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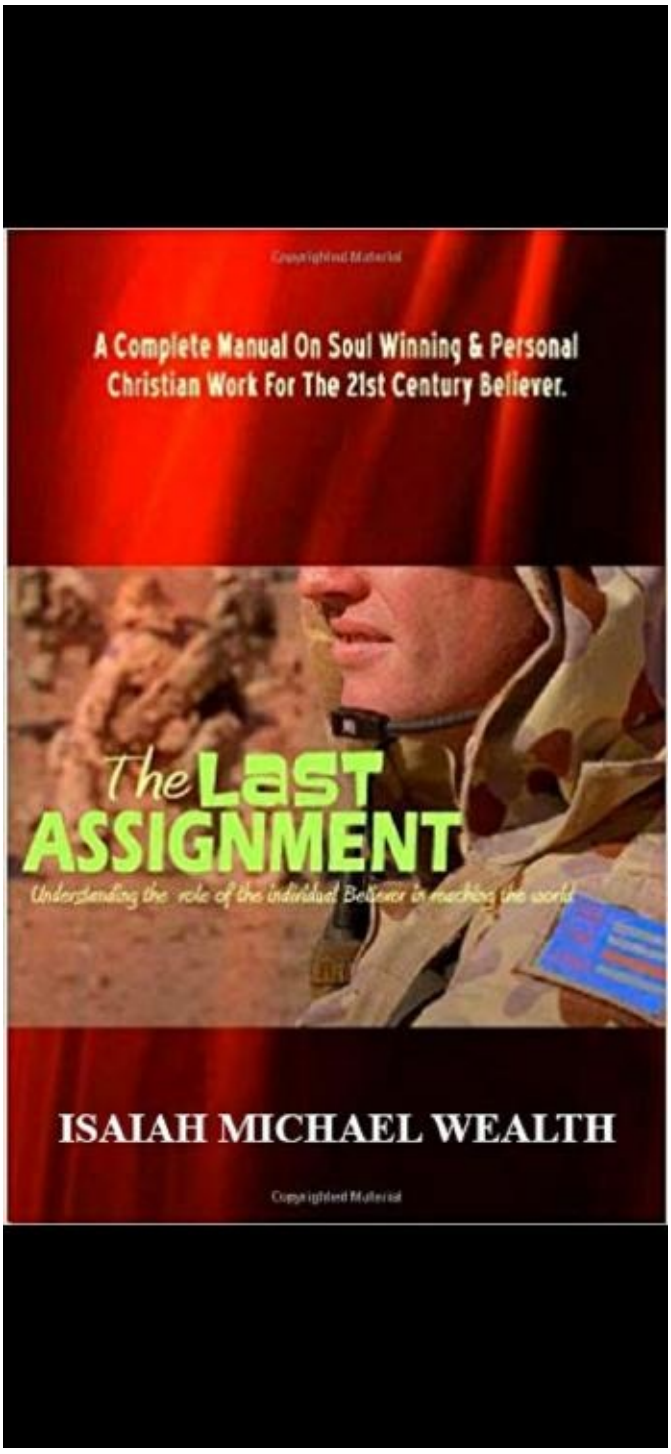


The LAST ASSIGNMENT

Understanding the role of the individual Believer in reaching the world

ISAIAH MICHAEL WEALTH

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Appreciation

All the glory and gratitude goes to the Holy Spirit — my Boss, and Father— for the privilege and the grace to labor in His divine end time agenda, for me and all my helpers in life and ministry, it is our greatest honor to participate.

Dedication

I was on the platform during one of our camp meetings at the Stadium, looking over at the congregation as they worshiped and offered themselves up to God.

This great sight was overwhelming as I saw genuine and passionate hunger for God in the worship. Suddenly the word of the lord came to me. "See, my people want to serve me" He said, "Help them serve me" He continued, since then, I have always looked forward to any opportunity to empower believers in their quest to serve the Lord. If that is your passion, then this book is dedicated to you.

Introduction

In the early weeks of 2011, we began a long fast to seek God's face. I particularly traveled to a secluded place to spend time alone with the Lord, and one of my major objectives was to get fresh assignments from the Lord and as usual, crosscheck the things I had been doing with Him. My passion is always to be found in the Lord's will and sometimes we really do go beyond the borders. This is why every now and then, we must question with the Lord to be current and updated with His plans.

I had spent many days patiently expecting the Lord to probably appear to me in a vision as He had done some time ago and say

something that would set my heart on fire to work for Him like never before, This is the real stuff-when His word sets you on fire like Jeremiah, and you find yourself unable to hold back. Your zeal then begins to reach unprecedented levels such that even though you work so hard, you find it just so sweet. I know right now you cannot wait to know what did happen. Just relax and I will let you in on it.

It was Thursday morning and as usual I began to put some things together to aid my fellowship for the day, suddenly, as I studied and meditated on the word, the Lord began to speak to me. I was immediately taken back to many of the several encounters I have had from the lord, As these visions replayed before me I was given a clearer understanding of what the Lord expects of me and how there was still so much left undone. Of all these, this seemed to be the loudest:

"The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few. Therefore Go! Raise laborers for the harvest field-..." (April 2004). Sitting on the couch nearby and pondering further on this assignment, I felt my heart melting with liquid fire mingled with overflowing joy as it dawned on me that though I had several gifts, graces, and callings from the Lord, this was supposed to be the bedrock of them all. I was full of repentance and a sudden awakening overwhelmed my soul,

In a moment, I began to imagine what I would say if I were given the opportunity to do just one last session of lecture that could prepare anyone who really wants to give himself to laboring for God in these last days, My mind seemed to have been accelerated a million times. I then decided to simplify and summarize these thoughts on

paper. After three days of doing this, I arose with the greatest joy ever. I just knew that I had made one of the greatest decisions in my life. I could not hold back my gratitude to the Lord for allowing me experience this. This book is the original manuscript of my three days assumed lecture session. I know beyond doubt that even though it was documented in three days, it is the embodiment of the years of training and equipping I had received from the Lord, blended with fresh zeal.

My greatest passion right now is to get this book into the hand of every believer on earth. My prayer is that everyone who picks this book would be used by the Lord to spread the information in it. If you can fully embody this light that the Lord has sent your way, then you would have blessed my life, but if you would go a step further to communicate it and help others who are on their way in this great journey, then truly you are my friend and my brother. My intent in this book, is to equip 'whosoever will' to labor in the final harvest, for it is time!

This book has been divided into seven chapters so that at the end of each one, an opportunity has been created for you to express your thoughts as you study along. Questions in form of summary aids have also been added to facilitate this process. I would advise you to carefully and prayerfully record your understanding in the chapter diary pages provided, as this would go a long way to consolidate your retention and possible application of the knowledge being communicated.

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Chapter one
Leaven
(What is Delaying the Rapture?)

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

(Matthew 28: 18-20).

If there is a problem today in the church, it is the problem of gross misunderstanding of Christianity. To many people, Christianity is using God to meet their needs, and to others, it is just about confession, "I confess all my sins and I am forgiven" "I once was lost, but now I am found," they say. Some others would even go a step further to say "the things I do before, I do them no more". To them, it is all about doing right and being holy. These are beautiful in themselves, but if this was all the Lord wanted, then the question is 'what on earth is He trying to do leaving us back here in this sinful world?' Would you repair your car or buy a new one with all your earnings and leave it where it is likely to be vandalized? If your answer is 'no,' then you are on your way to answering a very important question here.

A GREAT PURPOSE

Again and again we have heard the saying that "when purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable", Why did God pay so great a price to redeem His people from the corruption of this world and then went ahead to leave them in the midst of corruption for over two thousand years

now? The answer is clear. He is either a poor strategist or He has a great purpose! So which do you think is the case? To understand the logic of His purpose, it is important we know the following about Him.

(A) GOD IS WISDOM

> ***"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen ".***
>
> ***(I Timothy 1:17)***

He alone is wisdom. He does not fail, has never lost a deal, and simply knows how to 'turn the tables' when things get negative. He is never in a hurry. He gets what He wants, how and where He wants it, without a fight. His wisdom is so great that the Bible says, even His foolishness is wiser than the wisdom of men. No contest! (I Corinthians I:25 paraphrased)

(B) GOD IS POWER

He specializes in getting something out of nothing, greatness out of obscurity, surplus out of scarcity and light out of darkness.

> ***"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts"...***
>
> ***(2 Corinthians 4:6a).***
>
> ***"even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were".***
>
> ***(Romans 4:17b).***

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty, And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea,and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are. That no flesh should glory in his presence".

(I Corinthians 1: 27-29).

Aha! Can you see why He does this? That no flesh should glory in His presence! Have you ever imagined what it takes to be God? He is the Boss and He does not need to announce it, beg for it or contest for it. He deliberately takes the longest route in every race and finishes first. One time, He looked for a lady of over ninety years of age who had not only crossed menopause, but had almost doubled the age, her husband being about a hundred years old. They were both certified barren by the physicians of their day and confirmed true by time as Sarah never did conceive. When He came to their house, see what He said to them;

"Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay, but thou didst laugh".

(Genesis 18. 14).

And it happened as He had spoken.

> ***"And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old are, at the set time of which God had spoken to him"***
>
> ***(Genesis 21: 1- 2)***

He loves to come in when it is too hard for everyone. He takes no pleasure in doing simple or easy tasks. This can only be God!

(C) GOD IS JUSTICE

To understand justice, you must know the difference between power and authority. Power is inherent, but authority is constitutional. This is supposed to be the difference between the military and the democratic rules. The difference is not in the power of the nation but in the authority that the constitution vests on the leader.
God has all power but He has restricted His power to His word, the constitution of the universe.

> ***"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things bv the word o(his power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high "***
>
> ***(Hebrews 1: 3).***

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving- kindness and for thy truth. for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

(Psalm 138: 2)

He judges according to His word. That means His word sets the standard of right and wrong.

"That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked. and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (I.e According to the word?) And the LORD said, If i find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes"

(Genesis 18. 25 -26) (Parenthesis added)

If this were not so, He would have waved His hand and destroyed Satan.

(D) GOD IS LOVE

"He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love "

(I John 4. 8)

Anything that forces is not love. God does not want men to do His will just because He said so, but because they want to. This is the identity of love. He could have made us like robots to do whatever He wanted, but He did not. Instead, He made us in His image and likeness, and wants us to know His love and reciprocate it. This is the central theme of the scripture and of the universe, and principally why He did not stop Adam from eating the fruit.

These all important virtues of God form His kingdom business principles. Understanding them would help us find true answers to why He left us here, which is the ultimate question of his purpose. Let's take a step further.

GOD'S KINGDOM BUSINESS

> ***"And when they saw him, they were amazed. and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"***
>
> ***(Luke 2: 48-49).***

You see what He called it? 'My father's business,' No one has ever understood that business like Jesus. And when He was to explain how business is done in His Father's kingdom, this is what He said:

"Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden, and it grew, and waxed a great tree, and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it"

(Luke 13. 18-19).

When God wants a Tree

From the scripture above, we can see what happens when God wants a tree for the birds of the earth to lodge in. He finds the smallest seed - mustard seed and plants it. He patiently waits for it to grow into what He sees. Learn from God – true power is never in a hurry. The power of faith can never be known until it is tried by patience. All of God's purpose reflects. Learn from God - true power is never in a hurry. The power of faith can never be known until it is tried by patience. All of God's purpose reflects His value for patience.

The leaven further helps us understand this

A leaven is a substance used to make dough or flour rise, especially yeast or any other fermenting agent. Let us see how this explains God's kingdom principle.

"And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures o(meal, till the whole was leavened"

(Luke 13. 20-21).

Just like the woman in the scripture above, when God wants bread, He sometimes chooses to plant yeast (leaven) in flour and patiently waits for it to rise.
Could this mirror for us why the church has been planted on the earth and left for a while? Maybe we would find out soon. Let's take a step further.

Just Like The Mustard Seed And The Leaven.

To fill the whole world with about six billion standing population, God began by planting one man, Adam and waited for 6, 000 years. Now, to redeem the world of fallen men, what did God do? You are right! He sent His Son - One Man.

> ***"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved".***
>
> ***(John 3. 17).***

> ***"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so obedience <u>one shall many be made righteous</u>"***
>
> ***(Romans 5: 19).***

SO WHAT ARE WE STILL DOING HERE?

Could it be that the Chief Executive Officer of the kingdom has ordained that through Jesus Christ, and His church the whole world should receive salvation?

"Neither is there salvation in any other. for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved".

(Acts :12).

"And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses"

(Acts 13:39).

When Jesus rose from the dead, He tells the church:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

(Matthew 28. 19, 20).

This business plan must be the reason He left His church back here. What do you think? But notice the scope 'all nations'. How about the duration? Let's go ahead and see about that.

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last

enemy that shall be destroyed is death"

(1 Corinthians 15. 24-26).

Here the duration is evident- till He puts all enemies under His feet. But how would this be?

(A) We all know that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. If that indeed is so, then there remains only one representative of the kingdom on earth who should then be responsible for the job the above scripture talks about. And by this I mean-the church. The scripture below can help us investigate further.

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning. thou hast the dew of thy youth.

(Psalm 110: 1-3) (Parenthesis added)?

Bam! I think that is it right there because we see the rods coming out of Zion which clearly embodies the church as we see in the scripture below.

"For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words, which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not

be spoken to them any more. (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart. And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake.) <u>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,</u>

(Hebrew 12:18-22)

With the full establishment of this fact, the summary therefore cannot be over emphasized; that the church is left on earth to:

(i) Gain back all His sons and daughters that the enemy has blinded and delivered into the kingdom of darkness.

(ii) To establish the already obtained victory of Christ Jesus over the kingdom of darkness (see again 1Corinthians 15:24- 26, Psalm 10:1-3, Hebrews 2:14-16)

"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father. and I lay down my life for the sheep. <u>And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd"</u>

(John 10:15 -16)

Take note of the word 'must'.

There is no other way to do this than what is stated in

Matthew.

> ***"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come"***
>
> ***(Matthew 24. 14).***

Can you now see why He left the church on earth?

Chapter Two

THE SCENERIO

(The Reason behind Existence)

God has ordained four stages of existence for every human being, dead or alive. Do not let Satan lie to you. You existed before you were born and would exist after you die. These stages are:

1. Pre Conception

2. Pre-Salvation

3. Pre-judgment

4. Post judgment or Eternity

Let's do a quick study on these.

PRE-CONCEPTION

> ***Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou earnest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.***
>
> ***(Jeremiah 1:4 -5).***

The phrase "before I formed thee in the belly" refers to Pre-Conception. Ever before the world began, the whole thing played as a video in the mind of God in eternity, as fast as a second could be in earth time. As He thought of a race of mankind, the first man appeared in His mind. God, in His omniscience, saw him fall and become naked and in His love and omnipotence, immediately clothed his nakedness. He went ahead to his descendant-Abraham and made a covenant with him.

Then, sent His Son to die whom He raised up, conquering hell, death, and the grave, and saving all who would believe this reality. He wiped every tear from their eyes and gave them eternal life, joy, and peace. After which, He purged the earth of sin and made a new heaven and earth. Mankind was

purified from the contamination that came through Satan's temptation, Adam's disobedience and the fall. It was then that man fully understood and loved God and they lived together, exploring his universe in perfect union and love.

All of these played in the mind of God, in what seemed less than a second. What a good idea; a pathetic story with a beautiful ending. "I like the idea," He must have humorously said to Himself. He then went ahead and started the project and encapsulated it in time.
This is to say that God had seen the end of all that is happening in time ever before it started and has made provision for every error that man can decide to make. Knowing that, even though He saw it all, He gave man the opportunity to make his own choice as a free moral agent. So, where men chose obedience, God's plan continued, and where they chose disobedience and erred, He made provision for their error and His plan still continued.

Therefore, whether or not their choice was positive, His goal never failed.
You need to realize that right now, all of this is happening as fast as it played in His mind, except to mankind who is within the auspices of time. This shows the great disparity between eternity and time. The scripture even speaks of this.

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"

(2 Peter 3:8).

If you understand what I just said, then you have automatically found the answer to the questions 'why did God allow Satan to deceive Adam?' and 'why is God allowing so many people to suffer'?

Now another person might ask 'why' did God not terminate the process since He saw the fall ahead of time? God did not give up the plan just because Adam was going to make a mistake because that would be sheer foolishness. Let me ask you a question. When we find mosquito parasite in a man, do we kill the parasite? Good! If we mere men can be that wise, then to expect lesser from the all wise God might be close to insanity. In the same way, God also sent saviors to do justice to every satanic parasite rather than aborting the plan. Glory to God!

Everything can be created except personal will. Everything can be commanded into being except love- I mean true love. Let us make it easy for the mind to grasp. Just imagine the whole idea of washing clothes and sun-drying them. We can simplify the process with the aid of a machine. We can machine-wash and dry clothes, but can we machine-wear them? After a machine has sewn a piece of clothing and another washes and dries it, we all: poor, rich, fat, slim - would still have to take our clothes and put them on. Does that not say that there is always an extent to which we can go?

Now let's agree with someone who would like to design a machine to put people's clothes on them, Okay! But imagine if you give birth to a son, and get a machine to cook food for him, bathe him, sew his clothes, dress him up, comb his hair, okay! Can you design a machine to mature the child automatically? Can you invent a machine that you can put a baby in, press some buttons and bam! he comes out 50 years old ready to rule a nation? If we do, he can only become a robot. That again tells us there is always an extent you go not necessarily because of inability or the absence of power. Rather it is purpose setting a limit on input. This is why you help your kids do their assignment but would not write their exams for them. At least if you are sane.

Well. God never intended for us to serve Him like Angels. Consider the Angels, who were not created in God's image and likeness. They serve God as servants, the standard of which is obedience, but we are called to serve Him as sons, the standard of which is love.
The above analogy is to help your psychology because truth is not psychological - it is an absolute that only the heart can receive. In real sense, truth is God.

Back to God's mind tape

As God's mind ran through the scenario, it collapsed every obstacle, solved every problem, and calmed every storm by creating a person. Every time Satan corrupted any of these people, God created a solution by sending another man. Each time Satan sent out his demons to destroy, to cause fear, affliction, pain and the likes, God sent a savior. Each time the people lacked knowledge, He sent a man to give them what they

lacked. He always had a man for every possible problem. God does not run from the enemy, He overcomes him.

> ..."***When the enemy shall come in like a food, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him***"
>
> ***(Isaiah 59. 19)***

Now faced with the ultimate problem- the sin problem of Adam which gave Satan power in the first place to cause other problems. God sent His ultimate solution in a man and His name is Jesus.

> ***"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"***
>
> ***(Matthew 1:21).***

After this tape played in God, He was pregnant with Adam, his (Adam's) mistake, the consequences and the saviors. When He came in Genesis chapter one to the earth which had then been destroyed during the fall of Lucifer who now became the devil (this would be discussed in another book, You can see Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, Jeremiah 4, job 9 etc), He gave birth to everything wrapped up in one - just like a video tape. Then He said "play!" God was not troubled because He got all He wanted at the end - sons and daughters who are exactly like Him, to spend the rest of eternity with. Glory to God!

This shows us that all our problems are wrapped with their solutions. Hence, God has no hand in our problems but has rather provided the solution, if only we can know the truth.

> ***"An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour. but through knowledge shall the just be delivered".***
>
> ***(Proverbs 11: 9)***

> ***"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"***
>
> ***(John 8: 32).***

For all that has happened, is happening or would happen, this is the summary of God's conclusion ever before He allowed the tape to play: You are a savior sent by God to solve a specific problem, empowered only in Christ to overcome and live with Him for eternity. It is now left to you to accept this predestination or turn your back on Him and go the devil's way who also has a plan for you, which eventually ends in destruction.

> ***"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"***
>
> ***(John 10: 10).***

So far, if you have understood our discuss, you would see that no child is an accident. Instead, every child is born according to the timing of his assignment. When men fail to understand this, they think they gave birth to the child at their own time, for their own purpose. What they do not see is that it was all planned and finished before the foundation of the earth (Hebrew 4:3b). Unlike the pre-conception stage of existence where the individual is IN GOD, in the pre salvation stage, he is IN THE WORLD. In this stage, he is now disconnected from God,

> ***"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world"***
>
> ***(Ephesians 2:12).***

Here we see God doing everything to get the word of salvation to him so he can fulfill his purpose in Christ and be saved from eternal damnation. If he gets this message of salvation, and receives it, he moves to the next stage- the pre-judgment stage. In this stage, he is now IN CHRIST.

PRE-JUDGMENT

> ***"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who some-***

times were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

(Ephesians 2:12-13).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new"

(2 Corinthians 5:17).

Once a person receives salvation and is saved, the clock ticks towards Judgment day. In other words, everything he is doing at this stage would determine his place in the kingdom to come and his eternal reward. Unfortunately, many either never enter this stage of existence or enter and are unconscious of it. This is why we have many believers who are so dormant in the things of the kingdom while being active in the things of this world.

After death, all those who never got saved or who backslide from the faith can no longer experience this stage. Instead, they go from stage (ii) to (iv), i.e from Pre- Salvation to Post judgment or Eternity. Let's now look at the post judgment stage of existence.

POST-JUDGMENT OR ETERNITY

This is the final stage of existence and where real living begins. At this stage, we would be in our celestial bodies and time would be no more.

"And I saw no temple therein. for the Lord God Almighty and the

Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. And the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day. For there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life".

(Revelations 21:22-27)

"... and sware by him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer"

(Revelation10:6)

It is also important to note all those who decided to go in the way of the evil one would also exist in this stage but in a different location. The bible shows us this;

"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 no place for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them. and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <u>And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"</u>

(Revelation 20. 11-15).

This is not the will of God, yet many would choose it.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. "

(2 Peter 3.9)

"Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger,

or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verify I say unto you, In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment. but the righteous into file eternal. "

(Matt 25:44-4)

Please remember that in the pre-conception stage, we are IN GOD; in the pre-salvation stage, we are IN THE WORLD; in the pre-judgment stage, we are IN CHRIST; and in eternity we will either be in the NEW JERUSALEM or the LAKE OF FIRE depending on how we choose.

This book is written for all those in stage 3 of their existence - those who have received Christ Jesus as Lord and are left on earth to:
(i) Prove their love and loyalty to the Lord and hence determine their reward and position in the kingdom to come (1cor 3:8, 14).
(ii) Reach those in their generation who are still in stage 2 -the pre-salvation stage and help them find their way into the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is what this book is about. Meditate on these things and meet me up in the next chapter.

1. What stage do you think you are in now?

2. What do you think is expected of you in this stage?

Chapter Three
The Call

(Understanding Personal Christian Work)

For every believer, purpose in Christ is three-fold

(a) BECOMING LIKE JESUS
Before the foundation of the world, God destined us to be like Jesus, who is the perfect example of love and sonship. This includes our daily fellowship with the Lord in the Word and Prayer, and yielding to the working of the Spirit of God.

> ***"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"***
>
> ***(1Peter 2:2).***
>
> ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, who also did predestinate to be con-***

formed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren"

(Romans 8: 28-29).

(b) SERVING IN BUILDING AND EDIFYING THE BODY OF CHRIST.

This includes involving in a local church, participating in services and using our individual gifts to serve and edify the church.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10: 24-25).

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body itlv Joined together and compacted by that which every Joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"

(Ephesians 4: 14-16).

(c) PERSONAL CHRISTIAN WORK

This is serving Christ in winning souls and bringing them into the light of the kingdom.

Come to think of it, purpose (a), which is becoming like Christ, could have been done when we get to heaven. Also purpose (b), which is serving in building and edifying the body of Christ, could have also been done in heaven. The only thing that could be done only on earth and that would surely end when the world ends is purpose (c), which is Personal Christian Work. This is to tell you how vital this is and why Satan has fought it almost to ashes. It is a ground we must go back and reclaim.
In order to reclaim this ground, it is important we begin by studying its walls.

HINDRANCES TO PERSONAL CHRISTIAN WORK (PCW)

If you have read through the first and second parts of this book, I guess you already have gotten at least a basic understanding of the relevance of PCW. We would deal further on the subject later. Meanwhile, let us consider the common hindrances that exist around the subject.

1. Lack of knowledge of PCW

Many churches have been quiet on the subject of PCW for many reasons, most of which is lack of understanding of the subject and its relevance. This is why, we have so many civilians in our churches in the place of soldiers. How I wish the regular everyday believer would understand PCW. Then satan would not be having a field day as he is today.

2. Doctrinal Errors

Many also have believed weird doctrines which are not consistent with the word of God. For example, some believe that whosoever would be saved would be saved and whoever would be lost would be lost. This is an error because it is not consistent with the word. Let us see what our Lord said to Paul.

> ***..."And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet. for I have appeared unto theefor this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee, <u>Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me"***
>
> ***(Acts 26. 15-18).***

You can see here that it is left for the church to open the eyes of the lost, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so, they can receive the salvation that is open to all. See other scriptures below;

> ***"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"***
>
> ***(John 6. 37).***

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"

(Luke 19. 10).

3. Fear

Many wonder if anyone would ever listen to them. They fear the inability to communicate. But this ought not to be. You must never fear what to say because of what the bible says;

But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought before hand what ve shall speak, neither do ye premeditate. but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost".

(Mark 13: 11).

God already made provision for you. Do not forget our sufficiency is of God (2 Corinthians 3:5).

4. Inferiority

Many face inferiority due to age, sex, color, educational and other barriers. Remember, it is not about the outward expression but where we are seated – that is where our authority came from.

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus "

(Ephesians 2. 6).

Remember the slave girl who spoke to her boss-Naaman- without inferiority;

> ***"Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy"***
>
> ***(2 Kings 5. 3).***

And Paul who spoke before Agrippa, the King and Felix the governor without being intimidated;

> ***"And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them: And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.***
>
> ***(Acts 26: 29-31).***

We must be confident of the authority and power of the Spirit of God in us and confess this in the face of inferiority. See what happened when Peter, a fisherman spoke the word of God to elites in Cornelius' house.

> ***"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word."***
>
> ***(Acts 10: 44).***

What about Moses who was a fugitive. When God sent him he spoke to pharaoh who was then, the greatest ruler in the world.

> ***"And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the LORD. And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.***
>
> ***(Exodus 10.2-3)***

If you can see that you are a partner with God, all your fears would fly away.

5. Marketplace Ethics

Satan has successfully built barriers and spiritual cages in many offices to prevent the preaching of the word. I remember two of our pastors were expelled from school for the preaching of the word, just imagine that! Thank God because like in the case of Daniel, in due season He would make it up to us. Both of them are graduates today and working good jobs, still serving the Lord. As we are led by the Spirit of Wisdom- not the wisdom of men, we must break these barriers and get the Spirit of God in, to save men. And I believe the best place to begin is in prayers and then listening to the strategy of the Spirit. Remember Daniel;

> ***"Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the***

king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.... Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.... Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions ... and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me... "

(Daniel 6. 6-22).

What about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from

the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up"

Daniel 3: 16-18

Even Jesus overturned tables;

"And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple ....And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him "

(Mark 11. 15-18).

The Apostles also collided with some authorities;

"And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name o Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight o God to hearken unto you more than unto God, Judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard".

(Acts 4. 18-20).

In all these cases, the Lord stood by them and they won at the end. If you would refuse to be intimidated by these barriers, the Lord would also stand by you and ensure your victory.

6. Shameful Lifestyle

Sometimes many of us just hang in the status quo because the wrong example of our past is glaring to all those around us. And the demons of shame have held us bound, hands and feet that we can no longer witness for Christ. I break the effect of that spirit now! Listen to what Zacchaeus did with his old baggage;

> ***"And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down, for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.... And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold..."***
>
> ***(Luke 19: 5-9).***

This does not mean you have to undo those wrongs, but instead, stand up to them and call them by their names. Put two tags on them, 'wrong' and old' and move ahead, Glory to Jesus! The scripture says:

> ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. old***

things are passed away, behold, all things are become new"

(2 Corinthians 5:17).

And Paul steps it further in his letter to the Philippians:

"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... "

(Philippians 3: 13).

Remove the guilt from your neck and step out, open your mouth and say "old things are passed away indeed. I am what God says I am" Halleluyah!
The key to freedom is;

(i) Testify of how the Lord has forgiven you.

(ii) Stand by new principles of the word and make it clear and known to all old friends.

See the story of the mad man at Gadera;

"And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ... For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home

to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him and all men did marvel"

(Mark 5. 2, 8, 18-20).

Has the lord changed you? Has the lord forgiven you? Then tell it!

7. Religious and denominational barriers

In some parts of the world, many people would put up a front that their denomination or religion is totally against what you want to talk about in order to prevent you from witnessing to them. Do not let them make you stay clear and fold your hands, becoming spiritually jobless. No! Do something.

a. Pray for them! I mean a deep -seated intercession.

b. Walk in love and be an example.

c. Let Christ be seen in you.

d. Reason with them in the word and seize every Opportunity.

8. Non-compelling Christian Lifestyle

Since the latter part of the 20th century, the church has involved more in corporate Christian work rather than personal. This is because mostly, corporate Christian work simply requires 'wearing a tag,' unlike personal Christian work which requires 'living the life'. As the love of many wax cold, it is increasingly becoming more convenient to sing the songs, go to church, go for mass publicity, pay our tithes than to daily take up our cross and follow Christ. But it is evi-

dent and can be proven beyond reasonable doubt that we cannot reach the world with corporate Christian work. All these activities in themselves are not bad, but we have exalted them above living a compelling Christian lifestyle.

No matter what has been hindering us from doing personal Christian work and sharing our faith daily, we must be willing to combat it, put it down and get to work because that is the real reason we were redeemed and have not yet gone to heaven.

There is no hope for Christ's return if we do not clean up, and face people around us with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and exemplary lives that would consolidate our message. We have a short time and I believe the Lord is giving us grace to do this right now.

WHAT IT MEANS TO CLEAN UP

I do not think, like many would preach, that we need to be "holy and perfect" before we begin a deliberate effort to reach those around us. This is because working hard to do right never made men holy. Instead holiness makes men do right when they place a demand on it. The Holy Spirit has been given to us not only for speaking in tongues but, to live and work the holiness of God in us. One way He does this is to get us involved with Him in reaching others. As we reach others, we begin to see that we cannot do it without Him. This draws us closer to Him. The closer you get to the Holy Spirit, the more His holiness in you is activated. This is how to place a demand on holiness and to walk in the righteousness of God that is already in our heart.

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

(Ephesians 4:24)

Works can never get us there. This is the reason many still run from personal Christian work. They see their insufficiency and cry out to the Lord like Peter, "Depart from me" (Luke 5:8). But the bible says our sufficiency is of God (2 Corinthians 3: 5). That means that in the face of insufficiency, we run to God and not from Him. Our insufficiency is a simple declaration that we cannot be holy by ourselves. So what? We draw close to the One who alone can live out holiness through us.

Halleluyah!

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

(James 4. 7-8).

Submitting ourselves to God gives us the power to resist Satan so he can flee from us. Therefore holiness does not begin at resisting Satan because we cannot resist without the help of God. Rather, it begins with submitting ourselves to God.

How do we submit ourselves to God? The next verse shows us the answer. We submit ourselves to God by drawing near to Him (vs 8) and when we draw near to God, then we can cleanse ourselves.

"Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your

hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded".

(James 4:8)

Many would prefer to cleanse their hands before drawing near to God. This is the wisdom of man. Rather the wisdom of God sets the order right as it begins with drawing near to God. This establishes again the fact that only God can live holiness through us if we would come to Him willingly.

Chapter Four

DRESS UP

(Getting Ready for the Job)

The concept of Personal Christian Work or PCW is not to de—emphasize the role of the church as a corporate body, but is an indication of the individual call that exists in the life of every believer. This call cannot replace or be replaced by our activities in the church or other corporate Christian works. None of them standing alone can make a believer complete. In real sense, both work together. We will see how, later. I agree that our callings are different, i.e one person may sing in the choir, another may be called to

pastor, another to pray, evangelize or follow up. Yes! All these differences remain true, yet, there is that one place we all have the same calling; whether we be bishops, pastors, teachers, choristers, evangelists, counselors etc. and that is in our personal Christian work.

UNDERSTANDING PCW

Personal Christian Work (PCW) is the conscious commitment and effort to reach and witness effectively to people in our personal lives whether by way of relationships, co-existence or contact. In short hand, I would say PCW is a CCE to reach people in my DCC.

DEFINITIONS

PCW - Personal Christian Work

CCE -Consciousness: means I am aware that it is my job to reach the lost;
Commitment: means I bind myself to the task to reach the lost.
Effort: work at reaching them.

RCC -Relationships: Those whom I am connected to by way of family, business or friendship.
Co-existence: those who I merely live or work around. Contacts: Those who I never knew, or would hardly come across-who suddenly come my way each day.
The people who make up your RCC are the people we refer to as your world. The reason they are referred to as your world is that they are uniquely related to you in ways that no one else in the whole world is connected to them. That

gives you a unique edge to reach some people, if not all in that group more than anyone else in the world. This is the reason it is called personal Christian work. The word 'personal' is used because no one can do it for you or even like you.
Just think about this for a moment. What would happen if every one of the 'one billion believers' in the world would successfully reach their world? Can you imagine how fast it would be to reach the whole world?

DOING PCW

To begin living for Christ as a Personal Christian Worker, the following are necessary,

I. Vision: You must have a vision to reach the lost. That vision must stream from an understanding, and appreciation of the state of a soul that walks this planet without Jesus Christ in his life as Lord. The reality of burning in hell and the loss that it means to our Lord Jesus Christ after paying so great a price is overwhelming. The consciousness of this reality, blended with hope in the blood of Jesus, administered by His word can cleanse the worst of sinners of their sins and make them sons of God for eternity.
The vision that is thus sparked, can create enough flame to ignite zeal to do personal Christian work.

> ***"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."***
>
> ***(Mark 16. 15-16)***

2. Passion: Passion is the act of maintaining the flame sparked by vision. You keep feeling that vision so that momentum and zeal remain in quantities that are sufficient to bring you from vision to reality.

> ***"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up, and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.***
>
> ***(Psalm 69: 9).***

3. Mission: Mission is a daily declaration of purpose and the resulting demand it places on the soul in form of goals that must be achieved. A personal Christian worker must have an assignment for each day and ensure that it is done without any supervision. This is what makes it personal.

> ***"Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work".***
>
> ***(John 4. 33-34)***

4. Strategy: A PC Worker must be a strategist. He must live with a plan to achieve what he wants to achieve, and must be on the steering wheel to compensate for deviations. That means he must be elastic with his strategy in order to get the mission fulfilled, irrespective of any other routine commitments in his everyday life.

"Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand"

(Luke 14. 31).

5. Intercession: This is the engine and life source of personal Christian work. The PC worker must learn to prevail with God always on behalf of men. Intercession releases the necessary power that rips the veils of Satan off their minds making them open to the light of God's word.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. 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"

(2 Corinthians 4: 3-4)

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us. whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. "

(Acts 16:14)

It has been proven again and again in all centuries that the success of personal Christian work has always depended on successful intercession. Therefore this training and discipline must not elude us if we must reach our world.

6. Boldness

> ***"The wicked flee when no man pursueth. but the righteous are bold as a lion."***
>
> ***(Proverbs 28:1).***

> ***"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear"***
>
> ***(Philippians 1. 14.)***

Boldness helps you to start something with a guarantee in your heart that if you begin, the lord would take over. Remember that fear is a yoke of Satan and we must always say 'no' to that spirit. Your duty is to resist him and uphold your confidence.

> ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***
>
> ***(2 Timothy 1: 7)***
>
> ***"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)

The worst anyone can do to us for sharing our faith is death of our body. But if we disobey God, we may face the danger of losing our own souls; so be strong and courageous for the kingdom.

7. Dependence on the Holy Spirit: A personal Christian worker who does not know the Holy Spirit can never convert a soul. Only the Holy Spirit can convict a soul of sin, righteousness and judgment.

> ***"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.***
>
> ***(John 16:8).***

The conviction of sin creates the 'guilty plea' in the sinner and hence the need for a savior. The conviction of righteousness separates Christ Jesus as the only righteous One and God's provi sion for sin. While the conviction of judgment gives him the confidence to exchange his guilt for Christ's righteousness which is what brings him out of sin into the righteousness of God.

> ***"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"***
>
> ***(2 Corinthians 5: 21)***

Knowing that you cannot do this on your own would immediately make you completely dependent on the one who is the Lord of the Harvest,

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest".

(Matthew 9: 38)

Dependence means, you stay close to him all the time in surrender and pure love, listening for his voice.

PLANNING TO REACH YOUR WORLD

Again, like we earlier established, your world is made up of those with whom you co-exist, those you have a standing relationship with and those with whom you make contact daily.
Once you have established the consciousness and the commitment to reach them, it is important that your effort is guided by wisdom lest you labor in vain. There are three wise efforts to make:

I. Create Friendships- The highest level of relationship in the universe is friendship. You might not trust your son, your father or your wife but you would easily trust your friend. Here I mean true purpose driven friendships. This is why fathers, sons, wives, etc, need to step their relationship beyond family to friendship. A friend is one that you have come to know and trust and vice versa.
It might not be wise to just start preaching to everybody by ringing a bell on their head. Of course, you can save some people that way.

"And of some have compassion, making a difference. And others save with fear, pulling them out of

the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh "

(Jude 1:22 23)

But Jesus said to His disciples when He sent them out "be wise as serpent.." (Matt 10:16). This means we have to study our environment and our target to determine our Action.

You know in gaming, you do not just jump at the Game. It is first important that you study the animal and strategically set the trap, if your hunting must be worthwhile. Yet, you must not waste all the time with the excuse that you are still trying to make someone your friend before witnessing to him. It is also important that you do not hang around them all the time in the name of friendship. This kind of friendship we refer to here is one that is on purpose for their soul to be saved with no compromise whatsoever.

2. Display love and dependability- Love is not Foolishness, neither is it carnal. It is a pure motive to bless.

3. Bull's eye- Here, nothing hits the bull's eye like sacrifice working on purpose. You know what you want and you are not selfish about it, because there is no selfishness in love. As you work and reach souls, you would be tempted with money, dating diversions, anger, etc. but you must not fail your Lord. Many have fallen prey to these things because they never really had the pure motive to bless. Some started borrowing money from their prospective converts, others started unwholesome relationships. No way! Remember, you would give account of every soul in your world. There-

fore be careful and faithful to your Lord, who has trusted you with those souls. You must hit the bull's eye and glorify your Lord. Above all, you would have saved that soul from eternal damnation in hell. Do you know what that means in heaven?

> ***"I say unto you, that likewise Jov shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth,***
>
> ***more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance"***
>
> ***(Luke 15: 7)***

LASTING FRUIT

> ***"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth Fruit, and that your fruit should remain. that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you"***
>
> ***(John 15: 16)***

Remember, you are not winning these souls just to win them. In real sense, soul winning does not end at the prayer of salvation.
When is a soul won? A soul is won when he or she is integrated in a church system, begins to win other souls to Christ, and is actively following Christ in submission to His word and Spirit.

This must be your ideal and must remain a standard for you as a personal Christian worker. To make this a reality, there are some things you

must learn to do as soon as you lead a soul to Christ.

I. Ensure they get filled with the Holy Spirit- the Holy Spirit is the assurance that they belong to God. He confirms son-ship to them.

> ***"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise"***
>
> ***(Ephesians 1: 13)***
>
> ***"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God"***
>
> ***(Romans 8. 16)***

2. Ensure that they get into a church family- Some may ask the question 'When I convert a soul to the Lord where should I recommend for Church? Well, if I am asked, I would always recommend the church you attend. No one gives birth to a baby, and sends the baby to another home.

> ***"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold. them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd"***
>
> ***(John 10. 16)***

3. Ensure they get baptized immediately- Baptism does not save but it is a spiritual declaration of salvation. It is an outward declaration of an

inward experience of salvation. The early church knew the importance of this and did not joke with it.

4. Ensure that they have a bible and learn the word of

God- especially that which has to do with salvation, forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit and Prayer-These would lay a solid foundation for them in the spirit.
Some foundational scriptures they need to study and learn are as follows;

a. John 3: 16

b. 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

c. 1 John I: 9

d. Romans 8: 1-2

e. John 14: 1-20
f. 1peter 12: 2

g. Matthew 8: 17

h. Psalm 23

i. Jude 24

j. I John 4: 4, 5: 4

Help them get messages that would enable them learn and grow faster. Shun every excuse by providing suitable formats of teachings for them e, g, IPods, CDs, tapes, books, etc.

> ***"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"***
>
> ***(1 Peter 2: 2)***

5. The most important way to secure a soul for Christ is to help him know Jesus in truth through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, One of the fastest ways to do this is to get the new convert involved in personal Christian work.

> ***"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away. and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit"***
>
> ***(John 15:2)***

As they begin to bear fruits in Christ, the Spirit of God would make them a priority in His work. That means God would have to train them faster because of what they are handling. Their growth would be unprecedented. This worked for me and has also worked for the souls I have so far won to the Lord. As a result of their commitment to soul winning, in months, many of them became so strong that they were nicknamed pastors in their neighborhoods as there was no better way to describe them.

Chapter Five

FISHERS

(The Practice of Following Christ)

There are some other things the personal Christian worker can do to complement his effort to build relationships and reach people around him. These are activities I sometimes would like to refer to as fishing. It might not be possible to always build friendships with some contacts.

Also there are some people who are just so 'ripe' that you can almost hear their spirits crying. It is in these kind of cases we apply fishing.

> ***"Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea. for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men "***
>
> ***(Mark 1:16-17)***

It is not possible to follow Jesus and not become a fisher of men-an ardent soul winner. In short, there is no better way to determine whether or not one is following Christ than to measure the extent of his consciousness, commitment and efforts to fishing men and reaching the world. You would always become like who you follow. The bible says of Jesus;

> ***"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"***
>
> ***(Luke 19: 10)***

Therefore the one that follows Him would automatically find himself on the same course; seeking and saving the lost. When we find ourselves short of this, —in other words, if our hearts do not burn to seek and save the lost- and our resources not geared towards this all important course of salvation, we may need to go back to the Lord to ask for His fire. It is 'firelessness' that makes us seek every other thing that the world offers while neglecting our call to reach souls around us.

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

(Matthew 6:33)

If we do not repent, we are not only at the risk of losing these souls to hell, but there is a certain fear that we ourselves might be very close to hell as well.

FISHING BUSINESS

Come to think of it, if Jesus in His infinite wisdom did not make you 'a hunter of buffalo; but Fishers of men, then I think it is important to know a little about fishing.

Those in the fishing business would tell you that there are several factors that affect the harvesting of fish. In other words, there are conditions that support or reduce the likelihood of harvesting fish.

A good fisherman would always want to look at factors like temperature, moon or ocean tide and the general weather condition to know the best time to fish. More so, fishes are more susceptible when they are out in search of food or mating.

All these should tell a fisher of men that there is need to know the best time, places and techniques to reach people of a particular geography. It is also important to keep studying the fishes around us and by so doing, develop new ways to fish them for the kingdom of God.

FISHING METHODS

Fishermen have developed several ways to harvest fish. Today we talk about bait fishing, spin fishing, fly fishing, just to mention a few. At the commercial level, many more tools and methods exist for harvesting fish. I encourage you to study and develop methods to fish people. Meanwhile, I will share with you some of the things I did that yielded results.

I. Tracts

This is one of the fastest ways to communicate a message and have the message reverberating even many days later. Another good thing about tracts is that they travel very fast. I designed my own tract to march the people I wanted to reach. Moreover handing them out in love made a whole lot of difference. I also learnt to place the tracts in places where people could easily pick them at will. My team and I then backed the tracks with much prayer. Do not forget to put as many means of contact as possible for feedback.

2. Invitations

Inviting people to church and going to pick them to ensure they came was another beautiful fishing experience. Interestingly, a soul would go to the altar to receive Christ and subsequently find his feet in the house of God. This is another good fishing method you can employ in fishing souls for Christ.

3. Paying for extra time

When I used a private system of transportation like taxi or a commercial motorcycle, I always wanted to share my faith with the driver or rider. I observed that they usually got distracted as a result of being too much in a hurry in order to make more money within a shorter time. In a quest to overcome that, I would pay the driver

or rider some extra money so they can patiently wait for me to lead them to Christ Jesus without distraction.

4. Sitting by the side

Another great fishing opportunity is the person sitting by your side as you commute daily. With smiles and warm pleasantries, I reach into the deep for a great catch.
Sometimes, the best way to open a conversation is to discuss issues that would relate to them, thereby easily getting them into deep conversation. This can include the economy, politics, welfare or even headlines and general trends. It is fishing made easy because somewhere along the line, I just say "that is why we need Jesus" and the rest is history! Reach out your hand and grab this method for your personal use!

5. Lift

I normally offer people lift in my vehicle especially when I perceive that they are stranded. While they are saying "thank you," I quickly say "no! Thank Jesus. Do you know Him?" Here fishing begins with ease, without complain. Sometimes, I just pray for more traffic so I can really do justice to the subject.

6. Party

You can organize a get together or party on your birthdays, wedding anniversaries, house warming etc. for the purpose of fishing souls. You can also use the funeral of a friend or loved one. The time you get from this method (party method) of fishing is the best fishing time you can have. You can either do it yourself or get someone who is a skillful fisher. Mind you, you can delay eating

and drinking until you have gotten their souls to the Lord.

7. Admirers

These are the easiest fishes you can ever catch. No matter who you are, there are people who look up to you either because you are better placed or you have something they like. You can get these kinds of fishes even with your eyes closed. Do not misuse the grace God has given you to be admired. Instead, use it for His glory. To these, you must not be ashamed to talk to about the work of Christ on the cross and how it affects them, especially if they seem to have a 'slant that does not go in that direction.
Carefully draw them in with what they admire you for or what they admire in you by connecting that thing to Christ Jesus and declaring Him as the source. You and I know that this is true anyway!
That is bait fishing right there!

I cannot tell you all because time would fail me and some might not just Fit into a book but the key remains studying your environment with guidance from the Holy Spirit. Also employ creativity in your approach. Remember this: if the soul you reach is already saved, do not hesitate to set him or her on fire to begin to win souls. Get the contact of such and begin to take them along to do what you are doing because, that is what they are supposed to be doing anyway.

For me, when I set out for soul winning, getting people to receive Jesus is never my goal. It is only a means to an end. Getting people on fire to do the same thing (win souls like me) is my ultimate goal and the end of my effort.

Chapter Six

HIGHER CALLING

(Advanced Soul winning Practices)

> ***"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect. but I follow after it that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended o(Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"***
>
> ***(Philippians 3:12-14).***

As a Personal Christian Worker, you must never forget that there is no time to rest

until your good is better and your better becomes best. Paul, in the scripture above is pressing to a higher calling. What is he trying to do?

The 12th verse shows us. He said "I want to apprehend that for which I was apprehended" My question to you today is "why were you apprehended of the Lord?" Yes, you have won many souls, but is that the best you can do? Was that what Christ saw in you that He went so far to get you? I dare say that there is much more you can do to advance and accelerate the kingdom of God.

WHAT HAVE YOU NOT SOLD?

> ***"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for Joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field". (Matthew 13:44).***

What can you yet give that can rapidly move the kingdom forward? By this, I do not just mean money but sacrifice. It might be the building of a website, buying a property, vehicle, camera etc. What vision or idea lies within your heart than can transform the kingdom and impact many souls and generations for eternity? This is the reason I keep asking myself "what lies within my capacity to do that can shift the kingdom of God many steps forward?"

HOW MANY MORE CAN YOU DISCIPLE?

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. "

(Matthew 5:19).

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and <u>they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever</u> and ever. "

(Daniel 12. 2-3).

Who are the wise?

...he that winneth souls is wise."

(Proverbs 11:30b)

THOSE WHO TURN MANY

This is my heartbeat and I want it to get to you today. He that turns many. Can you see that the more you turn, the more your name brings Joy to heaven and the more your reward? Why hold to pride, unforgiveness, jealousy, or the love of money? There is a higher calling to pursue. The Lord is looking up to you to use what He has placed in you; the gifts, talents, training,

finances, favor, connections, etc. You can even set apart your life as pure and holy to turn many to righteousness. Think about this!

IS YOUR MOTIVE RIGHT?

Working for God, if understood, does not require the praise of men to last or continue. Your motive is important when you work for God and if it is right, you would not wait for men's praise. The bible says 'God is the rewarder.'

> ***"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"***
>
> ***(Matthew 6:6).***

And when we stand before Him on that day, our motives would be checked before we are rewarded.

> ***"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire"***
>
> ***(1 Corinthians 3. 14-***

And then we will receive praise of God.

> ***"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the***

hearts. and then shall every man have praise of(God".

(1 Corinthians 4. 5)

CAN YOU LABOR MORE?

It is not our titles that would be important to God but how we labor in our calling.

> ***"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one. and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."***
>
> ***(1 Corinthians 3:8).***

To labor is to use the strength of extra resources e.g. body, finances, gifts, etc. to bear upon our work so as to achieve success. Oh Pastor! Do not be deceived by how much is happening in your church. Whose labor is making it happen? Yes, there is the laboring in the word, but if everything is just done based on pleasure and ease, beware of losses on the day of reckoning.
We must remember that what we do for the Lord will be measured by what we were given in form of graces, abilities and opportunities. This is why we must labor to our full potential.

Chapter Seven
KITS
(Facing some Challenges of Personal Christian Work)

In this chapter, I would like to give you some basic tools you would need for your day to day challenges as a personal Christian worker.

YOU FIRST

It is important that you ensure you are in good shape all the time. This means your body, soul and spirit must be intact so God can use you. (1 Thess 5: 14). For a PC worker it is wisdom to:

I. Be established in a church where you are known. Do not play anonymous in the house of God.No! Be known so you can receive covering and guidance.

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD

shall [Nourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age, they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright. he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him "

(Psalm 92: 12-15).

II. Maintain a solid prayer life that would ever keep you in close touch with your Lord. Do not let the work 'busy' you away from the Boss. Remember what Jesus said in john 15.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. "

(John 15: 5).

III. Do not be a loner or an island. Learn to have brethren of like passion. People you can always share and fellowship with. This is how the apostles lived.

"And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them "

(Acts 4: 23).

IV. You must never play down on daily meditation on the word. Let the words of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3: 16). Get the word in different formats and keep yourself plugged in.

The fire of the word must keep burning in your heart.

> ***"And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it, it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it, and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offering".***
>
> ***(Leviticus 6: 12).***

V. Maintain sweet communion with the Spirit of God throughout each day. Keep your heart on Fire. Whisper how much you love and adore Him frequently. Your worship, praise and thanksgiving must flow constantly independent of circumstance. This would bring joy to the Father's heart. Remember His joy is your strength.

> ***"Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared. For this day is holy unto our Lord. neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the LORD is your strength ".***
>
> ***(Nehemiah 8:10).***

MASTER KEY

In sharing your faith and witnessing, there are different keys that open different people. However, to keep your kit light, you cannot afford going around with several keys. In my experience, and from my understanding of God's word,

I found the key that opens all doors. That master key is love.

> ***"Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail, whether there are tongues, they will cease, whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away"***
>
> ***(1 Corinthians 13. 8). (NKJV)***

DIARY AND DETAILS

A Personal Christian Worker who is not detailed might not get much results. There must be no procrastination. You must put details down immediately to aid your work. Do not keep writing on several sheets. Have a good diary with several sections.

The sections could include your contact list, pregnancy list (i.e. those you are interceding for), daily activity list, etc. Be organized and detailed and keep records of your plans and progress for each soul. Your record can also help you categorize your souls since they would not all be at the same level. These groupings would enable you determine the kind, nature and priority of work they need. Keeping these records would also help you to communicate accordingly with them via phone calls, SMS, mails, etc.

INTERCESSION

There is the general prayer mode and speaking in tongues we do which is really beautiful but a personal Christian worker who has not experienced groaning is not ready to see the miracle of revival.

Revival is a state of multiple and miraculous salvation that seems to create a chain reaction. You can only access this level by groaning.

BIRTH PANGS

> ***"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you"***
>
> ***(Galatians 4:19).***

> ***"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."***
>
> ***(Colossians 4. 12).***

Notice the use of the words 'travail' and 'labor,' This is what Paul was referring to in his letter to the Romans as groaning.

> ***"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities. for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."***
>
> ***(Romans 8: 26).***

This is a working of the Spirit of God through an intercessor. Every soul you are dealing with has issues and possible hindrances that you cannot access just by questioning them. Many times, spiritual matters are more complex than our

minds can comprehend and in some cases, the people themselves are unaware of these issues.

These all contribute to our weaknesses or as Paul would say 'limitations'. So, "we know not how to pray as we ought" Then, the spirit of God helps us, Halleluyah!

In groaning, we are not speaking in our understanding neither are we speaking in tongues. We are speaking mysteries to God, which go into the past and future proclaiming the wisdom of God, which does not want any soul to perish (2 Peter 3: 9).

> ***"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God. For no man understandeth him, howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries"***
>
> ***(I Corinthians 14. 1-2).***

You can access this level by the help of the Spirit when your passion for souls reaches threshold level during intercession in the spirit. Here, the Spirit takes over and all you do is wait for Him to hand over. When he does, you might be all messed up with tears and pain of pangs yet filled with a joy and peace that words can never explain.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

There are many questions that we encounter as Personal Christian Workers. The biggest problem you can have is not just being unable to provide answers to people's questions, rather it is

whether or not you are asking the same questions in your heart.
For each question, I would provide a YES or a NO, a sentence or couple of sentences with the necessary scriptures because I would expect you to study the answers yourself.

20 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What must I do to be saved? Acts 16:21-31, Acts 8:27-39
2. Why must I be born again? John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23
3. How do I know I am born again? Romans 10:10. Romans 8:16
4. Are there others ways to God? No! Acts 4;12, John 14:6
5. Must I go to church? Yes! Acts 2:47,Hebrews 10:25, Psalm 133:1-3
6. Must I be perfect before I receive the Holy Ghost?

No !Instead the Holy Spirit would help you walk in perfection. Acts 19:1-6, Acts 10:44, Mark 16:17

7. I fell into sin. Can God forgive me? Yes!

I john I: 9, Luke 18: 10

8. I still feel guilty for my sins after praying.

Romans 8: I, Romans 8: 33, I john 2: I-2

9. I fear that if I get saved, I will fall. Jude 24, I Peter I: 4-5.

10. How do I know I have not committed the unpardonable sin? Hebrews 6: 4-6, Mark 3: 9. It is only those who have really known God in reality and now turn back and curse, denounce and reject him openly that have sinned in this way. These are not deceived but knowingly reject the Lord they have known. As long as you can ask these questions you have not.

11. Must I be saved for a while before I can share my faith with others? No! Mark 5: 18-19, john 4: 25-31

12. Is Jesus coming again? Why has He not come by Now? 2 Peter 3: 9, Matthew 24: 14

13. How can I understand the bible? John 14: 26, Galatians 6: 6, Jeremiah 3: IS. The Holy Spirit teaches you personally and He also uses His ministers to teach you.

14. Must I speak in tongues when I receive the Holy Spirit? Yes! Even if not immediately but eventually. Acts 2: 4, Acts 10: 44-46, Acts 19: 6

15. How do I know there is God? Romans I: 19-32,

Psalm 53: I, Psalm I0: 4

16. Is Heaven and hell real? Yes! Luke I6: 20-25, Matthew25: 40, Matthew 6: 9

17. Will God send people to hell? I thought He is a good God? Judgment is a part of goodness, would you call your government on earth a good one that lets a killer walk away free? God in His goodness has provided a way out in Christ Jesus. John 3: I 6,
Mark I6: 16, Daniel 12: 2

18. Must I give up bad friends? Yes! But not by hate.

Share your faith with them and do not hang around with them. Really, you do not need to give up your bad friends, just stay always with your good friend- Jesus, and they would either join you or run away themselves. 2 Corinthians 6: 14-18, I john 2: IS

19. I am a lady, can I preach the word to others? Yes!

Acts 21: 9. To prophesy is to preach under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Philippians 4: 2-3

20. Do I need to be baptized? Yes, but after you have been saved or born again. Mark I6: I6,

Matthew 28: I 9

Final Words

I am so privileged to have taken you through this tour. At this point, I remember the words of - Tyron Edwards which says, "if you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others"
I want you to take it upon yourself to equip as many as you can with this resource. I know beyond a shadow of doubt that the church in our day would make the greatest impact ever. This can only be possible if we can multiply the number of personal Christian workers that there be. Please join me in this quest as we labor for the Lord and prepare for His second coming.

I may never meet you on earth but I know in heaven we would share the impact of our labor using this material.

Remember, if everything gets slippery and slips off you, never let this go "The Lord loves you, and will never reject you"
I Love You!

Isaiah Michael Wealth

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