LIVING BY DIVINE STANDARDS: THE ONLY

Declan C. Ekpe

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THE ONLY WAY

Declan c. Ekpe

Amazon

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This book is first of all dedicated to the Holy Spirit Who gave me the inspiration to put this it together: thank You Lord for everything. It is also dedicated to my loving wife, the love of my life, who has been of great assistance to my ministry. A superman in woman form and the best any man will ask for. To my two lovely daughters Bethel and Shalom and my spiritual daughter Quéren (ever caring and helpful). To Pastor Ejike Oji who remains ever caring and supportive. To my Country Coordinator in the mission field in Angola: you are a father indeed. To Pastor Austen Nnadi who brought me to the Lord in November 5th 1999. To Pastor J. T Olaniyan whose unflinching support to my family in Nigeria is amazing. To my dear Mom whose love and discipline made me the man I am today. To my three wonderful siblings: Tessy, Martins and Rosemerry: you are the best. To all who labour together with me in the Lord's vineyard in the Redeemed Christian Church of God Angola, especially Brother Lotanna and Deaconess Esther Oyetunji.

And to all who this book will touch in one way or the other.

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Introduction

Before November 5th 1999, I had had four strange dreams of Jesus appearing in the sky with angels all around him and coming in great power to judge the world. The first was when I was eight years old, the second and third happened when I was twelve years old and sixteen years old respectively. The fourth was when I was twenty eight years old.

The fourth dream was strange because just before a terrible fire from heaven started descending on the earth, an inexplicable force that I had no single control over lifted me and drove me upwards to the sky towards the Lord Jesus Christ and the angels. I had this last dream seven days before an anti-cult crusade was held in my school where I had my first encounter with the overwhelming power of conviction of the Holy Spirit.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;" (John 16: 8-10 KJV)

This conviction came upon me after the crusade: I was seriously convicted of my sins. That Sunday I looked for the Pastor that led the crusade. In the service on that Sunday I gave my life to Jesus Christ. From then, Jesus had graciously taught me so many things and appeared to me on few occasions.

God is highly principled and does most of His things by principles. His kingdom and those that work in His kingdom function by His divine principles. These principles are revealed in His word in the Bible.

These principles are so powerful that they determine the outcome of men's life on earth: living by them has consequences and disobeying them has consequences. By these principles men's destinies are fulfilled:

"[8] Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (Joshua 1:8 NLT)

And by going against them, men's destinies are ruined and lives are devastated:

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth by languish. [5] The earth is also defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. " (Isaiah 24: 4-5 KJV)
Jesus also reiterated it in His own words thus:"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock[26] And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. " (Matthew 7:24-27 KJV)

Looking at the world and the path many are taking; the way many live their lives as though there is no God who will require the account of their life some day and judge their deeds, words and ways, I tremble and wish they could see what I saw and heard in those four dreams.

Many Governments of the world are forming laws that put the people parallel to God's ways and principles: they will give account and the people they subtly deceive to follow such ways shall also give account.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found in place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. "
(Revelation 20: 11-12,15 KJV)

The things written shall surely come to pass so we ought to walk circumspectly in this world for the time is very short. Therefore, we must use every medium and opportunity we have to reach as many as possible, warning them that the things of God are real and that they are established for our own food.

In this book, I have tried to shed light on some of the divine principles that have been unveiled to me. As you read them, may the Lord use them to unveil more to you in Jesus' name, Amen.

Preface

Having looked at the way many people live their lives as though they own their lives and are not accountable to any superior authority, the consequences of such life styles being the chaos and devastation we see in the world today. I was moved by compassion by the lack of understanding of serious spiritual laws by many in the world that has resulted in the premature destruction of many great destinies. The feeling of an urgent desire to help as many as possible to have some understanding of divine principles that can steer them off the whirlpool of ignorance and self-destruct mode has led to this book.

Divine wisdom is above all and I have tried in these few pages to unveil quite a few that will be needed to steer clear of going against the will of the Supreme Deity (The Almighty God).

THE POWER OF BELIEF

Mark 9:17-23 KJV

"And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; [18] And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. [19] He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. [20] And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. [21] And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. [22] And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us. [23] Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Belief is so powerful that it can make all things possible. But it is what you believe that determines how much you can make possible. If you believe just in yourself and your abilities, then you will not be able to make all things possible because man on his own is highly limited.

No matter how much skill, riches, abilities and connection a man has, he is still laden with frailties.

"Thus saith the Lord ; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord."
(Jeremiah 17:5 KJV)

Therefore, when Jesus said "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes", what exactly was He talking about?

Jesus did not mean that a man should put his trust in his own strength or in his own abilities. Self-confidence is good to a point but it has its limits.

Man could be able to deal with challenges that emanate from this Earth plane. He can manage to tackle problems or issues that arise from the world of matter. But when problems arise from the realm beyond the world of matter, the natural man becomes completely incapacitated and helpless. At this point, man will need the assistance of a higher authority otherwise he will be subdued.

There are forces that try to wield influence on this earth plane from beyond the earth plane. These forces can be malevolent forces or benevolent forces. Both are more powerful than the natural man and hence try to enforce their purposes on men on the earth. When these two force are at work on the earth, the natural man is helpless.

The benevolent force is the Almighty God while the malevolent force is Satan, the enemy of God and man. These two spiritual entities wield powers that are beyond man. The natural man's power influence never exceeds this natural sphere but the spiritual forces wield power influences that exceed the spiritual realm and extend to the earth sphere.

From the beginning, God did not make man to be inferior to the malevolent forces; the fall of the first man: Adam ceded man's authority to the devil and from thence, Satan has tried to hold unto what he stole.

Jesus (God and man) came and took back what the first man lost to Satan and via the new birth, the man who **believes** in the finished work of Jesus Christ is restored to that authority Adam lost and even beyond that.

What makes a man's belief powerful is if that belief is hinged on the authority of God's Word. When you believe in what God says or on His promises and act on same, you release a supernatural power that wields influence that exceeds the earth or natural realm. Believing in God's Word and moving by same

turns a man to a god.

"Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? [35] If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;"
(John 10:34-35 KJV)

It is believing in what is written that makes supernatural power available that makes the impossible possible:

"Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" (John 11:40 KJV)

All it takes to bring changes that surpass the natural is to believe the Word of God and act on it and then miracles are made possible. Miracles are occurrences that defy the course of nature.

When the impossible is made possible, a miracle has taken place.

When miracles happen people shout "this is impossible!!"

For example, in March 2021, a lady in my Parish in Luanda came for a miracle service we organized. She had confirmed cyst in her stomach that interfered with her pregnancy. She was scheduled for surgery but she believe that God could heal her in that miracle service. When she came out for prayer I laid hands on her in the name of Jesus and immediately she started vibrating so strongly that she started screaming. She had never felt anything like that before. She just lay there under the power of God vibrating on the ground. After that encounter the pain she felt was not felt again. She went back to the hospital to do another scan and behold the cyst was gone. The doctors were dazed.

That's what a miracle does: it blows the mind because it is beyond the sense realm. If the mind can fathom how it happened, then it’s no longer a miracle. A miracle is out this world and the force behind it is not natural, it is supernatural.

The Wonder Working Believer

The fact about believing is that it turns impossibilities to possibilities in Christ Jesus. I dare to say it that it is only in Christ Jesus that believing in the

Word of God makes power beyond this world possible.

There are so many other believing religions in the world today, most of which are Bible carrying religions but they don't believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world. Such religions never see the power of the Word of God in action. Only Christianity believes in the Deity of Jesus Christ. Only in Christianity do we witness the marvelous works and wonders of the Word of God.

God has put His seal of approval on the name of Jesus after His Resurrection from the dead and ascension to heaven.

God vested mighty authority in the name of Jesus to make the following possible:

1. Salvation (reconciliation with God and access to God) is only possible in the name of Jesus:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. [7] If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him." (John 14:6-7 KJV)

"[6]Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
[7]If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" (John 14:6-7 NLT)

2. Prayer to God is answerable only in the name of Jesus:

"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." *(John 16:23 KJV)*

3. Working of wonders is only possible in the name of Jesus: healing without medicine, staying above harm with dangers all around you, authority over Satan and his hordes from hell:

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he

that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

(Mark 16:15-18 KJV)

"[15]And then he told them, Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

[16]Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

[17]These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.

[18]They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

(Mark 16:15-18 NLT)

4. The name of Jesus Christ has authority in every realm of existence: in heaven (where God and His angels dwell, on earth (even in the microscopic world) and beneath the earth (where Satan and his demons dwell). What a name!!!

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: [10] That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; [11] And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." *(Philippians 2:9-11 KJV)*

Hear my testimony:

One day in 2002 I was praying for a demon possessed girl in the church and the church was located in a two storey building. Suddenly she dashed off and was running as to get out of the building, I was worried because if she jumped from there, I knew the headlines will definitely carry a different story. She had well gone beyond my reach when I remembered the name of Jesus Christ and I shouted "Jesus!!!!!!" She immediately fell under the power of that name and couldn't arise again until I got to her and cast out the devil oppressing her.

That is just a little of how powerful the name of Jesus is.

ACTION POINT

If you believe that there is mighty power in the name of Jesus Christ, just stop reading and focus on a challenge you are facing right now and shout:

JESUS!!!!!!!

Receive your miracle immediately in Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for the efficacy of Your Word.

2) Father, give me more insight and conviction into the potency of Your Word.

3) The Word of God is my key and weapon of victory in this dangerous Warfield called world.

4) With the blood of Jesus Christ, I wash away every doubt in my heart for the promises of God in the Word of God.

5) I shall certainly see the fulfillment of every promise of God in the Bible that I believe in from now on in Jesus' name.

6) I command everything holding God's promises from being fulfilled in my life to be rendered impotent now in Jesus' name.

7) I thank You Daddy for hearing and answering me in Jesus' name, Amen.

REST

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. [2] 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. [3] For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. [4] For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. [5] And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. [6] Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:” Hebrews 4:1-6 KJV

The Rest that God promised Believers is not the absence of work but working hard to enter into God's promises by the grace of God (by the help of God). If you don't work now, you will toil shamefully later.

God's rest for any man is the fulfillment of His promise for the man. The rest God promised the Israelites was the Canaan land which He also said that those who refused to believe His promise will not enter. The rest promised us now is to press into God’s promises: victory, prosperity, good health, healing for the sick, freedom from demonic harassments, peace of mind, abiding in divine purpose daily; and so many others.

Just as God expected the Israelites to trust in His promises and power to bring them into that promise irrespective of the giants, obstacles and numerous contrary natural circumstances glaring them in the face, so He expects us today to have faith in His Word which is living and active and have total trust and

confidence in His omnipotence.

PRAYERS

1) Father, in the name of Jesus, let your promise concerning me (mention your need) come to fulfillment now.

2) Father, let every opposing spiritual power working against me entering into Your promises be overthrown now by fire in Jesus' name!

3) I receive peace in my mind from now. I refuse to be anxious any more concerning my needs in Jesus' name.

4) I receive assurance that the promises of God shall surely be fulfilled in my life at the right times in Jesus' name.

If you are reading this now and you are having issues with your blood pressure, the Holy Spirit asked me to declare to you freedom from rising blood pressure henceforth in Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD ORDAINED PRAYER

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:
(Psalm 65:5 KJV)

Rest (fulfillment of God's promises) comes to them that strive steadfastly in prayer. God designed it by His infinite wisdom that through our prayers His arms will manage the world according to His purpose.

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for Your faithfulness towards me and all mine. Thank You for life, health, provisions and the salvation of my soul.

2) Father, let the blood of Jesus flush out everything in my life that renders my prayers impotent, in Jesus' name.

3) Father, everyday renew Your grace and power in my life to pray fervently in Jesus' name.

4) Father, I believe that all things are possible with You when I pray according to your will; therefore reveal Your purposes to me when I pray in Jesus' name.

5) Father, today, overturn every purpose of the enemy against me and establish Your divine purposes steadfastly in my life in Jesus' name.

6) Father, let every evil purpose of the wicked one prevailing in the world now against Your will be uprooted today for Your will to be planted on the earth in Jesus' mighty name!

7) Father, manifest Your glorious arm of power and victory in every area of my life I'm experiencing defeat; in the victorious name of Jesus.

I thank You Father for answers to my prayers and for doing exceeding abundantly above all I've prayed, in Jesus' name. Amen!!

ACTION POINT

Today expect an answer from God and banish every evil expectation from your mind by filling your mind with the glorious promises of God. If there is any command of God you have been disobeying, repent and ask God for the grace to obey Him completely and humbly.

IS PRAYING AGAINST THE DEVIL RIGHT?

Often we hear such a thing as it is wrong to pray against the devil since Jesus' Christ has defeated him. Such hype teachings often come from the modern day grace teachers.

But are they correct?

Did the Lord's defeat of Satan guarantee that the Believer should ignore Satan and still not feel any of his evil devices?

How Scriptural is this claim?

As Believers, there is one authentic authority that settles every controversy touching Christian beliefs, doctrines and practices. The Word of God is the authority the Christian faith relies on to establish valid truths and end controversial debates on doctrinal issues and practices. If the Word of God does not endorse any claim, then it lacks validity and as such should not be depended on for doctrinal postulations and moral practices.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV)

DID THE LORD JESUS CHRIST NEGLECT THE DEVIL?

Jesus Christ was God in human form when He walked the earth and Scriptures teach that as He is so are we in this world (1 John 4:17). As Believers

we follow the teachings and practices of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How did our Lord deal with this malevolent entity called Satan in prayer? Maybe a few Scriptures will help us to establish a credible teaching on the issue:

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: [32] But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." (Luke 22:31-32 KJV)

Here the Lord saw ahead of time Satan's plan to deal with Peter and make him fall in the faith but He prayed against this plan and also prayed that the purpose of this plan should not come to pass.

Of course we know that Satan eventually pulled through with this plan but the purpose of this attack on Peter was foiled because after the denial of Jesus Christ three times by Peter, he eventually was restored and became a powerful leader of the Church who we still read his books in the Bible. Had the Lord not prayed against this evil purpose of Satan against Peter, definitely Peter would have been lost forever.

If we ignore Satan, he causes much harm to us and hinders the work of the Lord because the Lord's defeat of Satan is not in the capacity of complete destruction. If it was complete destruction, then the world would have been covered by the knowledge and ways of God as Waters cover the sea.

"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." (1 Thessalonians 2:18 KJV)

Even great Apostle Paul was hindered by Satan once and again.

In one of Paul's letters to the Ephesian he said:

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.
[13]Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm." **(**Ephesians 6:12-13)

Paul here reveals that we are in a real fight with our arch enemy, the devil and his hordes who are so intelligently organized that ignoring them would amount to colossal defeats and losses to the ignorant saint.

Jesus never neglected the devil, therefore, we must not neglect him too; neither do we magnify him nor his evil works but whenever the Believer perceives he is trying to run his threefold ministry (John 10:10a), he must be resisted and stopped immediately. To do this is the Believer's God-given responsibility which he must never shift to God.

Of What Benefit Is Christ's Defeat Of Satan To The Saints?

True enough, Jesus defeated Satan (note the word defeated is different from the word destroyed) and received all authority in heaven and in the earth which He also gave to the Believer to function with.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:18-19 KJV)

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8 KJV)

Christ's victory over Satan guarantees that the Believer is free from what gave Satan authority over man: the sin nature that all men inherited from Adam because of his Defeat by Satan in the Garden of Eden:

"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) [18] Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. [19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." *(Romans 5:17-19 KJV)*

Christ's victory brought righteousness to the Believer and reconciled him

with God, making the Believer a son of God and a fully authentic member of the family of Papa God:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. [18] And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ," (2 Corinthians 5:17-18 KJV)

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:21 KJV)

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," (Ephesians 3:14-15 KJV)

It is one family: both the one in heaven and the one on earth (the church); Papa God's family. Every saint (saved by Jesus' blood sacrifice through believing and confessing Romans 10:10-13) belongs to that one divine family. Glory be to Jesus Christ!!!

The saints have the authority and power to resist the devil in warfare and rebuke him in Jesus' name and also bind and cast his demonic hordes back to hell where they belong. The Believer has the power to destroy the evil works of Satan and his demons. That is the benefit of the Lord's defeat of Satan to the Believer.

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19 KJV)

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:17-18 KJV)

The devil is no longer the one running things in the world of the Believer. The Believer is in charge on the earth. In Christ the Believers reigns in this world because he has spiritual authority.

Spiritual authority is what guarantees dominion but the Believer must be full

of spiritual knowledge and walk in union with the Lord to remain in charge. James 4:7 KJV says:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The devil cannot have a filled day in the life of a Believer who understands his authority in Christ and knows how to wield the sword of his authority against the devil and his hordes.

Child of God, it's time to arise and tell the devil to take that disease he has brought upon your body in the name of Jesus!

It's time to resist the devil and command him to take any sickness or infirmity he has brought on your child.

It's time to command the devil to take his dirty hands off the character and behavior of your child. Those children will stand out gloriously in their generation in Jesus' name.

It's time to arise in holy indignation against that satanic pattern running in your life and put a stop to it. Your life has been saved by Jesus Christ to follow a beautiful divine pattern; reject anything less than that.

Hear my testimony and be stirred in your spirit to take the commensurate action in any area necessary.

MY TESTIMONIES

Diarrhea Banished

One night I had slept and I was enjoying my sleep when my wife woke me up with a worried look on her face and I saw she had laid out daughter Bethel on the bed who was crying and writhing in pain clutching her stomach. She said Bethel suddenly started purging and she had tried her best to manage things to no avail. Her fear was that she was now passing blood in her stool.

When I saw the pain on my daughter's face, I was suddenly filled with fury

for whatever that was behind it and I laid my hands on her stomach and we started rebuking the devil causing that affliction. In less than five minutes, she slept off. As we watched her for a few minutes, we went back to sleep. After about an hour she woke us up announcing that she was hungry. That was the end of that affliction. The devil was forced to take back what he brought in the powerful name of Jesus. Hallelujah!!

MIDNIGHT ATTACK FOILED

One time in 2000 when I was still less than a year old in the Lord, I returned from a night vigil to see my Mom lying down very sick but I had left her strong and healthy the previous night before going for the vigil. My siblings who were not born again then said at about midnight a butterfly flew in perched on her; and that was it: from then she became dizzy and faint and her strength was ebbing away by the seconds.

I thought within me "What an effrontery!" Without thinking twice, I laid my hand on her and rebuked whatever the enemy dispatched on to leave her and return back to where it came from. The change was dramatic!

She was healed instantly to the extent she arose and took her bath, dressed up and went to the market to buy the food stuff needed in the house. She came back and still cooked the food we all are.

Such is the dimension of our victory in Christ over the devil if we use our authority with understanding. When you understand your position of authority in Christ over the devil, he becomes totally paralyzed in your life and affairs. I doesn't even matter how old you are in the Lord; even if you just received the Lord now, immediately you have authority over the devil and all his devices:

"And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. [9] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

(Isaiah 11:8-9 KJV)

The Scripture says a suckling child shall mesmerize the terrible and dangerous enemy. Such is the case of the New Creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians

5:17) Old things are passed away indeed: The times when the devil lorded it over you have passed away, the time has come for you to Lord it over the devil. His merry times in your life are completely over. See to it you leave him no room to merry again.

DELAYED PREGNANCY BROUGHT FORTH

In my Parish in Angola a sister's pregnancy was overdue and there was no sign that the baby will come forth. The hospital scheduled her for a Caesarean section. I asked her to attend the midweek service on Thursday before the surgery on Friday. We schedule to minister the baptism of the Holy Ghost to people that Thursday during our Faith Clinic. She was the last person I ministered to that day: as I laid my hands on her she was overwhelmed by the power of the Holy Ghost and fell down. She was brought up again as I laid hands on her again; the lightning bolt from heaven flowed through her as she burst out in the heavenly language.

She got home that evening and whatever that refused the baby to come forth decided to let the baby to come forth. She went to the hospital same day for her delivery.

Dear reader, whatever the enemy had denied you before now, I see you marching gallantly to take them in Jesus' name! Amen!!

DESIRE FOR INDECENT DRESSES QUENCHED

That same sister mentioned above was so fond of indecent dresses that when she got born again, she did not have a single cloth fit for her to wear to church. She had to buy new dresses for church attendance but she still maintained her wardrobe of indecent dresses until that day the Holy Ghost came upon her. When she came back from the hospital after her delivery, she wore one of her indecent clothes to go out, she got to the door and looked at herself and said to herself no more. She went back and emptied all her wardrobe and burnt all the indecent clothes.

When the Lord owns you, Satan loses all his hold on you.

Glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ forever!!!! Amen!!!

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for giving me authority and power over the devil in Christ.

2) Father, give me grace and wisdom to utilize this divine authority and power for Your glory and for the benefit of your kingdom on earth in Jesus' name.

3) Give me discerning spirit to understand when the devil is at work with his devices in Jesus' name.

4) I command every programme of the devil running against my life to come to a stop now and be utterly destroyed in Jesus' mighty name!

5) Father give your Church the wisdom to fully attain their spiritual authority and power on earth in Jesus' name.

6) I declare that I am eternally unstoppable in my life endeavours in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!!

GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE

Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee… **(**Jeremiah 32:17 KJV)

God is infinitely powerful enough to do all things and change all things but by His infinite wisdom He knows and decides when to do and when to change. He only expects His children to trust in His power, wisdom, promises and choices; and through prayer, hope and patience await His wise interventions in our affairs. Anything other than the stated, is self-will and will surely result in struggle and ultimately frustration and failure.

We must strive continuously in our daily living and ways not to do things our way but according to the will of God because our wisdom in its best will still be replete with flaws.

1 Corinthians 1:25 says:

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than Men."

DECLARATIONS

1) Father, I believe that You can do all things and that nothing is too hard for You. I believe Your power is gloriously at work in my life daily, pushing me daily to Your sovereign and eternal purposes for my life.

2) Father, forgive me for the times I have made You small with my thoughts and words and for my faithless actions that gave the adversary advantage over me. I repent and ask for Your mercy and grace to do things Your ways in Jesus' name, Amen.

3) Father, I remove my confidence in men and my own abilities and place my complete trust in You knowing that You cannot fail.

4) My life will never contradict Your divine plans and purposes for me ever again in Jesus' name. I am a winner in this world and I shall fulfill my destiny and make it to heaven at last in Jesus' mighty name I declare; Amen.

UNIMPEDEDLY HELPFUL

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. [2] And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: [3] Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; [6] And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: [12] Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. [13] And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: [14] For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

(Jeremiah 32:17 KJV)

Natural occurrences and economic tightness in any place cannot limit God from accomplishing His promises and plans in the life of a man. In fact, God will give His child the biggest in the driest times to prove He cannot be limited, and to bolster the faith of His faithful children in His unlimited power. My biggest blessings had always been provided at times when I couldn't see any way that could be possible. So, now when I am faced with an expectation too big for me to realize, I simply lean on Him Who has all power to do all things. He is the Omnipotent God.

PRAYERS

1) Father, You are the Elshaddai, the One that is more than enough, I believe and trust in Your supernatural providences. You have never failed and You will

never fail.

2) Nothing will ever frighten me again: things past, things present and things in the future, because You've got all under Your control for my good.

3) Thank You gracious Father for lavishing so much love and kindness on me, I am eternally grateful, in Jesus' name, Amen.

THE AUTHOR OF LIFE

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. (Jeremiah 32:17 KJV)

The best of human doctors have often tried in vain to save lives in hospitals with the best equipment. Therefore, a human doctor cannot guarantee life because he is not the author of life.

In the Scripture above, the Author of life assured and said, He will carry you to your gray hairs (old age). Now that's a very reliable guarantee worthy of all trust. The Lord that promised is bigger and stronger than demons, death, Covid-19 and other forces that peddle death. He only demands our loyalty and faithfulness to His Word as our price to pay (Matthew 11:28-30). I don't think that is asking too much.

The Lord's call in Matthew 11:28-30 is a call to come to God's goodness. Imagine such a magnanimous offer for just the price of trust in His Word.

PRAYERS

1) Father, I thank You for the gift of life and for assuring me that Your plans for me are till my old age.

2) Father, with this assurance from You, I command every instrument of death deposited in my body to be rendered impotent now in Jesus' name.

3) Father, I renounce every life style that can rob me of this blessed assurance and I receive grace to stay in Your all my days in Jesus' name.

4) Father, by Your mercy and mighty power, drive away the peddlers of death like Covid-19 from the world in Jesus' name.

5) I also renounce every covenant of untimely death that may be running in my family: I am in Christ Jesus therefore I have been made free from such demonic covenants in Jesus' name (2 Cor. 5:17).

6) Father, supply me abundantly with all the good things that engender life spiritually, emotionally and physiologically in Jesus' name.

7) I thank You Father for answer to my prayers. I shall not die but live to declare the good works of the Lord in the land of the living. This new week I shall enjoy divine providence in its fullness in Jesus' name. Amen!!

Beloved of the Almighty God, have hope and confidence in the very fact that God who is your Father has not appointed you for sicknesses, diseases, infirmities and untimely death. If God satisfies our mouth with good things, don’t destroy your health by satisfying your mouth with bad foods: tobacco, alcohol, soft drinks and junk foods are the bad foods that could erode your health.

Eat natural foods moderately and enjoy divine health to your old age. That is your inheritance in Christ.

THE PURPOSE OF A BELIEVER'S PROSPERITY

Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. (Ecclesiastes 9:16 KJV)

From the Scripture above, it becomes clear that there are certain negative forces that can reduce the effect of our abilities in the world. One of them is poverty. Poverty terminates influence. The Lord wants His children to have influence in the world so that the gospel will not be despised by the world. The world respects riches and wealth. He made King Solomon so rich that rich people could be humbled to hear his wisdom. The great prosperity the Church enjoys now is so that the influence of His kingdom will be felt and accepted by the world. But the Church has abused this power and misdirected the influence to materialism which is the reason why the prosperity of the church has come under serious attack. Any time God's benevolence is abused, it attracts contrary negative forces against the beneficiary (1 Kings 11:1-14; Luke 12:16-21).

Prosperity in the hands of a Christian is not for selfish consumption, it is a weapon God has given you to have influence in your domain for His kingdom's sake. It is a wise and smart thing to always allow the Holy Spirit to guide one in the use of material resources which are all from God. We must never allow our riches to take control of us and make us lose control of our godly virtues: that could have dire consequences. Always remember that if wealth came from God (Deuteronomy 18:8), He can also withdraw it or even terminate the existence of the abuser just like we saw in Luke 12:16-21.

PRAYERS

1) Father, forgive me in any way I have misused the resources You gave me. Forgive me for focusing on building my own kingdom more than on Your Own kingdom in Jesus' name.

2) Father, having understood this, I promise to use all the resources and influence you give me to influence my domain for Your kingdom in Jesus' name.

3) Father, give me the spirits of humility and self-control to be fully under the influence of Your Word and Your Spirit when I am prospered in Jesus' name.

4) May I not forget nor despise the poor and the needy when You prosper me greatly O Lord

5) Father, let prosperity such as the world has not known be channeled to me henceforth. May my lines fall abundantly in prosperous places in this month of July in Jesus' name.

I thank You Father for answer to my prayers.

THE FUTILITY OF LIVING OUTSIDE GOD'S WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. [130] The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (Psalm 119:105,130 KJV)

Have you ever wondered why there is so much confusion in the world today? Why even the most learned uphold irrational laws and misplace priorities like never before? For example, wild animals are receiving strong global protection while the life of humans, especially unborn babies count as nothing; with more and more countries endorsing abortion. The reason is because everything appears blurry and unclear from the view of the natural man's mindset. It is only with the light of God's Word that men in the world can see clearly and live in this world as gods.

Outside God's Word, everything will remain natural, in darkness, crazy and disorderly. God who created the world made it so that men should live in it by the light of His Word. That is why Jesus Christ who is the personified Word of God is called the Light of the World. We must follow the footsteps of the One True Light to be able to overcome the darkness in this present world.

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for the potency of Your Word. Thank You for Your

grace imparted in me to believe and trust in Your Word.

2) Father, have mercy upon your creation and cause a revival of acceptance of Your Word to flow mightily through the world again.

3) Father, let the satanic veil covering the minds of world leaders from accepting the authority of Your Word be consumed by your righteous fire in Jesus' name.

4) Father, make Your Word to grow mightily in my domain and prevail gloriously in Jesus' name.

5) I believe Your Word O Lord with all my heart; let the glorious promises of Your Word be fulfilled in my life and in my family.

6) Father, don't let the integrity of Your Word be lost in the Church. Let Your Church remain the pillar of Your Truth in this world in Jesus' name.

I thank You Father for answers to my prayers.

I declare that today I shall surely be a partaker of the fulfillment of the promises of the Word of God in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

That miracle you need desperately shall be yours today in Jesus' name.

THE PRAYER OF THE SAINTS

Revelation 8:3-5 KJV

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. [4] And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. [5] And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Often when we pray, it doesn't appear as if anything happens: because of this, those who don't understand the power vested in the prayer of the saints tend to take prayers very unserious. But prayer is so powerful that it moves the heaven of heavens and brings about drastic changes on the earth. We don't need to feel anything when we pray; all we need is to believe What the Word of God says: "Ask and it shall be given..." (Matthew 7:7)

If we are believers, then there is a deposit of faith in us, and if there is a deposit of faith in us, then His promises will be enough for us. If He promised that when we pray He answers, then we should be eager and happy to pray because we know by faith that He will surely do what He said He will do.

The praying saint, like a man holding the steering wheels of a car, controls the affairs of life. He is in union with God if he is praying according to the will God. And as everything succumbs to the will of God, so everything succumbs to the praying saint. The praying saint never stops being victorious because through

prayers which are according to Gods will, he is able to draw the heavenly hosts to push his course. Revelation 19:11-16 says:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

PRAYERS

1) Father, I thank You for giving me the grace to believe in prayers and for all my prayers You had answered in the past and for the ones You will answer today.

2) Father, arrest every power in the world, under the earth or the heavenly places hindering the saints from engaging in corporate prayers in Jesus name.

3) Father, let every satanic association in my country or domain withholding the gathering together of the saints receive angelic bombardments and be scattered in Jesus' name.

4) Father, let every power: human or demonic, trying to rubbish my glory receive Your consuming fire and leave my glory in Jesus' name.

5) Father, my life is hidden securely in Christ; let my life move according to Your divine purposes and plans for me in Jesus' name.

I receive grace, power and revelation gifts to pray more fervently. Let the result of my prayers be a source of encouragement to others henceforth in Jesus' name, Amen.

CONCERNING DREAMS

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. (Matthew 2:12 KJV)

Dreams are a powerful medium of communication by means of which things in the past, things in the present or things in the future are communicated to a person. Dreams are very potent spiritual access points to a person's life; that means good things or evil things can be uploaded into a person's life via dreams. Dreams can reveal divine programs or satanic programs scheduled for a person, a family, a nation etc. Any serious Christian should not play with dreams because if wisely harnessed, dreams can keep you safe and ahead of the times. (Matthew 2:1-22).

The safety of our Lord Jesus Christ and his escape from deadly traps as a baby were guaranteed by dreams. By dreams, Joseph was able to see into his life eighteen years ahead. Dreams are your time travelling machines that can enable you to travel into the past present or future.

I saw my dream car: brand, color and model four years before I owned it. That is how powerful dreams are.

From my many encounters with dreams, I learnt early that dreams are not to be taken for granted. Somebody once ate rice in the dream and when he woke up from his sleep; his mouth was full of live rice particles.

One time we were praying for a young lady who had really delved deep into the demonic world. She came for prayers in the night in the church. She lay down to sleep for a while before the prayers commenced. In Her dream somebody fired an arrow at her and hit her shoulder with the arrow; as she screamed and woke up, we ran to her direction as she continued to shout “They've hit me with an arrow!!” And I saw one of the scariest things I had ever seen in my life: she was bleeding profusely from the exact spot the arrow had hit her in the dream and the arrow mark was there clear enough for all to see. You can now understand why so many never survive their dream encounters. We prayed and the bleeding stopped but it took some time for the wound to be healed.

May your adversaries never prevail over you in your dreams in Jesus’ name.

PRAYERS

1) Thank you Father, for dreams. Thank You for all You have used dreams to do for me in the past and for what You will yet use them to do for me in future.

2) Father, I ask that you sharpen my dream ability so that I can receive them with clarity and understanding in Jesus' name.

3) Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I command every spiritual access way exposing my life to satanic entrances via dreams to be shut permanently now.

4) Father, I command every evil thing deposited in my life via dreams (**please mention them: sickness, disease, marital problems, miscarriages, near miracle syndrome…**) to be neutralized now by the blood of Jesus Christ in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

5) Father, let all the good things You have revealed to me about my life, my family, my children, my country etc. begin to come into fulfilled manifestation in Jesus' name.

6) Father, all the glorious things You revealed to me about my future through my dreams shall surely see total fulfillments in my life time and at the appointed times in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.

7) I receive grace to pray fervently whenever I receive anything via dreams in Jesus' name, Amen.

I thank You Father for answers to my prayers in Jesus' name, Amen.

DEALING WITH REJECTION

Never let rejection drive you to despondency. People may reject you for their own reasons but God has accepted you for CHRIST'S SAKE. Rejoice always for the latter.

The rejection you suffer from others is never anything until you start believing in them.

The real rejection is when a person stops seeing anything good in himself and starts thinking he has nothing more to offer. Often such self-conclusions come because of the treatment such a person receives from, friends, family members, or colleagues at work. It could also come from a failure in a career, examination, or any endeavor which makes the person to think it is all over. The person gets overwhelmed in his thoughts about what people will think and say about him or what they had already said about him.

For example, in the Book of Job in the Bible, Job's friends had all negative things to tell job: they said he was doing evil and now his evil had visited him. Yet they knew not anything about what Job was going through. Job's wife was the one that made things worded for Job; she told her hubby: 'What is the essence of life when you are like this? What good has all the years you have spent serving and honoring God brought to you than this? Curse God and die!' (The illustrations I used were paraphrased).

All those people spoke from only what they could see but never had a single knowledge of the unseen and that is what counts more. They didn't know about God's high evaluation of Job. They didn't know that God was boasting with Job's integrity. Job did not equally have a clue about what was going on in the unseen realm but his experiential knowledge of God, his years of fellowship with God and his knowledge of the immutability of God's faithfulness kept him hanging unto his faith in God even when he had lost everything (literally) he had.

People assess you by what they see. But never live for people's assessment of you because the assessment of men of you will never ever be a full or valid assessment because men don't have complete knowledge. Even you will never ever have a completely valid assessment of yourself. For that purpose, never write yourself off. Never give up on yourself because there could still be an unseen Ace in you that will give you the value you desire.

Only God can give a true and valid assessment of you; therefore strive to see things from His point when every visible thing you see of yourself appears unpleasant. Habakkuk 3:17-19 KJV, says:

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: [18] Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. [19] The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments."

In 2 Samuel 30: , one day David lost everything he had to his enemies and rejection had almost got a hold of him but he turned to the One that has the final say and He told him it was not yet over even though in the eyes of men it appeared over and done. By the night of the same day, as David followed the directions of the Almighty God, he recovered all he lost and great joy replaced rejection and despondency in his life again.

Job ignorantly said some foolish things in his condition and God had this to say to him when He showed up:

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, [2] Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" (Job 38:1-2 KJV)

Are you about to give up? Have you given up already? Are you getting ready to take your own life because of what you see about yourself? Pause for a while. Have you heard the verdict of the Almighty God? Remember with all your knowledge, you only know in part, complete knowledge belongs to God. The Ace for your victory could still be lying within you. Call upon God and that potential Ace in you by His power could become kinetic and change your story for good.

My Mom lay dying on the hospital bed. Doctors had given up and declared that all the symptoms they see in her were strange. We were totally helpless but held until God. It was so bad that each day I was coming to the hospital, I was coming with my eyes fixed on seeing an empty bed in my mom's corner. But we still held unto the Almighty God even though we did not know what to pray nor what to do.

He had mercy on us and showed up for us and sent one of His servants who came to the hospital and set my Mom free.

That encounter happened at night, by morning, My Mom had become a spectacle of testimony, producing glory and praise unto the Almighty God. Doctors and nurses declared "That could only be God." Twenty three years have gone by and she is still alive to the glory of God.

God brought you to this world, He gave you a destiny, and therefore only He should have the final say about you. Seek him in your situation until you hear Him like Job and David and your story could end like theirs.

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for accepting me in Christ Jesus. Thank You for all the good plans You have for me in Christ Jesus.

2) I am rejoicing because my name has been written in God's glorious Book. I am rejoicing for I am born again.

3) I refuse to lose my sleep any more over negative remarks by haters and the envious, I will sleep over the sweet promises of God for my life.

4) My life will never move in the direction of the devil's wish for me nor be affected by the evil aspersions from the words or thoughts of haters and the envious in Jesus' name.

4) Oh my soul rejoice ever more in the Lord; rejoice for His mercies and loving kindness that overwhelm thee daily in Jesus' name.

5) I shall yet see my heart desires in this month of July by the mercies and grace of God in Jesus' name.

6) I shall be alive with all my family members and brethren in the body of Christ to see the end of Covid-19 in Jesus' name.

ACTION POINT

Keep hope alive by meditating ceaselessly on the Word of God and fleeing from sin. Keep praying until you hear from God. He still speaks to those who desire to hear Him.

SHALOM!

GENERATIONAL BLUNDERS

The foolishness of one generation can be transferred to the next generation except God intervenes with His wisdom. Foolish parents often gift their offsprings with their foolishness. The weaknesses of parents are often reaped by their offsprings.

You probably would have had people talk about ancestral and generational curses; especially in Africa. Well, people have used generational curses as an excuse for their failures, errors and misdeeds for ages. Even Believers have fallen into the same unfortunate pit. I don't say curses don't exist, neither do I say that generational curses don't exist. But what has a Believer got to do with these?

For us to understand the state of a Believer regarding curses and generational curses, we of necessity have to know soundly God's verdict in relation to Believers and curses. Of course this can only be revealed in God's Word- the Bible. Let us see some Scriptures that can reveal this to us in the New Testament: I want to start with the prophecy of Zacharias the father of John the Baptist in the book of Luke 1:68-75 (KJV):

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, [69] And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; [70] As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: [71] That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; [72] To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; [73] The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, [74] That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, [75] In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”

Here, the assignment of Jesus Christ was clearly revealed: to deliver His people (everyone that believes in Him and His finished work).

Did Jesus accomplish that assignment?
He did that very perfectly by:

i) He removed the enmity between man (a believing man) and God. This was the root of all curses (V68).

This second Scripture in the Epistles makes it clearer - Ephesians 2:13-20 (KJV):

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. [14] For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us ; [15] Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; [16] And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: [17] And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. [18] For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. [19] Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; [20] And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

ii) Then He pronounced blessings upon the Believer: Galatians 3:13-14 (KJV)

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: [14] That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

iii) Then He set the Believer once again over the enemies (spiritual, physical etc.) of the Believer:

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19 KJV);

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he

that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

(Mark 16:15-18 KJV)

Notice what Jesus said in Mark 16:16

"...But he that believeth not shall be damned".

This implies that the only person who is cursed is the person who does not believe in Jesus Christ and His finished works for mankind. God is not the Author of confusion: He cannot declare a Believer saved and the believer still remains under the influence of the devil: to be under a curse is to be under demonic cloud or influence. The Scripture was totally clear in all the places God declared the Believer free from the dominion of Satan and his cohorts:

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:12-14 KJV)

I don't know how else God could have put it before people can believe Him. It is so clear; except 'delivered' means a different thing or that God was mocking us. To not believe these precious words is to say that God is a liar; or that we don't understand the simple word 'delivered'; or that Satan has had his way against God's Word which lives and abides forever; or because we choose to believe what we feel and see over what God said.

A BELIEVER IS NOT UNDER A CURSE AND CAN NEVER BE UNDER ONE!!!!

If he is, then that will mean (contradicting Colossians 1:12-14 above) that:

1. There is darkness in light.

2. There exists curses in the kingdom of God's dear Son.

3. The Believer's sins are not forgiven and hence he is not redeemed.

People consider all the problems that many believers encounter and conclude that there still exist curses to be broken in the life of a believer.

WRONG!!!

We did not see Jesus breaking curses over the disciples' lives; even with all their shortcomings and mistakes. He continued to teach them the Truth because when they knew the Truth, they would be made free (John 8:30-32).

See what the Spirit revealed to me about problems and difficulties in the life of even believers:
If a parent is lazy and the children learn his ways, the children will automatically inherit poverty because laziness and poverty go hand in hand.

Prayer cannot help a Believer who is lazy to escape poverty.

Prayer cannot help a Believer who is reckless in spending not to go back to want.

No matter how much you pray and memorize the Scriptures, if you don't start acting and doing what you have memorized, you remain where you are.

THE PITIABLE STATE OF AFRICA

Africans would have continued to kill twins had it not been that God intervened with the wisdom of His Word. Curses did not kill those children, ignorance inherited from previous generations did.

God has blessed many African countries with natural resources. How could God have cursed Africa and still gave them so much natural resources? Greed and wickedness that run parallel to God's prescriptions for running the affairs of the society have continued to plunge the countries in the continent deeper and deeper into poverty and misery.

The poverty and misery in Africa are not curse rooted, they are manmade,

and the new generation who are the offspring of the previous generation are sunk deep in this mire of greed and wickedness, making escape from poverty and misery appear very elusive for this blessed continent.

Only the light of God's wisdom in His Word, accepted and practiced can set the continent free from poverty. This crave for individual accumulation of wealth to the detriment of the general society which is called greed will ultimately undo the continent or result ultimately in bloody revolutions which continue to sow seeds of hatred, bitterness and enmity with more darkness engulfing the continent.

Prayer networks need to spring up everywhere in Africa with fervent intercessory prayers rising every second to God for mercy, forgiveness and a radical brilliance of His Truth to dominate the minds of African leaders and their followers. I tell you, if this happens, there will be a revival of change that will birth prosperity in Africa.

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place." (2 Chronicles 7:13-15 KJV)

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ANSWER

I write this to Believers: that no Believer is struggling with curses, Believers are struggling with lack of knowledge and all one needs to overcome any evil works manifesting in one's life is to get understanding of what is behind it and then receive wisdom on what to do to put a permanent end to it. Such understanding and wisdom are gained in the place of study and prayer.

"In the first year of his reign I Daniel <u>understood by books</u> the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, <u>to seek by prayer</u> and supplications, with

fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:" (Daniel 9:2-3; 2:1-19 KJV)

God did not say my people are destroyed because of curses, He said they are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Evil patterns are broken by knowledge and prayer. Stop praying blindly and start prayer divinely (Word knowledge) guided prayers and you will begin to experience struggle free victories in your life.

So, that problem is waiting for you to receive knowledge from the Book and revelation from the Book or in prayer and then take proper action in line with what you have received, and you are out of the problem. Remember you are more than a conqueror.

PRAYERS

1) Thank You Father for delivering me in Christ from the powers of darkness, and for translating me into the glorious kingdom of Your dear Son.

2) Father, help me to discover and overcome everything that still empowers the powers of darkness in my life in Jesus' name.

3) Father, by Your Spirit, guide me to the truths I need to be made free in this/these area/s (you can mention the area/s you need freedom) of my life in Jesus' mighty name.

4) I receive the mind of Christ to understand and believe the Word of God in Jesus' name.

5) I am not cursed but I am highly blessed with every good blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

THE ERROR OF THE STATEMENT "PRAYER IS NOT EVERYTHING".

It is so common to hear the statement above from even Believers. They say there is a place for work and a place for prayer. Another statement close to the one above is "I believe in work more than in prayers". The statement deserves proper evaluation before it can be accepted or condemned. How does a Believer evaluate or validate any statement in order to prove it false or true? He visits the Bible. Let us see what the Bible says about prayer:

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says:
"Pray without ceasing".

This means never stop praying.

And Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV) says:

"Be careful for nothing; <u>but in everything by prayer</u> and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In 'everything' signifies sparing nothing, not leaving out anything. I think from the testimony of these two Scriptures we can draw a valid false or true conclusion. The fact is that prayer is an indispensable factor in the worship of an invisible God. God is a spirit and to worship Him will take spiritual worship patterns. Prayer is one of the spiritual worship patterns.

PRAYER, A TRUE SHOW OF DEPENDENCE ON A RELIABLE HELPER.

The life of Jesus was all about prayer before any kind of work He did. He demonstrated total dependence on God:

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;" (Luke 6:12-13 KJV)

Your prayer life determines how dependent you are on God and that determines how much God intervenes in your affairs. No matter how much a man knows, his knowledge is still dented with the flaws of imperfection. That means that even the works we do that have no touch of divinity is laden with flaws and will in the end affect us and even others negatively.

I say with the authority of the Word of God that prayer must precede every little work a Believer does so that he can have the guidance of our great Shepherd (Psalm 23). When God is involved, the work will have a touch of perfection and will be relevant and useful for all. Often the works we do without consulting God is blemished by selfishness and greed.

If Apostle Paul said that he can do all things through Christ that strengthens him (Philippians 4:13) then there is nothing in this life that we would not need divine assistance for. Prayer is the craving of a frail human for divine assistance. And God often responds to this crave.

No true Believer with good understanding of Scriptures should ever talk down on prayers for any reason. I have also heard that "Prayer is not in the success equation". To think that such things are taught in big congregations with big applaud is shocking. No wonder Believers fall into unimaginable errors these days. Once you stop praying, you start losing divine direction and with that you start falling into errors (Luke 18:1). That's just where the devil wants you. Without prayer, a Christian is at the mercy of the devil, enemies, and circumstances of life and is totally doomed.

So, dear Believer you can't just talk down on prayer for any reason. The hard work we talk about has its proper place after we have prayed and received good ideas and wisdom from God. Therefore, prayer cannot be removed from the success equation of a Believer because prayer is the fountain from whence flows ideas and success.

PRAYERS

1) Father, I need grace and fortitude to pray without ceasing, please grant them to me in Jesus' name.

2) I will never stop praying until I finish my course on earth in Jesus' name.

3) Father, cause the fire of prayer revival to burn throughout the Continent of Africa in the mighty name of Jesus.

4) Father, raise up mighty spiritual Gideon’s in Africa that will utterly destroy ancient satanic altars still hindering the continent in Jesus' name.

5) Father, You are unhindered: arise mightily for Africa and uproot every strange religion, occult practices and evil leaders Who are sacrificing our nations to the devil in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

THE BELIEVER AND CURSES

"In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. [3] And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: [4] When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. [5] And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. [6] And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain." (Isaiah 4:2-6 (KJV))

Early in the morning of August 2, 2020, I got the inspiration that there are so many people experiencing the reoccurrence of the negative events that trailed their parents and that it has nothing to do with God; it is the enemy at his evil works.

By the truths unveiled to me by the Holy Spirit, our God shall begin to put an end to it as you follow the truths you read here in Jesus' name.

Often when many Christians see such negative occurrences in their lives, they conclude that the curse that held their unsaved parents has also gotten hold of them (the redeemed of the Lord). That is far from the truth. The devil loves to operate under cover: he doesn't want his victims to know why he is prevailing in their life. His greatest cover is the ignorance of his victims. No wonder the Lord said in Hosea 4:6 that:

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

The Believer And Curses

Let us see some of these Scriptures so that we can deduce our conclusion from them. We shall approach this from three parts:

1. The assignment of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord's finished assignment
3. The position of the Believer

The Lord Jesus Christ's Assignment

Isaiah 61:1-7 (KJV) says:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; [3] To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. [4] And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. [5] And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. [6] But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. [7] For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them."

The Scriptures above reveal clearly the Lord's assignment for mankind. The question now is, "Did He accomplish it?" That brings us to the second part:

THE FINISHED ASSIGNMENT

Hebrews 2:14-17 (KJV)

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [16] For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. [17] Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people"

Also:

Colossians 1:12-14 (KJV) says:

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

Then the Lord Jesus Himself declared it in John 19:30:

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost"

And Matthew 28:17-18 (KJV) says:

"And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

The same doubt has kept many under the enemy's hold today even though they have been delivered.

We are all functioning in the earth and the Lord said all power in the earth

are under His authority not under Satan's authority.

Therefore, we can boldly say that He finished His assignment. Now what is the Believer's position in the Lord's finished assignment?

THE BELIEVER'S POSITION

Colossians 1:12-13 (KJV) says:

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

And Ephesians 2:4-6 (KJV) says:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) [6] And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

The Scripture in Ephesians 2:4-6 reveals the one that believes has been saved and has been raised (divinely authorized) to have the same spiritual authority with our Lord Jesus.

No wonder Jesus said in John 14:12

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

Why I say a Believer is not cursed

a) If a believer can be cursed, that means that there exist curses in the kingdom of the dear Son of God where the Bible says the Believer has been lifted to in Christ Jesus.

b) It means that Galatians 3:13-15 that says in Christ we have inherited the blessings of Abraham is false.

c) A good understanding of the meaning of curse will help put an end to this controversy:

Curse means that the forces in heaven and hell are against a man and are working against the man to destroy him. If you say a Believer can be cursed, it means that God is against the Believer. How far from the truth that is. Satan is eternally against the Believer, which alone is not to be under a curse; it is when God is against a man that it can be said that the man is under a curse. Dear Believer, God has blessed you and wants you to enjoy those blessings literally. To prove how much God desires a Believer to be blessed, He declared in 3 John 2 (KJV):

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

God's desire is an all-round blessing for a Believer: for the Believer to prosper spiritually, mentally and physically (this includes health wise and materially). Therefore, for God to wish the Believer to be all round blessed and then curse he also will amount to Him being liar. But God cannot lie. Hebrews 6:17-20 KJV says:

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: [18] That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: [19] Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; [20] Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Also it will amount to God being a confused God who says one thing and does another. But His Word also revealed that God is never confused because 1 Corinthians 14:33 (KJV) says:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

WHATEVER IS OF GOD IS ABOVE CURSES

What God blesses is blessed and is above curse. Only God can curse or permit a curse to come into existence; that authority is solely God's.

Numbers 22:11-12 (KJV) says:

"Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. [12] And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed."

Nothing can undo what God has done. If you read down the passage in Numbers 22 quoted above, you will discover that the powerful Balaam could not curse the blessed people of God; God supervised and controlled his utterances. Every sacrifice the enemy made to curse the blessed people of God ended up releasing more blessings on them. This happened in an inferior, shadowy Old Testament dispensation how much more in this superior New Testament? If the people of God were shielded from curses in the inferior Testament, how much more shall we who are in the superior Testament be shielded and protected from curses.

The New Testament Believer has better promises, the eternal Blood of atonement, the advocacy of an eternal High Priest (Jesus Christ) and the indwelling of the Spirit of God. The OT saints lacked these. Hebrews 8:6-7 (KJV) says:

"But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."

And Hebrews 12:22,24 (KJV) says:

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Also Hebrews 7:22-25 (KJV) says:

"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. [23] And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: [24] But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. [25] Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

And Isaiah 59:20-21 (KJV) says:

"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. [21] As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord ; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever."

So a Believer using curses as an excuse for failures and sufferings in this dispensation is a shamefully cheap excuse and a pitiable parade of ignorance. Believers suffer and fail for lack of understanding of the Covenant, for slothfulness in doing what ought to be done (lack of fervency in prayer, lack of urgency in seeking the Lord and timidity in the face of spiritual warfare)

God is vindicated from the sufferings of a Believer because He has done and ever does His own part of the covenant:

He has taken sin out of the way for the Believer.

He has given him the authority of His Word to use same as He gave Joshua in Joshua 1:8

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

He has given the Believer authority and power over his enemies and all their devices:

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19 KJV);

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:15-18 KJV).

What more can God do? The things of God are not abracadabra, they are "believe and do" and it is done:

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23 KJV)

And James 1:22,25 (KJV) says:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. [25] But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

So your own part of the covenant with God is not complete in you believing His Word, you must also **DO** what the Word says and then God fulfills the Word in your life. If the Believer begins to do all his own part, he will begin to enjoy extravagant riches and glories of God.

According to Isaiah 61:4 quoted earlier in this chapter, the Believer has been authorized to change evil and negative patterns running in His family by reason of the authority of Christ vested in him:

"And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities,..."

If your parents who were unbelievers were cursed, you that are in Christ have been empowered and authorized in Christ to change the evil pattern.

Satan's work is to keep the evil pattern running in your family but your own

work is to stop him. If you don't stop him, he will continue to run amok in your life and in your family.

The devil doesn't have a stop device in his crave to execute evil in people's life, he must be stopped, and Believers have been divinely authorized to stop him. If you don't stop the devil's evil works in your life and in everything that pertains to you, the end result will be that people will begin to say that you, a Believer is cursed. From what we see in Scriptures such a statement should be regarded as blasphemous. How can you curse what God has blessed? Balaam asked Balak. I ask you the same question today.

Wake up from your slumber and with the instruments of faith and prayer destroy the evil patterns and set up a new pattern. I don't know the evil patterns that your parents faced that is repeating in your life; today you can change it completely in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS

1) Father, I thank you for blessing me in Christ Jesus, and for vesting authority and power upon me to execute changes.

2) Father, today I take authority over every foul spirit maintaining evil patterns in my life and family and cast them back to Hell in Jesus' name.

3) Father, I command every inherited evil pattern (mention them if you know any) running in my life to come to an end now in Jesus' name.

4) Father, I renounce every weakness in me not allowing your divine power to flow through me to destroy this evil pattern in Jesus' name.

5) Father, I decree that a new divine pattern of blessings, favours and breakthroughs begin in my life from now in Jesus' name.

6) I am blessed, favored and loved by God and I refuse to doubt it. I shall praise God and jubilate for His manifold blessings in my life this month of August in Jesus' name. Amen.

ACTION POINTS

1) Make it a point of duty from today you have read this truth to search for the promises of God touching the area you need a change, also search for the conditions attached to the promises and fulfill them. After doing your part, watch and patiently keep praying until He brings you into the rest of that promise.

2) Arise in holy anger against the devil in a Spirit-led spiritual warfare all through this month. Just ask the Holy Spirit to come and guide you to victory in the warfare and you will see God at work for you: He is the Lord of hosts.

Friends, you are divinely configured to conquer and be seated in victory and that shall be your lot henceforth in Jesus' name. Please share your testimonies with me @: declords@yahoo.com

DOMINION

Genesis 1:26-28 KJV

[26] And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

[28] And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Dominion is the ability to take control and charge over affairs, situations and living things to the extent that they are made submissive to one's desire.

God has dominion over all creation: seen and unseen, living and none living, heavenly, earthly and hell and all the galaxies. His dominion is ever unlimited and will never diminish to everlasting. Hallelujah!!!

All through the Scriptures, God revealed His dominion by the words of His mouth and by His acts. Let's see some Scriptures that revealed God's dominion:

Genesis 15:1 KJV says:

"After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."

And Genesis 15:7 KJV says:

"And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it."

Also Genesis 17:1-2 KJV says:

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. [2] And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly."

Exodus 6:8 KJV says:

"And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the Lord."

When God declares "I am the Lord", He is implying: "I am in charge of all". "I am in control of all". "Everything submits to Me". "Nothing anywhere supersedes my power". "I have the power and authority to make and unmake".

Now, that is dominion! He said "I will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah" and all the evil powers dominating those lands could not stop Him.

He sent two men: Moses and Aaron to go and deliver a nation (Israel) from the captivity of the strongest nation in the world- Egypt. He sent them without weapons nor arms but a Word of authority and power and a rod. By the instruments of these, two men delivered a nation of 6 million people from the captivity of the mightiest nation in the world. That is dominion!

God is a God of dominion and everything that hales from Him is sealed for dominion. He created the man and sealed him for dominion: Genesis 1:26 says:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

That is why man will remain the dominating entity on the earth. Satan can't do anything about that. What Satan tries to do is to corrupt man so that through doing Satan's biddings, God will turn against him and so he becomes an easy prey for destruction. But God is ever ahead of the devil; He sent His Son Jesus Christ to come and deliver man from this evil device of the devil wherein man being corrupted by the devil becomes a prey for destruction (You know that is

not God's plan for the man He created). His plan for man is this:
2 Corinthians 6:17-18 KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

And also: Matthew 28:18 KJV

"*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*"

Then Jesus delivers same dominion to His believers: Mark 16:15-20 KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. [19] So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. [20] And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

By reason of those words of authorization and delegation of power, the true followers of Jesus Christ have continued to wield spiritual dominion over the earth and will continue until the saints are taken out of the earth by **Rapture** (one of the epic events of this age; a prophetic event yet to be fulfilled).

THE CHURCH RESTRAINS SATAN'S DOMINION IN THE WORLD

As long as the saints are in the world, the enemy will never be able to have dominion on the earth. But after the saints are taken out of the world through the Rapture, then the devil through the Antichrist will have dominion on the earth for a few years.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 KJV, says:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, [2] That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [3] Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; [4] Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. [5] Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? [6] And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. [7] For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. [8] And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: [9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, [10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

The Church, the Body of Christ, Believers are the only authority in the world presently restraining the devil from overrunning the world with his wickedness. No worldly government has the spiritual authority to restrain any spiritual power from being wielded on the earth (whether divine or satanic). In fact, the devil will wield dominion on the earth using men in the government.

Anything that is disconnected from God in this world, becomes a very useful instrument for the devil. This should awaken every man's sense of caution and have them running to the only safety and stronghold from the devil's onslaught - Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13 KJV

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Also the Scripture says in Proverbs 18:10 KJV

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

HOW SATAN STILL MANAGES TO HINDER MEN

Sin is the weapon Satan uses to corrupt man and make him a prey for destruction. Sin fired Adam from his paradise- Eden and turned him into a struggler and one fleeing from God's presence: Genesis 3:2-6,8 KJV

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: [3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. [4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: [5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. [6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. [8] And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."

Satan knows that in God, man is too secured for him to handle so he does everything to bring man out of the cover of God. Sin became Satan's tool to achieve his evil plan. God had His own Ace to incapacitate Satan's scheme; Jesus Christ. God needed something that can make sin of no effect to man so He sent His Son to take sin away for man so that in His Son, man will be eternally free from the effect of sin:

2 Corinthians 5:19,21 KJV

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. [21] For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

So in Christ everyone that believes that Christ is God's only solution to sin is set free from that evil separating effect of sin. Jesus Christ is the end of the effect of sin to man: to everyone that believes. Through sin Satan stole dominion from man but through Jesus Christ's redemptive work for man, God restored dominion to man:

Mark 16:15-18 KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

In Christ Jesus dominion is restored to the Believer. Satan is paralyzed, totally incapacitated, totally helpless and completely defeated before the Believer who is in Christ.

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10 KJV)

Satan does everything to hide this truth just as he did everything to hide the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. [6] He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. [7] And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. [11] Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. [12] And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, [13] Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. [14] And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. [15] So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."

(Matthew 28:5-7,11-15 KJV)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave was the eternal proof of Satan's eternal defeat (for them that believe). Glory be to God forever!!!

Many in the world have been blinded by Satan to this truth that sets people free from Sin and Satan's wiles:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV says:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: [4] In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

But you that are reading this now have seen the Truth and a great light has shined on your path; believe it and accept it as your inheritance from God and begin to enjoy dominion.

PRAYERS

1) Father Lord, I thank you for the restoration of dominion to mankind through Jesus Christ.

2) Father, I renounce and forsake everything that will hinder me from partaking of the dominion in Christ Jesus (Take your time and go through your life to discover the things you need to confess to God, renounce and forsake).

3) Father, I arise in the dominion in my Saviour Jesus Christ to subdue everything from the devil to hinder my life in Jesus' name.

4) I declare that for the rest of my life, I will walk in dominion everywhere I am in Jesus' name.

5) Thank You Father for answering my prayers and establishing my decree in Jesus' name, Amen!!

ACTION POINT

If you are not saved, just say this short prayer of faith for the salvation of your soul:

Thank You Lord Jesus for dying for my sins. I accept I am a dinner in

need of your salvation. Please forgive me and show me mercy. Cancel my name from the book of death and write my name into the book of life. Thank you Lord Jesus Christ for saving me. I declare You my Lord forever and ever, Amen.

ACCESS TO DOMINION

"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

(2 Peter 1:1-4 KJV)

That something has been made available does not mean it is freely accessible to all. The salvation and dominion that Jesus Christ has made available are like that; they are readily available but to access them you will have to fulfill certain conditions.

You see, schools are available everywhere for people to access and overcome illiteracy and ignorance yet millions are still illiterate because they have not fulfilled the conditions to take advantage of what has been made available. They have to enroll in a school and commit themselves to studying hard to excel and obtain knowledge.

STEPPING INTO DOMINION

The first step to accessing spiritual dominion is to be saved. Salvation is the first and most important criteria for accessing spiritual dominion.

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew

him not. [11] He came unto his own, and his own received him not. [12] But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: [13] Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:10-13 KJV says)

2 Peter 1:1 reveals what the salvation purchased for us by our Lord Jesus Christ does: it imparts the righteousness of God on the Believer.

The unsaved man is unrighteous and therefore has no legal standee with God for any reason. He is totally separated from God. That is called spiritual death. Just as Adam and Eve died spiritually when they sinned, so the unsaved man is spiritually dead and separated from God. But believing and confessing what Jesus did on the cross for mankind as yours brings you salvation. Romans 10:8-10 KJV says:

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; [9] That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The Bible said in John 1:12 that as many as received Jesus Christ, to them God gives power to become the sons of God. Jesus demonstrated the qualities inherent in a son of God:

Unlimited power and authority over nature

"But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead. [23] And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. [24] And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. [25] And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. [26] And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. [27] But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" (Matthew 8:22-27 KJV)

I see a time when one Believer will stand and command a volcanic erruption to cease and it will obey.

A day is coming when Believers will be fully conscious of their authority over nature to the extent they will give the hurricanes the direction to blow or even hush the tornadoes to stillness.

One thing is very clear, with each passing day, Believers are getting more and more divinely inspired information on their position in Christ and on their authority in different spheres of life.

We are in a very strategic prophetic fulfillment stage of this age (I will talk about this later). You must know that the world systems don't run the programmes of this world, the programmes and times of this world, of all ages have always run under strict adherence to divine programmes preset by God Almighty. As much as it appears as though men in the world have things in control, it is rather contrary wise, God has all men under control and all conform to His preordained plans and programmes; even when they are working against God, their actions still end up helping divine course and agenda. Herein lies the unfathomable wisdom and ways of God.

Acts 2:22-23 KJV says:

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: [23] Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain"

God allowed Daniel to peep into the ark of His plans and programmes for the world to the time Jesus takes over leadership of the government of the world.

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14 KJV)

All these have been revealed thousands of years ago to men even before Jesus was revealed physically.

They have been fulfilled and are being fulfilled to the end. Luke 2:25-32 KJV says:

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. [26] And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. [27] And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, [28] Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, [29] Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: [30] For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, [31] Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; [32] A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

You must know that everything any government, any man, etc does, will never be able to hinder the programmes and plans of God but will foster their fulfillments: that is the wisdom and glory of God. Hallelujah!!!

1 Corinthians 2:5-9 KJV says:

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. [6] Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: [7] But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: [8] Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. [9] 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."

The Bible said that these things had already been prepared by God but they are being fulfilled according to the programme and timings of Him Who had prepared these things. I think any wise person should find the way to be positioned to benefit from the divine programmes and plans of God. There is only one way to position one's self to partake in God's programmes and plans: come into Christ.

A GLORIOUS SCRIPTURAL FULFILLMENT

I said I was going to explain what I meant by "We are in a very strategic prophetic fulfillment stage of this age".

The Scripture explains it all in Isaiah 11:9-10 KJV which says:

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. [10] And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

The knowledge of the mysteries of God has never been unveiled in any age as it is being unveiled in our age. What a privilege to live in this prophetic age. The grace of God, the power of God, the profound and totality of our victory and dominion over the world and the evil kingdom has never been unveiled to the church like it is being done in our age. Hallelujah!!!

It is becoming clearer and clearer to the unsaved that the Church of Jesus Christ is where to find God; where to find the words that give rest to the soul in troublous times like this. God has highly exalted the Church to the envy of many nations and religions and they are turning to using hostility, ungodly constitutions and decrees to try to frustrate the advancement of the Church. Unfortunately they don't know that the Church they see in the world is a part of or the visible part of an invisible divine kingdom in heaven.

The Founder of the Church made a declaration about the Church that cannot be altered. He said in Matthew 16:18-19 KJV:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

What a blessed assurance!!

Now you can understand why despite all the deadly attacks the Church has suffered for many centuries after the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church has continued to thrive and prosper in an enviable dimension. The One

building the Church is omnipotent, and omniscient; He rules in the affairs of the kingdoms of this world. He cannot be overruled but He can overrule all. 2 Chronicles 20:6 KJV says:

"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?"

Daniel said to king Nebuchadnezzar:

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." (Daniel 4:17 KJV)

These are men who walked with God and understood the dimensions of His Omnipotence. Their boldness before the adversaries was unmatchable because they understood that they stood with the Almighty God.

We are in the days of privileged unveiling of the breadth, length, depth and height of the mystery of the divine power and authority vested in the Church. There are still much in our relationship with God to be unveiled.

"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." (1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV)

As we stay in close union with the Lord and stay committed to the advancement of His kingdom on earth, He unveils more of His mysteries to us; and He really wants to.

May you be privileged to partake of these glorious unveilings in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS

1) Father, I thank you for saving me and making me a partaker of the

greatness of Your kingdom.

2) Father, open my eyes to behold mysteries from your Word in Jesus' name.

3) Father, unveil mysteries to me that will position me as a useful pillar for Your kingdom in Jesus' name.

4) Father, empower me to be a mighty threat to every enemy of Your plans and purposes on earth in Jesus' name.

5) Father, please never ever let me be disconnected for a second from you in Jesus' name.

DOMINION AND YOUR PURPOSES

John 4:31-34 KJV

"In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. [32] But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. [33] Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? [34] Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

Our actions as good as they may appear and have what may even seem like good results, yet they may still be regarded as dung before God for not falling in line with His purpose or will.

As people of God and soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must understand that God works in the world by His own programmes, schedules and timings and we cannot change them, rather we must strive diligently to discern, know or understand them just like our Lord Jesus Christ did. No organization employs you for you to come run your own agenda, they employ you and carefully train you to fit into the plan and system of the organization. The day you start working contrarily to the plans of your employees, you'll be fired. Now how dare we think that we can come into God's kingdom and begin to act as though we call the shots for the Almighty God!!

What is the essence of running a race and arriving first at the finishing line when you will be disqualified? That is wasted effort and energy. That will inevitably happen if we don't understand divine programmes, schedules and timings.

Jesus Christ knew His assignment on earth and continuously followed divine purpose and timings in all He did until His ultimate sacrifice. John 7:2-6,8 KJV says:

"Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. [3] His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. [4] For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. [5] For neither did his brethren believe in him. [6] Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. [8] Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come."

You can't just afford to live, act and work like everyone else who live by their own will and do things according to their own purpose if you truly want to work with God. When you come into the service of the Lord, His purpose swallows up your own purpose. Your will is buried in His will and your timing is lost in His own timings. That is just the price to pay to work with God. Until you make up your mind to pay this price, you will suffer heavy destiny losses. What counts as gain to us and destiny fulfillment are only those things we do according to the Lord's will and purpose, if they are done in His time.

God is so gracious and loving that He really wants us to be in line with His purposes. Listen to my testimony and you will understand what I mean:

I gave my life to Christ in November 5th, 1999. In February 2000, during a 21 days fasting and prayer programme in my church, I heard the Lord speaking to me and telling me that He was calling me into full time ministry as a Missionary. Then I was preparing to go for my National Youth Service Programme. I had a dream and ambition of becoming a great accountant and banker. But He told me that I was not going to do any secular job. He also told me that it was not yet time for me to start what He called me to do.

From then all I went through was like training and preparation for the work I was called to do. When the time came for me to start, the Lord also created a way to let me know it was time for me to start. That is how faithful He is.

REACHING THE FINISHING LINE

Every man running a race runs with the focus of reaching the finishing line first so that he can receive the prize.

Does the Christian have such a target?

Is the Christian in a kind of race?

Are there prizes set for a Christian to obtain?

Is there a finishing line for a Christian?

Let us see what Apostle Paul had to say about the finishing line:

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; [11] If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. [12] Not as though I had already attained, either were already

perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. [13] Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. [15] Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. [16] Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." (Philippians 3:10-16,20 KJV)

Apostle Paul indeed had a mark in sight; he said:
"I press toward the mark for the prize..." Philippians 3:14.

He also had a target prize in his view from the same Scripture in Verse Fourteen. In another place in the Scriptures, Paul the Apostle also declared:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. [25] And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. [26] I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: [27] But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 KJV)

Indeed, to Paul, there was a serious race with a great prize (incorruptible) to be obtained; but also there were rules to be observed.

The writer of the book of Hebrews also revealed that the Christian is in a race:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1 KJV)

RACES HAVE RULES

I stated it earlier in 'Dominion and Your Purposes' that what will be the essence of running a race and reaching the finishing line first only to be disqualified for breaking the rules?

That amounts to a futile effort.

The unbalanced teaching of grace has made so many Christians to think that our heavenly is without rules. They think you can just act anyhow, live anyhow and still obtain the incorruptible prize. Well, how far they are from the truth. The Apostle of grace himself said:

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." *(1 Corinthians 9:27)*

The writer of Hebrews in Chapter twelve, verse one, also said that to run the race effectively, there are things to lay aside. But looking at the present day Christians, one will be led to believe that no matter how we lived, we could obtain the incorruptible prize.

Unfortunately, that is not true according to the Scriptures. Corruption cannot inherit incorruption:

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." (1 Corinthians 15:50 KJV)

And then Paul the Apostle asked a question in Romans 6:1 KJV:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may

abound?"

He also answered the question in Verse two:

"God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Scriptures reveal that there is need for the Christian to run the heavenly race by heavenly standards. God has a standard and He expects His children (Christians) to follow His standards.

"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 KJV)

WHAT IS THIS RACE?

In Jeremiah 1:5, God told the prophet:

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

Before Jesus was born a prophecy had already been given about Him and what He was coming into the world to do.

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, [27] To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. [28] And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. [29] And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. [30] And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. [31] And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. [32] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: [33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. [34] Then said Mary

unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? [35] And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:26-35 KJV)

A Christian's race is discovering his assignment on earth, following divine directions and maintaining divine standards (godliness) to do this assignment and ensuring that this assignment is completed.

If you don't discover your assignment, how would you know when you have finished it?

If you've not known your purpose on earth, may God show you mercy and reveal your assignment on earth clearly to you in Jesus' name.

WHAT IS THE PRIZE FOR THE RACE?

I would put it as simple as possible that the prize of running the heavenly race is/are the special benefits, privileges and rewards that the saints that live their lives in total alignment to the will of God receive from God.

God is a faithful rewarder who never allows any good deed or act of obedience any one does to go unrewarded. Some rewards come immediately, some come afterwards and some have eternal value.

These rewards are so many but I will try to deal with a few.

1. Classified Divine Information

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

(2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV)

The life of Apostle Paul always leaves me in awe. The man was so certain of so many issues of life that many ignore and even die in the ignorance of them. For example he knew that if he chose to depart from this world, that it would be granted unto him, but he chose to remain for the sake of the body of Christ:

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. [23] For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: [24] Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. [25] And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; [26] That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." (Philippians 1:21-26)

The man knew that death had no power over him. He knew that he had authority to choose to live or to die. What a knowledge! He was not one to wonder or fear whether death could stop him suddenly. Such knowledge and information don't come to all, neither does anybody stumble upon such glorious knowledge. Close walk with God and radical commitment to God's guarantees that to a Believer.

Many Believers live and die without any special divine experiences or encounters with the supernatural because they refuse to walk closely with God. They don't even desire for supernatural experience. For them, just going to Church regularly and hearing just their Pastors was enough. What a boring spiritual life: born of the Spirit and yet not living in the spirit. That is a very terrible mix up and definitely not the will of God for any Believer.

Many others desire such awesome experiences but are not ready to pay the price. No price, no prize.

Many are too preoccupied with the affairs of this life to give God time. Many are too lost in the works of the flesh that their spirit is too choked and clogged to connect to the spiritual dimension where divine encounters are experienced. To such the Spirit says in Isaiah 52:1-2 KJV

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. [2] Shake thyself from the dust;

arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion."

The prize of classified divine information is a privilege reserved only for those living strictly for the Lord's purpose and pursuing the advancement of God's kingdom. Jesus Christ our Lord came to this world for the purpose of destroying the works of the devil (1John 3:8). All through His sojourn on earth, he went about doing just that. He knew when His time was due to depart.

"And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: [21] The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. [22] Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. [23] And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified." (John 12:20-23 KJV)

Men and women who lived for the sake of God's purpose and walked closely with God often had the rare privilege of having classified divine information given to them by God. For example, Peter, James and John were the closest to Jesus Christ; He chose them out of the twelve others to experience His transfiguration at a high mountain (Matthew 17:9) where they saw and heard very strange divine things that they were not permitted to share with others.

Apostle Paul was not left out in the number of those who experienced special divine encounters. Hear what he said in 2 Corinthians 12:1-7

"It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. [2] I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. [3] And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) [4] How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. [5] Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. [6] For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. [7] And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above

measure."

Apostle Paul was one of the most committed followers of the Lord: he followed the Lord through pain, hunger, betrayals, disasters, losses, persecutions and near death situations but never flinched from his commitment to keep pressing on for the good course of God's kingdom.

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. [24] Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. [25] Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; [26] In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; [27] In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. [28] Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:23-28 KJV)

ATTITUDE IS A ROBBER OF THE PRIZES

It grieves my heart when I look at the way majority of Believers live their Christian lives today.

A brother who was a worker (an usher) in the church where I pastored came to the workers' meeting very late and as the custom was he was asked with about five others that came late to stand up while the workers' meeting continued. He was very offended to the level that he stopped coming to Church. People tried to encourage him to return back to church but he refused and even refused to pick the calls of the Pastors including mine. I never saw him again since that day but I learnt he was repatriated from the country not long after his carnal attitude.

I am not insinuating that his repatriation and other fiery trials he went through after his attitude (as they said), were because God was punishing him for his lack of love and humility but I am only showing us the way we could live that could hinder us from benefitting from the best God has for us.

It is sad to see how trivial things like rain, burial, losses, bad business, family

matters and so many other things, could so easily stop Believers from doing their ministerial works to talk of where a threat to life is involved.

To really be a threat to the kingdom of darkness, nothing in this world should be held too dear by a Believer. The things that should be held dear by a Believer should be every inheritance with eternal value like our salvation, the souls of men, the Word of God, our fellowship with God and with brethren, our divine calling and the state of our spiritual health which we should measure at all time by the Word of God and witness of the Holy Ghost.

If we cherish these more than any other thing that belongs to this world, then, surely it would be very difficult to stray from the Lord nor fall into the enemy's snares.

Did you know that a Believer must not cherish his life to the detriment of God's work?

"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. [39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

(Matthew 10:38-39 KJV)

Also Revelation 12:11 KJV says:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

When you understand that your life is under the safe care of the Almighty, so then, there is nothing to fear; and you also understand that caring for it is not your responsibility but God's.

Misplacing this understanding will make your life a hindrance to the work of the Owner and Protector of your life. This is what many saints of old understood that made it possible for them to continue to preach the Gospel even where death stared them in the face.

Hear what Paul said when he was told by Prophet Agabus that a deadly persecution awaited him in Jerusalem and the brethren out of love begged him not to go.

"And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. [11] And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. [12] And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. [13] Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. [14] And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done." (Acts 21:10-14 KJV)

How dare you live such a lowly spiritual Christian Life and still expect to receive the same glory they received from the Lord. Have you not read what the Lord said in *Galatians 6:7-8 KJV*

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. [8] For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

I see Believers today fighting to death over positions in the church. I see Believers today leaving the church because a brother or sister did not keep his or her promise to marry them. I see Believers today who say that they will stop worshipping God if He allowed certain things to happen to them after they had prayed for it not to happen. I see all these and I wonder if this generation of Believers are yet ready for the glory meant for them.

Who has bewitched the church of our time?

The more we are reluctant to deliver our whole life totally on the divine altar of total surrender, the more the glorious inheritances prepared for this generation remains elusive.

May God have mercy and help us!!

I believe the problem lies in the fact that there are so many baby Christians in the body of Christ who are not even ready to pay the price of maturing.

Also the poor and materialistic teachings coming from the altar has resulted in the growth of these spiritually malnourished Believers we see in our time.

2. Material Blessings

Contrary to what many think, God desires that His children have the best in life: good houses, lands, cars, booming businesses, very fat bank accounts, good marriages, children etc.

Prosperity is God's will for His children.

He said in 3 John 1:2 that:

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

And in Zechariah 1:17 He said:

"Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem."

The enviable level of prosperity that the church has entered now is a clear evidence that God wills and works for the material prosperity of His church.

Exodus 23:25-26 buttresses my claim that God's will is that His children should prosper.

"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. [26] There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil."

But God emphasizes it that you must serve. Unflinching commitment to the service of His kingdom is a criteria to receiving great material abundance.

The moment king Solomon vowed to place his commitment to the service of God's people over his personal good and fame, God also vowed to make him enviably prosperous:

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? [10] And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. [11] And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself

understanding to discern judgment; [12] Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. [13] And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days." (1 Kings 3:9-13 KJV)

The Lord Jesus told His Disciples in Mark *10:28-30 KJV*

"Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. [29] And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, [30] But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

At the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter shall be established says the Scripture. Therefore, from the above scriptural witnesses and then the enviable prosperity of the Church in this our time, it will be stupidity to think that a Believer is in poverty because God's will is for him not to prosper.

Prosperity is a covenant benefit of the New Testament saints. You must believe it, desire it and do all it takes to prosper and then no power from anywhere can stop your prosperity.

We should be wary of one-sided prosperity and it's teachings that is plaguing the present day body of Christ. The plan of God for His Church is that they prosper spiritually, mentally and materially.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. [3] For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth." *(3 John 1:2-3 KJV)*

3. MENTAL DOMINION

To truly be a city on a hill which cannot be hidden, to truly wield a sublime

influence in this world and to truly bring glory to God on earth, the body of Christ must have a tripartite dimensional prosperity: prosper greatly spiritually, mentally and materially. The Church has tasted of spiritual prosperity, it has tasted material prosperity, the mental prosperity has been too little to get the attention of the world. The Church is still being looked down on by the world because it still has not reached the state of mental dominion.

When the Church gets to the level where the saints dominate in the inventive sphere, academic sphere, economic sphere, entertainment sphere (men like Mozart showed it's possible) then these will ultimately give the saints dominion in the political sphere.

Movies like The Passion of the Christ, for the first time brought to the world the reality of what the man Jesus Christ did. It took mental creativity that came via clear understanding of Scriptures to make that possible. And it was not even a Believer that wrote and produced it. It will take sublime mental creativity engineered by impeccable knowledge and understanding of Scriptures and divine spiritual realities to be able to begin to convince a lost world of unseen spiritual realities. The devil knows this so he packaged mysticism, magic, and new age religion to draw away the attention of the world to true spiritual realities. But all that will crumble when the church cultivates the mental power guided by divine truths and the power of the Spirit to make it's presentations to the world. Jesus did that in His presentations of the Gospel: He used seen things to communicate heavenly realities:

"Another parabGle put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: [32] Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." (Matthew 13:31-32 KJV)

He also used more of such like in Matthew 13:45-50 KJV

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: [46] Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. [47] Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: [48] Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. [49] So shall it be at the end of the world: the

angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, [50] And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

The mental realm must be fully tapped (but never alone like I said above) to be able to fully communicate spiritual realities to the carnal man. The power of God is great but if the Church stick only to the power of God, it will never wield enough influence to humble the world to the feet our Jesus Christ.

For example, Jesus Christ with all His great power could not do mighty works in His own nativity: familiarity hindered His work there:

"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. [4] But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. [5] And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. [6] And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching." (*Mark 6:3-6 KJV)*

Inability of many Believers to break through the barrier of the mental resistance of the worldly men is a hindrance to the Gospel and can only be broken by a superior and divinely guided use of the mental resources.

Finally, even the Scripture reveals that without knowledge (which is in the mental realm), the Believer may not access the benefits of his divine nature:

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" (**2 Peter 1:2-3 KJV)**

The Danger of Material Wealth

Material riches are so corruptive and deceptive that if left in the hands of people who are not dead to the cares of this world, they could ruin the individual and wreak havoc in the society as we are seeing in the world today. The influence of it was so strong that Judas chose it over his soul. It was so

corruptive that Demas forsook his ministerial partner and went back to the world (2 Timothy 4:10).

Many Believers for political power has gone to satanic shrines to bow to the devil. Some have chosen to continue to dine with occult political godfathers just to continue to have access to the common wealth of the State. Some just because they do not want to lose their political power close their eyes and shut their conscience as they watch their brethren being slaughtered by barbarous infidels.

And the Lord asked:
"What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Material wealth and the quest for it has turned many who started with Christ to followers Satan.

Many are by it ensnared in diverse deadly webs of the devil.

Many have left their God given assignment in pursuit of material wealth.

Others have changed their God given messages in order to keep the class of people they falsely believe are their source of wealth.

Some men of God have turned to errand boys for ungodly men just to keep the wealth flowing in.

Some have compromised their calling by becoming business men, politicians, and praise singers to men and even professional beggars all in the bid to keep money flowing in.

Your success is not measured by your material possessions. Your success is not by the evaluation of men; no man sent you to this world in the first place. Your success is a function of how much you keep pace with what God brought you to this world to do and He (God) will be the One and only right Person to evaluate you finally.

If we understand this we would not waste our energy and time trying to please men. There is only One to fear and live to please and He is the Almighty God.

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul:

but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28 KJV)

Only God has the power to destroy both the soul and body of men in hell. He's the One to be feared.

4. Physical Wholeness

Exodus 23:25 says if you serve the Lord your God, He will take away sicknesses from your midst.

3 John 1:2 says that the wish of God for His children is that they be healthy.

John 15:2b says every branch in Christ that bears fruits, the Father purges it (keeps it healthy) so that it can continue to bear more fruits.

I am yet to see any master who will not do everything to keep his servant working for him strong and healthy so that he will keep rendering his services well.

When companies or any organization employs anybody, one of the things they do is to do medical checkup on the employee to ascertain the health conditions of the person. If there are any issues found, they resolved it before the employee starts work. The servant's health condition is top priority to the employer.

Now, that is for a servant, how much more for children of the master. You are God's child through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross: if you believe it and declare Jesus with your own mouth as your Lord and Savior.

With the Scriptures mentioned already, I can boldly say without mincing words that physical wholeness is the preserve of everyone faithfully serving the Lord in one capacity or the other.

God told Pharaoh ***"Let my people go that they may serve me"*** (Exodus 8:1).

On the condition of service, God brought Israel out of bondage.

On the condition of service, diverse unspeakable miracles were wrought by God on their path to service:

The sea divided for God's servant's to pass.

Angels delivered their food for Israel to eat.

"Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, [24] And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. [25] Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full." (Psalm 78:23-25 KJV)

The rock flowed with water for Israel to drink in a dry wilderness.

Their bodies cheated on age: for forty years they wore the same clothes and same shoes. Not a single one of the millions that matched out for God's service had any form of feebleness.

"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes." (Psalm 105:37 KJV)

Everything good follows you when you commit to serve Him faithfully:

"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? [32] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. [33] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

(Matthew 6:31-33 KJV)

Physical wholeness is possible for them who have committed to faithful service to the Almighty God. You don't need to pray for it, you serve yourself into it.

5. Guaranteed Eternal Safety And Rest

This is the ultimate prize for the heavenly race. When you have kept the faith, fought the good fight and finished your own course, then the Lord, the faithful Judge will give you a place in His eternal kingdom.

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8 KJV)

What a way of leaving the arena. I am so full of envy for Apostle Paul. The man knew he finished his assignment. The man lived totally for the purpose of God's kingdom. He lost value for everything he had achieved in life when he saw the eternal value of the things of God. He referred to all his enviable achievements in life as dung.

Aaaah!!! Father! Show me what Paul saw that I may live like him.

You see, people don't regard the things of God because they can't see the unending riches and glory loaded in them.

The things of God have no visible beauty. Often they appear ugly and deadly. They appear foolish and weak, but loaded in them are lasting beauty, glory, life, wisdom and power.

They are spiritually discerned for those with a sincere heart of quest.

When I was doing my Youth Service in my country Nigeria in the year 2001, there was a very poor widow living near my house with two little children perhaps with ages 7 years and 4 years. The older one was in primary school. One day they paid our allowance which was barely sufficient to see one through the month. I withdrew mine and came back home. As I was about to enter my house after opening my door, I heard the Lord telling me to give the woman about a fourth of my allowance that she needed it for her child's school. It was really a tough one for me but I did not hesitate; I got into the house and separated her part and went to her door and knocked. She opened the door. As I handed her the money tears rolled down her cheeks as she said they had already driven her son from school for tuition fee and some books. The money was enough to meet those needs. She spoke some words of blessing as I turned to return to my house. At the same spot where I was commanded to go give the woman the money, I heard God again telling me "Because you have obeyed what I told you to do, your children will never be stranded nor embarrassed in their academic quests nor lack clothes to wear. I had not even met my wife then neither did I have any plan of marriage then. One act of

obedience to His voice secured a generational blessing. Today I can say boldly that God has kept His promise unbroken.

The truth which many try to nod away is that eternity is real. And also that the One who decides the eternity of all men is Jesus Christ. If you reject His salvation now in this world, you will still meet Him again in the hereafter as the righteous Judge, but then there will be no hope again for salvation. Salvation is now and the destination for eternity is decided now. After death nothing can be done again but to face the rude reality of a terrible eternity in hell fire.

Jesus is calling all men now to receive His free salvation gift, live for Him and then obtain a glorious eternity in His heavenly home. That choice is each man's own to make. It is personal.

ACTION POINT

If you have not yet made Jesus your Lord and Savior, say this prayer of faith:

Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for my sins. I believe that You are the Son of God who died to save me from my sins. I receive You today as my Lord and Savior and ask You to forgive me all my sins. Write my name in the Book of life and preserve me by Your grace to the end. Thank You Father God for this opportunity. I am born again.

If you said that prayer, you are now a child of God. You need to grow spiritually so that you can be useful for the kingdom of God and also help others to grow and mature. Therefore, you need to pray and ask God to guide you to a church where you can be established to worship and serve Him.

May the Almighty God guide you indeed in Jesus’ name. Amen!