DAG HEWARD-MILLS

unbeatable prosperity

Unbeatable Prosperity

By **Dag Heward-Mills**

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Chapter 1

Unbeatable Properity

Unbeatable prosperity is the prosperity that does not depend on anything or anyone. It is prosperity that does not respect the environment or adverse situations. It is the blessing that does not mind whether the economy is up or down. It is the prosperity that does not care whether there is unemployment or not.

The Spirit of Crabology

Most of the time, people are affected by the adverse conditions round about them. Most of us who live in Africa can feel the frustration of unstable governments, wars and endemic poverty. The climate is sometimes hostile to the blossoming of anything successful and prosperous. Anyone who rises up high is hated and numerous insidious attempts are made to equalize the person with the masses.

There is something I call the *"spirit of crabology"*. If you put crabs in a deep bucket, they will all try to come out of the bucket. As one of them begins to go up high, another one grabs unto the rising crab and pulls him down. This process continues, until in the end, not a single crab is able to come out of the bucket. Eventually, all the crabs are ready to be boiled and none of them escapes alive.

This is the picture of certain communities. Without knowing it, they keep each other down. Whereas some communities publish the hundred richest people in the nation, others harass and intimidate the hundred richest people. Political and "invisible powers", as well as all sorts of quasi-legitimate investigations are used to intimidate the successful people. They have to pay large sums of money to political parties otherwise all contracts will be cancelled.

Many of the "big time" businessmen in my country Ghana secretly support both the ruling *and* the opposition political parties. They want both sides to

think they are with them. I have heard several business people tell me that they had identity cards, tee shirts and caps of all major political parties. The point I'm making is simple; there are environments which are hostile to progress and prosperity. The rich fear for their wealth. That is why few foreigners invest in the country, in spite of the numerous invitations.

In such an environment, you need unbeatable prosperity; prosperity that is not destroyed by the circumstances. A blessing that cannot be erased by man, woman or beast.

Isaac experienced unbeatable prosperity. The book of Genesis, chapter twenty-six describes the attempt of external circumstances to extirpate God's blessings on his life. Firstly, there was a famine in the land. A famine of those days is equivalent to a bad economy of today. The economic environment was adverse to his prosperity. He needed unbeatable prosperity that comes from God.

Can You Blame Them?

There are many people who want to travel out of my country in order to "make it" in other developed countries. They spend thousands of dollars trying to get a visa. If an income of less than three hundred dollars a month puts us beneath the poverty line, then most Ghanaians are economically categorized as poor. You can understand why they would want to travel elsewhere.

A cleaner in Canada is paid more than a doctor in Ghana. As I write this book, a medical doctor in Ghana is paid about one hundred and fifty dollars a month. This situation is equivalent to the famine that Isaac experienced.

In Isaac's day, everyone was trying to get a visa to travel to Egypt. But the Lord appeared to Isaac and told him not to leave.

There was a famine in the land…the Lord appeared unto him, and said…Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of…and I will make thy seed to multiply…and will give unto thy seed all these countries…

Genesis 26:1-4

The Lord blessed Isaac when he stayed in the land of famine. In spite of the economic situation, Isaac was able to prosper. He had hundred per cent profit

during that particular period of time.

Read it for yourself and believe that unbeatable prosperity is real!

Then Isaac sowed in that land and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great…

Genesis 26:12,13

God can make you very great! I see God taking you forward in spite of your circumstances! No famine can keep you down anymore! Famine or no famine, you are going to make it! No matter who is in government, you are going to make it! There may be a global economic crisis, but God will give you unbeatable prosperity!

Isaac Built a Well

This was not the end of Isaac's challenges. He dug wells and people fought with him over the wells that he had dug.

And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours…

Genesis 26:19,20

Isaac had begun to have political problems with the community. The people in the community wanted to break down the walls of the well he had built. *Is it not interesting that after a person has worked hard to build something, someone else claims the rewards?* Some people always want to reap what they have not sown!

...thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed...

Matthew 25:24

We Also Built a Well

Not long ago, we experienced a similar thing in our church. We built a beautiful cathedral and acquired a piece of land beside the church. We signed an agreement with the government. After a few years, a group of people arose

claiming the land was theirs. After we had developed the property and spent thousands of dollars, people were now striving with us for our well.

But Isaac moved on and built another well. Lighthouse Chapel International began in a classroom. We then moved to the corridor of a school building. In spite of our circumstances, we have been blessed like Isaac. We had to leave these places and move into a cafeteria in a hospital. After two years, we were driven out of the canteen by the authorities in the hospital. We then moved to a deserted and derelict cinema hall situated next to a monstrous rubbish dump and an exploding public toilet.

Our prosperity as a church has not depended on the circumstances surrounding us. Our church is planted deep in the heart of a depressed part of the city. In spite of this, we have prospered and become successful. People come to our church from all over the city.

And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great.

Genesis 26:13

Isaac's prosperity did not depend on that particular well. Recently, we were attacked by some traditionalists who claimed we were violating their customs by playing drums in our church on Sunday morning. Many church members were seriously injured and numerous cars were damaged.

Three days before that, at about three O'clock in the morning, an "invisible" governmental power broke down the walls surrounding our church building. We had come under political and governmental attack of the highest order. Soon after the attack, the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) descended on us to conduct a major tax investigation on our affairs. Who was behind all this intimidation and attacks? **Who was trying to destroy what cannot be destroyed? Who can fight against God and win?**

All the government officials I interacted with denied that they gave orders for the illegal breaking down of our walls. I smiled at each lying politician as I watched them trying to escape the blame that is theirs. **Liars will not go to Heaven!** It is time for politicians to know that liars will not be welcome in Heaven.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Revelations 22:14,15

God's blessings are unbeatable. Isaac's well was taken from him on two different occasions. He lawfully built a well, but lazy and ungrateful people contended with him over it. Laziness and ingratitude are vices that cause a gloomy cloud of despondency and retrogression to settle. They lead to recurring curses of poverty.

Isaac continued building, in spite of having been cheated. God's prosperity for your life will happen despite what people do and say. One minister told me, "I thought your church was 'finished' after the attack." When he paid us a visit, he was surprised that our church was larger and stronger than ever! I am happy to tell you that our church has moved from strength to strength after our attacks. I cannot begin to tell you about the divine advancement and progress we have made after our multiple and diverse persecutions.

You too can experience unbeatable prosperity! No matter your background, family or education, God can lift you up. God is a specialist at taking you out of the dust and placing you among princes. No circumstance is too difficult for the Lord.

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; That he may set him with princes…

Psalm 113:7,8

I see God setting you among princes! I see Him lifting you out of the dust of poverty! You are a winner because the God of unbeatable prosperity is your Lord! In the following chapters I want to share with you how you can achieve unbeatable prosperity through the secret of divine provision.

Chapter 2

Diving Provision

Many years ago I met a young lady called Adelaide Baiden. I didn't know at the time that she was to become my wife. I remember once walking through the Spanish Department of the University of Ghana, and seeing her sitting on the stairs waiting for someone. She said, "Hello." I turned, but I couldn't remember her name. Later, I got to know her name.

Somehow, she became a member of our fellowship and I got to know her as a member. Then I got to know her as a friend. Later as a close friend. Eventually, one day she became my wife. That is how God relates with us. **As we get to know Him, He reveals more and more of Himself to us.**

When you become born again, you may know the Lord as someone who saves you from your sins. Then you may know Him as someone who will take you to Heaven.

As I have grown in the Lord, I have gotten to know him as someone who gives us the victory. I also know Him as someone who heals the sick and as someone who provides for my needs.

In Genesis, Chapter One, God reveals Himself as Elohim, which means Creator. The word translated into God in Genesis Chapter one is the word *Elohim*. At another point, God reveals Himself as Jehovah, which means "I am that I am": the One who makes promises and covenants and keeps them.

God progressively revealed Himself to mankind. He showed Himself to Abraham as El'Shaddai, which means, "The Almighty God". He was trying to show another aspect of himself to humanity. El'Shaddai – the One who is almighty and able to do all things. God was showing Abraham that although he was ninety years old, He could still make him have a child.

When Abraham went to war with the five kings, God revealed himself as *Adonai*, which means "Master and Owner". He was the Master of the battle! When the Lord revealed himself to Moses in the burning bush, he showed

himself as Jehovah, the one who keeps promises. Further on, God decided to reveal himself a little more as *Jehovah Rophe*: "The Lord that heals".

You may have been a Christian or a pastor for a long time but you can grow in your relationship until you know God as Jehovah Rophe, the Healer. You may have walked with God for years without knowing this aspect of him. But that is how a relationship is; it develops over time. You get to know more about a person as you continue the relationship.

When the children of Israel met with an enemy called Amalek, they fought and won a hard battle. The Lord then explained to Moses that there was another dimension to his nature. God was saying, "I am also *Jehovah Nissi*," the God that gives you victory. Later on, God revealed himself even further as *Jehovah M'Kaddesh*, which means, "The God who also sanctifies".

You can see that at each stage, God is showing new dimensions of Himself. Similarly, there are many aspects of Christianity that we have to experience. In this book, I want you to encounter an important dimension of the Lord. **I want you to find out and experience God as your provider.**

I am happy that Christ has set you free from your bondage. I am glad that your sins are washed away. But come in a little deeper and get to know another dimension of the God you serve. Maybe you have experienced God as an acquaintance or as a close friend. Now experience Him as a divine provider!

This world is made up of over six billion people, all trying to provide for themselves. In every large city of the world, you will see the young and the old sweating in order to eat a little bread. It is only natural for us to rise up and provide for ourselves.

Today, I want you to know that God can also provide for you. This is called Divine Provision. It is only through divine provision that you will experience unbeatable prosperity. God can provide food for you. God can provide cars for you. God can provide houses for you. God can supply all your needs.

I am happy that you are working. It is important that you work hard! However, there are things that your hard work cannot provide. Many people work hard, and yet cannot meet their needs. That is why you need God's divine provision.

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob was a hustler passing through town. He was travelling from place to place trying to make it in business. He had been able to get a visa and was traveling abroad. Along the journey, he rested under a tree and fell asleep.

Whilst asleep, he had a dream in which the Lord appeared to him.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

Genesis 28:12-19

When he woke up, he made a vow to God and asked for divine provision. Jacob asked God for three important miracles.

The first thing he asked for was the miracle of *divine presence.*

…If God will be with me…

Genesis 28:20

Then he asked for the miracle of *divine protection.*

…and will keep me in this way that I go…

Genesis 28:20

Finally, he asked for the miracle of *divine provision*.

…and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on…

Genesis 28:20

Jacob had arrived at a turning point in his life. *He had come to the place where he was going to include God in all that he did.* In fact, he was going to expect God to actually provide these important things for him.

Jacob wanted God's involvement so much that he virtually promised to pay God a tenth of all his earnings, if the Lord agreed to help him.

Dear friend, let me tell you something. God wants to provide for you. God wants to bless you. God wants to bless you the way he blessed Jacob. He wants to provide you with bread to eat and raiment to put on. He wants to protect you and to reveal himself to you as someone who can supply all your needs.

In the third world, many educated people live below the poverty line. No matter how much they work, they can never dream of buying a car. This is where God comes in. Let there be a distinction in your mind between divine provision and human provision. Human provision is when you use your efforts and human principles to succeed. Human provision is by your own hard work.

I believe in hard work and education, but I believe just as much in God's divine provision. God is a God of miracles. We serve a miracle-working God.

If God is going to become your provider, then you must invoke divine and biblical principles that will make the Lord provide for you. God must become involved in your life so that he can become your provider.

In the next few chapters, I will be sharing with you principles that will cause our Heavenly Father to provide for you. You will experience unbeatable prosperity when your heavenly Father provides for you!

Chapter 3

The Laws of Divine Provision

...and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:22

The tithe is the tenth of all your increase. It is a common fact that most Christians do not pay tithes. I am not writing this book because you are in my church. You are probably not a member of my church. I am writing what I am writing because you need to know the truth. I am writing for your own benefit.

God is not in need of anything. He has said that the silver, gold and the cattle on a thousand hills are His. If He were in need of something, He would not ask you.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:8

Dear friend, we are mere human beings living a short life on this earth. No matter how much we acquire, we must leave it all behind and move on. Money must not be a god to us. What is gold? Gold is dirt. It is dug out of the ground! It is nothing! Why should it become a god to you? Let it serve you, do not serve it!

I am sorry to say that most Christians are controlled by their money. Only a small percentage of Christians pay their tithes. One thing that every Christian must realize is that the tithe is the Lord's money. In our church we call it the First and Best Fruits.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30

What does this mean? It means that ten per cent of all you earn is not yours, it is actually the Lord's money. When you put that money in the offering bowl, you have done nothing special or unusual. All you have done is to give back to God what is his!

Suppose someone asked you to keep a hundred dollars for him. When he asks for it again, would you expect him to kneel down and thank you profusely for returning his hundred dollars? Would you expect him to shower praises on you for your kindness to him? The answer is no! You have done nothing for him. You have just returned his own money to him!

When you understand that the tithe is the Lord's money, it is easier for you to release it to the Lord. In the Book of Malachi, the Bible teaches us that when you pay your tithes, the windows of Heaven are opened over your life. Whatever these windows are, there must be some great benefit for us when they are opened. Blessings are released into our lives.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse… and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:10

When you pay your tithes you are showing God respect and giving Him honour. **One way God receives honour from you is through your tithes.** When you do not pay your tithes, you are depriving God of his respect.

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12

Jacob tithed. That is what invoked divine provision over his life. Be ye followers of people who experience God's blessing and do what they did. You will be blessed as you pay your first and best fruits.

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.

Proverbs 3:9

I know that some people think that paying tithes is a command of the law that must not be obeyed today.

Dear friend, we are not talking about the law, we are talking about principles. The principle is that of honoring God with the first fruits of all your increase.

The next law of divine provision is the law of the offering.

The Law of the Offering

Give, and it shall be given…

Luke 6:38

Christians must learn to be generous by giving offerings to the Lord. Once again, money must not be more important to us than it really is. The Bible says that there are two types of people in the world.

One group gives a lot, and the other group tends to keep rather than to give.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Proverbs 11:24

God's book, the Bible, tells us that the givers become richer and the keepers become poorer. This is a divine principle. The God who created the universe has set in place the law of giving and receiving. Our little minds cannot accept that this is real. *The more you give, the richer you become – it's just a matter of time!*

After giving your tithe (which is not really giving), you must now give an offering to the Lord. It is the giving of an offering to the Lord that will invoke the laws of giving and receiving on your behalf.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

In some countries, especially in developing ones, the political and economic environment is contrary to the progress of its own citizens. If you were to go to a country like Switzerland, you would hardly ever see a foreigner rise up and own the major businesses of the nation. However in some African nations, foreigners own all the supermarkets and major shopping centres. The government has created a system where it is more profitable and easier to import the used clothing of white people than to set up a garment factory!

Our church has bought at least two former garment factories for use as church buildings. The factory owners were forced out of business by the economic decisions of the day. In some countries, whenever its own citizens rise up in great success and prosperity, the powers that be rally to bring them down. There are nations which kill their heroes. In such nations, it is a crime to prosper. It is a crime to be successful. It is a crime to be wealthy. It is a crime to own anything. Your business may be closed down, and your property may be seized and destroyed, just because you are blessed and somebody is not happy about it!

I have sat with businessmen who are so frustrated with the political and economic realities of their nation. One man said to me, "I feel so limited and frustrated by the system. I know I could make it real big but there is so much intimidation in the country." People are afraid to be rich and wealthy even though they could be. Many are forced to take their money away from the jealous eyes of powerful politicians. This is a curse.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, the Bible teaches that strangers (foreigners) would rise amongst a people and become very great. Meanwhile, the citizens of the land would wither away.

The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

Deuteronomy 28:43

The point I am making is this. Even if you live in a difficult-to-prosper environment, God, by supernatural means, can provide for you! That is what divine provision is all about. Jacob knew that God could lift him up and establish him in this life. That is why he made an agreement with God for divine provision.

Offerings Must Be Accepted at Two Different Levels

Whenever you give an offering in church, it must be received at two levels. First, your church receives it. Secondly, God receives it. It is important that your offering is received at both levels. The church must receive your offering and God must also receive your offering.

Remember that the church does not promise to multiply the offering back to you. The church has no such power. However, Jesus made that promise of

multiplication to us. The Word of God teaches that as you cast your bread on the water, it will come back after many days.

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

There are some occasions where the church will not receive your money. I want to cite two examples from the Bible. First, blood money is not accepted in the house of the Lord.

And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

Matthew 27:6

Notice that when Judas attempted to return the thirty pieces of silver to the treasury of the church, it was rejected. Why was it rejected? Because it was blood money! Modern day drug money is actually blood money. It is money that is earned by the destruction and killing of many lives through cocaine and related substances. Such money is not welcome in the church.

Another Scripture tells us that money from prostitution is not accepted in the church.

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 23:18

The fact that the church has received the offering does not mean that God has received the offering. As I said, the offering must be received at two different levels. If your offering is not received by the Lord, then you have wasted your money. The Word of God tells us what sort of offering is acceptable to the Lord.

Four Conditions for an Acceptable Offering

The first condition for having your offering accepted by God is that, *it must not come from a wicked or sinful person.* God does not receive offerings from such people. The church may receive it because they don't know who you are or what you do. However, God does see and will not accept such an offering.

Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them…But let judgment run down…and righteousness…

Amos 5:22,24

...I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

Malachi 1:10

The second condition is that, *you must have a willing mind*.

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted…

2 Corinthians 8:12

If you give grudgingly, you will not receive your blessing. God loves a cheerful giver. Don't bother to give if you don't really want to.

He Wanted to "Save Face"

A businessman told me how he was invited to be the Chairman of a fundraising programme in a church. He narrated how events transpired until he was "put on the spot" during the fund-raising. He said, "I had to make a huge donation to 'save face'." This man unwillingly gave away a large amount of money to the church. He continued, "After the fundraising programme, I realized I didn't have enough money to pay the pledge," he added, "I had to sell my car to cover the donation." Shortly after settling the debt, he left the church and joined another ministry. He unwillingly gave away a huge amount of money to the church.

In such a case, who loses? The answer is everybody! The church lost a prominent member. The businessman lost his car and his blessing because he gave it up unwillingly. Always remember this: it is only accepted if it is given from a willing mind.

Pastors must not intimidate and manipulate their congregations to give what they don't want to give. Preachers can speak in a way that frightens people to give their belongings away. There are times when I try to stop people from giving certain gifts to the Lord. I do this to make sure they know what they are doing. I want them to be free and willing in their giving so that they will receive a full reward.

The third important condition is this: *the offering will be accepted according to what you have.*

…it is accepted according to that a man hath…

2 Corinthians 8:12

What does this mean? Everyone is supposed to give in proportion to what he has. When a person gives out of proportion to what he has, it may be unacceptable to the Lord. For instance, if a student gives ten dollars to the Lord for a project, that offering may be acceptable to God in proportion to the student's meager resources. But when the millionaire church member's contribution is also ten dollars, it is completely out of proportion to what he has. In proportion to what he has, the millionaire has actually not given anything. Always remember to give according to what you have. What has God given you? How much has God put into your hands? Give according to what God has blessed you with.

The fourth important condition for an acceptable offering is this: *you must not give offerings having in mind things you do not have.*

…it is accepted…not according to that he hath not.

2 Corinthians 8:12

If you do not have a car, and you think of it as you give, you will not give happily. If you think about the things you intend to buy, you will not be happy to give. In fact, you will start penalizing God for not having certain things. *Anybody who gives an offering whilst thinking of all the things he doesn't have, is not going to be giving an acceptable offering*.

You need to forget about all the things you lack when it's time to build the Lord's Kingdom. Forget about your own projects and give freely to the Lord.

I once had to give substantially towards a church building project. I had my own building project to complete. That offering could have completed my project, but I still gave it. If I had thought of my own project, I would not have given to the Lord. Remember this, offerings become acceptable when they are given with a free mind, and without thinking of all the things you do not have.

May the Lord give you the spirit of revelation to grasp these powerful truths! Once you have this revelation, your offerings will always be accepted by God. You will be propelled into divine provision and unbeatable prosperity!

Chapter 4

Seeking the Kingdom

All throughout life, we try to provide for ourselves. The curse upon this planet is as real today as it has ever been.

In some parts of the earth, there seem to be even more frustrations. A student goes to the university in an attempt to improve himself and provide for his future. Suddenly, a sergeant overthrows the government and closes down the university. You are forced to flee. Now, you are no longer able to continue in your pursuit of human provision.

Even in the developed world, there are many things that frustrate our ambitions to provide for ourselves. We all need divine provision. We need God. **We cannot put the Lord Jesus on a side plate, He must be the main course!** God cannot be a third party. He must be central to our lives and He must be a part of both our financial and social lives.

If you want God to divinely provide for you, then you must accept that there are divine laws and principles in place. These divine laws must be set to work on your behalf otherwise God will not get involved in providing for you.

In this chapter, we want to share about building the kingdom of God. **Matthew 6:33 says, But seek ye first the kingdom of God and all things will be added unto yo**u. Humanly speaking, if you seek the financial Kingdom, finances may be added to you. But that is not God's wisdom. If you want to experience divine provision, you must seek the Kingdom of God first and things will be supernaturally added to your life. That is divine provision!

Very few people actually invest in the Kingdom of God. They build their own lives and give God the pennies and the change. Listen to me dear friend! When you build God's Kingdom, it causes you to have his hand on your little kingdom.

There are two main ways we can contribute to building God's Kingdom. You can contribute spiritually. Secondly, you can actually physically build the Kingdom. Spiritually, building the Kingdom of God involves praying, fasting, preaching, counselling and witnessing. Physically building the kingdom of God involves using your money to construct chapels and other buildings for the glory of God.

If you study this passage in the Book of Haggai, you will notice that the Lord was concerned about the physical construction of his house. It is true that first of all, the church is a spiritual thing. But without the buildings, we have nowhere to assemble and to worship.

Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.

Haggai 1:8

I know of many churches that are unable to meet more than once during the week because they do not have a suitable meeting place. They do not have anywhere to worship. By the grace of God, we have our own building. On Sundays, we have five main services and several other services. After the services, we have Bible schools during the afternoons. On Tuesdays, we have a powerful teaching service. On Wednesdays, we have Bible schools. On Thursdays we have fellowship meetings. On Fridays, we have all-night meetings. On Saturdays, there are weddings and rehearsals. On Mondays, we rest, but even then, there are always some meetings going on in the church.

If we did not have a building, many of these meetings could not happen. Every church must believe God for its own building. God wants churches to have their own beautiful buildings. Buildings make you substantial. That is why God blesses people who help to build his church.

Do you want God's eyes to be on you? Then build his Kingdom. When I was a medical student, I built God's church spiritually. That is why God's grace helped me through the school. Many times when I could have gone down, God lifted me up! Once, I won a prize worth a lot of money. I was surprised that I could win such a prize! I thought, "What have I done to deserve this?" It was just the grace of God blessing me for building his Kingdom.

The Law of Financing Evangelism, Missions and Ministers

One of the favourite verses of charismatic Christians is,

...My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

However, if you take the time to read the verses before this popular Scripture, you will find out that Paul had received immense support from the Philippian Christians. He was writing back and ministering a blessing of God to those who had supported him in the ministry. You will discover that, that particular blessing was directed at the financiers of his missionary work.

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Philippians 4:15

Do we not have thousands of Christians whose needs have not been met? Certainly! I see them everyday! But God can and will supply our needs if we line up with his Word. God has anointed certain men to do his work. Jesus said, whoever receives you is actually receiving me.

He that receiveth you receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:40

The Word of God abounds with examples of divine provision for those who finance God's servants.

It's Just a Car

Some years ago, I was in the home of a certain Christian family. I sat quietly and listened to them discuss the affairs of their priest. You see, there was a controversy in their church over a car that had been bought by the church. Some members of the church felt that the pastor should just have the use of the car. Others felt that the car should belong to the pastor.

As I listened to them, I sensed that some of the people were subtly against the well-being of their pastor. To them, the important thing was the welfare of the institution. A subtle but real mindset had developed. It made the role of

the pastor of secondary importance. What was important to them was the institution.

These individuals were making a big mistake. The Bible says "strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter." The Bible doesn't say strike the building and the sheep will scatter. The Bible doesn't say strike the institution and the sheep will not attend. Our church has been attacked with stones, sticks and even bombs. But it is still very full every Sunday morning.

As you read through the Bible, you will discover how God deals with individuals. He does not deal with groups or institutions. He is dealing with individual men and women. **God is working with certain men in every nation. When you look after such men, you provoke divine provision on your life.** When you care for such people, you are caring for God's precious jewels.

The Shunammite Woman Ministered to Elisha

Do you remember the testimony of the Shunammite woman?

And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

2 Kings 4:8

This was the woman who asked Elisha to come and stay in her house. She provided for him a resting place. She gave him food and shelter. This provoked a divine response. One day Elisha said to her.

…Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee?...

2 Kings 4:13

The man of God was provoked to minister a miracle of childbirth to her. It was not Elisha who gave her the child, it was God.

And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son...

2 Kings 4:16

The Widow Fed Elijah

Look at the testimony of Elijah. He met with a widow who was about to die from a famine. Elijah wanted to minister a miracle of supernatural supply of food to her. So he told her:

...Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

1 Kings 17:13

Before the blessing could come, she had to invoke the laws of divine provision by ministering to the man of God. **Any time you minister personally to a man of God, you invoke the laws of divine provision.** This woman would have died if she hadn't done what she did. God was merciful to her and divinely supplied what she needed. I see God supplying all your needs as you minister to the man of God in your life!

Ministration Opens the Door to Blessing

Do you remember the testimony of Isaac? When Isaac was dying, he called his children and said, "I want to bless you." Isaac said to his firstborn son, Esau, "Make me the food I love and bring it to me. When I eat and am blessed, my soul will bless you before I die."

And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

Genesis 27:4

What was happening here? Why couldn't Isaac just bless his son and die? Isaac knew that if his son ministered to him, it would provoke the true blessing from a father to a son. Dear Christian friend, this principle is still true today. The Bible says that a gift maketh room for a man.

Any gift you give to a man of God provokes the anointing. I try never to miss an opportunity to bless a man of God. Under the ministry of Jesus, you will remember the woman with the alabaster box. She gave an expensive gift to Christ. Some people even criticized her for doing that. But what did Jesus say?

...Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman

since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven…

Luke 7:44-47

This woman received her blessing, not because she put some money in the offering, but because she ministered to the man of God himself. I encourage you to bless your pastor. Galatians 6:6 teaches us to give to them who have taught us. It is our duty to minister back to them in carnal things. Don't be over-spiritual. Don't try to be wiser than God. Judas complained when a gift was given to Christ. He said, "This money should have been put in the offering or given to the poor."

Giving directly to the man of God is a principal key to divine provision in your life.

Chapter 5

If God Does Not Help You, No One Can Help You!

There are many curses operating in the world today. There are global and sectional curses at work. There are curses of poverty everywhere, and if God does not help us, no one will. In this chapter, I want to show you how much we need God's help in our lives.

As the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, help, my lord, O king. And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son that we may eat him today and we will eat my son tomorrow. So we boiled my son and did eat him: and I said unto her the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

2 Kings 6:26-29

This account is one of the saddest stories in the Bible. It is about a woman who entered into a contract with her neighbour. She agreed to kill and boil her son for supper. The agreement stated that they would eat her neighbour's son after they had eaten up hers. After she had chopped up her son and made soup out of him, her neighbour was probably overwhelmed with the horror of having to kill her son. She had seen how her friend's son had screamed and begged as he was being killed. She remembered how difficult it was to eat the child though they were all starving.

The woman who had sacrificed her son was desperate. Not only was she hungry, but she felt cheated! She had a double loss. At least, if her son were alive, they could have encouraged each other. Now he was down in her stomach!

This woman saw the king walking on the wall and she shouted to him for help. The king gave an answer that every Christian should remember. **He said, "If God does not help you, then how can I help you?"**

And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee?…

2 Kings 6:27

The king did not know the kind of problem this woman had. He did not even know the type of help the woman needed. He just knew this eternal principle. The principle that if God does not help, then all our efforts are in vain.

What did Jesus say? He said, "Without me, you can do nothing."

…for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

In Ghana, we have tried so many forms of government. Initially, the British colonized us. At a point, we felt that the presence of the Europeans was keeping us from going forward as a nation. We clamoured for independence and eventually got it in 1957. Then we had Kwame Nkrumah, our first president, who led us for a while. After some time, we felt a change was necessary.

In 1966, there was a coup d'état and some soldiers came into power. After the soldiers had been around for a while, we went back to democracy. After we had practised democracy for a while, some soldiers took over once again. We had moved from colonization to independence to democracy to military rule and back to democracy.

After democracy, we decided to try house cleaning. We did some military house cleaning for a few months and then handed power back to a democratic government. The democratic government was allowed to work for just two years, then we had a revolution. **It seemed that neither colonization, independence, democracy, military rule or even house cleaning was helping the nation.** Now we had embarked upon a revolution. After the revolution went on for a while, we decided to come back to democracy.

It is a marvel how we human beings try to help ourselves, sometimes without the help of God. Our first president said, "Seek ye first the political kingdom and all other things shall be added." When the Word of God teaches us to

seek the help of God first, we spoke of things contrary to God's laws. There must be a difference between seeking the Kingdom of God and seeking the political kingdom. No wonder after forty years of independence, the nation of Ghana is still not really free. You see, independence is not the same as freedom.

We are still enslaved to European nations through the loans they give us. We are actually working to pay back what we owe them. We queue at foreign embassies for visas in order to go abroad to work so we can prosper.

Is it not ironical that during the slave trade, our ancestors were shipped unwillingly to Europe and America, but now, people will drop everything for the opportunity to travel to these same destinations! Alas, our independence has not brought us the freedom and prosperity we fought for. We owe so much, yet we continue to borrow more! Just as the Bible says, the borrower is a servant to the lender.

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7

White people were criticized for making inhumane castles to keep black prisoners. The ironic thing is that although we are approaching the twenty first century, black people are still using some of these castles to imprison their own brothers. Are we really free? It is sad to hear about African heads of state feeding their own black brothers to lions. We are back in the days of Daniel and the lion's den!

The point I'm trying to make is simple. If God does not help us, colonization, independence, democracy, military rule, house cleaning, revolution, or democracy cannot help us!! It is true that we must make efforts to help ourselves. I believe in education.

I believe in hard work. I am a very practical person. I work for several hours every day. But none of these things can rule out the God factor. If God does not help you, no one can.

Is there a Curse in the Earth?

In as much as human beings are trying to develop and help themselves, you will realize that frustrations abound everywhere. Even the superpower nations have many problems they cannot solve. Entire neighbourhoods are riddled

with drug addicts, prostitution and murderous teenagers. I once heard of the citizens of peaceful Switzerland wanting to arm themselves and shoot at drug pushers in their area, in order to drive them away from their children.

Many prevailing conditions have spiritual roots, and that is why they must be dealt with spiritually. That is why you need God to break through in this life! Never ending problems are often rooted in a curse. The whole world is cursed to struggle and sweat in order to survive. It is something that will not just go away. **Christians must understand that there are two major curses at work in the earth.**

There is what I call "a global curse." In addition to that, there is also a sectional curse. These two curses came about at the origin of the human race. The existence of these curses makes it necessary for us to apply wisdom and spiritual strength to have victory and unbeatable prosperity in this life.

The Adamic Curse

Adam was cursed to sweat and struggle in order to survive. The earth was cursed to bring forth painful thorns and thistles for Adam's children.

This curse affects all people and that is why God said to Eve, "What is this that thou hast done?"

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done?

Genesis 3:13a

This curse has sentenced us all to years of very hard work in order to survive. No part of the human race is exempt from this curse. That explains why we all have to toil and labour for most of our lives. However, there is another curse originating from Noah. Please remember that just as Adam was once the only man alive on earth, Noah and his family were also the only group alive on the earth at a point in time. Whatever happened to Adam and Noah are significant to us today.

The Noahic Curse

Noah had three sons, from whom all the different groups of people on earth originated. Now, Noah's curse was not against all his children. It seemed to affect a particular group. **It was a sectional curse that did not affect the**

whole human race. Noah actually blessed his other two sons. He said to Japheth,

God shall enlarge Japheth…

Genesis 9:27

He also blessed Shem and said:

...Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

Genesis 9:26

But he cursed Ham's son, Canaan, and said:

..a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

Genesis 9:25

Noah and his three sons were the only people alive on the earth, at a certain point in history. One day Noah was drunk and laid down naked. One of his sons, Ham, exposed his father's nakedness whereas the two others covered him. When Noah awoke, he pronounced a curse for the dishonour that had been done him during his drunken state.

This entire human race descends from Noah's sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. It seems as though sections of the human race were given a curse of extra frustration through the pronouncement of Father Noah. The curse was simple and it was to Ham's son Canaan. He was told, "You will be a servant to the others."

I am not interested in controversial discussions. *All I am saying is that there was an Adamic curse which was global and there was also a Noahic curse which was sectional.* These things are in the Bible. No part of the human race is inferior to another. Some of the differences we see in the world are due to the fact that curses are operational in certain regions. These differences are *not* because one group of people is inferior to another.

We must know what God has called us to be. We must understand the spiritual and historical curses and blessings that are prevailing in certain places. If God puts you in a place that is labouring under a never-ending cycle of frustration, you must understand your calling and the type of problems you will have to deal with.

...a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

Genesis 9:25

Although there are exceptions to everything, a curse is a generalized word of frustration spoken against a group of people. This curse of Noah (Genesis 9:25) was a proclamation against the ability to lead and develop in a section of the human race.

The absence of good leadership is obvious in many sections of the world. A servant is not a leader. A servant of servants is someone who is far from being a leader!

The failure to successfully lead nations into prosperity and development is a reality we have to deal with everyday. Obviously, the lack of leadership has made many nations poorer than they should be. The masses of people in such nations flounder in poverty, under-development, suffering, senseless wars and corruption.

All these are signs of a lack of good leadership. People who are aware of this curse must teach on leadership and train themselves and others to become good leaders. This will help greatly to alleviate or ameliorate the effects of this curse. The absence of good leaders is one of the greatest curses that can ever befall any group of people.

Notice what the Scriptures say will happen to Israel for their disobedience—God said he would deprive them of all kinds of leaders.

For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem... The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes and babes shall rule over them...

Isaiah 3:1-7

A nation which murders or eliminates leaders, judges, kings, presidents, businessmen, wealthy people and spiritual leaders is truly in an unfortunate state.

Let us briefly look at the different groups of people living on earth today, and from which of the sons of Noah they originated.

Genealogy of Ham

Ham, the one who angered his father, had four sons: Cush, Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan. It is interesting to note who the descendants of Ham were.

Cush, the first son, was progenitor of various Ethiopian tribes that settled south of Egypt and also overran Arabia, Babylonia and India. *Mizraim,* the second son of Ham was the progenitor of various Egyptian tribes. Mizraim means double. Tribes of the double Egypt (upper and lower Egypt) came from him. *Phut,* the third son, was the progenitor of the Libyans and other tribes in Africa. *Canaan,* the one who was cursed, was the progenitor of peoples mainly in Palestine, Arabia, Tyre, Sidon and other parts of the land promised to Abraham.

Genealogy of Japheth

Notice also the descendants of Japheth, the one who was promised enlargement.

Japheth had seven sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras. The first son Gomer was the ancient progenitor of the ancient Galatians and Phrygians from which came the natives of northern Europe and later as the Germans, French, Welsh, Irish, Britons and various other Anglo-Saxon races. These all came from the three sons of Gomer.

Magog, was the progenitor of the Scythians and Tartars whose descendants predominate in modern Russia. Madai was the progenitor of the Medes and Persians. Javan was the progenitor of the Greeks, Italians, Spaniards and Portuguese. Tubal was the progenitor of the Iberians, Georgians, Capadocians, and other Asiatic and European races. Meshech was the progenitor of the Muscovite tribes which now inhabit Russia. Tiras was the progenitor of the Thracians and perhaps the Etruscans who migrated to Italy.

Genealogy of Shem

Notice again the sons of Shem. Remember that Shem's blessing was that his God would be blessed. He had five sons: Elam, Assur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram. Elam was the progenitor of the Elamite who settled near the Persian Gulf. Assur was the progenitor of the Assyrians. Arphaxad was the progenitor of

the Arabians, Israelites, Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, Ishmaelites, Midianites and other tribes of Asia. Lud was the progenitor of the Lydians of Asia minor. Aram was the progenitor of the Aramaeans later called Syrians.

A close look at the sections of the world's population emanating from these three sons of Noah is revealing. I leave you to draw your own conclusions!

Poverty Is a Curse

Another curse you must be aware of is the curse of poverty. In order to experience unbeatable prosperity, you must identify curses and deal with them. If you embrace a curse, it will frustrate you.

I can see curses in operation in so many places. No matter the efforts that are made, the frustrations and the sweat still remain. I also see poverty and lack, as a curse**. It is important for anyone who wants to experience divine provision to see poverty as a curse.** In Deuteronomy 28, Moses listed the curses that would come upon Israel if they disobeyed the Word of God. One of the curses was poverty and lack.

Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things…

Deuteronomy 28:48

Why do I believe that poverty is a curse? Because the Word of God puts poverty in the category of a curse. **The Word of God says that poverty is a curse.**

I am aware that some people take vows of poverty. I respect them for their great sacrifice to the Lord. However, I can see clearly that when God cursed the Israelites, poverty was one of the frustrations to expect. All the curses of Deuteronomy 28 lead to poverty. But in Deuteronomy 28:48, you see it a bit more explicitly. God shall set thee up in hunger, thirst, nakedness and in want.

My pastor in the North of Ghana told me how children eat from the rubbish dump in that region. That must be a curse. We see on CNN almost every day, the horrors of wars around the world. We see starving children and dying masses. These are not blessings.

Poverty Leads to Lack of Education

Poverty leads to lack of education. Hosea 4:6 says that people perish for lack of knowledge.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge…

Hosea 4:6

An entire nation perishes when there is lack of the knowledge of arts, science, medicine, law, etc. Poverty is a curse because it is a vicious cycle. Poverty brings about an inability to be educated. The lack of education leads to more poverty. The wealthy remain in their riches, and the poverty of the poor deepens.

Poverty Causes Poor Health and Disease

Poverty causes poor health and disease. The life expectancy for rich countries is much higher than poor countries. The life expectancy for a Ghanaian is about fifty-eight years. The life expectancy for a Canadian is about seventy-six years. There is a significant difference between the figures of these two countries. This difference is very much related to the state of wealth.

Poverty certainly leads to poor health. **Do you remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus? Who died first? Was it not the poor man Lazarus who died first?** Was Lazarus not suffering from a terrible ulcerating condition? What treatment could Lazarus afford? The only treatment Lazarus could afford was a dressing and licking of his sores by the rich man's dogs.

…Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:21

Poverty Leads to Drunkenness

Poverty is a curse because it causes people to get drunk. Many poor people drink to forget about their insurmountable problems.

Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

Proverbs 31:7

There are many problems without solutions. People without God cannot see the way out of their crisis. They often resort to drinking. I remember a lady I met from Uganda. She would hold a bottle in her hand and say, "Pastor, I have a lot of problems. That's why I'm drinking." The curse of poverty makes you drink.

Poverty Leads to a Lack of Friends

Another reason why poverty is a curse is because the poor man has few friends or relatives.

The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

Proverbs 14:20

One of the signs of poverty is that your relatives and friends are not interested in you. The Bible tells us that the neighbour of a poor man is very far from him.

Why is it that when Liberia was overran by anarchists, America did not seem to take much notice? However, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, the whole world took notice? I wish to suggest that the poverty of Liberia does not make it of as much concern as other places. The Bible says that even relatives are not interested in their poor brothers and sisters.

Poverty Leads to Domination by the Rich

Another reason why poverty must be a curse is that poor people are dominated and ruled by rich people. The rich nations are ruling over the poor nations. Rich Western nations continue to dominate poor African nations through monetary loans and world trade. The rich nations vary at random, the purchase prices of the items these African nations export. There is nothing that the poor nations can do except to complain in futility.

Poverty Leads to Disregard

Poverty makes people disregard you.

There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

Ecclesiastes 9:14-16

A poor man may have much wisdom, but his wisdom is despised. I know many African Christian ministers who are very wise and anointed. They are, however, not regarded much because they come from poor backgrounds. Even in the church, I notice a subtle disregard of those who come from Africa. At international gatherings, many ministers from rich nations are not really interested in relating with fellow ministers from poorer countries. Although wealth and riches should not be yardstick for developing relationships, that is often the case. Many western ministers unknowingly see Africa only as a place they can add to their long list of mission fields. It enriches their résumé or curriculum vitae. The rich have no real interest in the poor. **The world, and even the Church, is truly polarized into the rich and the poor.** I have been despised many times. It is a very painful experience. Truly, poverty is not a blessing from God.

Do you think Japanese or Asians are loved by Westerners? The western world has been forced to relate with them because of their immense wealth. I am told that some Americans even learn to speak Japanese because it is of vital importance when doing business. I have never heard of an American or German learning to speak Twi (a prominent Ghanaian language) because it is of economic importance! Nobody in the world is learning a Ghanaian language because it is economically important to do so. Ghanaians, on the other hand, have had to adopt a foreign language as their official language! No wonder we are not respected much by the world community.

The Truth Sets Us Free

If poverty is a curse, then decide to stay away from it. The frustrations of poverty must never be yours. You can overcome every curse of poverty through the blood of Jesus.

The Bible says that you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

The truth of God's Word is what will liberate you from every curse and frustration. There is a law that teaches that whatsoever a man sows, that shall he reap. This is the law of reward for hard work. If you work hard, the law will be fulfilled and you will reap the blessings of prosperity.

God longs to bless his children with unbeatable prosperity. There is no short cut to experiencing God's blessings. Thank God for his Word. In him is life and the life is the light of humanity. Within the Word of God, you will have direction for your life. As you study the Word, God will give you wisdom to escape from the curse of poverty. You will escape from the global and sectional curses that are in operation in this world! Divine provision will be yours! Wisdom shall promote and establish you in unbeatable blessings!

Wisdom is the principal thing…Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

Proverbs 4:7, 8

People will speak about how you have unbeatable blessings. I see God giving you unbeatable prosperity now! I see the curse of poverty breaking in your life right now! From this moment, walk out of the bondage of lack and failure! You are a child of the King! You are blessed with unbeatable prosperity!

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