…….33
Chapter 7: Mastering the Principles of Fasting……..…36
Chapter 8: Cultivating Godly Influence……....40
Chapter 9: Spiritual Capacity and Inner Strength……...….73
Chapter 10: Contending with Invisible Resistance…..…....48
Chapter 11: Developing Spiritual Discernment…….....53
Chapter 12: Overcoming Trials and Spiritual Opposition.....57
Chapter 13: Consecration and Seperation…….……61
Chapter 14: Hearing God and Obedient Action……..…..66
Chapter 15: Living a Life of Integrity and Excellence…….71
Chapter 16: Walking in Faith-filled Boldness……..….74
Chapter 17: Sustaining Greatness with Humility……..78
Chapter 18: Finishing Strong……82
Chapter 19: A Life that Glorifies God……...…86
Chapter 20: Living a Legacy that Honours God.……..…90
Chapter 21: The Conclusion…….…93
About the Author……...……..……..96

INTRODUCTION

Greatness is a word many believers aspire to but few truly understand its spiritual origin.

In the kingdom of God, greatness is not a position to be seized but a life to be surrendered. It is not a calling to be wished for, but a path to be walked in prayer, patience, and purity. Many of us want spiritual results, but we have not first learned spiritual disciplines. We ask for influence, yet we resist solitude with God. We pray for breakthrough, yet we neglect the altar where God reveals His counsel. This book seeks to change that.

Jesus did not teach His disciples how to start ministries before He taught them how to pray. His response to the disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray" the shows that prayer is the foundation upon which all spiritual authority and impact are built. This book follows that idea, teaching believers not only what to pray for, but how to pray, why to pray, and where prayer places us in God's plans.

Prayer is not a tool in the believer's kit; prayer is the believer's identity. God does not release His fullness to

the inattentive or the unengaged. He releases it to the devoted, the persistent, the obedient. Through the pages of this book, you will discover prayer as a lifestyle - a journey that shapes your character, aligns your will with God's, and unlocks the greatness God has placed within you.

PART ONE

THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER AND GREATNESS

Chapter 1
PRAYING INTO GREATNESS

Greatness is not a human invention. It is a divine intention. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture shows that God has always desired to raise men and women who reflect His glory on the earth. Yet, God's idea of greatness is very different from the world's definition. In the kingdom of God, greatness is not measured by noise, visibility, or applause. It is measured by alignment, obedience, and depth of fellowship with God. Many believers desire greatness, but few are willing to walk the path that leads to it. That path is prayer.

Greatness Begins In The Heart Of God

Before a man ever becomes great in manifestation, he is first great in the mind of God. Jeremiah 1:5 says, "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."

This means destiny is not negotiated. It is given. However, while destiny is given freely, access is not automatic. What God ordains must be accessed

through spiritual alignment, and prayer is the principal tool of that alignment.

Many people are called, but not all walk in the fullness of what they are called to be. Not because God is unfaithful, but because prayer has been neglected, misunderstood, or reduced to a last resort.

Prayer Is Not an Emergency Tool

One of the great errors of our time is treating prayer as something we run to only when trouble comes. Prayer was never designed to be an emergency response. It was designed to be a daily posture.

Jesus prayed when things were calm. He prayed when things were intense. He prayed before decisions. He prayed after victories.

Luke 5:16 says, "And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed."

If the Son of God needed consistent prayer to fulfill His assignment, then prayer is not optional for the believer. It is foundational. Greatness that is not sustained by prayer will eventually collapse under its own weight.

Prayer Aligns You With God's Definition of Greatness. Many frustrations in the Christian life come from

pursuing greatness outside God's definition. Some want influence without intimacy. Others want results without responsibility. In prayer, God purifies motives. In prayer, God reshapes desires. In prayer, God corrects ambition.

When a man prays sincerely, God begins to strip away pride and replace it with purpose. The believer discovers that greatness is not about being known, but about being trusted by God.

Matthew 6:33 reminds us, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Notice the order. Seeking comes before addition. Prayer Is Spiritual Alignment. Prayer does not change God. Prayer changes the man.

When you pray, you are not informing God of your needs. You are aligning yourself with His will, His timing, and His methods. Prayer positions you where divine instructions can be received and obeyed.

Many believers want answers, but they do not stay long enough in prayer to receive instructions. Yet, answers without instructions often lead to confusion.

In prayer, God speaks. In prayer, God warns. In prayer, God guides. Those who pray do not stumble easily. Prayer Prepares You for What You Are Asking For

God is faithful, but He is also wise. He will not release what you are not prepared to manage. Prayer is one of the ways God prepares the inner man for outer promotion.

Before David sat on the throne, he learned to pray in the wilderness. Before Joseph ruled in Egypt, he prayed through the prison. Before Jesus began ministry, He prayed and fasted in the wilderness.

Prayer strengthens character before exposure. It builds patience before promotion. It develops humility before honor. Without prayer, promotion becomes dangerous.

In Nigeria, many believers are familiar with prayer meetings, night vigils, retreats, and fasting seasons. Churches gather to cry unto God for direction, breakthrough, and revival. Yet, beyond corporate expressions, God is calling individuals to develop private prayer lives.

Public prayer can inspire you. But private prayer transforms you. A believer who prays only in church

will struggle to stand when life tests faith. Greatness requires a prayer life that continues in the quiet hours, away from microphones and crowds.

Prayer Opens Spiritual Access

Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”

Notice that revelation is connected to calling. Great things are shown to those who pray.

There are dimensions of God’s wisdom, power, and direction that are not accessed through intelligence or effort. They are accessed through prayerful communion. Prayer opens the eyes of the spirit. It gives discernment. It grants access to divine secrets.

Prayer as a Lifestyle

Praying into greatness does not mean praying once and stopping. It means cultivating a lifestyle where prayer becomes as natural as breathing. A praying believer grows steadily. A praying believer recovers quickly. A praying believer remains sensitive. When prayer becomes a lifestyle, greatness becomes sustainable.

Chapter 2
DESTINY IS GIVEN, ACCESS IS CONTENDED FOR

Destiny is not something a man invents. It is something God assigns. Long before you became aware of your purpose, God had already written it. Psalm 139:16 says that all our days were written in His book before one of them came to be. This truth should bring comfort, but it should also bring responsibility. While destiny is given by God, access to destiny is not automatic.

Many believers assume that because God has spoken, manifestation will happen effortlessly. Scripture does not support that assumption. What God gives freely must still be accessed deliberately.

Promises Do Not Cancel Process

The Bible is filled with men and women who received clear promises from God, yet still had to walk through process before fulfillment.

Abraham received the promise of a son, yet waited many years before Isaac was born.

Joseph received prophetic dreams, yet walked through betrayal, slavery, and prison.

David was anointed king, yet fled for his life before wearing the crown.

In each case, destiny was certain, but access was contested.

God's promises are sure, but they are often surrounded by process. Prayer is the means by which the believer remains aligned and preserved during that process.

Spiritual Laws Govern Manifestation

In the kingdom of God, nothing operates outside spiritual laws. Grace does not eliminate responsibility. Favor does not replace obedience.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). Notice the progression. Asking, seeking, and knocking all require intentional engagement.

Destiny responds to engagement, not passivity.

Many believers admire the outcomes of great lives, but ignore the spiritual discipline that produced those outcomes. Prayer is not a suggestion; it is a law of access.

Resistance Is Evidence of Value

One reason many people abandon prayer is because they encounter resistance and assume something is wrong. In truth, resistance often confirms that something valuable is at stake.

The Bible says we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). This means destiny has opposition, not because God is weak, but because the enemy understands the value of what God has placed inside you.

Prayer is how the believer enforces heaven's verdict in the face of resistance.

Daniel prayed for understanding, and though God answered immediately, manifestation was delayed due to spiritual opposition (Daniel 10:12–13). Had Daniel stopped praying early, he would never have known that heaven had already responded. Some answers are delayed, not denied.

Prayer Is Spiritual Legislation

Prayer is not begging God to act. It is aligning with God's will and enforcing it on the earth. When believers pray according to Scripture, they give heaven legal permission to intervene in earthly affairs.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

This tells us something important. God's will can exist in heaven and yet not be enforced on earth until prayer makes room for it.

Destiny exists in God's mind. Prayer brings destiny into time.

Why Many Stop Short of Destiny

Many people stop praying too soon. They pray briefly, but not deeply. They desire results, but avoid consistency. Some stop because of discouragement. Some stop because of delay. Some stop because life becomes busy. But destiny does not respond to convenience. It responds to persistence.

Jesus told a parable of a widow who kept demanding justice until she received it. He ended by saying men ought always to pray and not faint (Luke 18:1). The lesson is simple. Those who faint early forfeit access.

Prayer Preserves You on the Journey

Prayer does not only bring results. It preserves the believer while waiting for results.

Waiting seasons are dangerous without prayer. In waiting, bitterness can grow. Doubt can creep in. Compromise can look attractive. Prayer guards the heart. It keeps faith alive. It renews strength.

Isaiah 40:31 says those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Waiting without prayer drains you. Waiting with prayer transforms you.

Access Requires Cooperation

God will not force a man into destiny. He invites cooperation. Prayer is cooperation with God's plan. When you pray, you are saying, "Lord, I agree with You. Shape me. Lead me. Correct me." Sometimes prayer does not change circumstances immediately, but it changes the believer's posture. A changed posture attracts divine direction.

Chapter 3
PRAYER AND DIVINE TIMING

One of the greatest tests of faith is not whether God can do it, but when He will do it. Many believers pray sincerely, live uprightly, and yet find themselves waiting longer than expected. The delay often creates confusion, doubt, and frustration. But in the kingdom of God, timing is not accidental. It is deliberate. God is never late, God is never early, He is always exact.

Understanding God's Calendar

The Bible says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Destiny unfolds by seasons. Prayer does not cancel timing, but it aligns you with it. When you understand divine timing, you stop fighting God's process. There are prayers God answers immediately but there are prayers God stores for a future season. Both answers are acts of love.

Why God Allows Waiting

Waiting is not punishment, waiting is preparation. God uses waiting to build patience and endurance,

purify motives, mature faith, strengthen character and align relationships and circumstances. If answers came too early, many destinies would collapse under pressure.

Abraham received the promise early but waited years for Isaac. During that time, God was shaping him into a father of nations, not just a recipient of a miracle.

Prayer Does Not Replace Process

Prayer invites God into the process, but it does not remove the process. Some doors remain closed not because of demonic resistance, but because you are not yet ready. Prayer helps you grow into readiness. The mistake many make is assuming every delay is spiritual attack. Sometimes, the delay is divine wisdom.

Those who wait well grow strong. Isaiah 40:31 says those who wait on the Lord renew their strength. Strength is renewed in waiting, not in rushing.

Impatience Can Abort Destiny

Many destinies have been damaged by impatience. When waiting becomes uncomfortable, people create alternatives. Abraham went in to Hagar. Saul offered the sacrifice unlawfully. Both actions were driven by

impatience, and both produced long-term consequences. When you move ahead of God, you inherit struggles you were never designed to fight.

Prayer Aligns You With Time

Prayer does not force God to move faster. Prayer helps you move correctly. Through prayer, you gain clarity, you receive instructions, you are preserved from wrong decisions, you stay spiritually sensitive. Prayer keeps your heart aligned even when the season has not changed.

When the Set Time Comes

The Bible says, “Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come” (Psalm 102:13). There is a set time for lifting. When it comes, doors open with ease, resistance reduces, helpers appear, effort yields visible results, when divine timing meets prepared capacity, greatness emerges naturally.

Trusting God’s Wisdom

Faith is not just believing God can act. Faith is trusting that He knows the best time to act. If God delays, it is because He sees what you cannot see. He sees consequences. He sees outcomes. Rest in His wisdom.

Chapter 4
ALIGNING WITH YOUR DIVINE PURPOSE

Every believer is called for a purpose - a divine assignment designed by God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 2:10). Living without clarity of purpose leads to frustration, distraction, and wasted years. Aligning with your divine purpose ensures that every action, decision, and season contributes to God's plan for your life.

Understanding Divine Purpose

Divine purpose is the intersection of your gifting, your calling, and God's will. It is not determined by societal expectations, wealth, or human ambition. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

In our society, many young people chase what is popular - flashy jobs, social recognition, or quick wealth - yet true fulfillment only comes from walking in the calling God designed.

Practical Steps to Discover and Align With Purpose

1. Seek God Through Prayer: Ask God to reveal your calling, gifting, and direction. Consistent prayer aligns your heart with His plan. Many Nigerian pastors, entrepreneurs, and students testify that periods of intensive prayer clarified their career paths, ministry assignments, and personal missions.
2. Study Your Gifts and Talents: God equips every believer with spiritual and natural gifts. Identifying and cultivating these gifts helps you contribute uniquely to your sphere of influence.
3. Observe Open Doors and Confirmation: Opportunities often signal alignment with God's purpose. When doors open and obstacles clear supernaturally, it confirms your path.
4. Surround Yourself With Mentors: Godly counsel helps refine your understanding of your calling. Mentors provide accountability, encouragement, and perspective that prevent detours and wasted time.
5. Take Consistent Action: Purpose requires obedience. Acting in faith develops clarity and positions you for greater opportunities.

Obstacles to Purpose Alignment

1. Distractions – Social pressures, comparison, and worldly ambitions can derail focus.
2. Fear and Insecurity – Doubt can delay obedience and block clarity.
3. Impatience – God's timing may differ from human expectation.
4. Lack of Mentorship – Walking alone can lead to missteps and wasted seasons.

Removing these obstacles allows clarity, freedom, and intentionality in fulfilling God's plan.

Living With Purpose

1. Make daily decisions based on alignment with God's calling.
2. Evaluate opportunities: do they advance your purpose or distract you?
3. Prioritize spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, and study sharpen insight and focus.
4. Serve intentionally: using gifts to bless others reinforces your purpose.
5. Purpose-driven living ensures that success, influence, and achievements are sustainable and impactful.

PART TWO

BUILDING THE PRAYER ALTAR

Chapter 5
THE ALTAR THAT SUSTAINS DESTINY

Destiny does not survive on moments. It survives on systems. One of the greatest mistakes many believers make is assuming that a powerful encounter can replace a consistent altar. Encounters are important, but encounters are meant to introduce a life of devotion, not replace it. In Scripture, every lasting destiny was preserved by an altar.

An altar represents a meeting point between God and man. It is the place of surrender, communion, and exchange. When an altar is strong, destiny is safe. When an altar is broken, destiny becomes vulnerable.

Altars Are Built, Not Found

Altars do not appear by accident. They are built deliberately. Abraham built altars wherever he went. The Bible records that he built an altar in Shechem, Bethel, Hebron, and other places (Genesis 12–13). Each altar marked a place of encounter, alignment, and renewed commitment. This teaches us something

important. Every season of life demands an altar. What sustained you in one season may not be enough for the next unless it is intentionally maintained. An altar is not geography. An altar is priority.

The Altar Is the Source of Strength

Many believers struggle spiritually not because they lack calling, but because they lack sustaining strength. That strength is drawn from the altar.

Jesus often withdrew from crowds to pray. After intense ministry, He returned to prayer. Before major decisions, He prayed. This shows that the altar is not only for beginnings, but for continuity.

The Bible says, “In the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35). Greatness without renewal leads to exhaustion. Renewal flows from the altar.

The Altar and Spiritual Sensitivity

One of the first casualties of a neglected altar is spiritual sensitivity. When prayer becomes rushed or irregular, the heart grows dull. Discernment weakens. Convictions fade quietly. Prayer sharpens the spirit. It keeps the heart tender. It sustains reverence for God.

Those who maintain an altar are not easily deceived. They hear God clearly and recognize danger early. The altar becomes a place where God corrects, warns, and instructs.

Broken Altars Invite Decline

In Scripture, spiritual decline often followed the neglect of altars. When Israel abandoned the altar, idolatry crept in. When prayer was neglected, compromise followed.

A broken altar does not announce itself loudly. It begins subtly. Less time with God. More excuses. Reduced hunger. Eventually, spiritual dryness becomes normal. But God is merciful. He calls His people back. Elijah repaired the broken altar before fire fell (1 Kings 18:30). Restoration always precedes manifestation.

Restoring the Altar

Restoring an altar does not require perfection. It requires sincerity. Return to prayer honestly. Return to the Word humbly. Return to God without pretense. God does not despise small beginnings. A few minutes of sincere prayer done consistently will rebuild

spiritual strength over time. What matters is faithfulness. Consistency restores power.

The Altar Protects Against Pride

When God begins to lift a man, the altar becomes even more important. Success introduces new temptations. Applause can dull dependence. The altar keeps the heart grounded. It reminds the believer that all strength comes from God.

Paul said, “By the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Corinthians 15:10). That mindset is preserved through prayer. Those who abandon the altar eventually trust themselves. That is the beginning of decline.

Private Altars and Public Impact

In Nigeria, many people gather for powerful corporate prayers. These moments are valuable, but they are not substitutes for private altars. Corporate prayer inspires. Private prayer transforms. Public authority is sustained by private devotion. What happens in secret will always show in public.

Jesus said, “When thou prayest, enter into thy closet” (Matthew 6:6). The secret place is where strength is renewed and motives are purified.

Chapter 6
BUILDING A LIFESTYLE OF PERSISTENT PRAYER

Prayer is not a seasonal activity; it is the lifeblood of sustained spiritual influence. Many believers pray in crises but fail to cultivate consistent communion with God. Yet, the difference between temporary breakthroughs and enduring greatness lies in the daily discipline of prayer.

In our society, life's noise can easily distract believers - markets, offices, campuses, traffic, family obligations, and social events. Those who succeed spiritually are not necessarily more intelligent or anointed; they are persistent in prayer, regardless of circumstances.

The Discipline of Daily Prayer

Consistent prayer requires intentionality:

1. Set a specific time – Early morning or late night, even 15–30 minutes daily, establishes intimacy.
2. Choose a quiet place – Prayer corners, bedrooms, or even vehicles can be sacred spaces.

3. Prepare your heart – Confess sin, surrender distractions, and focus on God's presence.
4. Mix listening and speaking – Talk to God, but also pause to hear His guidance.

Prayer Beyond Requests

Prayer is not just asking; it is communion and alignment. Jesus prayed early, often, and privately. Prayer shapes character, sustains faith, and aligns hearts with God's plan. Prayer fortifies against spiritual attacks, clarifies decisions, activates divine resources, prevents shortcuts and ensures alignment even when results are delayed.

Overcoming Prayer Fatigue

Many stop praying because of fatigue, unanswered prayers, or discouragement. Fatigue is spiritual, emotional, and sometimes physical. Nigerian students, market traders, and professionals face fatigue, yet the ones who endure breakthroughs often prioritize prayer over convenience.

Tips to overcome fatigue

1. Rotate types of prayer: intercession, thanksgiving, praise.
2. Pair prayer with fasting for heightened focus.

3. Join prayer groups for encouragement.
4. Reflect on answered prayers for motivation.

Chapter 7
MASTERING THE PRINCIPLES OF FASTING

Fasting is more than abstaining from food; it is a spiritual discipline that aligns your body, mind, and spirit with God's purpose. When practiced correctly, fasting opens doors to breakthroughs, enhances prayer, and strengthens spiritual authority.

Isaiah 58:6–7 declares, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free…?" Fasting is designed to purify, empower, and release destiny.

The Purpose of Fasting

1. Spiritual Sensitivity: Fasting heightens awareness of God's presence. The body is disciplined, distractions are reduced, and the Spirit becomes more perceptive. Ministers often combine fasting with prayer to hear God's voice clearly before major decisions.

2. Breakthroughs and Deliverance: Fasting releases power to overcome obstacles, whether spiritual, relational, or financial. Daniel fasted and prayed in Babylon, and God revealed visions and strategies that shaped nations.
3. Strengthening Self-Control: Fasting trains the mind and body to obey the spirit. In Nigeria, where cultural and societal pressures are strong, discipline through fasting equips believers to resist temptation and remain focused on purpose.
4. Aligning With God's Timing: Many breakthroughs occur when fasting coincides with prayer and divine instruction. Waiting on God through fasting prepares the believer for supernatural intervention.

Practical Guidelines for Effective Fasting

1. Prepare Spiritually and Physically: Decide the type of fast - total abstinence, partial, or Daniel-style. Consult your health if necessary, and set a clear spiritual goal.
2. Set Clear Intentions: Know what you are seeking: clarity, guidance, deliverance, or breakthrough. Nigerian students, pastors, and entrepreneurs

often fast before exams, ministry launches, or business investments to seek divine alignment.

3. Combine with Prayer and Scripture: Fasting without prayer is incomplete. Use the time to meditate on God's Word, intercede, and listen for His guidance.
4. Avoid Legalism: Fasting is not for show or self-punishment. It is a tool for spiritual growth and alignment, not to earn favor.
5. End With Thanksgiving: Gratitude reinforces the spiritual gains of fasting. Thank God for clarity, peace, and the strength to persevere.

Fasting is deeply embedded in Nigerian spiritual culture, especially in church and campus settings. Many young leaders and students practice monthly fasting, 21-day vigils, or special intercessory fasts.

Market traders fast to seek God's guidance in competitive markets.

University students fast before exams or campus elections.

Pastors fast to receive insight for ministry strategy and congregational needs.

When practiced consistently and with the right heart, fasting transforms ordinary believers into powerful instruments for God.

Common Pitfalls in Fasting

1. Mechanical fasting – Abstaining from food without prayer or reflection.
2. Prideful fasting – Seeking recognition rather than communion with God.
3. Neglecting health – Ignoring the body's limits can hinder spiritual progress.
4. Impatience – Expecting immediate results rather than trusting God's timing.

Avoiding these pitfalls ensures fasting becomes a source of empowerment, not stress.

Chapter 8
CULTIVATING GODLY INFLUENCE

Influence is not just about position, popularity, or authority. It is about impact that points people to God.

Many seek influence through wealth, social recognition, or education, but lasting influence is grounded in character, obedience, and service. The Bible reminds us in Matthew 5:16: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Influence is effective only when it glorifies God.

Principles of Godly Influence

1. Integrity Above All: Your words and actions must consistently reflect truth. Nigerian entrepreneurs, students, and leaders are often tempted to cut corners or manipulate situations. Integrity ensures your influence endures beyond temporary successes.
2. Servant Leadership: Jesus demonstrated that true influence comes through service. In Nigerian churches, ministries, and businesses, leaders who prioritize the well-being of others —

mentoring, providing, and guiding — leave lasting impact.

3. Wisdom and Discernment: Influence requires insight. Godly discernment allows you to make decisions that impact positively rather than harm. The ability to listen, evaluate, and act aligns your influence with divine purpose.
4. Faithfulness in Small Things: Influence grows from consistent faithfulness in responsibilities. A young pastor who teaches a small class faithfully can later pastor a large congregation; a student leader faithful to committee work gains credibility for larger assignments.

Influence Through Example

The most powerful influence is what people see in you. Your life becomes a living sermon. A market trader who prays daily, treats employees fairly, and honors God's tithe inspires trust. A student leader who remains ethical under peer pressure models integrity for others.

A young pastor or minister who prioritizes prayer and scripture over worldly approval demonstrates spiritual authority. People follow consistency more than words. Influence without character is shallow and temporary.

Guarding Influence

Influence attracts attention both positive and negative. With societal pressures and competition, believers must guard their influence.

Avoid shortcuts that compromise ethics, reject flattery that promotes pride and maintain humility despite recognition. Be selective in relationships, surrounding yourself with people who reinforce godly values.

Unchecked influence can lead to arrogance, corruption, or misdirection of power. Godly influence grows when humility and obedience remain central.

Influence That Multiplies

True influence multiplies through investment in others. Joseph mentored leaders in Egypt; Daniel trained princes in Babylon. Multiplication occurs when your impact helps others grow spiritually, morally, and professionally.

PART THREE

INNER FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Chapter 9
SPIRITUAL CAPACITY AND INNER STRENGTH

Calling is given freely but Capacity is built deliberately. Many believers desire greatness, influence, and impact, yet few understand that God never places weight on a structure that cannot sustain it. Spiritual capacity refers to the inner strength, maturity, and depth required to carry what God intends to release. It is possible to be anointed yet weak. It is possible to be gifted yet unprepared. God is not only interested in what He wants to do through you, but in what He must first do within you.

Capacity Determines Allocation

In the kingdom of God, allocation follows capacity. Jesus taught this principle clearly in the parable of the talents. Each servant received according to his ability. The issue was not favoritism but preparedness.

God does not withhold greatness out of wickedness. He withholds it out of wisdom.

Spiritual capacity determines How much revelation you can receive, How much responsibility you can handle, How much pressure you can endure and How long you can remain effective. When capacity is small, promotion becomes dangerous.

Why Many Collapse After Lifting

History is filled with people who rose quickly and fell suddenly. Their downfall was not always sin. Often, it was pressure exceeding capacity.

Spiritual promotion brings Increased warfare, Increased visibility, Increased expectations and Increased accountability. If the inner man is weak, external success becomes a burden instead of a blessing.

The Bible says, “If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small” (Proverbs 24:10). Strength here refers to inner fortitude, not public confidence.

How Capacity Is Built

Capacity is not built through prayers alone. Prayer initiates the process, but growth requires discipline. Spiritual capacity is built through Consistent prayer beyond convenience, Immersion in the Word of God, Obedience to instructions that stretch you, Endurance

in seasons of waiting and Faithfulness in obscurity. God often trains men privately before He reveals them publicly.

Moses spent forty years in the wilderness. Joseph endured years of rejection and delay. David was shaped in caves before the throne. Delay was not denial. Delay was development.

Strength Is Developed, Not Imparted

Anointing can be imparted. Strength must be developed. The Bible says, “Be strong in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:10). Strength is a responsibility, not a gift. Fasting strengthens spiritual authority. The Word strengthens conviction. Prayer strengthens endurance. When these are neglected, the inner man becomes fragile.

Emotional and Mental Strength

Spiritual capacity is incomplete without emotional discipline. Many people pray well but react poorly. Offense, bitterness, impatience, and anger are signs of internal weakness. Great destinies attract misunderstanding. If your emotions are not trained, offense will derail you. Jesus endured rejection, betrayal, and false accusations without losing

alignment. That strength was not accidental. It was cultivated. The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of inner strength, not weakness.

Capacity Protects You From Yourself

One of the greatest dangers in destiny is not enemies. It is immaturity. A man without capacity will misuse authority, mishandle relationships, and abuse opportunities. Capacity protects you from making decisions you will later regret. When God delays certain doors, He is often saving you from yourself.

Growing Quietly, Lasting Publicly

God prefers depth to speed. Quick results attract attention, but deep roots ensure longevity. Spiritual capacity grows quietly. There are seasons where nothing seems to change outwardly, yet everything is changing inwardly. Those seasons are sacred. Never despise hidden seasons. They are where strength is forged.

Chapter 10
CONTENDING WITH INVISIBLE RESISTANCE

Not every delay is timing. Not every struggle is natural. There are moments in destiny where prayer reveals that resistance is not from circumstances, people, or personal weakness, but from invisible forces operating in the spirit realm. Scripture is clear that the believer's life is not lived on a neutral ground.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12).

To pray into greatness, you must understand that great destinies attract resistance.

Why Resistance Increases as Destiny Increases

The enemy does not fight what carries no threat. Resistance is often proof that your life is connected to something significant.

As God begins to open your understanding, sharpen your focus, and align you with purpose, opposition rises. This opposition may manifest as unusual delays,

repeated cycles of near success, weariness without clear cause, confusion, fear, or heaviness during prayer, sudden distractions and discouragements. These are not coincidences. They are signals.

The enemy's goal is simple: to wear out the saints and weaken their persistence. Spiritual Warfare Is Enforced Through Prayer

Victory in spiritual warfare is not achieved through anger or emotional shouting. It is enforced through spiritual authority grounded in prayer and truth.

Daniel prayed, and heaven responded immediately, yet the answer was delayed by resistance in the spirit realm (Daniel 10). This teaches a critical lesson: prayers can be heard instantly but resisted consistently.

Daniel did not stop praying because there was no immediate manifestation. He continued until the answer arrived. Persistence broke resistance.

Why Many Stop Too Early

Many believers pray until they feel tired, not until the battle is settled. Spiritual resistance thrives on impatience. The enemy understands that if he cannot

stop your prayer completely, he can weaken it through discouragement.

When answers delay, people assume prayer is not working. In truth, prayer is often working most intensely when resistance is strongest.

Authority Comes From Alignment

Spiritual authority is not a function of volume. It is a function of alignment. Jesus cast out demons effortlessly because His life was aligned with God's will. Authority flows from obedience, purity, and intimacy with God. A compromised life weakens spiritual authority. This is why consecration is essential for sustained victory.

The enemy fears a believer who walks in obedience, understands Scripture, maintains a prayer altar and refuses to quit. Such a believer becomes dangerous in the spirit.

Weapons of Spiritual Contention

God has not left His people defenseless. Scripture provides clear weapons for spiritual warfare - The name of Jesus, The Word of God, Fasting, Praise and worship, The blood of Jesus and Persistent prayer.

Each weapon has its function. The Word establishes truth. Prayer enforces it. Fasting strengthens authority. Praise confuses the enemy. Spiritual warfare is strategic, not random.

The Role of Discernment

Not every battle requires the same response. Discernment helps you know how to pray, what to address, and when to stand still. Some battles are overcome by rebuke, others require endurance, some require repentance and realignment. Prayer sharpens discernment. Without it, believers fight blindly and grow weary unnecessarily.

When Resistance Breaks

When resistance finally breaks, things often change suddenly - Doors that were shut open easily, Help comes from unexpected places, Clarity replaces confusion and Peace returns to the heart.

This sudden shift is not magic. It is the result of consistent spiritual pressure applied over time. Victory may be quiet, but it is decisive. Do Not Personalize Spiritual Battles.

One of the enemy’s strategies is to turn spiritual battles into emotional conflicts. He wants you to

blame people instead of addressing the real source. People are rarely the problem. They are often instruments. When you fight people, you lose focus. When you fight spiritually, you gain victory.

Standing Until the End

The Bible says, “Having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13). Standing means refusing to quit. Standing means remaining faithful. Standing means trusting God even when you feel weak. Greatness belongs to those who endure.

Chapter 11
DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Spiritual discernment is the ability to perceive God's truth, recognize deception, and make decisions that align with His will. It is the compass that guides every believer through the complexities of life. Without it, even prayer, fasting, and dedication can be misdirected.

Hebrews 5:14 teaches, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Discernment grows through practice, exposure, and intentional reliance on God.

Why Discernment Matters

Believers encounter multiple challenges such as temptations in business, school, and workplace, peer pressure and societal expectations, misleading counsel and false doctrines, economic hardship and political instability.

Without spiritual discernment, one may pursue opportunities that seem good but ultimately derail destiny. Discernment protects your calling, preserves integrity, and aligns actions with God's purpose.

For example: A young entrepreneur may be offered a lucrative business partnership that compromises ethics. Discernment allows refusal without fear, trusting that God will provide alternative paths.

How to Cultivate Spiritual Discernment

1. Immerse in God's Word: Scripture is the standard for truth. Knowing the Word trains your spirit to recognize what aligns with God's will. Nigerian students, ministers, and business leaders who read and meditate daily often avoid pitfalls that others fall into.
2. Prayer for Insight: Prayer opens the spiritual ear. Seek God not only for solutions but for understanding. A single decision in prayer can redirect years of effort toward divine alignment.
3. Observe Life Carefully: Discernment involves paying attention to patterns, signs, and outcomes. For instance, noticing repeated setbacks in a business venture may indicate a

need for correction or prayer, rather than persistence at all costs.

4. Seek Godly Counsel: Mentors, pastors, and spiritually mature peers sharpen discernment. Proverbs 11:14 says, “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

Signs of Developing Discernment

1. Clarity in decision-making – You recognize when to say yes or no.
2. Awareness of spiritual influence – You sense opportunities, challenges, or attacks early.
3. Alignment with God’s Word – Your choices consistently reflect biblical principles.
4. Peace in decisions – Even in challenging situations, you experience God’s confirmation and calm.

Common Barriers to Discernment

1. Overreliance on human logic – Not every choice can be made with reason alone.
2. Neglect of prayer and scripture – Spiritual insight requires spiritual input.
3. Impatience – Quick decisions without waiting for God’s confirmation often lead to mistakes.

4. Pride and self-confidence – Assuming you know best blinds the spirit.
5. Removing these barriers strengthens the ability to recognize God's voice, distinguish truth from deception, and navigate life wisely.

Chapter 12
OVERCOMING TRIALS AND SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION

Every believer called to greatness will face trials, opposition, and spiritual resistance. The path to destiny is rarely smooth. Trials refine character, strengthen faith, and deepen reliance on God, while spiritual opposition tests endurance and discernment.

1 Peter 1:6–7 reminds us, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith…may be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Trials are not punishments but instruments to strengthen and prepare you.

Understanding Spiritual Opposition

Opposition can take many forms:

1. Societal pressures – Expectation to conform to unethical practices or worldly values.
2. Family misunderstandings – Opposition from relatives who do not understand your calling.

3. Economic challenges – Scarcity, inflation, or delayed payments that test faith.
4. Spiritual attacks – Doubts, fear, temptation, and discouragement orchestrated by the enemy.

Recognizing the source of opposition is key. Spiritual battles are often behind the visible struggle. Prayer, discernment, and obedience are your weapons.

Lessons from Biblical Examples

1. Joseph in Egypt – Despite betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment, he remained faithful. His integrity and trust in God turned trials into promotion (Genesis 39–41).
2. Daniel in Babylon – Faced political and spiritual opposition, yet prayer, fasting, and unwavering faith sustained him (Daniel 6).
3. Paul the Apostle – Endured beatings, shipwrecks, and persecution, but perseverance ensured the spread of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:23–28).

Their victories were not by human strength but by reliance on God, spiritual discipline, and obedience.

Practical Ways to Overcome Trials

1. Persistent Prayer and Fasting – Seek God's strength and wisdom. Trials often require supernatural intervention.
2. Maintain Integrity – Do not compromise values for temporary relief or gain.
3. Use Trials as Lessons – Reflect on challenges to identify areas of growth.
4. Seek Godly Counsel – Mentors and mature believers provide guidance and encouragement.
5. Guard the Heart Against Bitterness – Resentment opens doors for spiritual setbacks.

Endurance Builds Spiritual Strength

Trials test faith but also produce endurance. James 1:2–4 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work…"

Endurance strengthens your ability to hear God, resist temptation, and sustain your calling. The Nigerian believer who perseveres under pressure develops spiritual stamina, which ensures breakthroughs when opportunities arise.

PART FOUR

CONSECRATION, HEARING AND OBEDIENCE

Chapter 13
CONSECRATION AND SEPERATION

Greatness requires more than talent, prayer, or opportunity. It requires a life set apart.

Consecration is the deliberate act of giving yourself fully to God. Separation is the discipline of avoiding what defiles, distracts, or diminishes your spiritual capacity. Together, they form the foundation upon which destiny can safely stand.

Without consecration, power is dangerous. Without separation, influence is compromised. God does not call the unprepared to carry the weight of His purposes.

The Call to Be Set Apart

Romans 12:1–2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind…"

Notice the two key commands: Present yourself as a living sacrifice – consecration and Do not conform to the world – separation. These are not optional. They are the gates through which lasting greatness enters.

A consecrated life is one that belongs to God. It is not divided between selfish desires and divine purpose. A separated life refuses compromise with the values, pleasures, and distractions of the world that hinder God's work in you.

Consecration Is Not Occasional

Some believers think consecration is a momentary decision. A holy day, a special retreat, or a single prayer is enough. It is not. Consecration is continuous.

David said, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart" (Psalm 101:2). Walking within your own house means consistency in private, not just in public. Holiness begins in small, daily choices.

The altar alone is not enough if the rest of life contradicts it. Every thought, word, and action must be weighed against God's standard.

Separation Protects the Assignment

Separation is not isolation. It is strategic distance from anything that can compromise calling. Guard your

time, guard your relationships, guard your eyes, ears, and mouth and guard your heart. The enemy often attacks through subtle compromises: casual sins, repeated distractions, and delayed obedience. Separation creates spiritual space for God to operate freely.

Elijah exemplifies separation. Though called to minister to a nation, he retreated to Mount Horeb to pray, hear God, and avoid unnecessary entanglement. In that separation, he gained clarity, strength, and alignment.

The Discipline of Consecration

Consecration demands discipline. It requires: Choosing prayer over pleasure, choosing integrity over shortcuts, choosing God's word over popular opinions, choosing solitude over crowd approval. Discipline strengthens character, builds endurance, and protects purpose. Without it, promises become fragile, easily broken by temptation or pressure.

Jesus demonstrated discipline consistently. Even as a man among men, He never allowed social expectation to override obedience to the Father.

Separation Does Not Mean Loneliness

Many fear that separation isolates them. It does not. True separation is not about avoiding people; it is about avoiding contamination while still walking in purpose. You can remain in community yet keep spiritual boundaries. You can serve faithfully yet guard your heart. You can engage the world yet remain unspotted. God's presence multiplies effectiveness for those who live consecrated and separated lives.

Consecration and Prayer

The altar and consecration are inseparable. The one nurtures the other. A consecrated heart fuels deeper prayer, and consistent prayer strengthens consecration.

The enemy often attacks the altar indirectly through busyness, moral compromise, or distraction - knowing that a compromised heart cannot sustain breakthrough.

The Rewards of a Set-Apart Life

Consecration and separation may seem costly at first, but they yield eternal rewards such as Increased spiritual sensitivity, clearer guidance from God,

resistance to compromise, integrity under pressure, favor that precedes manifestation.

The life of Joseph illustrates this clearly. Though enslaved, separated from home, and falsely accused, his consecration and obedience brought him into God's timing and positioned him for unprecedented influence.

Practical Steps to Consecration

1. Evaluate your daily habits: Which habits honor God? Which do not?
2. Guard your heart from repeated sin: Small compromises build walls of resistance.
3. Schedule daily time in solitude with God: Prayer and meditation shape character.
4. Make obedience a priority over convenience: Do what God requires even if it costs comfort.
5. Surround yourself with accountability: Fellow believers who encourage consecration protect your heart.

Chapter 14
HEARING GOD AND OBEDIENT ACTION

Prayer is not complete without listening. Faith is not complete without doing.

Many believers pray, cry, and fast, yet never experience breakthrough. The reason is simple: they hear only their own voice and act only on their understanding. God speaks, but His voice is often subtle, requiring spiritual sensitivity and obedient action.

James 1:22 says, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” Hearing God without action produces no results. Obedience without hearing produces mistakes. True alignment requires both.

Learning to Hear God

Hearing God is a discipline. It is cultivated through: Silence and stillness, immersion in Scripture, persistent prayer, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

God rarely shouts. His whispers are often gentle nudges in the heart, clear impressions in the mind, or timely confirmations through circumstances.

Consider Moses at Mount Sinai. He waited for God in silence, and the fire, cloud, and voice confirmed his calling. He did not act prematurely. Waiting in the presence of God sharpened his discernment.

In Nigeria, many believers run from prayer meetings to social obligations, from fasting to distractions, believing that movement equals faithfulness. True faith, however, often begins in stillness. The quieter your heart, the clearer God speaks.

Obedient Action Unlocks Answers

Hearing without doing produces frustration. God may instruct a subtle step - a word of reconciliation, a specific opportunity, or a bold step of faith. Acting promptly positions you for revelation and release.

Peter illustrates this principle. When Jesus instructed him to cast the net on the right side of the boat (Luke 5:5–6), he obeyed despite previous failure. Obedience brought abundance.

Obedience validates hearing. It tests faith and prepares you for greater instructions. This can mean:

Starting that ministry despite limited resources, speaking a timely word in a family or workplace, making ethical business decisions even when shortcuts are easier. The risk of obedience is temporary discomfort; the reward is alignment and manifestation.

Obedience Strengthens Spiritual Sensitivity

God often speaks to those who act. Each step of obedience enhances discernment, sharpens intuition, and increases faith.

Samuel's life shows this principle. As a boy, he obeyed Eli's instructions immediately. As he matured, his sensitivity to God's voice increased. Obedience in small matters prepared him for great responsibility.

Small acts of obedience create a momentum of trust, and God responds by increasing revelation and opportunity.

Common Barriers to Hearing God

1. Noise of life – constant distractions dilute spiritual perception.
2. Unrepented sin – sin clouds judgment and dulls the conscience.

3. Impatience – wanting answers immediately prevents attentive listening.
4. Overreliance on human counsel – while advice is valuable, it can drown out God's voice.

Removing these barriers strengthens your ability to hear clearly.

Hearing God in Everyday Nigerian Life

On the campus: Pause in your room or prayer corner to seek God before exams or projects. The insight you receive may guide your studies or interactions.

At work: Listen for impressions in difficult decisions; God often speaks about integrity, timing, and strategy.

In the family: Guidance in relationships, parenting, or conflict resolution often comes as subtle counsel during prayer.

God's voice is not restricted to church pulpits or retreat halls. It speaks in everyday life, wherever a heart is attentive.

Faith Without Obedience Is Incomplete

Hearing God without obeying is like receiving a map and refusing to follow directions. You may know where to go but remain stationary.

The story of Jonah illustrates this clearly. He heard God's instruction but fled. Delay in obedience brought trouble. Only when Jonah acted according to God's command did blessing follow. Obedient action accelerates destiny, while delay hinders manifestation.

Practical Steps to Obedient Hearing

1. Create daily quiet moments for reflection and prayer.
2. Journal impressions or guidance you receive during prayer.
3. Confirm instructions with Scripture to ensure alignment.
4. Act immediately when the Spirit gives clear direction.
5. Evaluate results and adjust with humility, not stubbornness.

Each small act of obedience builds the inner capacity to handle greater instructions.

Chapter 15
LIVING A LIFE OF INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE

Integrity and excellence are twin pillars that sustain greatness. Integrity ensures your character remains untarnished, while excellence ensures your actions and results reflect God's glory. Proverbs 10:9 declares, "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known."

In our society, where shortcuts, compromise, and corruption are common temptations, a life of integrity and excellence distinguishes a believer and positions them for lasting impact.

The Value of Integrity

Integrity is consistency of character - doing what is right even when no one is watching. It preserves your testimony, sustains influence, and protects your calling.

At work: Honesty in transactions, fair treatment of colleagues, and refusal to engage in corrupt practices demonstrate integrity.

In ministry: Delivering truthful messages, honoring God's Word, and avoiding manipulation sustains spiritual authority.

In family life: Keeping promises, living by example, and modeling honesty build trust and legacy.

Without integrity, achievements crumble. Nigerian stories abound of leaders who lost influence overnight because their character failed under pressure.

Pursuing Excellence

Excellence is doing your best in every area of life, not for human applause, but for God's glory. Colossians 3:23 instructs, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

A student who studies diligently, despite distractions, honors God.

A business owner who delivers quality service reflects God's excellence.

A minister who prepares sermons thoroughly, prays consistently, and ministers with diligence exemplifies divine excellence.

Excellence is not perfection but faithful and intentional effort. Even ordinary tasks, done excellently, draw divine favor.

By committing to integrity, believers safeguard character; by pursuing excellence, they maximize influence. Together, these traits create a life that honors God and inspires others.

Practical Steps to Cultivate Integrity and Excellence

1. Commit to Transparency – Be accountable in finances, relationships, and responsibilities.
2. Maintain Consistency – Avoid behavior that changes with circumstances or audience.
3. Pursue Skill Development – Excellence requires knowledge, skill, and preparation.
4. Seek Feedback and Correction – Mentors and peers help refine character and performance.
5. Prioritize God in Decisions – Let Scripture guide your ethics, standards, and actions.

Chapter 16
WALKING IN FAITH-FILLED BOLDNESS

Faith-filled boldness is the courage to act according to God's promises, even when circumstances appear impossible. It is the expression of unwavering trust in God, a refusal to be paralyzed by fear, and a willingness to step into the unknown with confidence in His guidance.

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Boldness is the practical application of faith—it moves hope from imagination into reality.

The Need for Boldness

In our world today, believers face daily challenges that test faith:

Business ventures may seem risky, yet obedience to God requires trust.

Students and young professionals face ethical dilemmas, requiring courage to choose integrity.

Ministry leaders encounter opposition and criticism when preaching truth or leading change.

Faith without boldness becomes passive. Boldness without wisdom becomes reckless. True faith-filled boldness balances courage, discernment, and reliance on God.

Biblical Examples of Boldness

1. Peter at Pentecost – Filled with the Holy Spirit, he boldly preached before thousands, resulting in mass conversions (Acts 2).
2. Daniel in the Lion's Den – His boldness to continue praying to God despite the king's decree demonstrated unwavering faith (Daniel 6).
3. Esther before the King – Courageously approaching the king saved her people (Esther 4:16).

These examples show that boldness is often exercised in critical, high-stakes moments and produces transformative outcomes.

Cultivating Faith-Filled Boldness

1. Deepen Your Relationship With God: Boldness stems from intimacy with God. Those who know

Him well trust His promises and timing. Nigerian believers who pray consistently and study the Word develop confidence to act without hesitation.

2. Act on God's Promises: Boldness requires action. Faith is proved by steps taken, not words spoken. Start small if necessary, but act in alignment with God's guidance.
3. Reject Fear and Doubt: Fear paralyzes faith. Memorize Scripture, meditate on God's promises, and speak truth over your life. Boldness grows as faith replaces fear.
4. Surround Yourself With Encouragement: Faith-filled boldness thrives in supportive communities. Mentors, prayer partners, and like-minded peers reinforce courage and accountability.
5. Learn From Past Victories: Reflect on moments where God delivered, guided, or blessed. Remembering past faithfulness strengthens future boldness.

PART FIVE

SUSTAINING GREATNESS TO THE END

Chapter 17
SUSTAINING GREATNESS WITH HUMILITY

Greatness is not just about reaching high; it is about staying grounded. Many rise quickly but fall just as fast. The reason is often simple: pride.

Sustaining greatness requires humility. A heart that acknowledges God as the source of all achievement and remains teachable despite influence, success, or recognition. Proverbs 16:18 warns, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” The higher you rise, the more dangerous pride becomes.

Why Humility Sustains Destiny

Humility protects against the subtle corruption of success. When the world applauds, the human heart naturally swells. Without humility, influence becomes entitlement, and leadership becomes domination.

Young leaders in ministries or business achieve rapid success, only to be undone by arrogance - disrespecting mentors, neglecting prayer, or ignoring

God's guidance. Humility keeps the heart soft, teachable, and aligned with God's will. It preserves relationships. It safeguards your calling. It ensures decisions are God-centered, not self-centered. The humble person attracts counsel. The proud person repels it.

Humility Is a Choice, Not a Feeling

Many confuse humility with weakness or low self-esteem. It is neither. Humility is intentional submission to God and others, even when you have power or influence.

Moses is the ultimate example. Though he led millions, Scripture calls him "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). His humility did not diminish his authority; it sustained it.

In contrast, King Saul's pride led to repeated disobedience and eventual loss of favor. He had opportunity, position, and power but lacked the humility to remain under God's instruction.

Practical Ways to Cultivate Humility

1. Daily Gratitude – Recognize every blessing as a gift from God, not a result of personal brilliance.

2. Accountability – Surround yourself with trusted mentors or peers who can speak truth into your life.
3. Serve Others – True humility manifests in service, not just words. Helping others keeps the heart soft.
4. Confession and Reflection – Regularly examine your heart for prideful thoughts or attitudes.
5. Prayer for a Teachable Spirit – Ask God to correct hidden pride and guide your thoughts and actions.

Humility Protects Against Spiritual Attacks

The higher you rise, the more the enemy intensifies his attacks. Pride makes these attacks more effective. A humble person responds to adversity with faith. A proud person responds with anger, bitterness, or resentment.

Joseph demonstrates this clearly. Despite being elevated to power in Egypt, he remained humble before Pharaoh and God. When he encountered his brothers who once betrayed him, humility allowed forgiveness instead of vengeance. Your posture determines how blessings are sustained.

Humility in the Nigerian Experience

In Nigeria, societal recognition often tempts people to boast. Titles, awards, and influence can distort perception of self-worth. Humility requires constant awareness that visibility is temporary; character is permanent.

Leaders who attend daily devotions, remain connected to their spiritual mentors, and prioritize personal prayer are often those who sustain influence for decades, despite societal pressures.

A pastor who celebrates God rather than self inspires congregations for generations.

An entrepreneur who gives back to the community builds long-lasting legacy.

A student leader who remains grounded impacts peers positively beyond graduation.

Humility and Continuous Learning

Greatness without humility leads to stagnation. Humility keeps you teachable. Listen more than you speak, value advice over flattery, learn from mistakes rather than blame others. Even seasoned ministers, CEOs, and leaders in Nigeria have acknowledged that the moment they stopped listening, decline began. The humble grow; the proud fall.

Chapter 18
FINISHING STRONG

The beginning is important, but the end is eternal. Many start well but fail to finish. In the Christian journey, finishing strong is more than persistence; it is faithfulness under pressure, endurance in trials, and unwavering focus on God's purpose.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Your destiny is measured not by how you start, but by how you endure to the end.

The Importance of Endurance

In Nigeria, stories of youth leaders, ministers, and entrepreneurs illustrate this principle. Many begin with great vision, energy, and anointed strategies. Yet, when challenges emerge - financial strain, opposition, or misunderstanding - some give up.

Finishing strong requires: Faith that does not waver, focus that does not scatter, patience that withstands pressure.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). Notice the sequence: fight, finish, faith. Endurance is an active, disciplined process, not passive waiting.

Trials Test Faithfulness

The path of destiny is rarely smooth. Opposition, delays, and setbacks are inevitable. Joseph’s journey from prison to palace lasted years. Daniel’s assignment required decades of prayer and fasting. Yet their faithfulness ensured triumph.

In Nigeria, consider the countless pastors and missionaries who faced financial lack, societal pressure, and personal loss, yet remained faithful to the call. Their finishing strong became a testimony to generations.

Endurance is cultivated in difficulty. The moment you quit, your assignment remains incomplete. The longer you remain steadfast, the more pronounced God’s glory becomes in your life.

Faithfulness in the Little Things

Finishing strong is not reserved for extraordinary tasks. Daily faithfulness in small responsibilities shapes character for greater assignments.

The young minister who consistently prepares sermons and disciples quietly will shine when called to larger platforms.

The student who maintains integrity in assignments and exams develops a foundation for professional excellence.

The business owner who serves employees and customers diligently grows a reputation that sustains long-term success.

God multiplies what is faithfully stewarded, regardless of size. Luke 16:10 reminds us: “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.”

Focus Prevents Burnout

Finishing strong requires focus. Distraction, comparison, and envy can derail even the most anointed. In Nigeria, social media, peer pressure, and societal expectations often tempt believers to chase multiple paths at once.

To finish strong: Prioritize your calling over popularity, guard your spiritual life, avoid unnecessary

comparisons. Maintain intimacy with God through prayer and Word. A focused life channels energy into destiny, while a distracted life scatters strength.

The Role of Spiritual Support

Even the strongest believer cannot endure in isolation. God ordains relationships, mentors, and communities to support perseverance. Mentors provide guidance and correction. Fellow believers provide encouragement. Families provide emotional and spiritual balance.

Those who finish strong often acknowledge the support of prayer groups, church leaders, and family members who held the line when opposition came.

Finishing Strong Is a Mindset

It is easy to feel discouraged when progress seems slow. Yet finishing strong is a mindset of commitment: "I will persevere despite opposition, I will serve faithfully even when unnoticed, I will remain humble even when elevated, I will trust God even when results delay." Hebrews 12:1 exhorts, "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Patience is the engine that drives finishing strong. The race is won not by speed alone but by endurance.

Chapter 19
A LIFE THAT GLORIFIES GOD

True greatness is not measured by wealth, titles, or recognition. It is measured by how consistently a life reflects God's glory.

A life that glorifies God is a life surrendered, disciplined, and intentional. It is a life where faith, obedience, humility, and service intersect to produce lasting impact. Colossians 3:17 reminds us, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Every act, no matter how small, is an opportunity to glorify God.

Glorifying God in Daily Life

Glory is not restricted to pulpit moments, retreats, or prayer meetings. In Nigeria, where life is often busy and demanding, believers are tested in the everyday.

At school or work: Submitting to deadlines, showing integrity in exams or business, and treating others with fairness and respect honors God.

At home: Managing family responsibilities, showing love, patience, and forgiveness, and prioritizing spiritual activities demonstrate a life of devotion.

In the community: Using influence to bless neighbors, mentor youth, and support the needy reflects God's heart to the world. Glory is practical. It touches ordinary life.

The Link Between Destiny and Glory

Your calling and purpose are not ends in themselves. They are vehicles for God's glory. When your life produces blessings for others, inspires faith, and points people to God, your life reflects His glory.

Joseph's administration in Egypt elevated him, but every decision he made glorified God, even under oppression.

Esther risked her life to save her people, glorifying God through courage and wisdom.

In Nigeria, this may look like the young entrepreneur who refuses corrupt practices despite societal pressures, or the pastor who preaches truth in challenging contexts. Their lives testify that God's glory is greater than human compromise.

Glory Through Character

Character sustains glory. Without it, influence becomes fragile. Humility, honesty, patience, and love form the foundation of a life that radiates God. Pride leads to isolation and eventual downfall. Integrity invites favor and lasting impact. Perseverance in trials shows the power of faith. A life without character may succeed temporarily but cannot sustain spiritual greatness.

The Role of Prayer and Obedience

Every life that glorifies God is anchored in intimate communion and obedient action. Prayer aligns the heart. Obedience activates revelation. Together, they produce consistency in God's glory. Daily devotion ensures alignment with God's will. Listening and acting on God's instructions prevent wasted opportunities. Fasting and spiritual discipline deepen sensitivity and authority.

Glory in Influence

Your influence should always reflect God, not self-interest. Nigerian society often measures success by visibility or wealth, but spiritual greatness transcends recognition.

Teachers, pastors, and leaders glorify God by imparting life, not just gathering numbers.

Business owners glorify God by ethical practices, fair treatment, and community support.

Young people glorify God by using opportunities to uplift, inspire, and maintain integrity in schools, campuses, and social circles.

Glory flows when influence is surrendered, disciplined, and purpose-driven.

Enduring Peace and Joy

A life that glorifies God enjoys peace and joy irrespective of circumstances. Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Even in Nigeria, where uncertainty, economic pressure, and societal challenges are common, believers who glorify God maintain peace, radiate joy, and inspire hope. This peace is not passive; it results from trust, obedience, and alignment with God.

Chapter 20
LIVING A LEGACY THAT HONOURS GOD

A life of prayer, purpose, integrity, and boldness naturally leads to legacy. Legacy is the lasting impact of your life, the influence that extends beyond your years, and the testimony that continues to inspire, guide, and bless future generations.

Psalm 78:4 says, “We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.” A godly legacy is built on faithfulness, obedience, and consistent alignment with God’s will.

Understanding Legacy

Legacy is not measured by wealth, fame, or position alone. It is measured by:

1. Spiritual Impact – Are people inspired to know and follow God because of your life?
2. Character – Did you walk in honesty, humility, and integrity?

3. Service – Did you invest in others through mentorship, support, and encouragement?
4. Faithfulness in Trials – Did your response to challenges glorify God and inspire others?

Many pursue worldly recognition but fail to leave lasting spiritual or moral impact. A godly legacy defies time; it is remembered in character, influence, and obedience.

Practical Ways to Build a Godly Legacy

1. Mentor the Next Generation: Invest in youth, students, colleagues, and family members. Nigerian ministries and families that emphasize mentorship see a multiplying effect of wisdom, faith, and excellence.
2. Live Transparently: Integrity and consistency inspire trust. People remember the faithful, not the flashy.
3. Serve with Purpose: Dedicate your gifts, resources, and time to impact others. Entrepreneurs, pastors, and leaders who give selflessly leave enduring marks on society.
4. Document Your Journey: Share testimonies, insights, and lessons learned. Pastors and

authors often leave books, recordings, and teachings that continue to guide generations.

5. Endure With Faith: Trials, opposition, and challenges are opportunities to demonstrate faithfulness. Enduring faithfully strengthens your legacy and inspires confidence in God's power.

Illustrations of Legacy

The Pastor who faithfully ministers in a rural village, impacting generations of children and youth.

The Business Owner who maintains ethical practices, mentors employees, and supports community projects.

The Student Leader who leads with integrity, influencing peers toward faith, discipline, and purpose.

The Family Head who prays, teaches God's Word, and models Christlike behavior at home.

Legacy is visible in the lives you touch and the culture of faith and excellence you leave behind.

Chapter 21
THE CONCLUSION

True greatness is not merely the result of talent, ambition, or human effort but the outcome of consistent fellowship with God through prayer. Prayer is a system of spiritual alignment where a believer receives divine direction, transformation of character, and empowerment to fulfill purpose. Greatness begins with understanding your identity in Christ and submitting your personal desires to God's will.

Prayer builds spiritual capacity. Through consecration, persistence, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, a believer gains wisdom, discipline, and strength to overcome limitations and opposition. Hidden seasons of prayer produce visible results such as influence, favour, and impact in society. Spiritual growth precedes public manifestation.

Greatness is not for self exaltation but for service, kingdom advancement, and lifting others. Prayer refines motives, purifies the heart, and establishes divine priorities.

In conclusion, praying into greatness is a journey of transformation where intimacy with God shapes destiny. Through focused prayer, faith, and righteous living, a believer moves from potential to purpose and becomes a vessel through which God expresses His power, wisdom, and glory on earth.

If this book has blessed your life, remember to say a prayer for the author, Anthony Ijere, that the fire of God will continually burn on his altar.

Also, as a free gift of love to him and the ministry, to help publish or produce more of these impactful books, your contributions in cash or in kind are warmly welcomed.

Account Details

MACANTHONY IJERE

0138431203

STERLING BANK

SWIFT CODE: NAMENGLA

Contact Him on

WhatsApp: +2349133400801

Email: anthonyijere@yahoo.com

Facebook: Anthony Ijere

Instagram: @anthony.ijere

Please feel free to send testimonies of how any of these books have helped your life to anthonyijere@yahoo.com or WhatsApp +2349133400801

Most importantly: Please feel free to continue sharing these free books as a tool of evangelism. We have been receiving testimonies of how lives are being touched, and we give all glory to God.

About the AUTHOR

Anthony Ijere is a contemporary Nigerian Christian author, novelist, and spiritual teacher dedicated to inspiring believers through the written word. Based in Ahoada, Rivers State, he combines deep biblical insight with engaging storytelling to encourage spiritual growth, faith, deliverance, ministry and godly living.

Anthony's works explore themes of prayer, destiny, spiritual warfare, obedience, and personal transformation, offering practical guidance for living a life that glorifies God. His writing reflects a unique blend of narrative creativity and devotional teaching, making complex spiritual truths accessible and relatable, particularly within the Nigerian context.

A passionate servant of God, Anthony draws inspiration from sermons by notable ministers such as Apostle Joshua Selman, infusing his books with principles that strengthen faith and awaken spiritual potential. Beyond writing, he mentors young people, ministers in local communities, and leads initiatives that cultivate prayer, purpose, and Christian character.

Through his books, Anthony Ijere seeks to equip believers to fulfill their divine calling, walk in excellence, and leave a lasting legacy for Christ.

