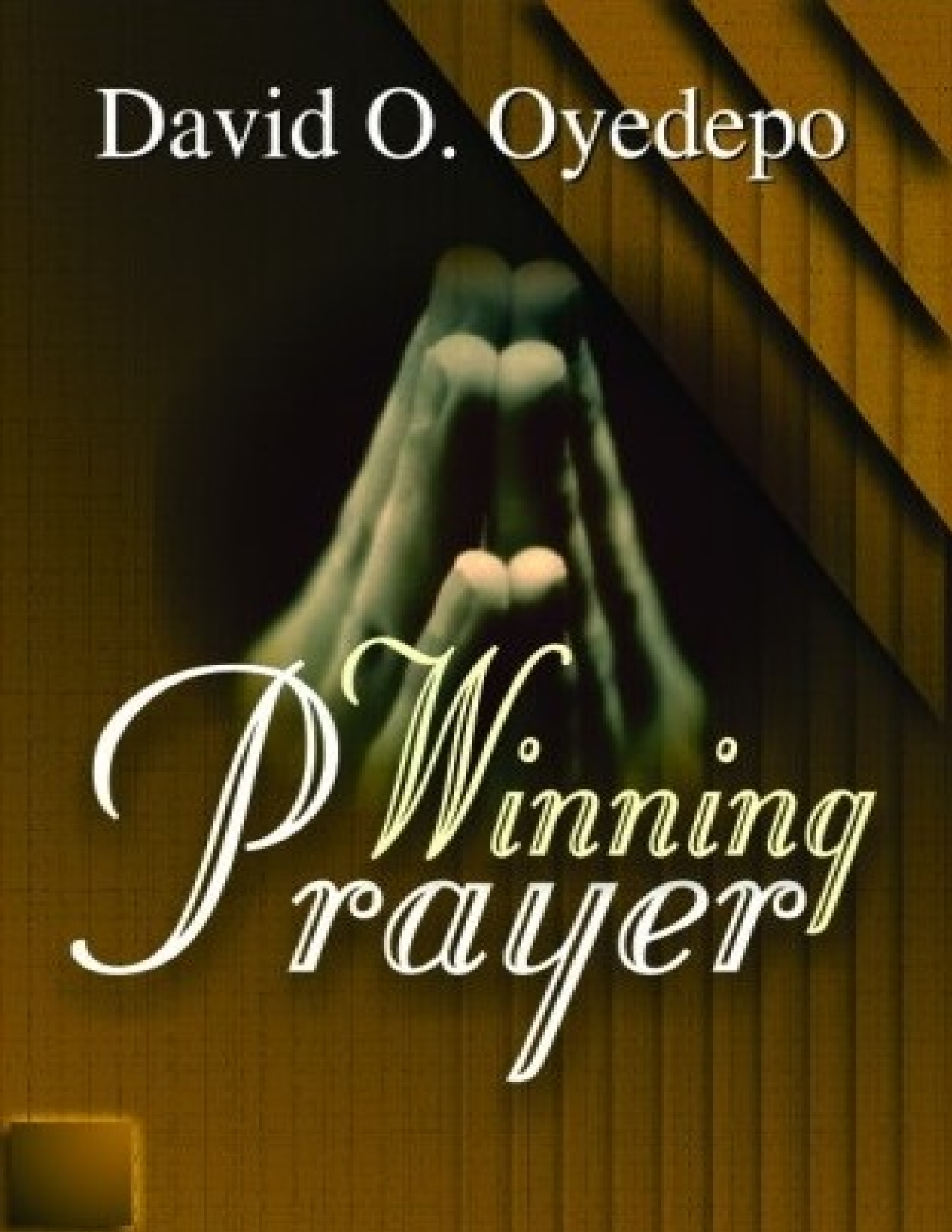
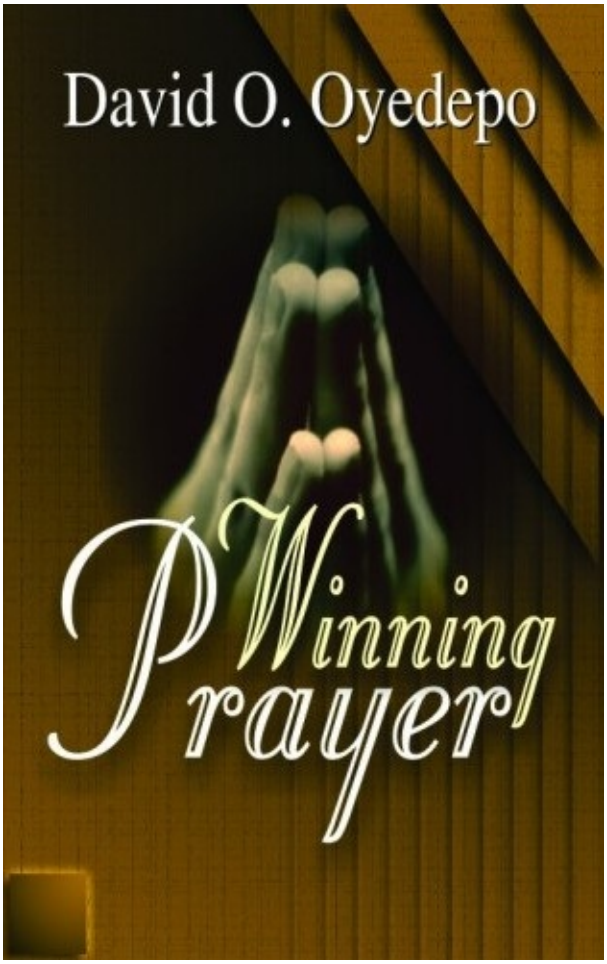
David O. Oyedepo



Pinning prayer


David O. Oyedepo
Winning
Prayer

Winning Prayer

David Oyedepo

Introduction

Prayer is one of the greatest assets of the redeemed. It is our communication link with God, our heavenly Father. Unfortunately, however, many are either not taking advantage of the privilege or they approach it wrongly. No wonder you hear them say, "I have exhausted prayer, yet there is no breakthrough." **James 4:2-3** tells us the reason for their failure:

> **Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.**
>
> **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss...**

Until you know the meaning of prayer and how to pray correctly, you will never be free from pressures.

Prayer is not just communication. It is having the correct approach to communicating with God, because it takes praying aright to be heard. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of principles. Everything is expected to be done according to the guidelines of the Word, otherwise, it will yield no profit. That is why Jesus laid down the right principles for effectual and winning prayer in **Matthew 6**.

> **After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**
>
> **Matthew 6:9-13**

This is the prototype for effectual prayer; it is a failure-proof prayer guide. When you get it right, guesswork stops and you are assured of answers, even before you are through with praying.

You will never enjoy certain things in life, except through the proper use of

your communication privilege with heaven. Jesus said:

> **For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**
>
> **Matthew 7:8**

Certain doors in life will never open to you, until you properly engage your communication link with God. There are many things that are rightfully yours in the covenant; but you may never enjoy them until you ask, seek and knock correctly!

The Bible says:

> **O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.**
>
> **Psalm 65:2**

Prayer requires no other treatment in heaven than answers. God has no record book for prayers, neither does He have a storeroom for them. They are either answered or returned to sender. That is the reason many have never received answers to their prayers. But from now on, I see you use the miracle prayer guide, so that every time you stand before God in prayer, you will always receive answers.

Prayer is the breath of the regenerated spirit. Just like every strong relationship thrives on the maintenance of a very good communication link between the parties involved, prayer not only serves as a means of getting God to intervene in our affairs, it enhances the strength of our relationship with Him, since it is one of the ways we fellowship with Him.

Prayer is not optional for the believer because it is one of our vital covenant responsibilities. That is why the Word of God admonishes that we pray always.

> **And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**
>
> **Luke 18:1**

> **Pray without ceasing.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

When your soul is genuinely revived, prayer becomes your God-given privilege, that you cannot afford to abuse, but make the utmost use of. It naturally becomes a part of your life, because your spirit has been attuned to crave communication with God, as a new born babe craves for milk.

When the first Church was born, the apostles said:

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:4

That was how they were able to sustain the fire in their days. Whenever they prayed, there were undeniable proofs that they touched heaven (Acts 4:23-31;16:25-26)

When your prayer life begins to drag, it shows that your spirit-man is already drooping and that means you are getting farther and farther away from God.

Consistent effectual prayer is the way to maintain a high-flying Christian life.

There is more to prayer than just praying. In my early Christian days, we all were praying because we saw others praying. No one was mindful of results, so we continued to tarry until many got tired, and some eventually retired. It is therefore very important that we know what benefits prayer holds for us as believers, and how to use them to our utmost advantage, so as to enjoy a victorious Christian life.

What is the use of calling a number on the phone and not getting through and then giving your message to the blank phone waves? It's nothing but wasted efforts! A very religious man, rather than drop the handset when he can't get through, will still go on to say, "Though I know you are not picking the phone, I am going to say everything I have to say anyway, because I know you will hear me some day."

That is exactly what we do when we don't apply the correct prayer principles.

That way, you meet people who claim to have prayed for 12, 30 or 40 days, yet they have no results to show. Jesus didn't announce Himself when He returned from His 40 days fast; the effect of His prayer and fasting was evident all through His lifetime on earth. When Moses came back from the mountain after meeting with God, nobody could look at his face. So, it is not how long you have spent in prayers that matters, but the results you get from it.

Redemption gives us all equal access to God's hotline, but many are missing out of it because of their lack of understanding. They don't know how to approach it. God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge", not for lack of prayers.

Prayer is also a weapon with which we do battle and contend with oppositions, in order to possess our possessions in Christ. But it is not just enough to have a weapon in your hand, you must have a sound understanding of how it operates. That way, you won't become a victim, but a victor in battle.

It is my prayer that this book will achieve that purpose in your life and deliver to you the secrets for winning in prayer. From henceforth, you will emerge a winner each time you engage the force of prayer, in Jesus' name!

Chapter 1:
The Force Of Prayer

Prayer is a force in the hand of the believer when approached Scripturally. It is one of God's covenant tools for the realization of our glorious destinies in Christ.

Jesus told His disciples a parable in **Matthew 13:24-28**:

> **Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:**
>
> **But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.**
>
> **But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.**
>
> **So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?**
>
> **He said unto them, An enemy hath done this...**

Everything contrary to good in the life of the believer is the work of the enemy. The devil is the believer's number one enemy, and the Bible warns us against him:

> **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**
>
> **1 Peter 5:8**

So, behind that setback, that unending struggle and those continuous breakdowns is "an enemy". But why is he so determined and hell-bent on seeing you fail? Look at what the Bible says concerning you in **Isaiah 5:1-2**:

> **Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:**
>
> **And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein...**

This is why the enemy is interested in you! He is jealous of you, because you are God's choicest vine. By redemption through the blood of Jesus, you are planted on a most fruitful hill. Not only that, you are fenced and protected. God has invested His best in you. The Bible also tells us in **Psalm 92:13-14**:

> **Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;**

No wonder the enemy is so jealous! He wants you down like himself. Just like he did not rest until he got Adam out of the garden of Eden, he has vowed not to rest until he gets you off the course of your destiny. He is determined to see you don't enter your Canaan, but he will not succeed, in Jesus' name!

> **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**
>
> **James 4:7**

The devil can be stopped and arrested. Since force is the only language he understands, God has placed the force of prayer in our hands, to put him where he belongs.

Arise!

It takes knowledge to have victory in any conflict of life. The first thing you need to know in the war against the thief of your glorious destiny is that you must arise.

> **Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.**
>
> **Psalm 68:1**

If the enemies will not scatter until God arises, how then do you think they will scatter in your case without you arising? You can't keep watching that unpleasant situation in your life go on; you must arise! No matter how great the revelations you have received from God, if you don't build up a resistance against the enemy, you will never have a breakthrough!

God has spoken some things to you and you are sure of His leading and instructions, but the enemy is standing on the way, saying, "You won't get in there." You need to arise to the challenge, because if you do nothing, you will get nothing. If you fold your hands at the opposition, you will end up in stagnation and deprivation.

When God called me in an 18-hour long vision, I began intense preparations for take-off in prayers, fasting, studying and programming for 26 months. After all these, anyone would have thought the way was clear for great results.

But when the ministry went into full operation in Kaduna, things did not happen as we expected; they were just dragging. There was stagnation. Often, there were only two people at our meetings, and they were my staff. One day, I called the men together and told them, "This is not the way things should be, so let's rise up to the challenge."

We set out in prayers for three days. On the third day, the Lord said to me, "My son, get up and walk down the church area." I did that and when I got to the river bank, He said to me, "Turn back." I turned around and He opened my eyes to see a layer of thick darkness sitting on the roof of the church. I then began to

challenge it audibly with the Word of God.

I said, "Light shines in darkness and darkness comprehends it not. In the name of Jesus Christ, I challenge you force of the enemy, fold up and get out of here." Immediately, I saw the layer of darkness fold up and roll away! From then on, things began to happen in the church. People began to pour into the church, and the ministry began to grow by leaps and bounds. If I had done nothing then, our glorious ministry today, would not have been here.

One of the church members who later became a pastor said that when he first came around our church area, about the time of the incidence I have just narrated, he saw people all robed in white. So he thought to himself, "This is a white garment church" and turned and went away. Meanwhile, I had no white suit, and none of my staff had one either. The enemy had put a spiritual camouflage over the church, to turn people away. But when we rose up against him with the force of prayer, he had no choice but to leave the area.

Right now, certain forces might seem to be resisting every move you make or everything might seem to be working against you, in spite of all your input. I'm glad to let you know that prayer is a major force for fighting all oppositions off your territory, and consequently triumphing in life.

A time came in Matthew 17, when the disciples of Jesus could not cast out an evil spirit even though they had been empowered to do so in chapter 10. Satan was blocking their access to results in ministry. They asked Jesus, "Why could not we cast him out?" He answered them saying:

> **...Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**
>
> **Matthew 17:20-21**

The three forces outlined for victory are faith, prayer and fasting; you will find that faith and fasting enhance effectual prayers.

Don't sit there crying and waiting for someone to pity you; rise up and take advantage of this potent force of prayer and free yourself from the hold of the enemy. He is called "the wicked", because he has no feelings of sympathy for you. He is out for you, so you must arise and invoke the forces of heaven to flush him out.

Many erroneously think that in Christianity everything is delivered to you on a platter of gold. It is not so. Things don't just happen, they are made to happen. **First Corinthians 16:9** says:

> **For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.**

Being a Christian does not exempt you from warfare; it only gives you an edge over the opposition. This is graphically illustrated in **Isaiah 43:1-2**:

> **But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.**
>
> **When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**

Your redemption notwithstanding, God says, "When thou passest through the waters...when thou walkest through the fire..." not, "If thou passest through the waters...if thou walkest through the fire..."

Warfare is inevitable, but victory is guaranteed. God says, "Fear not, I am your redeemer, I am committed to deliver you and give you the victory." Also in **1 John 5:4**, He says:

> **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

So, the obstacles are real; the victories are also real. Victory is our heritage. The reality of warfare is further reinforced by Jesus' experience here on earth. He said:

> **...For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.**
>
> **John 14:30**

He meant to say, "The prince of this world came to Me, but I beat him hands down!" Remember His temptation on the mountain? After Jesus had overcome the devil, the Bible said:

> **And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.**
>
> **Luke 4:13**

The enemy kept coming back, but Jesus was battle ready, so He beat him at all times. Maybe you have fallen once under the blow of the enemy, it's time to rise up again. Champions are not those who never fall, but those who refuse to remain on the floor (Prov. 24:16). So get up on your feet and stand your ground against the devil in prayers, to secure your glorious destiny in God!

As long as you are still breathing, the battle is not over. Rise up and stop tolerating failure and mishaps! Stop putting up with pains, lack and want. If you won't arise, your enemy will prevail. One strategy of the enemy is to make you feel you can't handle the issue. That is a lie! God is committed to your victory, if only you will fight.

Chapter 2:
What Prayer Does

Prayer has diverse benefits for the believer. As the issues and circumstances of life vary, so also does prayer address the various needs of man.

> **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**
>
> **Ephesians 6:18**

This implies that there are different kinds of prayer, and they accomplish different things in a believer's life. Let us examine some of them.

It Provokes Help From Above

> **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**
>
> **Hebrews 4:16**

Without help from above, we are helpless on the earth. The enemy is fierce. He knows his time is short, so he is out against the children of God with full force. The wickedness on the earth is intense, but we have access to help from heaven to overcome them all through prayers. That is why the Bible says:

> **Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.**
>
> **Psalm 127:1**

Every blessing and accomplishment in life comes as a result of the helps of God. Paul said in **Acts 26:22**:

> **Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:**

He was preaching the same message as other apostles in his time, but he got better results because he had the help of God. The Psalmist, though a great man of war who never lost a battle, knew this secret. In **Psalm 60:11-12**, he prayed:

> **Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.**

The Bible also tells us the secret of king Uzziah's successful reign:

> **Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.**
>
> **And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding**

in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper.

And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.

2 Chronicles 26:1,5,7

Prayer is not just telling God your needs, because He already knows them (Matt. 6:32). It is getting Him to intervene in your situation on the basis of His Word. God is your heavenly Father and He knows your needs, but you require His help to overcome the enemy.

Therefore, what you do in prayer is to take your accuser to the court room of heaven for judgement. Once you are justified, the help of God is released to you. When God becomes your Helper, you enjoy ceaseless breakthroughs and stand out among your peers.

God is committed to sending help from above when you call on Him. He gives you this assurance:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Isaiah 41:10-13

The Psalmist said:

> **When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.**
>
> **Psalm 56:9**

Mercy

Mercy is one of God's profound ways of helping His people. **Hebrews 4:16** says, **"...That we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."**

Certain things may be responsible for where we find ourselves and we may not know what they are. But the mercy of God will always answer for us when we cry unto Him in prayers.

God was angry with David when he counted the people of Israel and sent a plague among the people, such that seventy thousand men died in one day. But David cried out for God's mercy, which he knew would always answer for him and God was intreated.

> **...Let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.**
>
> **2 Samuel 24:14**

There is a need to understand the place of God's mercy in our affairs. What you are fighting against may not be the devil, or witches and wizards as you have thought; it could be something you have done, like David, that has angered God. He can be intreated when you call for His mercy.

Maybe a curse was placed upon one of your forefathers, which you inherited without knowing. Some people have so much money but can't account for how it is spent. They have no land, house, or anything to show for all the money that passes through their hands; yet they are heavily indebted.

Some don't even know what next to do with their lives. They just keep wandering about. They invest in all manner of businesses and never realize anything out of them. For some people, the things or habits plaguing them are like ancestral curses. They discover that things such as poverty, failure, marriage spell, immorality, drunkenness, lying, etc. run through all their Family tree.

If you find yourself in any of such predicament, you can cry out for the

mercy of God to severe you from them. You can say to God, "Lord, I don't know the cause of this thing, but You know all things. Whatever I may have dabbled into through carelessness or ignorance and which has brought this affliction in my life, Lord have mercy! Whatever may have come on me through the negative side of my natural background, let Your mercy prevail for me!"

Plead the mercy of God against that mysterious affliction in your life and it will give up, and you will be free.

In **Matthew 9:13**, Jesus said:

> **But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Mercy is God's nature. When three nations came against Judah in battle, Judah went out against them singing of the mercy of God; and the Bible says God set ambushments against their enemies (2 Chron. 20:21-22).

> **It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.**
>
> **Lamentations 3:22**

Angelic Intervention

This is another aspect of God's help, and it is provoked by prayers. When Peter was held up in prison, awaiting death, the saints prayed for Him continually and God sent an angel to rescue him:

> **Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.**
>
> **And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.**
>
> **And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.**
>
> **And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.**
>
> **Acts 12:5-8,11**

Angels are our security agents and they excel in strength (Ps. 103:20). They are there to ward off all evils and plagues from us. They are the fire fighters of heaven, God's rescue corps. Their job is to intervene in the midst of trouble and rescue the believer. They also ensure that only God's will is established in the believer's life.

When Jesus was arrested before His crucifixion, Peter went wild, brought out his sword and cut off a man's ear. But Jesus stopped him from doing more harm and said to him:

> **...Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the**

sword shall perish with the sword.

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 26:52-53

Help from above is available for every area of our need, when we call upon God in prayers.

It Brings Deliverance From Afflictions

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

James 5:13

Prayer is one of God's vital solutions for afflictions. It is the Holy Ghost's prescription for deliverance from oppressions.

A lady lecturer from a leading national university had stroke sometime ago. She came to Lagos all the way from Nsukka in that condition and attended an all night prayer meeting in our church (she could scarcely walk when she came in and couldn't even stand on her own). But when she visited Lagos again a few weeks later, she was walking straight, with all her beauty and elegance restored! Heaven was connected that day, hell was devastated and her affliction was turned to testimony!

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." Not, "...let him cry...", or, "let him watch..." That means anyone that is battered, tormented or depressed is expected to pray for deliverance. If you want to see that yoke on your life broken, you must pray. If you want the forces beclouding your destiny to be shattered, prayer is the kingdom force recommended for your deliverance.

You are not born for afflictions; you are created to reflect the glory of God, and prayer is what it takes to enforce your manifestations. Prayer is what you use to free yourself from all afflictions of the enemy and for the restoration of your beauty in Christ. When Hannah was afflicted with barrenness, she went to the temple and prayed. God heard her and gave her a son (1 Sam. 1:9-20).

Paul and Silas were locked up in prison, after having been beaten with stripes. But at midnight, they prayed and sang praises to God, and He came down in an earthquake and loosed their bands (Acts 16:25-26).

The children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt for over 400 years. God only sent them help after He heard their cries in prayer.

And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...

Exodus 3:7-8

So, until you cry out against that affliction in your life, it remains. God only responds to your voice in prayer, to put a stop to the assault of the devil in your life.

Apart from destroying afflictions, prayer puts you on the line for divine visitations and turns your captivity. Don't watch that long-standing problem — joblessness, barrenness or lack of peace in your home destroy you. Cry out to God in prayers against it, remind Him of His promises in His Word that exempt you from such afflictions, and you will be free! **Psalm 125:3** says:

For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.

So, it is not God's will that the enemy should afflict you; your prayers can stop him.

It Enforces Prophecies

Every word of prophecy is God's plan unfolded through a human vessel.

> **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**
>
> **Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**
>
> **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**
>
> **2 Peter 1:19-21**

So whatever God says to you through the Scriptures or through a human vessel (in prophecy) is His plan for you, and as far as He is concerned, it is settled. But what many Christians don't understand is that most prophecies don't get fulfilled without the application of certain kingdom forces.

> **This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**
>
> **1 Timothy 1:18**

You don't watch prophecies, you war with them, until they come into reality. In fact, a prophecy may look like falsehood or mockery, if you don't know what it takes to make it happen. There are oppositions that have set themselves to block your access into your promise land, so you must do something to make that prophecy a reality.

But to war with prophecies you go to God in prayers with the Word (or the prophecy), reminding Him of His commitment to perform what He has spoken.

Then you turn to the enemy and declare what is written concerning you which forbids his activities around you.

It takes warring a good warfare to see prophecies fulfilled. God is faithful and He cannot deny Himself. He is committed to do anything He has said.

In **Deuteronomy 2:24**, God said to the children of Israel:

> **Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.**

God had given the children of Israel the land, but a devil somewhere is saying, "No, you can't have it." God's instruction to them was, "Rise up! Don't sit there expecting it to drop into your laps! Begin to possess what is yours. Contend with the opposition in battle, until you possess your possessions." This tells you that you don't wait for things to happen, you make them happen. The Bible says:

> **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**
>
> **Matthew 11:12**

Most people wait almost lifelong to see God's Word fulfilled in their lives. They keep wondering, "Could that word be true?" Yes, it is true. You only need to war with it to bring it to pass.

> **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.**
>
> **Jeremiah 29:11**

God has good thoughts and plans of a glorious future for us all, but He shows us how to bring them to pass:

> **Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.**

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

That means, "When you wait and you don't see the things I told you of, come and ask Me of them in prayers." It takes intercession and seeking the face of God to see the fulfilment of the great plans and visions He has told you about. God has set an expected end before you, but you must call upon Him and seek Him with all your heart, if you want to enjoy it.

Any Word of God or prophecy that you have received and believed will surely bring forth when you apply the relevant force of prayer to it. That Word is a seed (Lk. 8:11); but no matter how precious any seed may be, without rain it will die in the ground. What do you do to bring down the rain? You ask.

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Zechariah 10:1

When you ask in prayers, the rain will come and the word will bring forth fruit in your life. Maybe you have been going through some drought as far as fulfilment is concerned. You don't wait for the rain to come, you pray it down!

You have sat down with that word for too long. You can't keep on saying, "It will come to pass one day." Rise up now and do what it takes to make it come to pass.

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

Isaiah 43:26

It Helps To Locate The Path Of Life

> **Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**
>
> **Psalm 16:11**

Divine direction is the heritage of the redeemed. But you must seek it in order to enjoy it. When you locate the path of life, you enjoy fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore. But they are only obtainable in God's presence, which is our ultimate goal in prayer.

> **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
>
> **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
>
> **Psalm 23:1,5**

When God leads you, you can't but become outstanding in life. Some people are not cut out for business, but have chosen to do it, either because of social influence or personal affection. Others are into all manner of professions where their star may never shine, because they haven't located the right path. They just keep groping around. But you can't afford to go through life doing what seems right to you. It is too risky!

God is committed to leading you in the path of life He has ordained for you, even before you were born (Jer. 1:5). He said in **Isaiah 48:17**:

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

But asking in prayer is your access to His leading.

> **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:**

Matthew 7:7

When you ask, God is committed to answer; He knows that without His direction your destiny is not secured. But until you ask Him, you will just keep doing what seems right, not what is right; and until you do what is right, you cannot be marked right in life.

From the day I came across that Scripture in Isaiah 48:17, I made up my mind to depend on God for guidance all the days of my life, and to wait on Him for approval before I take any step. And He has been faithful all these years. When God leads you, He makes a leader out of you. But one wrong step can lead to a 40-year setback in life, as was the case with Moses.

Direction was what rescued the disciples from an all-night futile toiling on the sea. Jesus came and said to them, "Cast your net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find." They did, and were not able to draw in the net, for the multitude of fishes (John 21:3-8).

Direction can be obtained through prayers of enquiry. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask, Seek, Knock." If the path you are going on seems like a dead end, ask Him, "Lord, where is the right side of this venture?"

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

When you ask, God gives liberally, because He is committed. He is a loving Father, so be relaxed in His presence and ask as many questions as you need, to be clear on every vital issue of your life. Look at the power of the prayer of enquiry in the life of David, a man after God's heart.

The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said

unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalperazim.

And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

2 Samuel 5:18-20, 22-25

Do you want breakthroughs? Then make enquires from God in prayer before you take any major step. He will answer you, because He is interested in everything that concerns you. God is the only One who can lead you to true pastures and He is set to do so, if only you will let Him. He said:

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

Jeremiah 33:3

Remember, you can't wish problems away, you must rise up to the challenge, and effect a change. You don't have to accept the status quo, you are a child of destiny! Where you are now is not God's ultimate for you. You can get to the top, if only you will push in prayers. You too can live a problem-free life, and I see you getting there, in Jesus' name!

It Consecrates

Prayer is one of the spiritual forces needed to live a consecrated life. This is because the forces of desecration are equally spiritual. Consider what the Bible says in **Zechariah 3:1-3**:

> **And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.**
>
> **And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?**
>
> **Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.**

This tells you the source of the conflicts you face, in your desire to live a consecrated life. Joshua, the high priest, did not choose filthiness. It was forced on him by satanic forces in the unseen realm. That is why God gave us the weapon of prayer, to pull down the strongholds of the enemy that stand against our walk in righteousness.

This illustration reveals that most of the habits that destroy people are remotely controlled by spiritual forces. That is why no matter how hard the victim tries to come out of it, he finds himself going deeper into it, against his wish. There has to be a heavenly means of destroying such satanic hold.

The angel of the Lord before whom Joshua the high priest stood said:

> **...Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.**
>
> **Zechariah 3:4**

It took the intervention of the angel to stop the activities of Satan, and to put a change of raiment on Joshua. You know we release the angels through prayers (Matt. 26:53).

As we communicate with God in prayer, He sends angels down as private emissaries. They remove the filthy garments from us, give us a change of raiment and cause our iniquities to pass from us.

No matter how genuine your desire to please God is, or how sincere you are in your longing to live right, you must understand that it is not possible by power or by might. You need divine help. That is why people who lean on personal efforts to live right live frustrated lives. They put themselves under all manner of bondages: they go about with long faces, looking very pious, not greeting anybody on the way, or shaking hands with anybody, yet they are not free. Jesus said:

> **For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:**
>
> **These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.**
>
> **Matthew 15:19-20**

So, unless you can send your heart ahead of you to heaven through prayer, your physical efforts in the conflict with sin is useless. When Jesus laid down the principles for effectual prayer, one of the things He said we should say in prayer is, "...Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." (Matt. 6:13). And in **Matthew 26:41**, He said:

> **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

To live a life without spot or wrinkle has to be by divine help, which you provoke in prayers. Look at what happened to Peter before he denied Jesus. When Jesus said, "Simon Peter, you will deny Me three times tonight", Peter said, "Even unto death I will stand by You." And he really meant it. Jesus also knew he meant it.

But He meant to tell Peter, "Boy, you don't know the things fighting against

you. Satan desires to have you and that has nothing to do with whether you are determined or not. There is a satanic force organizing your destruction. Satan has concluded the plan to devastate your destiny and sieve you like wheat, but I have prayed for you" (Lk. 22:31-34). Jesus recognizes Satan as being behind Peter's fall.

Thank God, that in our days, we are privileged to have the Holy Ghost, the blood of Jesus and the Word of God, which we can engage in prayers to overcome the satanic forces of filthiness and live a life of purity. God said:

> **Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.**
>
> **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.**
>
> **And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**
>
> **And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.**
>
> **I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.**
>
> **Ezekiel 36:25-29**

God is the One that sprinkles the clean water of His Word on us to sanctify us (Jn. 17:17). He is the One that puts His Spirit within us, that causes us to walk in His statutes, to keep His judgements and do them. But this is how He does it:

> **Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them...**
>
> **Ezekiel 36:37**

You have to ask Him to consecrate you.

In His model prayer, Jesus said, "When you pray say... thy kingdom come." Luke 17:21 tells us "...The kingdom of God is within you." And Romans 14:17 says, "The kingdom of God is...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." So, if you desire that kingdom of righteousness to be established in your life, you must give it expression in prayers.

The Holy Ghost is our surest help in the conflict with filthiness. Jesus called Him our Helper. John introduced Him as the One to come after Jesus and:

> **Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**
>
> **Matthew 3:12**

You can never be thoroughly purged without the help of the Holy Ghost. He is called the refiner's fire in Malachi 3:2, and prayer is your access to Him. On the day of Pentecost, as the apostles were praying in the upper room, He came upon them.

There are certain things in your life that you need to be helped out of, and except you are helped of God, you may die in them. So, without any feeling of shame or failure, come boldly to the throne of grace, acknowledge your infirmity before God and ask for His help.

Tell Him, "Lord, I need your help in this area of my life. I have done the little I know, but this is beyond me and I know it is not beyond You. Send me help now, oh God!" Before you know it, you would have gained mastery over that demonic grip of anger, malice, lying, immorality or whatever it may be.

The Bible says in **Mark 9:23**:

> **Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**

Any time Jesus took some of His disciples apart to a mountain top, it was usually to pray. You can pray your life into purity, just as Jesus did on the mount of transfiguration. As you establish a place for yourself in this righteous walk with God, your victory on the earth will be established.

Chapter 3:
Heart Preparation

There is no manifestation without preparation. Every encounter with God is born out of adequate preparations.

> **...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].**
>
> **James 5:16 (AMP)**

Prayer has its root in the heart. The Bible says in 1 Samuel 16:7, "...For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

The heart is what matters most to God. That is the place of communion between Him and man. It is the altar upon which the sacrifices of praise and the incense of prayers are offered.

In other words, it is not what you do or say outwardly that guarantees a release from heaven, but what goes on in your heart. In fact, what becomes of you ultimately in the kingdom is a function of what goes on in your heart.

> **Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.**
>
> **1 Samuel 1:13**

She spoke in her heart, but God heard her. Everybody may be commending you for what they see of you outwardly, but God rates you by what He sees in your heart. That means, there is no outstanding answer to prayers without first an outstanding preparation in the heart. God does not reckon with the outward appearance, neither is He moved by physical efforts; what moves Him is your heart. Therefore, your heart must be set for an encounter with Him when you pray.

Since that is the determining factor in receiving answers to prayers, the heart must be adequately prepared to ensure that the exercise does not end in futility. It is clear from Scriptures that an unprepared heart is not likely to get a response from heaven.

> **The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.**
>
> **Proverbs 16:1**

Before Elijah's mount Carmel victory, the first thing he did was to repair the broken down altar, which in the New Testament order represents the heart (1 Kgs. 18:30). If anything has tampered with God's altar in your life, then get set to repair it; because until that is done, communication in prayer cannot be established.

If you must encounter God in your prayers, you must prepare for Him (Matt. 3:3). How do you prepare for Him?

CONSECRATION

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalm 24:3-4

Preparing your heart in purity is the first step to establishing a viable communication link with God, because prayer can only flow when sin is absent. It takes a pure heart and pure hands to approach the presence of God. Whatever pollutes or corrupts your heart blocks your access to heaven's hotline.

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

Isaiah 59:1-3

Sin is a barrier to prayers! God is continually angry with the wicked (Ps. 7:11). So He will not even hear him, much more answer his prayers. The Psalmist said:

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Psalm 66:18

You can't embrace sin and expect God to embrace you. Matthew 5:8 makes us understand that only the pure in heart should expect to see God in their affairs. If God must hear you, you must first hear Him.

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand,

and no man regarded;

But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Proverbs 1:24-28

As long as you remain in sin, you are out of touch with God. The only prayer of a sinner that gets to God is the prayer of repentance. Every unrepented sin blocks your communication line with God. It is only after God has heard your cry of repentance that He can hear your cry of affliction, because it is only after He has saved you from your sin that He is committed to save you from your troubles.

This is why many Christians have prayed and prayed, yet they remain oppressed; their sins have made the heaven's over them like brass. Nothing gets through. They groan, shout, scream and wail, but all to no avail. Any time God is about to stretch forth His hand in their direction, their sins come to remembrance and His mercy is turned off.

Don't let the devil deceive you into thinking that no one can make it in this race of holiness. God is not a waster, if He is building mansions in heaven, then people must definitely live there. For, without holiness no man can see God (Heb. 12:14). There are righteous men on earth today, who are living triumphantly above sin; and you can join them. You will be surprised to find out that you are the only one still indulging in that terrible habit, that you think everyone else indulges in. The Bible says:

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

Songs of Solomon 2:15

Any fox you allow to remain in your vine will constitute the greatest danger to your Christian life. That malice, stubbornness, uncontrollable anger, hidden pride and lying tongue can all be destroyed, if only you are set to let them go.

Sin is a barrier between you and God. If you don't let it go, you may go for it. But if you desperately desire a turning and you cry out to God for forgiveness, in the name of Jesus and through the blood of the Lamb, He will forgive and restore you to dignity. He is committed to forgive when we repent (1 Jn. 1:9).

Thank God the Bible says sin has no more dominion over us (Rom. 6:14). It lost its power over you two thousand years ago, when Jesus hung on the cross and cried, "It is finished!" (Jn. 19:30).

Consecration is the foundation for prayers that command answers from heaven.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

However, if you are not born again, you are a sinner and Jesus said:

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

John 3:3

But God is willing to receive you and forgive your sins, if you call on Him to save you. Ask Jesus to cleanse you with His precious blood and make you a child of God, and you will be saved (Rom. 10:9,13).

Once you are saved, you are translated from the kingdom of the devil, where you were helpless against sin, into the kingdom of the Son of God (Jesus), where

you now become a son of God and have the power to live above sin (Col. 1:13).

Prayer is a two-way communication between a Christian and his heavenly Father. So, until He becomes your heavenly Father, you have no access to Him in prayers. But salvation grants you this privilege.

Each time the children of Israel sought an encounter with God, they always made a sin offering (Lev. 9:3-4). In the New Testament order, the sin offering represents the renewing of your covenant position with God through consecration. That is, presenting your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him, which is your reasonable service (Rom. 12:1).

With that in place, you can't miss Him. Every blessing in Scriptures is reserved for the righteous and that includes the blessing of answered prayers.

> **The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29**

Be Offence-free

As you prepare your heart to approach God in prayer, one of the things you must guard against is offences. So many are offended in God and all they do in prayer is nothing but complain. When you are offended in God, you turn Him against yourself; and if God is against you, who will save you? If you despise Him, who will lift you?

Many are stranded because of offences. When they stand in prayer, they justify themselves against God. They say, "Lord, I've paid my tithe, I have done everything that You commanded. Only You haven't done your part." In other words, they count themselves faithful and God otherwise. But the Bible says, "Let God be true and all men be liars."

Anything that moves you to murmur against God is moving you against your destiny. You can't expect Him to answer your prayers when your heart is full of complaints and offences against Him. Have you not heard, "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker"? (Isa. 45:9.)

If He withdraws His breath from you for one second, you will be dead. I often say, "If you have lost anything, God is the reason you didn't lose everything." May be the enemy's intention was to take your life, but God stepped in and you only lost your car. But here you are, offended and complaining against Him in prayer. If He withdraws His hand from your life, can you imagine what will become of you? **Romans 8:28** says:

> **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

So, set your heart right before Him. Count Him faithful in all things. Refuse to complain, but rather let God know that you have no alternative beside Him, and that you are ready to hang on till your answer comes from Him.

Stop threatening to backslide if He doesn't answer your prayer on time. No one will lose but you.

> **He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened**

himself against him, and hath prospered?

Job 9:4

You have been stranded enough, now give your destiny motion by clearing off every offence from your heart, to establish a thoroughfare to heaven in prayers.

Everything that moves you to question the integrity of God, or His love for you must be destroyed, so that the altar of your heart can be prepared for the fire from heaven. Paul said:

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Acts 24:16

That is the way to maintain a good communication line with God.

Forgive

A heart full of love, both towards God and your fellow man, is a fundamental requirement, if your prayer must get through to the throne room of heaven

Forgiveness is an expression of love. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, one of the things He told them to say was, "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." That is to say, "Lord, forgive us, just the way we forgive others. Don't forgive us what we don't forgive others."

If we document other people's sins against us, then the Lord will document ours also; if we desire their hurt, He will desire our hurt also. So, when you don't forgive those who have offended you, your sins also remain unforgiven. Until your sins are forgiven, you don't have a prayer access to God.

The Psalmist said in **Psalm 130:3**:

> **If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?**

Many have been crying in all manner of prayers, fastings and vigils, yet God hasn't heard them, because they are holding back the sins of others in their hearts. You probably have told your neighbour, "It is over, I have forgiven you." But it is not over yet in your heart. And because the Bible says in Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me", your prayers go unheard.

It is spiritual foolishness to live with unforgiveness; the cost is too high. It is one of the traps of the devil to make you lose favour with God. Jesus told a parable in **Matthew 18:23-35**:

> **Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.**
>
> **But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.**
>
> **The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord,**

have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

When God forgives you your sins but later sees the way you are tormenting somebody who has offended you, He will bring your records out again and deal with you. Forgiveness brings you into eternal friendship with Jesus which gives you access to heaven's hotline.

Until you free that man or woman, God will not hear your cry of affliction. That man might have really cheated you, and that woman insulted you terribly, but let him go! Let her go! Until the love foundation is in place, effectual prayer is impossible.

Watch any man who walks in hatred, malice and unforgiveness, his life keeps drying up. And because he has no access to God's favour, he is a cheap prey of the devil. Your expression of love for your fellowmen is the authentic proof of

your salvation. The Bible says, "Whosoever claims to love God, and hates his brother, is a liar" (1 John 4:20 paraphrased).

You may pray as long as you like, remain on your knees all the days of your life and fast for as many days as possible, if you have imprisoned somebody in your heart through unforgiveness, you will never have a breakthrough, because the Scriptures cannot be broken.

Love is your vital link with God, and the foundation stones of the altar of your heart. There is a future in forgiveness. Let love flow from your heart to everyone and you will see God step into the affairs of your life.

Examine yourself, to see if there is anywhere your altar has been broken down, and plead the mercy of God for restoration. Rededicate your life to God and be determined never to be found doing what displeases Him. That long-awaited answer to your prayers will be delivered to you now, in Jesus' name!

Chapter 4:
Word Preparation

Without the Word, every in prayer ends in utter frustration. It is nothing but a worthless religious exercise. But **1 John 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:**

The Word of God is the only thing that grants you access in heaven. It is God's language. Without it, God's ears remain deaf to whatever you are saying, causing your prayer to bounce back to you.

There is no point saying prayers that God does not hear. It's like somebody who picks up his telephone handset and just starts talking into it, even though the line hasn't gone through. You can't connect heaven's throne and not be sure, because anytime you get through to God, the impact will be evident.

The Word of God is what gives worth to your prayers and qualifies you for a heavenly audience. When you consider that prayer is seeking justification against the accusations of hell, then you will understand that the reason many don't get answers is because they are not prepared for what they are doing.

The truth is, every divine connection calls for genuine preparation. If you don't know how to approach God with His Word, prayer will continue to be a hit-and-run experience for you. Remember that God is the judge of the whole earth. As one coming to plead your case before Him, there is need to correctly position yourself by collecting adequate and relevant materials that will enable you win the case.

No lawyer, for instance, can expect to win a hard case without doing qualitative preparations. If he fails in his preparations, he will only end up making a fool of himself before the judge and his client.

Lack of Word preparation is the reason for our frustrations in prayer. But many lazy Christians console themselves by saying, "I know God will do it someday", when they have done nothing on their own parts to commit God to their desires.

It takes the Word to get God committed to anything you desire from Him. When Jesus heard of Lazarus' death, He remained where He was for two more days. I believe He was preparing Himself for an outstanding historical encounter. And when He was set, He left for Bethany. All He said at Lazarus' grave was:

> **...Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.**
>
> **And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.**
>
> **John 11:41-43**

What was the outcome of that statement?

> **And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.**
>
> **John 11:44**

It is obvious that the stage was set before He arrived there. A lot of transactions had taken place on the altar of preparation, but all we saw at the graveside was the manifestation. A friend and I went out to pray one day and my Word preparation was in order. As we got to the place where we were to pray, the Lord said to me, "I have heard you." So, I turned to my friend and told him, "The Lord just spoke to me now; He says He has heard me." We then went ahead and praised the Lord and left; and our request came to pass just as we desired it.

Don't rush at God, first set yourself (2 Chron. 20:17). If you take enough time to prepare in the Word, you will spend less time in prayers and get more results eventually.

There is a level of Word preparation you will engage in, that God would not even allow you to finish talking before He steps into action and establishes your desire. Your preparation in the Word can secure you an approval from heaven, even before you begin to speak.

When your heart is stuffed with the relevant Scriptures that help you communicate your desires effectively, your prayer becomes effectual, and makes tremendous power available. Let's stop suffering with vibrations and gyrations. Rather, let's sit down and calculatively engage in Word-backed communications with heaven for outstanding manifestations on the earth.

Before you engage in any prayer session, sit down and prepare, like one going to court. Organize, and if possible, write down your prayer points and the Scriptures that commit God to grant your desires. Sometimes, I write down my prayers like a case, then I read them aloud to God, who is the Judge of the whole earth. He said, "Come, let us plead together..." (Isa. 43:26).

I say to Him, "This, this and this are what are happening, but according to this and this in your Word, they ought not to be happening. Because You abide faithful and cannot deny Yourself, and You change not, this is what I want to be done." I use His Word to commit Him as much as possible and it is done.

Stop playing religion, because when faced with your hottest battle, there may be nobody near you and if you don't know how to connect heaven, what becomes of you? So brace up! You must have a Word-stuffed heart, to maintain a hotline communication with God.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...

Colossians 3:16

Prayer is communication, not emotional displays. God is not moved by your tears; He is only moved when you ask according to His will. So, all you need is the right Words and your communication with Him will be through.

In **Isaiah 43:26**, He said, "**...Declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."**

What do you declare? His Word, which is the only language He understands and permits Him to intervene in your case.

> **...For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**
>
> **Psalm 138:2**

One thing is needful for every other thing to fall in place — the Word of God. If you check through Scriptures, you will find out that everything is hooked to and rooted in the Word. Faith, effectual prayer and success are all rooted in it.

It is the Word that makes one outstanding in Christianity, not religious exercises. I have seen many heavy prayer warriors who are weary, but I am yet to see a Word warrior who is not a conqueror.

When you are Wordless, your prayers can't be genuine. You will either be under pressure, or just be playing games. How can you be praying on the same issue for over one year without getting an answer and you have never bothered to sit down to ask yourself, "What is missing?"

It is God's Word that connects you to the throne for response. No matter how long you have been cheated by the devil, when you cry to God and say, "Lord, can't You see how I am being cheated? Can't You see how long I have been a Christian?" All He will say is, "My son, talk sense! What do you want Me to do for you?" In **Isaiah 43:26**, He says:

> **Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.**

So until you remind Him of His Word that commits Him to your deliverance, your prayers will continue to remain unanswered. In the Yoruba dialect, there is an adage that says, "When you are crying, you should still be able to see where you are going." If you want to stop that flow of tears in your life, pay full attention to Word preparation for proof-producing prayers.

Consider Elijah's short prayer in **1 Kings 18** and the immediate answer he

received.

> **And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.**
>
> **Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.**
>
> **Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.**
>
> **And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.**
>
> **Kings 18:36-39**

But before he made this prayer, heavyweight preparations were already in place. We will look at each component of the preparation of Elijah's altar, to help our understanding of the importance of Word preparation for great encounters in prayer.

Gather The Stones

> **And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:**
>
> **And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.**
>
> **1 Kings 18:31-32**

The fire of God does not fall until the stones are in place. But what are these stones?

> **Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?**
>
> **Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**
>
> **And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**
>
> **Matthew 21:42-44**

The stone Jesus is talking about here is Himself. He is the lively stone (1 Cor. 10:1-4), and **John 1:1,14** says:

> **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

The stone is Jesus and He is the Word of God. That means the stone that

must first be gathered is the Word of God. If any opposition falls on it, that opposition will be broken; and when it falls upon any opposition, it grinds it to powder. That means any time you locate Scriptures that address any issue of concern in your life and use them, you are spiritually hauling stones against the opposition, breaking them first and then grinding them to powder.

You know the Bible says, **"...The scriptures cannot be broken..." (Jn. 10:35)**. So, the Word of God cannot be stopped; it is irresistible and always gets its way. When David was going to face Goliath, the Bible says:

> **And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.**
>
> **And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.**
>
> **So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.**
>
> **1 Samuel 17:40, 49-50**

Rather than spend time doing some religious exercises that won't profit you, spend it in the Word, to gather the appropriate stones that will bring down your Goliath. Go by the River of Life (the Bible), carefully choose and pick up those lively stones (Scriptures), put them in your bag (your heart) and then move out against the opposition and you are sure to bring down his head.

God delivered our last daughter from death when death came calling. On the morning she was being driven out of the house to the hospital, I could almost see death physically saying, "I must take this one." But the Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing." So, I went to the office, and after addressing the staff devotion, where nobody knew what was going on, I went up to my office. I locked the door behind me, and in two hours, I gathered four fiery, death-destroying stones from the Bible. The stones were so real that after I laid hold on them, I knew

death was destroyed.

I wrote down the four Scriptures, sent them to my daughter's bedside, with the instruction that it should be read upon her. When I got there, I prayed for less than a minute (because the job had been done), and that was it! She came out of that attack!

Until you settle down to gather the stones that will bring down your opposition, your victory is not in view. God will not do it for you. In fact, until the stones are gathered and the stage is set, He doesn't show up. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah gathered the stones and built the altar himself. It's a personal responsibility! When you go running about, looking for who will pray for you, it shows that you are "stoneless".

Settle down and gather appropriate stones to enforce your victory. Collecting the stones is easiest if you are a Bible student, one who genuinely feeds on the Word; not one who only begins to search for his Bible on Sunday morning, when it's time to go to church.

If you are an ardent student of the Word, it becomes cheap to scout round from Genesis to Revelation, by the help of the Holy Spirit, Who brings to your remembrance whatsoever things you have learnt of Him. He helps you locate the appropriate stones you need for whatever battle facing you. When you rest on Scriptures and you build an altar unto God with them, you have committed heaven in your favour, and an answer is guaranteed.

When like Elijah, you locate and carefully arrange twelve stones from the Word, you can't miss your target. The Word of God is your rock of defence and offence, and if your faith is hooked to it, it never fails. It is your only guarantee for victory over your Goliath. I see that Goliath that has been reproaching you over the years, fall down flat before you, as you haul the stones of the Word of God against him.

Put The Wood In Order

And he put the wood in order...

1 Kings 18:33

"The wood" is another word for the Word of God. In **Luke 23:31**, Jesus said:

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Here again, He was talking of Himself. He is the green tree, and it is established in John chapter 1, that He is also the Word of God. So, the Word of God is the wood, and you can't start or sustain a fire without the Word. The Bible says in **Proverbs 26:20**:

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out...

So, it's not just enough to prepare the altar of your heart and gather the stones, you must also lay the wood (the Scriptures you have located) in order. You have to lay them out intelligibly to get God committed. After locating the appropriate Scriptures, you say to Him, "Lord, because You said so and so in Your Word, I know You are committed to do this."

That is what I call Word calculus — calculating Scriptures in order to enforce a heavenly release. My prayers are often very short and straight to the point, because I not only gather the stones, I make sure the "wood" is arranged in order.

During the battle with death over the life of my daughter, I collected some Scriptures and laid them out in the following order.

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?

But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend

with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.

And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 49:24-26

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:55

The power of the grave is the law, but God has abolished both in Christ Jesus. Jesus said:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 1:18

Jesus can't hold the keys of death, and use it against His own. No, He will hold it in my favour. So, I concluded that all I needed to do was to tell the devil to take off his hands from my daughter and get back to hell; and that was it!

So, laying the wood in order is one of the things that brings down the fire from heaven, to guarantee you a release on the earth. I see the frustration of unanswered prayers come to an end in your life, in Jesus' mighty name!

Pour The Water

The Bible also says that Elijah told the people:

> **...Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.**
>
> **1 Kings 18:33-35**

Water here also represents the Word of God.

> **...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.**
>
> **Ephesians 5:25-26**

The more faith Word you load into your prayer, the more you get out of it. Most times when I approach God in prayers, I commit Him with as many Scriptures as possible. There is this testimony I love so much. It is of a woman called Dodee Osteen, the wife of a great man of God, John Osteen.

She was sick with terminal cancer and given just few more days to live. Many reputable men of God came from far and near to pray for her, but her condition didn't improve. But one day, with the last strength in her, she picked up her Bible and located forty Scriptures that forbids her, as a child of God, from dying of cancer. That was how she got off that sick bed, free from cancer and from death!

That can be likened to the multitude of waters in **Ezekiel 31:3-4**:

> **Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.**

The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

As I earlier said, faith in God is your major access in prayer. But it's a seed that must be nurtured with as much water of the Word as possible, if it must produce effectively. So, when you get into the multitude of water level in the Word, you not only boost your faith, you also generate a flood against the enemy, which he can't resist.

Nothing can stand in the way of a flood. Everything gives way to it. There are fire fighters, but have you ever heard of flood fighters? There are none, because you can't fight a flood; you simply get out of its way, otherwise it will carry you along. When you enter the flood stage of the Word, you are on a frequency that cannot be resisted.

You don't have to remain stranded in life or give in to circumstances. All you need do is to committedly and whole-heartedly begin an adventure into the Word, to stop the harassment. Go for tapes and books that will aid your study of the Word, until you generate a flood that will clear every opposition out of your way.

One of my daughters in the Lord tested positive to HIV. She collected some tapes, books and her Bible and locked herself up for four weeks, feeding on the Word. When she went back for another test, it was negative! The AIDS virus had died!

Start Off The Fire

There is what I call Word-fired prayer. That is, prayer born out of the fire of the Word. In **Jeremiah 23:29**, God asked, **"Is not my word as fire... that breaketh the rock in pieces?"**

It is the Word of God that ignites a fire in your heart and pushes you into fervent and effectual prayers. That is why you find that after hearing a powerful, Wordpacked message, people are fired up to pray heaven-touching prayers.

When Scriptures like Matthew 8:17 and Numbers 23:23-24 are fired into the heart of a man who is tired of sickness, he holds unto them with his last strength, knowing that his healing can no longer be negotiated. The Word he hears ignites his soul with a holy anger and desperation, which enhances effectual communication, and a miracle is born.

So, it takes fire on the altar of your heart to draw down fire from heaven. The story is told of John G. Lake, a great man of God in his days. Almost half of his Family members had died of one plague or another and on April 28, 1898, his wife lay dying of the same plague.

A fellow minister who was with him encouraged him to accept her death as God's will, and in utter hopelessness, Lake threw his Bible against the wall. It fell to the floor and opened to **Acts 10**. As he walked over to pick it up, his eyes fell on **verse 38:**

> **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

Those powerful Words were fired into his soul and it dawned on him that God was not the author of sickness; the devil was responsible for his wife's condition and that since he was a son of God by faith in Jesus Christ, then God was with Him, just as He was with Jesus.

He also turned to **Luke 13:16**:

And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

That ignited another fire in his soul, because he realized that God could use him to heal his wife. So, with all boldness, he entered her room and declared with a loud voice that his wife would be healed at exactly 9.30 a.m. And at that hour, he knelt down by her side, laid hands on her head and prayed. The power of God came upon her and in a few seconds, she shouted, "Praise God, I am healed!"

She was immediately healed of the paralysis and all the other ailments that had drawn her so close to the brink of death.

Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Kings 18:38

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

When you pray Word-fired prayers, you can't miss drawing fire from heaven. Meditation is one of the ways of fanning up the fire in your heart. As you spend time brooding over the Word, the Holy Spirit sparks off a fire in your soul, which enhances a hotline communication with heaven, to ensure your victory.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:4

God's Word, ratified by the blood of Jesus, is His will. It is unchangeable,

irrevocable and endures forever. If you go with a will to a court of law, that court is under obligation to honour it. It doesn't matter if the deceased made a mistake in it or not; as long as it is his will, the court is mandated to enforce it.

So, when you approach the throne of grace on the basis of the will of God, you are justified, and God is obliged to step into your case. That is why every Word-weak Christian is a prayer failure; the strength of the Word is what determines the strength of the response from heaven.

Gathering the stones, laying the wood in order, pouring the water and starting off the fire are all Word preparation efforts which make prayer effectual. That is how to stay prepared for continuous encounters with God in prayer. I see the fire of the Lord falling for you from henceforth! You will no longer miss your target, in Jesus' name.

Chapter 5:
Approaching The Throne Room

Your heart and Word preparations must be followed up with a proper presentation of your request, if you must see your desired results in prayers.

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah completed all the preparatory processes of repairing the broken down altar, laying the wood in order and digging the trenches. After that, he put the burnt sacrifice on the altar and then lifted up his voice in communication with heaven and the fire fell.

Also, when David was going to face Goliath, he prepared himself by going to the brook to pick five smooth stones. But he didn't stop there. He approached the giant, cursed him in the name of the Lord, and while the giant was still wondering if David was actually coming to fight him or not, the stone from David's sling had gone into his forehead, and he was brought down (1 Sam. 17:40-50).

Effectual prayer begins with Word preparation, but it delivers through a sound connection with heaven.

Faith

After locating the will of God concerning your situation, the next thing to be done is to build up faith for effectual communication. Faith is a potent force without which prayer will be absolutely unproductive. The Bible calls faith "The substance of things hoped for..." (Heb. 11:1). That means it is the ticket on which you take delivery of anything from heaven.

After Jesus healed the lunatic child His disciples couldn't heal, they came to Him later to ask why they couldn't cast the devil out of the child. Jesus' response is very revealing:

> **Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?**
>
> **And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**
>
> **Matthew 17:19-20**

Until faith is in place, prayer will only end up in frustration. As powerful as the Word of God is, it can only produce when faith is present.

> **For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.**
>
> **Hebrews 4:2**

Every conflict in life is a direct attack from the forces of darkness and the Word of God is the light that shatters darkness (Jn. 1:5). Psalm 119:130 tells us that it is the entrance of the Word that gives light. Until the Word gains entrance into the heart and generates faith, it does not become light; and until it becomes light, it cannot shatter darkness.

After all the whole effort of gathering the stones, laying the wood in order and pouring the water, you need to settle down and consciously cultivate faith in the Word through meditation, before going ahead to present your case to God.

You don't pray for faith, you cultivate it by staying with the Word until the assurance of its reality is established in your heart.

> **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
>
> **Romans 10:17**

Once faith is established, you can be sure of results when you pray. **James 1:6-7** says:

> **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.**

You don't only approach God with His Word, you must come with an unwavering assurance that He abides faithful and cannot deny Himself. Not with an attitude of "Let me try, maybe God will answer." The Bible says to such, "Let not that man think he will receive anything of the Lord."

When you approach the throne room in prayer, remember that God has said:

> **Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.**
>
> **Jeremiah 29:12**

The Bible also says God has not called the sons of Jacob to seek Him in vain (Isa. 45:19). These should assure you that God is committed to answer, when you call upon Him according to the dictates of Scriptures.

> **And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any**

thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:14

But your confidence in God must first be in place before you ask Him for anything, because though the Word grants you audience before Him, your faith is what motivates Him to act on your behalf.

In Matthew 9, two blind men prayed to Jesus for the restoration of their sight. Even though Jesus heard them, He did not heal them until He was assured of their faith in Him.

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened...

Matthew 9:27-30

Many have been following Jesus for long. They have done all manner of things in the name of prayer, including 30 days self-inflicted fast; whereas all that God is waiting to see in them is a believing heart.

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.

Hebrews 11:6

So, it is you, not God, who determines whether your prayer gets answered or not. As for God, His side is settled. He is constant, man is the variable.

His Word says, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11). Whatsoever makes for your welfare and that of His kingdom is good in His sight, so He will not withhold it from you as long as you

ask in faith.

Worship

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...

Luke 11:2

This is the first step in effectual communication. You must approach the throne of grace in worship, if you want to get God's attention.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalm 100:2,4

Murmuring, grumbling and tears do not give you access into God's presence; only worship does. When you come with a thankful heart and an attitude of worship, He welcomes you into His presence and is ready to intervene in whatever you have brought before Him.

After Elijah fixed the altar and put everything in place, the Bible says, "...He cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood..." That is the sacrifice of praise. Praise is the cheapest way to attract God's attention, because He dwells in the midst of praise (Ps. 22:3).

When you come saying, "Lord, I just appreciate You for who You are and thank You for all You are to me. I thank You because You are always there." With this, His ears are open to you and He is already saying, "What can I do for you my son?"

Provoking God's presence is our ultimate goal in prayer, because that is the best way to secure His intervention in your case. Once you secure God's presence, your answer is already at the door. And heart-seated praise and worship is the only way to do that.

Praise is a proof that you acknowledge His sovereignty in your personal

affairs and that of the universe. It also proves that you don't see Him as the cause of your problems, but as your Helper. That grants you unlimited access into God's presence, where communication flows with ease and answers are guaranteed.

Supplication

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

Philippians 4:6

Here, Paul shares with us, an insight on how to approach the throne room of God in prayer.

First, Be relaxed. "Be anxious for nothing..." Until you are relaxed, you cannot get through on the prayer line. This first step can be described as the area code number of heaven, without which your call will never get through.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us come boldly..." When you are relaxed, you are bold. Supplication is basically praying with Scriptures — producing your cause and bringing forth your strong reasons to remind God of His commandment and promises.

We are often deceived by certain religious beliefs and acts, one of which is the use of many words. I remember sometime in 1977, when after a meeting we decided to leave. Somebody complained and accused us of not being able to tarry in prayers for ten hours. I said to myself, "This is a Pharisee." Jesus said:

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Matthew 6:7-8

So, effectual prayer is not in many words. Only meaningful words grant you audience before God. You are heard by target words; words that are shot as arrows that cannot miss their targets. Vain repetitions and idle words are the reasons many remain in prayers for many days, and still come out without results.

Prayer is not just saying something, it is saying the right thing. Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:36-37 was short, sharp and straight to the point. The result? Instant answer! This is what God commands:

> **Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.**
>
> **Isaiah 41:21**

Nothing moves God like His Word. So, if you are in need of a job, you can reinforce your request to Him like this: "Lord, Your Word says, ‘Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings’ (Isa. 3:10), not the fruit of his uncle's labour or the fruit of his senior brother's labour. Also, Your Word says, ‘no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly’ (Ps. 84:11). Lord, You know I walk with You. Your Word also says, ‘I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread’ (Ps. 37:25).I don't want to beg, because it is not part of Your covenant package for me.

In Matthew 20, You went out to the market place at different hours of the day and all those You found standing idle due to unemployment, You hired. So, Lord hire me now. I know You hate idleness; neither do I want to remain idle. Therefore, I thank You for my miracle job now, in Jesus' name."

With this, you are justified before Him and are sure to get a job. The Bible says:

> **The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.**
>
> **Psalm 34:10**

> **Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.**
>
> **Proverbs 3:27**

To whom is good due? To them that walk uprightly. So when you are serving

the Lord, He is committed to your good and when He stretches forth His hand, who can turn it back? That means by covenant, your life is not permitted to lack any good thing.

It is not the will of God for you to lack any good thing. So, you can say to Him, "Lord, I serve You, and You said in Your Word that no man can serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). I have yielded myself to serve You the Almighty God, therefore I am not permitted to serve lack and want, hunger, suffering and nakedness. Since You have said that those who seek You shall not lack any good thing, I open up for a flow of Your abundance into my life now, in the name of Jesus. Lord, watch over Your Word to perform it, in Jesus' name."

If you have been plagued with sickness, remember God said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Ex. 15:26). He told the Church in the wilderness this, and He says, "I am the Lord, I change not." So He is still the Healer today as He was in times past.

When He sent His Son, Jesus, the Bible says, "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17). Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). He is still doing all the miracles of healings He performed in the Bible days today. He abides faithful, He cannot deny Himself. Therefore, you can say to that disease or pain, "In the name of Jesus, you have no legal hold over my being, because Jesus took my diseases and pains the same day He took my sins. Let God be true and all men liars! I take my liberty now, in the name of Jesus."

When this comes from a Word-prepared and faith-ignited heart, heaven must respond. Supplication does not only mean substantiating your desires with Scriptures, it also means engaging in heart-felt communications.

James 5:16 says, **"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."** The Amplified Version says,**"...The earnest (heart-felt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."**

That means only the prayer that emanates from the heart, not from the head, is the prayer that will avail much. This is because you can have a head full of

Scriptures, but on an empty heart.

Hannah's prayer in **1 Samuel 1:12-17** is a very good example of a heart-felt prayer.

> **And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.**
>
> **And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.**
>
> **Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.**

"She spake in her heart. Only her lips moved, her voice was not heard." But she said she had poured out her soul unto the Lord. That means the whole of her being was in what she was saying. She meant it from the depth of her heart, which is where God looks into and relates with.

Effectual prayer has its root in the heart. If your heart is not in what you are saying, heaven does not reckon with it. God has no respect for those who draw near unto Him with their lips only, whereas their hearts are far away from Him (Isa. 29:13).

After Hannah's prayer, the Bible says:

> **And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.**
>
> **1 Samuel 1:18**

She was sure she had contacted heaven, so she went away and was no longer sad. She was assured of her answer from the moment she prayed.

> **...And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her.**
>
> **1 Samuel 1:19**

You can't pray heart-felt prayer and miss your target. May your heart find a thoroughfare to heaven from henceforth.

> **Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.**
>
> **And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.**
>
> **James 5:17-18**

The details of Elijah's earnest prayer is recorded in **1 Kings 18:42-44**:

> **...Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.**
>
> **And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.**

He was out for an answer, he was not doing guesswork. He was ready to stay out there and hang on, until His answer came and he did. His servant went to check for the cloud seven times before he eventually saw it, and then the rain came. And when rain comes, the earth yields her increase. I see you enter into your season of abundance, as you engage in heart-felt prayers, in the name of Jesus!

Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

Psalm 42:7

The Bible says, the heart of man is deep (Jer. 17:9). Since it is deep that calls unto deep, if you must enjoy deep communications with God, you must engage your heart in prayer. Let no ordinary statement come out of your mouth. It is not much speaking, but "heart-speaking" that makes for effectual prayer. It is not how loud, but how genuinely we call from the deep that matters.

I was a victim of tuberculosis, but one day, in the dead of the night, I got on this heart-felt prayer frequency and that plague was shattered there and then! In **Zechariah 12:10**, God said:

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications...

There is what is called the spirit of grace and supplication, which enables a man stand strong on the prayer tower, praying from the depth of his soul, as though travailing for his only son.

Ask God for the outpouring of that spirit upon your life, so you can enhance your communication with heaven.

Thy Kingdom Come

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray:

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10

Kingdom-oriented praying gives you special audience with God. The Bible says:

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

Matthew 6:33

If you desire breakthroughs in your personal life, one of the fastest ways to achieving it is to have a strong affection for God and His kingdom.

When a kingdom prayer point is raised in church, a lot of people just mumble through; you can hardly hear what they are saying. But when you say, "Pray for yourself, that this year's prophecy may find fulfilment in your life", people begin to pray with so much vigour and energy. But it is how much you take pleasure in the affairs of the kingdom that determines the quality of response you enjoy from God.

When you are interceding on kingdom matters, let it be from the depth of your being, as if you are praying for your only child who is dying. Let it means much more to you than your personal matters.

This is a prayer strategy that moves heaven to rain down favour on you, so much that you will not need to pray for most things before you get them. Many people are dying in their prayer rooms because they are self-oriented in their prayers. They are the "needy-stars" of the kingdom.

They always pray, "Lord, give me this; Lord, bless me; Lord, bless my wife and my children", and their demands are endless. All they remember to pray about is "me, I and myself." They are least concerned about the welfare of anybody else or on any issue that does not touch them personally.

> **Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.**
>
> **Psalm 102:13-14**

God even answers me before I call, because I pray sincere and heart-felt prayers for the kingdom and His people. So, He can't but surround me with favour. As you begin to seek His kingdom in your prayers, I see every concern of your life become a testimony.

Two-way Communication

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

Habakkuk 2:1

Prayer is not just reporting your case to God; it is communicating with Him. Every genuine discussion or dialogue is made up of comments, enquiries and responses from the parties involved. It should be a two-way communication flow. But most people do all the talking in prayers, not giving God a chance to speak to them in return, nor pausing to listen to what He has to say.

It is time we began to engage in responsive meditational prayers — where you talk and wait for God's response, where you make enquiries and take delivery of divine strategies to deal with the issues confronting you.

To truly win in prayer requires your being alert in the spirit, listening in meditation and keeping your heart open to receive what He has to say to you. You also have to engage in intense worship, in order to maintain the communication channel. When you ask a question and there doesn't seem to be an immediate response, you begin to worship and call God by His names. Then you ask again, "Lord, what are You saying?" You are sure to get an answer, because He assures us:

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

Jeremiah 33:3

In Daniel chapter 2, Daniel and his friends were faced with a decree of death. The king had a dream, which he forgot and wanted Daniel and his colleagues to tell him the dream and its interpretation or they would all be put to death. See what Daniel did:

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel 2:17-19,23

When you approach God, remember that He is the One before whom all things lay bare. The One that reveals deep and secret things, the Omniscient God. Go before Him and take delivery of your answers, as you engage in a two-way communication with Him. That is what prayer is all about.

Make Enquiries

There are times we get to points in life, when we don't know what next to do or which way to turn. These are the cross-roads of life. The Bible tells us what to do:

> **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**
>
> **James 1:5**

We are full of prayers of petition, calling on God to intervene and do something about our situation. But we have more often than not ignored the place of enquiries, which is what gives us access to God's ways. It is the access to the secret and hidden things of life. You must make enquiries from Him, if you really desire the way out of your predicament, for God's ways are higher than ours and His thoughts than ours (Isa. 55:9).

> **Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...**
>
> **Jeremiah 6:16**

"Oh God, come and do it for me" is the prayer of babies; but, "Lord, what must I do?" is the prayer of sons. As long as you remain a child in the kingdom, always asking for things to be done for you and crying in the face of every situation, the glory never comes near you. It is sonship that attracts the glory, and responsibility is what makes a son (Isa. 9:6).

In prayer of enquiry, God shows you what you need to do, in order to get what you are looking for. It then becomes your responsibility to put to work what has been revealed to you.

King David won all his battles because he was a man of enquiries.

> **But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.**
>
> **And David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand?... And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.**
>
> **And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees... And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him; and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.**
>
> **2 Samuel 5:17-25**

David was a man of enquiries, so he never suffered any defeat or injuries as a warrior. He had access to divine instructions by prayers of enquiry, and it made a world of difference in his life. One instruction from heaven can deliver from a lifetime of struggles. You will no longer suffer injuries in your life.

I have often said, "Responsibility is the price you pay for greatness." There is what you must do to commit God to listen to you. You have your part to play and God has His; He will never play yours for you. He said, "Draw nigh unto me and I will draw nigh unto you" (Jam. 4:8). It is your drawing near to Him and making enquiries that provoke His drawing near to you with answers and instructions.

Don't watch your life drag on endlessly, with your hands akimbo, saying, "God will do it." Get into God's presence and with your entire spirit, approach Him for an answer. Do not be in a hurry, be set to get an answer and take delivery of His higher ways, which will put you above whatever situation you are in.

Make enquiries! "Lord, why is this home not working? Why is this ministry dragging? Oh God, what would You have me to do? What is missing in my life that is responsible for this problem? Lord help me. What am I not doing that I should start doing? What am I doing that I should stop doing? Lord, I am looking up to You for an answer."

Something in your life might be what is responsible for the problems. Maybe the way you talk to your spouse is what sets the whole house on fire. Maybe you are neglecting your covenant responsibilities towards your workmen, that is why your business is going down. You may have been giving tithes and kingdom investments, yet your financial situation is getting tighter. It could be that you are not doing it properly.

Whichever way you are missing it, He will reveal it to you when you go before Him to enquire. You worship before Him, speak to Him and wait for His response, celebrating in tongues until the answer comes.

God Answers

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

God is committed to answering your prayer, if you ask, not if you cry. No matter how many demons are connected to your problem, God's wisdom which is released in prayer of enquiry will give them a knock-out.

This is your hour of triumph; you are leaving the realm of people doing things for you, to that of getting it done by yourself. When God opens you up to that realm, you are on a flight, far above principalities and powers.

The Seal

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

The name of Jesus is the seal of authority that compels heaven to dispatch the answer to your prayer once you are heard. Many people think the name of Jesus is a punctuation mark, a pause in prayer or an exclamatory religious word. No!

There is power in the name of Jesus! The name is backed up with all the anointing that Jesus has, both while He was here on earth and now that He is seated at the right hand of God. The Bible tells us that God gave Him the Holy Ghost without measure (Jn. 3:34). Also, **Acts 10:38** says:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Jesus is anointed without measure, telling you how powerful His name is. If, for instance, the President of your nation gives you a note, with his name and signature on it, that note carries as much power and authority as his physical presence with you. With it in your hand, you have equal access to the places and things that the President has access to.

In the same way, the authority and power in the name of Jesus is what you release when you pray in His name. **Philippians 2:9-11** tells us:

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

That name answers both in heaven, on the earth, and everywhere. That

means no authority in heaven, or on the earth can resist it. Peter's prayer for the lame man at the gate Beautiful, though very brief, but because it was wrapped up in the name of Jesus, the result was instant.

> **Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**
>
> **And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.**
>
> **Acts 3:6-7**

No opposition facing you can withstand the name of Jesus. When you invoke that name, you are not only putting a demand on the anointing, but also on the integrity of God, and He is bound to respond. At the mention of the name of Jesus, angels arise in heaven to carry out the orders that the name has been sent to accomplish (Heb. 1:4,14).

Moreover, the name of Jesus is your heritage in God. You have every right to use the name, as Jesus' Himself commands us:

> **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**
>
> **John 16:24**

So stop chanting the name as though it carries no power; it is the authority seal that validates your request in heaven. With the proper use of that name, your prayer cannot return to you unanswered. God is committed to the name, as He Himself gave it to Jesus (Phil. 2:9).

Chapter 6:
Prayer Boosters

There are certain covenant forces that reinforce your prayer. They are not supplementary to prayer, but rather complementary. These boosters not only enhance communication in prayer, but also aid other aspects of spiritual growth and encounters.

You need reinforcements in prayer, because there are certain oppositions that will not answer to faith and prayer alone. Such oppositions require your building up a stronger spiritual energy to deal with them.

Fasting

After emphasizing the role of faith in dealing with oppositions, Jesus further said to his disciples:

> **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**
>
> **Matthew 17:21**

No matter the kind of opposition standing against you, it is not higher than the one Jesus is referring to here. A combination of faith, prayer and fasting will bring it into submission.

Unfortunately, there have been many erroneous beliefs about fasting. In my early Christian days, people used to equate fasting with spirituality. They see it as a competition among themselves, seizing every opportunity to boast about their fasting ability. Jesus fasted for forty days and never made reference to it once, but the effect was evident in His life and ministry. When fasting is void of tangible results, it is a mere waste of time and efforts.

The purpose of fasting is for the release of power. It is not to beg God to act, neither is it to impress Him or force Him to grant your request. Rather, it is a spiritual device that empowers you with the unction needed to deal with the issues facing you. In **Luke 4:14**, after Jesus had fasted for forty days, the Bible says:

> **And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.**

When we are in a fast, we are not begging or struggling with the devil to leave; we are connecting with heaven, for the release of power to send the devil packing from our environment. That is why during a fast, you must have periods of separation to study and fellowship with the Word of God.

During His fast in the wilderness, Jesus was engaged in Word warfare. In

three instances, He resisted the devil with, "It is written...", until He eventually sent him packing (Lk. 4:1-13)

Without Word intake, fasting is dangerous. It is nothing but a hunger strike which has claimed the lives of many in times past. Fasting is not a time for outward show of piety. Jesus said:

> **Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;**
>
> **That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.**
>
> **Matthew 6:16-18**

A fast is meant for the building up of your spirit-man, so that you can obtain the desired results in the physical. When Jesus said to His disciples, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting," He meant to say, "You need a higher level of unction to deal with this case than you have now."

So, when you are faced with an opposition that seems not to be yielding to faith and prayer, organize a fast, to help generate a fresh supply of power to deal with it. What happens when you fast is that your spiritual perception is increased, so that you are able to receive direct instructions and strategies on how to deal with situations.

Fasting, therefore is not a religious exercise, or one of those things we do in Christianity; it is a vital kingdom force which empowers the believer to loose the bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens and break every yoke.

> **Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?**
>
> **Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou**

cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward.

Isaiah 58:6-8

The God-ordained fast is one that is done out of a delight for God, not in contention, bitterness or strife. Among other things, fasting guarantees breakthroughs — "Thy light shall break forth as the morning." It also delivers outstanding accomplishments, a breaking forth in your health, spiritual breakthroughs and answers to prayers.

Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity.

Isaiah 58:9

These should be the outcome of fasting, not loss of weight, or famished haggard looks.

Praying In The Spirit

Praying in the spirit is another way of reinforcing your prayer. In Mark 14, before His crucifixion, Jesus took His disciples up to a garden to pray. He left them and went a little farther to pray. When He came back, He found them sleeping and said to them:

> **Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.**
>
> **Mark 14:38**

The forces against us are spiritual, so we have to confront them from the spirit realm, as the flesh hasn't enough force to handle them. That is why Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Helper, to help us transcend the physical realm into the heavenly.

Until you are able to engage the help of the Holy Spirit in prayer, you may never experience true breakthrough in your Christian life.

> **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**
>
> **And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**
>
> **Romans 8:26-27**

There are forces beyond the natural, which are out to tear down your destiny; you, therefore, need to engage spiritual forces to undo them. Praying in the spirit is the most effective way of subduing such forces. That is why Apostle Paul said:

> **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,**

against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...

Ephesians 6:12-13,18

Since these forces of opposition operate from the spirit realm, which most times are beyond our human comprehension, God has also given us a weapon that grants us access to the throne room of heaven, which they also do not understand.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2

When you pray in the Spirit, no one, including the devil, knows what you are saying, as you are speaking to God alone in mysteries.

When you engage the Spirit in prayer, He takes you into heaven's frequency, enabling you to pray with precision the express will of God for that situation (1 Cor. 2:11). The Holy Spirit Himself intercedes on your behalf. He picks up what is in your heart, presents it to God and in turn delivers the answer from God to you.

...For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord

shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19

If the enemy is coming against you like a flood, you can't expect to resist him as a stream. But when you switch over to the spirit, the Holy Spirit helps you to raise a standard against the enemy. What happens when you switch over to the Spirit is that you are releasing the rivers of living water that flows in you as a Spirit-filled believer.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:38-39

Your mouth is the outlet for the rivers of God within you. So, when you burst out in tongues, you are releasing that river, which is able to swallow up every flood of the enemy and deliver you out of every predicament.

When your spirit prays, you are praying the will of God. So, you can be confident that your prayers are heard, and when God hears, the victory is sure (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

...With my spirit within me will I seek thee early...

Isaiah 26:9

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

Effectual communication is the one done in the spirit, as God is a Spirit. Praying in the spirit is a spirit-to-Spirit communication, and thus is your surest way of connecting heaven for earthly interventions.

We can therefore approach the throne room of God boldly, communicating in our heavenly language that guarantees victory in prayer. This prayer booster is for the benefit of every believer.

> **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.**
>
> **Jude 20**

Praying in the spirit is a God-ordained programme for your spiritual build-up. Remember Romans 8:26 says that the Holy Spirit helps our infirmities in prayer. There is a limit to which your physical strength can take you in prayer. That is why many fail in prayer. A man starts to pray and in less than five minutes he dozes off. By the time he opens his eyes one hour has passed. Then he says, "In Jesus' name", and that's it for the day.

It's time to lean on the help of the Spirit, to kindle an unquenchable fire on your prayer altar. Call on Him to help you. "Spirit of God, Helper of the Church, help me! Put a new fire on my prayer altar. Help me to maintain a winnings prayer life."

Until you realize your helplessness without the Holy Spirit, you may die in struggles. But when you lean on the Spirit, you keep on leaping through life.

There are times when you pray and you know your prayer is not going beyond the ceiling. It is as if the heaven is locked up and you can't get through. Switch over to the Spirit. Let Him clear the way and create a thoroughfare to heaven for you, so you can enjoy sweet communion with your heavenly Father.

The Holy Spirit not only boosts your access in communication, but also helps you overcome every prayer weakness, in order to sustain the fire of God on your prayer altar.

Personal Testimonies

God commands that we put Him in remembrance:

> **Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.**
>
> **Isaiah 43:26**

The way to do this is through testimonies. Testimonies are weapons in the hands of the believer (Rev. 12:11) When you remind God of His acts in the lives of other people, He doesn't deny Himself. And since He is not a respecter of persons, He is committed to do for you what He has done for others, if you put Him in remembrance. When you have a personal testimony of sanctity in your walk with God, you commit Him the more. It is like putting Him in a corner He cannot come out from. He cannot but answer you.

Hezekiah's prayer is a very good example of this.

> **In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.**
>
> **Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, And said, Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.**
>
> **Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.**
>
> **Isaiah 38:1-5**

Hezekiah would have died cheaply, were it not for his personal testimony. He had a testimony, so he didn't argue with Isaiah, but rather faced the wall and cried out to God. "Lord, is death the reward for serving You with a perfect

heart?" God is the Judge of the whole earth, and a righteous One at that. He must have gone through Hezekiah's records and found that he was right, so He sent Isaiah back with an answer for Hezekiah.

With just a few seconds of effectual communication on the personal testimony line, Hezekiah secured heaven's express intervention in his case. Your personal testimony will always deliver you in the day of trial.

When you have a personal testimony, it emboldens you and sets your soul aflame for effectual communication in prayers.

I read the story of a cotton farmer in America. He had a cotton field and when the season for harvest came, the cotton buds refused to open up. If that season passed without them opening, the whole field would be wasted. Worried over this, the farmer went to a man of God, Kenneth Copeland, who was in that area at that time.

Kenneth Copeland asked the man if he pays his tithes. The farmer said, "Yes". Copeland then asked for the farmer's cheque book with which he had been paying his tithe. They both went out to the farm and Copeland lifted up the cheque book and said, "Lord, remember now, that this is a tither and the devourer has no hold on tithers. Hear now and answer." On getting back to his field the following day, the farmer saw that all the cotton buds had opened!

Why must you be a tither and the devil is destroying your life with trials? Why must you be an investor in the kingdom and remain a beggar in the world? If you are genuinely serving God, then tell Him! Get on the testimony line and God will have no choice but to respond.

When death wanted to steal my daughter away, this is the prayer I prayed: "Lord, You know that what You told me to do is what I am doing; and You know that how You commanded me to do it is how I am doing it. That is why I know this is no case. Thank You, Lord." After this short prayer, my daughter was restored back to life with full vigour!

Your personal testimonies before God are as strong as the Words of Scripture. You don't have to be barren when you serve the Lord, because the

Bible says:

> **And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.**
>
> **There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.**
>
> **Exodus 23:25-26**

God is committed to blessing those who serve Him. So utilize your testimony line. Remind Him of how you have served Him with all your heart and watch out for the release of your heritage in God. If you are a tither and a kingdom investor, you are destined to flourish. The economy of your country and the value of the currency notwithstanding, God is committed to blessing you. If you are faithful enough to serve, God who abides faithful and cannot deny Himself will surely respond when you approach Him with your testimony.

It is a great thing to be able to say before the Lord, "Lord, You know how I walk before You with a true and perfect heart." This is why you must maintain sanctity at all cost, so that it can give you a testimony in the day of trial. Your personal testimony of dedication and commitment to service in God's kingdom will serve as a stronghold for you in the day of trouble.

Without a personal testimony before God, you don't have a future of liberty; but with it you can always connect heaven and secure automatic triumph in prayer. The personal testimony prayer line is a miracle line, which is sure to deliver to you, as long as you serve God, for He has not asked the seed of Jacob to seek Him in vain.

> **...But godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**
>
> **1 Timothy 4:8**

Chapter 7:
Praying Without Utterance

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Isaiah 65:24

One day, I was driving on the highway in my bettle car and noticed that because the car's engine was behind, whenever I came face-to-face with a big vehicle, my car would be so shaken, it would seem as though it was going to break into pieces. I then thought within me that it would be nice to have a heavier car, because of my long journeys. And lo, I got home that day to meet a Peugeot 504 car waiting for me!

This led me to ask God, "Won't You even wait for me to call before You answer?" His reply was, "No. There is a company of people who, before they call, I answer, and while they are yet speaking, I am on the line to perform." You can provoke heavenly response without utterance. You can secure divine interventions without crying.

What I am about to share with you in this chapter does not cancel or take the place of speaking and making utterances in prayer; it is only an extra depth in communicating with God. It is knowing how to position yourself in the realm of answers without tears. A realm where God contends with all that contend with you, without you having to ask Him. A realm where you can reach heaven and receive from heaven without shouting. A realm where you compel things to happen on their own accord.

So, winning the prayer war is not only a function of intercessions, supplications and prayers of agreement; there are other direct avenues to God that bring you victory without sweat. I call it operating God's private lines — the silent prayer frequency.

However, not all believers belong in this realm. There are things the believer

does that grant him access into this realm.

Obedience

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

Obedience is one of the things that launches the believer into the realm of praying without utterance. You can bring down imaginations, destroy strongholds and avenge every disobedience, just by your own obedience to the instructions of God.

If you do whatever He tells you to do, the devil cannot undo you (1 Pet. 3:13). You can live a hurt-free life through obedience, because it renders your enemies helpless and endears you to God for divine favours.

Our ministry is blessed financially, and yet we have never prayed to God to send us money. Where is the money coming from? From obedience! We sow wherever God directs us to, that's why things just keep happening for us financially without any struggles.

A cheap way to disarm the devil is through obedience to Scriptures. At the marriage in Cana of Galilee, when they ran out of wine, after telling Jesus about it, Mary said to the people, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." (Jn. 2:1-9). Obedience turned their lack and impending shame into plenty and glory.

Do you want a happy and peaceful home? The Bible says:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of

the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:22-25

Just obey this instruction and you will never need to pray for peace in your home. Once, I was trying to reason things out and I said to God, "Lord, I can see Your finger in my life in a very strong way, but I have not cried for it the way others do.' He said, "I am committed to you, My son, because you are committed to Me."

On September 4, 1987, the Lord spoke to me from the book of Hebrews, on the importance of prophet's- offering. I never heard it from anywhere before, but from that time on, I have been obedient to that Word.

I wasn't worth 50,000 naira when He told me, but now, I give offerings to other prophets in millions; and that is apart from my kingdom investments.

It is not that God loves some people more than others. It is simply that some have placed themselves where they naturally compel God's love. There is a place in God where all other things are added to you without you asking for them.

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

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

I have been on that frequency for so many years and it has never failed me.

The Lord spoke to one man in our church, to change the carpet on the altar.

He took permission from the pastor and did it. A few days later, he stumbled into a two million naira deal! He didn't need to pray for that breakthrough, it came as a result of his obedience to the voice of the Lord.

If you don't obey the general rules of Christianity, how will you ever enjoy the blessings of God without asking? Strengthen your stand on the obedience line and you will send the devil parking without tears.

Value is a function of cost. If Christianity does not cost you anything, it will deliver no value to you. Obedience is the price for divine value. God keeps on enhancing your value in the kingdom as you build up your obedience to Him. When your obedience in any area is fulfilled, you will naturally and automatically avenge all disobedience, and enjoy rest in that area.

When God told Abraham to leave his native land and move to a place He would show him, the Bible says, "So Abram departed" (Gen. 12:4). As a result of his obedience, God became committed to him and said to him:

> **And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:**
>
> **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**
>
> **Genesis 12:2-3**

When Abimelech took Abraham's wife, God plagued him and his household and even made him to know that He (God) was punishing him for Abraham's sake. Abraham never prayed to God about it. His obedience was speaking for Him.

In **Genesis 13:2**, we are told:

> **And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.**

He became this through obedience. God has said:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, 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.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:10-11

Instead of proving God by paying their tithes, many are praying to Him for finances even in their disobedience. It doesn't answer to prayer. Do what He has commanded. Prove Him and see if He won't fulfill His part. The Bible says:

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

1 Corinthians 10:10

And there you are, murmuring and praying at the same time. Of course, the murmuring cancels out the effect of the prayer, because no Scripture has power to nullify the other.

When God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, on mount Moriah, Abraham didn't say a word of prayer. He went straight to the mountain, built an altar, laid the boy on it and was about to do as he had been commanded when God called to him from heaven. His obedience earned him a stronger commitment and affection from God. God swore to Abraham:

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Genesis 22:16-18

Just operate the obedience line, it will earn you much more than you can ever ask for in prayer. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 catalogues the blessings reserved for those who obey God, whereas verses 15-68 tells us the curses and calamities that follow disobedience. The curses are quite terrible.

In 1 Samuel 15, God sent Saul to destroy the Amalekites for what they did to the children of Israel when they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan. Saul was instructed to destroy everything and everybody, but he decided to spare the king of the land and some cattle, for a flimsy religious reason.

But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal.

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 15: 21-23

God delights more in your obedience than in your sacrifices. Obedience is supreme! Disobedience angers God and moves Him to reject people; and whosoever is rejected of God becomes an easy prey of the devil.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isaiah 1:19

The good of the land is available to all, but access to it is for only the obedient. So, take advantage of this silent prayer line, which commits God to answer you, even before you call. And very soon, people will begin to ask you, "Do you ever have problems?" because you will live as though the devil didn't exist. All, because of the divine covering obedience commands.

Imagination

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,'

Ephesians 3:20

God responds to your thoughts as much as He does to your speech. That means your words and thoughts weigh the same in His sight. That is why you find many places in Scripture where Jesus responded to the thoughts of some people.

And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

Matthew 9:3-4

Your mind is the battleground in every conflict of life; and until you win in the mind, you don't win in the world. Many supposed prayer warriors die weary, because of their negative thoughts and imaginations. For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7).

Imagination is a powerful silent prayer line to heaven. You can draw anything with your thoughts, just as you would with your words. You can't carry a negative imagination and have successful intervention in prayer. When your imagination is negative, your supplication is frustrated, because nothing goes through.

I can't imagine me sick, because I never saw Jesus sick. That is why I am not sick, and I don't need to pray to remain healthy. I imagine that I am healthy, just as Jesus was when He was on the earth! I never imagined our ministry beg, even before its inception. That's why we are not begging today.

Imagination is a very powerful force of prayer, particularly when it is

Scripturally formed and motivated. The Bible says:

> **Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**
>
> **Proverbs 4:23**

What goes on in your mind controls the issues of your life. You can provoke divine intervention with your imaginations. The woman with the issue of blood only said in her heart, "If I may but touch His garment, I shall be made whole." She did and was made whole (Matt. 9:20-22). From within her heart she drew virtue without utterance.

She must have heard of how Jesus raised the only son of a widow from the dead by merely touching the coffin in which he laid, and how he that was dead sat up and Jesus delivered him to his mother (Lk. 7:11-15). She must have then concluded in her heart that since Jesus had enough power to raise the dead, and she was still living, all she needed to do to be healed was to touch the helm of His garment. That is forming Scriptural equations in your mind, to achieve your desired end.

In Genesis 11, the people had imagined and had begun to build a tower, whose top would reach heaven and God said:

> **...Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.**
>
> **Genesis 11:6**

God was saying here, "Even I cannot stop what these people have imagined to do." He had to scatter them in order to stop their imagination.

You can engage the power of your imagination for personal manifestations. Imagine this, the Bible says:

> **Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or**

female barren among you, or among your cattle.

Deuteronomy 7:14

It means that until you are blessed as a child of God, all the people who don't know God shouldn't see blessing. So when you see sinners and animals reproducing, you should never imagine yourself childless or destitute, because blessings and fruitfulness are primarily for God's children. Healing is bread for the children of the kingdom (Matt. 15:22-27). Since what drops from the table is what sinners take to keep healthy, none of them should be healthy on the street, while you lie down sick in bed. Why must you, who has direct access to the table, be sick and the sinner is healthy?

You can use the force of imagination to get out of that destructive disease. Ask yourself, "Can any sickness hold Jesus down like this?" The answer is no! And Jesus is in you by His Spirit! You can win any battle by focusing your thoughts on your Scripturally based desires.

If you want to be a successful thinker, there is a need to separate yourself from the noise and row of activities, and create quietness around you.

It's time to work on your imagination, so you can be free from all frustrations. Your imagination is a pace-setter for your destiny; it determines how far you go in life. That means you must put a bridle on your mind, so it doesn't lead you to destruction.

Meditate on Scriptures. Program your mind to think in line with the Word.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

In **Mark 11:23**, Jesus said:

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.

So, the effect of what you say with your mouth is determined by what goes on in your heart. When you doubt in your heart, what you have said with your mouth is rendered ineffective. You can cry from now till eternity, if your imagination does not fall in line with what you are saying, it will not produce results. The Psalmist said:

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

God is committed to your thoughts as He is to your words, so be careful what you think! He will do whatever you think, negative or positive.

Affection

Affection is another avenue of reaching God without speaking a word. Somebody came to Jesus and asked Him:

> **Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**
>
> **This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**
>
> **Matthew 22:36-40**

Without love nothing works. Every law in Scriptures produces for you on the basis of love. The love line provides you a private and unhindered access to God, because when you draw near to Him, He draws near to you. When you are in love with Him, He is in love with you. He responds to love the same way He responds to our supplications and intercessions.

When God is in love with you, the best He has is made available to you, even if it is the only one He has. Remember He gave His only begotten son because He so loved the world (Jn. 3:16).

When you win the love of God, your tears stop, because before you call, He will answer, and while you are yet speaking, He will perform. The Bible says:

> **But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**
>
> **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

Every special favour answers to your love for God. That means, He won't wait for you to cry for anything before He releases it to you. My wife, for instance, has never needed to ask me for anything. I simply do things I know will make her happy, because she loves me and I'm in love with her. She woke up one Christmas morning to find that she had a new car. She didn't have to pray for it. I blessed her with it because of my love for her.

Likewise, love connects you to supernatural interventions without your having to cry and wail. I have never prayed a private prayer in which I asked God to bless me. I'm committed to Him, so He's naturally committed to me also. Since you don't wait for someone you love to cry before you give him what he needs, He never waits for me to ask for a thing before He gives me.

On September 12, 1976, I entered into a love deal with God. I said, "Lord, all I have is yours and should You ask me to forsake all that I have, I will neither grumble nor complain." He responds to my love for Him by speedily granting even the mere wish in my heart.

It is good to sing praises and render every kind of service to God, but until it is done out of genuine love for Him, it does not register in heaven. We win God's love by loving Him, and we express our love for Him by keeping His commandments.

> **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**
>
> **John 14:21**

We are in a love race. The more you love, the more you win; the less you love, the less you win.

Love is also demonstrated by giving. Giving is a proof of love, but it is not love in itself. You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

> **And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his**

father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

1 Kings 3:3-5

Solomon loved God, so he sacrificed a thousand offerings, to express his love. Solomon didn't go there to ask God for anything; he just went to express his love. But God said to him, "Ask what I shall give thee."

When you win His love, He will personally keep calculating and working out things for your good(Rom. 8:28). He won't wait for you to cry to Him for anything. The depth of your love for God determines your ultimate height in the kingdom. When the love of God is enthroned in your heart, He sees to your enthronement on the earth.

One great secret of my life is that I just love God. I'm driven by Him. He rides on my back and I enjoy it. Everything about Him moves me. Many years ago, we were at a meeting where a need was announced for an on-going project in church. I had 700 naira, with which I had wanted to buy a motor-bike, so my legs could be delivered from long trekking. When that announcement was made, I knew that must be the reason God gave me that money. So I gave it as seed.

Now, I will never need to buy a motor-bike any more. In fact, God has blessed me to the point that I will never require more than 1per cent of my financial income to satisfy my needs. I'm sold out to God and He keeps manifesting Himself to me. You can't give God first place in your life and He give you the last place.

God understands the love language. Love Him and everything around you will naturally work. When you are in love, you enjoy oneness with God and if God be for you, who can be against you?

Actions

> **Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.**
>
> **1 Samuel 2:3**

Your actions can reach God, just as your words. Your dispositions can move Him, just as your utterances.

God sent Elijah the prophet to tell king Ahab that he would be punished for all his evil ways and that great calamities would come upon his household. But see what happened next:

> **And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.**
>
> **And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.**
>
> **1 Kings 21:27-29**

Ahab didn't utter a word, but he repented before God and God saw it in his actions, which in turn provoked divine intervention. When your actions are motivated by the Word of God, it goes a longer way than words of prayer.

One day, my wife told me she had had a miscarriage. My reply was, "It can't happen! Can I have my food please?" That was the end of that discussion. There was no prayer, confession or further enquiries on the matter. I simply acted the Word, which says:

> **And ye shall serve the Lord your God... There shall nothing cast their**

young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

Exodus 23:25-26

That child was born hale and hearty. In fact, he won a prize at birth for his size. Every revelation-motivated action provokes supernatural manifestations.

Your actions count a great deal before God. If you appear in your shop looking downcast because you didn't make good sales yesterday, you may still not sell today. But when you appear bright and cheerful, not as someone who had poor sales yesterday, but as someone who expects good sales today, God will ensure that your expectation is fulfilled.

Action is a very effective private line to God. Until you act the Word, you may never see it fulfilled in your life, because your action is an evidence of your faith (James 2:17). The Bible says, "Let the weak say, I am strong." But some brethren think this is just another way of saying, "I am sick." So, they say, "I am strong" while they look as weak and sickly as possible. If you really desire to be strong, and you say you are strong, then look strong. Act healthy and you will be healthy.

In 1 Samuel 1, after Hannah had prayed in the temple, the Bible says:

...So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

1 Samuel 1:18

Before the prayer, she was in bitterness of soul, because her counterpart mocked her for her barrenness. She wept so much that her husband asked her:

...Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

1 Samuel 1:8

But immediately after she had prayed, she was no longer sad and she ate her food. She had not met her husband yet, and there was no physical change of any sort in her body to prove that her condition had changed, but she decided to change her countenance to suit her expectation. God responded to that action and gave her her heart's desire. And in her exaltation she said, "...For the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed" (1 Sam. 2:3).

The weight of your action determines the response you get from heaven. God weighed Hannah's action and it provoked a series of visitation. Not only did she get the son she desired, but the Bible says:

> **And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the Lord.**
>
> **1 Samuel 2:21**

When you allow God's Word to determine your actions, you can't miss divine intervention. Don't only confess your desires, act it! Let it show in everything you do.

Your actions matter to your destination in life, so take positive steps that clearly indicate where you are going. Since 1983, when I discovered that God is a God of knowledge and by Him actions are weighed, I never act contrary to my desires. That is why I always say, "It is well", no matter the situation.

Whatever your desire from God, act it and God will respond. If He responded to Ahab (that wicked king), how much more will He respond to you, the son of His love.

If you really believe that when you pray according to His will God hears you, and that if He hears, you have received your petition, then act it. Stop looking sorrowful and mournful, because no good thing will He withhold from you.

So, if you need a baby, buy your baby cot and put it in your sitting room.

When you openly take steps of faith, you commit God to favour you openly. If you are ashamed of Him in public, He will leave you to public shame; but when you go all out for Him in the public, He will go all out for you in the public as well. Don't tell me you are jobless and then stay at home all day, sleeping. You should get up every morning, dress up faster than those who have jobs and be on your way out. If anybody asks where you are going, say, "I'm going to work." You have prayed to God for a job and He has heard you, but the job won't come to you on your bed, you have to go for it.

One young man who needed a job heard me say this, got dressed the next morning and headed for the post office. As he got there, he heard some people talking about an interview they were going to attend. After asking them some questions, he decided to go with them. He wrote his application at the office, was interviewed and got the job right there!

You want to get married? Locate your chief bridesmaid or bestman and print the wedding programme. You have committed God to bring your spouse. Your actions speak in heaven, so act well and you will live well.

All these silent prayer lines grant one direct access to God. However, they call for self- discipline and commitment, to operate in them. You will never have to sweat again to get answers to the issues of your life, in Jesus' name.

Chapter 8:
Now Take Delivery!

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

2 Corinthians 2:14

God has made it clear in His Word that nothing is impossible with Him. There is no insurmountable mountain in life, if only you know how to go about it.

I believe that with the knowledge you have contacted from this book, prayer will no longer be a fruitless religious activity, but a practical productive heart-to-heart communication with God.

In this chapter, I would be showing you how to take delivery of your miracle after you have engaged your communication links with heaven.

Praise

In **2 Chronicles 20**, Jehoshaphat was faced with what looked like a dead end, when three nations came against him in battle. This is how he went about it:

> **It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.**
>
> **And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.**
>
> **And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.**
>
> **And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court,**
>
> **And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?**
>
> **Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?**
>
> **If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.**
>
> **And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;**
>
> **Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.**
>
> **O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.**

Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah...came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;

And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

2 Chronicles 20:1-15

War was raging in the nation and Jehoshaphat gathered his people together to fast and pray. They used the Word in their prayers, reminding God of His commitment to keep them in the land of their inheritance. Their prayers reached heaven and God answered them. Their communication was through.

After this, it was time to take practical delivery of their victory. God said to them:

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.

2 Chronicles 20:17

When you get God on the scene in any battle in life, He takes over. The battle is no longer yours, but the Lord's. He comes face to face with your enemy and of course, you know who the winner will be.

God told the people, "You will not need to fight nor struggle to get your desires, but you will need to do something; you will need to go out against the enemy, set yourself." This is where a lot of people miss it.

You will notice that the enemies that arrayed themselves against Judah didn't disappear the moment they prayed. In fact, the enemies were very much present while they were fasting and praying. Even after God had answered their prayers,

the enemies were still organizing a siege around the city and threatened to kill them and take their land.

So, even though they had fasted, prayed, and God had answered, it seemed the problem was still there. Then they engaged the weapon of perfection — praise, which established their victory.

> **And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.**
>
> **And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.**
>
> **For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.**
>
> **2 Chronicles 20:21-23**

God performs in prayers, but He perfects in praise. He takes over in prayer, but He demonstrates His intervention in praise. So, after every powerful prayer, it takes powerful praise to experience perfection.

Understand that praise is a weapon of warfare. It brings home your miracle, which though has been released to you from heaven, is still being withstood by a prince of Persia (Dan. 10:13).

Until you are valiant in praise, you are not valiant in battle. You never know the power of God, until you know how to turn Him on. It is praise that turns Him on, that is what sets Him to work.

After you have fasted and prayed, don't stop there; burst forth into praise and worship. Celebrate the integrity of God and you will see things begin to happen in your life. As you enter into hot and fearful praises, God will establish your

dominion over all the roarings of your enemies.

> **Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?**
>
> **Exodus 15:11**

All the answers to prayers that the prince of Persia has been resisting in your life will begin to tumble down on you as you engage the weapon of praise.

When you are confronted with any situation, it is wisdom to locate how people overcame similar situations in Scriptures and then line yourself up with it; and you will end up with the same results they got (Jer. 6:16).

To win the prayer battle, you start with praise — "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..." Then you wrap up your requests in Scriptures, receive the answer from heaven and then take delivery of your desires in praise. You start with praise and end with praise — "...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Matt. 6:13).

The Psalmist said:

> **When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.**
>
> **Psalm 56:9**

Prayer stops your enemies, but praise sets ambushment against them for complete destruction.

In Luke 17, ten lepers saw Jesus passing by and lifted up their voices to Him in prayer, asking to be healed. He stopped and said to them, "Go show yourselves unto the priests." As they went, they discovered that they were healed, all the itching and other symptoms of leprosy had stopped. The plague had been arrested, but the stigma of their past was still on them. Their fingers were still stunted and their faces deformed. But even with that, one of them came back, glorifying God with a loud voice.

And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 17:17-19

There is a difference between being healed and being made whole. When the lepers were healed, the itching and discomforting condition stopped. But when the grateful one was made whole, every trace of leprosy left him. His deformed fingers and face became normal. There were no more traces of scar to show that he was once a leper. His skin was perfectly restored. That is what praise does. It perfects your miracle and retains the hand of God upon your life.

God keeps record of thanksgiving. Jesus said to those lepers, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"

You have lifted up your voice in a cry for mercy in your time of trouble, and God has answered. It may not look so, but He has answered. It is now your responsibility to fall down before Him and give Him praise and thanks from the depth of your heart, if you want that miracle perfected.

Some people have seen the finger of God in their lives, in answer to their prayers, but they are awaiting perfection before they will begin to praise Him. But while they are waiting for perfection, God withdraws His finger, and they are back to square one again, till they become prayer projects.

You don't have to wait till you see everything the way you want them, before you begin to praise Him. If you have prayed in faith and according to His will, then you can go ahead and begin to thank God for your miracle, because **1 John 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:

Your prayer has been answered, but to take delivery of your desires, you need to give God thanks.

The Tongue

Another instrument for taking delivery of your desires in prayer is the tongue.

> **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**

You have prayed, God has answered, but what are you saying? Every word you speak is a seed and the Bible says, "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap."

If after praying, you believe in your heart that God has answered you and you confess it, then you will have what you say. But no matter how much you pray, if your confession is negative, you can't reap positive results; because what you say is what sets the pace for what you get.

Many years ago, I was physically down. After seeing the state I was in for some days, one of my uncles, out of concern for me said, "Now that you have prayed and you are not well, why don't you go to the hospital?" I rose up against him like a lion and roared, "Who told you I am not well? Who told you I am sick?" As I was shouting those words, the healing virtue began to flow within me and that was the end of the sickness.

When you have prayed to God for the healing of your body, don't allow anybody to tell you, "Sorry" again. Confess your healing and it will be established. Remember, you shall have whatsoever you ask for in prayer.

Jesus also said:

> **Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray,**

believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24

I am not talking about playing psychological games with words; I am talking about saying what you believe, on the basis of the truth you have discovered from God's Word.

Too many empty talks have been mistaken for faith, words that are not rooted in Scripture. But when your utterances are rooted in the truth, you commit heaven for manifestation.

Many people pray through and God answers them, but their tongues won't let them take delivery of their desires. Somebody has just finished crying out to God for the fruit of the womb. God has heard and answered, and as far as heaven is concerned, she is pregnant. But she aborts the baby with her tongue. She does this if for instance she sees blood after she has conceived. She says, "I have had a miscarriage." Since angels are mandated to carry out whatever we say, the pregnancy that had already been certified and delivered by heaven disappears.

That was how the children of Israel shut themselves out of Canaan, the land of their inheritance. In **Exodus 3:7-8**, God had said:

And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

They had cried to God and He heard them and sent them a deliverer in the person of Moses, who led them out of the land of bondage. But when it was time to take possession of the land of their inheritance, they sent twelve men to spy

out the land. On their return, two of them said, "Let's go up at once and take the land for we be well able." But the other ten said:

> **...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we....**
>
> **The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.**
>
> **Numbers 13:31-32**

See how God reacted:

> **Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:**
>
> **Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,**
>
> **Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.**
>
> **Numbers 14:28-30**

Their tongue robbed them of their destiny. Your tongue will no longer be a stumbling block in your prayer life! Don't uproot the good things God has done in your life with negative words. Don't pray to God for one thing and then say the opposite when you are with your friends.

Hold on fast to that miracle, no matter how bad the enemy is raging; don't give up. Once God hears your prayer, He is committed to answer, and when He answers, He will not only perform, but will also perfect your desires.

Your prayer life will never go down any more! Whatever robs you of access

into God's presence in prayer is flushed out right now, in Jesus' name! I command every shut gate against your destiny to be lifted up now, in the name of Jesus.

Proofs Of Winning Prayers

‘GOD SET HIM FREE…’

"In December 1996, my brother was wrongfully arrested as a member of NADECO and was held up in detention for a year and seven months.

During one of the services here, the Bishop said, ‘God will turn your captivity around’, and I caught it. I brought my brother’s picture to the church and as the Bishop was about leaving the premises, I said, ‘Papa, have mercy on me.’ He stopped, looked at the picture, anointed it and commanded my brother's release.

During the three-day fasting and prayer here in church, I wrote a prayer request for my brother’s release and dropped it in the bucket, as the Bishop had instructed. At the end of the fasting, the man of God asked us to praise and thank God for answering our prayers, and I praised God with all my heart!

The following morning, one of my brothers came to inform us that my detained brother had been released! God set him free! The amazing thing is that he is now born again!"

Nejo, F.

HEALED OF MENTAL INCAPACITATION

"God healed me during the Breakthrough Night held at the national stadium. I had been suffering from a mental incapacitation for the past 26 years. I was in secondary school when it started.

I had gone to several clinics, both in Nigeria and the United States. They did everything they could, but there was no cure.

But during that programme at the stadium, I prayed fervently unto God, that He might take this sickness away from me once and for all, and He did! I have been okay since then. I give all thanks and praises to God for this. He has been so good to me!"

Alaba, L.

1.8 MILLION NAIRA CONTRACT!

"I’m an importer and marketer of mosquito bed nets. Throughout my fasting life, I have never fasted beyond 3 p.m. Once it is three o'clock in the afternoon, I must eat.

But when the Bishop declared the three-day congregational fasting and prayer, I made up my mind to participate fully. I took this decision because I wanted to contact something from it. When the fasting started on Thursday, I prayed that God should give me the grace to complete it.

That very day, somebody came to my office from the north and said, ‘We saw your advert and we are interested in your product.’ I had discussions with him and he said they would get in touch with me. The following day, I received a phone call from Enugu, and they also said, ‘We want your product. We will get in touch with you.’ Another call came from Ilorin and the person said he wanted my products and would get in touch with me later.

On Saturday, the third day of the fast, I was here, and at the end, the Bishop said, ‘Come tomorrow and thank God for what He has done for you.’ I made thorough preparations for the Sunday service. I had a good time and believed in my heart that God had answered my prayers.

The following day, at 11a.m, somebody came to my office from the north, with a letter from a commissioner. On inquiring about the content of the letter, the person said I should first sign for it. I signed for the letter and opened it. Behold, I saw a contract of 1.8 million naira!"

Yewande, S.

‘SHE IS ALIVE!’

"On Thursday last week, my Family and I went to bed healthy. There was no sickness of any sort. At midnight, my wife took my daughter to the toilet. While in the toilet, my wife screamed and called on my younger brother. When he got there, he saw her lying on the floor. He alerted me and I went to see what had happened in the toilet. I got there and saw my wife lying lifeless on the floor.

I tried to feel her pulse, but there was none. Immediately, God removed the spirit of fear from me. I then carried her to the bedroom and laid her on the bed. I called my neighbours and told them to join me in praising God. We praised God for over twenty minutes and then prayed. During the prayer session, I remembered Psalm 23:4, which says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil." I also remembered Hosea 13:14 (He ransomed us from the power of the grave), and Psalm 91:16 ("With long life will I satisfy thee").

Then I said, ‘Almighty God, You are the God of David Oyedepo. Raise up a standard right now against death. You said the last enemy we shall defeat is death. You also declared this year as our year of laughter. Why should I mourn?’

That was it! Immediately, the Spirit said to me, ‘Anoint her’, and I did. We continued in prayer. After a while, the Spirit said, ‘Use the Blood of Sprinkling and command the presence of God to come upon her.’ I did that also. I continued praying and the Spirit said, ‘Don’t you remember how your father in the Lord (Bishop Oyedepo) breathes into those that are sick?’ So, I forced her mouth open, breathed into it and said, ‘Now I give you life, and in the name of the God of David Oyedepo, the resurrection power in Jesus Christ, the same power that brought Lazarus out of the grave, will cause you to come up now. As Jesus called up Lazarus, now I am calling you.’ Then I called her name and five minutes later, she moved!

We continued praying and later, she said, ‘Where is my daughter?’ I took the child to her and she said, ‘Thank God! Glory be to God!’ Today, she is alive!"

Nwonuala, E.

DIVINE INTERVENTION!

"I got a letter from the American Embassy, to attend an interview in February. At about 6 p.m. on the day before the interview, I discovered there was an information I needed for the interview, without which I was going to be completely disqualified. I was confused and didn't know what to do, except that I remembered a friend who could have given me the information, but had lost contact with him for close to a year.

So, I prayed to God, asking Him to step into the situation, and believed that He was going to. That same night, between 11:30 p.m. and 12 midnight, this friend phoned from England, to give me the information I needed. To the glory of God, I went for the interview and got my visa. I thank God!"

Okorie, V.