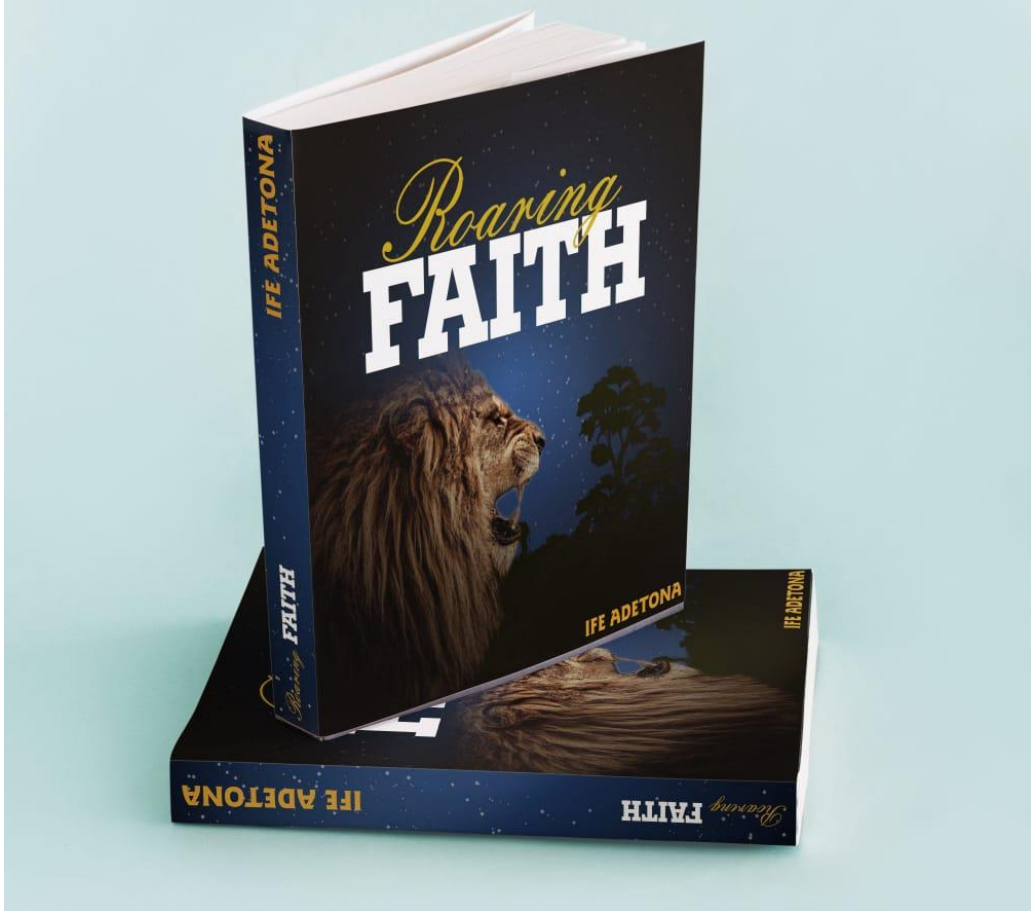

ABOUT THE BOOK

I can tell you for free that one of the most difficult subjects to explain in the scriptures is faith. Many thought they know it and some felt there is no need to learn extensively about it. And when they eventually get to hear it, it sounds complex, unreal and very boring. Many preachers ended up confusing themselves when teaching this subject.

By the grace of God, the author is a student, practioneer and teacher of faith. He has simplified the subject and laid it precepts upon precepts in a way that any dwarf of faith can understand and emerge as a giant at the end. This compendium of faith is filled with practical and applicable life illustrations which will make the reader easily identify with and stay glued till the very end. Be ready for an encounter and a testimony!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel, prolific writer, leadership and relationship coach, business consultant and a poet; he is the President of Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Worldwide. An interdenominational discipleship ministry which has seen thousands of people baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and helped people develop a friend to Friend relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. SADOZ daily discipleship & devotional manual called Daily Communion reaches and blesses thousands of people daily to the glory of God.

Ife Adetona is the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers various courses/schools: School of Ministry, School Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Business, School of Prayer, School of Faith, School of Deliverance, School of Healing and more.

He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife- Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

Roaring Faith

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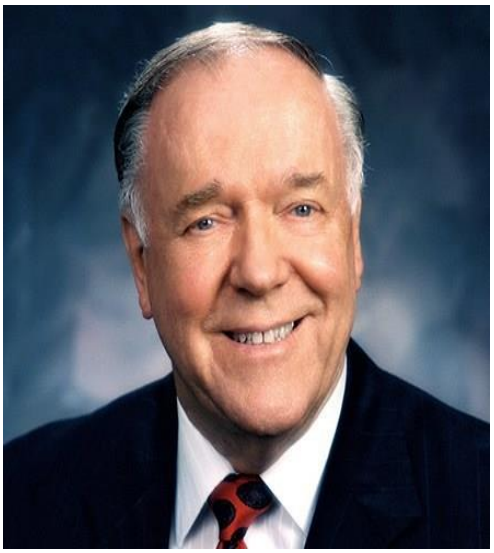
Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible.

DEDICATION

I feel so privileged to dedicate my first complete book on faith to my mentor, teacher and father: Kenneth Erwin Hagin. Everything I am today in the Christian faith and the ministry can be traced to this modern father of faith. He liberated me on several central Biblical subjects which have been a compass to my calling and ministry till date. I am a lifetime student of Hagin. I have read from him more than I have read from many Christian authors put together. I am truly blessed by his ministry. I am a product of his calling and a full proof that he lived a fulfilled life and that he is a father of the generations of spiritual giants.



I am indebtly grateful to God for sending Papa Hagin my way and using him for my own generation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work and others would not be a success without the relentless efforts of my team of secretaries who painstakingly transcribed my audio teachings which were used as manuscripts for some of my books. They told me a 50-minute message takes up to 6 hours and for this book alone, we used up to 10 messages. That's about 60 hours which is about 3 full days work. It will be an honour to mention their names. The first person is Miss Adekunle Ruth Pipeloluwa, who single-handedly transcribed all the messages used for this book- "Roaring Faith", she sees transcribing as leisure. And others have worked and are still working closely with me on various book projects: Aiyelaagbe Grace Eriyannu, Edalere Deborah Damilola, Adedokun Adeola Blessing, Silas Confidence Chidinma, Okunola Timileyin Folashade and Adebiyi Oluwasegun Nathaniel who is the only male among them and the leader of the team.

Big thanks to my co-editors who worked closely with me, not only on this book but others: Sis. Tolulope Emmanuel and Omothoso Nifemi. Kudos to those who are working with me at the Koinonia Bible institute- KBI. The content of this book and others have been tested by our students and proven practicable as well as life transformative. I am highly grateful to them: Nurse Aderogba Peace who is the Registrar; the Deputy Registrar: Nurse Adeleke JulianahToluwalope and Sis. Aiyelaagbe Eriyanu. Thanks to all our tutors as well: Sisters: Raheem Oluwadamilola, Adefila Hepzibah Mary, Akintola Lois Olamide, Adekunle Pipeloluwa, Owolabi Temiloluwa, Amb. Aroge Bukola, Mrs. Ogunmola Abimbola, Mrs. Alafiatayo Bunmi Mercy, Amb. Abegunde Damola Samson and Bro. Adeagbo Agbaraoluwa. Thanks to Bro. Adigun Christopher who heads our graphics and media team. The job is not complete without you.

Big thanks to my closest partner, best friend and wife- Elizabeth Ife-Adetona who serves as an unparalled motivation to me. I genuinely appreciate the contributions of all my teachers and fathers of faith to my knowledge about this subject matter and the ministry at large.

All my praises go to the sweet Holy Spirit who is my Lord, Guide and Instructor. I appreciate the times You had to order me to get to work and the times You used encouragement. I am deeply sorry for the troubles I might have caused you in cases of omission and commission. I solely rely on your breathe for perfection and inspiration. I love You forever.

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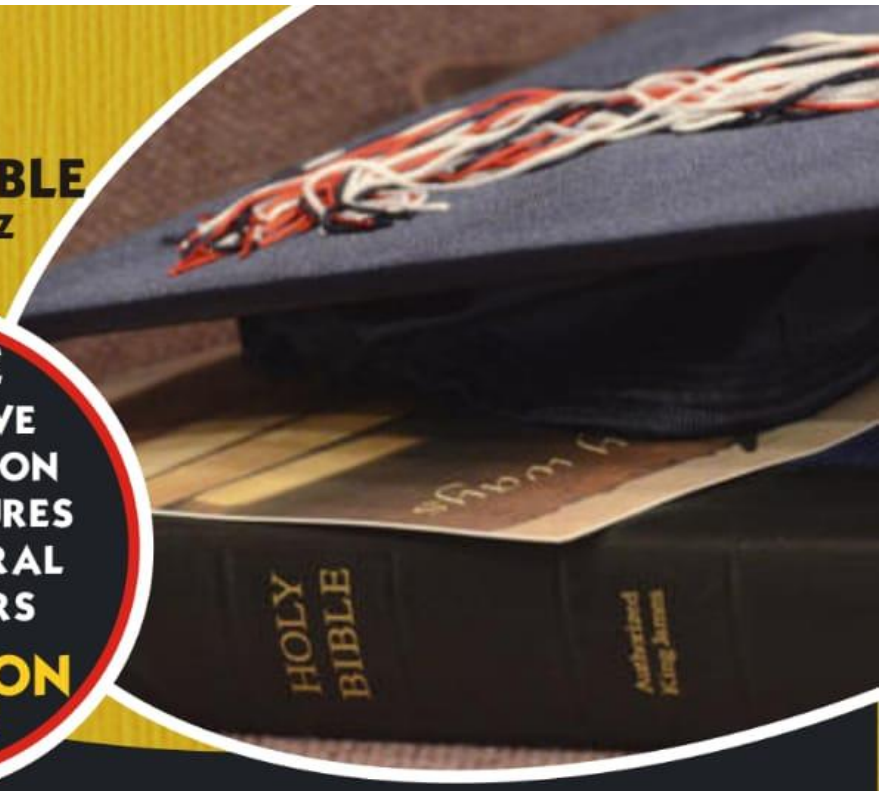

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INTRODUCTION

There are basic life survivals skills which every living thing must learn in order to live on the planet earth. A fish must learn how to swim, a bird must learn how to fly, a plant must learn photosynthesis and a human being must learn how to breathe in and out. Learning of the alphabets is also very basic to learning any human language. And to live in any human society, acquiring the social skills like the greetings comes first. But we have failed to learn the most important skill in Christendom which is FAITH.

In this book, I explained that faith-ing is breathing. One thing that must be learnt by every believer is how to live the faith life. Many of us have refused to learn how to faith and so we are fainting. We have refused to learn the alphabets of the spirit realm and so when we pray, we pray amiss. Christianity is called the Christian faith- 'esin onigbabo' and we are called believers- 'awon onigbagbo' because we are expected to always believe.

I can tell that many believers would not bother to learn about faith because they either felt they don't need it or think that there is nothing to learn about it. I was once like that. The first book I read on faith seemed like a mistake to me at first. I won't have read it if the title was actually faith. I read it because the author called it "Healing Anointing". Reading it opened me up to the world of the supernatural and endless possibilities.

You might have known a lot about faith but I urge you to put aside all you have known because you are about to have a fresh encounter. Ask the Spirit of God to fill you afresh as you are opened up to the mysteries of faith. You are going in as a dwarf but you will come out as a giant in Jesus name. May the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Chapter 1

ESSENCE OF FAITH

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"
2 Timothy 2:15

You have made a decision to discover one of the rarest truths. You have made a the right choice to rightly divide the *'word of faith'*. The Scripture says: *study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*. That you have decided to read this book shows you are ready to study the word of faith. To study what faith is so that you can be approved unto God a workman, a pastor, a leader, a believer that needed not to be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of faith. It is a great thing to be a master in spiritual things. It is a great thing to be a master of the word of faith because when you have faith, you are at the centre of all things; every other thing on earth revolves around you. As you open up this book, the word will become flesh and dwell with you in Jesus name. I believe you will be revived at the scent of the word in the name of Jesus. The Lord opened my eyes right now and I can see a dry tree, it is very dry. The Lord told me at the scent of this word, your spiritual

life will come alive even beyond your expectations, and so shall it be unto you in Jesus name, amen.

The significance of this book is to make you possess the concrete knowledge on faith. Bible says, "get knowledge and sell it not, buy wisdom and sell it not. How do you get wisdom and knowledge? Somebody says said that wisdom is an acquired knowledge, that is, wisdom is having the accurate and adequate knowledge on faith. So, you are so blessed to encounter this book because what will be given to you, if you exhaust a library you may not possess it. Faith is one of the dicey biblical themes. It is so dicey that many people who seek to understudy it got confused along the line. The truth is, you can easily get confused when learning about faith. It takes the breath of God to understand and the Spirit to quicken our mortal mind to absorb the word of faith. Also, faith is such a topic that only a practitioner of faith can explain. It is not what someone can read up in a textbook and explain to others; else, you won't see the rhema but only the logos. By the Grace of God, I am a man that has lived his life full of faith. It is God's agenda that this book will make you a faith practitioner.

One thing about learning the subject of faith is that it takes patience. You need to be patient. Faith requires patience to be adequately passed on, so, take the knowledge patiently, buy the truth and sell it not, align your heart diligently as you read through. That is the only way you can maximise your purpose in this school of faith.

WHY SHOULD YOU POSSESS KNOWLEDGE ON FAITH? WHY SHOULD YOU GO AFTER FAITH?

1. Faith is the essence of our Christianity

Faith is the basic and elementary foundation of our Christianity. Without faith you won't be a Christian in the first instance. Ephesians

2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”. You are saved by grace through faith. How did you get saved? By faith; you came through faith to acquire the salvation that grace has given to you. The scripture says: Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed and it says how will they believe? On whom they don’t know and how will they know until somebody is sent. (Romans 10:11, 15 paraphrased).

One way or the other, someone was sent to bring the Name of the Lord to you, you believed on His Name and you became saved. So, the foundation of our salvation is faith. When you don’t possess adequate knowledge of what makes you a Christian, you may draw back on your Christian journey. That’s why we have many people renouncing their faith these days. The essence of Christianity is faith; we are called believers because we believe. I say we are faithers. The Yoruba tribe in Southern Nigeria calls Christianity ‘Esin Onigbagbo’ that is, the Christian faith. The embodiment of our salvation is all about faith.

2. Faith is the essence of creation

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible” Hebrews 11:3 NLT.

How did God create the earth, the universe, and the heavens? By faith. He knew and believed that whatever He says will come to pass. By faith He said let there be light and as He said it, there was light! He created everything by faith. Even before the woman was created, God had already said to man: multiply and replenish the earth. Why? Because He knew and believed that whatever He said will surely come to pass. So, the essence of creation, the cycle of creation, and the secret of all creation is faith. God created the whole universe by faith.

By having faith, He framed the universe; the creations that we see with our eyes today were not made of things which do appear but of things which were unseen. They were made from the spoken word of faith. Every manufacturer produces something tangible out of raw material which can be seen but, the raw material of the universe is what? Faith. If faith is the essence of creation, then it is very important to understand it.

3. Faith is the greatest force on earth and in heaven

The force of faith is greater than the force of electricity, wind and the light. Faith is the greatest force on earth that makes things to happen. It is the most powerful tool. Even God respects faith, God cannot close His eyes to your faith, where faith is exercised, God submits. God cannot go against faith if you can bring it into the situation. The force that will always put the devil to a flight is the force of faith. Demons fear nothing except the force of faith. Talking about faith, James says: Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:19. That means when demons look at your faith they tremble.

A foreign woman approached Jesus Christ and to discourage her Jesus said it was not right to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs but, she charged back using the force of faith. She said "but dogs have the right to eat crumbs which fall from the masters' table. Jesus exclaimed: "O woman, great is thy faith!" Mathew 15:22-28. The woman with the issue of blood also brought her faith to Jesus and even though it was difficult to get Jesus attention, the woman attracted his attention by the force of faith. Jesus Christ looked at her and said thy faith has made you whole. A centurion told Jesus if you send a word to my servant he will be healed even without moving from here. Jesus Christ said I have never seen this kind of faith in the

whole of Israel. Faith can halt a moving motion; it is the greatest force that can stop anything on motion in an instance. Is there any tragedy or issue on motion in your life? Faith can put a stop to it. It can stop a moving vehicle that is about to have an accident. A static mountain that seems unmovable can be moved and removed by faith into the sea. Faith is the greatest and strongest force on earth. **The discovery of faith is the mother of all discoveries.** It is the greatest discovery any man can ever make.

4. Faith is the way to please God

It is not just one of the ways but the only way to please God. Do you want to please God? Do you desire to please God? Then go for faith, look for faith, hunt for it because the Bible says without faith, it is impossible to please Him. The Bible says Abel offered a more gracious/pleasant sacrifice by faith. If what actually qualifies Abel was faith then what disqualified Cain was lack of faith. Faith is the only way to please God. Have you been looking for how to please God in your life? Faith is the only answer.

5. Faith is the currency of the Spirit realm

Faith is the currency spent in heaven and it is very valid on earth. Faith is the language that God understands; “it is unto you according to your faith” says the Scripture. Matthew 9:29 “Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you". It is like saying you can buy goods only in proportionate with the money you have on you. You can’t have two thousand naira on you and buy a good worth three thousand naira. No, because it is unto you according to the faith (money) you have.

6. Faith is the Master Key

Faith unlocks any door; doors of deliverance, salvation, Holy Ghost baptism and what have you. What unlocks every closed door is the master key of faith and what locks every open door is the key of faith. The scriptures say 'whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven', **we don't only open by faith, we also lock by faith.**

7. Faith is the universal conductor

In electricity, we have what we call insulator and conductor. A conductor enhances the flow of heat, electricity or energy from a source to the other. When you plug a charger into the socket, electricity flows from it into the charger, if you check the plug of your charger, you will realize it is made of metal, it can't be made of wood because wood is not a conductor but metal is a conductor. How can you gain access to God? How can you link up with God? How does something flow from God into your spirit and your environment? Faith is the conductor. If you concentrate a lens to the ray of sunlight on a dry grass around you, it will produce fire, so also, if you concentrate your faith on God, you can spark up anything you want in your environment. Faith is the universal conductor, it works anytime, anywhere and anyhow you want it to work.

8. Faith is the fastest thing on earth:

Still on significance of faith, faith is the fastest thing on earth, the speed of faith is more than speed of light. You can get things done quickly with faith. Several people out of ignorance associate faith with delay or endless waiting, No! Hope waits but faith acts, faith is active; it makes things to happen, brings things to come to pass and causes things to change immediately. It is the fastest! When you wake up in the middle of the night and need to unlock a critical issue, you just

apply faith and if you want to also lock, you should apply faith. A sister testified that she was stung by a scorpion on the face, very close to the eye in the middle of the night but, faith cured her right there. If she was to go to the hospital from her home that night she may not even survive the night but, faith was right there on time. She is somebody I know very well. It was her siblings that first reported the case to me before I asked her for the details. She said "I opened my Bible to where it says 'you shall tread upon scorpions and serpents and nothing shall by no means hurt you'. I kept declaring it till I slept back and woke alive in the morning". She didn't visit any hospital. I am very proud of her because she is my student in the school of faith.

9. Faithing is Breathing

Believers are faithers and faithing is breathing! To tell believers to have faith is like telling them to always breathe. You must always breathe to remain alive so also you must also have faith to remain a believer. There is nothing God has made provision for on earth that you will not need faith to access: starting from salvation to eternity. Faithing is breathing and we are believers, we are in the Christian faith, we are Christians which is 'awon onigbagbo'- those that have faith, you must continue to faith so you can continue to live.

10. Absence of faith means presence of sin

I tell you faithing is breathing and absence of it means presence of sin in a believer as Romans 14:23 puts it- and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Faithlessness is sinfulness.

You are so privileged to have this book in your hand because it will make you become full of God's life so much that you don't need to depend on the oxygen (faith) of your pastor or whoever to live again. It is pitiful that several Christians are not breathing; they are living on

the oxygen of their husbands, pastors, wives, spiritual fathers and so on. Little wonder if the person pulls off the oxygen, things will turn down for them. Why? Because they have been living under someone's oxygen, be ready to breathe in a fresh air of faith in Jesus name.

Chapter 2

CLASSIFICATION OF FAITH

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:6.

In this Chapter we shall discuss the classifications of faith. We need a good foundation of the knowledge of faith for us to be well founded from the base. When you are well founded we can trust the Spirit of God to erect a tower on your foundation of faith.

The classification of faith is one point where the subject of faith gets confusing in Christendom and it is yet to be properly clarified. We shall trust God to simplify it for our understanding. We have different kinds and classes of faith; you should not just mingle everything together, put it in one basket and call it FAITH. If we ask people to define faith they are likely to explain it in 3 different ways:

A. Faith is when you believe God can do something for you.
B. Faith is when you believe that there is God.
C. Faith is when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour.

Though we are defining the same thing –faith but, we have defined it in three different ways. One as the act of receiving something from God, one as the act of acknowledging that God exists and one as the act of accepting salvation. A singular concept is seen in at least three different ways and that is what made the subject of faith confusing from the start. By classification, we will be able to understand this concept. Let me caution that the classification as contained in this book is originally my inspired thought (by the Holy Ghost) and it is not necessarily rigid. It could be more or fewer in other literatures. Here, I present to you the five classifications of faith.

i. Saving Faith
ii. Believing Faith
iii. Receiving Faith
iv. Fruit of Faith
v. Gifts of Faith.

i. **Saving Faith:**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

We are saved by faith through grace. How could a preacher walk up to you and tell you that there is a man named Jesus Christ, He came into the world over 2,000 years ago, a citizen of Israel, a Jew, died for your sin, rose up on the third day and that this same Jesus had gone to prepare a place for you. Then the preacher asked you: will you accept Him as your Lord and Saviour and you said- Yes. What is that? That is faith. To believe in someone you have never seen, someone who is not from your tribe, not from your country and you accepted Him as your Lord and personal Saviour is the greatest demonstration

of faith. It is the greatest because, it was very difficult for even one of Jesus' disciples to believe that Jesus truly resurrected.

> But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails. And put my finger into the print of the nails and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.
> John 20:24-25, 27-29.

Jesus did appear to Thomas and challenged him to thrust his fingers into the wounds, He also told him don't be faithless but believing' and Thomas replied, 'my Lord, My God', so Jesus answered, 'so you now believe that I am the Lord and your God? Okay, but it was because you saw me. Blessed are they that have not seen me, and yet believed that I am the Lord and Saviour'. When Jesus said that, He was referring to you and me. What made you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour is what I call the **SAVING FAITH**.

Again, you may not find this classification in other literatures and they may call it other names but, I have conceived this in the Spirit by the grace of God, so I can bring the subject of faith down to the elementary level for quality comprehension. When you see someone that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, the person has what we call 'saving faith' and this saving faith is the gift of God- for by Grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourself, it is the GIFT of God'. The Bible says no one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

ii. Believing Faith

There is a story Jesus shared in the Book of Luke18:8. You might have looked at that story from a different angle before now but from

today you will begin to look at that story in another way because it explains what the Believing Faith is. Let's check the story from verse1.

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. There was a judge in a certain city, he said, who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying; Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy. The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to him-self, I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!

Then the Lord said, learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth **who have faith**? *Luke 18:1-8 NLT*

Many feels this story means when you are praying to God you need to pray and pray and keep repeating the prayer for God to answer. If it means that way, it means God is being likened to the unjust Judge but God is not unjust. The Scripture says God will avenge His own elects speedily unlike that judge. However, the story does not only speak about prayer, it speaks also on faith. The widow in the story signifies the Church because Jesus ended the story by asking: when I come back will I still find faith on earth? In essence, Jesus is saying inspite of the future persecutions, rejections and killings that will confront the Church; will people still be in the faith? The kind of faith Jesus is referring to is what we call the believing faith, this is the faith that keeps us going as believers after we have received the saving

faith. In the book of Revelation, we saw churches that were under serious persecutions like the church in Pergamos (Revelation 2:13). Jesus said to them that they have not denied 'my faith'. Believing faith proves that we remain as 'believers' who believe (have faith) in the Lord Jesus Christ irrespective of the circumstances.

iii. The Receiving Faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

This is the kind which is mostly emphasized everywhere. It is the faith we often talk about and we shall emphasize more on it in this book. Unlike other classes of faith, the receiving faith is measurable (Romans 12:3). Every believer has the saving and believing faith in the same measure but, not everyone has the receiving Faith in the same measure (Romans 12:3). 'Receiving faith is the substance of what we want to receive from God and it is the evidence that we have gotten that thing' (Hebrew 11:1, *paraphrased*). Receiving faith has to do with receiving something from God. It is different from the saving faith and it is not the faith Jesus was talking about when He asked 'will I still find faith on earth?' This faith has to do with receiving something from God.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of Faith. Romans 12:3

The receiving faith is measurable. Some of us have the faith that is so much that it can move mountains just as the Scriptures say in 1 Corinthians 13:2 while some may not have such. We all received a measure of this receiving faith the moment we received Jesus as our

Lord and Saviour. The seed of receiving faith was sown in you for you to access, connect and receive from God. But don't forget, it was only a measure or seed that was sown in you; it is your duty to make it grow. Unfortunately, many aged believers are still dwarfs in this aspect of faith but, I believe that in the course of reading this book you will grow and become a giant in Jesus name.

"Not boasting of this without our measure that's of other men's labour; but having hope, WHEN YOUR FAITH IS INCREASED, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly".

II Corinthians 10:15

…when your faith is increased! Receiving faith could be increased and in fact it has no end. It must enjoy an increment on a regular basis. There was a time my faith could only do a little but by His Grace, it has increased! Some people can believe God for healing with drugs; some could believe God for healing without drugs and some could believe God not to be sick at all. Some could believe God to heal headaches and body pains but could not believe God for sight recovery. Some could easily faith a bicycle and some can believe God for a car and others can believe God for an aircraft. Yet there are still many believers that cannot even believe God for a pen. They are filled with anxiety and impossibilities. Your receiving faith can be increased and by this book; your faith will not remain as a mustard seed but would grow into a mustard tree in Jesus Name.

iv. Fruit of Faith

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23.

The fruit of faith is simply fruit of faithfulness. You will find faithfulness instead of faith in other versions aside KJV. Fruit of the Spirit are characters found in Jesus, the Vine which is expected to be found on the branches (believers). Jesus said that He is the true Vine, we are the branches and His Father is the husbandman (John 15:1,5). Branches are responsible for bearing of fruits in the similitude of the tree. Our regenerated spirits are these branches that bear the fruits out of Jesus Christ, the Tree. That is why some scholars submitted that the fruit of the spirit are fruits borne in our spirits by the help of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures say 'by their fruit we shall know them'. The fruit of the Spirit are character traits while the gifts of the Spirit are power and manifestations of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit talks about our attitudes; they are the manifestation of the character of Christ that should be seen in us. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things (NLT). Here, the fruit of faith is written as faithfulness. When you compare other versions of the Bible it's only KJV that used 'faith', other versions used faithfulness, the fruit of faith is not in the category of the saving faith or receiving faith. The fruit of faith is character-'faithfulness', the act of being faithful. As a believer, this fruit must be seen in you, you are expected to be faithful in what you do especially in words of your mouth, money, time and in our relationship with the opposite sex.

iv. Gift of Faith

We have nine fruit of the Spirit and we also have nine gifts of the Spirit; one of them is the gift of faith (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). There are various things we need to talk about in discussing the gifts of the

Spirit but, one point you need the most is that these gifts are given as the Spirit wills, you can only desire them. What is the Gift of Faith? Gift of Faith is an active, power gift. The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are categorized into three sections: utterance or inspirational gifts, revelational gifts and power gifts. Under the power gifts is where we have the gift of faith, working of miracles and gifts of healings. The gift of faith is essentially used to believe God for spectacular signs and wonders.

So far, we have discussed the five (5) classifications of faith and explained all of them: saving faith, receiving faith, believing faith, fruit of faith and the gift of faith. As I said earlier, our major focus in this book will be the receiving faith. It is only this kind of faith that needs to be increased and once you can increase your faith in God, everything is possible for you.

Let's see receiving faith the more in the light of Hebrews 11, as explained and taught by Apostle Paul.

Explaining Hebrews 11:1-11

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. You need the receiving kind of faith to obtain a good report. God created everything we see in the world by faith and so, you and I can also create, bring to manifestation by applying this same kind of faith that God activated to create the whole world. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. What qualified Abel was faith and what disqualified Cain was lack of faith. I told us in the first chapter that the absence of faith is a sin.

By faith Enoch, before his translation had this testimony, that he pleased God. Enoch had this testimony that he pleased God and by the reason of pleasing God he was translated without being allowed to see death. We must all please God as Enoch did and how do we please God? But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. When God rewards you, you receive blessings and that's the essence of the receiving faith. Abraham and Sarah received the promise of a son and many generations by faith.

The whole of Hebrew 11 is labelled the Hall of Faith; every man mentioned received some things using the receiving kind of faith defined in verse 1 of the chapter. Verse 2 says by faith, all the elders obtained a good report via the receiving faith.

To bring this chapter on classifications of faith to a close, let me summarize: everyone has the saving faith, believing faith and every man has a measure of the receiving faith which must be developed. Every man has the fruit of faithfulness but, many are not putting that into use as they ought to. The gift of faith is also available to all but, it is not all that has it even though all believers can have it as the Bible says we should desire the best gift.

Chapter 3

WHATS AND WHAT NOTS OF FAITH

We have talked about the classifications of faith and here we shall look at the 'whats and what nots' of faith. Someone said to properly define a thing, define what it is not. For instance, one way to tell you that I am a male is to simply tell you that I am not a female. What several people call faith is not actually correct. I remembered as a young boy, when I was just growing up spiritually, I was meditating in one of those days when I told myself that faith is one of the simplest Biblical subjects and infact we don't need anyone to teach it extensively. I lectured myself that day. I said since I believed in Jesus Christ, that is faith! I also told myself that faith means when you see something bad or negative but you decided to just assume it is right or positive then it will become right. I thought that was faith but, I was far from it.

What Faith Is Not:

1. Faith is not a wish: faith is not a wish; it is not when you see something as negative but because you wished for the positive, you start saying the positive, that's not faith. For example, somebody who

lost a close person and wish he would rise up might say 'he is going to rise up' out of his own wish, that's not faith. A student who wrote an exam and knew he wrote the wrong things entirely, then he wishes he could pass and says 'I am going to pass' or tells his colleagues 'I am surely going to pass' out of his own wish, that's not faith. The statement may be good but it was born out of wishes. Faith is not wishing something good would happen around you instead of the negative thing.

2. Faith is not ignoring the fact: faith is not closing your eyes to the fact. Several of us might have thought that faith is when you close your eyes to something in your environment. There is trouble and you decide to ignore it, you have pain in your body and you decide to ignore it and you call that faith, no! Faith is not trying to ignore the fact; it is actually accepting the fact as the fact. But the question is, what is the fact?

3. Faith is not an assumption of positivity: every man wishes to have good things, every man wants to assume or imagine himself grow up, becoming very rich, getting a good wife etc. But faith is not an assumption or assuming a condition that is not there. It is not assuming the negative issue has become positive issue. Faith is far beyond assumption.

4. Faith is not hope: Several believers have mistaken faith for hope. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith is a way different from hope, hope is a good thing on its own but, it is not the same as faith! Hope is a waiter, faith is a receiver; hope knows something good will happen and that something good will come out of the present situation but, it is faith that receives it. A hopeful man will say I know it is well with me" but, the Bible says 'now' faith is the substance of

things hoped for; so faith is not hope. Faith is in the present tense- 'now' while hope is in the future tense. When a hopeful man says: I know it will be well, a faith filled man will say: it is well with me. Faith is not the same thing as hope. If you only have hope and refused to substantiate your hope you are not in faith. The Bible says: faith is the substance of things hoped for. If you don't substantiate your hope with faith it means you may remain on that spot forever- waiting and expecting. Faith is not wishes, faith is not ignoring the fact, faith is not an assumption, faith is not hope. Faith is not looking into the future, it is rather NOW.

What Faith is:

1. Faith is conveying the Word: several people had thought that faith is seeing everything as positive and confessing the good things but faith is quite beyond that. That's not what faith is. Faith conveys the word of God, it's in the word you find faith. For instance when you say 'I am strong' why do you say so? Are trying to tell us that you are sick? Or do you mean you are actually strong and fit? If you say you are strong and fit, on which word of God is your positive confession based? There is a difference between two believers that says they are strong. One could be saying that out of wish and the other says it because he realized it is based in the word of God and he believes it: Joel 3:10b says let the weak says I am strong.

If I am sick and I say 'I am strong', I am in faith but, compare that to another believer that confesses 'I am strong' but his own confession has no basis in the word, the person is not saying the word, he is only wishing, assuming or guessing. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by word of God- Romans 10:17. Can you see that faith is not just saying something good but placing it on the word?

Everyone seems to be confessing positively these days, unbelievers and believers alike. Psychology teaches her students to always speak well all the time and avoid speaking the negative. No matter who confesses positively, it is not faith if it is not based or conveys the word of God. Faith must be based on the word because faith is the product of the word. Faith comes by hearing and re-hearing of the word of faith. Faith arises in you by the reason of the word you have heard. I was in the examination hall one day, I was about to submit my script but it was almost empty. I prayed to God to give me distinction in the course but the Holy Spirit asked me: "what word do you have to back it up? I had to think and said, okay I remembered the book of Genesis where Adam named the animals and it was the name he gave them that they are called till date- Genesis 2:19. So, I named my script distinction, I am greater than Adam because of what Christ has done for me on the cross. The Holy Spirit told me: 'yes, you are right' then, I submitted. I had distinction in that course.

The truth is, as soon as I remembered that scriptural passage in that examination hall, faith welled up in me and with that faith I could access distinction. Another student may be in that same hall and confessed: 'yes, I will pass' even though he didn't answer it correctly just like me but could end up with failure. Both of us were in the same situation and confessed positively but, my own confession conveyed the word but his did not.

2. Faith is a Receipt: How do I mean? Ephesians 1:3 says something clearly: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ". He has blessed us with all by faith! You are therefore only expected to claim those blessings. We often think that in prayer you have to ask God to do everything like 'God give me', 'God deliver me',

'God do this and that' and we often find out that God did not do any of those things. God will not do any of those things, you know why? Because God hath done it, it is written 'He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings'. What are these spiritual blessings or riches? It starts from salvation, the Holy Spirit, healing, prosperity, success, fruitfulness etc. He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings, when? When he died on the cross! I love how the NLT Version puts it "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. When were you blessed with all those blessings? When Christ died and resurrected on the cross. And why were you blessed? Because you are one with Christ.

It is like a father who went to an electronic store, made payment for a gadget on behalf of his son then got back home and gave him the receipt and said when you get to the electronic store they will give you this gadget so far you have this receipt in your hand. When you lose that receipt, no matter how much you try, you can't get anything! There are several Christians who pray in the sun, climb mountains, cry and shout in an attempt to appeal to God to get some things but, God is saying No, Come with faith! He is asking- where is the receipt of faith in your hand? There is nothing that can alternate faith, there is nothing you can use in exchange of faith, and anything that is not of faith is a sin. Once you do anything that negates faith, you can never claim your right, just like the receipt. All you need to prove you have paid the money to the bank is the teller; all you need to get all your needs that your Father has paid for is the receipt, that receipt is your faith. So, Faith is a receipt, the receipt that gives to you the gifts your Father has paid for here on earth when He died on the cross. God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings here on earth; the devil will back off if you can show your receipt.

3. Faith is now: still on what is faith. Faith is present tense; faith is right now. Hebrews 11:1 says 'Now Faith is….' Faith is now!

"Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."

Hope dwells in the future tense while faith dwells in the present tense. Some sick people would say I know God will heal me, I know I will be fine, I will rise up; I know I will be good. By the time you say 'I will' be fine you are highly hopeful, you are in hope but you are not in faith and the Bible says no one can please God except by faith! The Bible says: he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him, so you must come with faith. The Bible says "it is unto you according to your faith. Faith is now. Faith is in the present tense and active because everything you ever would need had been settled. You need a now faith not a tomorrow faith to receive those things from God, when it is no longer now, it has become hope and it is not the same thing as faith.

4. Faith is in God: what do I mean? It means you are not to look at your environment when you are talking about faith or when you are living in faith. Jesus speaking to His disciples in Mark 11:22: have faith in God. So faith is inside of God, you need to look at things the way God will look at it, you look at things from God's perception, and you look at things with the lens of faith, with the lens of the word of God.

In an hospital environment when a patient is to be treated, the doctors will consult with their notes to see the treatment procedure in the same vein, to address the challenges of your life and in your environment, you need to look at what the word of God is saying about it and the treatment procedure as contained in the word! That's why I

said faith is not ignoring the fact; faith is actually accepting the fact. In faith you have to accept the fact and the fact is in God, when there is an economic down turn in your environment you look at God, you look at heaven, the fact is in heaven not on earth or in your country. The fact is in what God is saying. The Bible says: He considereth not his own body now dead- Romans 4:19. Abraham considereth not his own body but he was gazing at God because he believed He that promised is able to fulfil it, why? Because he has his faith in God! Faith is inside of God. There is an economic meltdown in your country, what do you look at? God! Your body or your mother's body is falling away; your health is going down; age is increasing but your marriage is not settled yet; do you look at your environment? No, you look at God and that is when you can have a stable faith.

There are several believers who just ignore what's going on around them. If all you do is ignoring, you can't do that for long. When you look away from your environment, you must look into something else and what you are to look into is in God. We have the case of 12 people who went to spy the land: Caleb, Joshua and the other ten. The ten, the Bible says they came back with an evil report, they said the land swallows its inhabitants. I wonder why some people were still living there if the land actually swallows its inhabitants. They exaggerated what they saw. They even said they were like grasshoppers compared to the giants. In the contrary, Caleb and Joshua said they were well and able to go and possess the land. What are you seeing? Are you seeing in accordance with the word or in accordance with your world?

Many people will say, let's say the reality. I met someone who said “if you are sick, say you are sick not strong, don't lie just say the truth”. I just looked at the person and couldn't say any additional word because, her knowledge is too shallow. No matter what I say she

cannot understand. The Scripture says “let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. It also says, we have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5, 1 Corinthians 2:16). You are free to say your mind, only if you have the mind of Christ and the mind of Christ is faith. You may be on this earth but you are not of this earth. Your school fees will close tomorrow? Yes, whom do you look up to? Paul prays for the Philippians in Philippians 4:19: “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus”. Not according to the rise in dollars, not according to the exchange rate, not according to the price of crude oil but according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. You must keep looking up to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Chapter 4

GOD KIND-OF-FAITH

In this chapter, we shall be examining the book of Mark 11 to see the God kind of Faith.

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, Jesus was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. v22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** Mark 11:12-22

It was not time for figs but in that country but where a fig has leaves it is expected to have fruits as well, maybe just little but it is expected to

have figs whether it is time for figs or not. The margin where that scripture says 'have faith in God' actually reads 'Have the God kind-of-faith' in Greek. What is the God Kind-of-Faith? The faith that says it and it happens. In verse 23 alone, Jesus mentioned the word "say" up to three times. The God kind of faith is a saying faith: for verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

The purpose of this book is to bring you to have the God kind of faith which God has. At creation, God created everything by saying it out of His mouth. He said let there be light and there was light. That was the way He created all things. God created everything with the word of His mouth; He said it and it came to pass. The same way, God has fashioned us to have this same kind of faith that whatever we say shall come to pass. Hebrews 11:3 says through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. That is the potency of the God kind of Faith, as He saith it, so it was, and it happened.

You may be asking: how do I get this God kind of faith? You only get it through knowledge and that is the purpose of this book. You cannot get it through praying. Several people pray: 'Lord, increase our faith, God, give us faith" No! That's a wrong prayer. Romans 12:3 says " For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." You have a measure of faith in you, what else are you going to pray for? Just like the parable where the master gave his servants talents to make profit with. You have been given a measure of faith; it

is therefore your personal responsibility to develop it. Paul never said I pray your faith will increase, No! He only said when your faith is increased-2Corinthians 10:15. Romans 10:17 says “so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. Faith comes by the hearing the word of God and it increases by hearing the word, it also increases by reading a book like this and consciously practicing faith in your day to day life.

In essence, the God-kind of faith is already in you, nurse it to growth and use it by speaking as a god. I have said ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High- Psalms 82:6.

Chapter 5

GROWING IN FAITH

In the previous chapters, I emphasized that the receiving faith grows and here we shall be looking more into that in this chapter. This chapter shall be based on growing in faith: how we can grow our faith to receive more from God and believe as a 'faither' indeed. By the Grace of God, God has helped me to grow in faith over the years, so I am glad to welcome you on board to the company of people in Abraham's rank, the great patriarchs and apostles of faith.

Why must you grow your faith? Is not enough to just believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour and be a good Christian but, our faith must grow. We must grow it because it is our responsibility not the responsibility of God. It is our duty. God has put in you a measure of faith and that measure of faith must grow. If the scriptures say without faith, it is impossible to please God, which means we must grow our faith because there are measures of faith.

Jesus said some people have little faith and some great faith. Faith is like a currency, the denomination you are having determines what you can receive from heaven. It is very dangerous not to grow in faith.

Why must we grow in faith:

1. <u>You will not remain a new convert forever:</u> 1 Peter 2:2 says as new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. You are not expected to remain a new born baby for life, you are expected to grow. You will hear several people say: 'when I gave my life to Christ, the Lord answered my prayers speedily but now, He no longer answers my prayers speedily". I have heard believers say that several times and that's because they have refused to grow. A baby's needs are met by the parents. A baby that is stripped on the back of her mother is not walking on his own legs and so would move faster than a three (3) year old child trying to walk on his own. A baby will always be at the back but, as he grows, as years and months goes by, the mother want to let the child loose to walk on his own.

An eagle will find food for the little ones and put them in soft nests but after some times when the eagle realizes the baby is old enough to leave the nest, the mother eagle will scatter the nest and put thorns so that the baby eagle will feel uncomfortable. The mother will begin to lead the baby out for independent hunting. God treated us that same way when we gave our lives to Christ. He made everything available and before you asked, you have received the answer but, as time passed, God expected us to grow in the faith. The nests began to hurt. Answers to prayer refuse to come automatically unless you apply your faith and unfortunately, many believers have refused to grow. That is why you hear stories like: I have been in this Church for the past 12 years and God didn't look at my side but here is someone that joined this church or just gave his life to Christ sharing the same testimony I have ben longing for. You can't remain a baby Christian forever; you have to grow in the faith.

2. <u>There is a limitation to the anointing:</u> anointing is what makes everyone in a service to receive the touch of God even where there are people with little or no faith. But you will agree with me that those who easily get helped by the anointing are new converts or those that may appear as unserious believers in our own sight. What happens is, the anointing can be limited in the life of a believer who is expected to have grown in the faith but refused to grow because God is waiting for you to simply apply your faith in that situation.

There was a case of a man that needed healing and went to a great healing program, Aimee MacPherson was the minister, as she laid hands on him he was absolutely healed! After some years, he had another sickness and he was looking for the same minister, having struggled to get through the waiting line, he eventually encountered her, she laid hands on him to no effect, he was not healed. He tried to go back after six months and it was the same. He just concluded: “this woman had lost it; she had lost the power of God”. The irony was, the same woman laid hands on several other people and they were healed. He started going to other meetings, a prophet prayed for him and in fact mentioned what was wrong with him prophetically but he wasn’t healed. Until he found himself in a Kenneth Hagin’s meeting, Hagin preached on faith and the man went to meet Kenneth Hagin to say: "now I know why I was not healed all this while, I know what to do right now, I will go home and come back tomorrow healed”. And you know what? He went home and came back healed because he learnt to apply his own faith. The jut shall live by his faith (Hebrews 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:1, Hebrews 10:38)

All Round Faith

Faith can be likened to writing WASSCE which is the senior secondary school graduating examination in West Africa. In the Nigeria academic

system, you must register for up to nine (9) subjects. You can't just say I passed my WASSCE, you will be asked how many subjects did you pass? It is possible to pass three subjects distinctively, have average in four subjects and fail two subjects. It is also possible to have distinction in all. In the same vein, you can have faith in one area and not in other areas; your faith may be distinct in one area and be a pass or average in another. Some people have faith to get healed of headache but don't have the faith of getting up from the wheel chair, some people have faith in getting up from wheel chair but not in raising the dead, some could have faith for financial provisions but can't faith for admission. You can be a giant of faith in an area and in fact a dwarf in another. Faith is all encompassing; we must ensure we have faith in every area of our lives.

As a person, the Holy Spirit is helping me to build faith in virtually all areas of my life. Let's consider examples of men in the Bible that had faith in one area and doesn't have in other areas.

1. **Job**

Job had faith for provisions and prosperity but had zero faith for security and protection.

> Job 3:25-26: For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

See the man Job, he had all the money, he was the richest man in the east at his time yet he was greatly afraid of something and that was safety! He said: "I was not in safety; neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came." Job was an unsecured man even in his own house, his house has walls, gates and body guards yet he was not at

rest. His faith could acquire prosperity but his faith did not acquire safety.

2. **Lazarus**

This is the poor Lazarus in the parable of Jesus. This man had faith that he could get to eat crumbs from the rich man's table and he had it but he had no faith to be prosperous.

Luke 16:25: But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Father Abraham in this context neither said the reason the rich man was in hell was because he was rich nor the reason Lazarus was in heaven was because he was poor, no! He said Lazarus received evil things while he was on earth. Father Abraham had faith to receive prosperity and he was very wealthy yet, he made it to heaven.

3. **Martha**

This is the sister of the Lazarus that was raised from the dead after four days (John 11). When Jesus arrived, Martha said in verse 21 NLT: Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died". She had faith for healing, she had faith in Jesus that no matter how critical an illness might be even if the person is very close to death, Jesus could still heal but, she had zero faith that Jesus could raise a dead man, not a four days death.

4. **Disciples**

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith

unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him? Mathew 8:23:

Glory to Jesus! For his word and enlightenment, I believe as you read and give Him glory to Him in your heart, your faith is increased in all areas in Jesus name. I am only privileged to bring this word to you, all glory to Jesus. Jesus condemned His disciples for being fearful, *and he said unto them, why are ye fearful? Oh ye of little faith*. If they had gone to Jesus and only tapped Him and say: "Jesus, please wake up there is a storm, we know you can rebuke that storm, please go now and rebuke it". Jesus may not even blame or scold them for not attempting to rebuke it on their own but they came to Him fearfully.

They knew Jesus could feed another set of five thousand and four thousand, He could heal the blind, raise the dead but they never had faith that He could stop a storm. Jesus expected them to look at the storm and say, you missed it, Jesus is here, you are done for but they rushed to Jesus in fear telling Jesus how mighty the storm was instead of telling the storm how mighty Jesus is. Little wonder they couldn't believe their eyes when Jesus rebuked the storm in a flincher.

Look into your life as well; do you have faith in an area and no faith in another area? Are you only strong in the saving and believing faith? If you tell us your salvation experience, we will be highly overwhelmed (saving faith). And you are so strong in your believing faith that nothing can make you renounce Christ but, you can't faith healing, prosperity or deliverance here on earth. You may even have the gift of faith: which is given to perform signs and wonders and still lack the receiving faith. You may be so strong in the fruit of faith and so, very faithful to time, money and in your dealings with the opposite sex but

still lacks the receiving faith. Many can receive some things from God but cannot faith for other things. Look at those areas and trust God to help you build up faith in all aspects of your life.

There was a case study of a woman who was on the wheel chair, she had faith that she will be healed of every illness that come upon her but she doesn't have that faith that she can be healed from that wheel chair. Kenneth Hagin said he was so moved one day, he took prayer warriors to her house, they prayed and the power of God lifted the woman up from the wheel chair but the power of God did not straighten up her legs but only dropped her back into the wheel chair. Kenneth Hagin asked if she really has faith to be healed, she said *'am going to go to my grave from this wheel chair'*. Hagin would say: 'regrettably, she went to her grave from that wheel chair'.

It is not enough to just have faith in one area. As you read this book, your faith must be increased in every areas and that's what Jesus desires of you. Some people believe that if they use drugs they will be healed, they have faith that if they undergo surgery they will be healed, they never have faith that God can even heal without drugs or surgery. Your own faith must grow. By the grace of God I have faith in all areas and you can have it as well, I have faith in healing, prosperity, deliverance and so on. I don't experience demonic attacks, I don't fall sick; I succeed in whatever I lay my hands upon. I didn't say I am grown but, I do have faith and you can have it as well. I have never suffered from any demonic attack because of the faith I have.

Faith shields just as Ephesians 6:16 says above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Can you see my secret of living without drugs and freedom from any attacks? I am holding the shield of faith.

INGREDIENTS OF FAITH

When you have a good grasp of these ingredients, you can be sure that your faith will always be alive. These things will boost your faith, they will give meaning to your faith, and your faith will be very strong when these ingredients are fully applied. If I tell you I am eating beans, in the Nigeria context that means there is palm oil, onions, salt, water and pepper at the least in the beans. Some ingredients were added to that food which gives it meaning, the same thing with faith, there are ingredients that makes faith what it is and makes it works. Another description of faith is a tree, when you get to a tree, all you see are not just the fruits, there are leaves, branches and the stem. Faith is wholesome and the ingredients need to go hand in hand with our faith. When this happens, our faith grows and we will always receive from God. The ingredients of faith includes: the Word of God, hope, expectation, peace, love, joy, thanksgiving, believe, trust and patience.

I want you to know that love is primary; everything in the Spirit realm worketh by love. Love is the first and second commandments given to the New Testament saints, we must have love towards God and love towards men. A heart that loves God is such with no offence in God, you don't have a query against God, and you don't say God has hurt you because something bad happened to you or that He closed His eyes at your situation. Some would even say God is the source of their predicaments. I tell you if you pray for anything and you don't receive the answer, it is that you are the one missing something because, God will always answer when you approach Him on His own terms and since you are reading this book, you are very likely to see where you are missing it. When you don't love your fellowman and you keep grudges in your heart, know that nothing is going to work for you in the spiritual realm.

We will be looking at Abraham as our case study, he is a man that showed us what faith is both in context and practice and so for the rest of this chapter we will be looking at his life. We will see how he showcased all the ingredients of faith. We shall be drawing from Romans 4:17-22.

1. The Word of God:

The first ingredient of faith we will be picking from the life of Abraham is "The Word of God". V17 reads:

> As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

As it is written… implies the word of God. That's the place to start from in building up your faith in all areas of life. Romans 10:17 says: "so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God". To build faith in all areas, go for the word, verse 8 says: but what saith it, the Word is near thee even in thy mouth and in thy heart that is the word of faith, which we preach. Do you need faith for academic success? Then go get the word, look for the scriptural references that guarantee academic success! You need marital success? Go for the word that talks about marital success! You need healing? Go for the word, that's how I built my faith. The just shall live by his own faith. I have preached several messages on different areas that you can search for and listen to. You can also search for Biblical references on Goggle. Just type: "scriptural passages on academic success" or any other areas you may need help. Before faith for healing got into my system, I tell you, I was reciting and chewing the healing scriptures wherever I go, even while walking on the street. I was meditating on it and absorbing it into my bones and marrows. Even when I slept in the

night, I would find myself reciting those scriptures from my sleep. The same thing goes for every areas of my life. Up till date, I always meditate; ponder on the word of God which talks about every area of my personal life, family and ministry. I am still in search of new words and scripture references that could make me stand more firm. Don't go for one, two or three, don't relax until you have up to 20 scriptural references that could build up your faith. Bible says faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God, the more you hear and hear, the more you read and read, your faith get increasing!

Your faith must not be in the level of normal Christians because you are student of this school of faith, after this book, your faith must be likened to that of great men of faith. It must be in that rank, so go search, read and study. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success'. Joshua 1:8.

Good faith births good success! It births successful living in those areas of lives you so desired. God told the Israelites: put the word on the doorposts of your houses, on your foreheads, write it on your bodies, and teach your children when they sit or stand, day and night, Deuteronomy 11:18-22. Teach it always! Meditation means to ponder, to grind into powder and swallow. Biology tells us that digestion undergoes three processes: digestion, assimilation and absorption. Digestion is when you take in the food and you grind it with your teeth. Assimilation is when it begins to get into your system and absorption is when it fully gets into your system. It is not the rice that gets into your system but the processed rice that you have eaten. You just don't chew the word of God; it must be assimilated and absorbed

into your spirit through regular meditations. This was how I got divine health into my veins: I woke up in the morning with references on healing in my mouth not because I was sick but even when I was healthy. I spoke it to myself, I pondered on it in the bathroom, when I went out and when I came back in the night till I slept! At another time, I may wake up meditating on prosperity or family security and many other biblical realities.

It is the word that produces faith in us and I believe your faith is developing already. There is nothing like having faith and keeping it. You must make use of your faith even if you are in an environment where people are faithless; you must let your faith so shine to overcome the gloominess and every iota of doubt around you. Faithless people around you must come to submit and respect your faith and acknowledge you as a faith-er, you must be a faither. Even though my wife is a faither but I tell you, she always looks at me and acknowledges that I am a man of faith because everything about me is faith. And of course faith is breathing and the Bible says we must have the mind of Christ and the mind of Christ is the mind of faith in every area of life. You will emerge in dominion in Jesus Name.

2. Hope

The second ingredient of faith is hope. The faith of father Abraham (who is our case study) is not in vague or vacuum but it was based on the what God said to Him which is the word of God: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; Vs 20. The promise is the word of God, he knew what the word says and what God has said to him so he kept meditating on the word therefore, the word was assimilated and absorbed into his systems. I told you earlier that there are three stages of digestion: digestion, assimilation and absorption. You must also know the word,

mediate, assimilate and absorb it into your heart. Abraham absorbed the word into his heart so he staggered not, and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised; he was able also to perform- vs 21. NLT reads verse 18 as: even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping believing that he would become the father of many nations for God had said that to him.

Abraham was standing on the word of God and not on his environment or wish or thought. He did not stagger because he kept on meditating on the word even at 99years of age, he was unshaken. He was meditating on the word, he figured out that his body was as good as dead and so was Sarah's womb, yet he never wavier, in fact his faith was stronger as the situation looks harder and in this he brought Glory to God, he was fully convinced God is able to do what he has promises.

The Bible essentially says: faith is the substance of things hoped, evidence of things not seen. Hope is the bridge between the word and faith. Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things HOPED for. What do we hope for? The fulfilment of the word (the promise of God to you)! The word is what we are hoping for and that means it is hope that gives the expectations. Hope gives our heart a relaxation into something only faith can acquire. Hope awaits or expects longingly because it is so convinced of its existence and faith receives the promise. When a man loses hope, he should forget about faith. You can have hope without having faith but you can’t have faith without hope. Hope is an essential faith ingredient in attracting the word, the promise of God. Let's see how Abraham practiced hope in his own case: Romans 4:18 says who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken. NLT says: Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept

hoping— believing that he would become the father of many nations. When there was no reason for hope he kept hoping, looking unto God.

Hope is looking unto God. Verse 19 says "and Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead— and so was Sarah's womb". He knew looking at his environment will not help but, he kept his gaze on God. Hope is looking unto God, checking God out, weighing God and putting God on a balance to see if He is able to do what you see in His word. Verse 20 reads: "Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God". Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to do what He promised. I love the way KJV puts verse 20: "he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. **Hope is placing the promiser side by side with his promise.** Hope is when the promisee weighs the promiser with the promise to see if he can do what he has promised. If I tell you that I am going to give you 10 copies of my books free of charge, you can be rest assured that I will hand them over to you free of charge! Because by the time you weigh the promise with my person, you know that I am able to do it but, if I tell you I am going to give you distinction in your university courses, you would doubt it.

Hope is seeing God as 'being able to do'. Hope is looking at God as 'being able to do it'. Is God able to do that thing? In that area of your pressing need, is He able and capable? Then don't just look at your environment or the prevailing circumstances, only look at God. Hope is checking out God if He is actually able to do what you expect as He has promised in His word. Don Moen sang thus:

I have made you too small in my eyes
O Lord, forgive me,
I have believed in a lie that you were unable to help me,
But now O Lord I see my wrong,
Heal my heart and show yourself strong
And heal my eyes and with my song,
(O Lord be magnified/ 2ce).

What's the meaning of magnify? Magnify means 'become bigger in my eyes'. God never change, He is big already, He doesn't have to become bigger, and there is a song that says: *You are big, big, big….* He is big enough; He is bigger than the big. He doesn't have to become bigger, He doesn't change neither has He reduced in power and strength. It is what you see with your eye that needs to be addressed. Are you seeing God as big or small because He is unable to do that which you desire?

That's why Don Moen says: magnify Him in your eyes, with your eyes and lens of faith. That is hope! You need twin children and you say to yourself, God is bigger than that! He can do it. I remember several times from courtship days with my wife, she would say: "we need this thing by tomorrow". I would tell her between now and tomorrow is too much, too long for God to do it. That way, we have never been stranded. We have never checked it out and it's not there and even if any of it seems to delay we remain steadfast in faith that God is able to do it and He has always delivered. We have never ever been put to shame. I tell you, if there is anything you desire and is not yet delivered unto you, check yourself. You are probably missing it somewhere because; you shouldn't approach God on your own terms but on His own terms.

Hope magnifies God more than the situation, hope makes you relax that God is able to do more than you are requesting for. I baptize you into the spirit of hope and faith in Jesus name. Check out if God can do what you desire then make God big, not your environment or deadlines. I have several testimonies in the line of deadlines. There was a time I was to pay my school fees and wasn't having a dime on me. It was postponed three times yet I couldn't meet up. I went around joyous and a negative thought keeps reminding me: your school fees close tomorrow and I also kept speaking back to it: "by the time it closes you will meet me working for my God". On the morning of the final closing date, a friend of mine called and sent the whole money into my account. God has helped me grow in faith and I am so glad about it! Several people have remained babies because they could not stand through the situation.

Summarily, hope makes you see God as big and magnified than your mountain. Don't just found your hope on seeing God as the Almighty, let it be founded on His word which is what you have read, seen, heard and handled from His word.

3. Expectation:

This is another ingredient that makes up your faith. There is a big challenge and misconception people have concerning expectation. Let's look at the popular passage: Jeremiah 29:11, for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. We often quote this part but, we do not understand its implications. We only remember it says I know the thoughts I think towards you, thought of good and not of evil, to give you an expected end. We don't usually consider the context of that word. Let's read from Verse 8 in the NLT:

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them," says the Lord. This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Can you see the word "expected end" was replaced with the word "a future and a hope?" The Israelites were in Babylon, home of captivity, they were held captive in slavery. Some people among them began to give fake prophecies like this: tomorrow God will take you out; tomorrow God will take you back to Israel. They were telling them good and sweet things but Jeremiah the real prophet said God indeed have a good thing in mind for them but not in the way those fakes were saying it. That teaches us that we should only focus on the expected end and not the expected way. For instance, your school fee was about closing and you haven't gotten the money. What you need is the school fees, that is your expected end or expectation which is what you are required to focus and set your eyes upon. And not working your minds on the 'ways' God would do it. When you start to brainstorm 'maybe somebody will give me the money or some miracle alert will drop on my phone'; you begin to form the possible means in your head and imagine the way it would come then you have missed it. I know you do that a lot, you just keep going about in your head on how it will be but, God is against that! Focus on your expectations, what you need and give thanks for having that expected end, don't bother or disturb yourself on the 'how'. I don't mean to say you shouldn't plan and in fact, it could be God that will drop the way out

to your mind in form of an idea but after you have laid out your plans, don't trouble yourself with how it will happen.

Let me give two examples of myself. When I started out as a preacher, whenever I have a ministration, from the day I get the invitation, I would start thinking on how to have a successful ministration. I would recite my notes, the quotes, meditate on everything and imagine how I will stand in front of the people, how I will charge them and their exciting responses. I always have everything pictured in my head. Do you know what happened every time I have gone to the pulpit that way? I have always performed woefully based on my assessment. I didn't get to do it well as I have pictured. I began to ask the Holy Spirit questions and He told me "when you have ministrations, set your teaching plans and leave every other thing to me. Don't go about forming mental pictures of how it's going to happen". It was not easy for me to do at first. Many times, I got far into the thought before I called myself back and would say: Lord, pardon me; I know all glory will be yours. That way, I have always had a good time to the glory of God.

It doesn't take away the place of planning, I do plan and have my audience in mind while planning but I don't go about to picture how it will possibly come through. The same applies to us when we need help. It is good you meet people to help you but should not get carried away looking into how God would do it but on what He is going to do because His ways are not our ways. **Expectation means we should focus on the expected end not the expected way.** God doesn't take a route, or use a method at all times.

I said I was going to give two examples of myself. The second instance was my encounter from the book of 2 Samuel 5:17-23. The enemies came to battle with Israel, David asked God on what to do, and God

told him to fight head on with them. They overpowered them and the enemies retreated, soon enough, they regrouped against Israel then, David went to God the second time to ask what technique to adopt this time. When I was reading that passage for the first time as a young child, I see David asking God the second time about what to do on a similar situation, I exclaimed within me: *"why are you still asking what to do, God has told you the first time to fight head on, shouldn't you know it's the same method this time around".* But as I read on, to my surprise I saw something else. I thought David should have reasoned that he was going to fight them the same way he did at first and he doesn't need to bother God again. "And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt <u>not</u> go up (as you did at first); but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees (an ambush)- verse 23 paraphrased. Can you see that? Same things, same people, same situation, same challenge but a different method. Your thought should focus on the expected end and not on the method or the expected way. You don't picture how God will do it but picture giving Glory to God. I believe you get it.

4. Trust:

Another ingredient of faith is trust! That is, having trust in God that He is going to do it. The Bible says thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee- Isaiah 26:3. Trust shows that your mind in on God and not on the result. Your trust is proven when you are yet to receive the answer and you still trust in God. You are peaceful and relaxed with your mind on God even when you have not received the answer. That was the lifestyle of Abraham, the Bible says he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but he was strong in faith giving Glory to God. Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith

grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises (Romans 4:20-21 NLT). We also see how strong the three Hebrew boys were at the face of death, trusting God.

Trust is so strong, it is like when someone known to you did a wrong thing but you find it hard to believe even when the person pleads guilty. You trust God to the point that whether He will do as promised or not is not a question in your heart but you are too sure that it is settled in God. I know that you are coming up to that level in Jesus name. Amen. That no matter how difficult that situation might be or high the mountain might stand, you are convinced it is gone. The Scripture says He will keep in perfect peace those that trust in Him. It is those that trust Him even when they have not seen any trace of answer. It was trust that made Sarah permit a sexual intercourse with her husband at that age to conceive a child, it was faith that made Abraham took the same Isaac to the slaughter with the clear assurance that God would raise him from the dead. It was trust that made Jesus die on the cross with the assurance that the Father will raise Him up again. Can you trust God up to that extent? Trust is a vital ingredient to our faith.

5. Peace

Peace is a situation where you are at rest. You are no longer bothered about that situation, once you had presented it to God and absorbed His words: you are relaxed and at rest. You can move on peaceably, it doesn't bother you; you are at rest in spite of the storm. There is a great calmness in your heart. You sleep on your bed unbothered or turning left and right. Peace is a very important ingredient. You are at peace when you can eat your food and it goes down the gullet. I have received several news capable of bothering me, but, once I present it to

my Father, I receive His calmness and you can't see me get bothered. And to the glory of God, there was no great issue that I was so relaxed about that ended in calamity, none! Peace is when you have that great calmness and the way to receive such is by assuring and re-assuring yourself; constantly speaking the word to yourself.

The Three Artists

Three artists in a competition were asked to draw an image of peace. One drew a man sitting under a tree in the evening with a newspaper in his hand and the wind was blowing gently on him. Another drew a man walking down the street peacefully with his hat on his head enjoying the cool breeze. The last artist drew a picture of a ranging storm, rocks, fire, thunder and water splashing over the rock. He drew a mother eagle with her baby eagle under her wings, the baby eagle put out his head from underneath the wings calmly watching the storm. The mother eagle was fierce, looking straight at the storm. When the judges were to decide, the man that drew a ranging storm and the eagles won.

God is there for us, He want us to stay calm at the moment while He protect us under His wings. Peace is not the absence of trouble; you will hear people say I want to be at peace, I want everything to be calm, good! You have a good desire but that's not what Bible says peace is. He will keep him in perfect peace, he that his heart rest on thee because he trust in Him. Those kept in perfect peace are not those who had all their needs met but those who put their trust in God inspite of the ranging storm, they are the ones God will keep in perfect peace. Peace is the environment where faith acts, remove the peace, faith is ineffective. Hannah went to Shiloh troubled and couldn't eat but as soon as she got the word from Prophet Eli, the scriptures say she went her way rejoicing with a good countenance,

she ate her food and God visited her same day. Hannah acted from the moment she received the word as though she was already pregnant. Unlike many of us, we are even sadder when we finished praying than before the time we prayed. May the fruit of peace well up in you right now in the name of Jesus! Amen. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours] Philippians 4:6. Amplified.

6. Joy:

Peace and joy go hand in hand. Where you see peace mentioned in the Bible, you will likely see joy as well. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation- Isaiah 12:3. Joy is the drawer to bring up your expectations to you. Nobody get things from God through tears. Don't think Hannah won the heart of God by tears, No! She took God's word for it and her countenance was no longer sad. The same as Abraham, he was fully convinced that God was able to do whatever He promised, he was giving glory to God by his faith. "Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God (verse 20)." Only a joyous person can give glory to God especially when the answer is yet to be seen.

7. Belief

For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Mark 11:23

Faith is believing and believing is seeing the answer as if it has been delivered, that's why it is by faith not by sight. For instance you came to me for money and I gave you my word. You are at peace that I will surely give you the money but when you came to see me, I handed you a cheque of the amount I have promised. Even though, you don't have the cash in your hands but with that cheque, you believed you already had it. You would appreciate me as though I have handed over the cash to you. That is belief-- seeing your answer like a cheque, seeing the arrival of your request already. Belief negates what you see in your environment. Abraham, even when there was no reason to hope kept hoping and believing.

You have prayed for healing, have you seen yourself healed? Are you seeing yourself healed? There was a case study of a man who had a fracture on his leg while playing baseball. A Pastor sat him down and said: "I have seen people healed of fracture without using any medication or visit an orthopaedic. He asked if he believed he was going to pray for him and he would be whole. The Pastor opened the Bible establishing the man's faith in the word. He aroused faith in the man from the word and he told the man: 'stand up' because he had the fracture on one of his legs. He put down the good leg first and putting down the fractured leg, he fell and fainted. The Pastor said "we must be missing something" they searched the word again to generate faith and afterwards, he told him to stand up but again he fell and fainted. The Pastor prayed: "God show us where we are missing it" and of course the word always works. They realized they were missing it at the point the man was putting down the good leg first. If he believed, he should just put out the fractured leg. They did that and you know what? The man stood on his two legs and started walking. The fractured leg healed up immediately. That's why I said faith is the quickest! It will take several months for any medication to treat that.

Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth- Mark 9:23.

8. Patience

Several places in the scriptures, God told us about patience and patience is a virtue. Faith and patience also go hand in hand. If you search the scriptures, you are likely to see patience coming after faith. The Bible says we should be followers of them who by faith and patience inherit the promises, Hebrews 6:12. We must get what patience actually means. Many times, we term it to mean dummy or stupidity or foolishness. Patience does not make a fool out of you and it doesn't necessarily mean waiting, some people are waiting but not patient. There are many people waiting but not in faith. They are waiting anxiously or worriedly, hopelessly and faithlessly. Patience doesn't mean waiting or been delayed, it is a virtue and a vital ingredient of faith. Patience is expecting the expected end in faith.

The gospel truth is that it is not all desires that come to pass immediately in an instant. In some and in fact, several cases, there is an inevitable a gap between when you pray in faith and when you receive it. That gap is what is called patience! What goes on in you at that space of time? Is it worry, curiosity, eagerness or disturbance? If that is what goes on in you, that means you are not in the faith. You are not patient. Patience is waiting in believe not waiting anxiously. You will realize that most times you are not patient but only waiting and wailing. Caterers tell us that when you are baking a cake and keep going to look at it severally in the oven, the cake won't turn out as expected. It would fall and not form. The same with our prayer requests, when you keep looking at it, no answer will come to you. Patience requires waiting in faith; wait as if you already have the answer already because you really have it. Bible calls patience a virtue

'to your faith add virtue' 2 Peter 1:5 and one of those virtues is patience.

9. Thanksgiving

If you come to me for money and I gave you a cheque, what would you do? You would thank me. Don't forget the cheque is not the money but, you seeing the cheque have assured you that you have the money as well. By the cheque, your faith is established and substance has been given to your hope. You are actually sure your answer has come. You can't have the cheque and still ask me for the money. The same thing happen when you pray, God answers with a cheque (faith), you should therefore be thankful and not repeating the same request over and over. Abraham, 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 not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God (Romans 4:18-20).

A faither is a thanksgiver, his next word after praying is: "Lord I thank you because it is done". And it would immediately affect your countenance just like Hannah did, she worshipped the Lord not because she had a child already in the natural realm but, with her faith lens she could see the child already in her hands and so she worshipped the Lord. Can you go ahead and worship the Lord over the panting of your heart because it is already delivered? Faith will surely work for you, if it is not working in anyway, check where you are missing it. Hallelujah.

10. Testimony

Testimony builds our faith. It is an ingredient to our faith. For beginners in the school of faith, we tell them to look at the testimonies of people around them and those in the scriptures but to a mature student in the school of faith, we emphasize that you should pay attention to the testimonies of what God has done in your life over time. If He has done a small thing, He can do a bigger thing. Several times I had to refer my wife to several things God has done in our lives in times past. It is good you stir faith up in yourself by referring to your personal testimonies.

The scriptures say in Revelation 12:11 and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Abraham was unmoved in believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead because He has done the impossible several times in His life, from the day he left his father's house with little or nothing to the birth of Isaac and so on. One man I really love his faith example while talking about testimony is David! David referred to what God has done for him through him and in him in time past and so he could confidently face Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:34. Between verse 34 & 37, David referred to the testimonies four times so much that Saul was convinced that a young boy can fight against giant Goliath. Don't forget that if the representative is defeated, it means the whole army of Israel has also lost. But with David's testimony of lions and bears, no doubt or devil or Saul or relatives could stop him from facing Goliath.

Your past testimony may be smaller to what you expect God to do this time but, it is enough. **If God does the little, He can do the big, if He has done it once, He can do it again, if He did it for one, He can do it for all.** The mountain before you today is actually smaller than the testimony you had yesterday. If God can do that for you then

He can do another one for you, if you can successfully pay an acceptance fee of fifteen thousand that means you can pay the school fees of fifty or seventy thousand, it is as small as that. If you didn't die young then you can have a good marriage; if you are married, it means you can conceive; if you conceive, it means you can deliver safely; if you deliver safely, it means God can take care of you and the child.
This chapter is quite great, glory to God.

Chapter 6

THE FAITH KLLLERS

If you have been practicing faith from the moment you started reading this book, people around you should start saying there is something different about you because it cannot be hidden. Faith cannot be hidden because you have to say it, live it and demonstrate it. People around you will surely take note of you. Faith killers are those elements that kill our faith, they work against our prayers. A good understanding of it will establish you in the faith life forever. In this chapter we shall examine some of these things: worry, anxiety, doubt, disbelief, the 'if' prayer, repetition and 'let thy will be done'.

1. WORRY

What does worry mean? Can you take a minute out and define it on your own? What does it mean to you?

A. Worry is when you pray with faith but refused to have rest over that matter. When you have prayed, had faith upon an issue but you

couldn't rest over it; you couldn't take a break over it - that is worry. Looking at the story of Hannah, the other wife was mocking her (I Samuel 1:7-10) and she couldn't eat but as soon as she approached God in prayers, Eli, the man of God told her: 'Go in peace'. She took that peace for an answer. She took that peace for a baby in her womb. Afterwards, the scripture says she ate her food and her countenance was no longer sad. I am sure that by the time she was eating gladly, her husband and rival would be saying: 'as the prophet given you a child'? And of course she knew she has gotten a child. That's unlike many of us, we prayed, we got a man of God to pray with us, we even had peace or (relief as you may call it) but, we quickly kill that peace wondering if our prayers has been answered at all.

B. Worry is when you couldn't sleep at night over the issue, you tossed left, back and forth on your bed and you couldn't sleep all through the night. Though you had prayed over that matter and you had peace and faith in the daytime but at night time, it all became past tense; worry has dawn on you with full force therefore, you lost your sleep.

C. Worry is when food refuses to go down your gullet, when you just suddenly lose appetite. I have seen cases of people who will tell me: "sir, I don't know why but I'm just feeling sad, I'm not feeling happy and I don't know the cause". I always tell them to flashback to one, two or three unpalatable events that happened to them recently that made them sad but, it seems you 'packed' it somewhere or ignored it. Every sincere people that I have counselled that way always disclose the events that actually got them worried. The truth is, when you think you have packed or handled that unpalatable experience, it only stored up in your sub-conscious and act out on its own later.

D. Worry is when your mind suddenly slips into worry! At times, it could be an issue you have decided not to think over anymore but your mind just wandered away into it.

E. Worry is when you pace around in a corner of your house in deep thought over a situation.

F. Worry is when you drop tears over something you already prayed about.

G. Worry is when your heart pants over an issue. Your heart pants due to worry and you are carried away.

The effect of worry on man

1. Worry leaves you with a wrong choice: Let me give you an instance. You were asked for the capital of Nigeria in an examination with two options: Abuja and Akure. You knew that the answer was Abuja but you went ahead to pick Akure. We could say that was foolishness, right? To every problems of life, there are two options before us: the right answer and the wrong answer. The wrong answer is to worry yet, many go ahead to worry over their problems, picking the wrong choice. Many think when they drop tears in prayers they are moving the heart of God. My dear God is not a man, He is not moved by your tears, He can only be moved by your faith! And worry is a faith killer. No matter how long you stand before a door if you don't put in the right key in the hole, it won't open up. You can bang the door or shout, you could even tell the door you are the owner, but it won't open until you use the key. When we worry, we have refused to use the key and in fact, you are doing every other thing aside using the key.

b. Worry distracts you from praying: have you realize that you are so much carried away thinking, bothered over an issue and forgotten to

take it to the Lord in prayer? At times, you think you have prayed but all you did was to worry not pray.

c. Worry unanswers your prayer: I can tell you categorically that by the reason of my relationship with the Holy Spirit, no sin abhors Him like worry. When you have prayed and you slip into worry, you have simply erased the answer to your prayer unless you can recall yourself from the pit.\

d. Worry makes you sorrowful and heavy -hearted: Worry is an evil spirit that puts a big weight on us. Proverbs 12:25 says: Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad. Isaiah 61:3 says to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. Jump up and declare that you are delivered from the spirit of worry in Jesus Name.

e. Worry makes you helpless and hopeless: when you worry so much, you feel helpless; you feel no one can help you and God is therefore incapacitated to help you.

f. Worry makes you absolute with the situation: have you ever worried to a point where you feel nothing has ever worked for you since you were born? You quickly remembered the number of times you have been disappointed and unfortunate. You concluded that everyone and everything is against you including God and even the weather. You looked at everything that is not working around you and you get absolute: “I’m just an unfortunate fellow”. Never allow devil to push you to that point because at that moment, evil spirits of depression and suicide began to feast on your mind. At those dark moments of

my life, I have learnt to concentrate on every good thing that has happened to me and glorify God for them. Then, I pieced every ill event around me at the moment, I analysed them, find the root cause for each and prescribed biblical solutions to them separately instead of getting absolute or saying I was just unfortunate.

Whenever I was supposed to get worried I just turn to God and put my trust in Him, and reassured myself that He is able to do it. When worry comes to your mind over an issue, sit down and address it, deal with that worry.

How to deal with worry

1. Have faith in God: Mark 11:22. When you are in faith, nothing will worry or disturb you, nothing will make you lose your sleep. The reason food refused to down your gullet is because you have no faith. The Scripture says faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen. So when you are in faith you already know you have it already then, what's there to worry about? Some people would say: I'm not worried, I'm just concerned. Whether you are disturbed or concerned, you are still worried. 1 Peter 5:7 says casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].

2. When you hope in God, nothing will disturb you: when you are in faith nothing will worry you and when you hope in God nothing will disturb you. As touching Abraham, the Bible says: he staggered not at the promises of God, who against all hope believed in hope. He had no reason to hope but was still hoping in God. He had no reason or basis for hope, his situation was beyond hope yet, he hoped in God.

3. Fight the spirit of worry by rebuking it: you must agree with me that worry is a spirit. I have been in a deliverance session where the spirit in the fellow confessed that it came into her when she was worrying and helped her to worry the more. To overcome the spirits of worry and heavy-heart, you need to put your mouth to work. Each time you slipped into worry, you should confess out loud: I rebuke you spirit of worry in Jesus Name. You should say it repeatedly out aloud as long as the thought of worry keep flashing through your mind. If it comes a hundred times, rebuke it a hundred times. It would appear hard at first because the thought would keep coming but as you persist, it would reduce and fade off. You can really live without worrying a second. Acts 19:20 says "so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed". If you are in a public place, a whisper would do or you cover your mouth with your hand but you must not rebuke within, rebuke aloud. There is power in declaration.

4. Encourage yourself in the Lord!

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. I Samuel 30:6

That passage explained what happened to David and his men. The Philistines came to rob David when he was hiding from King Saul; they took his families and that of his followers. When they found out, the first thing they did was to weep. I have told you God is not moved by tears. Why are you crying instead of finding a way out? You have wept enough over that matter, it's time for you to encourage yourself in the Lord. Why weeping when you can pray. I remembered a young Sadozite (member of our ministry- SADOZ) who had failed SSCE exams severally. I received a call one day that she just checked a new

result and failed again. She was weeping and rolling on the floor. Even the mother could not rebuke her because it wasn't her wish to fail. When I got there, I asked them what the way forward was. We made plans for her to write another exam which was going to close in few days. We also planned for a tutorial class and to the glory of God; she gained admission with full sponsorship with the result. We must learn to move forward. The first step David did was to encourage himself in the Lord, I love it. He didn't console himself but encouraged himself by faith that he can recover all and he did. Encourage yourself and move forward. Victory is yours.

2. DOUBT

Doubt is when you are so filled with "what if and what if not". What if it doesn't work out, what if it doesn't happen, what if I didn't pass and so on. Doubt is when you look at the mountain with your natural eyes and you say to yourself is it not done yet? This problem is still there?

Mark 11:23- For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

When you command the mountain to move into the sea, you have to begin to see (by faith) the mountain in the sea already for you to have your answer.

Have you observed that it is when you pray about something that it seems to get worst? It's when you pray about your finances that it get worst. It's when you pray about a stubborn child that he seem to get worst. I tell you, getting worse on the surface at that time is just to trick you because on the inside it is gone! Look at the fig tree Jesus cursed, the fig looked fine on the outside at that moment but, Jesus

already knew it was dried off already. It was as good as dead. Getting there the following day the disciples were surprised that it dried off but Jesus knew all along. Peter told Him: the tree you cursed yesterday is dried off from the root today and He replied:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

What does that mean? You can also curse a tree to dry off and it will surely dry off but mind you, it may not appear dry at that moment or point in time, in fact it might look fresher as if it will never dry off but on the inside, because you have said it, it is as good as dead. When you speak to the mountain to move into the sea, the mountain may appear bigger and stronger but I tell you it is just as weak as a loaf. When situation appears to be worst, don't lose your faith but be strong! **I have learnt to take a worst situation as a good sign for victory.**

Remember the man with the deaf and dumb spirit that was brought to Jesus Christ. He cast out the devil out of him but devil played a trick.

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. Mark 9:25-26

The situation of this young man looked worse than when he was first brought to Jesus Christ. What happened? Initially, he only had a deaf and dumb spirit but when Jesus cast the spirit out, it appeared as if the boy was dead so much that people said he was dead. That was the

devil's trick. I have learnt to take a worst situation as a good sign for victory. I have seen it happen that way more than a hundred times in my life and that of others.

Many of us have fallen victim of this trick of the devil and immediately we say: this problem is still there or it has even gone worse. We resurrect the problem and it happen just as we have said it. As long as Peter saw the sea as a dry ground, he could walk but as soon as he saw it as a sea, he sank. Began to see things the way God wants you to see it and confess accordingly no matter how it seems to appear on the surface.

Doubt is when you have a plan B for God. You said if God didn't show up by this time, I would do this. God may never show up. Doubt is when you are forced to repeat your prayers; there is nothing that makes someone repeat prayer points than the fact that you are in doubt that your prayer was not answered in the first time. If you ask me for a book and I gave you a book, will you ask again? If you asked God for something and you have received it by faith why would you go back to ask for it? Someone would ask, if we can't repeat what should we do? You claim and you keep claiming: I am blessed, I am healed, I am successful as it may apply to you. To strengthen your claims, you back it up with the word like: I am fruitful because God commanded me to be fruitful and replenish the earth.

> For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Some people did not only doubt in their heart but doubt with the words of their mouth. When somebody asked you, 'hi, how is it getting

through?' 'And you tell them "It is not easy, we are still looking at the face of God', that's faithlessness. You should simply tell them what you believe. Tell those who ask and those who did not ask. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward- Hebrews 10:35. Your confidence has a reward: but let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8.

3. ANXIETY

The third faith killer we are going to examine in this chapter is anxiety. Anxiety is the twin brother of worry. Anxiety is when you are so much loaded with the expected way as against the expected end. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. We are very quick to quote Jeremiah 29:11 but we do not take a careful look at the background story. The children of Israel were actually in captivity in Babylon. They have been there for a while and some fake prophets began to exploit the situation to give fake prophecies that they would leave the land of captivity very soon. They made it appear as if God was going to deliver them the next day. It was at that point that God sent Prophet Jeremiah to tell them that He will give them the expected end (deliverance from captivity) but not in the expected way (the next day) as the fake prophets had claimed. This can be likened to a situation where you are expecting a miracle from God but you have calculated in your mind how it's going to work out.

Anxiety is when you are full of too many calculations and you see so many impossibilities. You look around you and you say it's impossible, how will it get done? You look at Mr. A, Mrs. B, and Uncle C, you

realized that none of them can help you and you say: is it possible? When you are filled with anxiety, your heart is so filled up with the expected way 'will God do it this way or that way?' And at times you might be very sure it's someone that will get it across to you and so, your mind is so much on the person not on God. You are very anxious.

Whenever I talk about anxiety, I love to make reference to David. Immediately he was announced as the king, the enemy gathered against him. David inquired from God on how to face them and God directed him, He said they should go face to face with them. They prevailed and the Philistines retreated. Soon enough, they regrouped again to fight David, to my amazement; he went to seek the face of God on how they should fight the second time. One would think he should have just fought the same way he fought earlier and won but, he understood that God doesn't work in the same way. He had to speak with God and surprisingly God led them through a totally different way. This time, God told them not to go face to face but to hide and ambush the enemy. The lesson here is that God does not work in the same way; He could work in your life through different means but anxiety will distract you from total dependence on God and make you to lose His help.

Anxiety makes you to make too many calculations and so therefore, see so many impossibilities. Anxiety makes you not be at rest as to what the result will be or if there will be any way out at all. They tell you the result is going to be out by tomorrow and you are panting today! You are not at rest! You are thinking if it is going to work out or not. You are thinking what if you failed, you are so worked up. Don't think everyone live in anxiety, you can outlive it. You can also outlive a life of worry.

Anxiety is when you want to help God to help you. I remembered a time I was anxious about an issue so much that I forgot to pray about it. Then the Holy Spirit told me: "thank you for carrying my load and for doing the things I was supposed to do for you". I said what's that? He said “these things that you are anxious about are my own duty to take care of while you go ahead with your roles in the ministry”. I said “whao, I’m not ready to carry any load again, please I am committing everything into your hands from this moment” and that was the end of it. He sorted all out.

Effect of Anxiety

a. When you are trying to help God to help you, He leaves you to take care of it all by yourself. God wants to be the God over your life and that situation. The reasons you haven’t received answer all this year is because you haven’t let go and let God take care of it.

b. Anxiety makes you restless.
c. Anxiety makes you to lose appetite and sleep.
d. Anxiety produces worry
e. Anxiety does not solve the problem: if it's not the solution then why are you going for it? If it will not solve but make it harder and make you more sorrowful, why are you going for it? Anxiety will never solve the problem on your behalf. Why been anxious when you can actually commit everything into the hands of God. Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad. Proverbs 12:25. What kind of word do you need? It is the Word of God!

Since I came to understand Philippians 4:7-9, my heart has been at rest and it changed a lot of things in my life! It has changed my perception about worry and anxiety. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all

understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours] Philippians 4:6, Amplified. The passage says when I commit all to the hands of God, the peace of God is going to encircle and mount a guard as an army watching a place, over my life so much that I will be at rest and could eat my food and have a good rest without having to worry about the situation because a capable hand has worked on it. Hallelujah.

Didn't the Scripture say: do not fret or have anxiety on anything! Just commit everything into the able hands of God. I take that passage very practical and personal. Whenever, I seem bothered, I go on my knees or lie down or even sit and speak to God as if He is standing before me. Like a kid, I will practically tell Him how I am feeling, tell Him what His word says and submit to His able hands. Have you seen a man who deposited money into his bank account and went home anxious whether the money is safe or not? Of course not! He is sure the money is in safe hands. 1 Peter 5:6-8 says casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully].

Dealing with anxiety

The same way you deal with worry is the way you will deal with anxiety. You see it as an evil spirit and you must keep rebuking it. You make sure you didn't repeat your prayers but you keep declaring your answer.

4. IF PRAYERS

The last we shall be talking about on faith killers is the "if prayers". When I say 'if', I mean prayers that start with 'if' like: if God blesses me, if I gain admission, if I become rich, if God grant me my heart

desire, if I am healed and so on. Whenever your prayers start with “If”, you have prayed amiss and may not get an answer. If-prayers are negative prayers, they are wrong prayers. If-prayers or statements negates faith and shows you don't have faith.

IF is a conditional word, it means maybe or maybe not. We are expected to know what we want and be sure we have it by faith. Bible says whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray believe ye receive them and ye shall have it, not ‘may have it’. You have to believe that it is done, when you believe you have received something or that it is done, you won't go ahead to use ‘if’ statements in making your professions of faith. Whenever you use if, you are out of faith and your prayer may not be answered.

If it's thy will:

Many people spent good time and energy to pray and when they finish praying they say: 'let your will be done' or 'if it's your will'. They thought they are been spiritual or they are in faith but actually, it is the opposite. While I was in the secondary school, we were told that when you have made your points in a debate competition you must not end your speech with: “with this few points of mine I hope I have been able to convince you…” Once you say that, you have reduced your points. You may think such statement is humble but, you have simply demonstrated that you don’t have confidence in what you said thereby losing the confidence of your audience and the judges in your points. Rather what you must say is, “I believe with these points, I have been able to convince you….”

Likewise, when rounding off your prayer, saying if it's thy will put you at a disadvantage spot because, it shows you don't even know what

you are talking about, it shows you are not in faith, the scriptures in 1John 5:14 says:

> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.

<u>If we ask anything according to His will….</u> What is His will? His Word! Some people take the passage out of context, put themselves on a lazy spot and summarize their prayer requests in one sentence: “do unto me according to your will”, “oh let thy will be done over this matter”. That’s wrong. God expects you to look for His will which is His Word!

His will concerning healing is that you will be healed then, you are expected to claim healing! Not to say let thy will be done, no! Claim healing! What is His will concerning prosperity? That you will be prosperous, He says I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth- 3John1:2. Once you find out what His will is concerning that issue then you should pray accordingly! You should claim it using the word of God which is the will of God.

There are several people who say ‘let thy will be done’ because they have actually resigned to ***fate*** and not to ***faith***. They say what will be, will be. His will says: this is the confidence that we have that when we ask according to His will, he heareth us. What a nice scripture to put God on the spot. You should say: "God, I have confidence in you that if I ask something according to your will, you will surely hear me and I’m claiming my healing and I receive it in Jesus name because that is your will for me and your will shall be fulfilled in my life and I receive it- amen. When you speak that way, God will say ‘Yes, he knows my will and he is praying according to my will'.

In many Nigeria homes and I believe the same happens all over the world. Once the children go to school, the parents also go to work but the mother would have prepared the lunch and leave it in the kitchen. Once the children return especially in cases when they can return on their own, they would drop their school bags and race to the kitchen. Any child would be stupid to refuse to eat because he doesn't know whether it was the will of the mother or not. If any child does that, not only would his sibling eat his portion, when the mother returns, she will scold him for being so stupid. The same way, the devil has locked so many people up thinking is it really the will of God to get me healed? Is it really the will of God for me to succeed? Is it the will of God for me to be fruitful? A pastor even said: have find out if it is the will of God for you to prosper? That's an insult on God. You don't sit thinking that way but you go ahead to claim your food in the kitchen! Claim your healing and never say 'what will be, will be'. What is it that you want?

To perform some miracles, Jesus asked them specifically: 'what do you want?' Having said what they wanted, they were granted their heart desires, so what do you also want? Never say let thy will be done but, receive that which God has prepared for you, never resign to fate, never say what will be, will be. You are emerging as a victor in Jesus Name.

Some would say but Jesus Christ prayed: let thy will be done. They forgot to add that Jesus stated the will of His Father and His before saying <u>not my will but your will</u>.

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done."

Mathew 26:42

We knew ‘Jesus will’, it was for the cup to pass over Him, for Him not to die or go through the torture. We also knew the Father’s will, it was for Jesus to die and go through the torture. So, Jesus wasn’t speaking as though He doesn’t know what the will of the Father was, He knew it and prayed accordingly—not as I wanted but as you wanted. The only time, we can round up our prayer with: ‘let they will be done’, is when we are dedicating ourselves to the service of God just as Jesus did.

In this chapter, we have examined a number of faith killers: worry, anxiety, doubt and if prayers. I emphasised that IF prayers are wrong prayers. I believe by now, you can identify those things that have crippled your faith and you have been delivered from them. Stay strong.

Chapter 7

RECEIVING ANSWERS

And Jesus answering saith unto them, "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:22-24

In this Chapter, we shall be looking at the receiving faith and how it influences our prayers; we shall be looking at two case studies on how to receive answers to prayer by faith. I will be showing you the examples of our Lord Jesus Christ and the woman with the issue of blood.

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. Jesus saw a fig tree afar off, moving closer, He was expecting a fruit on it but was disappointed and so He cursed the tree. The scriptures added that His disciples heard Him. Mark 11:13-14.

Using this scene, I'm going to explain four steps that will always help you to get your prayer answered by faith at all times. Take note: when we say 'by faith', it is not probability but of certainty.

Step #1-- Desire

What do you desire? What do you want from God? What is your prayer point? It says 'whatsoever' that is, it cut across every area at any point in time, even when you are eating and you remembered a desire or you are about stepping out. There are several times that I would be on transit and a desire will arise on my mind or I would remember someone or something I needed to pray about. Instead of wishing for a time or space to pray, the Holy Spirit would tell me you can do that right now! Even as I am writing this part, Holy Spirit brought someone up in my mind and I quickly prayed for her and returned to writing.

Whatsoever ye desire, you can mention it at any point, just ensure that your desire is based on the word, the Bible says: "this is the confidence we had in him that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us". What is the will of God? ***The word of God is the Will of God*** so your request must be based on the word of God.

I was studying the book of Mark and I came across a place where James and John, the two sons of Zebedee went to Jesus Christ and said 'we desire something that one of us may sit by your right and the

other by your left' that was a desire! Mark 10:35-37. They prayed but, their desire was not in accordance with the word of God. They were trying to cheat their fellows, they were trying to play politics and Jesus said no! That request is not going to be granted that's why I told students in our school of prayer that God doesn't have a room for unanswered prayers, it is either your prayer is answered or thrown back to you. Your desire must be in line with the word of God.

Some would say: what if it is in God's will but not in His will for my life at this point in time. Firstly, I believe every good thing in my Father's word belongs to me because, that is what He says and He exalts His words above all His names. Secondly, that's why we have the Holy Spirit. We can check with Him for a leading. The Scripture says He will lead us into all truths.

Step #2-- Pray

What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. You must pray! He didn't say 'if you pray'; He didn't just say pray, He said you must pray. You must pray and your prayer must be precise and pointed! You must know what you are actually praying for not 'Lord solve all the problems or all challenges of my life'. What's your problem? What is the challenge? Be specific! What challenge in particular do you want him to solve? You have to make mention of it.

There are several approaches to prayer, so whichever approach is applicable to your situation is what you must do. In this case praying could be: <u>asking, saying, rebuking or claiming.</u> Talking about the fig tree in verse 14 *…and Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.* Jesus **said** unto it, He didn't ask or beg or cast, He prayed! But what approach did He use? He said unto it! He

didn't claim at that point in time, He only said it. In some cases you have to claim especially healing, financial provision and others because Jesus had worked it for us already. He had freely given it to us. 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ'- Ephesians 1:3. Jesus Christ had blessed us with all spiritual blessings so if any of those blessings did not seems to be with you, what do you do? You just claim.

Talking about mountains, difficulties or challenges, Jesus didn't ask us to beg or call on Him, He simply asked us to SPEAK to it. Verse 23 says: 'For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall **say** unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he **saith** shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he **saith**'. We must use the right approach when we pray. You are to speak to your mountain or command it not to beg it or even say Jesus help me to shift it. Let's come to God based on the Bible terms and not on our own traditional terms.

Step #3-- Believe

NLT says: I tell you, you can pray for anything and if you believe you you've received it, it will be yours. I love the way NLT puts it, <u>you have to believe you have received it</u>.

Recently I was having some pains and I was like 'I am made whole", the pain persisted and so I persisted in my declaration as well. I kept on praying (declaring) my healing that "I was made whole" then, the Holy Spirit asked me a question: "are you saying you are made whole so you will be healed or you are saying it because you are actually whole already?" I exclaimed: "I am saying I was made whole because I'm already whole! I am already healed not so that I will be healed but

already healed". **Several people are declaring so that they will become, no! You are declaring because you are already.** You actually have that thing; you believe you have received it. The joy, satisfaction, peace that you have received your requests will well up in you.

Step #4—Have it.

'And ye shall have them' KJV. NLT says …believe you have received and it will be yours. Amen.

You must believe that you have been healed. You must believe that you have had it. You must believe that you have succeeded. You must believe 'in the past perfect tense' not in the future tense or present tense but in the past perfect. The Scripture says: if you believe you have received it, it will surely be yours—I've received is a past perfect tense, think about it. Once you believe that way and act accordingly, it will surely be yours but, you must beware of 'doubt, hatred and unforgiveness' (v23 & 25).

Case Study #2

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

This is one woman who had a desire and her desire was met instantly. I will be sharing her experience with us and open up biblical mysteries to us that will boost your faith and guarantee you answered prayers from Mark 5:25-34.

My teacher, Kenneth Hagin spoke a lot on this passage, he said Jesus Christ in a vision gave him four steps from this passage and told him whatever anybody will ask using these four steps they will surely receive the answers. I am not going to explain it the way he explained it because over the years, I have practiced and received more revelation over this passage. I cited Kenneth Hagin testimony for you

to know how powerful the revelation is. God told me specifically that wherever I am talking about healing and I use this passage, people are going to get healed. He said if I should just open this passage or just say anything about this passage people are going to get healed. If you have seen me preach healing, you would be familiar with it. If you would apply the principles here to anything, you will surely have your answer.

Step #1-- Say it

Verse 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

I told you that prayer can take the form of speech. The woman prayed by saying something, she knew exactly what her prayer point was. She desired something and made a prayer out of it by saying it. We need to say our prayer points and make sure it is pointed and specific. And you won't just say it once and keep quiet; you need to keep declaring it, till you see it. I didn't say keep asking, no. I said keep declaring it—you would keep saying 'it is done' and not 'it will be done' or 'God, please do it'.

Step #2—Do it.

Verse 27, when she had heard of Jesus, she came in the press behind, and touched His garment.

She went near; she said if I may touch his garment and she did it! She took that step; I will liken doing it to taking the steps of faith. You said you were healed! You have said it, which also mean prayer (we must understand that speech is equal to praying when it is well said). You have said I am healed! But there is a part you have to play and it is to take actions of faith, walk like a man that has been healed. When the cripple man will not play his part, Peter had to pull him up. We must ask ourselves, what's the corresponding step that I need to take on my

prayer that will prove that it has really been answered? You have said and prayed for success in your exams, will you therefore go to sleep or you would go to read? You have declared that God has blessed you; won't you go out to look for a job? Won't you think on how to expand your business? You've been doing the same thing for five years and it has not been yielding and you keep doing it the same way waiting for one miracle! No! Think! Think!

Step #3—Receive It

Verse 29: And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

Once you take the first two steps, you will surely see the result and you must start seeing the result by faith from step one. *The woman felt in her body that she has been healed.* You could see that she first said (saying), did it (doing) before the feeling and healing actually came. Several people are expecting to feel that they had been healed before they behave or demonstrate they have received their answers but in the School of Faith, it is not like that, **we receive it before we feel it,** we never walk by sight, we walk by faith. I started presenting myself prosperous even when I couldn't afford a 3-square meal. I never allowed anyone to take pity on me.

Step #4—Tell It.

Verse 33: But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Everyone standing heard what the woman had to say, that is testimony. You must know that the keys to receive answer to your prayer are not complete until testimony is involved. You must be prepared to herald God's doing in your life.

Having examined the two case studies, we can therefore merge it and that gives us six steps to receiving answers to our prayers.

Step #1: Desire it
Step #2: Pray it (say it, speak to it, declare, rebuke, etc).
Step #3: Believe it -- believe that you have received it.
Step #4: Do it: ask yourself: what should I do to project that I have received the answer? Then, you do it.
Step #5: Have it
Step #6: Tell it: which is in form of testimony.

Life Applications

There are several testimonies in my personal life and that of others where these steps have produced results but for the sake of space, I'm going to sight a case study which is related to my personal life experience:

At a point in my life, I decided to live without drugs. I took study on the scriptures and faith-filled books like this. Just as I finished the study exercise, I was down with malaria typhoid again. I have been treated of the same before so I knew what it was. I decided to keep my faith in God. I was declaring my healings and every other scripture that I knew. I went out on a particular day but when I returned home, I was not only tired but very weak. All I could do was to lie down on the couch. My neighbour asked of me and they were told that I wasn't feeling fine. The couple who were ministers of God came to check me. When they felt my temperature, the wife said they would pray with me and I was going to take drugs, though I objected but they were ready to force it on me. They prayed and while they were praying, the Holy Spirit asked if I believe in prayers. I said yes then, He said I should say a believing amen. I said amen in faith. After the prayer, nothing

changed! My temperature was still high and I was still very ill. But the Holy Spirit told me: if you were healed and you believed your prayer had been answered then you should stand up. I obeyed and just as I stood up, the woman touched my body and exclaimed that the temperature has gone down; there won't be need for drugs again. That was the beginning of my recovery and that was the last time, I ever and would ever fall sick all my life.

SAY IT

Before I round off this chapter and this book on faith, I want to emphasize on **SAY IT**. Faith is a speaking faith. Those who will live the faith life must have their words filled with it. Looking at the case of the fig tree in Mark 11:14: And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it. The scripture says His disciples heard it. Your prayers may not necessarily be heard but, there is a saying part which is 'declaring'. Your declaration must be heard by people especially those that will make jest of you. His disciples heard him say something and they were on the lookout for what was going to happen.

They are yet to see you coming up with a child, tell them you are already pregnant, say it! You are already pregnant because you know you are, they may mock or jest you, that's fine! Mocking is a step away and a stone throw to your testimony. This woman with the issue of blood has been mocked; do you think it was easy for her moving through the crowd? What about Bartholomew? Do you think it was easy for him to have cried 'Jesus Christ of Nazareth, have mercy on me?' The people won't mind to mock him and say 'do you think Jesus Christ is here because of you?' It was pathetic that those around him couldn't join him in calling Jesus' attention; they were watching him

shouting all by himself! We have something to say and we have people that must hear.

What are you saying? What are you confessing? What are you declaring? What are you announcing? Is it defeat? You just finished praying for prosperity, job or admission and you come out to say there is no job. I believe there is a job for you, there is place for you and there is a reservation for you, go and get it in Jesus Name. If there is no vacancy, God will remove one person because of you as He did in the case of Esther, so there is a place for you! A young man in South Africa read my book, Mocking the Devil, the chapter on Mocking Poverty caught his attention and he was declaring positively and profusely, weeks later, the government gave him a job which he was not fully qualified for. I don't join people to say this country is bad, I see some of those that say it sometimes as mere pretenders yes, I know some people who are well to do but they still join people to say this country is bad so that they can be saying something as well.

Since, I was a child; I have always heard people say the country is bad. Some go about with the phrase: 'it is well' but what they mean is that it is not well. I don't believe in being negative. Some would ask: when will this country be ever be good? It has always been good to me because, my hope is in God not in this environment. **I know it takes my word to create my world.** The word thy mouth hath snared thee Proverbs 6:2.

The word of your mouth has trapped you, if you said the rise in dollars or exchanged rate was the cause of your problem now that the cost of dollars has gone down has your problems been solved? If you said the hike in petroleum price was the cause of your problem, now that it has gone down has your problem been solved? If you said it was because of the last government, now that the government has left, has your

problems been solved? Don't let the word of your mouth trap you. *Numbers 14:28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:*

A testimony

"I am having a disease in my body PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases) that is a discharge from the vagina and it depresses me. I applied to SADOZ School of Prayer where, we were taught the prayer of faith. I applied the principles and after some hours, I couldn't feel the symptoms again. But after I have prayed, a spirit told me 'do you think you can be healed just like that without using drug?' Then, I became afraid; my mind was shaking but I quickly rebuked the spirit and continue to declare my healing and now I am healed finally."

The testifier combatted the spirit of doubt, she declared her healing, she rebuked the spirit and she was set free.

Prayer of Faith

Is there any need before you? Why don't you sort it out today on the altar of prayer and receive your answers by faith! Get a plain sheet of paper, write today's date on it and follow the steps as listed below:

1. DESIRE IT: write out your desire: e.g: I want promotion at my place of work.
2. SAY IT: say it in form of prayer and write it down as you say it. For example, I receive my promotion to the position of a director at my place of work in Jesus Name because the scripture says, I shall be the head only and never the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13).
3. BELIEVE IT: write out that you believe that you have received it in Jesus Name. I have been promoted to the position of a

director this date- 29th of April 2020 (for example) in Jesus Name.

4. DO IT: ask yourself what you are going to DO in accordance with your faith. For someone expecting a child, it could be to buy baby clothes in the market. For someone expecting a promotion as a director, he could go to by a new shirt or suit as though he is resuming the office immediately. Write out whatever you are going to do immediately. And to some, ideas may arise on steps to take to make money or succeed in the examination. For the old couple- Abraham and Sarah, they had sex that night even when the woman was already on menopause.
5. HAVE IT: write that 'I have the promotion already'. You can write your promotion letter and hand it over to yourself.
6. TELL IT: your testimony has started and you should never lose it. The scripture says; hold your confidence tightly which has a recompence of a great reward. The scripture also says; this is the confidence that we have in Him that when we pray, He heareth us. If you believe He has heard you when anyone ask you "how far" (concerning the fruit of the womb for instance), don't tell them we are still trusting God. Tell them it is settled. As a director, put your letter in a place your wife will see it and if she ask what it is about then you can tell her: I have just been promoted. She's likely to laugh, join her in the laughter; it is just a confirmation that the LORD has done it.

I believe you have been blessed, challenged and your faith has been boosted by this book. I would like to hear your testimony. Make sure you fight back doubts and all the faith killers including human beings that kill faith. Keep confessing, keep declaring and keep rebuking where necessary. I pray for you for the impartation of the spirit that doubt not and activation of the Spirit of faith in you. From now, you

will always receive answers by faith in whatsoever you desire. Receive the courage to take corresponding steps at all times in Jesus Name. Amen.

Receiving Salvation

You were born a condemned sinner to hell but Jesus Christ died for your sins, gave you power to sin no more and enjoy life here on earth and hereafter. All you need to do is to believe and accept His works by declaring Him as your LORD and Saviour. Did you believe this? Say: Lord Jesus Christ, I accept your death and resurrection for the remission of my sins, I declare you as my LORD and Saviour. Amen.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

1. You are not to ask or beg God for it, just expect it.
2. Believe He has given you and you will manifest it.
3. Don't hate tongues. That some people misuse it doesn't mean it has lost its power.
4. Don't pretend as if you don't need it. Holy Ghost baptism is not just about tongues, it is about empowerment but tongues is the initial sign that you are baptized.
5. Clear your minds of doubts, God will give you, if you think any sin can hinder you, ask for forgiveness now and now. (**Isa 1:18** *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*). And forgive everyone in your heart.
6. As I pray for you, you will be baptized and you will speak in new tongues.

7. As I pray for you, the Holy Spirit will give you utterances and you will speak it out. Note that utterance means any sound produced with the mouth. That means the utterance could be one syllable or two. It could be one word or more. Understand that you are the one that will pronounce the utterance in anyway it comes to your mind as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance.
8. When I pray for you, the utterance would come. Don't think you are the one thinking it, it is not you. Don't think you will be unconscious or lost, it is not so. Don't be bothered if you don't know the meaning just speak it. And keep repeating whatever comes to your mind.
9. Daddy thank you because you are a faithful God, you always hear me and you are eager to give us than we are eager to ask. I pray for you: receive the Holy Spirit right now in Jesus Name.
10. Open your mouth and began to speak those tongues out.

Steps to Receive Healing:

1. **1Peter 2:24 says:** *He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness.* ***By His wounds you have been healed.***
2. You have been healed. You have been healed even before you had that illness, what I'm about to do by praying with you is to proclaim your healing.
3. As I do that, the pains and symptoms will be no more.
4. After I pray for you move that of your body just as though it was healed already because it is an instant healing.
5. I proclaim you healed and whole right now in Jesus Name. The last time you had that illness is the last you will ever have in Jesus Name.
6. Check it out and share your testimonies.

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