

Prophetic Confrontation

Discovering your Prophetic Responsibility & Fulfilling it

SEGUN E. OLUGBEMI

Introduction

I strongly believe that the word of the Lord to the Church for this decade is that **OUR TIME HAS COME.** We have entered into a season of open doors, unprecedented access to resources, the merging of heaven and earth to usher in the fulfilment of God's eternal plan for our planet. It is the season of fulfilment of **Isaiah 65**. But we must follow his blue print.

Prophetic confrontation is God's last effort at getting us conform to his way. From the happenings in the Body of Christ, we are set for this experience. Those reading this can make prophetic adjustment and reposition themselves in alignment to the move of the Spirit in these last days. The line is drawn; you must decide how you are going to respond to the seasons God is bringing the church into.

God stands at the border of your inheritance to check out your state of circumcision. No circumcision, no possession. The storehouse of heaven is filled with resources for exploit; how soon you access it is determined by you and not God. Galatians4:1-2 "Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father"

If you willing to move on to the next phase of your life and purpose, then you need to give earnest heed to the truth set forth here. There is a clarion call to spiritual growth and maturity; the sooner we tap into this the better we become as the church that will bring back the King in glory. My prayer is that a holy fire will be kindled in your heart as you read this, and you will enlist at once in the school of "YES LORD" – Amen.

Segun Olugbemi

Prophetic confrontation - Discovering your Prophetic Responsibility & Fulfilling Them

Segun E Olugbemi

With

Joseph Raimi

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New King James Version

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PROPHETIC CONFRONTATION: UPGRADE AND UPDATE

Our world is a growing and changing one. Our education, politics, constitutions, transportation, economy, science and technology are all built to be upgraded and updated. All our software is to be regularly updated and upgraded to function efficiently. The only people that seem to have problem with change, upgrades and updates are Theologians, Pastors, Bible teachers and Christians. We have yet to come to terms with the fact that it is only the word of God that is inspired; our theologies and doctrines are not and therefore cannot be sacrosanct.

The need for upgrade is illustrated in Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”. The one who WAS; is the same that IS and WILL be! That means, we must move along with him from the past to the present and get ready to move along in the future. There is where God **was**, where he **is** and where he will be; but the only safe place to be is where he **is**. The worst place for anyone to be is where God use to be (he was). Where God was feeds us with the knowledge of his capabilities and testimonies of the past. But where He is, fill us with revelation and faith for action. Remember this:

1. Where God was, leaves us with memories and monuments.
2. Where God will be, fills us with hopes and aspirations
3. Only where God is, leaves us with reality, revelation and experience

The Prayer for Revival

Too often, we hear church folks praying for a revival. The truth is, while we might require a personal revival, most of our churches and our belief needs none of that.

What we need is a revolution, because God has moved past many of the things we are asking him to revive. A classic example is recorded for us in **1Chronicles 16:39-40**

“So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required. And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that was at Gibeon, **To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening**, and to do according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel”

Now this passage above looks like one of the experiences in the church today! David had brought the Ark of God (His presence) to Jerusalem and made an open tent for all to access, but left Zadok and some priests to continue with the rituals of sacrifices at Gibeon before the Tabernacle of Moses, without the Ark (the presence) of God. Here’s the question, what is the essence of worship without His presence? Moses would not indulge in such worship. He would say things like, “if your presence do not go with us, leave us here”. Neither would Elijah attempt such morbid worship; his undying quest was always “the God that answer by fire, let him be God”.

The next question that comes to mind then is; how come we enjoy our services without any manifestation of His presence? Evidently, what Zadok and his brethren were asking for, was for God should show up where he had left. This unfortunately is the state of the Church today, when we can afford to hold meetings, programs, plans and projects without his permission, promptings and his manifest presence.

The sad episodes of programs, conferences and revival meetings that fail to engender the resonance of divine fragrance is all too often indicative of worshippers who worship what they know not. It is an aberration to leave out our object of worship in our worship. No longer should we attempt to offer sacrifices and worship without the manifest presence of our object of worship. God is much more willing to pour out revivals on us than we are ever willing to ask or allow. The minimum standard of our gathering together has to be an invasion His holy presence. This friends, is what revival all about and that is the spirit of the New Testament. Paul said this much in 1Cor14:24-25 “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, **he will worship God and report that God is truly among you**”. (NKJV)

When God Forces an Upgrade

God’s dealings with his children are born out of love; He never intends to coerce them into doing anything. However, individual’s responsibility (response-ability) determines how fast and far we go on with him. He has two basic ways of upgrading and updating his children, the priestly method and confrontational method.

Exodus 19:1-10

“The Israelites arrived in the wilderness of Sinai exactly two months after they left Egypt. After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the base of Mount Sinai and set up camp there. Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called out to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the descendants of Jacob, the people of Israel: ’You have seen what I did to the Egyptians.

“You know how I brought you to myself and carried you on eagle’s wings. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the nations of the earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be to me a kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ Give this message to the Israelites.” “Moses returned from the mountain and called together the leaders of the people and told them what the Lord had said. They all responded together, “We will certainly do everything the Lord asks of us.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the Lord.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a thick cloud so the people themselves can hear me as I speak to you. Then they will always have confidence in you.” Moses told the Lord what the people had said. Then the Lord told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my visit. Purify them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing”

From the passage above, the divine intension cannot be any clearer. God has always desired to talk to everyone of his children personally. We short-changed ourselves when we choose the option of other people hearing from God on our behalf. None of the Israelis that lived in Moses’ day could ascertain that they got everything God meant for them through Moses; there was no way they could have. How could they substitute the voice of Moses with the voice of God? Could Moses have been able to narrate all his forty days experience in those few words? If they were unable to behold the glory on his face, what would have taken place on the inside of this stutterer after those mighty invasions of heavenly illumination? Although that glory was going to pass away, there was such awesome presence that attained to their meeting that we are completely inexcusable today for running mechanical and dry worship.

The people chose to hear God through Moses after the initial earthquake, thunder, lightning and smoke. This attitude is what produces what I call, the ‘**Third Generation Syndrome**’. This syndrome largely affects believers who are unable to transit from converts to disciples. This group of believers do not see the need to go all the way to hear God as demanded; instead, they are superficial and lazy and depend on prophets and pastors to hear God for them. This third generation believers acts much like the children of Israel in the days of Moses and Joshua. Only these two and a few others had a direct encounter with God. All others had to make do with what was told them or what they saw of God; which made them second generation. By the time their children were born, they had lost touch with anything called God.

Judges2:7-10

“The people worshiped God throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the time of the leaders who survived him, leaders who had been in on all of God's great work that he had done for Israel. Then Joshua son of Nun, the servant of God, died. He was 110 years old. They buried him in his allotted inheritance at Timnath Heres in the hills of Ephraim north of Mount Gaash. Eventually that entire generation died and was buried. **Then another generation grew up that didn't know anything of God or the work he had done for Israel”.** NLT

The children of Israel were in three categories: those who knew God (his ways), those who knew the works of God (through those who knew his ways) and those who didn’t know either. Those who knew God (Moses, Joshua, Aaron and some elders) said something like “The Lord says”. Those who knew/saw the works of God would say “Moses said that the Lord says”. Finally, the children of those who knew the works of God would say things like “Daddy said that Moses said that the Lord says”! Can you see how godly people can raise godless children? Can you see why God insisted on talking with the people directly without an intermediary? Can you see why hearing from God directly is the preferred method any day? That is the method that produces power, experiential knowledge and spontaneous obedience to the Lord. So in our relationship with God, he employs this method as his primary and preferred method in dealing with his children.

The Priestly Method

This is God’s primary method of communicating with His people. From the story above you will notice that God specifically requested to speak with his people face to face. God’s method is to apply our priestly positions in dealing with us. One of the emphases of the early Church was; Christ has made us priests and kings on to God (**Rev1:5-6**). As priests, we have access to him by the sacrificial lamb - Jesus Christ. Nobody needs to hear from God for us. Nobody needs to stand in the gap - Christ already did. Although we emphasise the Aaronic priesthood-style today; where we wait on individuals to receive the mind of God and pass them to us, it is never God’s best. This is also consistent with the New Testament as we can see from the following passages:

John 10:2-3 “But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out”

Rom 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of

adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”

How it Works

1. God uses the priestly method to update and upgrade us during our personal quest to determine the directions he wants us to go through prayer and study of his word. When God is about to take us to another level, he increases our desire of seeking more. Like everything else, the more we spend time with the Lord, the greater our desire to know him grows and the deeper we are most likely to go with our devotion to his service. God could speak to our heart; give diversities of tongues and interpretation, vision, dreams or prophecy during those times. Therefore, the believer who desires to spend more time with the Lord sets himself up for hearing him more and developing greater commitment for his service. This is one way we fulfil the admonition in **2 Peter 3:18** “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”.
2. Through preaching, admonitions, corrections and exhortations from other believers. “Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action)” 2Timothy 3:16 (AMP). When we are set to go to another level, God word comes alive to us, either through reading, exhortation, preaching, correction or admonition of other believers. The wisdom of the believer is to respond appropriately otherwise we might be headed for a confrontation.
3. Whenever there is dissatisfaction in the believer, promptings of the Spirit to explore new territories, or set time out for spiritual retreat and nourishment, then you can take that as an invitation to upgrade and respond duly. Dissatisfaction is one way of inspiring us to new heights. When we give vent to that, it opens us to a plethora of opportunities in God and to affect our world. Dissatisfaction is one way of God speaking to us about change. Often, it is our satisfaction that creates complacency and docility, so much so that we become unwilling to explore new territories. But when we begin to become uncomfortable with where we are, investigation is the natural result. Investigation leads to discovery and discovery leads recovery and recovery leads to new levels.
4. Another indicator of a nudge for the need for update and upgrade is the spread of a present truth. Every now and then, certain men have been able to pay the price for rediscovering certain lost truths in the word of God to

which we must submit ourselves. When we camp with the truth we know and reject the truth we are unfamiliar with, we become stale; and that is one reason we have so many church denominations all around us today. It is utter naiveté to conclude that what we know is all there is to know. The world does not revolve around our sphere of knowledge; therefore opening up to new things (even when there are uncomfortable) launches us to greater heights. It is our privilege to respond to new truths; for then we are positioned to move along with God and prevent us from expiring.

The Prophetic Confrontational Method

Josh 5: 1- 12

“When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear. At that time the Lord told Joshua, “Use knives of flint to make the Israelites a circumcised people again.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth”.

“Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to bear arms when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness. Those who left Egypt had all been circumcised, but none of those born after the Exodus, during the years in the wilderness, had been circumcised. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were old enough to bear arms when they left Egypt had died. **For they had disobeyed the Lord, and the Lord vowed he would not let them enter the land he had sworn to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey**. So Joshua circumcised their sons who had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land—those who had grown up to take their fathers’ places. After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed”.

“Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt.” So that place has been called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month—the month that marked their exodus from Egypt. The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land. No manna appeared that day, and it was never seen again. So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan”.

The story above illustrates what happens when we fail to respond to God’s prodding through the priestly method of upgrading and updating us. Before God sends a prophet to confront our rebellion or apathy, before he employs this sort of harsh measures to express his desires and love, he always begin with the individual concerned. God

expected the fathers to follow the basic rule of circumcising their children as a mark of covenant with their generation, but they did not. The implication of that is alienation from the covenant that the fathers had with God. Their carelessness was effectively truncating God's generational plan; thereby depriving the new generation of having a firsthand experience with God! Notice the following from that passage:

> Sometimes, when the time for us to move on to new levels come, the world around us and the devil knows. People can literally pick the signal that something has happened in the spirit that is supposed to be replicated here on earth. God was prepared to bring them to the place of rest and enlargement and every other nation knew it and was prepared for their takeover but themselves. They seem oblivious of the challenges at hand and the conditions for accomplishing it.
>
> They crossed Jordan in their uncircumcised state. And the reason was that the fathers who were themselves circumcised, refused to do the same for their children; thus alienating them from covenant with God. True fathers need not be reminded to circumcise their children; they know when and how. They also realize that time is of the essence what it comes to circumcision. The earlier the circumcision, the lesser the pain. The people who were circumcised by Joshua were full grown adults, some whom had become fathers themselves! Can you imagine the pains a thirty year old man will experience at circumcision? Yet that was the requirement for entering in to their possession.
>
> Spiritually speaking, it is the responsibility of spiritual fathers to circumcise their spiritual babies. What does circumcision mean to us today? Circumcision to the Jews was a sign of God's covenant with their generations before Christ came, but to us today, it carries some spiritual connotations. It is;
>
> 1. The place of spiritual encounter, consecration and commitment to God and his word. Everyone who has made any significant mark on the planet earth for God has had some unforgettable encounters at one time or the other with him. It is those encounters that produce the consecrations and commitments that they exhibit. Spiritual fathers, mentor and disciplers must make concerted effort to walk the younger generation to these spiritual mile posts. All too often we hear 'great testimonies' from 'great men of God' of the exploits they've done or are doing in the name of the Lord. One common denominator is the fact that most of them never really tell us how. Jesus tells us how the Kingdom works in **Mark 4:26-29**

"And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: **first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head".**

The process is, first the blade, then the head before the full corn. Many of these testimonies therefore are given from the full grown corn point. That exacts some pressures on those blades who may not understand the power of process. The three stages are repeated in some other way in **1John 2:12-14** "I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have **known Him** who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have **known Him** who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one". Fathers should raise their children because they have better knowledge of what is required.

2. The bleeding spot of transformation and stripling. Every true spiritual leader has been to the mount of transfiguration and has been transformed by the experience there from. Most followers have little understanding and appreciation for the level of sacrifice and stripling that this process entails; because they have not be told. The best course of action therefore is to take them to the place of circumcision and show them where the blood flowed. If we fail in this all important assignment, then we keep converts from becoming disciples and possessing their inheritance. Just like Israel before the Gilgal experience, there are places we cannot enter in God until this process is in place.
3. Circumcision represents the place of obedience to divine command. Crossing Jordan is not all that the promise land is about, Canaan still lies ahead; it is the process of circumcision that brings us there. It is the point where we settle at once with the Lord not only to be his but also have it his way. At this point, debate is off the table, negotiation is out of the deal and everything is for him and by him.

Finally, Israel never realized the weight of the shame they carried until the Gilgal experience. Even so, we won't know how far away we are from divine blue print until we have been confronted. These and many other reasons are why we may just require prophetic confrontation. God stands at the border of your inheritance to check out your state of circumcision. No circumcision, no possession. The storehouse of heaven is filled with resources for exploit; how soon you access it is determined by you. Galatians4: 1-2 "Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father"

What Does God Confront?

- He confronts our way of life – to bring us to repentance – God confronted Ahab in 1King21:19-28 through Elijah to bring him to repentance. Although judgement had been proclaimed, mercy triumphed over judgement even in the Old Testament. When we are confronted, our part is to turn around and take a look at ourselves before the mirror of his word, and then respond properly.
- He confronts our foundation – to give us a new and sure start Ps 11:3 “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” This scripture is not saying the righteous is hopeless having built on wrong foundation. It is a question that the righteous should answer all by himself. There are three options available to us here: The righteous can continue to build on the wrong foundation; he can throw up his hands and walk away from the wrong foundation; or he can throw down the wrong foundation and start again. Just remember Proverbs24:16 “For seven times doth the righteous **fall and rise**, and the wicked stumble in evil”.
- He confronts what we have built – to secure our rewards - 1Corinthians 3:10-15 “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire”.

- He confronts our dogmas to change the way we think and bring us into new revelation of where he is. Nicodemus was not a godless man, but the revelation of God he had and with which he ministered in the synagogue was stale and required and upgrade, and that is the reason for John3:3 “Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." When we are confronted, it is to bring us into the place of dropping off the old and imbibing the new.

- He confronts our prejudices so our purpose and ministry can be fulfilled. Can you imagine for a moment, God acceding to Peter’s objection to go to the gentiles? Peter had rejected God’s purpose because of his dogma; he reply was ‘Not so Lord’. God’s purpose of repeating the vision thrice was to get Peter to

be place of saying ‘Yes Lord’ Acts10:1-10. He is either Lord of all or Lord of none, he will ne take no for an answer.

- He confronts our complacency to bring us to reality. Like in the day of the Master, many believers are contented with the claim ‘we have Abraham as our father’ Matt3:1-12. John’s message was that they need to turn a new leaf and wake up to the reality of an all inclusive kingdom take over. Sometimes, God will have to confront our apathetic lifestyle to help us grasp the much needed change.

- He confronts to upgrade and update us. There are periods in our lives that we might not be involved with any wrong thing, just that what we hold so dear is an expired product. As we stated in the beginning, he was, he is, but he is still to come. – Acts 19: 1-3 “And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

These believers at Ephesus were two steps backward. They knew about the baptism of John and fervently adhered to that; until Paul’s arrival, whose confrontation led to their baptism in the name of Jesus, followed by baptism in the Holy Spirit. Certain level of ignorance is inexcusable along the border of your spiritual inheritance.

- He confronts us to launch us into a higher calling. Usually, this level requires a greater sacrifice. I dear say, it might demand that you give up all you have lived for. **Phil 3:7-9; 13-14** “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, **for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ Brethren**, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”.

The higher calling of a man requires the sacrifice of all things that were hitherto of importance. As in the case of Paul the apostle; all of your pride, philosophy, reputation, accomplishment, education, and riches could all be on the line as rubbish. Nothing can be too big to lay down as a response to your eternal purpose.

You Are Not Alone

There are several instances in the scriptures where these sort of experiences were the last option God had to employ to call his people to order.

- **Abraham** – He rebuked Abram and called him to a more perfect walked. Gen17: 1-2 “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him,"I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

- **Israel** – He called for famine upon Israel through Elijah to resolve their double mindedness in the worship of Jehovah - 1Kings 17:1 “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab,"As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

- **Ahab** – He sent Elijah to confront Ahab in his evil ways and leadership style. 1 Kings 21:20-22 “So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free”.

- **Jeroboam** – He sent Ahijah the prophet to confront the most evil king Israel ever had. 1Kings 14:5-9 “Now the Lord had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news”

- **John the Baptist** – He sent to confront the religiosity and arrogance of Israel. Matt 3:4-10 “Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones”.

- **Peter** –He confronted Peter's prejudices and contradictions. Acts 10:10-17 "Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "**Not so, Lord**! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again".

Prophetic confrontation is God's last effort at getting us conform to his way. From the happenings in the Body of Christ, we are set for this experience. Those reading this can make prophetic adjustment and reposition themselves in alignment to the move of the Spirit in these last days. The line is drawn; you must decide how you are going to respond to the seasons God is bringing the church into. I pray we respond like James McGranahan in his hymn, I Will

"Once more my soul,
Thy Saviour, through the word
Is offered full and free
And oh Lord I must, I must decide,
Shall I accept of thee?"

I will..... I will.....
I will, God helping I will oh Lord be thine;
Thy precious blood was shed to purchase me,
I will be wholly thine
.

2

PROPHETIC ADJUSTMENT AND REPOSITIONING

In this chapter, we shall be examining what our responses to prophetic confrontation ought to be. There are some fundamental statements you need to keep in mind as you read through this chapter:

1. **God's will does not automatically come to pass. We will discuss this in greater detail as we go on; but we must recognise that it takes our**

cooperation with God to receive what he has provided. God places on us the responsibility (response-ability) to complete the bridge he gave us by building the bridge-head. God works with man to bring his will to pass. The sovereignty of God does not cover the right of man to choose. A portion of God's sovereignty has been ceded to man; therefore he is empowered to exercise his will even in disobedience to God. To buttress this point, let us consider a few scriptural realities that contravene the notion that is responsible for everything without us.

God does not want any to perish, but he won't contest their free will to choose which way to. When God created man in his own image, he deposited a portion of himself with his attributes into him; including the power to choose. That is why, man is able to decide how many children he wants, when to shave, when to talk, when to keep quiet, accept salvation or refuse it. 2Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance".

We are saved by grace through faith and not by grace alone or by faith alone. Eph2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God". Being saved by grace alone, makes God responsible for everything about our salvation without man's responsibility. While being saved by faith alone, makes man responsible for his salvation without God. But this verse says, it is faith that responds to the provision of grace to get the job done. In other words, man responds to God's provision.

God replaced Eli's priesthood, when he chose his profession above relationship with God. The responsibility was on Eli to respond positively to God's generous call. 1Sam2:30 "Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, says: The terrible things you are doing cannot continue! I had promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi* would always be my priests. But I will honour only those who honour me, and I will despise those who despise me"

God replaced Saul with David, when his sense of self-worth became more important to him than his obedience to the simple instructions given to him by God - 1Sam13:13-14 "And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

2. **The second point to remember is that, God operates a Global Positioning System that tracks your location; re-calibrates and shows you the shortest point to his purpose from where you are. That is what hunts you down and get you refocused as you cooperate with God. For instance:**

God supernaturally told Elijah where to locate Ahab after he had killed Naboth - **1Kings 21:19** "1 Kings 21:18-19 "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. **There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth**, where he has gone down to take possession of it. You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"

God commanded Elijah to relocate to brook Cherith and Zerephat where his needs were met by a raven and a widow. **1Kings17:1-10**

David heard God's command to go to the battle field on the mulberry tree **2Sam5:10-23**

Blind prophet Ahijah was told of the arrival of Mrs Jeroboam who disguised herself before the blind prophet **1Kings 14:5-9**

Cornelius was told where to locate Peter in other to hear the gospel **Acts 10:5-6** "Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."

3. **The third thing to remember as we proceed in this chapter is that the principles of Gen1:28 are infallible. Gen1:28 "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

Nothing is going to fall on your laps without some efforts. God blessed man and gave him dominion to subdue. Nothing will change until someone changes them. Creatures will not submit willingly, instead we are to subdue them. To subdue is to conquer and bring into subjection; to bring under control by an exertion of the will to reduce the intensity or degree of something or to tone down and to conquer. Other words used for subdue are bear down, beat down, crush, defeat, overpower, reduce, subjugate, vanquish. So when God gave man power over wild life and the beasts, you will need to understand the place of your authority over animalistic instinct and desires in man. But when a man comes into Christ, he becomes a new man. The old man with his beastly nature becomes crucified. He becomes complete in Christ.

4. **The fourth thing to remember is the need to rightly divide the word of truth with regards to our place, position and time in the plan of God. What is true under the Old Testament is not true in the New Testament.**

5. **Your response to God's stirring and confrontation will either place you under a new regime or you lose out because of your struggle to keep your reputation before men!**

Three Responses

Everyone doesn't respond to divine confrontation the same way and that is why we cannot expect the same result from everyone. It is sometimes intriguing if not shocking how we allow ourselves to miss the priestly prodding of God and still permit ourselves to have alternatives during a divine confrontation! Unfortunately there are several responses to prophetic confrontation which include:

1. Deny your spiritual condition. This reaction is patterned after Adam and Cain; that is a denial of the fact of your spiritual condition. This is one of the inappropriate responses to prophetic confrontation. God sees the heart and even our unformed thoughts Heb 4:12-13 "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged swor**d, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account". There is nothing as damming as denying or excusing your spiritual condition when confronted by God. You will not get anywhere with that attitude.

2. Resist change by walking away. Another wrong reaction to divine stirring is to allow our conservatism have the better part of us. I heard someone said, the only permanent thing in life is change; how true. Those who refuse to change become rusty, retarded, outdated and overtaken by our ever changing world: ultimately, they are forgotten. There were many synagogue pastors in the days of Jesus, but only Nicodemus transited to the new order. It is extremely dangerous spiritually at allow ourselves get soaked into the former that we reject the latter. That negates the spirit of the prophecy that says **'the glory of the latter house shall be greater than the former'** Hag2:9. The new wine cannot go with the old wine skin; kingdom exchange requires that we give something for everything we hope to come into.

3. Take responsibility. The key to spiritual growth is yieldedness and the sign of maturity is responsibility. Until you get to the point where you refuse to excuse your actions, inactions, mistakes and irresponsible behaviours, you will resist change. Those who experience change know that prophetic confrontation is the

last call for upgrade. They know how to respond in a positive way with a simple ‘yes Lord’. The eternal purpose of God is fulfilled in a believer’s life, when he submits to God’s prodding wholly. You must come the point where you agree with the assessment of heaven without qualms or hesitation; and be ready to make necessary changes. This is the right attitude, which can lead to a revolution in a person’s life.

Get Under a Regime Change

Yielding to divine confrontation utters the direction of our journey to destiny. Settle this in your heart, what you do with the stirring of God at this stage will make or mar your progress in your walk with him. As you positively respond to divine confrontation, you will notice a change in your appetite, change of direction, change of relationship, a change of commitment and devotion and a change of lifestyle. These changes are in consonance with divine conception that takes place during the confrontation. Your part is to make room to accommodate the new regime under which you can overhaul your existing structures and make room for your upgrade and expansion. There are five suggested actions that you can take when the stirring is on:

- **Grow bigger on the inside**. Divine confrontation is an evidence of your lack of capacity to absolve and to effectively cope with your next line of calling. It proves that your vessel in unable to contain the higher calling into which you are being stirred. In other words, you need capacity enlargement, self development, and a conscious effort to grow bigger on the inside. It’s time to quit being petty, hanging on trivialities, and narrow mindedness. You need to grow bigger in the way you think, the way talk, the way you act, the way you plan and dealing with others. You need to increase in your generosity and giving, your patience, your forgiveness, your love and devotion. Your capacity to handle bigger resources as stewards of God’s grace and dispense them accordingly tells how big you have grown on the inside.

- **Create a margin for growth.** Margin is a blank space you create at the edge, bottom or top of your writings. One of the actions you can take at enhancing your response to divine confrontation is to reorder your life in a way that it allows for growth. You can no longer fill your life edge to edge with usual activities and programs that have little or nothing to do with what God is doing in you right now. Give allowance for growth in the areas God is stirring in your heart even when they don’t hold your interest. Avoid a critical spirit; learn to hear all the facts before making judgement. Give yourself the

permission to learn something new, be swift to hear and slow to speak. Be ready to add something to yourself each day in your experience with God.

- **Create boundaries.** When a new regime comes into place, boundaries are defined. You must state what should be and should not be in the new lifestyle you've come into. The chances of people closest to you realizing the changes that are taking place in you are slim, it is your absolute responsibility to set boundaries and respect them. Your boundaries says who you are, what you want to become, what you will permit, what you resent, who you will go with, what you must do, what you may do and what you won't attempt. You must enforce your boundaries by making it clear for all to see and respect. Be consistent with them until they become your new lifestyle.

- **Grow deeper.** Superficiality is a mark of an empty life. The deeper you grow the richer your fellowship and relationship with God and others get; the less the energy you dissipate in trying to convince people of your spiritual experiences and realities. Still waters are deep waters and deep souls express calmness and quietness. As a matter of urgency, you must go beyond phony bible reading and devotion to the search for deeper truths and understanding of the word. No more can you hang your life on daily devotionals and quotable quotes from preachers, motivational speakers and soothsayers. It's time to grow like the Berean Christians as you search the scriptures whether the things you have heard and read are indeed so.

- **Get exposed.** Maturity and exposure helps in balancing your life. This season of your life must push you beyond your comfort zone. Make knowledge acquisition a pillar of your life. Don't be afraid of learning new truths even when they might be unorthodox. Other words used for exposure are: contact, experience, introduction, acquaintance revelation, disclosure, publicity, revealing, coverage or unveiling. Open up to new things, explore unfamiliar territories, fellowship with other believers outside your denomination, ask questions, take on new topics of study and do a thorough research in the areas God is quickening in your heart.

Working It Out

Phillipians2:12

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**". This has verse been misunderstood by many writers and teachers of the word. The verse is not saying 'work for your salvation'; it is also not saying 'works is

the evidence of your salvation'. What the verse is saying is for you to bring to reality what is already true of you in the spirit. As believers, our spirits have been save and perfected – Heb12:12; we are complete in him – Col2:10; we are already like Christ in our spirits – 1John4:17; we have been sealed with the Holy Ghost – Eph1:13; we have received the fullness of grace – John1:16; you are the righteousness of God through Christ – 2Cor5:21 and we live in the new Jerusalem – Heb12:22-23.

All these and much more are true of us. The stirring that takes place during divine confrontation is a heavenly demand on the release of the grace that has been deposited into you. The responsibility of working it out is all we have been talking about. There are steps that we can take to help us speed up the process and exhume all of these buried assets. The divine confrontation requires sacrifice and commitment to meet God on the way. Usually, a thorough self analysis is the best way to handle the situation. As you do your home work be reflective and investigative. The following steps could be very helpful:

1. Make a list your weaknesses: What are your peculiar character flaws? What are your areas of spiritual struggle? What are your besetting sins? What areas do you need help? Sit down with the Holy Spirit and honestly appraise your weaknesses.
2. Make a list your strengths: What are the areas of your strengths? What are you good at? What areas do you get credits and compliments?
3. Make a list of your resources: What resources do you require to resolve these? Make a list your human resources that can help you get them. They may include your pastor, mentor, friends, prayer partners, spouse etc. You will need books, videos, C Ds, websites and contacts.
4. Make a list of areas where you need mentors: There are areas where you might need special attention and mentoring; list those areas and the type of mentor you require. Seek out ways to identify those mentors and reach them.
5. Make a list of areas you need personal revelation. As your spirit is being stirred, you are likely to know areas where you do not have enough information to grow or work on. Your list will help you select the resources you need to effectively respond to your needs
6. Work on your list. If you don't know what to do, ask questions from those who know. Begin to work to improve your life and response to God through this exercise

3

PROPHETIC RESPONSIBILITY

Isa 55:7-11

“Let the wicked abandon their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness. "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work." God's Decree. "For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, Doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. **They'll do the work I sent them to do; they'll complete the assignment I gave them**. TM

There two basics things you can readily pick out of this passage:

1. God has a way of doing things. Once we decide to cooperate with God by doing things his way, we unleash the work of God. As we discussed earlier, the work of God gets done only when a man cooperates with him through an unquestionable response to divine prodding. Our faith must respond to his divine providence.
2. The words of God will accomplish his works. God’s words carry his purpose; therefore, whenever God speaks to us as believers, either addressing our personal issues of life or for other believers, they carry purpose/work. God’s work is packaged in his word.

Our response to God's word determines whether or how the word will be fulfilled in our lives. However, because God insures his word, he does not entrust it to only one man. Because the church has become the means of his expression on earth, we must be diligent and careful with how we handle his word. This is because every word has an assignment and requires our diligent cooperation to bring them to pass.

Prophetic Insurance

Isaiah 46:10
"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"

'My counsel shall stand' is not a conditional statement. What this means is that God's word will most certainly perform its eternal assignment with or without you. It means His words have eternal insurance; a guaranty that His word come to pass. Therefore, whether a man responds to the word or not, it will come to pass**.** When it comes to fulfilling God's prophetic declaration, no man can hold God to ransom. It is a privilege for us to respond positively when the word of God comes to us; for "it shall come to pass" with or without us. In fact as the scripture says, it is easier for heaven and earth to pass than for that word not to fulfil; because his word is infallible.

God insures his words against any failure, delays, inactivity or compromise of a chosen vessel. Every chosen vessel will not bring honour to God by spontaneous and complete obedience. The onus is on the part of the individual chosen for the assignment to present himself as a vessel of honour. **2Tim 2:21** "So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honourable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work". AMP

Why does God insure his word?

1. The infallibility of God's word. God insures his word because of its infallibility; it is tested, it is true and can be trusted. Ps 119:89-91 "Forever, O Lord, **Your word is settled** in heaven [stands firm as the heavens]. Your faithfulness is from generation to generation; You have established the earth, and it stands fast. All [the whole universe] are Your servants; therefore they continue this day according to **Your ordinances**" AMP. God's word is one and the same with him. It stands firm and the whole universe is sustained by that

word - Hebrews 1:3. Therefore, it is unthinkable that God will allow his word to fail since it means his failure. His faithfulness is from generation to generation. This means, his attribute of faithfulness has been proven in the past, present and insured for the future.

To that extent, God would rather permit heaven and earth to pass than allow his name be impugned or associated with failure. Luke 16:17 “It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the smallest point of God's law to be overturned.”

What God will do is reflected in what he has already done. God jealously guides his word and see to its fulfilment. Jer1:12 “And the Lord said, "That's right, and it means that I am watching (guiding, keeping, escorting, hasten), and I will certainly carry out all my plans" NLT. What this all means is that, you can take God’s his word to the bank any day and anytime. He will deploy the entire resources of heaven and earth to bring his word to pass. In fact He has magnified (enlarge, blow up, expand, amplify, increase, augment, extend, heighten, boost) his word above His name Ps132:2. Therefore, his words are eternally insured against any failure. They are to be trusted from generation to generation.

2. The second reason God insures his word is that, men can and do fail in the delivery of his word. Men also do deliver his word inaccurately. If God did not insure his word, Prophet Nathan would have caused havoc with his delivery to David tainted with his personal opinion. David in the second order of kings was not positioned to build the temple as Solomon in the third dimension. God had to correct that declaration pursuant to the insurance of his word. The birth of Christ could have been prophesied by a single prophet, but God chose several of them including Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zachariah to proclaim the infallibility and insurance of his word. Prophetic insurance is not about us but about God. It is about his word that carries his work and his eternal purpose. It has always been an imperative of the prophetic and much more necessary today because of our religiosity.

Many times, the voice of the prophet could be more pronounced than the message he carries. For the undiscerning, every word of the prophet is sacrosanct. But those with understanding can tell the difference between what God says and what is spoken out of emotions and human agenda. God, through prophetic insurance ensures that the integrity, validity and the efficacy of is word is not compromised whatsoever. The messenger who compromises the word of God through addition, subtraction, multiplication or outright disobedience, falls under prophetic operating risk.

Prophetic Operating Risk

The factors enumerated above is what leads to **Prophetic Operating Risk** – where the prophet (the child of God) attempts to introduce a prophetic variables in form of personal opinion, sentiments, cultures and idea by adding, subtracting or refusing to carry out God's word as the given to him and suffers the consequence of his action. This is one principal reason for God insuring his word. The good news here is that, God will not change the vessel until he is sure that you are set in your own way. This is also the reason we see God repeating an instruction to a person in several ways. The revelations to such believer stop once he understands the message; at which point God wait for obedience. This is the reason many believers complain of not hearing from God on issues of importance to their lives. What this means in essence is that, the last word from heaven to you is the one you are yet to obey.

This is where we need to establish a major difference between the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament saints had God speaking to them from the outside; so they required several confirmations as the case was with Gideon. But in the New Testament, God lives in our hearts and is witnessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Today's believer need no longer ask for multiple external confirmations because of the witness within "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom 8:14)'

Thus our instructions come from inside and hardly permits doubt of its source and authenticity. Our obedience must also be from the heart with spontaneity. There are no excuses or delays allowed; once that happens, we risk being replaced. That is the prophetic operating risk run by all believers who have heard God speak in one area or the other as we can observe from the scriptures:

- The parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-23 demonstrates the reality of prophetic risk. The sower sowed in all the available fields, to insure the seeds. As it is with prophetic risk, three of the grounds failed to deliver, but were compensated for by the good ground that produced thirty, sixty and hundred fold. Our refusal to deliver positions others to do a better job.

- David was not God's first choice, Saul was. Saul's failure to deliver paved the way for David's ascension to the throne. He did not only do what Saul failed to do, he exceeded. For God said concerning him ....."GOD has just now torn the kingdom from you, and handed it over to your neighbour, **a better man than you are**" 1Sa 15:28 TM.

"But he removed Saul and made David their king, about whom he testified, 'I have found that David, the son of Jesse, **is a man after my own heart, who will carry out all my wishes.**' Act 13:22 ISV. Saul's greatest weakness was his refusal to adhere strictly to God's word. He formed a habit of adding to instructions and

subtracting from instructions, all of which equals disobedience. This leadership style was antithesis to the sort of godly leadership that God expected of his chosen kings. So God picked an alternative that had distinction in this area, the man David.

- The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-28 shows how much we stand to lose when we choose to disobey God's word. God is a wise investor, therefore, no matter how things go, he always win at the end. The failure of a single servant to deliver did not hurt the gains of the master from the other servants with greater strength, talents, abilities, consistency and faithfulness to deliver. Ultimately, we may fail God, but he will win at the end. He cannot be disappointed; he always gets what he wants, when he wants and how he wants it. It is therefore a rear privilege to be so chosen and to respond to this heavenly calling.

Amazingly, most of us hold to the word of God as the reason for running on the edge of prophetic risk. Many believers, will quote the scriptures back to God like Peter tried to remind Him about the teachings of Torah when he had a vision to reach the Gentiles in Acts 9:1-20. You have to remember that, though Peter never ate those animals in that vision, God had also deposited the same message with Cornelius in other that his word/work might come to pass. It is a monumental deception to assume that we are the only custodian of God's message. Quite often, we are never God's first choice. He probably had spoken to scores of others about the same thing who failed to act on what they received.

Like many of us, Peter was at this time dwelling on what he knew to be the truth. However; what was true in the Old Testament is not necessarily true in the New Testament. The act of holding to yesterday's instruction as a reason for today's disobedience shows a lack of understanding of where 'God is' in our lives. There two locations of God that the believer must not dwell in: **where God was and where God will be**. Where he was shows us his trail, where he will be shows us our future in him. Where he was gives us knowledge of his nature, works, attributes, power, love and willingness. Where he will be fills us with hope, expectation, anticipation, preparation, vision, aspiration and sometimes could result in passivity (putting off all our actions to a future date). The only place we must locate ourselves is where God is. Yesterday is gone; we do not have tomorrow, neither have we been promised one. The only thing we have is now – where God is. That is the place of action, faith, activity, revelation, result and experience.
What all these mean is that, we cannot live by the word that **proceeded** from God. That is often called the **logos**, written, spoken or said word of God. Instead we are instructed to live by the word **proceeding** word of God Matthew 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that

proceeds out of the mouth of God" NKJV. The Message translation puts the last part of that verse this way: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a **steady stream of words from God's mouth**.

The proceeding word is also called the **rhema**, the saying or the now word of God. It is only as we order our lives accordingly that we can become spontaneous in our response to divine instructions. It is a misnomer for today's believer to want to proof God as did Gideon or any other Old Testament saint. They are several things that could be referred to as the word of truth and permissible in the Old Testament that are not necessarily consistent with New Testament teachings. We will therefore be as erroneous as Peter, were we to go by those Old Testament scriptures as reasons not to obey him now. That was the reason Paul admonished Timothy "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**" 2 Tim 2:15. Some other translation says:

"Do your best to present yourself to God as an approved worker who has nothing to be ashamed of, **handling the word of truth with precision**" ISV

> "Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, **laying out**
> **the truth plain and simple**" TM

Evidently, what this Scripture is saying is that; there are wrong ways to layout; divide or handle the word of God. To rightly handle it therefore requires some skill and an understanding of where God is and our status in him. For instance; Forgiveness of sins under the Old Covenant was based on repeated sacrifices of bulls and goats Heb 10:4 "for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." But in the New Testament, Christ is our once and for all sacrifice Heb 9:27.

In the Old Testament righteousness was by keeping the Law, under the New Testament, righteousness is by faith in Christ, Rom10:5; Rom3:22. The House of God was an earthly structure, now we are the temple of God 1Cor3:16. The Priesthood belonged to one family, now we have the priesthood of all believers Rev1:5-6. Giving was at a time and place with a measure, now we are to give as God has prospered us everywhere and every time, Deut26:2; Luke14:33.
Blessings were by keeping the law, but now we have the blessing of Abraham through Christ Gal3:14.
Another expression of the Old Testament that we frequently misunderstand is 'speak for your servant hears' (1Samuel 3:9). The usage of the word 'hear' has a different meaning today from Samuel's day. That phrase 'hear' denotes – listen, attention, consider, diligent, perceive, obedient, willingness to obey, publish, report, understand

and witness. But as we can see from several New Testament passages, God does not want to speak to hearers alone; he speaks to those who will act on what they hear.

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13)

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was” James 1:22-25

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock” Matt 7:24 NKJV

Prophetic Accountability

God is responsible for fulfilling his word, but we are accountable for delivering the word accurately, otherwise we make him a liar. One of the attributes of God is faithfulness and that follows in everything he does. If therefore we fail to respond to him or deliver his word accurately, he is perceived as unfaithful through our action or inaction. That in turn presents us with the challenge of unfulfilled prophecy which again impugns on God’s nature and attribute of faithfulness.

For instance, Moses was called the friend of God who had a face to face conversation with Him Deut5:4. He also had the testimony of being the meekest man on the earth at the time Num12:3. However, when God told Moses to speak to the rock, he smote it in rebellion. As with every act of disobedience, Moses’ indiscretion impugned on God’s character and nature of faithfulness and He will have none of that. Moses’ conduct was a misrepresentation of God’s nature. It is always better to go back to God and clear up your misconceptions than to carry his word inaccurately. It is for this reason and others that God’s oracles are not given to all men to deliver. He works out the message in the messenger before commissioning him.

As we stated earlier, God’s purposes and works are loaded into his word; therefore, our inability to accurately deliver, interrupts with that purpose and work. There are many Christians and even Ministers who currently have a wrong belief system, wrong philosophy of life and ministry and wrong life styles because of inaccurate delivery of God’s word that they have come to believe over time.

Talking of accuracy in delivery, God is not in agreement with the philosophy ‘that says, the end justifies the means’. A wrong means cannot bring about a right end. Every word given to a man has conditions for its delivery. No more can we be held less accountable than the young Prophet of 1 Kings13:1-10 was. “At the LORD's command a prophet from Judah went to Bethel and arrived there as Jeroboam stood at the altar to offer the sacrifice. Following the LORD's command, the prophet denounced the altar: "O altar, altar, this is what the LORD says: A child, whose name will be Josiah, will be born to the family of David. He will slaughter on you the priests serving at the pagan altars who offer sacrifices on you, and he will burn human bones on you."

“And the prophet went on to say, "This altar will fall apart, and the ashes on it will be scattered. Then you will know that the LORD has spoken through me." When King Jeroboam heard this, he pointed at him and ordered, "Seize that man!" At once the king's arm became paralyzed so that he couldn't pull it back. The altar suddenly fell apart and the ashes spilled to the ground, as the prophet had predicted in the name of the LORD. King Jeroboam said to the prophet, "Please pray for me to the LORD your God, and ask him to heal my arm!" The prophet prayed to the LORD, and the king's arm was healed. Then the king said to the prophet, "Come home with me and have something to eat. I will reward you for what you have done." The prophet answered, "Even if you gave me half of your wealth, I would not go with you or eat or drink anything with you. **The LORD has commanded me not to eat or drink a thing, and not to return home the same way I came.”**

From the tragic story of this young Prophet, we can see that the means and the end are equally important to God. Humanly speaking, he did deliver the message he was given, godly speaking, he did not. He left out an important and integral part of his delivery which was the full compliance with the details of his assignment. He was not to return by the way he came nor eat in that city; he eventually broke all the rules and paid with his life. This is why God does not trust the delivery of His word to some persons. The sanctity, the integrity and the repercussive effect of that word makes it delicate to delegate. James3:1 says “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers; because you know that we who teach will be judged more severely”. But blessings rest on the man who delivers his word accurately, surely he will receive more.

Prophetic Responsibility

John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of

men". The word referred to here is the person of Christ but the words as mentioned in chapter John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" is his expression. In other words, Christ the eternal word of God is expressed by the believer who is also the God's word – a living epistle 2Cor3:2. As Christ the word of God is life and light to the world, so is the believer life and light to the death and darkness of their world. God's word comes to us with life through the lights we receive.

The word of God that we carry has life in it no matter how long it takes to fulfil; it cannot expire as Jesus says "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"
There is no distance or expiry date in the spirit. Therefore; we owe it as duty to stick to God's word no matter how long it takes to come to pass. When God's word comes to us in the form of promises, declarations or assignments, it carries the power and life to bring it to pass. The word will germinate among the thorns or on the rock and has power to last through generations. If a generation therefore fails in the delivery of their assignment, the word will be made alive when another generation arrives on the scene to bring it to fulfilment.

I had an experience along this area many years ago while pastoring my first church. I was praying outside my house one evening, and the Lord said to me "There are things that some people will never buy with their money after an encounter with me; for instance, you will not buy wrist watches with your money for your personal use anymore." That was intriguing to me to say the least, but I kept that word. Before that experience, watches were one of the things I loved buying, needless to say that my interest died after that. Not long after that, someone gave me a wrist watch and has continued ever since. But I forgot all about that word until twenty five years later.

I was ministering for a friend in Port Harcourt when a man and a woman walked up to me and presented me with gifts. When I got back to the hotel and open my gifts, there were two watches in them. Pronto, the Lord asked me "did you remember that I promised you will never buy wrist watches for your use anymore, twenty five years ago?" Sincerely, I had forgotten. And the Lord continued; "Well I watch over my word to perform it." Praise God, his word is alive.

4

HOW BE SENSITIVE TO SPIRITUAL SIGNALS

As we have seen, confrontation is the last resort for God to reach his people; his preferred option has always been the priestly method. Unfortunately, our inability to pick spiritual signals is the reason we are confronted before entering our inheritance. It is therefore expedient that we make a concerted effort to improve our spiritual perception. The more sensitive you are the easier it is to respond to God's prodding, the less the crisis we have to confront in possessing our possession.

Heb3: 12-16, 19

"Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you will be **deceived by sin and hardened against God**. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. But never forget the warning: **"Today you must listen to his voice. Don't harden your hearts against him** as Israel did when they rebelled." NLT

The scripture we have just read warns against hardness of heart, evil heart, unbelief and rebellion. These vices are some of the symptoms of an insensitive heart. As we examine this subject, we are going to discover that the whole idea of not knowing the mind of God is not unconnected with our insensitivity. God is always transmitting his mind to us; it is we who are not always receiving. The transmitter is sound, but the receiver is faulty.

Verse 19 of the passage above says "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Unbelief is the foundation for missing out on the promises of God. The more sensitive we are; the less unbelief we have and the more progressive we become in picking spiritual signals. We cannot enjoy any meaningful relationship with God without being sensitive to Him; since everything rises and falls on hearing and obeying him.

Symptoms of a Hardened Heart

We need to mention this upfront; there is the possibility of being sensitive to God in some areas of our lives while hardened in others. Our part is to examine where and why we are hardened and seek to break them so we can be sensitive in all areas of our lives.

Mark 6:45-52

"Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. Then He saw them straining at

rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marvelled. **For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened**".

Jesus had just fed five thousand men with five loaves and two fishes with twelve baskets of leftover. In the parallel account of this passage in John 6:12; Jesus told them to "gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted" and they did. As they made efforts to cross the lake to the other side, they were confronted with the storm and the fear of ghosts. In another parallel account of this passage in Matt 14:22-33, we are told “And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away”

Now let us ask some question that can help us understand this passage :

1. Why did Jesus constrained his disciples to get into the ship?
2. Why did he asked them to take along the twelve baskets he when just feed thousands without prior provision?
3. How come the disciples were afraid of ghosts in Mathew 14, when he had sent them to cast out devils in chapter 10?
4. Why didn’t anyone take note of Peter walking on the sea to go to Jesus and back with him after his rescue?

Two third of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen who had grown around the Sea of Galilee. There were certain commonality that all the fishermen shared; which included the fear of ghosts and the understanding of wind flow. There existed a superstition among them that the ghosts of the fishermen that had drowned at the sea hunted people in the night hours. Equally, they knew the windy hours of the night when sailing was dangerous. Therefore, they all naturally had developed phobias for night sailing, so Jesus had to constrain them against their better judgement.

They acceded to Jesus’ demand after they had loaded into their boat twelve baskets of leftover. The next question to address is, why did Jesus instructed them to take up the twelve baskets? Was it to preserve it for future use? Was it for the supply of his disciples? I don’t think so. Jesus really didn’t need to save that much to cater for his need. Remember he just fed thousands with a young boy’s lunch pack. There had to be a greater significance for the leftovers than future provision. As you read through this story, you will realize that they were going to have need for it the boat.

As they were confronted by the troubled, rustling, gusty sea, the fear of drowning, the ghostlike appearance of the Master, the need became evident. Jesus expected them to invoke the memory of the power that produced the twelve baskets of scrapes they had with them in the boat to deal with their fears. The passage concludes with the statement “And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marvelled. **For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened**”. A discerning reader will observe that it takes the same power to multiply five loaves and two fishes, walk on the sea, rebuke ghosts, and calming the storming sea. If therefore, when confronted with these challenges, they had focused on the twelve baskets and the power of God to produce something out of nothing, they would have been calm.

But they did not understand or consider (as King James Version puts it), the miracle of the loaves; (to consider means to think through, mull over, reflect, deliberate, contemplate, take into account, ponder, chew over, weigh up, study, cogitate, and ruminate) because their heart was hardened. Those words proved difficult for me to understand for many years. I couldn’t understand why the scriptures would say a thing like disciples’ hearts was hardened. I had no problems understanding how an unbelieving heart could be hardened but certainly not the Lord’s followers. As I began to gain some understanding, I realized that they had focused on the problems rather than the solution. Besides, my definition of hardened was completely different from the Lords’

What the Master meant by his disciples being hardened was their inability to think through what he had done in the past and use that to overcome the present. He didn’t expect them to be shocked and amazed at the supernatural, nor did he expect those who had cast out demons to be afraid of ghosts. Therefore, they were more sensitive to their fears, superstitions and fisherman wisdom than they were in the supernatural manifestations of God’s power – they were hardened! A person who is sensitive to God will neither be surprised at supernatural display of God’s power nor will he forget to invoke the memory of pass miracles in the face of danger and challenges.

Mar 8:13-21 “And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side. Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread?”

“**Do you not yet perceive nor understand**? **Is your heart still hardened**? **Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember**? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets

full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven." So He said to them, "**How is it you do not understand**?"

As we progress to Mark 8, you will think the disciples have learnt their lessons in trust, and confident assurance in the ability of the Master to provide for them at the snap of the finger, that was not to be. Jesus proceeded to enumerate some symptoms of hardened hearts while rebuking them for their unbelief. They in include inability to remember, lack of understanding and inability to see and hear spiritually. In summary, any of the following is indicative of a hardened heart:

Fear. The presence of fear is the absence of faith. A disposition that make us focuses more on the seriousness and uncertainty of our circumstances than on the scrapes of God's goodness in the past is indicative of a hardened heart.

Shock and amazement at the supernatural. There are only two options open to a child of God, be supernatural or be superficial. Miracles ought to bless us as we rejoice and share our testimonies. However, when we become surprised and taking aback that they actually happen, then it reveals the level of our unbelief and insensitivity.

Lack of understanding of spiritual matters and inability to perceive spiritual things is a symptom of a hardened heart. Sometimes I hear Christians say they can't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit or understand the bible but they can remember the names of clubs, couches, players and all the transfer fees in a season! What that means is that they are more sensitive to football and sporting events than they are to the things of the Spirit

Inability to remember the Scriptures, the goodness of God and other spiritual matters. Jesus' question to his disciples, 'don't you remember'; was an indictment on their spiritual memory. David's victory over Goliath was accomplished when he invoked the memory of his deliverance from the lion and a bear. If we spend enough time thinking on our past victories, we will not be caught napping on the day of battle.

Inability to see with the eyes of faith. Another symptom of a hardened heart is tendency to relate with the natural world than the supernatural. Here is how to determine if you suffer from this; when faced with needs and challenges, what is your first inclination, talk to man or God?

Wrong considerations. Inability to meditate on the right things is also referred to as a wondering heart. James 1:8 says ".....double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." A hardened heart develops a wondering heart and unstableness. The end

result of that is this: “let that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord”

Rebellion and resistance to the will of God. There is no one who is truly sensitive to the Lord that will resist God’s will and purpose for him. Sensitive hearts seek to know and do the will of God. An evidence of a hardened heart is the unwillingness to seek out and to execute God’s demand on our lives - John 21:1-3.

Causes of Hardness or Insensitive Heart

No one’s heart gets hardened at once; it is usually progressive. For the unbeliever, the heart is naturally fallow and uncultivated by the Spirit. Until such a one gets saved, he remains insensitive to God and lacks interest in spiritual matters. But the believer whose heart has once been sensitized to the Lord has a major role in keeping his heart soft for the Lord.

Sin: For every deliberate action or inaction a believer takes, he emboldens his conscience to be sensitive to God or hardened. Every act of compromise and sin adds another layer of scale to your heart. The longer we remain in that state, the harder our hearts become and the more difficult it is to respond to spiritual matters. Heb 3:12-14 “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**.”

Loss of focus. Phil 3:13-14 “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.” Those that have affected the world positively for God have all learnt to be men and women of single focus. Once you take your focus from God, earthly pursuits and trivialities take over; we become what we behold - 2Cor3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Wrong mediation. Wrong thoughts will always lead to wrong beliefs and ultimately wrong actions. The converse is also true, right thoughts will lead to right beliefs and eventually right actions. The reason Abraham was strong in faith was his refusal to focus on the wrong things. Rom 4:18-20 “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, **he considered (think about, meditate on, focus on)** not his own body now dead, when he was

about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Repeat disobedience. Once you allow your conscience become dull by reason of repeated disobedience, you will lose your sensitivity to God. Disobedience hardens our hearts and makes us resistant to the divine nudges. Heb 3:8; 15 “Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. While it is said, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation” KJV

Multiplied activities. Once your mind is full of matters other than godly ones, you will soon become hardened. Heb 11:15 “And truly, if they had **been mindful** of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned” KJV. What your mind is full of, controls your actions; even when it is ministry related. Elijah’s preoccupation with the seeming compromise and abandonment of true spiritual worship in Israel blighted his spiritual sense of hearing. He required an earthquake, whirl wind and thunder to prepare him for the small still voice. Worries, anxieties and hustle for survival can so much occupy our minds that we can become insensitive to hearing, seeing or perceiving the move and voice of God in and around us. It is our duty to deliberately steer our hearts towards the things of God and his word; in other words, be mind-full of God’s word not just activities.

Cure for Hardened Heart

Decongest your mind of those cares and focus (meditate, consider) on God and His word. Take time out for a personal retreat, where you can fast, pray and study the word of God to tenderize you heart. “But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb 3:13) “Sow for yourselves according to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God); reap according to mercy and loving-kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, to inquire for and of Him, and to require His favour, till He comes and teaches you righteousness and rains His righteous gift of salvation upon you.” (Hos10:12; 2Cor 9:10) AMP.

Give attention to spiritual matters. Renew your personal devotion and commitment to the Lord with serious personal discipline. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats

the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" 1Cor 9:24-27.

"You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes' race: Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself." TM

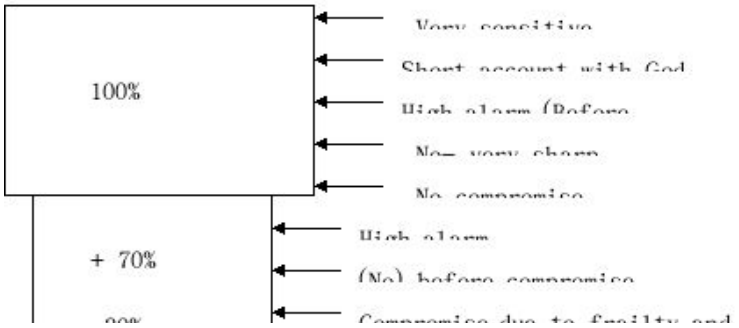
Read, study and meditate on the word of God. Josh 1:7-9 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

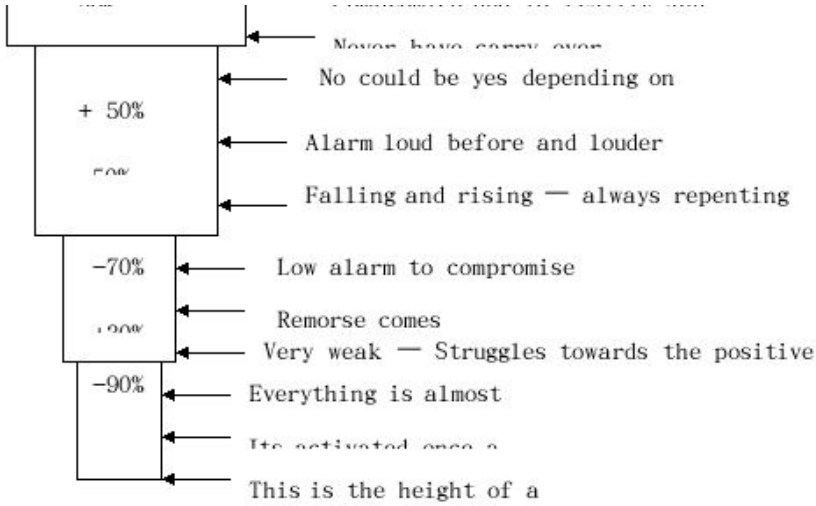
"Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Make sure you carry out The Revelation that Moses commanded you, every bit of it. Don't get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you're going. **And don't for a minute let this Book of the Revelation be out of mind**. **Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it.** Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed." TM

Make a conscious effort to keep a sensitive conscience before the Lord, by resisting sin and dealing with any issue raise by the Holy Spirit as quickly as possible. Acts 24:16 "This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men." 1Tim 1:19-20 "having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck"

The diagram below adapted from my book – **20 Laws of Deception** will help illustrate how the conscience work and how to keep it clean.

Consider this diagram





From the diagram al

Stage 1 (100/0)

At the first stage, the conscience operates at very high degree of innocence. It is childlike in its operation. Whatever is not in agreement with moral ethics and upright tenderness is dispatched with swiftness. No second chances are allowed for anything against the standard set by this conscience.

It has a high alarm. Because of the uprightness of the conscience here, the alarm against evil and deception is extremely loud. Other people might demand for rational explanation for such resistance that you have no answers for; but this conscience will be right at the end. Value preservation is the utmost here.

The intuition is superlative. Intuition is being aware of or knowing something without having to discover or perceive it; knowing something without actual evidence. It is perception, insight, sixth sense, awareness or sensitivity. The conscience at this stage picks signals, dangers or pitfalls. It's able to determine what to do at the right time. He can spot deception and evils at a distance and prepare to deal with it.

Compromise is totally impossible. Conscience at this level has no provision for compromise no matter how little. It is blunt, sharp, penetrating and undiplomatic. No is no and yes is yes.

It requires the help of the Creator to operate here. This is the regenerated man at best

Stage 2 (70/30)

The conscience is very sensitive with high alarm at this stage. Because truth speaks from inside, the inner voice here is louder here than the stages three to five.

There is no provision for compromise; compromise only happens here due to human frailty and extensive pressure. His moral standing in unquestionable.

Intuition here is very high and sensitivity to spiritual and danger signals. He can spot deception and evils at a distance and prepare to deal with it.

It requires the help of the Creator to operate here

Stage 3 (50/50)

The conscience at 50/50 level has lost some of its high alert and so can vacillate between two opinions

Resistance to compromise and deception becomes relative here, since the alert is not as high as the earlier two

Here the Yes and No exacts equal amount of pressure; it's anyone's game: the yes could mean no and the no could mean yes.

This is where an average believer stands, but the scale will always tilt towards the heavier pressure

Stage 4 (30/70)

The last two stages are not where anyone should live his conscience, unfortunately, that is where most people are. Self preservation is the utmost here. The philosophy here is the end justifies the means.

This is one of the stages of the unregenerate. It's always about him and his feel good world view. Nothing is ever determined by the word of God here.

The humming device here is extremely weak that the thermostat only picks after the actions are taken and sometimes, it slumbers for a longer time.

The conscience here is unable to pick evils and deception before they strike. In fact, it is very prone to everything negative.

Stage 5

This is the unregenerate man at his worst. His living is all about him and not about his maker.

Self preservation is the utmost here, values have no mention.

The conscience here is seared and in a deep state of slumber. It awakes occasionally when in a major trouble. But he lives and breathes deception. He is as much deceived as he is a deceiver.

A greater part of this conscience is daily ruled by deceptions, machinations, schemes and immoral living. There is no moral standard or restrain.

Simple Ways to Determine the Mind of God

1) Follow the peace – An express way of determining the mind of God concerning any subject is the peace test. Once there are agitations in your heart or restlessness, then it isn't God's will. God's will is expressed through an inner peace. Col3:15 "And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire

continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always] AMP." An umpire (a referee) is a whistle blower on the field player or in the ring. When the play is fair and without infringements, he keeps the whistle to himself and the players play on. But if there are infractions or time constraints, he blows the whistle to reset the game or stop it altogether. When we allow the peace of God to do this job, we are free from the fear of missing God.

2) Follow the desire - Psalm 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Another way of saying this verse is "delight yourself in the Lord and his desires will be expressed in your heart". Only those who truly submit their will to God can know his will in any given situation. Only those who are truly submissive to God can have one desire with him. When we lay all on his table to decide, he simply expresses his desire through our heart's desire.

3) The light of the word. Matt 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The purpose of our light is to dispel darkness; therefore, we can have our darkness dispelled through the counsel of other believers. We all can walk in the light of one another.

4) The voice of the spirit. Rom 8:14-15 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." It is amazing how many believers prefer to seek after dreams, visions, prophecies and audible voices to determine God's will in a given situation. The truth is; every child of God can know God's mind by listening to the inner voice of the Spirit in us. It works with our peace and desires.

5

WHY PROPHECIES FAIL AND HOW TO RESOLVE THEM

Every believer's shelve that is filled with promises and prophecies know the agony, the wonderment and sometimes the shame of unfulfilled prophecies. Very often, those who receive them begin to doubt if they heard well. At other times, we are filled with endless questions as to why we have to deal with the ridicule of saying God said and yet it does not come to pass. The answers are not as simple as the question. While we can't claim to understand all about it, we will however attempt to provide some biblical solutions that can help us resolve some of our questions if not all. Here is a fundamental statement that we made in the first chapter of this book that you need to take hold of and remind yourself for as long as you live; G**od's will does not automatically come to pass,** if it does, all men will be saved (2Pet3:9). It takes someone to make it happen.

The Immutability and Infallibility of God and His Word

God is known only through His word. His power, his love, willingness, ability and capability are known only through His word. What God has done and will do can only be determined by his word. God says what he means and means what he says. He doesn't lie, change his mind or unfaithful to his promises. Therefore we should be concerned if his word to us does not come to pass in our life. Below are some scriptures that testify to the immutability of God and his word.

2Cor 1:20

"For however many are the promises of God; in him is the "Yes." Therefore also through him is the "Amen," to the glory of God through us" HNV

Rom 11:29

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" **KJV**

- "For God does not change his mind about whom he chooses and blesses." GNB
- "For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn." NLT
- "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" HNV
- "God's gifts and God's call are under full warranty--never cancelled, never rescinded." TM

Num 23:19

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it

good?” KJV

“God is not like people. He tells no lies. He is not like humans. He doesn't change his mind. When he says something, he does it when he makes a promise, he keeps it.” GW

If the above statements are true which I believe they are, then the problem has never been with God. He is immutable and His word is infallible. Only humans lack those qualities.

Profile of Men Who Had all Prophecies Fulfilled

Moses

Moses’ walk with God was laced with supernatural spectacle of God’s power and answered prayers. He not only had all his prayers answered, every word of the Lord was confirmed to him and through him; as well all prophecies were fulfilled. Concerning him God said "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses; He is faithful in all my house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord." Num 12:6-8. And "Thanks be to the LORD! He has given his people Israel rest, as he had promised. None of the good promises he made through his servant Moses has failed to come true” - **1Kgs8:56** GW

Samuel

Samuel too enjoyed an awesome ministry where every word of the Lord to him came to pass **1Sam 3:19 “...**And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.”

“Samuel grew up. The LORD was with him and didn't let any of his words Go unfulfilled” - GW

Psalm 119:89 “What you say goes, GOD, and stays, as permanent as the heavens.” TM Moses, Samuel, Israel and other saints experienced the faithfulness of God; they did not have many unfulfilled promises/prophecies. Apparently due to certain level of understanding of how to work the word and make the promises a reality. This is the crux of our teaching in this chapter, to find the balance between the sovereignty of God and our responsibility.

The Dilemma of Measuring a True Prophet

There are certain scriptures that speak directly on the subject of measuring a true prophet that requires a balanced understanding. We shall see a few of them and

juxtapose the truth revealed therein with our day to day experience.

1. It is impossible for a man to speak without God and it comes to pass. It is only God's ultimate counsel that shall come to pass. **Lam 3:37 "**Who is he that says, and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not command it?" No man in the flesh has the final say on anything; therefore, human proclamations without divine backing are doom to fail.
2. It is possible to prophesy and it comes to pass, work signs and miracles as a false prophet (without God)! The bible has several witnesses to this truth. **Deut13:1-5** "Suppose there are **prophets among you,** or those who have dreams about the future, and t**hey promise you signs or miracles, and the predicted signs or miracles take place**. If the prophets then say, 'Come, let us worship the gods of foreign nations,' do not listen to them. The Lord your God is testing you to see if you love him with all your heart and soul. Serve only the Lord your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him. The false **prophets or dreamers** who **try to lead you astray** must be put to death, for they encourage rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery in the land of Egypt. Since they try to keep you from following the Lord your God, you must execute them to remove the evil from among you."

Notice that the prophets spoken about here didn't start out as a false prophet. He started out well, prophesied, gave signs and miracles, all coming to pass but then, he turns from his spiritual convictions to other gods (of money, pleasure, sports, self, human worship, and other man made gods), they are right there considered false prophets. A prophet becomes false when he deviates from following through his spiritual commitments. How many minsters of the gospel started out with deep consecration and commitment to great spiritual values and ethics but are now teaching men to worship money, self and "their spiritual father", the Rev, Presiding Apostle Bishop?! This sort of ministry produces contradictions, where the good fruit of ministry does not agree with the bad fruit of the minister's life and methods; it will lead ultimately to rejection in the end.

The New Testament parallel to this is in Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness**!’” the New Living Translation renders the last part of that passage thus: “But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were **unauthorized** (illegitimate)’”

“Miracles, signs and wonders are spiritual manifestations that have no eternal value without union with the Lord. This is one reason this class of believers will be rejected - **their deeds were unauthorized.** This sounds like the message to the seven Churches of Asia Minor in **Revelation2&3**. Although Jesus acknowledged and commended their works, they stood condemned under divine judgement if they were to continue the illegitimacy of reproducing without union with the Master.”

“God merely blesses our walk with Him resulting in fruitfulness that we call exploits. Anything other than that is unauthorized. Such illegality is also called spiritual adultery. It simply means we have frolicked with the gifts rather than the Giver, the blessings more than the ‘Blesser’, the hand of God instead of His face, the works of God instead of His way. All that leads to one thing, eternal rejection! Labours and sacrifices do not replace fellowship and intimacy!”

“Here is a classic illustration of all we have been talking about: children are gifts from God and wonderful blessings too. They bring joy to our homes. But supposing a house wife decides to get pregnant out of her matrimonial home, is the child still a blessing? Yes of course. Is anything wrong with the child? The answer is No. That however does not legitimise the process that brought about the baby. This is one clear example of how the end does not always justify the means. Whatever we give birth to that is not the result of intimacy with God during which time true spiritual conception takes place, is illegitimate. Our vision and mission must be of Immaculate Conception.”

“I once asked the Lord why He heals, delivers and sets people free despite the messenger’s rebellion and wrong approach to ministry. His answer was this “the end does not necessarily justify the means. If the people gathered because of My name, to hear My word and the preacher calls on My name; I will honour My name, My word and those who honour Me by gathering, but that does not validate the preacher nor does it legitimise the process that brought the results”.

“Whatever we project before God’s people without His instruction is one and the same as the Molten Calf that Aaron built for the Children of Israel in the wilderness. Like Aaron, we often build them and command the people to pray to them; bring offerings and worship before them: Thus making the people of God greater idolaters than they were before coming to Church. Such projects are the

product of our flesh that we ask God to bless like Ishmael; instead of waiting for the promise of God. Let's beware brethren, lest we become a cast away after all the sacrifices and efforts we have expended on the gospel."

This group of performers produce what is known as lying wonders 2Thess 2:9-11 "The coming of the lawless one is according to the **working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders**, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved". Some of them get godly results with no godly life to back it up, while others get result though satanic, unscrupulous and deceptive means.

A few years ago, a young minister was arrested at Kenya airport on suspicion of terrorism, because of the way he was dressed. He had himself wired with electronic device by which he discharges current to the gullible unsuspecting crowd as 'anointing'. People fell down as he laid hands on them because of the high volts electrical discharge flowing through him. Apparently, he had just finished preaching somewhere and was rushing to catch his flight and so forgot to remove his 'anointing' gadget. Pronto, he became a terrorism suspect. How does such con artist fit into God's billing? With such a nauseating ministry philosophy of 'the end justifying the means' or 'you can't argue with result'; shouldn't we gather together to stone him for blasphemy against the Lord but for His grace?

Here is 'The Message' rendition of that same passage "Knowing the correct password- saying 'Master, Master,' for instance isn't going to get you anywhere with me. **What is required is serious obedience-doing what my father wills.** I can see it now- that at the final judgement, thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our-God sponsored projects had every one talking.' And do you know what I'm going to say? 'You missed the boat. **All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You are out of here."**

I heard the story of another young minister who was recently arraigned in courts somewhere around the Federal Capital of Nigeria for impregnating fourteen year olds and procuring abortion illegally for them. He was later discovered to be sacrificing animals and menstrual clothes in exchange for the power to deceive, gather crowds and temporarily suspend their pains and ailments. Some claimed healing as long as they remained with him, but once they leave, the sicknesses return in fuller force! Now where is God in all of that? The fruit of our personal life must tally with the fruit of our ministries otherwise, we are false prophets – selah.

3. The test of true prophecy is fulfilment. **Deut18:18-22 "**I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will tell that prophet what to say, and he will tell the people everything I command him. I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet

proclaims on my behalf. But any prophet who claims to give a message from another god or who falsely claims to speak for me must die.' You may wonder, 'How will we know whether the prophecy is from the Lord or not?' If the prophet predicts something in the Lord's name and it does not happen, the Lord did not give the message. That prophet has spoken on his own (presumptuously) and need not be feared (revered)."

So where do we draw the line?

a) No one should attempt to speak on behalf of God without his authorization. Even when he has ordered it, your life afterwards must remain consistent as before else you become false

b) Do not expect God to backup your proclamation if he didn't order it

c) If God orders it, He will back up everything by the power of his name and word **Ps138:2** "I bow before your holy Temple as I worship, I will give thanks to your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honour of your name."

d) If it seems not come to pass, something is fundamentally wrong with the vessels not God. In that case, there will be a change of vessel to bring his word to pass.

e) We must learn to test the spirits behind what we have received, whether they are of God or not. We must also test the spirits of prophets and miracle workers around us, whether they are of God or not - 1John 4:1 "Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world" AMP

Analyzing the Components of Prophecy

Quite often we tend to view prophecies and God's promises from one perspective. But from the scriptures, we find that there is more than one way to view them. Here are some basics to consider:

There is the way God speaks. Without understanding we may miss it at that point. For instance when he said "let there be light", you need to understand that it is a declaration not a promise to pray about. You need to understand the conditionality attached to a proclamation.

There is how he says it. That is the principle he has used since the creation of our universe. Therefore it is important to decode his language properly. For instance, in Gen1:11-12 "Then God said, "Let **the earth** bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields **fruit according to its kind**, **whose seed is in itself**, on the earth"; and it was so." Three phrases bring out the process of plants reproduction here: 'the earth, fruits according to its kind, whose seed is in

itself.’ God specifically instructs the earth what to do, how to do it and how long to do it. From these phrases, we know that God didn’t plant a tree and never will; he has ceded that to the earth and the plants. So take heed to what is spoken and how it is spoken.

There is what God means and how he sees, different from the way we do. When He speaks spiritually we think material quiet often. Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and their minds ran out of safety zone. They thought he was talking of their lack of bread while he spoke about hypocrisies of the Pharisees! Therefore, when God says ‘this day’, it does not necessarily mean the calendar date. It could mean a season, year and years as the case may be.

He sees and operates in eternity while we operate in time. So when God speaks, he does so from a finished work, a done deal; while we mostly think, he is going to do something. That is why when he declares the end from the beginning; we assume he is speaking of the present, unbeknown to us that he is showing us the finished product. To understand prophecy is to go back and learn what is already true of us in heaven, which must be activated on earth.

Every word, promise or prophecy has a converse, our wisdom is to find out what it is and put it side by side with what we have. For instance, when God sent Jonah to the Nineveh to announce the coming judgement in forty days, he never factored in the converse rule. So when the people did what God expected (repented), the judgement way stayed and Jonah was very upset. It remained so for a hundred years until another generation reverted to their old ways and activated that judgemental prophecy. Can you see how forty days can become a hundred years in prophecy?

God has more than one way of bringing his word to pass; he can’t be boxed, caped or fixated. Like we have taught explicitly in chapter three, God is never short of instruments to use in accomplishing his purpose. God can be trusted to bring his words to pass at all cost and by all means.

Why Prophecies Fail

Why do prophecies fail? Why did God who cannot lie or change renege on his promise to a man or a nation? We have answers from the scripture: Num 14:28-30 “Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, '**just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you**: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.” Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, **you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.”**

Vs 34 “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall **know my breach of promise**” KJV.

Every time the word of the Lord fails in a man’s life, the prospect is to blame. We have sufficiently established the fact that God cannot not lie, cannot fail neither his word. Therefore, to find answers, we must look to the direction of the man in question. In the passage we above, Israel refused to agree with God by confessing the exact opposite of what he promised them. It is safe to conclude that they breached the contract they had with God. Their part was to spy out the land, agree with God’s assessment of the land, confess same and follow instructions that would lead to the conquering of the lands. But Israel took exception by believing and confessing wrongly; in other words, they were against the program of God for their life. And God simply said “As you have spoken in my ears, so will I do to you”; meaning be it unto you according to your faith. One important thing to note is that, although that generation of Israel failed to realise God’s ultimate purpose of entering into that land, another generation (their children) did. While the fathers’ journals would have recorded a failed or broken prophecy of the Lord bringing them into the land flowing with milk and honey, their children were testifying of God’s faithfulness and his immutability.

There are several other examples in the scripture of people who have come short of realizing the promises of God in their lives, Eli is one of them - **1Sam2:30-31** “Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' **But now** the Lord says: '**Far be it from Me**; for those who honour Me I will honour, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.” Eli chose to compensate for his irresponsibility in restraining his children with sacrifices; God would have none of that. He brought an abrupt end to his priesthood by doing damage to the terms of his calling. Once the terms of agreement for his ministry were not adhered to, God was not obliged to keep to his.

Another example of a man who knew the bitterness and pains of an unfulfilled prophecy is Saul the king of Israel. **1Sam13:13 -14** "That was a foolish thing to do," Samuel answered. "You have not obeyed the command the LORD your God gave you. **If you had obeyed, he would have let you and your descendants rule over Israel forever**. But now your rule will not continue. Because you have disobeyed him, the LORD will find the kind of man he wants and make him ruler of his people."

Saul chose to place priority on the people he led above the God who chose him to lead; he later recognized the folly of it when the same people abandoned him to his fate of rejection and torment. In contrast; David realized that he wasn’t God’s first choice, and so adhered strictly to all that he was instructed. The result was that he and all his generations testified and sang of the everlasting faithfulness of God - Acts 13:22-23

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will. From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Saviour — Jesus”

The Holy Spirit through Paul counselled in **1Thes 5:19** “Quench not the Spirit.”

Below are some factors that can influence the fulfilment or otherwise of prophecies:

God shares his sovereignty with us; therefore, he has ceded certain responsibilities to man as he did in the garden with Adam; man’s response-ability has everything to do with it. God has left some things to human control, and whatever name we call it shall stand. At creation, man was endowed with all that heaven and earth has to offer, including our ability to decide a course of action. When we choose to obey God and do our part, we get the blessing and prophecy is fulfilled. When we chose to ignore or disobey divine instructions, we are set aside and someone else gets the benefit of a fulfilled prophecy.

Every prophecy has a converse, which is as true as the prophecy itself; it is our duty to find out what it is and work towards the promise. Prophecies and promises often come with conditions, unless those conditions are met, you will grapple with unfulfilled prophecies. Isa 1:19-20 “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land”; the converse “**But if you refuse and rebel**, you shall be devoured by the sword"; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Voluntary rejection of the prophetic and prophecies. If you do not believe in the prophecy declared, you can’t enjoy what it carries. The right attitude to prophecy is to say like Mary “Be it to me according to your word.” What you respect and appreciates and gravitates toward you and what you despise depreciates and retreats.

Contrary lifestyle to the prophecies. There is a lifestyle expected from a man of promise and prophecy; living contrary to that leaves him at the rough edge of unfulfilled prophecy. In Judges13, we have a classical example of guidelines to prophecy outlined by an angel sent to Manoah. God sent and angel to inform his wife about the conception of a child that was to be a deliverer and a judge in Israel. They were to start out on a new diet because the son to be born (Samson) was going to become a Nazarene, totally dedicated to God. They diligently followed the instructions until Samson was born and prepared for his divine assignment. Unfortunately, he didn’t continue on the path to destiny; as he elected to live a dangerously reckless life style antithetical to his calling. The result was an unfulfilled prophetic destiny. Whose fault was it, God or Samson? The answer is obvious – Samson. The following lifestyles are some of those we need to avoid:

- Negative lifestyle can hinder the flow of the spirit in our lives: sin, compromises, negative confessions, unforgiveness, evil speaking etc
- Lack of sensitivity and obedience to the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, one brings the other; disobedience is one of the leading causes of insensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- Lack of faith, doubt, unbelief, and lack of persistence
- Personal rejection of divine will
- Unwillingness to pay the price. Every promise or prophecy has a price tag that must be paid to bring it to fulfilment.

The challenge of the other prospects and participant in the prophecy. Prophecies don't fulfil in isolation, several people are usually connected. Their sensitivity and obedience or otherwise to the voice of God has something to do with it. This sometimes causes delays that may in turn put pressure on us to give up in the process of waiting. However, since God's ultimate will has to be done, he always has other instruments to choose from to fulfil his will for our lives. There are times that some persons have been assigned to a particular project in our lives by God; but had suffered some delays not because of their unwillingness but the challenges they have to overcome to do God's bidding. In such cases, we need to stand with them in the place of intercession. These categories of people might require the permission, participation or cooperation of a spouse, payment by a debtor, family support or counselling. Until those huddles are cleared, they might not be able to respond as quickly as expected; and that does not make God set them aside.

Satanic hindrance inform of attacks against other prospects involved in the fulfilment of prophecy. Sometimes, the people involved in the fulfilment of a particular prophecy could come under attacks and schemes of the devil like in Daniel 10:12-13. There's great danger in giving up at this juncture as that could mean an unfulfilled prophecy for us. The right attitude is to support them through intercession until our angels (messengers) are released.

How to Resolve Unfulfilled Prophecies

Quite often we take our understanding of the sovereignty of God to the extreme. We operate under the illusion that prophecies will fulfil whether we activate them or not; well that is against the testimony of the scriptures. Someone has to remember the promise, pray and activate it by giving it a much needed cooperation to release the force of heaven to act on his behalf. Prophecies are fulfilled when the earth moves in perfect alignment with heaven.

Dan 9:1-4 “In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign **I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet**, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments”

Daniel activated a seventy year old prophecy delivered by Jeremiah by invoking God to act on his promises, repented on behalf of his people and himself and seek for direction. God keeps his pact as we do our part. If you have prophecies that are yet to come to pass, you may benefit from the following steps:

1. **Be sure that it is God that has spoken; because if he did, it will come to pass Lam 3:37 “Who is he that says, and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not command it?” And if you are ever in doubt, confirm form mature believers. 1Co 14:29 “Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge”**
2. **Correlate whatever you receive with the principles of the written Word. No prophecy from God will countermand the principles of the Bible; if it does, it is not God. Whatever we profess that God is saying must agree with what He has said otherwise, it is false Ps138:2 “Your promises are backed by all the honour of your name” in other words He exalts his word above his name.**
3. **Remember to take precautions on the above stated challenges. You will need to cooperate with God through obedience and intercession. When preparation meets obedience, provision is the natural result.**
4. **Do your part and leave the rest to God. His word will surely come to pass even when the chosen instruments fail along the way; he is not limited to a single individual.**
5. **Intercede for the other participants the fulfilment of the prophecy**
6. **Activate it in prayer like Daniel when you perceive the season has come yet there are delays.**
7. **Patience has no rival. You need lots of it in your walk with God to obtain the promise Heb 10:35-38 “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."**

Things to be added

Dedication

1. **Joseph Raimi, my disciple, brother, friend and partner in the gospel. Thanks for running with this message, thanks for your contributions in publishing this material and especially your teaching on prophetic responsibility.**
2. **Ministers, Affiliate Ministries and Churches and Friends of Global Transformation Network. For your prayers, supports and standing true to your commitment to the Lord in obeying the truth set forth in this material.**

About the Book

- Have you ever wondered why you have to go through some shaking before entering into a new season?
- Do you seek to know what your attitude and response should be in such seasons?
- How long do I have to wait before obeying God?
- What happens when I delay or offer excuses for not executing out my divine assignment?
- Why do prophecies fails; how do I deal with unfulfilled prophecies/promises?
- How can I know when God is speaking: how do I increase my sensitivity to spiritual signals?

These and other questions relating to your prophetic destiny and responsibilities are clearly answered in this book. God stands at the border of your inheritance to check out your state of circumcision. No circumcision, no possession. The storehouse of heaven is filled with resources for exploit; how soon you access them is determined by you and not God. Galatians4:1-2 “Now I say that the heir,

as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father”

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