

**A BOOK OF
DIVINE
BLESSINGS**

*Entering into the Best Things
God has ordained for you in this life.*

LaFAMCALL (End-time) Ministries

A DIVINE BLESSING

A BOOK OF DIVINE BLESSINGS

**A
BOOK OF
DIVINE BLESSINGS**

**By
LaFAMCALL (End-time) Ministries
LAGOS, NIGERIA**

COPIED BY DIVINE PERMISSION, (JULY 2012) BY,
THE RIGHTHAND OF THE LORD FELLOWSHIP- EGBE-LAGOS.
Mobile No. 07035953642, 07087166359.

A DIVINE BLESSING

CONTENTS

Purpose of This Book

SECTION ONE - UNDERSTANDING GOD'S BLESSINGS

1. How to Become Blessed by God
 - Not Every Good Thing Is a Blessing
 - Real Meaning of God's Blessing
 - Conversational Relationship With Jesus
2. Go For a Permanent Solution
 - How To Receive Spiritual Power And Authority
 - Who Do Men Say That I Am?
 - Who Do You Say That I Am?
 - Have You Got The Power?
 - Why Many Christians Lack Spiritual Power And Authority
 - Jesus Has The Ultimate Power And Authority
 - Only Fish And Bread For The Crowd
3. Abraham's Blessing Are Mine

SECTION TWO - RECEIVING MIRACLES AND MATERIAL BLESSINGS IN HIS PRESENCE

4. For Progress In Business
 - Collapsed Business Restored
 - Brother Joseph's Story
5. From Misery To Glory And Honour
6. For Those Seeking Healing
 - AIDS Victims Healed In His Presence
 - The Miracles Is In Your Home
 - How To Be Healed of Breast Cancer
7. Rescued From Death By God's Presence
8. Issues Concerning Marriage
 - Marital Problems Resolved By Revelation
 - Broken Marriage Restored By Revelation
 - Not Yet Married?
9. Concerning Education
 - He Has The Master Plan
 - Ebele's University Admission Experiences
 - Doctorate Program Rearranged By God
 - A Professor's Experience In Holy Ghost School
10. To University of Benin By Revelation
 - Jesus Wants To Direct Little Ones Too
11. For Those Seeking Fruits Of The Womb
 - Two Main Types of Childlessness In Marriage
 - Those Whose Wombs Are Closed By The Devil
 - Those Whose Womb Are Closed By God Himself
 - How To Know Who Closed Your Womb
12. How God Visited Ngozi (After Twenty Years of Marriage)

A DIVINE BLESSING

- Her Case Was Category 'B'
 - Work of Cleansing Started
 - What Type of Children Do You Really Want?
 - Self-Will Is Dangerous
13. Spirit of Ishmael Is Here Again
- How Ishmael Spirit Operates
 - Beware of Illegal Adoption And Buying of Babies!.
 - The God of Naboth Will Visit
 - Ishmael Shall Be Cast Out
 - If You Have Done The Wrong Thing Already

SECTION THREE - CONCERNING OPEN DOORS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

14. Concerning Open Doors
- What is Open Door?
 - For Deeper Revelation
 - First Open-door Seminar
 - Warning Against Money Influence
 - There is Another God called Mamm
 - Your Money Perish With You
 - Sorcerers Made Officers!
 - Paul's Secret
 - Silver and Gold Have I not
15. Christ Jesus, our Open Door
- Why Many Are Not Blessed
 - Christ In Us And We In Christ
16. "To Christ" And "Into Christ"
- If Any Man Be In Christ
 - Old Things Belong To The Old Man
 - Carnal Versus Spiritual Believers
 - The Old Man Must Die First
 - When Are We Ready For Crucifixion?
17. How To Abide In Christ
- Spiritual Coconut
 - Don't Swim In This Water, Drown In It
18. Concerning 'Breakthroughs'
- What is Breakthrough?
 - Thieves Breakthrough!.
 - Enter in, Don't breakthrough
 - It means you Don't Have the Keys!
 - Final Comment
 - Why Blessing and Judgements?
 - Judgements Bring Us Back to God
19. There Are Two Ways Before Us
- Blessing And The Curse
20. Covenant Time: What You Need To Know

A DIVINE BLESSING

PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

The main focus of this book is broken down as follows:

1. To show us that God really wants to bless us, both spiritually and materially.
2. To show us how to obtain these blessings without undue struggles, with emphasis on doing it yourself.
3. To put the records straight, to correct the impression that Christianity is full of restless efforts and fruitless exercises. To correct the impression that one has to do so much fasting, penance, long prayers and a host of other religious things before one can receive 'blessings' from God.
4. To straighten up the records, to show what God's blessings really are and the simple way to get them, and to point out the wrong use of certain words, which we have been using to our own detriment.
5. To show that the glorious presence of God is indeed all we need to do well in this life. It sufficed for the saints of old; it is also sufficient for us today, too, if we really taste of it, for, "in His presence is fullness of joy."
6. To put the priorities right in our desires and pursuits. If 'one' must come before 'two', but we choose to do it the other way (i.e. we put 'two' before 'one'), it will not work. Spiritual things are governed by certain principles and laws. If we disregard these divine principles and orders, we will not get the result we expect no matter how we fast and pray!
7. We are now in the End-time, when satan will use hardship as a weapon to try to lure the saints away from their faith and then destroy them. (Matthew 24: 12). We must now draw close enough to the Lord Jesus and shield ourselves in His presence, as the only sure way to overcome, to the end.
8. To correct the impression that God is only 'spiritual', 'spiritual', 'spiritual'. No! God is also 'physical', 'physical', 'physical'. After all, He gave us the spirit and the body, therefore He cares for both. When He sent Elijah to brook Kerith and Zarephat for his spiritual training, He also arranged for the ravens to feed his physical body too! In fact, the woman of Zarephat was asked to give him food, first! So God cares for both our spiritual and material needs, only that we have to be disciplined and orderly about it. (Matthew 6: 33).
9. There is so much deception in today's church. This is because there is hardship and suffering in the land and people are rushing to the church for 'solution'. However, rather than get help from our leaders, many leaders have turned the whole exercise into a theatre of exploitation, employing all sorts of gimmicks to milk the already confused and lost sheep. The Lord now wants to reach each sheep personally and directly, so as to put life back into them and bind their many wounds, feed them, all by Himself. So, the emphasis here is on do it yourself, alone with God.
10. It is a call to 'Discipleship'. The ultimate gospel commission is that we should "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28: 19-20). Gathering the crowd is now

A DIVINE BLESSING

over. It is now time for discipleship, leading people to begin to know Jesus personally and intimately. That was how the church started - on a note of discipleship. That is how it will also end. Now is the time to do it.

And Moses said, if Your PRESENCE will not go with us, then please do not let us go there... And the Lord said, "My PRESENCE will go with you, and I will give you REST." (Exodus 33: 14-15).

God wants to bless us and give us peace and rest in this life, but we must learn how to dwell in His Presence, for that is where all our needs shall be met.

SECTION ONE: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S BLESSINGS

Many people have gone out there in search of God's blessings. Some have done that for many years now yet they have not found what they are seeking. In this section, we will try to examine why they are not getting the blessings that they seek. We will try to redefine God's blessings, from God's own point of view, so that we can take corrections where necessary. Then shall the blessings come.

So what does it mean for somebody to be "blessed" by God? What does God's blessing really mean? This is what we are out to discuss in this section.

CHAPTER 1

HOW TO BECOME BLESSED BY GOD

One of the reasons why many people are roaming about today from one "prayer house" to another is because they are searching for "God's blessing". Today there is so much hardship in the land and so people are going about seeking God's Blessings. In the process, many have fasted for days, weeks, months for God to "bless" them. Some have done "night-vigils" upon "night-vigils", so as to get "blessed". Yet some believe it is going from one "anointed man of God" to another that would make God bless them. Some have gone to upwards of five to ten churches and "prayer houses" and fellowships all in search of God's blessings.

"Land liberation", "covenant breaking", "deliverance", "seed-faith", "seed-sowing", "anointing oil" and all sorts of things have been done and applied, all in their bid to secure God's blessings.

However, the sad news is that after these religious efforts have been made and even repeated several times, not many of these people seem to have found what they are looking for. Many say they have not received the blessings they are seeking, and so the "struggle" continues.

So one might ask; "Why is it that these blessings are not forthcoming?" Is God not interested in blessing us or is there a fault on our side? From revelations

A DIVINE BLESSING

and experiences, it appears that many who are seeking "God's blessings" in this way are actually confused. It appears that they don't really know what God's blessings are, and so they don't really know what they are looking for. They are using the right word, blessing, but then, their idea of blessing seems to be different from God's own idea. Therefore they are walking in disharmony with God, yet they do not know. That explains why many who are searching for God's blessings have not got them.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Do you want God to "bless" you? Have you been seeking God's blessings? Now, what do you really mean by that? What do you mean by blessings? It is important to ask this question because revelation shows that many people are busy pursuing what they don't really know! If you don't know exactly what you are pursuing, then you won't know when you have passed it.

So, what are those blessings you have in mind which you have been calling on God all these years to give you? Try to name them one by one.

GOD'S BLESSING ARE DEEPER THAN THESE

Through revelations from the Lord and our own experiences, we have discovered that what many people call blessings are actually money, riches, material possessions. By blessings they mean good job, marriage, fruits of the womb, houses, cars and other such things. The bulk of it consists of material things. Now these things are not bad. They are in fact good and desirable, but then, are these what we should call blessings? These material possessions, are they indeed the blessings that God intends to give His children in this life? If that is the case, then many unbelievers are already blessed and so they don't need to receive Christ anymore. Why? Because many evil men today have got so much of these material things including so much money, positions, children, family and so on.

But if having all these things means that one is blessed, then why has Jesus said that "a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses?"

And Jesus said to them, "take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Luke 12: 15)

And the "Living Bible" puts it this way:

Beware! Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are. (Luke 12: 15-LB).

A DIVINE BLESSING

"Real Life", "real living", is what we mean by blessing, living a blessed life. So, if it is not found in riches and in material possessions, what is it then? It also means that most of us have got it all wrong, for what most Christians call blessings are actually riches and possessions! Some call it "open door", others call it "breakthrough".

So, what does it mean for one to be truly blessed by God?

NOT EVERY GOOD THING IS A BLESSING

Let us be careful to understand what blessings are. Many people, once they hear the word "blessings", quickly think of money, believing that those who have got money (riches) are all blessed.

Now, it is not so. Blessings may include money, but money in itself may not be blessing. The rich man in the Bible who had so much riches in the time of Lazarus, was not blessed. He had so much riches, but he died and went to hell! Do you call such a person blessed? Do you call such material wealth blessings?

A man buys a beautiful new car and dies in an accident in this car, do you call such a thing blessing? A rich man who lives in his great mansion in a special area of the city suddenly drops dead without Christ; do you call such riches blessings? To just have money and acquire things of this life may look good, but that is not the "blessing" that God is talking about.

Real blessings from God must include peace, joy and righteousness from God. Those who acquire worldly possessions but lack the peace of God, are not blessed. Those who have great wealth, but are tormented in their souls, and can't sleep at night, full of restlessness, such people are not blessed. They are like the rich fool of Luke chapter 12.

The Bible says that God's blessings are good, are perfect and they add no sorrow. (James 1: 17; Proverbs 10: 22). Any riches that keep us away from God's peace and joy are not blessings. They are covetousness. They are evil. So what then are blessings? When we say God's blessings, what are the things we should have in mind? Let us now see what they are. Understanding what God's blessings are would help us to know why our religious efforts and search have not been fruitful all these years.

REAL MEANING OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

The most important blessings from God are actually invisible. They are things we cannot see with the physical eyes. They are spiritual in nature. Spiritual positions are the first and most important blessings God wants to give us. Though we can't see them, yet it is these spiritual blessings that control the rest of our lives. They are like the foundation of a house which, though hidden in the ground, is carrying the rest of the building. Real blessings of God are first of all spiritual. When we have got them, the visible material blessings are then added to us, just

A DIVINE BLESSING

as blocks are added on a foundation to become a house. Let's now see what these blessings are.

There are four major things we should receive in order to be truly blessed by God. These four things are:

1. A conversational-relationship with Jesus Himself.
2. Spiritual power and authority (SPA).
3. Perfect will of God.
4. Material well-being.

Let us look at these in detail.

1. Having a Personal Conversational-Relationship with Jesus.

This is the starting point in our journey to a blessed life. We are to have the person of Jesus and know Him personally. When this happens, we should be able to hear His voice, have conversations with Him everyday, interact with Him closely and intimately and live and walk with Him everyday. This is what we call a talking, personal relationship with Jesus. Note that we are not saying be born again and that is all. No! To be born again is just the beginning of the journey to having an intimate, talking relationship with Jesus. Many Christians are truly born again, but they cannot hear Jesus' voice and can't have conversations with Him daily. Such people are baby believers. They need to grow up. To hear the voice of Jesus is the beginning of great blessings. His voice opens doors, brings healings and leads to progress. That Jesus, the King of Kings can make out time to look at us as individuals, and then speak to us, that is a great blessedness! How many people has the president of a nation spoken to? How many people have received the personal attention of the president of their nation? That Jesus will set aside all He has to do, and then come to us as individuals and speak to us, should be the greatest blessing of all! Don't you think so? This is more so when we realize that Jesus does not talk to just anyone He sees. His voice is too precious that it is not open to just anyone to receive. It is meant for those He calls His Sheep.

My sheep hear my voice... (John 10: 27).

So those who hear His voice are His Sheep, and that is the greatest blessing of all. Now, have you been seeking a conversational, personal relationship with Jesus? Have you been seeking His voice personally and regularly? If not, then you have not been seeking the right blessings. To have a conversational, personal relationship with Jesus is the first and the best blessing we should seek. Why? Because this conversational relationship is the foundation of life upon which God can then build other blessings. Talking relationship with Jesus is our Life foundation. When we have it, God will then build other things upon it, but without

A DIVINE BLESSING

this foundation, not much spiritual progress can come to us and stay. If progress comes, it goes, because we haven't got the right foundation to hold it.

So, if you want God to truly bless you, then start drawing close to Jesus, in His presence, so that you would begin to hear His voice. Once this is done, other blessings will begin to come to you without you struggling.

Hearing His voice and relating personally with Jesus should be the first blessing we are to seek. It is the first blessing God wants to give us.

2. Having Spiritual Power and Authority (SPA)

Once we have established a talking relationship with Jesus, we are now ready for the next blessing which is receiving God's power and authority. Why SPA? Because this world is full of evil powers. Anyone who hasn't got the power of God is in trouble. Why? Because evil powers will not let the person have peace and rest. If he tries to get any good thing, evil powers will try to snatch that good thing from him. Haven't you seen people who are rich today, tomorrow they become suddenly poor? Yes, some are alive and well today, tomorrow, sudden destruction comes upon them. Some have good business today, tomorrow, their business suddenly collapses. Some people have good things of this life, material possessions, but they cannot enjoy them. Why? Because fear is tormenting them. They are dying of restlessness, worries and anxiety. Insecurity and anguish of the soul are eating them up. Such people haven't got real blessings. They have got good things, but they haven't got the power and spiritual authority to keep and enjoy them. They keep getting and losing the good things of life! Such people are not blessed. They are rather cursed. They are living miserable lives.

When God wants to give us real blessings, He would first of all give us personal talking relationship with Jesus. Next, He gives us spiritual power and authority, so that no evil power harasses us nor snatches our material things. Now, have you got spiritual power and authority from God? Don't say you do not know, for anyone who has a certificate knows that he has it. Even so, God's spiritual authority is a certificate which God gives to those who have studied in the school of obedience and personal relationship with Jesus.

When we have got spiritual power and authority, God is then happy and ready to give us other blessings, including material possessions, because we have got His authority to keep and enjoy them. God wouldn't want to give us material blessings which He knows we cannot keep! This is why people who seek material blessings only, often don't receive them. God wants us to receive spiritual power and authority first.

Have you now seen why perhaps you too haven't got the material blessings you have been seeking all these years? You should now stop seeking material blessings and start seeking personal relationship with Jesus and then spiritual power and authority. If you do it this way, you will be surprised how fast things will move in your life, because you are now seeking things the right way.

A DIVINE BLESSING

That God would give His power and authority to man is a great blessing indeed. Why? Because His power is the ultimate power. When we have it, the devils will recognize us and begin to give us respect. When we have it, no power of hell can stand before us. When we have it, all our enemies have become powerless before us, they cannot overcome us anymore! When we have God's power and authority, we will walk in this evil world fearless, powerful, successful, for His authority makes all the difference! Have you received it?

3. Perfect Will of God

This is another thing that makes us blessed, if we have it. Many people, including believers are struggling so much in this life. The more they struggle, the less they progress in life. As a result, there is so much restlessness and anxiety because their efforts are not getting them the success they have set out to achieve.

Why are things so? It is because such people are operating outside the will of God. God has beautiful plans for each of us in this life. These plans are contained in His Will, just as a rich man has great things for his children in His will also.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29: 11).

That is the will of God we are talking about. When anyone gets into God's will, he will never struggle in this life again! Why? Because in the will (plans) of God, we will find all the things that we need in this life, including peace, joy, progress, success, good job, money, housing, good health, good family and children, good husband, good wife, spiritual power and authority, and all other wonderful things that our Father God has planned for us.

Therefore, to discover the will of God for one's life and to enter into it is one of the greatest blessings we can ever receive from God. Why? Because His will is one blessing that contains all other blessings. When we have it, we have others as well.

So, what blessings have you been seeking? Do you now see why God hasn't given you those things you have been praying and fasting for? The right thing to seek should be His perfect will for your life. Once that is done, you will find all those other things right there in His Will.

From today, stop praying for those material things. Start praying for God's will instead. Start spending time in God's presence and there ask Him to reveal His will for you in different areas of your life. For instance, find out God's will for you in marriage. Ask Him;

Lord, please what is Your will for me in marriage? Who would you want me to marry?

A DIVINE BLESSING

Ask for His will in other areas of your life too. For instance in education, in having children, in where to live and what to do for a living, etc. Ask Him to reveal His plan and purposes for you in all area of your life and to help bring you into them. When you ask for His will in your life, you are making the best request of your life. Why? Because once you operate in His will, you will never struggle in life again. Why? Because His will covers everything we need in this life in order to be happy and successful.

Those who are asking for blessings, but have not asked for His will are not wise. As you enter into a personal, talking relationship with Jesus, He will begin to reveal the Father's will to you, for only He can lead us into the will of the Father.

4. Material Possessions and Physical Well-being

We have now come to the one that everyone is waiting for, material blessings. Do you see where it comes in? It is number four and the last thing. Before material blessings, there are three other things that we must get:

- Personal, conversational relationship with Jesus
- Spiritual power and authority
- Perfect will of God

These three things make up our spiritual foundation. These are the blessings we should seek first. When we have got them, material blessings flow to us effortlessly. That is the mystery of Matthew 6: 33 which Says;

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (i.e. - material things) will be added unto you.

Have you now seen the wisdom of God in this arrangement? When we seek material things first and get them, evil forces will harass us and try to snatch those things from us, for this earth still lies in the power of the evil one (1John 5: 19). But when we seek and obtain good spiritual foundation first, God will then happily and readily give us the material things as well, knowing that we won't lose them to the evil powers. Without good spiritual foundation, material things can lead us to destruction, as it happened to the rich fool in the Bible. It nearly destroyed the prodigal son also.

Unfortunately, most believers have spent all their days seeking item four first, instead of seeking items one to three first. You, which one have you been asking first? Item four or items one to three? Those who seek item four (material blessings) first are foolish. They are not wise. They are seeking what God said He

A DIVINE BLESSING

would add to us! Such people can never receive God's real blessings unless they rearrange their desires to fall in line with God's order:

Seek ye first... (Spiritual foundation)!

Let us obey this command and start seeking items one to three first, from today. It will surprise you how fast God would visit you with material blessings as well! Those who have tried this program are full of amazement that these things work out truly! You too, start the program today and you will never again have the need to run about seeking man's help. God truly wants to bless you. He wants to give you material blessings. He wants to give you material progress in this life. But He wants you to have a solid, spiritual foundation first. That is all. Do you understand?

Then pray and thank Him for this arrangement. Tell Him that you have understood His plans. Tell Him that you will henceforth seek the right things, according to His arrangement and priorities. Ask Him to give you the grace to remain in His presence, and not to go back to your own ways any more.

You will soon enter into a real blessed life.

ALL ARE RECEIVED IN HIS PRESENCE

Have you now seen why we are directing everyone to God's presence? Because it is in His presence that we will receive those three items that make up the solid foundation:

- Conversational relationship with Jesus
- Spiritual power and authority
- Perfect will of God

These things make up the solid spiritual foundation which we need to get first before material blessings are added to us. And it is as we spend time in His presence that we get all three of them. Unfortunately, most Christians are too full of church and religious activities that they don't have time to stay in His presence, alone, in their homes. Such "on-the-road" Christians cannot receive the solid foundation. As a result, they cannot come to that blessed life that God has for us.

If you are one of such "too busy Christians", you are harming yourself terribly. You are the one denying yourself God's blessings. Stop fasting and praying and all those religious things you are doing to get blessings. The devil is not the one holding your blessings, so stop all those talks of devil and enemies. Stop going from one deliverance centre to another; for there is nothing wrong with you in that sense. Your only problem is that you don't spend time in God's presence. That is all. If you want to begin having progress, then start going to His presence everyday, for Him to build in you the solid spiritual foundation we have talked

A DIVINE BLESSING

about. Before you know it, He will begin to add to you those material blessings you have been seeking all along. Start the program today. (See Chapter 20 for details).

DEEPER THAN WE HAVE THOUGHT

So we have seen that God's blessings are much more than merely acquiring material things! In fact, material things are the least among God's blessings. Therefore, as we go about seeking God's blessings from today, we should now be wise to know exactly what we are talking about. We have been seeking and not finding because we have been seeking amiss. As we begin to seek properly from now, God will surely be pleased and He will cause us to receive His great blessings.

In Matthew 16: 19, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, you are blessed". At that time what had Peter got? He did not have much riches or material blessings. In fact, he had given up his fishing business, yet Jesus called him "blessed". Why? Because he had begun knowing Jesus personally, by revelation, and now Jesus had promised him spiritual power and authority called "keys of the kingdom of God". So, a good spiritual foundation makes us blessed, and prepares the way for material blessings to now follow.

Let us never again be deceived as we seek God's blessings.

DON'T WORSHIP IDOLS AGAIN

Do you know that many believers have been worshipping idols unknowingly? Yes, the way we go about seeking material blessings can in fact make us idol worshippers. See how it works.

Material blessings here include good health, good job, money (riches), good husband, good wife, nice children, good marriage and family, promotions and positions, cars, housing, and all good things of this physical life which we need to fulfil God's purposes for our lives. These things are good and desirable, and in fact, it is God's will to let us have them. But then, are these the things we should be preoccupied with? Are these to become our focus? When such good things become our main focus, they cease to be good. Why? Because they have become idols to us. "Idols" in the heart are things which we have allowed to displace God in our hearts, things which have taken the number one place in our hearts, things which we have made our main pursuit.

God and pleasing God should be our main pursuit. As we please Him, He gets these material things for us with ease. It is these material things that many people have been running up and down looking for, praying for, fasting for, drinking anointing oil for, and afflicting their souls and bodies for! When we do that, then we are worshipping idols in our hearts! That is why many who seek them don't find them, because God did not ask us to seek these things. We are to seek God's spiritual foundation first, then God would add these things to us. Let us not worship idol again.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Furthermore, when we make these material things our main pursuits, they displace God in our hearts. We may then lose God as well as the material things we are seeking. That is what has happened to many Christians already. They have lost both God and the material things they are seeking!

Are you one of such people? Ask God to show you your real position. Then repent if need be start doing things the right way.

CHAPTER 2: GO FOR PERMANENT SOLUTION

RECEIVE GOD'S POWER YOURSELF

The ultimate and permanent way to be free of satanic oppressions and to have peace and progress is for one to receive spiritual power and authority (SPA) directly from God. When you go to people who have received this power, for them to pray for you and help you, that may not be bad, but then you will get a temporary relief from them. After some time, you will find yourself going to them for yet another spiritual help, prayer, deliverance, etc. and the chain continues. Each time a problem comes up (and problems will come from time to time), you see yourself going for yet another "prayer!" The Christian who goes about like this is actually not a real Christian yet. He is not much different from an unbeliever for both lack spiritual power.

Real Christian advantage begins when we have spiritual power and authority of Christ in our own lives! It is when we have got this power ourselves that we begin to enjoy real permanent peace and joy in the Lord. Why? Because we can then use the power and authority to handle our problems, instead of running about as we used to do. Not only that it will help us to deal with our own problems but God will now use us to help others as well. When we have this authority, the devils will know and they will begin to give us respect. The devils will no longer be able to torment and harass us as freely as they used to do. Why? Because we have got the authority of Christ in us, and we can now use it at any time to control and discipline the enemies and the ugly situations they create. That is the meaning of Luke 10: 19 in which He has given us authority over "all the powers of the enemy".

HOW TO RECEIVE SPIRITUAL POWER AND AUTHORITY

(By coming to the realm of Revelation Knowledge of Christ).

We have seen that we need spiritual power and authority first, before material blessings. Now how can we receive that? The Lord Jesus gave us a hint concerning how to and who may receive His spiritual power and authority. This hint was contained in the two questions He had asked His disciples:

1. Who do men say that I am?
2. Who do you say that I am?

A DIVINE BLESSING

These two questions actually divide the entire Christians into two groups - those who get their knowledge of Christ from men, and those who get their knowledge of Christ directly from God. The first group is the crowd. They don't receive power and authority, while the second group is the group of disciples, the separated ones. These ones receive the power and authority. We shall now see this in more detail.

...He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets". He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus answered... "Blessed are you, Simon ... for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven. ...And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven."
(Matthew 16: 13-19).

This is the spiritual power and authority that we are talking about. Let's now look at the two groups and see those who can receive these keys.

1. WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?

This is the first question and it refers to Christians who are still looking up to men to tell them who Jesus is, instead of going directly to Jesus. When we go to people for them to do spiritual things for us, we are receiving the witness of men. When people tell us about Jesus, we are receiving the witness of men. When we approach people for solutions, instead, of approaching God Himself, we are receiving the witness of men. And what is the witness of men? "Some say you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets". (Matthew 16: 14). Did any of them give the right revelation of who Christ was? No! So you see, men cannot tell us exactly who Jesus is! Men cannot give us the true revelation of Jesus. Men cannot help us know enough of Jesus. Men will always give us distorted view of who Jesus is. No man of God can make us see Jesus as He truly is. Men of God cannot give us revelations of Jesus. They don't have the power to reveal Jesus. They can only give us certain pictures of Him, certain ideas of Him, certain good things of Him, certain truths of Him. But to know Jesus as He truly is, we must go to Him directly for Him to reveal Himself to us!

So, "Who do men say that I am?" speaks of the group of Christians who just get their knowledge of Jesus from men instead of from Jesus Himself. It speaks of Christians who go to men of God for things instead of going to God directly. Such people approach God and learn about God through middle men; therefore

A DIVINE BLESSING

they don't have the revelation knowledge of God which is the true knowledge. These people cannot have God's spiritual power and authority because they don't really know Him. Most Christians today belong to this miserable group! God gives His power and authority only to people who have known Him by direct contact, which we call Revelation Knowledge.

2. WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

This question refers to people who have come out of the first group, and are now receiving directly from the Lord. They are no longer depending on middle men of God. They have separated themselves from the crowd. They are now disciples of Jesus. They have matured spiritually and are now receiving direct revelation knowledge from the Lord God Himself. By these direct revelations, they have come to know Jesus closely and intimately and they now walk and work with Him everyday. They hear His voice clearly and freely, they talk with Him as friends, they know His will, His heart, His mind, on every matter because He reveals these to them. It is these people who have come to the realm of revelation knowledge that are qualified to receive "the keys of the kingdom of Heaven", which refers to spiritual power and authority. It was when Peter operated at this level that Jesus spoke of giving him the keys! The same goes for every Christian too. He said to Peter:

Blessed are you, Simon... for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven... And I will give you the key of the kingdom of Heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven. (Matthew 16: 17&19).

Let's Note These Points

1. Notice that the Lord called Peter "blessed". At what point did He call Peter blessed? At the point when Peter began receiving Revelation Knowledge of the Lord directly. Even so, **for us to enter into blessed experiences in our lives, we should enter the realm of direct revelations and personal interaction with Jesus first.** He doesn't call anyone blessed in group one, because people there are still seeking God through middlemen. Their knowledge is imperfect and religious!

2. Notice that He spoke of giving Peter "keys of the kingdom of Heaven" only after Peter had started knowing Him by direct revelations from God. And these keys are for "binding and loosing" purposes, which means they speak of spiritual power and authority. Even so, **those who want to receive these same spiritual keys of power and authority from God must first of all come to the realm of receiving things directly from God and knowing Jesus by revelation.**

3. **Where do you belong? Are you still approaching God through men? Do you still go to men for them to tell you about God, or do you go to God directly, for Him to reveal Himself to you, as He did to Samuel? (1 Samuel 3: 19-21). "Then the**

A DIVINE BLESSING

Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel..." (1 Samuel 3: 21).

4. Paul was a very great and powerful New Testament Minister because he did not learn about Jesus from people. He separated to God's presence and there God gave him direct "revelations" of the Lord", and through these he became great! (See Galatians 1: 11-17; 2 Corinthians 12: 1-7).

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1: 11-12).

5 Do you want to receive God's spiritual power and authority (SPA) into your life, so that the devils don't molest and harass you anymore? Do you want the Lord to say "Blessed are you"? Do you want Heaven to support you when you "bind and loose" anything? Do you want to start enjoying meaningful, powerful life that is full of His peace and joy? Then do only one thing. Start receiving direct revelation knowledge from the Lord. That is all. That was what Peter did. (Matthew 16: 15-19). That was all that Paul did (Galatians 1: 11-17). That was all that Samuel did (1 Samuel 3: 8-21). That was all that Elijah, Moses and all the great men and people of God did and God made them powerful and successful. They separated to God's presence alone, and there they began to receive direct revelations from the Lord.

6 Now, choose a particular time when you would separate yourself to God's presence everyday. There, ask the Lord to begin to teach you, that you are no longer going to run after men. If the Lord sees that you are serious about it, He will begin to teach you and reveal Himself to you in amazing ways. And like Samuel, you will soon grow and become powerful in Him, such that even other people will begin to see His glory upon you. (1 Samuel 3: 19-21).

7 When this happens, then your Life has entered the realm of true and lasting deliverance, progress, peace and joy, the realm of blessedness in Christ.

Will you start the program today? See details of how to keep Covenant Time in chapter 20.

HAVE YOU GOT THE POWER?

A worldly television advertisement says: "We've got the power" They shout it out as they fling their clenched fists in the air.

Yes, the language of this world is "power". That is the language everyone understands. This world is full of all sorts of powers - occult power, witchcraft power, marine power, political power, economic power, power of death and so on.

...The whole world lies under the power of the evil one. (1 John 5: 19).

And so, because the world is full of evil, wicked powers, you see people doing all sorts of things to acquire these powers to protect themselves. Because these

A DIVINE BLESSING

powers are wicked powers, you see those who have them bragging and planning evils against others. As a result, people fight and destroy one another everyday through these powers. He who has these powers tries to lord it over others and tries to have his way by force. That is the language of power which the world understands.

WHAT OF THE CHRISTIANS?

Jesus understands and knows the power tussle that exist in the world and so He did not leave His people helpless. He made provisions for the Christian to be adequately covered and protected from all these evil powers. In fact, Jesus made provisions for us not only to be protected but also to rule over these evil powers. He did this by giving us His own excellent power, the Almighty Power!

In Luke He said:

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

Do you see that? Jesus has provided us with the ultimate power, the "master power," the power above all others! The power to destroy all evil powers is given to us by the Lord Jesus! And so a true Christian who has got this authority should not be running about for help anymore! The enemies should be the ones running away from him, because he's got the real ultimate power!

So, have you got the power? You should find the answer to this question. If you have got this power of Christ, then why are you still seeking spiritual help from men? And if you say you haven't got this power, then why haven't you? Doesn't Jesus want to give it to you too? Or don't you want to receive it? Something must be wrong somewhere and you have to find out what it is. It is only when you sort out this power question for yourself that you can enter into real Christian rest and progress.

Any Christian who does not have this power and authority of Jesus in his own life is still in trouble. How? Because these evil powers will not let him rest and if any good thing comes to him, evil powers will try to snatch them. Such "powerless believers" are just like the unbelievers, for it is the power of Christ in one's life that makes the difference. Christianity started with power! A true Christian is one that has got the power. Why is your own Christian life different? Why is yours a powerless one? If you are a powerless Christian, something is wrong with you. You must get up today and go to Jesus Himself and ask Him to give you the power! It is only then that these evil powers (serpent and scorpions) will allow you have peace and progress. So make yourself available in His presence everyday for Him to prepare you and equip you with the ultimate power!

WHY MANY CHRISTIANS LACK SPIRITUAL POWER AND AUTHORITY

The truth is that every Christian wants the power and authority of Christ, but not all are willing to pay the price. Yes, God's power is for all His children but there is a little price we have to pay before receiving it. This price is the price of discipleship, which is the price of obedience. Jesus does not release His power to just anyone He sees. He releases His power and authority only to those who draw close to Him. This is where the problem lies. Yes, all Christians want to have the power but not all Christians are willing to draw close to Him. It is those who draw close to Him that are His disciples. As He disciplines us, He cleanses and perfects our lives and brings us into a walk of daily obedience. His power is then made available to such people. If He does not disciple us first before giving us the power, then we are likely going to misuse it, and may even get destroyed! Do you give a powerful weapon to one who has not been trained? He will mishandle it and then wreak havoc on people around him and on himself too! That explains why He wants to disciple and train us first. When you go to Jesus and allow Him to train you and prepare you by Himself, that is what we call Holy Ghost School. It is Holy Ghost School because it is the Holy Ghost that teaches and trains us for the Lord (John 14: 26). So, start Holy Ghost Schooling today, in your house, and let the Lord cleanse and prepare you. He will then equip you with great spiritual power and authority (SPA) within a short time, to your amazement and joy!

Peter was an ordinary fisherman. But after Jesus had trained him, He released the keys of the Kingdom of God to Him, such that even the shadow of Peter falling on sick people healed them! If sick people came close enough to Peter, his shadow alone made them whole! (Act 5: 15). How then can evil powers still harass and trouble such a person as Peter? That authority (keys of the kingdom) is still available today for those who get into Holy Ghost School, the school in God's presence. (See details in chapter 20).

Jesus Has the Ultimate Power

In Matthew 28: 18, Jesus said;

All power is given unto Me, in Heaven and in earth.

All power belongs to Jesus. So, it was on the basis of this that He said in Luke 10: 19, "Behold I give unto you power (authority) to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you". One cannot give what one does not have. Jesus has got all the power in all realms of creation and existence. Therefore, He has all the ability and right to give unto His followers this ultimate power.

We are further told that Jesus is the master over all other powers, for He indeed is their Creator and Maker, therefore they all are under Him.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Christ Himself is the Creator who made everything in Heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for His own use and glory. (Colossians 1: 16) - LB.

So, you have everything when you have Christ. He is the highest Ruler with authority over every other power. (Colossians 2: 10) - LB

What a wonderful Christ we have, One who has the ultimate power! So, He has the means to keep and protect all who belong to Him, and He has the power to make us rulers with Him over all these other little powers.

That is the truth we want you to now realize. We don't need to run about for help as if our Lord has left us without power. Let us go to Him today and ask Him to prepare us and equip us with His spiritual power and authority, so we can begin to live true and successful Christian lives henceforth.

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in Heaven, and on earth and under the earth. (Philippians 2: 9-10).

Therefore, **no Christian has any excuses for going about "Powerless".** All we need do is to allow Jesus disciple (train) us in His presence, and we will be given keys of His kingdom, which will enable us operate His ultimate power. Let this be our desire henceforth. Let this become the deliverance you will seek from today. Let us seek this blessed power from now. Material blessings will then follow.

FISH AND BREAD FOR THE CROWD

Note that members of **the crowd cannot receive God's spiritual power and authority. Jesus gives fish and bread to the multitudes, but reserves spiritual power and authority for His disciples only.**

In Matthew 14: 14-22, Jesus had fed the crowd with fish and bread, and next, He dismissed them! But He did not dismiss the disciples. He rather put them in the boat for them to go to "the other side", to learn deeper things of God.

So, they all ate and were filled...Now those who had eaten (fish and bread), were about five thousand men...Immediately Jesus made His disciple get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitude away. (Matthew 14: 20-22)

What an awful experience that Jesus would attend to us and then quickly send us away! But that is what He does with the crowd. Why? Because members of the crowd do not desire to know Him closely nor to receive His power. All they want

A DIVINE BLESSING

from Him is material blessings, and once they receive that, they are satisfied. Jesus, knowing that their hearts' desire is after miracles, and not after knowing Him, then leaves them alone, for God gives us our hearts' desires. It is only those whose desire is to know Him deeply and to receive His power that He takes on the longer journey of discipleship. It is those ones that He gives the keys of the kingdom. God's great promises of power and glory which we see all over the Bible are actually not for religious church goers, the multitudes. Those promises are not for the crowd of believers that troop in and out of our fellowship places. Those great promises are not for the miracle seekers that fill our churches everyday, seeking "open doors" and "breakthroughs". God's great promises and spiritual power and authority are for the very few disciples who have separated themselves to God's presence and are desiring to know Him personally. It is to such ones that He had said;

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

Check back in your Bible, He was speaking to His disciples there, and not to the crowd. To the crowd He would rather say;

Behold, I give unto you fish and bread and some healing...You may then go, since you don't desire deeper things of the kingdom from Me.

That is the meaning of "He sent the multitudes away", in Matthew 14: 22.

Now where do you belong? To the crowd of miracle seekers or to the group of few disciples? Where you belong determine what you get. If you truly want to receive His power and authority, then become His disciple from today. Go to His presence everyday, and there ask Him to teach and disciple you. That is the best thing to seek as we see signs of the end-time seriously unfolding.

CHAPTER 3

ABRAHAM'S BLESSINGS ARE MINE

We hope you still remember what we are doing. God wants to bless us in this life. We are also right to expect God's blessings because we need them in order for us to do well in this life. Moreover, God is our Father, and so we have every liberty to approach Him for blessings.

But then, what do we really mean by Divine Blessings? That is the question we have been trying to answer. The reason is that if we don't know exactly what God means by blessings, then we may end up seeking wrong things. So far, we have seen that God's blessings are in two major categories - the spiritual and the physical. Of these two, we have seen that the spiritual is paramount, is more

A DIVINE BLESSING

important, because it is the foundation. The spiritual controls and determines the physical. We have seen also that the spiritual blessings consist mainly of:

- Personal, conversational relationship with Jesus.
- Spiritual Power and authority.
- Perfect will of the Lord.

While the Physical part is simply what we call 'material blessings'.

Let us further look at these things, this time using the example of Abraham, for he too walked in Divine Blessings.

ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

To know what God means by 'blessing,' let us consider the first man ever, to whom God said,

In blessing, I will BLESS you... (Genesis 22: 17).

That man was father Abraham. Abraham was highly blessed by God. Yet how many children did he have? Have many landed properties? Cars? Material possessions? Yet His blessings were so much that up to this day we still lay claim to them. Hence we sing:

*Abraham's blessings are mine,
Abraham's blessings are mine,
They are mine in the morning,
Mine in the evening,
Abraham's blessings are mine.*

So, what are those blessings of Abraham that we say are ours? Did Abraham leave fleets of ships behind for us? Did he leave in-exhaustible foreign and local bank accounts for us? Did Abraham produce innumerable children for us to adopt and rear for ourselves, as we like? If Abraham's blessings are ours, and yet Abraham himself did not leave behind for us all those material things that we crave, and he did not transfer any of the material things to us, then don't we think there is problem somewhere? It then means that we don't really seem to know exactly what we are saying when we talk of blessings.

So, what was it that Abraham had which we now say are ours too? We need to find the answer to this question if we are to be delivered from the error that has bound the present day church; the error of seeking material possessions, as the 'blessings'. Material possessions may not be bad, but then, are they "the blessings" God is talking about?

A DIVINE BLESSING

SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE

Let's look at it further this way. God had said to Abraham;

I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing ...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Genesis 12: 2-3).

Do you see that? God did not only bless Abraham as a person. He said that through him all the families of the earth shall be blessed also! Do you see how enormous and endless this blessing of Abraham must have been that every family on earth could share of it? Yes, if God had meant material possessions, how could Abraham have distributed material things to reach every family on earth?

So let us think! What was it that Abraham got which the entire families of the earth were to share from? It wasn't money, fruits of the womb, or other material things because, before Abraham was even called, families of the earth had got those material things! So what did Abraham receive from God that no other family on earth had before? For sure it must be a spiritual thing then. It was indeed a spiritual inheritance.

Abraham's blessings first consisted of spiritual things. Abraham received a spiritual inheritance from God which families of the earth had not got before. Let's now look at this spiritual inheritance.

PERSONAL, CONVERSATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

First of all God choose him among all the men of the earth. When God chooses a man, that man is blessed because he will have Divine privileges which no one will get elsewhere. So, **Abraham's blessings firstly consisted of his personal talking relationship with God,** which distinguished him from every other person that lived on earth at his time. No other person in the whole earth heard the voice of God nor talked with Him nor interacted with Him on a regular basis. Yet Abraham had such wonderful personal relationship with God by which he shared power and authority with Him. He and God where so close that God Himself called Abraham His friend! (James 2: 23). Can you imagine the Almighty God looking at a mere man and saying to him, "you are My friend". That was what Abraham got. That was the blessing he got for the whole world. Through him, God brought families of the earth close to himself so that we too could become His friends and children. This He did through Jesus, the spiritual Seed of Abraham.

If your brother is the president of your country, he may not give you so much money or other material things, yet you will be called 'blessed' - just because he is your brother. That **personal relationship alone gives you a place of glory and honour in the eyes of other people.** Everyone will respect you as 'the president's brother'. Even so it was with Abraham. God talked with him, walked with him, had daily interactions with him and cared for him. **God shared his deep and hidden secrets and plans with Abraham, things which no other man could look into in the**

A DIVINE BLESSING

whole world! He shared his future plans with him, and carried him along in His divine program for the earth.

SPIRITUAL POWER AND AUTHORITY (SPA)

The next thing Abraham got was Spiritual power and authority. By God's authority, Abraham dominated his enemies and subdued them. A "refugee", so to say, yet Abraham became an heir and a ruler, ruling in the land of his enemies, just because he shared spiritual power and authority with God. This happened to him because of the close intimate relationship he had with God. These were the blessings Abraham received from God which no one could get from any other place and which no enemy could take from him. There were many wealthy men, but there was not any other man like Abraham who shared Divine secrets and power with God!

Yes! His son Isaac came and later many grandchildren, but these came quite later. Abraham was already a friend of God, sharing power and authority with God, and having an intimate walk with Him before major material possessions came. Abraham was already a blessed man before those material possessions came. So we must look away from material possessions first, for us to be able to see clearly and understand the real meaning of God's blessings. When we focus on material things, we suffer blindness of the spirit, for covetousness is a major cause of spiritual blindness. But when we remove our eyes from them, and focus properly on spiritual things first, then we see clearly. After we have got the right spiritual blessings, which are the foundation of life, in due course, material things are given to us as well.

STILL AVAILABLE TODAY

So, Abraham's blessings are really ours today. How? Jesus was a descendant of Abraham. He was the Son of David, the son of Abraham. He was Abraham's Seed (Galatians 3: 16, 29). Through Jesus, God connected the whole world to Himself, and made available to the world the same blessings of Abraham. Jesus, Abraham's descendant, died for the whole world so that through Him, the whole families of the earth could be reconciled to God, so that they too can share power and authority with God, as well as enjoy other blessings of Abraham, and even more. Today, what Abraham enjoyed as blessings, have been made available to us through Jesus, Abraham's Seed!

NOW, DO YOU REALLY WANT ABRAHAM'S BLESSINGS?

If you really want them, then here is the starting point. Hearing the voice of God was the first blessing Abraham received from God. Talking with God and enjoying a close and intimate relationship with Him was the first thing that distinguished Abraham from all other men. God spoke to Him and gave him clear

A DIVINE BLESSING

directions on how to take further steps into the realm of blessedness. God's voice told him what to do and get blessed.

Now the Lord had said unto Abraham...(Genesis 12: 1-3).

So you see, Abraham had a personal talking relationship with God and that made all the difference.

Now, does God speak clearly and directly to you too? Does His voice clearly tell you what you should do in order to be blessed? Many Christians don't hear the voice of Jesus. They can't discern His voice. They don't have a talking relationship with Him. They go to men and women of God for 'counselling' instead! They hear only the voice of their religious leaders. Such people are still outside Abraham's blessings!

From today, you should desire and seek to hear the voice of Jesus for yourself, as the first step in the direction of being really blessed by God. It is wrong to ask a God whom you don't talk with to 'bless' you! How do you expect Him to give you direction then on how to get blessed if you can't hear His voice? He gave Abraham directions on what to do, to be blessed. He heard and obeyed His voice and so became blessed. We too should desire to hear and obey God's voice so that we may enter into His blessings also.

Obey My voice and I will be Your God, and you shall be My people...that it may BE WELL with you. (Jeremiah 7: 23)

You see, God really wants it to BE WELL with you. But you should hear and obey His voice first. That is the starting point. From there you will then receive spiritual power and authority.

IMPORTANCE OF SPA DEMONSTRATED BY ABRAHAM

What other blessings do you say you are looking for when you have not got spiritual power and authority (SPA)? If you have not received the "keys of the kingdom of God," what else do you say you are seeking? He who has the power has the way! Without the power, all your other possessions are at risk, exposed, and may be taken away any time, any day, by evil forces and their human agents!

ABRAHAM'S S.P.A

Let us explain the importance of spiritual power and authority (SPA) through Abraham's life and his strange victory over four kings. There was battle between four kings on one side and five other kings. The four kings were:

Amraphel	-	king of Shinar
Arioch	-	king of Ellasar
Chedorlaomer	-	king of Elam
Tidal	-	king of Goiim

A DIVINE BLESSING

These four kings fought against the following five kings:

Bera	-	king of Sodom
Birsha	-	king of Gomorrah
Shinab	-	king of Admah
Shemeber	-	king of Zeboiim
Plus the king of Bela		

At this time Lot, Abraham's nephew, was living in Sodom while Abraham was living in Canaan. The battle progressed until the four kings overcame the five kings and their armies! They plundered Sodom and Gomorrah, and carried people and goods away, including Lot and all his possessions. The enemy carried Lot and all his possessions away. So, what happened next? The Bible records:

...The victors plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and carried off all their wealth and food, and went on their home-ward way, taking with them Lot - Abraham's nephew, who lived in Sodom, and all he owned. One of the men who escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew...

When Abram learnt that Lot had been captured, he called together the men born into his household, three hundred and eighteen of them in all, and chased after (them) as far as Dan. He divided his men and attacked during the night from several directions;...and recovered everything - the loot that had been taken, his relative Lot, and all of Lot's possessions including the women and other captives. (Genesis 14: 8-16-LB).

Do you see that? Abraham, who was living in a strange land, gathered his servants and with them overcame the combined armies of four powerful kings! These four kings had just conquered five other kings. Now, Abraham, with just a handful of his own servants, overpowered such powerful, all - conquering four kings!

By what power did Abraham achieve this great feat? We ask this question because it is clear that the power of physical arms alone could not have done that. Note that at this time Abraham was like a refugee in a strange land. He had no standing army. On the other hand the four kings had been at war for a long time, for over twelve years (Genesis 14: 4), so they had amassed large and well-trained standing armies over these years, which enable them to overrun the five kings. Yet, Abraham overcame such a formidable force, using just 318 servants of his! So, by what power did he achieve that feat?

He used SPA! O yes, God's spiritual power and authority was at work in his life. He got the SPA when he heard the voice of God and obeyed Him and separated himself to Him. He left his father's land and separated himself to God's presence at Canaan. There God perfected him spiritually and equipped him

A DIVINE BLESSING

with the ultimate SPA! When we leave distractions and separate ourselves to God's presence, and establish a talking personal relationship with Him, He will then give us His SPA (the keys of His kingdom). That was what happened to Abraham. That was what Abraham had which those four kings did not have.

To confirm this, Melchizedek had appeared to Abraham after the Victory and said:

...Blessed be the Most High God Who has delivered your enemies into your hand...(Genesis 14: 20).

So you see, that was the secret of Abraham's victory. God did it for him. God delivered his enemies into his hands. God delivered those powerful kings and their armies into Abraham's hands - spiritually. Abraham then overcame them physically. Why did God do that? Because Abraham had SPA. That is, Abraham shared power with God! He and God were in a powerful sharing agreement! That is the meaning of SPA!

The same happened to David when he came before Goliath. By the time he slew the great Goliath, with an ordinary sling and stone, it became clear to everyone that the arm of flesh had not achieved that victory. Only SPA, through solid Divine Connection, could have done that for David.

So, are you asking God for material possessions instead of seeking SPA? Then you are behaving just like Lot! That is foolishness. Did Lot not have plenty possessions? Yet both he and his many possessions were carried away by evil forces - because he had no SPA! Do you want that to happen to you? Is that the type of blessing you are seeking? Material 'blessings' you will get today only for the enemies to carry them away tomorrow? Is that what you want? You want Lot's type of blessings? Then be careful how you pray. Abraham who had SPA had to come and rescue him and his possessions!

Didn't Goliath have great material possessions as a great military leader of the army of the philistines? For sure he had much material possessions, just like king Saul, the leader of the Israeli army. Yet little David (who had no material possessions yet) was superior to these two men - on account of the SPA which he had!

So, do you see the superiority of SPA over material possessions? Those who want to receive lasting blessings from God must be wise to seek SPA first. After that, whatever material possessions you have will remain and increase, and no evil power shall touch them.

Are you now ready for that? Then start keeping Covenant Time, and all these shall follow. (See chapter 20 for details).

SECTION TWO

RECEIVING MIRACLES AND MATERIAL BLESSINGS IN HIS PRESENCE.

We have talked about God's blessings as being both spiritual and physical, the spiritual being superior. How then do we receive these blessings? It is by having a special time when we must separate ourselves to the presence of God alone with Him. We call it keeping Covenant Time with God. As we do this everyday, God begins to work in our lives to prepare us to receive His blessings.

We have talked so much about spiritual blessings. Now let us talk about material blessings, for they too are important. In the following chapters, we will see a few examples of people who received great miracles and material blessings by just keeping Covenant Time! Through covenant time we enter into a Covenant Relationship with God. Great healings, business restoration, marital blessings, fruits of the womb, academic excellence and unbelievable miracles are waiting for us in His presence - by our keeping Covenant Time.

In this section, we shall see how this is done.

CHAPTER 4: FOR PROGRESS IN BUSINESS

Have you been going about seeking help in your business? Is your business giving you trouble and now you don't know what else to do? Have you prayed, fasted and done some other things yet things are not working fine in your business?

Now listen. The Lord God wants to help you in your business. He wants you in His presence at once so that He can quickly prepare you and then give you the progress you need in your business. He has been doing it for others. He now wants to do it for you.

COLLAPSED BUSINESS RESTORED

If your business is not doing well, listen to this. A man was brought to us to seek "solutions" to his misery concerning his business. He used to be a very "big man", but all of a sudden, his chains of business began to collapse one after another. From all directions, calamities began to befall him and before you know it, almost everything he had acquired in life was gone. It so devastated this man that he was considering taking his own life because of the huge debts he had incurred. That was when some of his friends rallied round and brought him to us.

We told him what he should do - to get into God's presence at once so that God would commence work, the work of restoration and perfection of his life, for he had acquired things of this life but he hadn't got good spiritual foundation. Now the winds and the floods had come and he couldn't stand! Evil powers had

A DIVINE BLESSING

made nonsense of all he had. Moreover, his very life and that of his entire family were being threatened also.

That was how this man began this program, the program of separating into God's presence. That is Holy Ghost School.

THE PROBLEMS REVEALED

Then Divine revelations and dreams began to come, fast. First the Lord revealed to this man an endless pit, a spiritual pit that existed in his business. As the man was toiling to get business and money, he saw a huge dark male figure coming out of that pit and clearing his goods and money into the pit. This huge evil entity had many servants, so, within a few seconds, they had carted away all that this man had laboured for. Each time a fresh consignment of goods was brought into this man's business, these evil entities would come up from the pit and carry them away in spirit. These things repeated several times in his dreams and he woke up.

Many other dreams came to him from the Lord, to show him what was wrong in his life and family and business. That was how this man submitted fully to God's presence so that God would cleanse up his life, bring him into a close relationship with Christ, give him spiritual power and authority and then bless him materially.

GOD RESTORED HIM

It did not take long to happen. God restored this man's business and even expanded it to areas his mind and ability could never have reached. He became very prosperous, beyond his imagination and all who knew his story wondered and praised God. No pit of evil forces could come near him anymore for he had now got the power himself. (Luke 10: 19). Many years have passed since then, and this man has been increasing in both spiritual and material blessings, because God is now with him. This is what we are saying. If those pits and forces of hell had not been revealed and dealt with, any other "solution" he is getting would be useless. Again, if those evils were chased away but he did not receive spiritual power and authority for himself, not much would have been achieved. Those evil forces would have come back to him, this time more fortified, and his later end would have been more terrible. (Matthew 12: 43-45).

No man or woman of God could have given him spiritual power and authority either. Only Jesus gives spiritual power and authority. Only He gives us the keys of the kingdom. (Matthew 16: 19, Luke 10: 19). That is why we must go to His presence, in our homes, if we really want to have permanent peace and progress in our businesses.

Will you do that from today? The man in question has been growing from glory to glory, both in his spiritual power and in his physical business. He is now blessed. He is now enjoying a blessed life and no power can harass him anymore. He will

A DIVINE BLESSING

never have the need to start running about for help any more - as long as he continues keeping his covenant time in the presence of God.

GO FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION IN BUSINESS

We know you may go to a man of God for payers concerning your business, and obtain some result. Yes, if a true man of God prays for you, your business may receive some progress because the evil forces will leave you alone for some time, but they will reinforce and come back, and when they come back you may suffer greater damage than before. Why? Because you haven't got the authority yourself. You are only depending on someone else who perhaps has the authority. That is why you see some people getting better today, and tomorrow another trouble comes. Such people grow today and tomorrow they are down again. Their business goes up and down because they haven't got the authority in them. They must go to people for prayers every now and then, for them to "survive". This is not the Christian way. These are rather spiritual beggars.

What we are saying is that you should go to God Himself so that He would give you "the power". When you have got the authority, devils will respect you, and no enemy can toss you up and down any more. And you can't have the authority by going to people. You can only have the authority by going to Jesus Himself. That is the point we are making. So do you want it that way? Or you want to continue begging for prayers?

DON'T USE TRIAL AND ERROR METHOD

Again if you don't find out what has caused your business not to be doing well, if you have not found out why your business collapsed, and you try to get another "blessing" somewhere, what happened to your first business may also happen to this new one. That is why some people keep changing lines of trade and location. You see them changing, say, from electronics business to motor spare parts business. Some change locations, from one city to another part. Some get more money and sink into the troubled business, thinking that injecting more funds will solve the problem. People do all sorts of fruitless things, thinking that the solution would come, all to no avail. That is why many business people are sad and unsatisfied. In their confusion some resort to negative practices, fake products, all forms of cheating and deception - just to make ends meet. By doing these things they make their situations worse, because they are now incurring the wrath of God and mortgaging their souls to hell.

God wants to bless you in business but you should first of all get close to Him, so that you and Him can work together. That is the only way to have permanent peace and progress in your life and business.

If a spiritual hole in your business is not revealed and sealed, and the evil force behind it destroyed, if you get more money and pump into that business, the same spiritual hole that drained the first funds will drain this new money also.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Therefore, for a permanent solution, start this program today, that is, keeping Covenant Time in God's presence.

BROTHER JOSEPH'S STORY

Joseph came to us for help concerning his business. Nothing was working there. In fact things came to a halt. He wanted prayer. But we introduced him to the presence of God through Holy Ghost School. We told him that God would reveal things directly to him instead of depending on men of God. So he went and started the program.

Then wonderful things began to happen in the spirit for him. The Lord began to reveal to him the ugly situation of things in spirit concerning him. At once spiritual cleansing, purging, deliverance, began in his life - by revelation.

The Lord then drew him close enough and gave him spiritual power and authority.

CROSSED OVER EVIL RIVER

Next, the Lord revealed an evil river that no one could cross. All who set out to pursue progress in life were cut off by the river. Joseph saw people who started the journey before him - all trapped at the bank of the river. He too arrived there and could not move further. That was an evil river (satanic power) that hindered men from getting into their blessings.

While they all remained there, hopeless, suddenly a great thing happened to Joseph. According to him, a mighty hand came from above and picked him and dropped him over that evil river. He did not see the person, only the hand. So, he became a free man. From there he walked into various blessings that had been kept for him. He woke up from the dream.

PHYSICAL BLESSINGS BEGAN TO COME

A few weeks after this dream, Joseph's life changed for real. God began to visit him in his business to give him directions and Divine connections. Suddenly, everyone began to look for him for one business or the other. God would give him dreams of new opportunities and as he woke up it would happen just that way. So he began to do business by revelations.

He was living in one room with his wife and children. But now the Lord prospered him and moved him into a beautiful three bedroom flat. Next, the Lord gave him so much funds and directed him to invest them in big companies. Next, the Lord bought him a car for his business and even got him landed properties. From there, the Lord opened up overseas business for him, so that he began to travel outside Nigeria for the first time. Then the Lord began to touch his wife too, and began to pour his material blessings on her, after she too had come close to Jesus via the Covenant Time keeping.

A DIVINE BLESSING

ONLY GOD CAN DO IT FOR YOU

While these things were happening to Joseph and his family, the evil river was still there caging - in and hindering those victims who had not come close to God in this personal way. They were still fasting, keeping vigils, and seeking prayers from men of God. These religious things cannot take any one across the evil river. Start Holy Ghost School today and the same God that did it for Joseph will also do it for you.

CHAPTER 5: FROM MISERY TO GLORY AND HONOUR

We want to share this testimony here for the sake of those who have come to the end of themselves and now do not know what else to do.

SISTER BLESSING'S STORY

The case of sister Blessing was quite well known by many because of how the Lord picked her from a 'refuse dump' and dramatically exalted her to such a height of glory and honour within so short a time!

Some day in 2002, we were observing a strict separation to the Lord, such that we were not to receive people. The Lord had drawn us into His presence and we were to remain there all day. But after some time we were surprised to hear the Lord asking us to go and receive someone that He had sent to us. He said we should go out and welcome His special daughter whom He had brought to us for direction, for the matter was urgent. As we obeyed and came out, behold a lady was there; someone we had never met before.

She then began to tell us her strange story. Story of misery and fear and hopelessness. Nothing was working in her life any more, she said. Her business had failed, her marriage was severely troubled, her life was threatened by evil powers and so on. She had done everything and gone everywhere, without success. And things are getting worse everyday. In fact her only option was to run away from her home in Lagos, to the village or so.

Yet there was nothing and no one in the village that would be of any reasonable assistance. Her misery might even get worse in the village. So she was totally hopeless and confused.

As she spoke we actually saw death all over her. We saw darkness all over her. We saw destruction all over her.

Then we reassured her of the love and care of the Lord God for her. We led her to Christ again, and directed her to start Holy Ghost School at once, so that the Lord would take over the matter personally. That is, she would start keeping Covenant Time at once. She then left for her house.

CLEANSSED AND DELIVERED BY REVELATION

The Lord knows when we have reached our limit and He knows when things are urgent for us, and He responds accordingly. So, the Lord so visited this lady in

A DIVINE BLESSING

her house (as she started her Covenant Time) that by two weeks' time, you won't believe she was the same person. Within this short period, the Lord had done a great work of cleansing and deliverance on her. He had also devastated the evil powers that were at work against her, as well as demolish the death that had been following her about. All these were done quietly in her home as she kept her Covenant Time with the Lord.

Soon, she had been drawn close enough to the Lord that she started hearing His voice. In fact, hers was a great record, for she entered into a talking relationship with Jesus quite early. So they began to talk and have conversations together everyday, she and Jesus, on every matter.

Soon, Blessing's life changed greatly and everyone became amazed. Following her cleansing and sanctification, the Lord began depositing in her great powers of the kingdom. He gave her Spiritual Power and Authority (SPA) so that no evil power would harass her again. He began releasing into her the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, the Spirit of Revelation, the Spirit of Power and Might, so that this lady suddenly began to manifest great spiritual life of Christ, to the amazement of all.

HEAVENLY SONGS

Then the next great thing happened. The Lord began to visit her everyday, to teach her songs in the dream! These were songs which have never been sung anywhere before. As the Lord taught her in her dreams, He asked her to record them and keep them carefully because they would be released to His people in due course. And when she woke up, she would do as the Lord had said.

By this time every oppressive thought of running away had completely gone, for no one was harassing her any more. Instead, the Lord had blessed her, and was now using her as an instrument of blessing to other troubled people. The Lord by now had started sending troubled men and women to her, and using her to direct them on the path of life, which is to keep Covenant Time with God. The changes and the power that worked in her by now were so visible and dramatic that people who knew her story marvelled greatly at her total transformation within such a short time! And so men and women began to rush to her place for direction in life.

Step by step, the Lord kept teaching, leading and directing her until the new Heavenly songs had been completed in her. He then directed her on how to get them recorded in the studio. That was how those songs were recorded at an Onitsha studio, under the supervision of one sister Chinyere Udoma, to whom the Lord had directed her. And so, on 20th November, 2004, her Heavenly (end time) songs were presented to the people. Titled in Igbo, "Ihe Naso Chineke Uso", ("What pleases the Lord").

A DIVINE BLESSING

THE HUSBAND JOINED

That marked the beginning of greater things to come in the life of a lady who only a few months earlier was at the point of total breakdown and collapse. What made all the difference? Covenant Time with the Lord! That was all. In fact her story has brought life back to many people who thought their problems were irredeemable. Many of them through her have started keeping Covenant Time with the Lord. "if He can do it for Blessing, then He can do it for any one else," they say.

That was how Blessing's husband, Clement Igboanugo (a barrister) entered into Covenant Time relationship with the Lord also, for he had seen more than enough of the power and greatness of the living God, through the life of his wife.

He too started Holy Ghost School and in a short time, he began to receive directly from the Lord also! Their entire family has changed forever, to the glory of God. Their children each has a direct access to the Lord God, via Covenant Time, so they too receive things directly from God, without depending on their parents or anyone else, to pray for them. Each of them now relates personally with the Lord Jesus. What a glorious thing! (See Joel 2:28).

DO YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE?

Now, are you down-cast? Has everything ceased to work in your life? Has your business failed? Is your marriage in trouble? Are evil powers after your life? Do you have fear, insecurity, anxiety, worry? Do you feel hopeless? Are you confused? Have you come to the end of yourself? You don't know what else to do or where else to go? Has everyone abandoned you to your fate? Are people tired of you?

Now, light has come to you. With the light, life has come too. Progress is here for you too. All you need is to do what sister Blessing did. We did not lay hands on her. We did not pour anointing oil on her. We did not ask her to fast. We did not ask her to do any of those religious things, for they are not necessary. Jesus said;

Come unto me ... I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

He did not say we should fast before we come! He did not say we should do one or more of those religious things before we come. All He said is "come!" As you start keeping Covenant Time, you have "come!" that is the meaning of Covenant Time. It means you have "come" to the presence of Jesus. That is all you are required to do. Jesus will then take over and begin the process of giving you rest, peace, joy, success, etc, as He has said.

Sister Blessing only started keeping Covenant Time, and it worked for her. You, go and do the same. It will work for you too, Jesus is waiting now to receive you and do it for you too, for in His PRESENCE there is FULLNESS of joy! (Psalm

A DIVINE BLESSING

16:11). Enter His presence at once through Covenant Time and you will be amazed how things will change for better in your life.

CHAPTER 6: FOR THOSE SEEKING HEALING

Are you sick, or you have someone who is? Do you need healing in any way? Then go to God's presence and receive. Just read this.

AIDS VICTIMS HEALED IN HIS PRESENCE

In the presence of God, AIDS is reduced to nothing. As AIDS victims start keeping Covenant Time before God, they are healed without human help! Let us share just this example with you.

A lady and her daughter were brought to us for help. Both had full-blown AIDS disease and were actually at the point of death. The husband of the lady had just died of this disease only a few weeks earlier and from every indication, the wife and their only child were to follow except God intervened. They had actually dried up to the bones, with rashes all over the body. They were not eating anything nor drinking even water. They were brought to us by a nurse who herself had experienced God in a great way via this program.

As usual we did not begin praying those religious prayers Christians are known for, nor did we panic because of the horrible case that was there before us. In Holy Ghost School we do not respect any evil, for the presence of God is more than enough to calm every troubled water.

We prayed for the presence of God to open for them in their home. We told them to start keeping Covenant Time at once, and to come back with their revelations in a week's time. By the first week, there was no visible healing and we wondered why. We then discovered that the lady did not actually keep to her Covenant Time. She had actually expected us to pray "big prayers" for her and give her fasting and anointing oil, and lay hand on her, and speak in tongues and do those high-sounding religious demonstrations the church is used to. So, when we didn't do any of those things, she went home in unbelief, disappointed. As a result she did not do the program as we had asked her.

We then tried to explain to her the difference between covenant time keeping in the presence of God and the loud, noisy religious things they do in churches and fellowships. At the end she understood it better and then started the program. Just one week later, she and her daughter came back to us looking wonderfully healthy, healed entirely! In her dreams the Lord Jesus had appeared and given her healing, crossing her over a mighty bridge, from the point of death where she and her child had been abandoned, to the other side of life and power. Her dreams were amazing. She said they started eating food and drinking water just as soon as those dreams came to her. From that day on, everyday saw both of them getting more and more glorious in the healing that Jesus had given to them in His presence, in their home.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Isn't that amazing? Terrible disease and conditions are healed and corrected by the Lord, within a short time, if only we can learn to keep covenant time with Him, there in our homes.

THE MIRACLE IS IN YOUR HOME

Please note that this lady's healing and that of her daughter did not take place in our place. It took place in their home as they kept their covenant time with the Lord. So, if you too keep your covenant time, in your house, any disease you have will be healed by the Lord right there in your house. The Lord wants to visit us in our homes, so as to put everything in order. That was what He did for Noah and his family in their time. It is the end-time again, and as it was in the days of Noah, so it is again. The Lord wants to come right there to our homes, to heal and restore us there, so that we don't have any need to start running up and down again looking for help. It is dangerous to run up and down at this time because the evil day have begun.

So, if you know anyone who has AIDS, or any of the dreaded diseases, or who has any problems whatsoever, you can do them a great favour by just introducing them to this program. You don't need to carry them to any place, anymore. Help them to start keeping covenant time in their house. As soon as they earnestly start the program, Jesus will respond at once, even that same day. He will respond by giving them dreams and visions, through which He will show them what they ought to know about the case. Then, healing and restoration follow! It is as simple as that.

The Lord is out, right now, to put things in order in the homes and lives of those who truly come to His presence for help. *For in His PRESENCE there is FULLNESS of Joy* (Psalm 16: 11). That is the message.

DON'T LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE GIANT

When you start this program, you have become a David. Any problems in your life, in your family, in your business are like the giants. David's don't look at the size of the giants because they know the battle is not theirs. "The battle is the Lord's". Because you have submitted to God's presence, the Lord at once takes over your problems. Therefore you are not to recognize those problems as big anymore. They used to be "big problems" when you were handling them yourself. But now, the Lord God Almighty has come into the matter Himself! How can the problem still remain big, except you are looking in the wrong direction? Focus your eyes on Him in whose presence you have come, and let the overwhelming size and greatness of the Lord capture your attention. That is all. Before you know it, the problem is reduced to nothing and taken away by the mighty presence of the Lord our God.

A DIVINE BLESSING

HOW TO BE HEALED OF BREAST CANCER

Do you have breast cancer? Have the Doctors diagnosed you as having cancer? Do you have any suspicion of breast cancer? Do you have any strange lump or strange pains or any other symptoms in your breast? Has fear gripped you? Fear of cancer? Have you tried various medications and treatments, yet that horrible thing is still there? Have they even done surgery on you, yet you are not healed?

Now, rejoice! Why? Because the Lord God, your Healer, has come to heal you. He told us that anyone who would receive this massage, and obey the little directions, would be healed. The Lord feels bad even at the sight of that evil. He hates that horrible thing. And He has come down to set you free from it if only you will do the little thing you are required to do here. Now, if you want God to heal you, do the following little things.

(1) If you did not breast-feed your children, now go to Him in prayer and repent of that sin. Tell Him you are sorry for breaking His ordinance for failing to use your breasts for the sole purpose for which He created them. Tell Him you are sorry for having been a selfish and careless mother. If you pray this prayer sincerely, He will hear and forgive you at once. But if you did breast feed your children, or if you haven't even got children, then you don't need to confess this sin. Then go to the next thing.

(2) Start keeping Covenant Time at once, for God to begin to cleanse and heal you in His presence. Your healing will take place in His presence, as you keep Covenant Time. That is the way He has arranged it. Those who have started already have received their healing. Don't wonder how it can be done. Just do what you are asked to do. You will soon begin to share your testimonies with others.

These are the only two things He wants you to do. If He wishes, He may give you dreams, for you to see what happened in the spirit as He heals you. Or, He may just heal you without giving you dreams.

Remember however that Covenant Time is not for healing. It is for you to draw close to Jesus so as to know Him personally and begin hearing His voice for yourself. So, as you keep your Covenant Time, don't make the mistake of focusing on healing. Don't start looking at yourself and examining yourself each time to know if you have been healed. No! Don't do that. It is not necessary. Let all your attention be on Jesus, on knowing Him and obeying Him. When you don't even expect it, He will heal you. So keep your focus on Jesus and your personal relationship with Him, not on healing.

HOW SISTER COMFORT WAS HEALED

Sister Comfort ran to us on Monday, 14th November, 2005, to share with us how God took away her breast cancer. She had been having this problems for so

A DIVINE BLESSING

long. It all started with the birth of her first child. All this period she had gone to several hospitals and to other 'experts' she was referred to, all to no avail. The problem, which was on her right breast, continued and increased until she didn't know what else to do, all religious and medical efforts having failed.

Then she came to us for "Holy Ghost School" and started keeping her Covenant Time. She focused her attention on knowing Jesus and not on healing. Then one day, when she was not expecting it, by just one single dream, the Lord revealed to her the spirit and the root of the breast cancer, and then healed her (in the dream). By the time she woke up from the dream, behold, she had been healed indeed, with all the pains and symptoms gone!

THE DREAM

In her dream, the Lord showed her an evil spirit (like a woman) that was going about afflicting women with breast cancer. She was the spirit of wickedness, the one responsible for the curse of breast cancer. As she spoke, we understood that it was the same spirit of wickedness recorded in Zachariah 5: 5-8:

Then the Angel ...said to me, "Look up and see what this is that is appearing." I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "It is a basket..." And there in the basket sat a woman! He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and placed the cover over its mouth.

That was the spirit of wickedness which was revealed to sister Comfort by the Lord, responsible for her breast cancer.

She was shown how that spirit operated. Then the voice of the Lord spoke and rebuked that evil entity and it was destroyed. The Lord then healed her breast and told her to go and give thanks.

I have healed you. Now, go and give thanks.

That was all. When she woke up, behold it was a dream. But it was not an ordinary dream. It was a revelation from the Lord, to show her events in the spirit realm. That is the beauty of Covenant Time. Through it the Lord makes us see things for ourselves. So Comfort witnessed her own healing as it took place in the spirit and in the physical. She couldn't contain her joy as she shared these things with us. Today, she is going about directing everyone to start keeping Covenant Time with the Lord Jesus, for in His presence there is fullness of Joy indeed.

The beauty of these things is that the Lord will not only heal you, He will also put every other thing in your life in order. He doesn't just stop at the healing. He perfects the person all round.

Start Covenant Time today, and keep your focus on knowing Jesus, then healing and restoration will be your own experience too, in Jesus name. Amen.

CHAPTER 7: RESCUED FROM DEATH BY GOD'S PRESENCE

Let us share this testimony, to encourage those who may be passing through certain hard times in their health and life generally. The presence of God is able to deliver us and set us free even at the point of death. All we need to do is to get into His presence, especially by covenant keeping, and it shall be done.

John Obijama is from Alor, in Anambra State of Nigeria. God showed him great mercy through a restoration of life that happened to him when he was already at the point of death.

By the time John was brought to us, about 8 p.m. on that day, he was not talking; he was dying! He was dying from a strange heart condition that had defied medical efforts for weeks. At times blood flowed out of his mouth and other frightening conditions. The doctors handling him had given up on him and had advised his people to expect the worst.

John himself had handed his important things to the wife too, including his business, for death would be the next thing! Furthermore, his people had gathered and agreed to take him home, for him to die in the home town, instead of doing so in Lagos. These were the circumstances under which they brought John to us.

AT THE POINT OF DEATH

As we inquired of the Lord, He said this to us:

John is not sick. He is dying. Death has come upon him. He will die in three days' time.

We were shocked to hear this. Then we inquired further, to know what could be done to save him.

"Well", the Lord said; "I have given him a call, a call to draw near to Me, to come to My presence at covenant time so that I may save him from his enemies! But he is too busy, and would not obey. So I have allowed his enemies to come upon him."

We then asked of the way out. "What should be done now for him to live?" we asked. And the great God spoke again.

"The only way for him to live is to answer My call right now. So, ask him if he is now ready to answer My call and to start keeping covenant time with Me. He cannot talk, but I will help him to hear, so ask him. Also ask the wife if she will allow her husband to serve Me, without her doing anything to hinder him."

So we called his name, 'John!' We shouted it for him to hear and then asked him if he would be willing now to obey the Lord by starting Holy Ghost School (covenant time keeping), if the Lord now restored his life. As we watched, he slowly moved his head in the affirmative, slowly nodding "yes". That was all. We

A DIVINE BLESSING

then asked the wife and of course she promised not to do anything to hinder him from obeying the Lord.

GOD RETURNED HIS LIFE

The next thing that happened was a great marvel to all of us. Without any prayers, without anything else, we saw **John** who had been dumped across the seat, now moving his body slowly. Next, his eyes opened and his body received enough strength that he gradually lifted himself from across the seat and now sat down properly! He began to look from one direction to another, wondering where he was. He then spoke faintly, asking the wife where they were, and what they were doing there. All these happened within a few minutes.

That was all! God had released life back into him, and had chased away the death that had come over him. We then directed him on how to start keeping covenant time. The joy of the wife, **Florence**, could not be described, seeing her almost dead husband suddenly brought back to life by the power of the presence of God! That was how they left for their home to start keeping Covenant Time at once.

WHAT HE SAW FOR HIMSELF

A few days after this, John and his wife came back to us to share a strange dream the Lord gave to him. In the dream, which he had as soon as he started covenant time, he was taken to a place where he was lifted in the air so as to observe something on the ground. From there he saw a big grave that had been dug, and the dead was lying inside it, remaining to cover the grave. As he watched, a strange thing happened. The dead person in the grave began to come back to life and was finally brought out of that grave by a great power. As he looked closely, behold he was the one! The dead man that was lying in the grave, now raised to life, became himself, John! He shuddered from the point where he was observing these things.

Next, he saw two huge evil powers coming towards the grave, to now cover it, for the time to cover it had come. But as they arrived there and saw the grave empty, great anger came over them, and they paced up and down looking for the man they had come to complete his burial. They spoke in great anger as they walked up and down looking for him. Then the Lord explained to him that he, John, had actually died in the spirit realm, waiting for the confirmation of the Lord, for him to physically give up. If he had not submitted to the Lord's will, this grave would have been sealed by now, spiritually, and a day or two after, he would have physically died.

That was the dream he and his wife came to share with us, and we all trembled at the great power of our Lord. We also marvelled at how the presence of God, via Covenant Time could make such difference between life and death!

A DIVINE BLESSING

LESSONS

Now let us learn the following from John's experience.

(1) He would have died for rejecting God's call to come into His presence. This is because the presence of God is life and progress. (Psalm 16: 11). If anyone rejects God's presence, that person is rejecting life, and so death comes!

(2) Next, by merely agreeing to start keeping covenant time, John was restored! Can you now see the power in keeping covenant time with God? If merely accepting to do it gives one life, can you imagine what actually doing it would then give?

(3) Our excuses are our trouble. John was busy because of his business. Now if he had died, where would he have been to manage those businesses that had kept him busy and away from God's presence? We must not be foolish. We must not allow anything to hinder us from keeping covenant time with God, for therein lies our life and progress.

Today, John and his wife and indeed their entire families are so grateful to God for what He has done for them. Not only that He has restored life to them, God has also touched every area of their lives and has put everything in order, as they had never experienced before! Today, John and his wife are telling everyone to start keeping covenant time with the Lord for there is no better way for knowing God and for getting into His blessings.

TERRIBLE DIABETES HEALED IN HIS PRESENCE

Let us share this testimony to further help those who may be sick. A Brother had a terrible case of diabetes which had lasted for years. By now he had grown so lean and lifeless that those who knew him could hardly recognize him again. He had incurred so much debt from medical bills that kept rising - due to complications from his diabetes.

That was the sorry state in which he was when he was brought to us. From there, he started keeping covenant time in the presence of God. And soon, his testimonies became astonishing.

HEALED, YET AFRAID

The first week he started keeping covenant time, the Lord had appeared to him in the dream and asked him to start eating normal food, for he had been healed. According to him, when he woke up, he ignored the dream, thinking it was his own mind or the devil trying to deceive him. So you see, many Christians are Christians by word of mouth only. They do not know Jesus, neither by His voice nor even in the dreams so that, when the Lord speaks to them, they do not even know it is Him, and so they ignore His word of life! And so this brother continued with his "special diet" for the diabetic, even though the Lord had healed him! A

A DIVINE BLESSING

week later, the Lord came again and this time His voice was harsh, for He scolded the brother for his unbelief.

I have healed you start eating normal food!

In fact, the word so jolted him that he wouldn't ignore it anymore. Moreover, the Lord went to his wife and also directed her saying, "stop preparing special food for your husband for I have healed him of his diabetes!" The wife was closer to Jesus, and so she quickly received and obeyed. That was how this brother reluctantly and fearfully started eating rice, yam, and other foods not good for the diabetic. As he kept step with the Lord via covenant time, the Lord soon perfected other areas of his life, including settling the huge debts and establishing his business.

WE MUST BELIEVE

Even though God had healed this brother within the first week, he did not share the testimony with people until three months later! By then he had so refreshed that everyone kept asking him what happened. He said he waited for that long, so as to be sure he had actually been healed. He had gone to the hospital two times within this period to test and confirm his healing. But because of the trauma he had suffered for years due to this ailment, he found it hard to accept the healing - nor to testify of it - until three months later!

Now, are you ready to receive your healing from the Lord? Then start keeping covenant time. But don't behave like this brother who manifested so much unbelief and fears. Believe the Lord and it shall be well with you. This brother was still carrying insulin injection in his pocket for long after the Lord had healed him! He had suffered diabetic coma several times in the past and the fear of that experience haunted him. He had grown used to injecting himself insulin and so had to carry the injection on him anywhere he went. He finally dropped those things after three months of confirmation of his healing.

The Lord is waiting in your house, to heal you of whatever disease and sickness, so, start keeping covenant time today. But believe Him and obey Him, and don't let fear delay your joy.

CHAPTER 8: ISSUES CONCERNING MARRIAGE

One of the areas the enemy is hitting so hard these days is marriage. The church is made up of families. If families are scattered, the church is also scattered. So, there is so much problem in the area of marriage, because the end-time has come.

God, however, is not abandoning us to handle things ourselves. He has provided great healing and deliverance for all our marital problems. There is so much restoration power in His presence specifically meant for marriages. In fact one

A DIVINE BLESSING

of the areas He handles with great speed is that of marital problems, because He knows that the family is the unit of salvation - Noah and family, Lot and family, and so on.

MARITAL PROBLEMS RESOLVED BY REVELATION

Are you having problems in marriage? Any type of problem at all? Then the solution is still the same - get into God's presence!

These things did not begin today you know. In the Bible time there were problems in marriage and these problems were solved by God's intervention via dreams and revelations.

MARY AND JOSEPH

A typical example was that which involved Jesus' mother, Mary and His father Joseph. You see, it may not be a strange thing for Christian couples to have marital problems. What could be strange however may be the way they go about handling those problems.

Jesus' mother and father had marital problem too, to the point of even planning a divorce. Joseph, so enraged by the 'offence' of the wife and decided in his heart to divorce her the next day. "By tomorrow, I will send this woman packing", he had told himself. But you see, this great God we serve, He sees even the thoughts of our hearts. He saw Joseph's plan to divorce Mary, and so He decided to intervene. Mary must have prayed secretly and sought His intervention, and so He intervened.

It may surprise you how He intervened, for He intervened by giving Joseph just a dream as he slept, and that was all! The Bible said:

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to DIVORCE HER quietly. But after he had considered this, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a DREAM and said, "Joseph ... do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1: 19-20)

That was how it happened, it all happened in a dream! Joseph had just one dream and that solved their marital problem that had almost led to a divorce. So what did Joseph do with the dream?

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary home as his wife (Matthew 1:24).

Isn't that wonderful? We have a God of revelations and dreams who reveals secrets and who uses dreams to solve even big problems in marriage.

DO WHAT MARY DID

You, how far has your problem in marriage gone? Joseph had planned to divorce Mary "secretly". Has your husband or wife planned to divorce you secretly? Then what have you done about it? Have you been gathering people and making much noise about it? Have you been going about telling everyone you know about the problem? Why? For them to do what? What a foolish thing to do. You have left the real solution in your house, which is going to God's presence, and you are out there gossiping with everyone you see. Or perhaps you have taken the case to the 'marriage committee' of your church? That also is unnecessary.

Why don't you do what Mary did? What did Mary do? First, she told no one about it. Next, she went to God secretly and told Him and sought His intervention. Mary had learnt how to separate to God's presence and there speak with God alone. She had learnt how to hear the voice of God and how to interact with Him personally. Recall the first time the Lord had visited Mary, there was a long Divine conversation between them.

Then the Angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus ... then Mary said how can this be, since I do not know a man? And the Angel answered and said to her ... then Mary said ... (Luke 1:30-38).

The point we are making here is that Mary had already learnt how to engage the Lord in a conversation. She hears His voice and discusses things with Him. It is not the type of one - way prayer which believers of today say. Today, all we know about prayer is just to talk and talk and talk. We don't wait to hear God's voice, because we are not close to Him. For Mary, it was conversational, not one-way prayer.

So, Mary must have gone to God's presence and there discussed her problem in marriage with the Lord, which prompted Him to give the dream to Joseph. That is what you too should do, if you want real, lasting peace and progress in your marriage. But you see, for God to hear you and come to your help, you have to learn how to separate to God's presence everyday and there learn hearing His voice. We must learn hearing God's voice for ourselves if we are to enjoy real benefits of the Christian life.

DON'T DESPISE DREAMS

Joseph had just one dream and that put an end to their marital problem. Why? Because he responded positively to the dream. Today, many people look down on dreams. Even Christians! Some say it is malaria or certain other sickness or condition that makes them have dreams. Others say that dreams have ended, that it ended with the apostles. Others think that modern Christians do not need

A DIVINE BLESSING

dreams anymore, and wonder how one can be telling of dreams and visions in this modern age of computers and satellites and internet.

Such are the types of believers we have in our church today, believers who think that the God of revelations no longer speaks by dreams. Meanwhile, the Apostle Paul did much of the great things he did by dreams and visions which he received from God (See Galatians 1:11-12, 2 Corinthians 12:1-7).

Peter and John and other apostles were successful in their lives and ministries because they allowed God to lead them by the prophetic tools of dreams and visions. The entire book of Revelation is all about dreams and visions which John the beloved received from God while he was in the Island of Patmos. These were New Testament people, just as we are. So, what is our reason for not receiving Divine dreams for our guidance and progress?

So go to God's presence from today and start keeping covenant time with Him. Then expect Him to visit you and to speak to you through dreams and visions. Pray according to the dreams you receive and ask Him to give you understanding of them. Through these, God will soon cleanse off the pollution that has come over your life and marriage. Then, you will enter into His peace and rest and progress, as you have never known it before.

... Hear now My words: if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a Dream. (Numbers 12:6)

That is what we are saying. Our God is a God of dreams and visions. Go and begin to receive, and stop walking in spiritual darkness. That is the way to enjoy Divine Blessings in your life and marriage.

BROKEN MARRIAGE RESTORED BY REVELATION

A sister came to us with a big marital problem. By then she had been completely separated from her husband for years, and the man had gone away with two other "strange women". He had furnished a house for each of them at the best areas of the city, where he lived with them in turn. He had so much money, but he was a miserable man, beaten about by the unseen forces of darkness.

We told the sister what to do, to start Holy Ghost School in God's presence, for there alone could she get the surest solution. At first she found it hard to understand, for, "how can just keeping covenant time in God's presence solve this problem?" she wondered. But soon she discovered that, that was indeed all she needed, for in His presence "*...He will show us the path of life.*" (Psalm 16:11).

Soon, Divine revelations began to flow, and the sister was amazed how God could speak so eloquently about her situation even through dreams and visions! The Lord revealed her life to her - past, present and future, showing her what

A DIVINE BLESSING

went wrong in the first instance, what to do now, and where He was now taking them to. It took only two months in this program and the Lord had finished the first phase, which was mainly cleansing and drawing her close to God. By now she had become close enough to the Lord, and had started enjoying a talking relationship with Jesus, hearing His voice freely and having understanding of her dreams.

THE HUSBAND DELIVERED BY REVELATION

Next, the Lord began to focus His light on the husband. You see, in this program you don't need to get everyone into it before God would work. All He needs is to have one person start the program in His presence. Through that one person, He would start the work. Then, one by one He draws all the family into it. It was Noah alone who started the work of building the ark, but we know that the rest of the family got into it in the end. So it is with the spiritual Ark of God's presence. It starts with one person, but the purpose is to touch and to save all.

So the Lord began to reveal the husband, showing how the evil one had taken him captive. By now the Lord had purged away the bitterness that had accumulated in the wife's heart, and was now working through her to deliver the husband - by revelation. The best and most powerful deliverance is that done by revelation. Why? Because no man can resist that type, and no evil power can hide from it, for the light of God's revelation is too powerful for such things.

RETURN OF THE HUSBAND

Following a series of deliverance by revelation, carried out by the Lord, this sister's husband was now ready to come for the wife physically. Things must be concluded in the spirit before they materialize in the physical realm. That was how, one day, by telephone, this man contacted the wife, for the first time in many years!

"I want to return to you", he said. "Can we start all over again? I will give you the details when I come, for my eyes have just opened to see how foolish I have been. I am so full of regrets..."

The sister said she couldn't believe it was her husband, knowing the type of man that he was. He had so snubbed the pastors and men of God who had tried to make peace for them in the past. Their people, on both sides, had all tried in vain to make him see the need for restoration of his marriage. Everyone had tried and failed, and some had sworn never to get involved ever again - because of the way this man treated them. But now, all that was gone. God had touched him in spirit and had done enough deliverance on him that he was now a changed man.

That was how finally the sister and her husband got united in marriage again, this time under the able arm of the Lord, and never again to suffer shame in their marriage.

WHATEVER YOUR OWN NEED IS

Do like this sister did. Separate yourself to God's presence at once and there you will find rest. Start keeping covenant time with Him. It will amaze you how fast perfect restoration will come to your marriage. Yours may not be broken marriage yet. It could be constant quarrels with your spouse, or childlessness in marriage, or no money or marital unfaithfulness. It may be one problem or the other, for which you have been seeking solutions. Now, a permanent solution has come - the solution in His presence. **As you start the program, He will begin to reveal to you the real causes of those problems. As He reveals them, He also handles them.** That is how it works. And step by step, He brings you and your entire family into the place of peace and rest and progress that He has ordained for you in this life. Don't waste any further time.

Everyday, we receive wonderful testimonies, like that of the above sister. Great and powerful testimonies come from people who have started this program in their homes. They share amazing testimonies of how being in the presence of God solve big problems for them which have been in their lives for years; problems that had refused to go despite all the religious prayers and fasting and other things they had done. No wonder Moses had said, "If Your presence won't go with us, please don't let us go there".

And the Lord said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33: 14-15).

It is only in His presence that we shall find true rest.

NOT YET MARRIED?

Have you come of age, and are worried because you are not yet married? Have your friends and age-mates got settled in their own homes, yet you are there waiting? That should not worry you anymore.

(i) First of all, know from today that God has different programs and plans for each of His children. Therefore it will be wrong for you to begin to compare with others. Go to God and ask Him to reveal His will for your life. His will includes marriage, so wait for Him.

(ii) Secondly, how do you know that those friends who have married are happy in their marriages? They may make up and try to show that things are fine, but in their hearts they know they have made serious mistakes - unless they married in the will of God.

(iii) Marriage is the most important institution on earth because the family is the unit of salvation. The church and society are made up of families. Therefore

A DIVINE BLESSING

it is not something we should get into without being sure God is guiding us. So, it is better to wait for God than to marry outside the will of God.

A SISTER'S EXPERIENCE

A sister came to us, worried about marriage. She was not yet married. She was now considering accepting a proposal to be a second wife to a man people believed to be evil. She then came to us for 'counselling.'

In the process the Lord revealed a very young man that had not yet married, waiting for this sister's hand in marriage! That was how the sister abandoned her idea of marrying a man she knew to be of a different spirit. It was not long before what the Lord had revealed came to pass. A Brother came and proposed to her. He was the young man the Lord had kept for her. That was how both of them got married.

DO YOU KNOW GOD'S CALL UPON YOU?

That should be your first concern. God has called some to marry early. He has also called some to marry late. Some very late. It is like the issue of fruits of the womb. He called women like Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth to wait long before getting children, and as we shall see later in this book, it was for a glorious purpose. Even so it is in getting married. So go to God and find out His call upon you. If He has called you to wait, then wait, and do that with joy. Why? Because you are fulfilling your calling and He who has called you into it will reward you in the end.

Are you tormented because of fear of not getting children if you marry too late? That fear is unfounded except in the medical and natural realms. But we are not talking of medical science here. We are talking of the Almighty God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. Haven't you heard of Sarah? Hannah? Elizabeth? At what age did they start having children? Abraham was at least hundred years old by the time their child came. So about how old do you think Sarah was? She was about ninety years! (See Genesis 17: 17 & 21: 5). Sarah's womb had already been declared 'dead,' remember? Yet when God's time came, everything became new and functioning well. Study Romans 4: 19-25 and then surrender your life afresh to Jesus and rejoice in Him as you wait. Meet with Him everyday at His covenant table and there He will settle you in due course.

CHAPTER 9: CONCERNING EDUCATION

Part of physical blessings from God is in the area of academics. God is interested in what universities and colleges His children go to. Unfortunately, many Christians tend to handle issues of admissions into higher institutions as if it is their own affairs, as if God shouldn't be bothered with such "ordinary" things. Yet, when trouble comes from the choices and decisions they have made,

A DIVINE BLESSING

they begin to ask, "God, why me?" "Why did You allow this?" "Why didn't You do this, why didn't You do that?" and so on.

HE HAS THE MASTER PLAN

God is interested in which schools and universities we go to. Why? Because He is interested in our future.

He has our future in His hands. He knows the plans He has in His mind for us. He knows exactly what He has created us to be. He has a perfect will for each of us. Therefore, it is God that should tell us what course to pursue, what schools and universities to go, and all that. Only He can give us perfect guidance and counselling in these areas, according to His perfect will for us. If God has planned for me to be a specialist Surgeon for instance, but I have enrolled for Geology, how can I be blessed in the end, having deviated from God's will for my life? If God's will is for me to become the best Accountant around, but I am taking lectures in Chemical Engineering, how would you expect me to be blessed in the end? Because of this, many parents and their children have suffered unnecessary delays and pains, because they have been seeking admission into higher institutions without consulting God. They have consulted themselves and have taken counsel together, and have arrived at what they want for themselves. Based on those blind decisions, they began to apply and seek admissions, putting their confidence in the arm of flesh.

For some, they seem to succeed at the beginning, but at the end, they suffer untold losses. For others, God doesn't allow them to step out at all, for the sake of His covenant with them. He does not allow them step into the wrong direction for long. He stops them one way or the other, and uses any means to get them back to Himself, until they are fully back to His perfect will for their lives. This explains why some sincere believers fail to secure admissions as early as they would have loved. God uses divine delays to get their attention, so that they do not end up in destruction, following their own ways.

Let us now see some example of what we are talking about. God gives clear directions about our education if we come to Him. He gives admissions into higher institutions to His obedient ones, without unnecessary struggles.

IF YOU INSIST ON HAVING YOUR WAY

So, are you still worried, because you haven't got admission? "Jamb has not favoured you?" as they would often say. Now, admission to where? To what university and for what course? Who made that choice for you? Yourself? Your parents? Your uncle? Perhaps your friends? On what basis did you make that choice? Is that what the Lord has said? Now, if you pursue this your choice and end up in big trouble, who will you call upon for help? Will you not call on the Lord? Or even begin to query Him? Who do you think the Lord is then? A small boy? Your boy? Your classmate? Someone you call upon only when you are in trouble,

A DIVINE BLESSING

and as soon as the trouble is over, you become the boss again? That is a wrong and dangerous attitude. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8: 14). "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6: 46).

Let the Holy Spirit lead you right from the onset. That is the only way to be sure that your education will go well and at the end you will be blessed. Those who don't have Jesus may go on leading themselves and following blind counsel of men. But if you are a believer, then you must make use of your "connection" with the King. Consult Him, and He will give you the wise counsel and direction that will lead you to the great future that He has in mind for you.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. (Proverbs 3: 5-7).

Why? Because there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death (Proverbs 16: 25).

(And) unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it. (Psalm 127: 1).

Do you want to labour in vain? If not, then involve the Lord at once. Ask Him to take over and build your life, your education, your future, for you. That is the only way to be guaranteed a blessed life ahead.

EBELE'S UNIVERSITY ADMISSION EXPERIENCES WITH JESUS

Chidebe and her husband, Arthur were among the first people to embrace Holy Ghost School. So, everyone had expected their children to have no admission problems. One day she came to us with her first daughter, Ebele, to complain of her not getting admission into the university, even though her less-intelligent colleagues were successful. This thing so devastated the girl that her parents got worried too. After narrating their story, we directed the girl herself to go the Lord, for the Lord would want to speak to her directly, and to come back to us with her dreams.

That was how she went home and started keeping covenant time with the Lord. And like we promised her, the Lord really came down to her through amazing revelations and dreams that were to change her life forever.

TO JAMB OFFICE BY REVELATION

The very first night that she started the program, the Lord gave her a dream. In the dream He took her to Jamb office, and showed her what made her fail. He showed her certain mistakes which she made on the forms and scripts, which made some of her marks not to be recorded. The Lord said He permitted those mistakes to be made to avoid a calamity that would have befallen her and her

A DIVINE BLESSING

family if she had gone to the university that year, to the University of their Choice.

SHE WOULD HAVE LOST HER LIFE

The Lord showed her in a dream how she would have been killed in a crossfire between two rival campus cults, in her first year. This would have happened because she was going to the University of her choice, outside the will of God. God had planned to send her to the University of Lagos to study Economics. That was God's will for her. That was what God had planned for her. But because she did not know God personally she could not know the will of God. And so she was operating outside the will of God in her educational pursuit. She had chosen a university in her "catchment area" instead, hoping to get easier admission.

When we operate outside God's will we are in danger and exposed. Anything can happen to such a person. By the way, don't you see and hear of such things? It is now an almost regular occurrence for students to die in the campus in the hands of campus cults and other miscreants. This would have happened to Ebele. But because her parents were already in a covenant - relationship with God, God decided to prevent that sad death. And the best way to prevent it was to allow the girl's admission to be hindered. That was the only way to get their attention. Through that, He would draw her close, and then bring her into God's will for her education.

That was Ebele's dream and encounter with God, the first night of her covenant time.

CONFIRMATION THROUGH HER FATHER

God also gave a confirmation of this dream to the girl's father, Arthur. In his own dream, he said he saw people bearing a casket and coming towards his house, chanting strange songs. When he inquired, they told him it was the body of his daughter, Ebele, that they were bringing. When he woke up, he wondered at the dream.

Later that morning, as the daughter shared her own dream with the parents, and the father shared his, it became clear to them that God had fought a great fight for them, by saving the girl's life.

Instead of crying for not having admission, the girl and her parents, and indeed their entire family, all fell down before the Lord God, and thanked Him and worshipped Him for what He had done for them. That was how by the next day the entire family came to us to share these strange and powerful encounters they have had with the living God. Ebele was now very serious in her Holy Ghost Schooling, enjoying God's presence and growing in personal relationship with Jesus.

In subsequent messages, the Lord now directed her concerning her admission into the University of Lagos to read Economics. Physically, she got into 'University

A DIVINE BLESSING

of Lagos' that same year, as God has said. Ebele had learnt a lesson that would lead her all her life. She learnt to seek God's will in everything, and to commit her desires into God's hand, for the Lord cares for her.

For I know the thought I have for you, says the Lord; thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a Hope. (Jeremiah 29: 11).

God's Word has further said:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones. (Proverbs 3: 5-8).

This is the wisdom Ebele and her parents have learnt through these experiences. This is the wisdom we all need too, if we are to enter into the best things God has for us in this life, including education. Those who have not learnt this wisdom of allowing God to direct them in all they do, end up with terrible disappointments in life. The earlier we allow Him to lead us, the better.

LEAD YOUR CHILDREN TO GOD'S PRESENCE

Let us know this from today, that our children are not our children only. They are God's children too. As a result, we should not try to lead them into the future by our own reasoning and choices. Why? Because we are blind people. We don't see. We can't see tomorrow. We don't know the future. The beautiful choices we make for them today may lead them to great troubles tomorrow, even to destruction. Remember:

"A way may seem right in the eyes of a man, but at the end, it leads to destruction," says the word of God. (Proverbs 16: 25).

It is of that way that we are warning.

So, parents, enter into God's covenant-keeping relationship yourselves. Then lead your children into it too, for them to begin knowing the Lord personally for themselves too. The benefits are immeasurable. By so doing, the Lord will begin to teach and direct your children in the way they should go, so that whether you are there or not these children will do well in life. This is the best thing that can happen to your children, especially in these last days when great trials and troubles are coming upon the world.

A DIVINE BLESSING

DOCTORATE PROGRAM RE-ARRANGED BY GOD

Brother Edmund had planned to do his Doctorate degree program in the USA. Two professors were already assisting him to come over for the program. Then, suddenly, the Lord God showed up and asked him to abandon his travel plans for now, and enrol at once in Holy Ghost School and start keeping Covenant Time. That was God's will for him for then, not Doctorate degree. Edmund found it hard at first. But following persistent revelations from the Lord, he received the grace to obey. So he shelved his Doctorate degree program overseas, and gave his entire life and time to seeking God's will in the Holy Ghost School way.

Soon, it began to pay off. The dividends of obeying God began to come. First, God perfected his spiritual life and brought him into a very close, conversational relationship, deeper than anything he had ever experienced before. Next, the Lord granted him favour, so that money began to pour into his pocket, through his consultancy firm. The Lord told him clearly what the money was meant for. The Lord was to build him a house! He directed him to use the money to build a house and settle his family before talking about further education.

Within a very short time indeed, the Lord had completed building Edmund a house and settled his family there! Next, the Lord gave him a very special solid expensive vehicle for the 'high-ups.' It came through a dream the Lord gave to him. Before then Edmund was driving an old car that was giving so much troubles. And he had no money to change the car. The Lord then revealed to him that a brand new, expensive, strong special class vehicle was coming to him. He did not believe that dream at first until it came to pass!

Next, the Lord expanded His package to now reach the wife and children. Abundant Divine blessings began to pour into the family, with the Lord touching everyone in the family, including the wife and children. They became like Noah and family in the Ark of Divine protection and goodness.

Then, one day when he was not expecting it, the Lord came to him again in a dream and asked him to now go for his Doctorate program. He had wanted to give him and his family a solid spiritual foundation and necessary material blessings first before further studies. Now the Lord on His own came back to restore his Doctorate Program!

Edmund is full of gratitude to God for what He has done for him and his family through Holy Ghost School. As he flies to London and USA, where his consultancy business takes him, he carries Holy Ghost School books on him, for whoever the Lord might lead him to. For him, **there is just no better way to succeed in life than this!** God has blessed him all round, because he obeyed God by enrolling in Holy Ghost School first.

GOD MAY ALTER YOUR OWN PLANS

The point we are making here is that God may first alter our own plans, and rearrange our priorities. At that time it may seem as if He hates us. It may seem

A DIVINE BLESSING

as if He is working against us. Some may wonder then if He truly loves them. From brother Edmund's experiences and from the experiences of many disciples who come to us every day, we have discovered it is all for our own good. When the Lord asks us to give up a thing, at the end we would discover it is for our own good, for God's own plans and ways are by far better than ours.

So, are you ready to obey God even if He asks you to drop something that is important to you? It could be your business, your education, your finances, something in your marriage, etc. Will you obey? As you start keeping Covenant Time, get prepared to obey God even in things that are difficult. He will ask you to drop or suspend doing something only if it is necessary for the work He is doing in your life. So, you should obey, happily. At the end, you will discover why it became necessary, and you will be ever grateful to Him for His wisdom and fatherly guidance. Those who refuse to obey will not get to the end of their journey into a life of peace and progress. Disobedience and self-will quench the move of God and cause us to stop half-way. Such people will then wonder why other people became blessed through Holy Ghost School, while they themselves are not. The reason is their unbelief and disobedience.

So, let's take note of this. It is not just keeping Covenant Time that matters; we should obey His every direction. Obedience is essential! So, as you start keeping Covenant Time, ask Him for the grace to obey His instructions without delay.

Covenant Time + Obedience = Progress

Covenant Time - Obedience = Disappointment

Don't forget this spiritual formula. But be sure it is the Lord directing you before you obey.

A PROFESSOR'S EXPERIENCE IN HOLY GHOST SCHOOL

Dr. Lanre is an Associate Professor of Pharmacognosy (Pharmacy) at the University of Ife. She came to us by revelation of the Lord. She then started keeping Covenant Time in Holy Ghost School way. Soon, things began to dramatically and wonderfully change round about her. The Lord began to reveal to her spiritual events that had worked against her for years.

Only two months of being in Holy Ghost School, and the Lord had transformed this lady completely, touching everything that concerned her. She came sharing with us how the Lord even began to help her in her academic, research work! The transformation became so visible on her that everyone stopped to find out "the secret" of the glory that now surrounded her.

The Lord also led her to begin introducing Holy Ghost School to her colleagues, friends, associates, including those overseas. So, by the internet, she has brought many into this new, powerful move of God. She comes from time to time to share with us amazing testimonies from her "disciples" - people she had introduced the program to.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Holy Ghost School can be applied in our academic work! God is the author of science. He is the Creator. He can reveal to us things that will cause us to excel in our research work and projects as well as in our marriages, businesses, industries, and in whatever profession we find ourselves. God wants us to excel in whatever He places in our hands. It is part of His Divine Blessings for us.

Paul gave up his respected profession (an expert in Law!) as well as his exalted religious positions (Hebrew of Hebrews and a Pharisee), and counted them as nothing, even as dung - all "for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ"! (See Philippians 3:4-10). When we meet Christ in person, nothing else will matter to us in this life. That is what we are experiencing in Holy Ghost School.

CHAPTER 10: TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BY REVELATION

Here is another example of Divine direction in education.

By March 2005, Miss Chidiogo was in her final class at Airforce Secondary school, Ikeja. It was also time for another round of selling "Jamb forms", for those seeking admission into the universities. She was in Holy Ghost School herself, as well as her parents. The Lord had taught them not to do anything without first seeking God's direction. So, they did not take things for granted about her schooling. Chidiogo had to ask the Lord before buying JAMB forms, because it was possible that God could have other plans.

So, upon asking the Lord whether she should get JAMB forms, the Lord asked her to go ahead and buy the forms.

As she rejoiced, and made to go, the Lord stopped her and said that she had not asked enough. She should ask Him concerning the course and the University of His choice. As she asked, the Lord revealed to her in a dream where she was at the university of Benin taking courses in Theatre Arts. She had never been to Benin, but in the dream she saw the University of Benin very well, and later, when she actually got there in real life, it was exactly so.

But, theatre arts? What a choice!

Chidiogo had wanted to do Law or Mass Communication. Her father would have loved her to study Economics, and the mother had her own preference too. But then, they had learnt enough of "*The way that seems right unto a man, but in the end it leads to destruction.*" (Proverbs 16: 25). And so, they had all inquired of the Lord for direction, and now God had given them what they didn't like. Theatre Arts? They could not have bargained for it in their wildest imagination.

WHY THEATRE ARTS? WHY BENIN?

Chidiogo's parents would have loved their daughter to go to the University of Lagos, which was just a stone throw from where they lived! But now the Lord has said it is the University of Benin. Finally they had accepted the Lord's strange

A DIVINE BLESSING

choices, but they still wanted to know more. For sure there was nothing wrong in their going to their Father God to ask for more understanding. So, they went back to Him and asked for more understanding into the choice He had made for them. The Lord graciously answered them too.

First, He told them He chose Theatre Arts for Chidiogo because that would prepare her for the work He, God, would use her to do in the future. He told them that He had wonderful plans for her, and Theatre Arts was the course that would prepare her for those plans. He said that His choices are often queer and unattractive at the beginning, just because man cannot see ahead as He, God, sees.

So, His choice may not look elegant, appealing and attractive at the beginning, to man, but in the end, it always proves to be the best. It is like the narrow way which leads to life eternal. At the beginning the narrow way looks too hard and uninviting, but for those who persist on it, they soon discover it is the route that leads to the greatest life! So, He had chosen theatre arts for Chidiogo, contrary to man's expectations and desire, but in the end, they would all be grateful to Him for what He had done for them.

Next He explained to them why He was taking her to Benin, instead of leaving her under their care in Lagos. "Divine care is greater than parental care," He said. So He wanted Chidiogo to learn Divine care in some deeper, more practical ways and that would work out best if she was taken far away from them. Again the purpose was to equip and prepare her for the work He has for her in life.

At the end of all the explanations, Chidiogo and her parents were all satisfied and happy, grateful to God that He had time to care so much for them in that way.

NO STRUGGLES WHEN GOD LEADS

It was after all these revelations and clarifications that Chidiogo happily filled the 'JAMB forms' and returned them. Remember God "had given her" a place already in the University of Benin, before she even bought and filled the forms! That is the greatness of the God we are talking about. A God who has so much power and authority that when He opens, no man can shut and when He shuts, no man can open. (Isaiah 22: 22). Because of His Divine ability, He calls things by name even when they do not yet exist. He had already given Chidiogo a place at the University of Benin, to study Theatre Arts, even when JAMB forms were not yet filled out, nor JAMB exams taken!

So, that was how Chidiogo finally went to the University of Benin (the same year) to do Theatre Arts, just as the Lord had said. By Revelation God had assured her of a very good result in her School certificate (WAEC) examination. And indeed, when the results were out, she had a wonderful result, just as the Lord had revealed to her. So, she went to the university without the usual struggles that characterize such admissions these days.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Many students have taken JAMB examination for upward of five times, yet without getting a place in any university, mainly because they were not allowing the Lord to lead and direct them. When we make the choice by ourselves, and then ask God to bless what we have chosen, He may not do that. It is best to ask Him to choose things for us right from the beginning. Even when what He has chosen may not be beautiful in our eyes, we should trust Him, as God, to have made the choice for us. In the end we will have every cause to rejoice and be grateful to Him, for what He has done for us.

SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION FOR YOURSELF

So, have you been repeating classes and failing examinations? Have you been spending money every now and then for admission into schools and universities, and at the end you are not successful?

Then you should stop further struggles and go to the Lord God for help. Hand your education matters over to Him and ask Him to choose for you. Ask Him to lead and direct you. By revelation He can get you any admission that is best for you.

By revelation He can make you wise in your studies, such that you will begin to excel. Start keeping covenant time from today, as Chidiogo did. There, He will talk things over with you. If His will for you is to do Medicine, Engineering, Law, or any other course, He will direct you to the University of His choice and then give you admission, for He is the God of Heaven and Earth! Chidiogo had started keeping covenant time with God in her secondary school days, and so she did not have to struggle in the arm of the flesh for anything. God directed her in everything, and is still leading and teaching her even in her university work. You too, go and do the same and things will change for the better, in your life.

JESUS WANTS TO DIRECT LITTLE ONES TOO

This story should interest every parent, and everyone who is seeking progress of their children in education. God wants to direct all of us, even the little ones too, so that we don't miss His perfect plans for our lives, especially at the FOUNDATION level!

Little Miss Ozioma had finished her primary five and was getting ready for primary six, when the Lord appeared and altered the program! Her parents had allowed her to take the common entrance examinations into secondary schools, just for her to have the experience, and not that she was to go to secondary school yet. She was nine years old, and they considered that too tender for the rigours of secondary education. She would do primary six, they had said.

Before they knew it the girl passed all the examinations, including federal schools and even the school for the "Gifted children", where they are trained on Federal Government's scholarship. Ozioma passed all these, and so the parents

A DIVINE BLESSING

began to wonder what this could mean. But the father insisted she should do primary six, so as to get more matured for the secondary school.

While these things were happening, the little girl continued her walk with God, which she had learnt through keeping covenant time. When she was six years, the Lord had demanded that she should come to His presence everyday to keep time with Him. She was doing it before that time, but wasn't serious enough. So, at nine years she had learnt to keep her Covenant Time with the Lord as a matter of utmost importance and that had helped her even in her school work.

So, this time around, the Lord visited the little girl as she kept her covenant time and gave her a dream that changed things. In the dream, the Lord showed her a school, Yaba College of Technology Secondary School, and told her to go get the forms, for that was His choice for her. The girl had grown used to receiving messages from the Lord, so when she woke up, there was no hesitation. She went straight to her parents and told them. In fact, the father never knew there was such a school! He too being used to God's directions via dreams, quickly sought and received confirmation from the Lord concerning the daughter's dream. That was how he urged the wife to go search out the school.

It was here that another miracle became evident. As Ozioma's mother went to "Yaba Tech Secondary School", she was surprised that they had actually conducted admission interviews for the year already! However, they were now selling forms for supplementary admission and that day was the last day for the sale of forms! That was how she got the forms which led to Ozioma being given admission into "Yaba Tech Secondary School", Lagos, as the Lord had said. That was how Ozioma's parents abandoned their own plans of her doing primary six, or attending federal schools.

When Ozioma's parents had asked the Lord to explain these things to them, He told them that Ozioma's future was in His hands and not in theirs. He had great plans for her which they didn't know, and which they didn't care to find out from Him. So, according to His plans for the girl, she should be at Yaba Tech Secondary School, in year 2005.

From there, He would take her to the next step in His plans for her life. Step by step, He would lead her to a great and successful future, He said. If she missed that, she would have missed part of God's plans for her life and it would have affected her in the future.

The Lessons are these:

- (1) Parents should not choose schools and things for their children and then ask God to come in later to bless their plans. That is wrong.
- (2) Parents should, right from the onset, allow the Lord to choose and determine things for them and for their children. That is the only way to be sure of God's continued presence and blessings.

A DIVINE BLESSING

(3) Parents should start keeping Covenant Time themselves, so that they can have good standing and personal relationship with the Lord.

(4) Parents should, in addition, teach their children to keep Covenant Time with the Lord. Their age does not matter. God is able to relate with little children and even use them to encourage their parents. (Joel 2: 28).

(5) There are many Bible examples of this. In Genesis 37: 5-10, Joseph was only a little boy of 17 years when God visited him with that great dream that changed his life, through which his father and brothers came to "bow to him" (submitted to him) in Egypt. (See Chapter 43-45).

Again Samuel was a small boy when God called him and began speaking to him through dreams, giving him deep messages of future events, things that even his master Eli desired to look into! Through those Divine Revelations and interactions God guided the little Samuel, until he became a great leader of the nation of Israel. (1 Samuel 3: 1-21). Again in Joel 2: 28-29, it is made clear that in the end-time (the time we are in now), God would seek little children to interact directly with them.

(6) So, let us lead our children to the great God, and have peace, as we watch Him lead them beautifully through this life, by His own wisdom and power.

(7) Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and DO NOT FORBID THEM; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven"* (Matthew 19: 14).

Have you obeyed this injunction?

FOUNDATION IS IMPORTANT

You may say, it is only a secondary school affair. That is a little matter which any one can handle. But that is not so. The foundation of a building is more important than all those other beautiful things built upon it. Why? Because the life of a building depends on its foundation. If the foundation is faulty, then the entire building is in trouble, no matter how expensive it is.

The primary and secondary school days of a child are the 'foundation days' of their life and so we must allow God to do it Himself. Many people are suffering in life today due to the mistakes they made at the early days of their lives. Let us not allow such a thing to happen to our children. Let us lead them to Jesus and hand them over to Jesus, in time. To "catch them young" in this way is the best thing you can do for them. It is better than any other investments you can ever

A DIVINE BLESSING

make for them! Only Jesus can guarantee a sweet successful future for our little ones!

CHAPTER 11: FOR THOSE SEEKING FRUITS OF THE WOMB

Remember we are still talking about receiving Divine blessings. We started with the spiritual blessings which act as the foundation of life, to the physical ones. Now we want to look at the blessing of the fruits of the womb and how we can receive them.

Another group of people that roam about so much is that of women who are looking for fruits of the womb. These are women who have not had children in their marriage. In their anxiety, some wander into many forbidden grounds, such as going to "native doctors," "seers," "white garment (marine) churches" and some other satanic outlets, all in their bid to secure their marriage, by getting children. Some do some other more horrible things that shouldn't even be mentioned. Some of these things are so indecent and devilish that one wonders what would become of any children that are born of such evil foundations! For those who go to churches, some of them are asked to drink anointing oil, all in their bid to have babies. Anointing oil is now being taken orally; what a confusion!

STOP WANDERING AND DO THE RIGHT THING

So, are you one of the women in this category? Have you been married for so long and yet you haven't got children? Have you done some of the things mentioned above; or perhaps done more than these? Now the Lord wants you to know the TRUTH about this matter. The truth is that you don't need to do any of these things before getting your children, if only you have gone to the right person - Jesus, Himself. When you go to 'men of God,' they will subject you to all sorts of religious rigours, but when you go to Jesus Himself, He will give you rest without any of the religious sacrifices involved. So, we advise you to stop all the religious things you have been doing and choose a time to be alone with the Lord in His presence. There, He will begin to cleanse your life as He feeds you with fresh Word of life. As you get closer to Him in this way, He will then reveal to you the cause of your childlessness. Every childlessness has a cause.

As He reveals the cause, for you to know what is happening, He will also take measures to rectify things and then give you the children that He has planned for you. It may sound simplistic, but that is the way it happens with women who have started this program.

CHILDREN ARE GOD'S GIFT

Look, you must realize that children are God's gift. If they are a gift, then you don't have to work for them to come. You don't have to do something extra, otherwise they are no longer a gift. If you don't have them, it simply means God has not given you the gift of children. Then all you should do is to go straight to

A DIVINE BLESSING

Him, the Giver, to find out what is wrong. Don't try to work it out yourself if it is a gift. Go to the Giver of that gift instead. He will then tell you what is wrong, why He hasn't given you. As two of you talk it over, and He is now satisfied with you, He then releases the gift to you. It is as simple as that.

Children are a GIFT from God; they are His reward...(Psalm 127: 3 - LB).

This idea that children are a gift must sink well into your heart, so that you would adopt the right attitude, which is to go straight to the Giver and discuss it with Him. You have been going to men and women for help; you have been taking things and doing things! Now stop all that, and go to God by yourself!

TWO TYPES OF CHILDLESSNESS

As the Lord gave us this message, He also revealed to us that there are two major types of childlessness.

- (1) Those whose wombs are closed by the devil.
- (2) Those whose wombs are closed by God Himself.

Let us now look at them in detail.

THOSE WHOSE WOMBS ARE CLOSED BY THE DEVIL

These are women who are suffering from satanic attacks (oppression) which may have come to them through certain spiritual openings (doorways) known or unknown to them. These doorways could be spiritual covenants and agreements which they have got into either directly by their own action or indirectly by the actions of someone else, say their parents, friends, relations, etc. The important thing is that these people are bound by satanic powers and through that bondage they can't have children.

SOLUTION: This type of childlessness is quite easy to handle. All it requires is for the victim to receive spiritual power and authority from God and that is all. Through spiritual authority, a simple prayer looses this woman and sets her free to go and begin having her children.

Jesus has given us power and authority to:

Trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy...(Luke 10: 19).

Destroying the evil power of the devil that has caused a woman not to have children is not a big deal if the above authority is used. If this woman draws close to God herself, God will reveal these things and cleanse her and give her children. If a spiritual Christian, a true man or woman of God prays for her, God will honour that prayer and also heal the woman so that she starts having children.

A DIVINE BLESSING

We call this group 'category A'. People whose wombs are closed by the devil are in 'category A.' Let's now look at 'category B' - those whose womb are closed by God Himself.

THOSE WHOSE WOMBS ARE CLOSED BY GOD

It is here that the "real issue" lies. We say real issue because we are no longer dealing with the devil whom we can easily cast out and bind. We are here dealing face to face with the Lord God, himself! So, how do we handle this one? How do we go about opening a womb that the God of creation has locked up by Himself? It is here that we must pay attention for this is where many get confused. First, they say, "can God close somebody's womb?" "Is God a wicked God?" then they wonder, "How can the God of love close the womb of somebody, even that of a Christian?" Some even quote the scripture and ask, "did God not say we should increase and multiply?"

So, let's solve this riddle first. Does God really close the womb of some women, including those of believers? The Scripture says yes!

HANNAH

In 1 Samuel we have this account:

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim... named Elkanah... And he had two wives ...Hannah...and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children...for the Lord had closed her womb (1 Samuel 1: 1-5).

Do you see that? God does close people's wombs, for a purpose. All cases of childlessness are not from the devil alone. God, the God of Love, does close some wombs also! We need to let this truth sink for indeed many will be healed by this truth alone. If we know that it is God Himself that has caused this womb to be closed, it will help us to do the right thing, which is to go to Him directly, instead of going round and round in vain search for solutions. So, Hannah had no children for "the Lord had closed her womb!"

You, do you know who has closed your own womb? Is it God Himself or the devil? You need to find out who did it, for you to know the right solution. If it is God who did it, and you are busy binding the devil and doing "deliverance", it won't work. You would have to go to God Himself, as Hannah did.

What did Hannah do? She went straight to God and settled the matter with Him. Unlike women of today who love walking about seeking solutions from other people, the Bible said Hannah went straight to God Himself and there two of them talked it over. The man of God, Eli, was not involved. Hannah left the man of God alone and went directly to God, all by herself. And God gave her attention! (See 1 Samuel 1: 9-20).

A DIVINE BLESSING

SARAH

You may say that Hannah's case was a rare exception, but that was not so. Before her, God had done the same to Sarah, Abraham's wife. Abraham we know was the father of faith, the friend of God, a man of God, called by God to fulfil a great ministry, through whom the people of God would be chosen. In giving him this call, God allowed Sarah, his wife to remain barren. Her barrenness remained for such a long time even after they had both answered the call of God. In fact the barrenness was clearly allowed by God to test Abraham and wife. He also used it to prove to them the faithfulness of God. For God was so steadfast that, even after they had done some wrong things in their bid to have children (just as we too do today), He still went to them at the right time to fulfil His promise of giving them Isaac. Again, even when Sarah had laughed at the idea of still having her own son, God still proved Himself faithful by giving her a son. She had laughed in unbelief, having waited for so long, sort of saying, "I have heard that talk of Isaac for so long, please enough of that joke..."

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children...So Sarai said to Abram, "see now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid, perhaps I shall obtain children by her." (Genesis 16: 1-2).

(And the Lord) said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarai your wife shall have a son." Therefore Sarai laughed within her, saying, "After I have grown old...?" And the Lord said to Abram, "why did Sarai Laugh...? Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return... And Sarai shall have a son." (Genesis 18: 1- 14).

The point here is that Abraham and his wife had a special call of God and despite the fact that they had answered that call, God still restrained them from having children, (that is using Sarah's words), till the appointed time.

It was good that Sarah recognized the fact that it was the Lord who had closed her womb. It is this recognition that is lacking among today's Christians. They attribute every childlessness to "the devil, the enemy". They rarely see the hand of God in it. Sarah was different. She clearly said to her husband;

See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children ... (Genesis 16:2).

That is the point we are making! God can, and God does restrain some women from bearing children, and He does this even to "women of God" like Sarah. He did it to Sarah, and Sarah recognized it. You, do you understand what is happening to you? Do you recognize the hand of God that is upon you? Are you still running about with shouts of "enemy, the devil," as if God is no longer there? Now, ask

A DIVINE BLESSING

the Lord to please open your eyes to recognise what He is doing in your life. That is the best way to get the real solution you have been seeking.

ELIZABETH

There was...a certain priest named Zachariah...His wife was named Elizabeth and they were both **RIGHTEOUS** before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren... (Luke 1:5-6).

Look at such a wonderful testimony about their walk with God. "They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments... of God". What a sincere and obedient faith they both had, yet they had no child! So, how do you explain this one? Is this your situation also? Have you been born again, and are serving God with a sincere faith, and yet you are childless? Or perhaps you are even a gospel minister, or minister's wife, or church leader and yet have no child? You have done all you know how to do, and all that people have asked you to do, and yet no children have come?

And you have been wondering why? You have now seen that God can allow such things to happen to His beloved ones - for a purpose. Elizabeth and her husband had experience it before you.

We will now see why God allows such things to happen and how it all ends.

YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN VESSEL

When God closes the womb of a woman, what is the meaning? Is it because of her sins? Is it because her sins are more than the sins of others who have children? Why does God choose to close the womb of some women while He allows the others to go on enjoying their children?

Now here is the reason. Such people are God's special vessels! They are people through whom God wants to do certain special work on earth, and so He closes their wombs as a sign of God's call upon them! Their wombs will remain closed till the appointed time. But for now He wants to get their attention! That is all.

Do you mean that? Yes, that is God's purpose. The three cases we cited from the Bible confirm this. He closed their wombs because He wanted to use them for special work. For instance;

- (1) It was through Sarah that God brought Isaac, through whose son, Jacob the great nation came to be.
- (2) It was through Hannah's womb that Samuel came in due course, to become God's special high priest through whom God restored backslidden Israel.

A DIVINE BLESSING

(3) It was through Elizabeth's womb, when God had opened it, that John the Baptist came, in due course, to play the unique role of being the forerunner of Jesus, the Great Saviour!

So you see, each of these women had her womb closed by God for a very long time. And through this childlessness, God called them and drew their attention enough. He then worked in their lives until they had come close enough to know Him better. Through that close walk with God, God then revealed His mind to them and went on to bring them into His perfect will. The special children God gave to them thus represented their special ministries.

AS A GENERAL RULE

If God has closed your womb, note from today that you are a chosen vessel! This may be hard to understand but we have seen that through evidence of the scripture. People's experiences confirm this to be true also. As a general rule, if God has closed you womb, then it means;

(1) God has chosen you for a special purpose.

(2) That means you are a special vessel before God.

(3) God is using the childlessness to get your attention and to draw you closer to Himself.

(4) He is drawing you close so that He can reveal details of His purposes to you. He can't reveal them if you are in the crowd, so He draws you to separate you to Himself.

(5) He can't work through you appreciably unless two of you are close enough and in agreement (Amos 3:3).

(6) Children are important, so He is using what is very important to call you so that He can get your attention enough, because the assignment He has for you is an important one too.

(7) If that is the case, it is futile, useless, pointless, going to men of God and "prayer warriors" for help, since it is not the devil that is hindering you.

(8) No amount of prayers and religious sacrifices can open your womb when God is calling you through it.

(9) Therefore the surest way, the quickest solution, the wisest thing to do is for you to run into the presence of God, by yourself. There, answer the call He has called you, by surrendering your life, your plans, your will, your everything, to Him. Do this by a simple prayer, and by sincere faith believe that He has heard you. Then start going to His presence everyday for Him to begin to "brush you up". He will then begin to cleanse you, purge you, teach you and prepare you for His purposes. This period of cleansing and preparation may last long. That shouldn't worry you. It simply shows that He has special plans you, for He does not waste His time cleansing and perfecting people if He has nothing special for them (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

A DIVINE BLESSING

(10) When you have started this program you must remove your attention from yourself and focus it on God instead. For you to become pregnant and get babies is no longer in your hand, nor in your husband's hand, nor in the hand of the specialist Doctor nor anyone else. At the right time God will visit you and open your womb. It will surely happen.

And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah, as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son...at the set time of which God had spoken...(Genesis 21:1,2)

This is the way it works for those who get into this program. For now, your calling is to be in God's presence everyday and allow Him teach and cleanse you.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO CLOSED YOUR WOMB?

This can only come by revelation. As you begin this program, God will be revealing things to you. Through His revelations, you will know exactly the type of your childlessness. If it is the devil's attack, you will know for the Lord will cause you to know. You will then pray and ask the Lord to heal you and restore you, casting out the little evil power that is at work. That is all.

But if He reveals that He is using the childlessness to get your attention, to draw you closer to Himself so as to cleanse and prepare you, you are then in 'category B'. That is those whose wombs are closed by God. You should then do all we have said already. That is, the ten points we mentioned earlier under "As a General Rule."

Start this program today, the program of separating to His presence to keep covenant time with Him. You will be amazed how the great burden you have been bearing all these years will be lifted so freely, devoid of all the rigours and sacrifices of religion. God will also begin to use you as an instrument to direct other women who have also been so tortured by the issue of childlessness. You will now begin to direct them to the presence of God via Covenant Time, so that God would also comfort and perfect them by Himself.

We will now see a living example of what we are saying.

CHAPTER 12: HOW GOD VISITED NGOZI DANIEL

(After 20 Years of Marriage)

Let us share this life experience to confirm what we have been saying and to further encourage you. Sister Ngozi had been married for twenty years without having any child. Incidentally, her husband is a man of God, and both have been Pentecostal Christians for many years. All these years, they had done everything that could be done under the present church practice, all to no avail. It baffled everyone that God had not blessed "these good people" who have been serving

A DIVINE BLESSING

Him faithfully for these number of years. Their case therefore became like that of Elizabeth and her priest husband, Zechariah.

HER CASE WAS "CATEGORY B"

Then, one day Ngozi and her husband, Pius-Daniel, were brought to us by someone who had himself benefited from this program. By revelation we discovered that Ngozi was one of those whose wombs were closed by the Lord God, for she had a special call of God. She had a call to join the end-time Army of God which the Lord is now assembling. No amount of praying and fasting, nor laying on of hands could open her womb, for her childlessness was a special one. That was how sister Ngozi (and later her husband) joined the program. Which program? The program of separating unto God's presence at the appointed time, everyday. That is, the program of keeping covenant time with Jesus everyday. That is what we call Holy Ghost School. So, Sister Ngozi started Holy Ghost School right there in her house.

As Ngozi started Holy Ghost School, She began to go to the presence of God at the appointed time to observe her covenant time. There, she would study discipleship books and also listen to the Lord for teaching and direction. As this was happening, the revelations soon began to flow.

CLEANSED BY REVELATION

By revelations, dreams and visions, the Lord began to carry out the work of cleansing, purging, sanctification and perfection of Ngozi's life. The Lord began to reveal to her hidden things she did not even know about her life. He revealed all the negative things the enemy had deposited in her life, and removed them. The Lord healed her of the damages that certain herbal mixtures had done in her system, the herbs she had taken years back in her search for fruits of the womb. The Lord began to restore her to a close walk with Himself. Before long she began to receive spiritual power and authority, having come into a personal, talking-relationship with the Lord already. By this time the Lord separated her completely to Himself, stopping her from many of her religious activities - because of the uniqueness of her case.

Soon Ngozi's spiritual foundation had become solidly built, and she was now operating within the perfect will of God, **having surrendered her own will and ways to the Lord.** With these things in place, time had now come for the Lord to talk about her physical blessings, especially that of having children.

TIME FOR CHILDREN HAS COME

One day, the Lord was so satisfied with her new and sanctified life, that He decided to speak to her concerning her child. The Lord gave her a name and said that would be the name of her first child! Remember Ngozi was no longer praying for children. Having children was no longer her focus. Her focus had shifted to

A DIVINE BLESSING

knowing the Lord more closely so as to please Him and do His will. That was how the Lord, on His own, just came to her with this great surprise. He gave her a word, "Rejoicing", and said, "Rejoicing shall be the name of your first child." Sister Ngozi, excited came to inform us. We rejoiced with her and encouraged her to maintain her focus on pleasing God, obeying the Lord, and not to be distracted. That was how this lady in due course became pregnant and at the right time gave birth to her first child and named her 'Rejoicing' (as the Lord had said). That was after 20 years of marriage! The child was delivered on 10th May, 2005, at Railway Hospital, Ebute Metta, Lagos.

Today, God is using Ngozi to direct others to the school of the Holy Spirit, the school in God's presence and as they obey, they too begin to have their own testimonies, to the glory of God alone.

Have you been married for twenty years, or more, or less, without children? Have you been running about because of that? Now stop! Let Sister Ngozi's testimony challenge you. Then start the program at once. Enough of those fruitless efforts. Get into God's presence at once and there let Him do it for you, also.

We decided to share Ngozi's testimonies with you here, just to help you know that what we are presenting to you is practical and simple. You can start the program right there in your house (or office), and before you know it, those age-long problems that have been keeping you restless, will begin to receive the attention of the Almighty God! *"In His presence there is fullness of Joy", says the Word of God (Psalm 16: 11).*

WHAT TYPE OF CHILDREN DO YOU REALLY WANT?

Do you want children that are blessed, or you want "Anything does?"

When you talk of fruits of the womb, what do you really mean? What are you really asking for? Are you asking for children that will come as blessings from God, or you want just anything from the womb, as long as it is a child? Please be warned, and take note, that not all fruits of the womb are perfectly from God. Therefore not all children are blessings from God. Only God gives "good and perfect gift". Therefore we must wait for Him.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights... (James 1: 17).

GOD GIVES "ONE IS ONE"

Hannah's rival, Peninnah had sons and daughters (1 Samuel 1: 2-5), yet there was no mention made of any of them by name. All we are told is that she had sons! Why were their names not mentioned? Because they were not worthy to be mentioned. It is not every son that is son! Go to the various prisons in Nigeria, even to the maximum prisons for hardened criminals. Are those inmates not sons?

A DIVINE BLESSING

Are they not people's sons? Are they not fruits of the womb? Did not certain women celebrate when they were born? Did not some of those women have high hopes of what their "fruits" and sons would become in the future? Did some of these women not even mock and laugh at their rivals and those whose wombs the Lord had closed? It happened like that in Hannah's time.

...Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children... (And whenever Elkanah shared things), he would give portions to peninnah and to her sons and daughters. And Peninnah also provoked Hannah severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. (1 Samuel 1: 2-6).

Have some people been provoking you and laughing at you because the Lord has closed your womb? Because they have got sons and daughters (like Peninnah) but you haven't got any (like Hannah)? Now you shouldn't mind them. Peninnah had sons, but none of them was worthy to be mentioned by name in the Holy Bible. Yet as soon as Hannah's first child came, Heaven and earth recognized him to be a special child worthy of a place in God's Holy Book. Not only that he was called by name, Samuel, but also fifty-five chapters of the Bible were written under his name! He became a great ruler and one through whom God restored the entire nation of Israel.

When God gives, He gives "one is one", but we must be patient with Him to prepare us first. Look at those "fruits of the womb" that are perishing and wasting away in various prisons and mental homes and "prayer houses" where they have been put in chains for years. Is that the type of "fruits of the womb" you want?

Are they the type of sons and daughters you are asking for? If not, then wait for God, for "every good and perfect gift" comes only from God. Don't let anyone hurry you into taking decisions and actions that would lead you to having just any type of fruits that come! It is not having the children that matter. It is even more important the type they are - the ones that come with God's blessings or those that come to bring sorrows! So be careful what you are doing! Don't open doors for the wrong type of fruits to come to you! Wait for the Lord God!

SELF-WILL IS DANGEROUS

Is God asking you to submit yourself to His presence so He can cleanse and prepare you before giving you children, or any other thing for that matter? And what is your reaction? You can't wait? You want the children "now-now?" That is a dangerous game. God loves us, but He will not struggle with us forever. If we insist on having it our own way, He may leave us alone. But then, we should be ready to shoulder any responsibility that follows our choice. We should not say "God, why me?", when troubles begin.

A DIVINE BLESSING

When God gives in to our pressure, it can be dangerous. When God allows us to have our way, it can be disastrous. It happened to Israel, people of God, so it can happen to us too, if we don't take care. For instance, God's will was that they should eat manna while they journeyed in the wilderness. But they insisted on eating meat! When God could not persuade them to wait for God's time, He decided to let them have their way, but with terrible consequences.

(So) God rained flesh upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like the sand of the sea: And He let it fall in the midst of their compound about them. So they did eat, and were well filled: For He gave them their own desire ...But while their meat was yet in their mouths, the wrath of God came upon them, and slew the...chosen men of Israel. (Psalm 78: 27-31).

So you see, God allowed them to receive what they had been crying for since they didn't want to wait for Him. But what was the result? God's judgement came upon them and they lost what they had got and some even died in the process!

Again look at this one. Israel had wanted a King, so they could be like other nations who had human kings. But God asked them to have Him as their King, pending the time He would have worked out His purpose in their lives. Israel insisted on having it their own way, and would not submit to God's will. At last God gave them a king, as they had insisted. Then the Bible records;

I gave thee a king in My anger, and took him away in My wrath. (Hosea 13: 11).

Have you seen it? God gave them their desire and then took it away in His anger, because they refused to wait for His time!

Do you insist that God should give you your own will? Are you pushing God to do it your own way, at your own time? You are playing a dangerous game. Yes, there is nothing wrong in telling God our desires. But we must not insist on having it our way. If our desires are outside the will of God, we must withdraw them at once and do God's will.

Jesus Prayed;

O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: Nevertheless, not as I will but as You will. (Matthew 26: 39).

That is the point we are making. We can present our desires, our will, our requests to God. There is nothing wrong with that. But we should subject those request to His will. The moment we realize that God wants us to wait, or to discard the request because it is not in line with His will for us, we must obey. It may pain us to wait or to discard the request, but we are to obey. If we insist on having

A DIVINE BLESSING

our will done, we may receive it, but judgement may come sooner than we would want to believe.

So, if God says you should wait concerning your children (or any other issue), it is better to obey. At the end He more than rewards and compensates us for waiting. God wants to give us material blessings, including fruits of the womb. But we must allow Him do it in His own ways and timing, and not ours.

Are you now ready to wait for Him while keeping your covenant time?

CHAPTER 13: SPIRIT OF ISHMAEL IS HERE AGAIN

Christians, let us be warned. The spirit of Ishmael is here again. It was here in Genesis, that is in the beginning. It is here again because the end-time has come.

We believe you know the story too well, the story of how God had called Abraham and promised him a son, Isaac, if he would wait till the appointed time. Abraham accepted the call and started well. But somewhere along the line, a great temptation came to him. He looked at his age and that of the wife, and indeed age was no longer on their side. He looked up, looked down, he looked to the right and to the left. He reviewed his walk so far with God, the prices he had already paid for his faith. He weighed everything, and finally, he gave in to the pressures mounted by his wife. The man of faith fell from that great height of faith for the sake of having a son. He and his wife arranged, and got a son for themselves, in their own way - for they could not wait for God's time anymore.

That was how Ishmael came, the child of their flesh. Since then, those who have the call of God have continued to be confronted by this same spirit from hell, the spirit of Ishmael. But the warning and the alarm being raised now is because we come to the most critical period of them all, the period called "the end-time". The time in which the devil will use any thing at his disposal to try to wage war against the saints, to see how many he can prevent from joining in the rapture. One of those things he has prepared to use is the same spirit of Ishmael. Once Ishmael comes, the man of faith usually falls!

In the beginning, it worked against Abraham. In the end, satan has released this same spirit, that it may also work against men of faith of the end-time.

Now, are you a man of faith? Then watch it, the devil is planning to tempt you with the spirit of Ishmael. Are you a woman of faith? A prayer warrior? A deaconess? A woman of God? A believer in Christ? Then get ready, for the spirit of Ishmael has been released against you.

Ishmael Means:

- Child born or got by self-will
- Getting children by illegal means
- Getting children by crooked means
- Getting children through impatience

A DIVINE BLESSING

- Unable to wait fully for Isaac
- Child of the flesh (human reasoning)
- Born through illegitimacy
- A cursed child
- That which should be cast out
- Unholy arrangement to get children
- Improper adoption of children
- Selling and buying children
- Child got through illegality
- Ishmael means child of hell, that which God has not sent.

HOW ISHMAEL SPIRIT OPERATES

This spirit attacks people in different ways, but the objective is always the same - that is, to make people impatient concerning the promises of God, especially concerning fruit of the womb. It makes them look at God's promise and think it is impossible, it can no longer happen. It makes them look at their age and something tells them, they are getting too advanced in age; they had better do something to help themselves. Ishmael spirit makes believers (people of faith) to remove their eyes from God and so fall from faith. They focus their eyes on themselves, on doctor's reports, on their fellow women who have done "something" and have got children. They focus on their mothers-in-law, on their neighbours, and on those whom they say are mocking and laughing at them. They focus on their perceived 'enemies' who surround them.

Then the suggestions begin to come. Some of the suggestions today include buying babies. That is arranging with Hagar (Sarah's maid) to give you baby! (See Genesis Chapter 16). Arranging with illegal baby homes to procure one! Some may suggest injecting you with certain substance which makes one look pregnant, and at the end a baby is stolen and sold to you, and so on. Christian woman, beware! Ishmael spirit has been released from hell against all who have the call of God and against all believers who are awaiting the rapture. Will you go for Ishmael, or wait for God's Isaac? This is the question that is confronting many people of the faith today as Ishmael spirit comes knocking at the door of their hearts and at the door of their marriages. God is watching and the devil is watching too to know who you will vote for. Ishmael means voting for the devil, Isaac means voting (waiting) for God. The choice is ours, and the choice shows who we truly are and where we belong.

Abraham made that mistakes in Genesis (i.e. in the beginning) but God corrected it because there was plenty of time then. Today, the end has come. End-time does not have room for any carelessness, because there may be no time left for correction!

A DIVINE BLESSING

Let us be warned, for this evil spirit has moved into the church and is wreaking havoc among both the leaders and the followers! Many have fallen cheap! So, are you for Ishmael or for Isaac?

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL ADOPTION AND BUYING OF BABIES

There is this spirit of strange adoption of babies that has come upon the earth, and has now crept even into the churches and fellowships. That is Ishmael spirit in operation. The world is impatient, because its end has come. Christians have also come under the influence of this end-time spirit of restlessness and impatience. Therefore many find it hard to wait for God anymore. That is the Ismael spirit. As a result, many Christians have joined in the rush for getting babies by all means and at any cost! Today, Christians join in the unholy act of arranging with Doctors and nurses, so as to steal babies for them! They pay certain money, and they receive stolen babies! People now sell babies! People now buy babies! Meanwhile the real mothers of these stolen babies are there crying unto God and asking questions. They are crying and calling on God for justice, calling on Him to search out there babies for them, for they know that the doctors and nurses have played tricks on them. They are crying and saying;

"God, why me?" "Why me?" "God where is the baby you promised me?" "Where is the baby you gave to me, which I have carried in my womb for good nine months? Now they say I lost that baby, yet I did not see the dead baby. I gave birth to a living child for I saw him briefly, alive, before they took him away! And now they say I should take heart! Take heart? I should take heart for what? Nurse, Doctor, where is my baby? The baby that God gave to me?..."

THE GOD OF NABOTH WILL SURELY VISIT!

If you are one of those who steal babies under whatever arrangement, do you know the harm you are doing to yourself? Do you know the spiritual implication of such evil deeds? How do you think that God will hear the agonizing cries of such women whose children you have stolen, and would not judge it? It may take some time, but the judgement will surely come. Such judgement usually come when men do not expect them.

After Ahab and his wife had killed Naboth to take his land, everything looked calm and successful. They thought they had actually gotten away with the deal because they had waited and no one came to challenge them. They were now settling down to begin to enjoy their loot, when suddenly the God of vengeance showed up! What a discomfoting situation for Ahab as the roaring voice of God rained judgement on him and his family for what they had done to Naboth.

A DIVINE BLESSING

"Have you killed and taken possession?" God asked. "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, there dogs shall lick your blood also!" (See 1 Kings 21: 16-24).

You know the end of that story. Ahab's family was destroyed under this great curse. Himself, his wife Jezebel, his seventy sons, and all who belonged to him perished! They all perished for a piece of land got by falsehood (plus other sins of Jezebel)!

Is your case not like that? Babies and land which is more important?

ISHMAEL SHALL BE CAST OUT

God had asked Abraham to wait for Him till the appointed time, then Isaac would come. When Abraham got tired of waiting, he got himself a baby called Ishmael. God allowed him to enjoy Ishmael for some time, even for many years. At that time Abraham had thought that Ishmael had come to stay, after all God had not done anything to show that He was angry.

But then, all of a sudden, when Abraham was not expecting it, God showed up. He showed up and what did he do? He cast away Ishmael from Abraham's house, so that God's will would prevail. It was one of the most painful experiences in Abraham's life, as he watched his son taken away before His eyes, into a place unknown, never to return to Him again. After Sarah, and later God, had asked Abraham to cast out Ishmael and his mother, the Bible said:

The matter distressed Abraham so much because it concern Ishmael his son...early the next morning Abraham...sent her (Hagar) off with the boy. (They)...wandered in the desert...(Genesis 21:11-14).

Now, who is that person you call your child? How did you get him or her? Did you go to a true motherless babies' home to adopt them following proper, government approved procedure? If so, that may then not be so bad. We leave it to God. Or did you get into some shady deals to get them?

You may say that you did not know the details, that someone did it for you. How far can that excuse stand when God visits? Abraham secretly agreed with his wife before they got Ishmael. But when the Lord visited, excuses and sound arguments couldn't stand. Ishmael was cast out! Which one is better; to wait a little more for God, then your own child comes, or to join the rush for "strange babies", only for God to cast them off when you do not expect it?

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrew 4:13).

BUILDING ON AN EVIL FOUNDATION

Fake "baby homes" are springing up everyday, they now have high patronage. Even believers are now trooping to such places for children! In addition to this,

A DIVINE BLESSING

people now arrange to have babies from street girls, unmarried ladies and even from mad women! Even people in religious celibacy, ladies who have vowed to remain unmarried, for God's work, are now said to produce "special babies" which believers adopt. They call them "sanctified babies!" All sorts of abominations are now openly practised in churches and fellowships all in the name of getting babies! And we think it does not matter? Now it matters a lot for that is Ishmael spirit on the rampage.

And so one may ask; "where is the God of Sarah who gave her that special Isaac child even at her old age?" The God we serve, is He not the same God of Hannah and Elizabeth? They received their blessed children from Him after they had waited! What is this mad rush for road-side babies? Do you know the trouble you are bringing yourself by these indiscriminate "adoptions"? Can an evil tree bear good fruits? Can this faulty foundation carry you and your family long enough, even through the coming judgment?

When this Ishmael grows up, will you be proud to tell him how you got him? Will you readily disclose to this child and to your people the thing you did to get him? Yes, you may have given testimonies in the church and given God "thanksgiving" for the baby, but will these covering stand the test of time? How long can you successfully cover these horrible things to get the baby? On the day God comes to "cast out" Ishmael, will you still remember you were the cause of it all? Remember:

Ishmael means - child of the flesh, child got by self-will, your own short cut way.

Isaac means - the promised child, child received from God in due time, covenant child given to those who trust God.

Ishmael is a cursed child. He comes but goes because he has no good foundation, while Isaac comes to stay and to fulfil his purpose in life. Which of these do you wish to have? Be careful what you are doing today, for the sake of tomorrow. For, except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

DON'T FORGET

For emphasis, let us repeat these hard words. Don't forget what you are doing today because your tomorrow will depend on it. Don't forget the evil foundation you are laying for yourself and for your family by these horrible acts of yours. Yes, by stealing someone's child, you are heaping terrible curses on yourself and on your entire family. As the mother of the child you have stolen or bought cries everyday to God for justice, don't you know the Righteous Judge will answer? Can't you hear the woman crying again and saying:

A DIVINE BLESSING

God, don't let them rest! Pursue them and catch them for me. They have stolen my baby and run away, because I can't pursue them. But I pray thee go after them, go after them and judge them for me...

Your fellow woman is crying and asking God to come after you for you have paid money and have bought her child, and you think you will have peace for long? You are deceiving yourself.

So, do not forget when it begins. Or what else do you think? Do you think that good can come out of evil? Don't you know we shall all reap what we have planted? So don't forget this evil you are planting today, for you shall reap of it tomorrow. When the reaping begins, you shouldn't ask "why me? God why me?" You shouldn't wonder why you, for God cannot be mocked.

Note that many of the evils and tragedies befalling people today are as a result of the things they planted yesterday. So when they cry, "God why me? Why is this happening to me?", God ignores them, for they are reaping what they planted yesterday. So, you too, don't forget what you are planting today by stealing people's babies. So that when the time of reaping comes you don't wonder "why me?"

Like the partridge which hatches eggs it did not lay, so are all who possess things that do not belong to them. In mid-life, those possessions leave them and at the end they prove to be fools! (adapted, Jeremiah 17:11).

The bed you have made is far too short to lie on, the blankets are too narrow to cover you. The Lord will come suddenly and in anger, as at Mount Perazim and Gibeon, to do a strange, unusual thing - So scoff no more, lest your punishment be made even greater, for the Lord has plainly told me that He is determined to crush you. (Isaiah 28:20-22, LB)

IF YOU HAVE DONE THE WRONG THING ALREADY

If you are planning to get into these terrible acts, you should stop your plans at once, and withdraw to God's presence for Him to cleanse you and prepare you and then give you your own children in due course. But if you have already got into this satanic net, and have already got some child through any unholy means, then you have got a spiritual time-bomb in your house. Time bombs don't explode immediately. They are programmed to explode at later times when no one expects. That is the evil of Ishmael children.

However, you can still escape if you act quickly. Do this. Go to God's presence and there confess all the wrong things that you have done. Be sincere and serious about it, because He knows the details. Break your heart in true repentance. Ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you. If you are sincere, He will hear your cry and forgive you. When He forgives you, you will know for He will give you peace and joy.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Then ask Him what you should do concerning that child. Be ready to obey His directions. God is God and whatever He does is right. He may ask you to make restitution and return the child to the owner. Or He may ask you just to confess the acts to certain people (but still keep the child) and that is all. This may happen especially where the child is not stolen but procured through some other dirty means.

Then start your life afresh with God, by enrolling in the school of His presence. You must draw closer to Him everyday for Him to destroy whatever evil covenants you might have entered into, and the curses you have opened doors for, through these reckless things you did. Only through this close walk with Jesus will you be sure of restoration to a life of peace and joy for now and the future. Go to God and do these things directly with Him, for He is your Father. Don't go to Him through middle-men any more. Do this as a matter of urgency.

Let us always remember that there are two types of blessings - Ishmael Blessings and Isaac Blessings! There are Ishmaels, there are Isaacs, Ishmael comes cheap, by whatever means. He brings sorrows at the end. Isaac may take time to come, but at the end, he compensates for the waiting. Be wise!

SECTION THREE; CONCERNING OPEN DOORS & BREAKTHROUGHS

We hope you still remember what we are doing. God wants to do miracles for us and bless us, but we should come to Him in the right way so as to receive. Many have not received their blessings because they are seeking them the wrong ways, as we have discussed earlier. There is this talk of "open-doors" and "breakthrough" almost everywhere among believers. Almost everyone is seeking "open-doors" and "breakthrough". And none seems to be finding what they seek.

In this section, we will examine these two things (Open-doors and Breakthroughs), to know why they appear elusive, why those who seek them don't seem to be getting them. We will then find out the right things we should do.

CHAPTER 14; CONCERNING OPEN-DOORS

Are you seeking open-doors? Have you found any? Are you really sure? Now, what do you mean by open-doors? Yes, when you say you want open-doors, what do you really mean? What things do you really have in mind? Try to remind yourself what they are.

This is a word that is so much on the lips of many Christians. Almost everyone you see says he is looking for open-doors, and yet no one seems to have found them. Seminars have been organized by churches and fellowships all in search of open-doors. At the end, people go home even more empty and more miserable than when they came! So, what is in this open-doors that makes it elusive, so that no one seems to have found it? If another seminar is organized today for "open-

A DIVINE BLESSING

door", you will see the same crowd gathering all over again, which means that they haven't found it. So, why is it so?

It is this mystery we will try to unravel in this chapter.

WHAT IS OPEN DOOR?

Please try to answer this question. What is the open door you have been seeking, or at least, you have been hearing about? Well, if you ask the average church pastor or members, they will tell you it means open door for riches, open door for material blessings. When some pastors and their members say open doors, they often mean God granting them access to material blessings, especially money and "success". Some even organize "success seminars".

WE HAVE CORRUPTED THE WORD

Now are these the same with the Scriptural meaning of open door? Don't misunderstand us. Open door in the ordinary sense means opportunities. So we should have many open doors (opportunities) for important things in life. That is good.

But the issue we are raising here is that today's church seems to have corrupted this word to mean just getting money! Once a pastor says open door, everyone at once knows what he is talking about - money! And so you see programs organized every now and then in the church to talk of "open doors," and in the end it all boils down to how to get money quick! This trend is on the increase and seems to have engulfed greater part of today's church.

So we are now trying to find out if that is what the Scripture really means by open door. If we are Christians, then our words must conform with the Spirit and message of the Scripture, otherwise they become empty words of man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2: 4-5). So what does the Bible mean by 'open door'? Are we pursuing the same 'open door' that the Scripture recommends or are we seeking a different type? Let's now see what the Scripture means by open door and then compare that with what we are doing today. In the end we may really have to fall down before God and beg for forgiveness because we have corrupted His Word and turned His Word into a money-making Word!

It may shock you to know that nowhere in the entire Scripture was open door used for money or for any material blessing! The word 'open door' was used in many places, especially in the New Testament, but not even in one place did it ever refer to money or material blessings. In each place, the word referred to spiritual progress. Paul used that word so much. The Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of prophecy, also used it in the Revelation. Let us now look at some of these. We are doing this because there is so much abuse of that word today and when a word is used out of context, it loses its potency, it becomes powerless. When we know the meaning and begin to use it correctly, then the Lord will hear us and grant us the request.

A DIVINE BLESSING

OPEN DOOR FOR DEEPER REVELATION

In Revelation 3: 8, we have these words:

I know thy works. Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it...

What was the open door being spoken of here? The meaning came in the next chapter, through John.

After this, I looked and behold A DOOR WAS OPENED (open door) in Heaven and the first Voice said; "come up hither, and I will show you things which must be hereafter" (Revelation 4: 1).

So you see, open door is granted us so we can "come up hither" for deeper revelations and spiritual understanding. It is not opened for us to get rich quick and have "success" in business. The Living Bible puts it this way:

Come up here and I will show you what must happen in the future.

Therefore, open door is for revelation and spiritual understanding. It is God opening the door of His presence to us that we may come in and begin to receive hidden things of God which we couldn't have received elsewhere.

OPEN DOOR FOR GOD'S WORK

Open door also means advance in the work of God. First, the door opens for us to get deeper revelations of the Lord so that our spiritual lives can be deeper. Next, the door opens for us to now share with others the deep things of God which we have received. It is in this sense that Paul used the word, open-door in his epistles. For instance in 1 Corinthians 16 he said;

I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective DOOR has OPENED to me... (1 Corinthians 16: 8-9).

What door was it that had opened? Door for quick riches and material blessings? No! It was door for God's work! He made this clear in the next place.

...When I come to Troas to preach Christ's gospel ...a DOOR was OPENED to me by the Lord. (2 Corinthians 2: 12).

Have you seen that when Paul said open door, he was making a spiritual statement? He meant preaching the gospel of Christ. So begin to compare with

A DIVINE BLESSING

yourself! When you say "Open door", "God grant me open door", are you making a spiritual statement? Are you asking God to help you preach the gospel of Christ to your difficult friends and relations? Are you asking that God should strengthen you to carry on gospel work to the unreached people of your village? Can you now see why our "open door" seminars and prayers are often fruitless? We request for open doors of naira and pounds! We ask for open door just to have success in our business! Selfish believers that we have been, isn't that a shame? We use the right word, but we throw away its real meaning because everyone wants to get rich quick! Let us be careful how we use God's word, for "open door" is God's word. For people of the world, it may mean some other selfish gains, but for Christians, we must use it only in the Bible sense, which is spiritual.

FIRST OPEN-DOOR SEMINAR

The first open door seminar and gathering of the church took place in Acts 14. There the church was gathered together for open-door talk. Let's see what the talk was all about.

Now when they (Paul and Co.) had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there, they sailed to Antioch...Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had OPENED the DOOR of faith to the Gentiles. (Acts 14: 25-27).

Have you seen that? Paul and his company had returned back to Antioch after a gospel tour of the Gentile world. They now gathered the church together to tell them about open-door. But which open door? Not our type of open door. Paul spoke about the open door of faith which God had granted the Gentiles! How God had opened His presence to the Gentiles and had given them the grace to believe. That was the open door Paul talked about, open door of faith for the unbelievers, for them to believe the gospel!

Dear pastor, when you gather your own church for open door talk, what do you really have in mind? Now let's judge ourselves. When you organized open door seminar last time, what did you really tell them? Was it not all about money and business and material success? Then from where are you getting your own meaning of open door? From God's word or where else? Paul said open-door seminar should be organized to talk of faith for the unreached, faith for the unbelievers, the Gentiles, faith to make them believe. It has nothing to do with money at all! God provides money for His work, but that is not the open door. Open door is a spiritual jargon! Let's stop abusing it before God's wrath comes upon us. Money is important. Money is necessary. But money is not the open door God wants us to talk about. We shouldn't worship Mammon again.

OPEN DOOR TO DECLARE THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Paul made a prayer request concerning open door. What request was it? Open door for what? He said:

A DIVINE BLESSING

Pray for us that God would OPEN to us a DOOR for the Word, to SPEAK the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains (Colossians 4: 3).

Do you see that again? Paul said pray for us for open door. One would have expected him to say, "That God may send us the money for this and for that, that God may prosper our business..." But no, open door is not for money! It is for speaking the mystery of Christ. In Revelations 3: 8, we are granted open doors. In Revelations 4: 1, we are told the open door is for us to receive deeper mysteries (revelations) of God. Now in Colossians 4: 3, we are told open door is for us to share (to speak) those mysteries of Christ which we have received. Isn't that perfect? Isn't that straight forward?

Now, we should all go on our knees and repent before God for having turned His Word upside down and for feeding our congregations with rubbish. We need to repent really in the light of the word of God before us. God will then forgive us and begin to heal us of our many diseases which we have contacted for polluting the Word of God, for we have indeed turned His word into a money-making Word.

ARE WE SAYING THAT MONEY IS BAD?

God forbid. That is not what we mean. We need money, in fact much money, for the work that we have to do on earth. For instance, the book you are now reading was printed with money. What we are saying, however, is that the way we go about seeking money is often offensive and insulting to God, who has promised to provide for us all that we truly need.

Why do we have to fast for days and shout in prayers every night, and go from one prayer place to another and do all sorts of religious rituals all because we want to get some money? Why that talk of money, money, money at each gathering? Why have we reduced every word of the gospel to mean money? Why all the attention on money? Why all the emphasis on money and how to acquire it?

THESE ARE THE ISSUES WE ARE RAISING

Money is important, but God has told us how to get it. We should first of all get close to Him, as to receive spiritual power and authority (SPA) and a solid spiritual foundation. Then all these things (i.e. money and other material needs) shall be added to us (Matthew 6: 33). God will give us all the money we need in this life. That is what He is saying. He will arrange and direct us on how to get them. He is the one to add it unto us. So, why then are we still going about seeking "open door" for money? Why are we still telling all the lies and playing those religious pranks so as to have some money? It is these things that we are pointing out. God is no longer happy with these and He has told us of His coming judgement. He is coming into the church soon to judge all these, and many shall fall like Ananias and Sapphira on that day. He is releasing these warnings so that those

A DIVINE BLESSING

who heed and change their ways may be spared the agony of the open judgement that is coming.

WHY NEED SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION FIRST?

The reason is because there is so much power in money, evil power. Money has so much evil power in it that can ruin any soul, unless we are stabilized by the spiritual power of Christ. For instance there were many ministers who started the work of God doing well, but today they have left their first love for Christ. Why? Because they have got some riches.

When they had no money, they used to draw close to God. They used to spend time in the presence of God. They used to seek God's confirmation before doing anything at that time. They used to preach sound messages of Christ to the people, they used to hear the voice of God and interact with Him. They had real fear and love of God. They obeyed every leading of the Holy Spirit then.

But as money began to come, as they began to get rich through 'open door' manipulations, as their material possessions began to increase, as things began to get more comfortable and easy for them, their intimacy with Christ began to reduce! Their love for God's will began to grow cold, and they no longer have time to separate into the presence of God. Before you know it, their message began to change too. Their message now became "money, money, riches, riches, success, success". They began to speak exactly like the church in Laodicea; "I am rich, I have wealth, I have need of nothing" (Revelation 3: 17).

Look at such a rotten message! Yet that is their message to the people, a message devoid of life and power of the cross, a message of destruction for those who are perishing. And Jesus rebuked them saying:

...You do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked! (Revelation 3: 17).

So you see, it is to protect us from such evil power of corruption that is in money, that the Lord wants to give us a solid foundations first. Or is it better that we get rich today, and then end up in hell tomorrow, like the rich man of Lazarus days? God forbid.

WARNING AGAINST MONEY INFLUENCE

The Scripture has warned us severally against the corrupting influence of money. Paul warned Timothy against the pursuit of money under the guise of God's work. He should be careful not to mix God's work with secret pursuit of money which some have done to their own destruction.

...Men of corrupt minds ...who suppose that godliness is a means of gain ... Those who desire to be rich fall into temptations and a snare, and into many foolish and

A DIVINE BLESSING

harmful lust which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, Flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness ...Command those who are rich in this present age, not to...trust in riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy ... Storing up for themselves a Good Foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1 Timothy 6: 5-19)

Dear Reader, this is the message. You may do well to study the above scripture and meditate on it until it becomes life and deliverance unto you. Paul spoke so much about open-door, and he dropped the meaning to us; it has nothing to do with money whatsoever. It is all about spiritual advancement. Here now, he warned Timothy, and all of us, to be careful how we can handle money matters in our Christian faith, for great is the evil power in money, which the devil, the god of this world, has used to destroy many. But for those who truly fear God, and look up to Him, no harm shall come to them, for the Lord shall supply all their needs, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus. (See Philippians 4:19). Amen.

THERE IS ANOTHER GOD CALLED MAMMON

We hope you still remember what we are doing. We want to receive God's blessings, but we want to be careful about it. Why? Because there is another god who wants to 'bless' people through money. His name is Mammon and his money leads to death. Those who receive his money pay with their soul in the end.

Many people think they are Christians just because they go to church. But that is not so. To go to church and participate in church things does not make one a Christian. A Christian is a person who has personal, intimate relationship with Christ. It is personal relationship with and obedience to the will of Christ that makes one a Christian.

So, are you really a Christian? What is your reason for saying so? Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice ...and they follow Me" (John 10:27). Do you hear His voice? Do you follow Him? That is, do you obey Him? To follow Him means to obey Him. It is only those who hear and obey Jesus everyday that are His sheep, that is, true Christians. So, are you one?

Let us be careful, for there is another god that poses as Christ but he is not. It is called Mammon, the god of money and riches. This god sneaks into Christian circles and tries to use money to draw people to himself. In fact many ministers of Christ and unsuspecting believers have been seduced by this god, whom they now worship without knowing. How do we know? By their fruits you shall know them. How we desire and pursue money, how we talk about money, when we try to get riches by all means, when we plan and skim craftily just to get money, when we use foul means to get riches, then we have started worshipping mammon, for

A DIVINE BLESSING

these are the fruits of them that worship him. If you go by these, then many people who say today that they are Christians, followers of Jesus, are actually not His followers. They are followers and worshippers of another god called mammon. They are not Christians, they are Mammonist. And Jesus warned;

No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON (Matthew 6: 24).

What a terrible thing indeed. This calls for clear choice. We must clearly make a choice in this life who to serve, God or Mammon. It is not something we can go on doing carelessly. To follow Christ is a clear choice and many who hide in the church have not made this choice and yet they say they are Christians. No! Jesus has said we can't have the two, God and Mammon. We must make a decisive choice! In making this choice, money is a key factor, for Mammon operates through money.

For those who have decided to choose Christ, and forego any pleasures of this life (if need be), Jesus has this to say;

So do not worry, saying what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or what shall we wear? For your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6: 31-33)

This is the hope of those who follow Christ. Therefore we have cause to rejoice. Yes, we want blessings from God, but we must be careful not to fall into satanic traps. We must now be wise!

YOUR MONEY PERISH WITH YOU

Peter looked at a 'big man' who wanted to give him money for the 'work of God', and what did he say to the man?

Your money perish with you...! (See Acts 8: 18-23).

Why did he say that? Because the man was offering money in place of the Grace and Mercy of God! The man was giving money with a wrong motive! Today how many men and women of God would have the courage to do what Peter did? How many of us today would dare offend a 'big man' or woman in that way? Would we not look at it as 'too harsh,' in these days of "sweetened" gospel message? In these days when we don't want to "chase people away" with hard messages of the kingdom, how many of us would be able to rebuke today's 'Simon the Sorcerers' for trying to insult God with dirty, ill-gotten wealth? Would we not say to him:

A DIVINE BLESSING

Ah, God bless you sir! That's the open door we have been expecting.

That is what many ministers of God would do today if Simon the sorcerer were to present the same money to us, which Peter rejected! So you see, things have gone bad in today's church - because of the undue emphasis on money!

SORCERERS ARE MADE OFFICERS!

What do we have in our churches today? Abomination! We look at sorcerers, people we know are evil, and we ordain them officers of the church. We prophesy on them and lay hands on them and call them "Deacons", "Deaconess", "Pillars of the church", "Fathers of the church", "church mother" and so on! Why? Because they 'have money!' They donate 'big money' to the pastor and for the 'work of God!' They donate huge money during fund raising campaigns and 'special offerings'. Therefore we 'recognize them' by making them officers of the church. We do that so as to tie them down in our church, so that they don't become members of other churches!

Pastor, are these things not true? General overseer (G.O.), do you say you don't know these things? Now let us stop pretending for this is the hour of repentance! God has been silent for long but now He is coming back to put things in order in His church. The earlier we make confessions and seek His forgiveness the better.

PAUL'S SECRET

Yes, we need money for the work of God, but please, money is not the open door! When God gives us work to do, He provides the money. We don't have to struggle and tell all sorts of lies to snatch money from people all in the name of God's work. How did Paul take the gospel to Corinth, Galatia, Macedonia, Rome and indeed to the entire Gentile world? God touched people who provided what Paul needed. And when the provisions were not there, he said:

I have learnt in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased (to do without enough provisions) and I know how to abound (how to handle plenty)... I have learnt both how to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (Philippians 4: 11-13).

Paul had learnt how to focus on God and continue with the Lord without being distracted by money and things of this life. No wonder he had a very great and successful ministry to the end. It is this discipline which Paul learnt early, that is missing today in our midst. Today's church measures "success" and "blessings" by how financially rich they are, just like the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3: 17). But Paul has revealed to us that real success has nothing to do with money!

A DIVINE BLESSING

SILVER AND GOLD HAVE I NOT...

Money is not "the success" God is speaking about in ministry. Peter said to the beggar:

"Silver and gold have I not..." (Acts 3: 6).

Peter did not have money, even the little to give to a beggar. But was Peter not a mighty man of God? Was his ministry not great and successful? He demonstrated the power of His God on the spot by raising the cripple on his feet, never to beg again!

He didn't have money, but he had the power of God. He had the presence of God with him. He had a beautiful, personal relationship with Christ such that he didn't need to fast and pray for days before God would answer. God was with him on the spot, to do for him what money could not do.

That is the open door we are talking about. That is the open door we should pursue. Open door of personal, intimate relationship with God. Open door of spiritual power and authority so that our ministry can have real permanent impact on people's lives. So that people who come to us will experience real life-transforming power of the risen Christ. It is not money, money, money! People need real healing and deliverance, from inside to the outside, and only the power of Christ can do that.

Yes, we need open door, but money is not the open door. We need open door to demonstrate God's life and power to people around us. We don't need money to do that. We need open door of Grace and Mercy of God, so we can truly represent Him by our lives. We need open door (not money) to stand before kings, before world leaders, before national assemblies, before the United Nations and there declare and manifest the glory of our God, like Joseph and Daniel did before Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar respectively.

Yes, we need open door into the realms of darkness, to set free (through intercession) those who have been bound for years in the various cults and evil groups and societies. We don't need money to intercede! Yes, we need open door into the heavenly places, far above principalities and powers and above all powers of the enemy (Ephesians 1: 3, 21) so that our ministry work will no more be full of struggles with devils. So that our work will truly represent the work of God's kingdom.

Yes, we need open door, open door to deeper things of God. As we pursue God and His open doors, money and material things will be added to us as well (Matthew 6: 33). So then, let us never again seek money and call it open door. It is an insult to God and to His Word.

CHAPTER 15: CHRIST JESUS, OUR OPEN DOOR

There is one Door that God gave to us for all our needs to be met. This Door is the Lord Jesus. So why are we looking for any other open door, if we have got Jesus? He is our Open Door in whom we find everything we need for peace and joy and progress in this life.

Then said Jesus unto them again, verily verily, I say unto you, I am the DOOR of the sheep. (John 10: 7)

You see, Christian life is a sheep-shepherd relationship. In Psalm 23: 1 David said, *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack..."* David understood this secret, and that was why he lived a very successful spiritual and material life. He allowed God to lead him everyday as his Shepherd, so that he lacked nothing. If we follow Jesus as our Shepherd, we will have no need to struggle, for He will meet all our needs, just as in real life it is the duty of the shepherd to meet the needs of the sheep. But the sheep must be willing to follow the shepherd, otherwise it will suffer unnecessarily. So Jesus said,... *"I am the Door of the sheep."* Furthermore He said:

I am the Door, by me if any one enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pastures. (John 10: 9).

Let us look at the three things the above verse says we shall find in Christ.

1. We shall "be saved"
2. We shall "go in and out"
3. We shall "find pastures"

Incidentally these three things are the things that we need to be complete and satisfied in this life. Let us examine them further.

1. We shall be saved: This means spiritual salvation. Our soul shall be saved so that we have the right of being God's children, and when we die, we shall go to Heaven. This salvation of the soul is the first thing we find as we enter into Jesus as our Open Door.

2. We shall Go In and Out: This is what we call deliverance. When we enter into Christ, we shall be delivered from every chain which the devil has bound us with. Like the little colt of Luke 19: 30-36, He will say concerning us; *"Loose him and bring him to Me."* That is what we call deliverance. Like the Jews in Egypt, for whom He said to Pharaoh, *"Let My people go..."* even so will He say concerning us, *"loose them and let them be free"*. It simply means He will set us free from every satanic bondage, so that we begin to enjoy liberty in Him. So those who enter into Christ as their Open Door will receive deliverance.

A DIVINE BLESSING

3. We will find Pastures: This means physical prosperity and material blessings. When someone says, *"I am going abroad in search of greener pastures"*, we know what he means. He means in search of material progress. God knows that we all need material prosperity. It is not only spiritual progress that we need. Therefore He has packaged enough material blessings for each one of us in Christ! Therefore we don't need to look for any other open door of prosperity. All we need do is to enter very well into Christ our Open Door, and there we will find more than enough pastures for both our spiritual and physical well-being. David understood this when he said;

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack. HE makes me to lie down in GREEN PASTURES... (Psalm 23: 1, 2).

So you see, we will find more than enough GREEN PASTURE of material prosperity when we enter into Christ. To lie down in green pastures is what we call spiritual rest. So, not only that we shall have green pastures of material blessings, but we shall also have rest, in this life. No wonder Jesus has said; *Come unto me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11: 28).*

It is all saying the same thing. Jesus wants us all to come to Him so that He will lead us to green pastures of spiritual and physical prosperity, and then give us rest! For there is still a REST for the people of God even in this troubled world. (Hebrews 4: 9-11).

WHY MANY ARE NOT BLESSED YET

If that is the case, why are people who say they have Christ (that is they are Christians) still run about seeking some other doors to open to them? Is Jesus, our Open Door no longer enough? Have they gone into Him, and failed to find these three things? Have they gone into Christ really, but didn't find salvation, deliverance and green pastures of spiritual and material progress?

No! The problem is this; many who call themselves Christians have not really come into Christ. Christ has come into them but they have not come into Christ, and it is only those who have come into Christ that will find those blessings! This is the mystery and the missing link. This is the reason many believers are still going about not blessed, not satisfied.

CHRIST IN US AND WE IN CHRIST

Let us explain this mystery further. There are two important stages in our relationship with Christ. First, Christ in us, then, we in Christ. So what is it all about?

CHRIST IN US - This happens at a time when we pray and say, "Lord Jesus, please come into my life and be my Lord and Saviour..." When anyone says this

A DIVINE BLESSING

prayer sincerely, Jesus comes into such a person and we say he has been "Born Again." Christ is in us when we get born again. This person is now a baby Christian. As he keeps eating the right spiritual food and obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit, he will keep growing up in his spiritual life and experience until the next thing happens to him, that is he in Christ!

WE IN CHRIST - When we come into Christ, that is what we call UNION. We get into spiritual union with Christ. That is what Jesus Himself calls "Abiding in Christ." *Abide in Me, and I in you... (John 15: 4)*

So you see, it is a two way process. We are to abide in Christ, just as Christ abides in us! When Christ abides in us, but we don't grow up to abide in Him also, we are not yet complete. We can't find the pastures we need yet. We have not entered into the open door fully yet.

To abide in Him, that is, to be in Christ is also what Paul called, "to grow up into Christ".

That we all...speaking the truth in love, may grow up INTO CHRIST in all things (Ephesians 4: 15).

So, there is a "growing up into Christ". When we are born again, we have received Christ into us, but we shouldn't stop there. We should keep moving, growing, until we too grow up into Him! It is then that we are abiding in Christ. It is then that we are truly in Christ. Then He is abiding in us and we in Him. Only then can we say we have entered INTO CHRIST as our Open Door. Then shall we find the three things that make life sweet - salvation, deliverance, prosperity (green pasture).

Abide in Me and I in you ... That is the only way you can bear fruits. That is the only way your life can be fruitful. That is the only way you can find peace and joy and success in life. That is the only way you can have progress in life!

That is the meaning of what Jesus said in John 15: 4-7. He was trying to let us know that it is not enough for one to be born again. That is only the beginning of the journey towards abiding, being in Christ. We must grow, and keep growing, until we grow up into Him (Ephesians 4: 15).

Only then can we begin to enjoy the real benefits that are in Christ. Only then can our lives experience the real fruitfulness (progress) that Jesus has for us. (John 15: 16). Only then can we enjoy the fullness of the Divine Blessings which are ours in Christ.

Next chapter will explain it further.

CHAPTER 16: 'TO CHRIST' AND 'INTO CHRIST'

Do you know there is a great difference between being led to Christ and being in Christ? Yes! And that is the difference between successful mature Christians and Christians who are struggling.

When an unbeliever is willing to receive Christ, he is then led to Christ by some-one who is already a believer. This person who is now led to Christ then becomes a new Christian. And we say he has just been "born again". So, to be led to Christ is the same thing as to be born again. But there is a mystery here. The mystery then is that at the point of new birth, Christ comes into us, but we don't yet come into him! This may surprise many! Yes, when we are born again, Christ is in us, but we are not yet in Him! We still have a long way to go before we come into Him. For Christ to come into us is immediate, but for us to come into Christ is not immediate. It happens quite later as we grow in our Christian lives. If we understand this truth, many of our struggles will cease.

So, our journey shouldn't end at being led to Christ. Our journey should take us into Christ. When we are led to Christ, we should continue moving until He swallows us up, as it were. It is those who get swallowed up by Christ that are now abiding in Christ. They haven't just come to Him, they are now right inside Him. It is those who get right inside Christ that find the green pastures, because the pastures are placed inside Him by the Father.

We shall discuss these things later with greater illustrations. But for now just know that we are first of all led to Christ, then from there we grow deeper and get into Him. (Ephesians 4:15). So have you been led to Christ or have you grown into Him? People lead us to Christ, Christ then leads us into Himself. It is only when we grow INTO Christ that Christ becomes our Open Door indeed. Inside Him, we then find the green pastures we are looking for.

'TO' AND 'INTO'

These two words are not the same. They represent the two stages of our spiritual journey. Our journey is in two stages. Stage one - we come To Christ. Stage two - we grow INTO Christ. All born again Christians have come To Christ but all have not entered (or grown) INTO Christ. When we come To Christ, we have then become Christians, but that is not enough yet.

Many spend years at this level thinking they have arrived when indeed they have not. They still have another step to take.

After we have spent some time at this level of faith, then we must take the next step which is to get INTO Christ. It is those who take this second step that are now IN Christ. It is they who will find all the things that God has provided for us IN Christ. Those who come TO Christ but have not grown INTO Christ are still Christians but they are miserable Christians. Only those who have grown

A DIVINE BLESSING

INTO Christ are really satisfied. Why? Because they are now IN Christ, and IN Christ we find all the blessings we are looking for.

IF ANY ONE BE IN CHRIST

This phrase has confused many believers. In 2 Corinthians 5: 17 the Bible records:

Therefore if any be IN CHRIST, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Many believers who have come to Christ now think that this place is talking about them. But when they look at their lives, they see old things still all over them. They see that old things are still very much in their lives and so they wonder why. This has led many believers to resort to struggling in their lives, as they struggle to make old things pass away! Some try to suppress old things, and cover them up, so that people will think of them as real believers.

But was Paul really talking about every believer here? For sure no. He was actually referring to mature Christians. That is, people that had been led to Christ, and have now grown up into HIM. (Ephesians 4: 15). These ones are Christ-like people. They are those who are abiding in Christ. To confirm this further, in verse 20 Paul called such people "Ambassadors of Christ." And we know that Baby Christians (or carnal believers) who have not yet crucified the old man cannot be Christ's Ambassadors (representative)!

OLD THINGS BELONG TO THE OLD MAN

What then are the old things? They are things that belong to somebody called "the old man". That is the old nature of man. In Galatians 5: 19-21, Paul called them "works of the flesh" and he gave us a list of some of them.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and the like...

For the old things to pass away therefore, the 'old man' (who owns them) must be got rid of first. To get rid of the old man is called crucifixion (or mortification) of the flesh (Galatians 5: 23; Romans 8: 13). This is necessary if we are to grow up spiritually Into Christ.

As long as the old man is alive inside us, (even though we are believers) the old things must remain in us! They won't pass away yet.

It is like a land-lord who suddenly discovers his tenant to be evil. He can't get rid of the evil practises of that tenant until he gets the tenant himself out of

A DIVINE BLESSING

that house. As long as the evil tenant is living there, his 'old things' (his evil ways) will remain with him in that house.

Even so, many believers still have the old man (evil tenant) inside them, yet they are wondering why old things have not yet passed away in their real-life experiences. When they look inside, they still see 'works of the flesh' very much evident in their lives despite all their religious activities and 'born again' confessions, and they wonder why. Their confusion stems from the fact that they thought they were already IN Christ, when in fact they have only come TO Christ! They are yet to grow INTO Christ (as Ephesians 4: 15 puts it).

CARNAL VERSUS SPIRITUAL BELIEVERS

Such believers who still have the old man and his old things in their lives are called 'carnal believers'. Paul rebuked such carnal believers so much, for their reluctance and lack of spiritual desire to grow up!

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to CARNAL, as to BABES... For you are still CARNAL; For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not CARNAL...? (1 Corinthians 3: 1-3).

So you see, though they were believers yet the 'old things' had not passed away in their lives because they were still harbouring the old (carnal) nature. Those who have crucified the old man, and no longer have the old things in them, are called SPIRITUAL. Therefore you have CARNAL believers and SPIRITUAL believers (according to 1 Corinthians 3: 1-3). Spiritual believers are truly IN CHRIST, Carnal believers are not yet IN CHRIST, they have only come TO CHRIST! We can't enter INTO CHRIST with the old things inside us! We can't carry old things INTO Christ! That is not possible. We can carry them TO Him! As He takes them away (which is via crucifixion), we then get INTO Him! Only then can we find green pastures of peace and progress. Only then can we find REST in Him. Only then can we get into the full BLESSINGS that God has ordained for us IN CHRIST Jesus! Only then has Jesus become our Open Door. Only then will our wandering stop, for we have found our open door at last.

PUT OFF THE OLD MAN

To further explain this, Paul instructed the believers in Ephesians 4: 22, to:
Put off (mortify, kill, crucify) the old man which grows corrupt...

What does that mean? Paul was telling us here that there is something inside believers called "the old man." Although he had led these people to Christ, yet he was telling them that the work was not over. They needed to do something else - put off the old man that was still living inside them. What is the old man? It is the old nature, the carnal nature, the root of sin. It is this old man that has the

A DIVINE BLESSING

old things which should pass away when we live IN CHRIST. As long as the old man is still alive in us, old things cannot pass away yet, for old things belong to him.

Paul was therefore asking people who were already born again in Ephesians 4: 22 to still go ahead and allow Jesus crucify the old man in them. This will then enable them to grow into Christ, which is our ultimate goal here on earth.

PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN

In Ephesians 4: 24, Paul then asked the same believers who have put off the old man, to now put on the new man.

That you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and holiness.

Note that it is only people who have crucified the old man that can indeed put on the new man. It is such people that are now IN CHRIST. How? Because the New Man is Christ. To put Him on means to wear Him like one wears (puts on) a dress. That is what we call being swallowed up by Christ. It is only those who have been swallowed by Christ that are now IN Him. When you are inside Him, He has then become your clothing. Hence to put on new man is the same as to be clothed with Christ, and is the same as to be swallowed up by Christ and is the same as to Be IN Christ and to abide IN Christ. All these expressions speak of a very high level of Christian life and discipline, a level we get to after prolonged crucifixion and sanctification (discipleship) experiences. It is the level of spiritual maturity.

THE OLD MAN MUST DIE FIRST

It is only those who have come to this level of dying with Christ that are actually now IN Christ. As long as the old man (carnal man) is still alive in us, we cannot carry that stinking thing into Christ. Those who refuse to suffer the pains of being crucified with Christ cannot enter into Christ. They can only come to Christ. Old things will remain in their lives too. It is only when the old man has been crucified that we can enter INTO Christ properly. It is only then that we can truly say that "old things are passed away, all things have become new." Such are Christ Ambassadors who are now the image (Representatives) of Christ. They have entered into Rest, for Christ is our rest. They are now IN their rest. They have ceased from their fleshly struggles. IN Christ, they now find green pastures and so they lie down and enjoy His rest (Psalm 23: 2).

Therefore, let us understand that at new birth, the old man is still in us. Our old nature is not yet crucified at new birth. Crucifixion is a painful experience which new converts cannot bear yet. As we grow in obedience, the Lord then arranges to mortify the old man in us. Many turn back at this stage. But those who pay the price of painful discipline of crucifixion of the flesh, very soon enter

A DIVINE BLESSING

into the most glorious realms of being IN Christ and putting on the new man. It is then that the old things are passed away in their lives, for real!

If you want this experience, then ask the Lord to give you the grace to receive His crucifixion and discipline. Only then will you be ready to receive all the blessings that God has for you in this life.

(That we all) ... May grow up INTO HIM in all things, which is the Head, even Christ. (Ephesians 4: 15).

Do you want to really know your position? Then ask the Lord for revelation. Why? Because you can only know these things by revelation light of God. Ask Him to please reveal to you your spiritual position - whether you are already IN CHRIST or you have only come TO Him!

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT NEW BIRTH

This is what really happens. Before we receive Christ, that is, before we come to Christ, the old man is in us as king. He occupies the whole of our hearts and minds and exercises total control over us.

But the day we receive Christ, things change, but the change is not enough yet. The change is that Jesus, the new man, has now come into our life too. So we now have two persons inside us - the old man and Jesus (the new man). Note that the entrance of Jesus into our lives does not automatically destroy the old man and his old things. No!

Our hearts has many rooms. Let's say there are seven rooms in our heart. The old man was occupying those seven rooms fully with his properties before Jesus came in. But as we receive Jesus, Jesus now comes in and occupies just one room, while the old man remains in the other six! Yes, the entrance of Jesus does not eradicate the old life at once. As Jesus is now in one room, this person then becomes a baby Christian. Why? Because the size of Jesus' presence in his life is so small, 1/7th of his life!

What then is spiritual warfare? Spiritual warfare is that which occurs as the old man and the New Man now contest for the control of our life. Warfare now begins in the life of this Christian as Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, begins to expand His territory in the life of this believer. Jesus wants to expand and take control of the whole Christian, but the old man puts up some resistance. He resists by appealing to the self-will of this person, to solicit his support. So, each time we follow our self-will, instead of the will of God, we are automatically supporting the old man to remain in us. This is the battle that goes on in our lives every day.

What then is spiritual growth? Spiritual growth simply means that Jesus is now gaining more grounds in our lives. He is recovering more rooms from the old man. He is pushing the old man out of his hold in the rooms of our heart. If the

A DIVINE BLESSING

old man regains more grounds, we say the Christian has backslidden - has slipped back to old ways. If Jesus gains more grounds, we say the Christian is growing up spiritually.

Who then is a carnal believer? He is the one who has constantly supported the old man - through self-will, so that the old man continues to control greater rooms of his life, while Jesus remains just within the space He got when He first came in. Thus it is our will that decides who should rule in our lives.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourself (yield your will) to obey, his servants ye are...? (Romans 6:16).

That is how powerful our will can be. When we indulge in self-will, we have yielded our will to the old man, and at once he becomes our master. When we consciously submit our will to the will of God, at once Jesus gains upper hand and begins to rule in our lives. Our will is very powerful and determines who wins the battle over our lives. Let's therefore ask the Holy Spirit to help us consciously submit our will to Him at all times.

Who then is a spiritual Christian? He is the Christian who has yielded his will to the Lord Jesus, and so has given his entire support to Jesus! As a result of this total support, Jesus now has the full authority to launch final offensive against the old man, to rout him, (to crucify him) together with his old things. When Jesus "pushes out" the old man and his old things from the Christian's life, we then say we have 'put off' the old man (Ephesians 4:22). As Jesus pushes the old man out, He at once expands and fills up the entire spaces the old man left in our lives. Jesus alone now occupies and fills up our lives. There is no more competition or resistance from the old man. At this time Jesus alone fills up our life, we then say such a person has put on the new man. We then call such a person a spiritual Christian, because only the Spirit of Christ now rules over and controls his life.

Of this person you can then say, *"Old things are passed away, behold all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

SIGNS OF THE OLD MAN

How do you know whether your life is still To Christ or IN Christ? That is, how do you know if the old man is still strong in you? One sure way to know this is by the level of restlessness (struggles) you are having. If your life is full of struggles throughout the day to get things done, then the old man is still in charge. If your spiritual life goes up today and down tomorrow, old things are still in charge. No amount of fasting, going to camp, night vigils, counselling and other religious efforts can free you. The old man is a person, you can't get rid of him by fasting. In fact he enjoys our fasting and other religious things. Only one thing can silence him - crucifixion. But you can't crucify yourself. Only Jesus can do it for us. Go

A DIVINE BLESSING

to Jesus and ask Him to crucify your old man. Ask Him for grace to endure the painful crucifixion experiences. It takes time. It will take time, for crucifixion is a slow and painful death.

When the old man is crucified you will know. The first sign is that of rest. The rest comes because you have now entered into Christ as your "Open Door." You will begin to experience such spiritual rest that is difficult to explain. You go to bed singing, you wake up in the morning singing. Obeying God becomes very easy. You obey God without any more struggles. You have now entered into the Divine Rest. The surprise is that your physical circumstances may not have changed, yet you are enjoying great rest even in the midst of adverse physical circumstances. Spiritual rest is what Jesus promised us in this life, for there remains a rest for the people of God. (Hebrews 4:9). Those who struggle have not entered into this rest. That is, they have not entered into Christ as their Open Door. Why not? Because they have not allowed the Lord to crucify the old man in them.

God doesn't give very important blessings to restless people because they will soon waste them, like the prodigal son. Only as we enter fully into Christ, our Open Door, can we find His Rest, and then receive our real blessings.

Most believers today are restless! They are not satisfied. They have not entered into Divine rest, and so have not obtained Divine blessings. Why are things so? Because not many Christians are willing to wait before God's presence and pay the price of crucifixion and obedience. The world is in a hurry and believers have joined in the haste too. Everyone wants things 'now now'. No one seems to be willing to wait for God's preparation and timing. And crucifixion takes time! So many avoid it. And so the rush, the struggles, the restless pursuits continue. It is such people that are still going about looking for open doors.

On the other hand, those who patiently allow God to train them, discipline them and crucify them will have everything working for them on the long run when they might have grown (entered) INTO CHRIST, their Open Door. Such people are then said to be abiding in Christ and Christ in them. In this life, they will never struggle again for anything, for they are now abiding IN HIS REST!

WHEN ARE WE READY FOR CRUCIFIXION?

Two things are involved. One, Christ has to come into me. Next, I have to come into Him.

When I am born again, Christ is now in me. But I am not yet in Him. So, when will I get into Him? When I am crucified! When the old man in me is crucified, because I can't carry him INTO Christ, for he stinks. These two experiences are millions of miles apart - Christ in me and I in Him.

At new birth, I am only a baby Christian. I am to take the sincere milk of God's Word. Nobody talks of crucifying me yet for babies can't endure the pains and discipline of crucifixion. So, this baby must be left alone with the old things inside him until further notice. The further notice will come as he matures more.

HUNGER AND THIRST FIRST

Then, one day he begins to receive signals of impending crucifixion. He suddenly begins to hate the things that he notices in his life. They have been there all along but he didn't mind them (he didn't really see them well). Now his spiritual eyes have opened more and he now sees how ugly his life has been even as a Christian!

He now hates himself and begins to desire a better, purer, more glorious life. The desire in him intensifies everyday. The word says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..." (Matthew 5:6). This is exactly the case with this believer now. The intensity of his hunger and desire for the "real thing" is consuming him. Our desire must exceed the pains of crucifixion before God brings in the hammer and the nails. Why? Because if we don't have enough hunger and desire, we will not be able to endure the pains. Those who don't have enough consuming desire easily turn back and run away when they see the hammers and the nails!

Again crucifixion is a major spiritual surgery. Like in real life, babies must be kept out of it until they grow up more, otherwise we may lose them. In Matthew 13:24-30, the Good Man sowed good seed in His farm. The evil man sowed tares in the same farm (when no one was looking). As the servants wanted to root out the tares prematurely, what did the Good master say?

Let them both grow together until the harvest. (Matthew 13:30)

Now we are that farm. The tares in our lives are the 'old things' which should pass away. We want them to be taken away from our lives as soon as we are born again, but Jesus says No! We should wait a little more. Let the old things in us remain there - until harvest. Why? Because in trying to crucify us and take away the old things prematurely, the good ones (the wheat) may be rooted out also. (See Matthew 13:28-30). So, there must be a waiting - until harvest.

CRUCIFIXION IS DONE AT HARVEST

When is harvest? Harvest here means maturity. We don't harvest our crops until they mature. It is after things we planted have matured that we harvest them. Therefore harvest time means the thing has matured. God does not pass us through crucifixion experience until the harvest time of our lives, that is until our faith in Him matures. Premature crucifixion (discipline) kills (uproots) our faith as well. Every Christian therefore must remain with the old things inside them until the ripe time. That is, until our faith matures.

Then, one day it happens. The Lord comes upon us with the instruments of crucifixion and we can't run away from it any more. Note that crucifixion, once it begins, is a continuous experience, but there must be a beginning. There must be that day in our Christian lives when the first nail and hammer hit us and we

A DIVINE BLESSING

thought that was the end of our existence. Everyone who has experience being IN Christ will always remember the day it all started. On that day, God Himself looked like your enemy, for He was there to give a deadly blow to the old man that has been usurping His position in your life for so long. Soon, we find ourselves IN Christ, right inside Him. From that day, we have entered our Open Door, never again will anyone see us roaming the streets in search of any other open door. From that day we enter into our rest In Him, never to struggle again. But remember it all begins with pains of crucifixion. Through crucifixion we enter into Christ. Only then can we find all the blessings that God has ordained for us in this life.

Now, do you want God to crucify your old man (old self life) so that you can enter fully INTO CHRIST? Tell Him so.

CHAPTER 17: HOW TO ABIDE IN CHRIST

So, are you in Christ? Christ is in you, if you have been born again. That is good, but the question is, are you in Him also? Have you entered into Him? Are you abiding in Him? Have you gown up into Him? These expressions all mean the same thing. And it is believers who have come to this realm that are His true sheep. It is they that enjoy GREEN PASTURES.

It is here that the problem lies, for many Christians do not even know there is any such further requirement as abiding in Him. Many do not know it is a real spiritual experience to be in Christ. All they know is "I am born again" and they talk of it with such pride and finality as if saying, 'I've got it all'. So, how do we abide in Christ? How do we grow up into Christ?

IT IS DONE BY OBEDIENCE

By mere repentance and invitation, Christ comes into us. He comes in to begin to teach and to lead us. Where is He leading us to? Into Himself! That is the mystery. To get into Christ is a journey, a long journey, a very long spiritual journey indeed. For this purpose Christ comes in at our New Birth to begin leading us through the Holy Spirit in this journey (Romans 8:14). He leads us by directing us on what to do, where to go, how to live our everyday lives. As we keep obeying His leading and direction, we are progressing in our journey, until by and by, we enter into Him.

Therefore those who want to grow up into Christ must begin to obey the leading of the Lord everyday. There is just no other way to do it. And we can't follow the leading of the Lord except we have a personal relationship with Him. That takes us back to the need for every believer to spend time in God's presence so that they will have personal, talking relationship with Jesus.

My sheep hear My voice and...they follow Me. (John 10:27)

A DIVINE BLESSING

Where is He leading His sheep to? Where are we following Him to? Into Himself! That is the mystery. He has come into us, but we are not yet into Him because we do not know the way. He has now come to lead us into Himself. So, as we keep obeying His every command and prompting, we are fast getting into Him! That is the mystery of obedience. **We are fast maturing into Him as we obey His leading every day.** Then, as we get into Him, there we find "green pastures." He is leading us into Himself, to find salvation, deliverance and prosperity, Jesus told us. (John 10:9).

Yes, He is leading us to the place of spiritual rest and satisfaction! (Hebrew 4:9). So, as we get into Him, we find all these glorious things. That is the mystery of obedience. That is the importance of hearing His voice. That is the reality of the true Christian faith. That is the need for having a personal, talking relationship with Jesus. So, **by repentance I come TO Christ. But by obedience and crucifixion I grow INTO Him.**

WHY THROUGH OBEDIENCE?

It is only by obeying Jesus that anyone can grow up into Him. Why? Because we cannot fool Him. If we say we are His people and refuse to obey Him, that is foolishness. He won't take us seriously. If we call Him our Lord, but don't obey His directions, we are playing games. We are not serious. He won't lead such unserious people into Himself. Hence He asked:

But why do you call Me "Lord, Lord" and not do the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

You see that? Can you answer that question? Try to answer that question really. Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, but refused to obey me?

What a right question indeed! What a shame to us all! We thought that God can be deceived by our "born again" tricks! Once we say "I am born again" we expect Him to give us everything we want. No! the Lord cannot be deceived. He wants to know those who are true believers, and He knows them by their obedience. It is those ones that He takes seriously. Those who don't obey Him are playing games. At the end they will realize how foolish they have been. We cannot deceive Him by our fasting and long prayers and night vigils. "Obedience is better than sacrifice," the word has said.

So, if I am your Lord, why then do you not seek My will before you do things? Why then do you not seek My directions, My leading, My counsel, first? Why do you get up and do things as you like and at the end you come to me and say "My Lord?"

A DIVINE BLESSING

This is the voice of the Lord. This is the crux of the matter. We have been born again, but we have refused to obey His voice, therefore we do not abide in Him. We cannot grow up into Him. We need to repent at once of our religious self-will and pride. We need to repent of our self-righteousness and presumption. We need to repent and then ask him to start leading us afresh. As He leads us and we follow, so shall He lead us into Himself. Then shall we find all the peace, joy, rest, progress, success, material blessings, that He has kept for us in Him. For now we are outside Him. We have only come to Him. We must desire to get into Him from now so that things will be well with us. Self-will and disobedience have kept us outside Christ. That is why we have no rest (Rev. 22:15). As we return to Him now, and begin to obey Him everyday, He will soon lead us into Himself. Then shall we begin to enjoy His rest, in this life. That is when we will receive all the blessings that God has for us in this life.

SPIRITUAL COCONUT

To abide in Christ is known to us as spiritual coconut. The Lord gave it to us in a revelation. So what does that mean? When we abide in Christ, it means Christ has swallowed us up; Christ is carrying us inside of Him. We also know that Christ Himself is inside the Father and the Father is in Him. So how do we explain this type of arrangement? We call it 'spiritual union' with the Trinity. John14:20 explains it.

At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

This is the most complex spiritual relationship that ever involves man on earth. I am inside Christ, Christ is inside me, yet Christ is inside the Father also! This is Union with the Trinity, the highest level of spiritual life on earth. That is where God has called us to come into, but it requires great discipline and obedience for us to practically get there by experience.

So how do we illustrate this complex union? The Lord Himself brought the coconut to us by revelation to illustrate this union. Let's now see how it works.

The coconut is made up of four parts;

- (1) The outermost covering - (representing God the Father).
- (2) The shell, after the outer covering - (representing God the son).
- (3) The white part (the kernel) - (representing the Holy Spirit).

(4) Then what of the water part? The water at the centre of the coconut? That is where we come in. the water represents us. It represents spiritual baptism through which we are brought into Christ! Yes, we are to grow into Christ. We do this by spiritual baptism. But the baptism here is not the physical one which many do even religiously. We are talking of spiritual baptism, which we describe as being swallowed up by Christ!

SWALLOWED UP BY CHRIST

As we have seen before, we should continue to grow in our faith until we fully get swallowed up by Christ. It is then that we are fully abiding in Him. To be swallowed up by Christ happens through obedience to His will. As we keep obeying God's will, our own self-will keeps diminishing. As our self-will decreases and God's will increases in us, we are steadily being swallowed up by God's will. A time will come in this relationship when our self-will is totally gone, and we are fully in God's will. At that time we have died in Christ! We live, yet no longer us but Christ (Galatians 2:20). That is the real baptism which coconut water represents. We have become fully swallowed up in Christ, like the coconut water. When this happens, such a person has come into Christ and into Union with Trinity. Such a person now becomes the image of Christ, Christ's likeness! He has come to the realm of sons and daughters of the Most High God. He used to be a carnal Christian, now he has become a spiritual mature Christian. This person is still alive on earth but he now shares power with Christ in the Heavenlies! (Ephesians 1: 3, 20-22; 2: 6). This person has now been fully baptized into Christ. He is now operating at the realm of John 15: 16 which says:

You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask of My Father in My name, He may give it to you. (John 15: 16)

It is to this realm of lasting fruitfulness and progress that Jesus is leading us. Only those who desire to hear His voice and obey His leading shall get there. These are the ones who abide in Christ as Christ abides in them. These have entered into Christ, our Open Door. They seek no other door.

THAT IS TRUE BAPTISM

Again let us look at it this way. When we drink water, water has come into us, but we have not got into water. That is what happens to us at the New Birth. Jesus, our Water of Life (John 7: 36-39) comes into us then through the Holy Spirit. This is only "part one" of the story. For us to be complete in Christ, we must get into Water too, for the Water to cover us. Then is the Water in us and we in the Water. This Water is Jesus, our Water of Life. As we follow Him by obeying His commands, we begin to step into the River of life. Through subsequent obedience we fully find ourselves right inside this Water. That is the spiritual baptism which we talk about. We should fully get immersed into Jesus, our Living Water so that we can say:

Christ is in me, and I am also in Him.

A DIVINE BLESSING

It is then that we begin to understand this saying! Then have we been truly baptized into Christ. Jesus said; "At that day, you shall know that I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you." (John 14: 20).

So you see, great things are in Christ for us all. Great things indeed, both spiritual and material, enough that we don't need to look elsewhere for any help. These great things are in Christ, therefore only people who are in Christ can get them! These blessings are in the spiritual "Warehouse" called Christ. Only people who get into that Warehouse can get them. Those who get close, but hang around the Warehouse and refuse to get into it, will not have any thing.

Ask Jesus to begin the process of getting you into Him from today. Ask Him to swallow you up, to baptize you into Himself. The only price you will pay is obedience.

Then start keeping covenant time in His presence. It is there that these things will be done.

TAKE A FULL DIVE

Let's explain it further this way. Jesus is our River of life. We should dive fully into Him. Some go round and round this Water but refuse to take a dive into it. At best they dip in one leg or two, or the hand, and quickly withdraw them again. They are scared of being swallowed up by the Water. This water-fright is exactly what happens in spiritual baptism. Many believers go round and round Jesus, calling Him wonderful names as if to flatter Him: "My Lord, my Saviour, my Redeemer, my Provider, my Healer, I love you Lord..." We call Him these great names, yet we fear to take a dive and fully get immersed into Him. At best we dip one leg or hand in Him, we submit one part of our lives to Him, but fear to submit our entire will, our all, for we don't want to be "swallowed up." We don't want to lose ourselves. We don't want to give up all. We want to have His benefits, and still keep our lives as we want! That is the fear many have of Christ, and so they miss it all!

Say to Him, "Lord Jesus, here I come". Then loose yourself and take a dive! Don't hold back. Take a dive into Him and let Him swallow you up. You will be so satisfied that you will never again look for any other door!

THAT IS THE MYSTERY OF JOHN 3: 30

When John the Baptist said, "He must increase but I must decrease" (John 3: 30), he was being swallowed up by Christ. As we submit to Christ's leading and will every day, we begin to decrease while He increases. We decrease because our self-will decreases, our self-image decreases, our pursuits decrease, our own ways decrease, our fleshly ways decrease. So our natural man decreases. That is how it works. And as these self-things decrease, through our submission to His will, that is through our obedience, His will then increases. As His will increases, His authority over us increases, His presence in us increases, His hold upon us

A DIVINE BLESSING

increases. Even so, our vision of Him, our fear of Him, our knowledge of Him, our desire and love for Him, our respect for Him, our estimate of Him, all these increase. As things happen this way, we are then being swallowed up by Christ. We are being baptized into Him. We are decreasing (in our self-life) while He is increasing in us. That is the mystery of John 3: 30. We must experience this before we can get into Him to find all those wonderful blessings that God has packaged for us in Christ, inside Christ! Are you ready for that?

TWO GROUPS EMERGE

From all we have said so far, two groups of Christians clearly emerge:

- (1). Christians who are abiding in Christ
- (2). Christians who are not abiding in Christ.

(1) Christians who are abiding in Christ have entered into their Open Door which Christ presents in John 10: 9. These ones have become His true sheep. They enjoy the three things mentioned earlier - salvation, deliverance and prosperity. They enjoy rest, as He has led them into green pastures. These ones are fully satisfied in this life, in Christ, therefore they don't seek any other "open-door" of financial progress or whatever. There are people like this indeed, but unfortunately their number is terribly small. These ones are now blessed by God. They have got talking-relationship with Jesus, spiritual power and authority (SPA), perfect will of God as well as physical well-being.

(2) The bulk of Christianity is however still made up of the miserable lost sheep, who still roam about, crying, shouting, "open door!", "open door!" These ones are blind, for covetousness causes blindness. They are still searching for "open - door" even though Jesus is standing by saying:

I am the door...! By Me if any one enters in ... He shall find REST.

So what is their problem? Their problem is that they don't want to fully enter into Christ, because entering into Christ means that their self-will will be dropped. They will have to be crucified and their fleshly will cut off, before they can fully get into Christ. But many believers do not want to submit their will to the will of God. They want to pursue their own will, their plans, their own desires, yet they want God to bless them. It is people like these that fill our churches and fellowships today, carnal believers who want only the blessings of God but not His will and His discipline. It is this group of Christians that are still looking for open-door! They are not yet abiding in Christ.

So, you, where do you belong? You should know if you sincerely judge yourself. However, it is good to ask the Lord to reveal ourselves to us, for the heart of man is very deceitful. So, you may do well by asking Him to reveal your position to you. If you are outside Christ, (even though you are 'born again'), then you know what to do. Instead of seeking open-door, you should rather cry unto Him to have

A DIVINE BLESSING

mercy on you, and bring you into Himself. You should then ask for the grace to begin to obey Him, for these things are done by obedience.

Those who seek any other door apart from Christ may find themselves in open-doors which the devil has opened. They may enter in, but may never be able to come out again! Let us be satisfied with Jesus, our Open-Door of life!

So, when next you hear people say "open-door seminar", you will then understand. You must not be found in such things any more. *For he that has found rest has ceased from his struggles!* (Hebrews 4: 9, 10).

DON'T SWIM IN THIS WATER, DROWN IN IT!

Christ is our Water of life, our River of life. When we get into Him, we should not try to swim, we should get drowned and die in Him.

Yet, in Christ we should die first, before we live. When we swim in water, we are still alive. Those who swim are still living and struggling. When we swim, it means we are alive; the old man is still active and struggling to keep its course. When we swim, we are not following the course of the water. If the water is flowing to the right, we may be swimming to the left. That is, we are still following our own ways and direction. We have not yet surrendered fully to the water.

When we come into Christ, as our Living Water, we should not try to swim in Him. We should get drowned. People who are drowned have first of all taken in so much water. The water is in them and they are in the water. That is what we should do in Him. When we drink enough of Him, and get deep enough into the Water of His will and presence, we get drowned. The old man in us dies. It is then that our struggling ends. Those who swim are still alive in the flesh. The old man is still alive, for it is the old man that swims. Those who are drowned have ceased from their struggles.

In Christ we first of all die. Then as we die in Him, the life of Christ is made manifest in us. So, we die, then the life of Christ begins. That is the mystery of being in Christ, the meaning of Galatians 2: 20. Death must work in us first, to slay our old man, our old nature, before the glorious life of Christ, which is resurrection of life, then comes to us.

Why many believers are not yet fully in Christ is because they don't want to die, that is, they don't want to give up their old ways, that is their self-life. Such people want to save their own self lives. But Jesus has said that:

Those who try to save their lives shall lose it, but those who lose their lives for Christ shall find better life (i.e. the life of Christ) - (See Matthew 16: 24-25).

Those who try to preserve their self-life are swimming. They are Christian swimmers. They have come to Christ, our Living Water, but they are swimming.

A DIVINE BLESSING

They don't want to drink enough water and die. They don't want the water to cover and swallow them.

They are still strong in the flesh and are using energy of the flesh. They struggle against the move of God. They swim against the tide. They swim so as to be free, to be free from the flow of God's will. They are swimming in Christ instead of drowning in Him. Such people cannot be blessed by God. They cannot receive Divine Blessings!

Let Us Pray

Dear Lord Jesus, my Living Water; I am sorry I have been trying to swim out of Your control. Now, I want to struggle no more. I want to be still in You, I want my old man, my self-will to die in You, so that Your life, which is my resurrection, may manifest in me. Yes Lord, no longer I that live but You. Please do this for me. Let Your grace do it for me as I now surrender fully to You. Swallow me up by Your presence and by Your will and do not let me to swim away again, which is to struggle again. Those who swim, swim to be free from You. Do not allow me to swim again, as I now take a dive into You, Jesus, my River of life. Amen.

From today you should no longer go about seeking any "open door" any more, for Jesus our Open Door is more than enough. You should rather start keeping Covenant Time, dwelling in His presence and obeying His will. Through that, you shall receive all the spiritual and material blessings that God has ordained for you in this life, without any more struggles.

CHAPTER 18: CONCERNING 'BREAKTHROUGH'

Another word that is used so much out of context is "breakthrough". By this many Christians mean to get money, to have sudden riches. You may hear a Christian ask another, "Have you got any breakthrough?" By that he means have you got the money you are looking for? Again we often hear pastors and men of God organizing "Breakthrough Seminars" and by that they mean teaching people how to get money quickly! In fact one of the topics that pull great crowds today is "breakthrough". At times people intentionally advertise a "Breakthrough" church program, just because they want to attract crowds and then raise funds for whatever "projects". Much like 'open door,' there is this talk of breakthrough everywhere, especially among Pentecostal people. And because no one seems to have got the breakthrough, we are now forced to ask 'what is breakthrough?' We need to re-examine this, so that, like open-door, it could be we have been seeking what does not exist. We may have been pursuing what is not there, or we have been pursuing it wrongly.

SO WHAT IS BREAKTHROUGH?

The word 'Breakthrough' in the dictionary sense is a good and desirable word. It means "to make new discoveries", such as scientists having a breakthrough in their research work. It also means "overcoming certain bad and difficult situations or habits", etc. Breakthrough is a good word in its ordinary usage.

However, we are not talking about that type of breakthrough. We are not talking about breakthrough in its ordinary normal usage. We are talking about another 'breakthrough' which is used among born again Christians only, which has a different meaning from the normal one. There is 'breakthrough' that has become a jargon used among pastors and fellowship leaders to lure and deceive people. Yes, there is a breakthrough which is known only among church people, the type that once you hear it, your mind goes straight to money! It is that type of breakthrough that we are talking about here, the breakthrough which modern Christians now use to mean getting money by all means! Some call it 'prosperity', others call it "success", but most call it 'breakthrough', and it simply means "get rich quick!" Getting money "now now", by whatever means!

When you hear a typical Pentecostal pastor say, "I am seeking breakthrough", he is simply saying "I am looking for money and I want it 'now now', by whatever means, whether God is pleased or not!"

That is the "Pentecostal breakthrough" that has done great havoc to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ! When a Christian ask you, "Have you got breakthrough?", he is simply saying, "have you got money?" Modern Christians have reduced the word 'breakthrough' to just one thing - "making money now now", often without regard to righteousness or the plans of God. Don't you hear about:

- Breakthrough seminars,
- Breakthrough crusade,
- Breakthrough revival,
- Breakthrough service,
- Breakthrough prayers?

It all means the same thing - how to make money "now now" by whatever means. Yes, they are teaching us "how to make money quickly!" Nothing more. Look around you and you will see breakthrough banners hanging here and there! And when you attend such breakthrough meetings what do you get in the end? Nothing really! In fact the little money you have on you is taken from you! Offerings are collected three times or even more, under different names. People are pushed to make pledges they had never planned for, and they are given just a few days to redeem them - else they will suffer 'curses'! Don't you see and hear such things in today's Pentecostal church gatherings? It is done in the name of 'breakthrough'.

A DIVINE BLESSING

All sorts of words are coined by 'men of God' - who behave as real sales men and marketing executives, to induce and lure the confused crowd to give "for the work of God." At the end, the funds raised have nothing to do with any "work of God"! Today, selfish, covetous people gather people in the name of Christ and there rob and milk them, and at the end they call it "breakthrough seminar", "breakthrough crusade", "breakthrough this and that."

So, it is this foul usage of the otherwise good word, breakthrough, that we are talking about. We are talking about it because the anger of God is rising concerning this. His judgement is nearer than many realize. Why? Because this type of breakthrough has spoilt things in the church, and has led many sincere believers astray and taken them captive. It has scattered and misled the sheep of the Lord, and the Lord can no longer endure it. He is now coming with His judgement.

This "religious breakthrough" has caused so much confusion among believers and has cursed many to even accuse God of not being faithful to them! Why? Because they haven't got their "breakthrough" years after they have 'sowed seed' as the pastor requested. The pastor promised them immediate breakthrough if they gave their all. They responded and gave everything they had. Now many are suffering untold hardship after such repeated compulsory "breakthrough offerings". So they accuse God of not fulfilling His own part of the bargain! But little did they know that God was not involved whatsoever in the entire arrangement.

Things will not continue like this, says the Lord. He is coming to put things back in order in the church, according to His word to us. That is why we are talking about it.

Now you, when you say you are seeking breakthrough, when you pray and say "God grant me breakthrough", what do you really mean? When you leave your home, to attend a "Breakthrough Seminar", what do you have in mind? If you are sincere, you will agree that at the back of your mind, you are looking for how to get material prosperity! "I want a breakthrough in my finances," is a common prayer request among us (believers) in Nigeria. So, let's now face it. What does God's Word mean by break-through? Because we are Christians, God's Word should be our standard. So, let's see what the Bible says about breakthrough.

Thieves Breakthrough! Says Jesus

The first person to use the word "breakthrough" in the New Testament was Jesus Himself. So, what did He mean by that word? Let's go to Matthew 6 and see.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves BREAKTHROUGH and steal (Matthew 6: 19).

A DIVINE BLESSING

Terrible! We've all got it wrong isn't it? Jesus said we should not keep our wealth on earth; we should transfer it to heaven. Why? Because anything on earth is not safe. Why not? Because thieves operate on earth and how do they operate? They breakthrough and steal! So, it is thieves who breakthrough to get money quick, Jesus said!

By the way, what does the word breakthrough imply? It implies (in this context) using force to gain entry. In this case, using force to gain illegal entry. It means to plunder. To take what does not belong to you by force. To make money by foul, and crooked means. To get rich quick by all means, at any cost. To acquire wealth by unrighteous means.

Remember we are talking about breakthrough within the context of Matthew 6: 19. So, Jesus warned us that we shouldn't breakthrough, so as to get money quickly, for it is thieves who do that!

ENTER IN, DON'T BREAKTHROUGH

In John 10: 9, Jesus appeared to us as our Open Door through which we should enter in, and find prosperity. So, the right word for believers is enter in. Those who break through do not have the right and the means to enter in, so they resort to breaking through!

I am the Door, by Me, if any man enters in, he shall ... find pastures, (John 10: 9).

So, you see, the injunction to Christians is to enter in, not breakthrough! Thus:
Christians - enter in (to get riches)
Thieves - breakthrough (to get illegal riches)

Isn't that shocking? Then, why is there so much talk about breakthrough in our churches and fellowships? Almost every Christian is seeking "breakthrough"! So, where did we get that word from? Isn't it from Scriptures? For Christians get their language from Scriptures. Jesus, the one we claim to be following, says, it is thieves that breakthrough so as to get money! Where then did we get our own word from? Why is our breakthrough different? Have you seen the harm we have been causing ourselves by turning the word of Jesus upside down? Jesus said thieves breakthrough, but we are saying no, it is believers who breakthrough to get money!

Isn't that a shame pastors? Man of God? For the sake of money, we have perverted God's Word! Jesus confirmed His Word further in Luke chapter 13, that Christians should seek to enter, not breakthrough!

Strive to ENTER in at the straight gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able (Luke 13: 24).

You see that again? Our focus, our duty, our efforts, should be geared towards entering in through the Door (which is Christ). It may be difficult because the

A DIVINE BLESSING

door is narrow, God's will is narrow, and requires patience and obedience to enter. But we should strive, try hard, be diligent in our search, to enter. That is the injunction. So, why are we breaking through, instead?

MYSTERY OF BREAK-THROUGH SEEKERS

Here is the mystery. Those who are seeking breakthrough are "drop-outs", spiritual drop-outs. Jesus warned that the way is narrow. God's way, God's will, is narrow, that is, it requires diligence and discipline. Because of this, those who walk in self-will cannot enter in. They are too impatient to wait. "For many will seek to enter, but shall not be able". These are the impatient, self-willed ones. When they failed to enter, that is, when they failed to wait, they then go backwards and resort to self-will. They have then dropped-out from the right way. They have dropped-out from seeking (waiting) to enter. They now resort to crooked, unrighteous means of getting what they want. It is these crooked ways that constitute the "breakthrough" jargon. And their reason is this, since they can't enter in, they should then break in, which is the real meaning of our so-called religious breakthrough. On the other hand, those who patiently strive and wait to enter do not resort to breaking through. They are ready to wait and enter in! Yes, in Christ we must wait, we must be patient before we receive the great things He has promised us.

...Do not become sluggish, lazy, but imitate those who through FAITH and PATIENCE inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6: 12).

Here then is the mystery of the so much talked-about word, breakthrough. It is foul language meant for the thieves! For the impatient, for spiritual 'drop outs!' So, are you seeking financial breakthrough in the Church? By that you are a thief! Believers don't breakthrough to get money. They enter in.

Why don't you change your language from today, so that God will show you the way to enter in, by His mercy?

'TO CHRIST' AND 'INTO CHRIST'

Remember 'TO CHRIST' and 'INTO CHRIST' which we discussed earlier. Let's now apply it here. It is those believers who have come to Christ but have not entered into Christ that are now seeking 'breakthrough'. Why? Because nothing is working in their lives. They have been 'born again' since, but they have not received the promises of 'green pastures' (John 10: 9) because they haven't entered into Him Who is our Door! But those who have entered, through obedience, are now abiding in Him. These ones are thoroughly satisfied because they have found everything they need right there - inside Christ. So they don't seek any crooked means of making money anymore.

BREAKTHROUGH MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE THE KEYS!

Looking at another thing. Jesus said we should receive "keys of the kingdom" from Him. With these keys, we are to "open and no one can lock, and when we lock, no enemy can open". We are to make use of the spiritual keys of the kingdom of God, He said.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven... (Matthew 16: 19).

What are we to use those keys for? Isaiah 22: 22 tell us:

And the keys of the house of David will I lay on His shoulder, so He shall open, and none shall shut, and He shall shut, and none shall open.

This is the story. In Isaiah 22: 22, Jesus received the "Master Key" from His Father God, called "the keys of the house of David" and the purpose was clear - to open and to lock. Then, in Matthew 16: 19, He transferred that same authority to His disciples, for keys speak of spiritual authority. So, those who have received these keys of spiritual authority from Jesus, do not have to forcefully "breakthrough!" They open and enter the door instead! When they open, no man can shut! No enemy can stop them. So they have no need to resort to 'breaking through' the walls and locked doors. They open and enter in, for they have the keys!

You, have you got the "keys of the Kingdom?" Or don't you know there is such a thing? May be you thought that Christianity is all about plundering and using foul means to get rich quick? Is that your idea? No! Christianity is something much more glorious than that. True believers, who submit to God's presence and to His will are given spiritual power and authority (SPA) by which they operate here on earth, beautifully, successfully. They don't have to resort to religious tricks and falsehood, to make money. They enter in, and receive any money and other things they may need for their work.

So, instead of breaking-through, why don't you go to the Lord today, and there humble yourself before Him in genuine repentance? Then ask Him to train you and prepare you, and then give you the keys of the kingdom also, so that your life will begin to count. Breakthrough is responsible for many spiritual injuries which believers now have. This is because those who breakthrough do so by their own strength. As they struggle with their fleshly strength and energy to make gains, they injure themselves spiritually, even physically. So, the Lord is asking:

Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness- only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil. (Isaiah 1: 5-6).

A DIVINE BLESSING

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition...For which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and PIERCED THEMSELVES through with MANY SORROWS. (1 Timothy 6: 9-10).

This is what happens to those who breakthrough, instead of entering in! Do you want to continue in this deception? Your wounds may not be obvious to you. So, why not ask the Lord to reveal your condition to you?

THE RIGHT DECISION

From today, stop seeking "open door". Stop seeking "breakthrough" - if by these you mean to get money and material blessings. Jesus said we should seek His kingdom first, He will then add money, and other materials to us (Matthew 6: 33). Those who don't want to seek God's kingdom first, are the ones who seek "breakthrough". Why? Because they don't have the keys of the kingdom. It is those who seek first the kingdom, that are given keys of the same kingdom. But those who seek money and material blessings first, for them there are no keys, so they resort to breaking-through, to get money.

Remove yourself from such a group from this day, for the judgement of God is soon coming upon all who rebel against His ways. Yes those who do things their own ways and yet say they belong to God, are soon to be judged. This is the judgement of Ananias and Sapphira, which He said will soon come upon the church.

Will you steal, murder and commit adultery, and swear falsely and...walk after other gods...and come and stand before Me in this house (this fellowship) which is called by My name, and say, we are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, says the Lord (Jeremiah 7: 9-11).

Yes, we have turned our churches and fellowships into "breakthrough" business centres, where religious thieves breakthrough and steal! We have turned our churches and fellowships into breakthrough centres where people are taught how to breakthrough and get riches by whatever means. We steal, and encourage others to steal also. We do this by the type of "prosperity", "breakthrough" messages we give them! All sorts of spiritual buying and selling is done in our midst, all in the name of breakthrough. Provided they pay their "tithes" and give their "offerings", we are satisfied! This seems to be the attitude of many pastors and fellowship leaders. So the Lord told us that He is about to visit us all with His judgement, so as to cleanse His church.

FINAL COMMENT

We know there are other meanings of the word, "breakthrough" which are wholesome. For instance, when praying, we have to breakthrough enemy barriers so as to prevail in our prayer. In this case we "pray through". In warfare, we breakthrough enemy defence so as to get through and save those they are holding

A DIVINE BLESSING

captive, and so on. But in this discussion, we have limited ourselves to the "breakthrough" which is commonly used in the church today, to mean getting money and other material "success". It is this wrong use of breakthrough among believers that has attracted the attention of God, for which judgement is now coming. **We have turned every word of God into money-making word! God is now coming to put a stop to that. That is the message.**

Should We not Breakthrough at all? We should! Yes, we should breakthrough, but not to make money by foul means. We should breakthrough in our efforts to make peace with people. Yes, we should seek God's help to enable us breakthrough the enemy's defence and set the captives free. Yes, **let's not give up easily in prayer. Let's persevere in prayer** until we breakthrough the barriers that hinder our prayers. Let's seek to break-through the walls of religion that have kept us in prison for years, and enter into the realm of true, personal relationship with Christ. O yes, let's ask God to breakthrough our hardened hearts and save us! Let's breakthrough ethnic, religious, racial, denominational barriers and have real fellowship with other sincere believers in Christ! We should breakthrough in Christ! We should breakthrough in our fight against corruption and other vices in our lives and in our churches. Yes, we need Divine breakthrough in our Christian lives so we can grow up to become mature men and women of God that God has called us to be. Let's break through every day into the realms of Divine liberty, into the 'Heavenly places' where God has promised us peace and joy, as we walk with Christ in simple, sincere faith and obedience.

But in all these, we should never seek money and pursue it as we do today, and call such a thing break through.

Let people of the world pursue money, and seek it by any means, for they have no Divine connection, no Divine provider.

For after all these material things the Gentiles (people without Christ) seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (seek first perfect obedient relationship with God), and all these material things shall be ADDED to you. (Matthew 6: 32-33).

Let us never behave like 'the Gentiles' again. It brings dishonour to the name of our great God.

WHY BLESSINGS AND JUDGEMENTS?

We have been mentioning judgements all along. Have you wondered why such a message of judgement would be given to us to include in a book of "Blessings?" Here is the reason. The Lord explained to us the need to balance the gospel. The God of blessings is also the God of judgement! He wants us to know this, so that we may be wise in our pursuits. The judgement is coming because we have so corrupted the gospel that almost every Word of God has been turned into a money-making thing. When we lose sight of God's judgement, we run into such errors of seeking blessings carelessly. So, in order to bring us back to the right

A DIVINE BLESSING

way and thereby save our souls, God is now coming to us with His judgement. Therefore, as we seek God's blessings, let us know that His judgement is coming as well. This knowledge will help us to be careful not to do things anyhow, anymore. We cannot continue to call ourselves Christians, and then go on doing things as we like. The Lord is now coming to put a stop to that, so that only His sincere children may remain and be blessed.

So, instead of continuing to roam about with shouts of "open door" and "breakthrough," we should rather run into His presence today, to seek His covering from the house-cleansing judgement that is coming.

Again, without His judgements we will be carried away by His blessings. We will tend to pursue and worship blessings instead of pursuing and worshipping God. Without His judgements we will begin to adore and focus on blessings. Blessings will then become all in all. Blessings will then become a distraction and then lead to destruction.

But when His judgements come, we turn our attention to God, instead of to blessings. When His judgements come, we fear God, we pursue God, we seek God to please Him, we obey God. We are then saved from destruction.

JUDGEMENT BRINGS US BACK TO GOD

That was what happened to the prodigal son. When he got blessings from his father, he got lost. He ran away from home and went out of his father's control. He became careless and carried away by the blessings. He left his father who gave him the blessings, and turned his whole attention to the blessings and began to adore and worship them. Blessings have power to carry people away that way. Then judgements came. The prodigal son became sick and poor. Hardship came over him, together with hunger. Unclean spirits (represented by pigs) surrounded him and bound him. Through the troubles of judgements, he "came back to himself," and at once he ran back to his father in repentance. So, blessings carried the boy away into destruction, but judgement brought him back to life. Judgement brought him back to fellowship with his father. Thus judgement saved his life from destruction! That is why God brings in judgements and blessings together - to save our lives from destruction.

Yes, the God of blessings is the same God of judgements and time has come for us to know this. In Israel, the Ark of God was a great blessing to them. The Ark worked for them against their enemies. The Ark protected them, fought for them and so was a great blessing to them. But if they touched the Ark carelessly, the same Ark killed them! That is judgement. So, the Ark of God which was a great blessing to Israel also brought judgement upon them, depending on how they handled it.

Even so, our great God is both a God of blessings and judgement. We must know this to avoid pitfalls that hang around blessings. That is why the Word of God is described as a two-edged sword. It can cut our enemies, it can also cut us,

A DIVINE BLESSING

depending on how we handle it. Yes, two-edged sword can work for us, it can also work against us, depending on how we hold and use it. Both edges are sharp and can cut us or our enemies. It can bless us, or judge us.

So, this book is indeed a book of Divine Blessings because God wants to really bless us all. Yet, we need to be warned about His coming judgements so that we are not destroyed. That is why we have both judgements and blessings mixing up in this book. We need both, now, now for the days of lawlessness have come.

CHAPTER 19: IN CONCLUSION - THERE ARE TWO WAYS BEFORE US

Dear Reader, we have come to the end of this message. We hope you still remember what our overall topic has been, that is, how to receive God's blessings without struggling. Yes, that is the main thrust of the book. God has so much blessings for His children, yet we see many going about miserably, and we wonder why. This book has tried to explain this puzzle.

In conclusion therefore, we say that the fault is not God's, it is ours. How? Because, first of all most people don't even seem to know what God's blessings are! Therefore they don't know exactly what they are searching for. As we have seen in the beginning, God's blessings consist of spiritual things first, the things which act as the spiritual foundation of life. That is, conversational relationship with Jesus, spiritual power and authority, and seeking the perfect will of God. We are to seek and receive those things first, so that material blessings can then come and stay. Without the spiritual foundation, material things may still come, after much struggles, but they may not last. The problem then is that most people do not ask for this spiritual foundation, they seek material things only. So, from today, we should resolve to do things the way God has ordained them. We should get into His presence to receive solid spiritual foundation of life, so that the material things we need shall be added to us also.

BLESSINGS AND THE CURSE

Next, we have seen that some of our actions and attitudes, instead of bringing us the blessings we desire, actually bring us curses. Yes, Blessings have a neighbour, an evil neighbour called the curse. The curse is a living thing, it is a spirit. When we miss blessings, the curse comes. When we seek blessings wrongly, the curse comes. When we open our door wrongly, the curse comes in, and when it comes in, trouble begins. Blessings and the curse are quite close-door neighbours, but they operate in opposite ways.

Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And He said to me, "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll"... Then He said to me, "This is the CURSE that goes out over the face of the whole earth. I am sending out the curse, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of

A DIVINE BLESSING

the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in that house and consume it..." (Zechariah 5: 1-4).

Dear Believer, let us beware of the things we do in His name! Let us be careful the things we say and do as Christians who are called by His name. The curse has been released to search out those who call His name, and yet do things falsely! Instead of blessings, such people will attract the curse, so says God Himself!

TWO WAYS ARE BEFORE US

Let us know from today that blessings and the curse are both available, everyday. Decisions we take each day determine which of these we receive.

Behold, I set before you today a BLESSING and a CURSE: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God ... and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord ... (Deuteronomy 11: 27-28).

So you see, two ways are before us everyday; the way of blessings and the way of the curse. It is the way we have chosen that determines what we get in return. Let us emphasize this point: It is not the fasting's we do that brings us blessings. It is not the long prayers we say that attract blessings. It is not the night-vigils, nor the land-liberation and covenant-breaking. It is not the man or woman who lays hands on us that determines it. It is not the 'open door' seminar nor the 'breakthrough' prayers. It is not any of the religious things we do nor the church programs we attend. Let us get it clear, now, once and for all, that it is the way we have chosen that determines what we get, for two ways have been set before us - by the Lord God! The two ways are OBEDIENCE and DISOBEDIENCE. If we chose the way of obedience, seeking and obeying the leading and the will of God, we will surely receive blessings, for the way of obedience is the way of blessings.

On the other hand, If we choose the way of disobedience, that is, taking decisions and doing things our own way, then we should not blame God because of the troubles we receive, for the way of disobedience, (which is the same as self-will) leads to the curse and not to blessings!

SELF-WILL

Many people have set out in search of blessings, only for them to end up getting troubles! We should now know why. They took the way of self-will!

If we do things which look good, but God is not in them, we have taken the way of self-will. If we do things because others are doing the same and nothing has happened to them, we are travelling the wrong way. If we allow people to push us and pressurize us into taking wrong decisions, decisions which are not of God, we have invited the curse! If you allow your pastor, your mentor, your mother in the Lord, your spiritual leader and director, any human being for that matter, to deceive you into doing a thing which offends God, you have travelled the wrong way, the way of the curse. That our spiritual leader helped us into it is no excuse,

A DIVINE BLESSING

for we ought to know what is wrong and what is right before God. The society is rotten, today's church has decayed! We must seek God on personal basis now, and obey His voice and His will, so that He will give us all the blessings He has for us - in this life. If we allow the rotten society or the polluted church ways to mislead us, we will have ourselves to blame when the curse comes, for the curse shall enter into the house of him who calls the name of the Lord falsely. (Zechariah 5:1-5).

Let us pray:

Father God,

I have for long been seeking and crying for this blessing and that blessing, and I have knowingly and unknowingly wondered why I am not getting enough. Now I know why. I have been seeking things in the wrong ways.

Now I return to You in repentance. I repent, O Lord God, of my spiritual waywardness and covetousness. I repent of my pursuit of material things, instead of spiritual things first. I should not have made material blessings my first target, since You have said You would add them to me. I should have sought You, as a person, to know You and to have You as my life. I should have sought to know You more closely and intimately. I should have desired to have a personal, talking relationship with You, where I can enter into conversations with You each day. By now I should have received great spiritual power and authority from You, so that no evil power can harass me anymore.

If I have sought all these, by now You would have added unto me all those material blessings I have been wasting my time seeking. I am sorry for all the time I have wasted in self-will and material pursuits. I now know better. Please forgive me and cleanse me and receive me back unto Yourself and into Your glorious presence.

Help me now to make Your presence my dwelling place. Give me spiritual hunger to hunger for You, for Your person, for Your presence, for Your voice, for Your will. Cause a great stir to rise inside me, stir me up, to begin to pursue You and to pursue Your ways from this day in all I do. Give me the grace to choose a covenant time, when I shall come to You, to eat at Your table.

By Your grace alone, I surrender my will, my desires, my ways, my life, my all to You. Please receive me, and keep me, and lead me in the way that I should go from this day on. Teach and direct me and cause me by Your Spirit to obey Your will and Your will alone in everything! At the right time, You will let me have every material blessing that You have for me in this life. Even the ones I have missed due to my self-will, You have the power to bring back to me.

Thank You Father for being my caring, loving Father. Thank You for opening my eyes today. Use me to also open the eyes of some other person, so that this joy will spread and overflow, to the honour and glory of your name alone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHAPTER 20: COVENANT TIME: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

From what we have seen in this book, everything is tied to keeping covenant time with God. All the miracles and blessings are tied to keeping covenant time in God's presence, and so one may ask.

WHY COVENANT TIME?

The reason is simple. God's children are scattered here and there, like wayward sheep. Not many Christians have time to be in God's presence. Everyone is pursuing one thing or the other. We rarely have time to be alone with God. *"All we, like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6).*

God allowed that to be, as long as time remained. But now time is no more. We have entered the last period of the earth when darkness (evils) shall cover the earth. (Isaiah 60:1-2). It shall be like in the days of Noah. Therefore what God is doing now is to gather His children in His presence and keep us there, so that the coming hour of darkness does not consume us. He is doing for us exactly what He did for Noah and his family, except that their own ark was a physical one. The presence of God is the Ark of our protection from the perils and destruction of the end-time. That is why He has kept everything we are looking for in His presence and now He wants each of us to come there personally! He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall be protected under the cover (shadow) of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). That is exactly the meaning of Covenant Time! It is dwelling in the secret place and under the shadow of the Almighty. "Secret place" here means the presence of God.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

First choose a time. It should be a time you can keep everyday. The period can be one hour for a start. It can last for more or less, but the longer we stay in His presence, the better.

When there, begin to study your Discipleship books. It is a time of studying discipleship books. As we study, God is using them to give us the right direction and understanding. We have been lost in the crowd for so long. Now the Lord wants us to become His disciples. Those books will help show you how to become His disciple. At the end of studying, you can be silent and meditate for a short time, to digest what you have read, and to receive direction from the Lord. That is all. If you study in His presence every day like this, He will begin to release revelations, dreams, visions, to you, to show you hidden things you need to know about yourself and other issues. By these dreams and visions, your eyes are now opening spiritually and you can no longer be deceived easily nor be held in any

A DIVINE BLESSING

bondage for long. Freedom, life, deliverance, restoration, blessings, will now begin to flow to you, for;

You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16: 11).

REMOVE YOUR ATTENTION FROM YOUR PROBLEMS

When you start keeping covenant time, from that day, you have entered into a new life, a new life of covenant with God. From then, your duty is to seek God, and to obey His will. God's own duty is to cleanse you and perfect you and bless you and keep your life in order - according to His perfect plans. Therefore, remove your eyes from yourself, from your problems and needs, and focus them on God Himself. Focus your attention on God and on the things He is teaching you. As you focus your eyes on Jesus, learning from Him, the work will be progressing. But any time you remove your eyes from Him and focus them on yourself, on your problems, the work will stop! Why? Because you are looking in the wrong direction.

Focusing on your problems and needs is a form of idolatry. You are worshipping your problems. You are worshipping your needs. This offends God and causes His work in your life to stop. As you remove your eyes from yourself and focus them on God again, the work resumes. That is the mystery. That is how Holy Ghost School (Covenant Time) works. So, don't worship yourself. Don't worship your problems. Don't worship your needs. Don't adore your needs and problems again. You worship them whenever you focus on them! Worship God! Focus on God. Focus on knowing Jesus. Focus on drawing closer to Jesus and on hearing His voice. As you do, you are hastening up God's cleansing work. Soon, you will receive the miracles you need.

Note that in most cases God will need to cleanse us before giving us certain blessings and miracles. So don't be discouraged if God starts with cleansing and purging, instead of starting with the miracles you are seeking. Just know that God will attend to all the needs you have in your life. He will attend to all of them. That is what He said. But allow Him start at the right place first. He will touch all areas in due course, if you wait and obey His leading.

Always remember Matthew 6: 33. The moment He puts your spiritual condition in order, He will add the miracles and material things you need. You don't need to remind Him. He always remembers. So remove your eyes from yourself and focus them on Him. When He comes to add healing, deliverance, fruits of the womb, marriage, other miracles and material blessings to you, you will know, and you will then rejoice for having waited.

WHY DREAMS, DREAMS, DREAMS?

When we start keeping Covenant Time, God will start speaking to us - mainly through dreams, at first. You would have noticed that in most cases God interacted with the people mentioned in this book through dreams and visions.

A DIVINE BLESSING

Most of the testimonies we shared with you came through dreams which God gave to them. So one might then wonder, why dreams? Must it be through dreams?

Now this is the explanation. Dreams are revelations. That is, things that are hidden to the natural eyes are revealed to us through dreams and visions. If God wants you to know such hidden things, He would often bring them to you through dreams.

Why? Because these things happen in the spiritual realm. We cannot see into the spiritual realm. We cannot see into the spiritual realm when we are awake and conscious because of the many distractions that surround us. The physical world around us, plus our own thoughts will not allow us have enough concentration to see into the spiritual realm. Many believers have spiritual blindness too, they lack understanding. All these hinder spiritual insight. But when we sleep, our minds are dead and every distraction is gone. God then comes to us in spirit and begins to show us things as they are in the spirit realm. When we wake up from this spiritual experience, we then say we have had a dream. So dreams are powerful means by which God reveals to us things as they are in the spirit.

These revelations are necessary because spiritual things control physical things. (Daniel 4: 26). If we have physical problems, it simply means that certain things are wrong in the spirit. Through dreams God will then reveal to us the things that are wrong. When those spiritual conditions are handled and corrected, the physical problems go. That is how it works. That is why we talk of dreams.

SPIRITUAL LAB RESULT

Again it is like the hospital. A person may complain of headaches, fever, nausea, feeling like vomiting, dizziness and aches here and there. He may complain of not having good appetite and certain feeling of weakness and all that.

The Doctor may not give him drugs at once, but may rather send him to the laboratory, for them to examine his blood and other specimen, so as to determine exactly what the real cause of the problem is. This patient may not understand why this long process is needed. He may wonder what his blood has to do with the pains and fever that he is having. He may not see any link there. He may even think that the Doctor does not know his job, or that he is stingy with drugs and does not really want to heal him.

Isn't that how we often feel concerning the Lord Jesus, when He requires us to come to His presence and undergo some cleansing first, before He gives us the 'blessing' we ask for?

Well, the Doctor knows best and so the patient should obey him. Through the "revelational eyes" of the microscope, the lab technician may discover certain qualities of say, malaria parasites, or typhoid parasites, or any other, in the blood of this patient, which he then reports to the Doctor.

This is exactly how dream works. Dreams are like spiritual lab results; spiritual x-rays! Doctor Jesus, through spiritual microscope, (which is the spirit of

A DIVINE BLESSING

revelation) reveals to us the hidden spiritual parasites (i.e. negative spiritual conditions) that are responsible for the many problems we have. Those physical problems we complain about are actually not the real problems we have. They are rather 'symptoms' of the real hidden problems, just as headaches and fever are not the real problems but rather the symptoms. Symptoms are negative conditions which tell us that something is wrong inside us. Fever, headache, etc. are symptoms which tell us that something is wrong in us. In our example above, they may tell us that, malaria parasites are hidden in the blood. When the parasites are 'revealed' and killed, the symptoms stop.

Even so, through dreams, the Lord reveals what is wrong with us in the spirit realm. When those things are handled and corrected in the spirit, the physical problems (symptoms) disappear!

That is the mystery of dreams and visions! They are spiritual lab results! They are spiritual X-Rays! Through them Doctor Jesus reveals to us hidden things that work against us. So, go to the presence of the Lord God always, and let Him begin to reveal to you the ugly things that stand against you in the spirit realm. Expect these revelations to begin to come to you, especially via dreams.

For God speaks again and again... in dreams, in visions of the night when deep sleep falls on men as they lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that, and gives them wisdom and instruction. Keeping them from falling into some trap. (Job 33:14-18, LB)

...hear now My words, if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto Him in a dream. (Numbers 12:6, KJV)

So you see, those who don't receive dreams from the Lord are missing a lot. They need to get closer to Him.

DON'T TREAT SYMPTOMS

Why do Doctors send us to lab? Because they want to discover the cause of the sickness. They don't want to treat us based on the symptoms alone. They want to be sure they are giving us the right and lasting solution.

When we treat headaches and fever and other manifestations without first finding out the cause, we are not doing the best thing. Why? Because we are treating blindly. We are doing a guess work. The symptoms may go, but may come back again. Why? Because we haven't discovered the cause! If we don't discover and deal with the cause, we will never have real lasting solution.

Even so, many Christians are praying against their problems without first of all asking God for revelation of the cause. When we pray for breakthrough, open-door, healing, this problem to go, that problem to go, it may not be a good prayer. Why? Because they are attacking the symptoms (problems) without first finding out the cause! The problems may go, but they may come again. Why because they are attacking the cause. A better prayer should be, "God, please reveal to me the

A DIVINE BLESSING

cause of this problem..." the moment we pray this way, God will be pleased and He will answer. Once we know the cause of a problem, and deal with it, that is how to have real lasting solution. And for God to reveal the cause of a problem, that is where dreams and visions come in. they are used in God's spiritual lab to reveal to us things that cause problems for us in the spirit.

So, from today, don't ask God for solutions. Ask Him for revelations. Ask Him to show you what is causing your problems. He will then give you dreams and visions.

Do Like Solomon

Remember we are still explaining why we talk so much about dreams, in keeping covenant time.

Now let us look at Solomon, the greatest, wisest, most glorious earthly king that ever lived. How did he acquire his great wisdom and honour? How did he achieve his great prosperity and glory, which no king has been able to surpass? Do you know that it all happened through a dream? Yes, through one dream only, God raised Solomon, and exalted him to a realm that no one has ever achieved since then! It all happened through a dream.

At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a Dream by night; and God said, "Ask for whatever you want Me to give you". Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father, David, because he was faithful to you..., You have continued this great kindness to him and given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

Now, O Lord my God, You have made me a king in the place of my father David, but I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties... Give me an understanding mind, (a discerning heart) so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. For who by himself is able to carry such a heavy responsibility?"

The Lord was pleased with His reply and was glad that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So He replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom... and haven't asked for a long life or riches for yourself, or the defeat of your enemies; yes I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. MOREOVER, I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU HAVE NOT ASKED FOR - BOTH RICHES AND HONOUR - so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in My ways and obey My statutes and commands as your father David did, I will give you a long life.

Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream! (1 Kings 3:2-15).

A DIVINE BLESSING

Have you seen what we are talking about? The great king Solomon got all those wisdom, and riches that distinguished him from all other kings, through a dream.

Let's Note These Points Very Well

(1) First, Solomon had learnt how to separate to God's presence. He learnt that through his father, David, as he alluded to in his dream.

(2) So, by keeping covenant time in God's presence, God began to speak to him through dreams, and through this, God made him a great man.

(3) Look at Solomon's request from God. He did not ask for riches and material things. He asked for spiritual things instead, with understanding that when he had got a good spiritual foundation, God would add the material things to him. (Matthew 6:33). And from what we saw, God did exactly that.

(4) God gave to him the wisdom and spiritual things he asked for. Then God gave to him Material things he did not ask for!

"Because you have asked for wisdom (Spiritual foundation)... and haven't asked for a long life or riches for yourself, or the defeat of your enemies (material blessings), yes I will give you what you asked for...I will give you what you have not asked for - both riches and honour ...(1 Kings 3:11-13).

(5) So, do you see what we have been missing by asking for material blessings instead of seeking spiritual foundation first? God really means it - that if we seek His spiritual foundation first, He will truly give us the material things that we did not ask for. He will even give them to us beyond our imagination! Look at all the riches and honour that He gave to Solomon as mere addition - just because he had asked for spiritual things first! From today, let's be careful what we ask for and what we desire.

(6) Finally, do you want progress in your life? In your business? In your political career? Are you in government? Are you governing a nation? A state? A local government? Are you governing or presiding over any people at all at whatever level? Are you a leader, leading people in any capacity? Do you want God to truly bless you in this life? Then you should do what Solomon did. Ask for spiritual wisdom and direction.

Change your priority and lifestyle. Start keeping Covenant Time with God. You will then begin to receive His messages via dreams, like Solomon. Begin to desire and ask Him for a solid spiritual foundation. Ask for closer, personal, talking relationship with Jesus. Ask for spiritual power and authority (SPA). Ask for the will of God in all areas of your life. Ask for His wisdom in everything you do.

As you seek and pursue these things, the God of Solomon, who is also our Father God, will be pleased with you, as He was with Solomon's request.

He will then begin to bless you with beautiful spiritual things first. Before you know it, He will add to you all the material things that you also need, for you to be truly blessed in this life. Start the program at once.