

WISDOM

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM MINISTRIES

DIGEST

KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYERS

BECOMING A PERSON OF POSITIVE INFLUENCE

SELFISH AMBITION VS KINGDOM PURSUIT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- GHANA UPDATE
- TESTIMONIES
- YOUTH INSPIRED 4 CHRIST
- PARTNERS PROMOTION

DISCIPLING THE NATIONS

Publication Information

Wisdom Digest is published by the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries as a forum to share the ministry of Rev. Kola and Funke Ewuosho and others as God leads. It is also published to inspire, inform and cultivate the involvement of readers worldwide to share in the establishment of God's covenant in the earth through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is distributed freely and supported by partner contributions and donations. All contributions are gift-aid tax deductible.

If you have been blessed by this issue of Wisdom Digest, we would like to hear from you. Your prayers and support in any form are greatly appreciated.

Please send us names and addresses of friends you know who would benefit from receiving a copy of this magazine.

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Contents

Teaching Articles

3 KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYERS

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

8 SELFISH AMBITION VS KINGDOM PURSUIT

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

17 BECOMING A PERSON OF POSITIVE INFLUENCE

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Also in this Issue...

14 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

15 FOWM GHANA UPDATE

20 FOWM CONFERENCES

21 YIC - INSPIRED EVANGELISM

23 PARTNERSHIP

Reader's Testimony

"I take this opportunity to most sincerely thank God for you, your inspiring encouragement and spiritual growth diet. You've uplifted my soul at moments when I have felt like giving up. You've encouraged me to go on as a warrior in the kingdom and to focus to Him who called me and started this journey in my heart. My prayer is that you will be enlarged to reach many more, until we finally we meet our Redeemer." (If you have a testimony of how this publication has been a blessing to you, we would love to hear from you. Email office@uk.fowm.org.)

Salvation Prayer

Are you saved? Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Do you know whether you are going to heaven or hell when you die? (Rom. 6:23) If the answer to any of these questions is 'No', we invite you to pray something like this... *"Lord God, I ask you to forgive me for my sins and make me a new person today. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for my salvation. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I receive forgiveness, healing and deliverance today. I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to know you and follow you from this day on. Thank you for saving me!"* The Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom 10:14). If you have just prayed this prayer for the first time, please get in touch with us so that we can send you some materials to help you to grow in your new relationship with God.



Keys to Effective PRAYERS



"The earnest (heartfelt, continued prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (James 5:16 Amplified

Bible.) "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7). "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22).

"One of the unresolved issues in the lives of many Christians is the subject of unanswered prayers"

We have many promises in the Bible that help us develop confidence in the place of prayers as well as God's willingness to hear and answer us when we pray. However, one of the unresolved issues in the lives of many Christians is the subject of unanswered prayers. I have heard people say God can say "yes", "no" or "wait". Is this true? There are many unanswered prayers in the lives of many believers. Some have no idea what God wants or what His plans are for their lives, so they grope in the dark concerning why prayers do not get answered. What are the keys in getting answers to prayers?

- By Rev. Kola Ewuosho -



There are 5 key points that we must understand for us to function well in God's Kingdom where prayers are concerned.

There are also different types of prayers and they all have different principles that govern them. In the field of sports, the rules that govern basketball are different from the rules for soccer or football. Applying a different set of rules for the wrong sport will create confusion. We need to apply the rules for basketball to the basketball game and the same for football. Applying the rule of one type of prayer to another type will cause confusion and produce unanswered prayers. We need to know the rules that govern the type of prayers we are praying.

These are the five most important things we need to know about prayers:

1. We pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. (John 16:23-24).
2. When we pray we should believe we receive according to Mark 11:24.
3. When we stand praying we should get rid of unforgiveness in our hearts. (Mark 11:25-26). Any offence or bitterness in our hearts will hinder our faith. Our hearts need to be right with God because faith works by love.
4. We should depend on the help of the Holy Spirit in our prayer life. (Romans 8:26). He helps our weaknesses as we do not know how to pray as we ought.
5. We should regularly build ourselves up in our most holy faith praying in the Spirit (Jude 20). We edify ourselves when we pray in tongues (1 Cor. 14:4).

Prayer is a relational issue. We build our relationship with God through faith in the finished work of Calvary. We receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and He becomes our high priest and intercessor. We have access to the Father in His name. His name represents His authority, character and identity. The goal of prayer is that the will of the Father be done on earth. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Sin is the main work of the devil; it grants him (Satan) access to the human life. Through the destruction of sin, by taking it upon himself, Jesus also made a way for us to come boldly to the throne of grace, to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We are not trying to twist God's arm to give us what He is reluctant to give, rather we are cooperating with Him for His plans and purposes to be fulfilled on earth. His power is released to back His will, His plans and purposes on the earth. Our knowledge of His will and ways and a lifestyle of obedience position us to cooperate with Him through the different types of prayers. We receive grace to become all He wants us to become and do all He wants us to do. When we give God our attention, He plants the desires of our hearts. When we hear His Word, faith is planted in our hearts and as we act on His Word, our faith grows. When we speak His Word, we build and release our

faith in His ability and we start to see results. "Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15). In summary we start by being sure that what we want to pray about is according to

His own will; that is ascertained by knowing His Word in the Bible. We apply the right kind of prayer in faith and we do it all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Our faith in God is exercised through our prayers. We can pray without faith but we cannot have faith and not pray."



DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYERS

There are different types of prayers. There is the prayer of repentance from sins. We see this type of prayer in the lives of Nehemiah and Daniel. They used this kind of identification in intercession to deal with sins before they asked God to do things for their people or the land. They understood, amongst other things, that cultural sins can be generational and they can have an effect on the efficacy of their prayers. Jesus came to identify with us in our sins, so when we pray, it is good to ensure that we do not have un-confessed sins in our lives. Heart sins are very blinding, so many do not even know they are in their

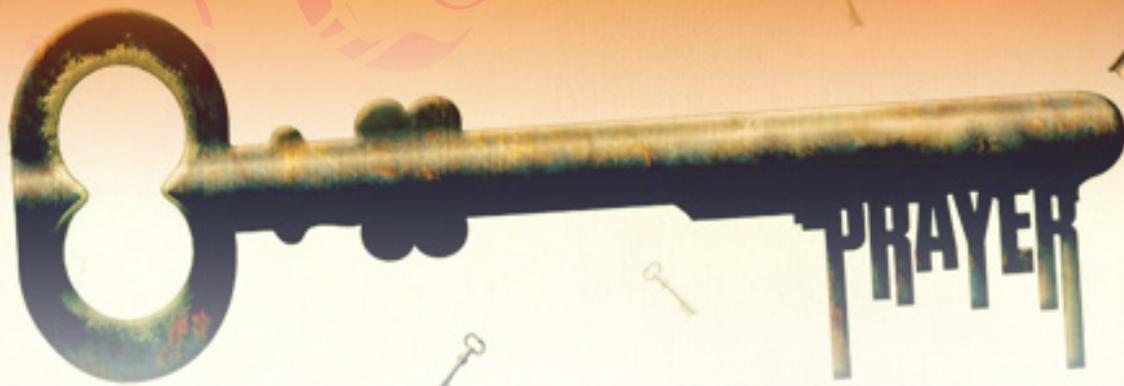
hearts. A prayer of repentance will be a time to do a heart check for sins of pride, un-forgiveness and hidden bitterness towards others, as well as a critical spirit and the likes. Sin as an issue needs to be dealt with if we are going to be effective in praying. See Nehemiah 1:4-11 and Daniel 9:2-19. In 1 John 1:9 we are assured that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness". So we can come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16) Our High Priest, who forever lives to make intercession for us, also sympathises

with our weakness as He was also tempted but was without sin. We cannot continue in sin and expect grace to abound, so we should have zero tolerance for sin if we want to develop an effective prayer life. The other types of prayers include the prayer of thanksgiving, praise and worship; the prayer of commitment; the prayer of warfare; the prayer of petition, supplication and intercession and the prayer of faith. We also have the prayer of declaration, where we pray as we are inspired to make certain declarations in faith.

Each type of prayer has its rules and produces different kinds of

results. Prayer is communion with God for His will to be done on earth. Prayer is the believer's privilege for God's power to be made available to make a difference on earth. It is our tool for dominion on earth. Our focus and motives affect the effectiveness of our prayers. Our faith in God is exercised through our prayers. We can pray without faith but we cannot have faith and not pray. Just like we can give without love, but if we have love, we will give.

In Philippians 4 from verse 6, we read about being anxious



for nothing but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to God, and the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds. We see the combination of the different types of prayer being brought together to make our requests known to God. The prayer of commitment is the prayer we pray when we cast all our cares on the Lord. In 1 Peter 5:5-8, we see that the way to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God is to cast all our anxieties (cares) on Him. This becomes the prerequisite for being able to resist the devil. When we are anxious, we find it difficult to be sober, if not impossible. Then, resisting the devil (warfare prayer) becomes difficult and sometimes ineffective. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed the prayer of commitment when He said "not my will but yours be done". He committed Himself to the will of the Father by submitting His will to the will of the Father. In Ephesians 6:18 we are encouraged to pray all prayers (supplication, intercession and all manner of prayers) in the spirit with perseverance (endurance).

THE POWER (OF THE PRAYER) OF WORSHIP

"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool- He is holy" (Psalms 99:5). "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name" (Psalms 100:4).

Like all other types of prayer, worship has different dimensions. Worship is the all-encompassing word that incorporates the elements of thanksgiving, praise, adoration and celebration. Becoming a worshipper is more than having an ability to sing. Worship is a lifestyle. It can be carried out as an act and a service to God. The first mention of worship in the Bible is found in Genesis 22:5, where Abraham, in obedience to God, was taking his son Isaac to offer him as a sacrifice to Jehovah. He said he and the young man will go yonder and worship. Here worship is seen as obedience, sacrifice of something dear to yourself and a willingness to allow God's instruction affect your life. If Isaac were to be killed, there would be no more Isaac for him and he would have to live without his son. In worship he was ready for a change in his lifestyle. A worshipper is one who reckons with God so much, that what matters to God matters to him. He comes into alignment with God's plans and purposes for his life. This is a dimension of worship. When we embark on a series of adoration, thanksgiving and praise

to God, we are said to be worshipping as an act. When this is done with a heart of giving God His rightful place as King in our hearts, the purposes of God can be released on the earth.

The Bible says He inhabits the praises of His people. The examples we have in the Bible all have elements of sacrifice, honour for God and then expectation. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises and their bonds were loosed. In 2 Chronicles 20:20-24, we see Jehoshaphat putting the praise singers ahead of the soldiers, and God worked a great victory for them. These examples show that God's

power is released to produce deliverance for God's people when they offered their worship in accordance with the revelation of it. By their revelation of worship (with respect to the release of God's power), they engaged in praising God and the power of God made the difference in their situations. Are there things for us to learn in these situations?

When we offer the prayer of worship, and put it in its right place in our lives, we learn to stay humble, carry His presence in our lives and experience His power in our circumstances. We will do what James 4:8 says we should do: draw near to God and He will draw near to us. We are the determining factor for how close we are to God. The constancy of our dependence on God, submitting to Him as well as humbling ourselves under His mighty hand are all established as we engage in the proper worship of God. These will position us to suc-

cessfully resist the devil, who is constantly wanting us to walk in pride, and he will flee from us (James 4:7).

"A worshipper is one who reckons with God so much, that what matters to God matters to you."



THE POWER OF THE PRAYER OF WARFARE

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments (imagination) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). This is the dimension of our personal warfare where we deal with thoughts and imaginations that constantly bombard us from the kingdom of darkness. Our weapons include the Word of God, the Blood of Jesus and the Name of Jesus. Apostle Paul said the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds etc. So we have weapons and also strongholds that need to come down. Clearly there is a type of prayer, with its



dimensions, called warfare prayer. What principles govern this type of prayer? To be effective in this type of prayer we need to see the place it occupies in the scheme of things. When Apostle Paul talked about it in the book of Ephesians, he put it at the end of a long discussion on the believers' position, the believers' responsibilities, and then the believers' relationships, before the believers' warfare.

The first key here is to know who you are in Christ. We need to have a heart-revelation of what the finished work of Calvary has made available to us in the newness of our identity and the power that backs the authority we carry when we stand or pray in the name of Jesus.

The next key is to cultivate a lifestyle of obedience and build healthy relationships that are based on the Word of God. In our obedience we take responsibility for our maturity and conformity to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. A whole lot of issues we have with the enemy are issues that affect our maturity. God's power flows down through channels of authority so when we stay under his authority, His power is guaranteed. Staying under implies obedience and humility amongst other things.

The next key is to know your enemy; know his allies, like the flesh, the worldly systems and demonic schemes. Their goal is to steal, kill and destroy and they are committed to doing so if you let them.

The next key is to know the weapons of our warfare and the whole armour of God. Our weapons are the Word of God, the Blood of Jesus, and the Name of Jesus. We launch our weapons in prayer, praise and confessions. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, our weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. It is interesting to note that all these things we are battling against are all in the mind realm: thoughts, high things (arguments), imaginations (mental pictures) and strongholds (preconceptions). The enemy uses the carnal mind, trained by the old (adamic) human spirit to generate these things so he can thwart the purposes of God in the lives of people. When we speak God's Word in prayer or praise or in confessions, we attack these fortifications of the enemy and they come tumbling down.

Putting on the whole armour of God has to do with being spiritually dressed up for battle with principalities and powers. In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul was discussing other aspects of the Christian life when he came up and said "Finally put on the whole armour of God..."

"Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle



"When we speak God's Word in prayer or praise or in confessions, we attack these fortifications of the enemy and they come tumbling down."



against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:11-12). He also says we do not war after flesh and blood but against principalities and powers etc. Whereas flesh and blood contributes to our warfare, because the flesh is an ally for Satan and his schemes, we do not focus our warfare on human beings. There are principalities and powers to contend with in the heavenly places. We are instructed to "submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from us". Through our habits of obedience we are advised to "give no place to the devil". As part of God's army, we put on the whole armour of God and take our stand against

the wiles of the enemy. Our whole armour consists of, amongst other things, the girdle of truth (that is a life of integrity); the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts from condemnation; our feet ready to preach the gospel also serves to protect our feet and movements; the helmet of salvation serves to protect our minds from thoughts detrimental to our salvation; the shield of faith is the all-round protective shield that quenches the fiery darts of Satan and the sword of the Spirit is the Word that the Spirit quickens in us to use against the works of darkness. The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon we have. Warfare prayers, like other types of prayers need to be developed so we can become skilful in our engagement with the enemy.

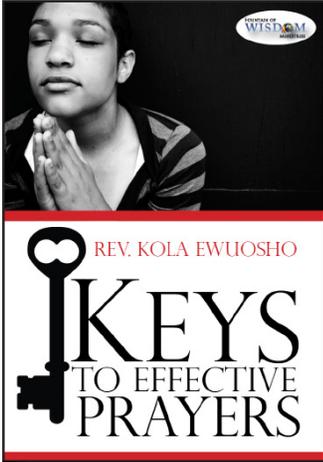
THE PRAYER OF FAITH

"And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up" (James 5:15).

This is the one that has attracted a lot of controversy. There is the case of how many times should I pray the prayer of faith. When the will of God is known and the Holy Spirit has not revealed anything that can hinder our faith from being effective, we can pray the prayer of faith and expect God's power to make a difference in the situation. Faith is of the heart. When we do not allow doubts in our hearts according to Mark 11: 22-24, we can be rest assured that we shall have what we say. The principles that govern the prayer of faith are as follows:

- 1) Learn to speak the desired results. Speak to the mountain to move or the tree to be uprooted
- 2) Doubts should not be tolerated in the heart. This is possible when you meditate in the Scriptures that promise the results you are praying for.
- 3) Believe that what you say shall come to pass.
- 4) Maintain a heart contact with God for any fresh instructions from the Holy Spirit as you stay dependent on Him for your results. This prayer changes things. In Acts 3, when





Peter prayed for the man at the gate Beautiful, the principles of the prayer of faith were engaged. He said it was faith in the name of Jesus that made the man whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk! He was pulled up and his ankle bones received strength. Peter's action showed he believed that what he said was going to come to pass.

To learn about the other types of prayers and what to do when prayers are unanswered, please order the series "Keys to Effective Prayers" and "The Power of Worship" by Rev. Kola Ewuosho. Also recommended for this subject is "Winning your Personal Battles by Rev. Funke Ewuosho.

God bless you,
Rev. Kola Ewuosho

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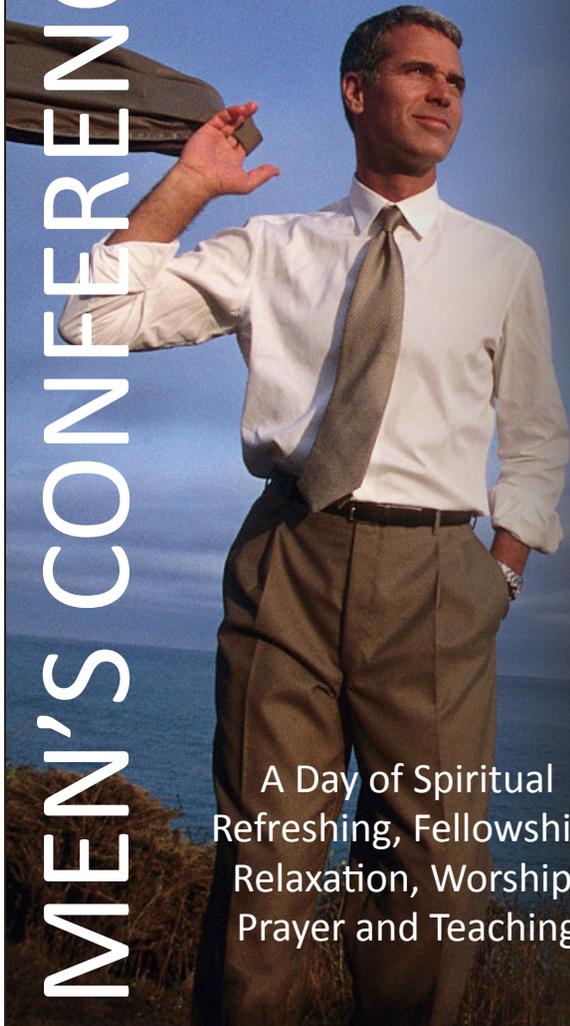
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SELFISH AMBITION V'S KINGDOM PURSUIT

REV. (MRS) FUNKE EWUOSHO



*What is
motivating
and driving
you?*



Someone once asked me this profound question: "How do I tell the difference between doing things out of my own selfish ambition and doing things for the sake of the Kingdom of God? That is, how do we tell if we are being driven by selfish ambition or Kingdom interest?"

Jesus said we are to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and "all these things" shall be added to us. (Matt.6:33). Again He said for whatever we give up for His sake and the gospel's, we shall receive a hundredfold in this time, and eternal life in the age to come. (Mark 10:29,30). So it is important we ensure we are on the right track.

We must, however, understand that one can't always tell on the surface if one is being driven by selfish ambition or the Kingdom. For one, Jesus said the Kingdom of God doesn't come by external observation. God told Samuel not to look at the outward appearance in choosing the next king; because "the LORD looks at the heart." Secondly, God also desires success, greatness, increase, prosperity, etc for us! He wants us to make our way prosperous and have good success. (Josh.1:8). He wants us to prosper in ALL that we do! (Ps.1:3). God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants. God indeed wants us to be happy in life. God is a



good God who wants good things for His children; "If you then, being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matt.7:11).

God wants to add to us those things which the world seek after, if we would seek first His Kingdom and righteousness. (Matt.6:32,33). But Satan being the god of this world, seeks to counterfeit every of God's provision. He told Eve that if she ate of the tree, her eyes will be opened, and she will be like God knowing good and evil. (Gen.3:5). Satan told Jesus that if He would worship him, he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of this world and their glory. (Matt.4:8,9). We shouldn't be ignorant of his devices and therefore must be able to tell the difference.

Also, it is important for us to know that every believer is a citizen of the Kingdom of God, and therefore should be pursuing the Kingdom wherever they are! This isn't just for preachers, or what you do when you are in church. Jesus didn't preach the gospel of the church, no, He came preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God! (Matt. 4:23). The Kingdom is bigger than the church; just as the universe is bigger than the earth. The church is an expression of the Kingdom of God. People like Joseph, Daniel, Esther, etc; though not 'full-time' preachers, pursued the interests of God's Kingdom where they were. Noah is called ' a preacher of righteousness' in 1 Peter 2:5, without having a 'pulpit' or a 'church'. So, as an entrepreneur, an employee, a politician, a student, a parent, etc, you can be a preacher of righteousness as you practise the principles of the Kingdom, wherever you are and in whatever you do. The Bible says, the Kingdom rules over ALL! (Ps. 103:19)

So now, how do you tell the difference?

1. Check the source of it.

Is it God or self? Jesus said if any man would come after Him, let him first of all deny himself, take up His cross and follow Him. (Matt.16:24). Just before

then, Jesus rebuked Peter because he was trying to dissuade Jesus from going to the cross. Jesus said to him, 'Get behind Me, satan! You are an offence to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.' (v.23). Satan

"PEOPLE LIKE JOSEPH, DANIEL, ESTHER, ETC; THOUGH NOT 'FULL-TIME' PREACHERS, PURSUED THE INTERESTS OF GOD'S KINGDOM WHERE THEY WERE."



and not the things of God. That is why one of the greatest hindrances to true Christianity today is humanism. On the other hand, Psalm 37:4 , says, 'Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.' This is capable of dual interpretation: 1. If I delight myself in God, He will give whatever I desire. 2. (A higher interpretation). As I delight myself in God, He Himself plants desires in me. And if God plants a desire in you, it is as good as been done! Sometimes it might be hard to tell the source; but Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits....Even so every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." (Matt. 7:16-20). Galatians 5:19-23, spells out clearly what the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh are; we can

minds the things of men

whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (Jas. 1:17). James 3:13-18 contrasts between two kinds of wisdom; one that is earthly, sensual and demonic, and the other, which is from above. The first is characterised by bitter envy and self- seeking, and

where those are present, "confusion and every evil thing are there." (v.16). "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (v.17).

2. Check your motive.

Is it the Kingdom or self? Be ruthlessly sincere with yourself. James 3: 13 says, " But if you have bitter envy and self- seeking (or selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not boast or lie against the truth."Why do you want to prosper? Is it so that you can be like others or even to show off to others? The Israelites asked for a king, so they could be like other nations. (1 Sam. 8:4). Like I said at the beginning, God wants good things for us; but most of the time, His reasons for wanting them for us are not our reasons for wanting them for ourselves! For instance, the Bible says, David knew that the LORD

"MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, MOTIVES ARE ONLY REVEALED THROUGH CONFLICTS, TRIALS AND AFFLICTIONS."

therefore use them as parameters to judge the source of what we are doing. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with

had established him as king over Israel and has exalted his kingdom, "for the sake of His people Israel." (2 Sam. 5:12). He wasn't made king for his own sake, to enrich himself or to use





the people for his own end. Joseph told his brothers that God sent him ahead of them to preserve a posterity for them in the earth and to save their lives with great deliverance in the famine. (Gen. 45:7). Joseph understood the purpose of his greatness in Egypt;

he said:

“ so it was not you

who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.” (v.8). What a position! But, like someone once said, ‘when purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable.’ This is one reason for most of the abuses we see around today- abuse of wealth, abuse of power, abuse of knowledge, abuse of relationships, etc.

However, more often than not, motives are only revealed through conflicts, trials and afflictions. God said He led the Israelites through the wilderness, to humble them and to test them. (Deut. 8: 18). Why would God want to test them? God says in Jeremiah 17: 9,10: “ The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doing.” God doesn’t search or test the heart because He doesn’t know

it- He is all-knowing; He already knows our hearts.

The Bible says, there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open

to His eyes. (Heb. 4:13). God tests our hearts to reveal them to us! We don’t know our own hearts; so God allows hurts, disappointments, unmet expectations, rebukes, corrections, lack, etc to come to test our hearts. “ Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?” (Prov. 20:6). Peter didn’t know

his own heart; he said he was ready to go with Jesus, both to prison and to death. But Jesus told him that he would deny Him three times on that same day, before the rooster crowed. (Lk. 22:33,34). Thank God, we have a High Priest who knows our weak-

nesses and is touched by our feelings! Am I in it for myself or for the Kingdom of God? A time came for Esther’s motive to be tested; the Jews were going to be executed, if she didn’t do something. And that something, meant putting her own life on the line! A very tough one; but Mordecai challenged her with these words: “ Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Es.4:14). Esther took the challenge, and she and the Jews were the better for it!

Conflicts and trials not only reveal our motives, but can also purify them. So, God also allows the trials for that purpose. The Psalmist said, “ Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.” (Ps. 19:12). Motives, like focus, can become contaminated along the way, as we get comfortable and settled; so they need to be purified from time to time. The Bible talks about the removal of those things that are being shaken, so

out of pretence and some in truth or genuinely. (Phil. 1:15-18). Thank God, motives can be corrected and adjusted! If you realise that you are doing a right thing, but with a wrong motive, you don’t need to stop what you are doing, simply repent and adjust your motive. The Bible says, we shouldn’t be weary in well-doing; so, carry on, but now with the right motive. We shouldn’t throw away both the baby and the bath water. Also, we wouldn’t want this to become an excuse for not doing what we should be doing.

3. Check your focus.

Hebrews 12:1-3, says we should run the race set before us with endurance, “looking unto Jesus, the author (originator) and finisher (perfecter) of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God..... lest you should become weary and discouraged in your souls.” The word ‘**looking**’ signifies undivided attention, looking away from all distractions in order to fix one’s gaze on one object. Do not be weary in well doing, for you will reap if you don’t faint. “ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Christ.” (Col. 3:23,24).

It is possible to start well and finish badly. One reason why a lot of folks start in the spirit and wind up in the flesh, is because they lose their focus on the way! Do you know that even after Jesus had made it to the cross, He still had to maintain His focus? The people mocked Him saying, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel,

LET HIM NOW COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS, and we will believe Him.” (Matt. 27:41). That was an opportunity right there for Jesus to prove Himself to those skeptics, but He didn’t because He was focused on the cross. Remember how Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, after fasting forty days and nights, and was hungry-

“GOD TESTS OUR HEARTS TO REVEAL THEM TO US!”



“LOSS OF FOCUS IS ONE REASON, WHY GOD’S PURPOSES ARE NOT OFTEN FULFILLED IN RELATIONSHIPS”

that the things that cannot be shaken may remain- that is, the Kingdom of God! (Heb. 12: 26-28). “ Let NOTHING be done through selfish ambition or conceit.....” (Php. 2:3). Paul said some people preached the gospel out of envy and strife and some out of goodwill. The former out of selfish ambition, but the latter out of love. Some





“IF You are the Son of God, command that these stones be turned to bread.” (Matt.4:3). The flesh always like to prove a point, that is why we lose our focus, and fall into the hand of the enemy! Jesus didn’t need to prove to the devil that He was the Son of God; God already called Him His Son and said He was well pleased in Him. (Matt. 3:17).

Even in relationships, we often lose our focus from the Kingdom and we become carnal. We engage in gossiping, backbiting, envying, competitive jealousy, rivalry, being partisan, sectarianism, and all the works of the flesh. This is one reason why many relationships that started well, end up so badly and relationships that were once Kingdom-building, get hijacked by the devil. Loss of focus can pervert, derail and destroy God’s purposes for relationships. Saul became

fleshly, and lost his focus as a king and even in his relationship with David; like someone once said, a mentor became a tormentor! The Bible says, to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded

is life and peace.(Rom. 8:6). God often allows the challenges we face in relationships, to reveal our focus and also to help us adjust them so we can get back on course.

Are you focused on God, His Word and His will? Or are you focused on your self (your needs, desires, reputation, comfort, etc;) and the world? Jesus said anyone who would come after Him, should first deny himself, take up his cross and follow Him. (Matt. 16:24). Paul said he had been crucified to the world and the world to him, by the cross of Christ. “Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- is not of the Father but is of the

world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17). James 4:4 says, “friendship with the world is enmity with God. Whoever therefore **wants to** be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” This is one major reason why many Christians find it hard

to keep their focus on the Lord- they want to please the world. They care too much about what people think about them, and so many things they do are not Kingdom-driven, but driven by selfish ambition. If your focus is wrong, you will miss you target! Paul said, “ but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ

Jesus.”(Php. 2:13,14).

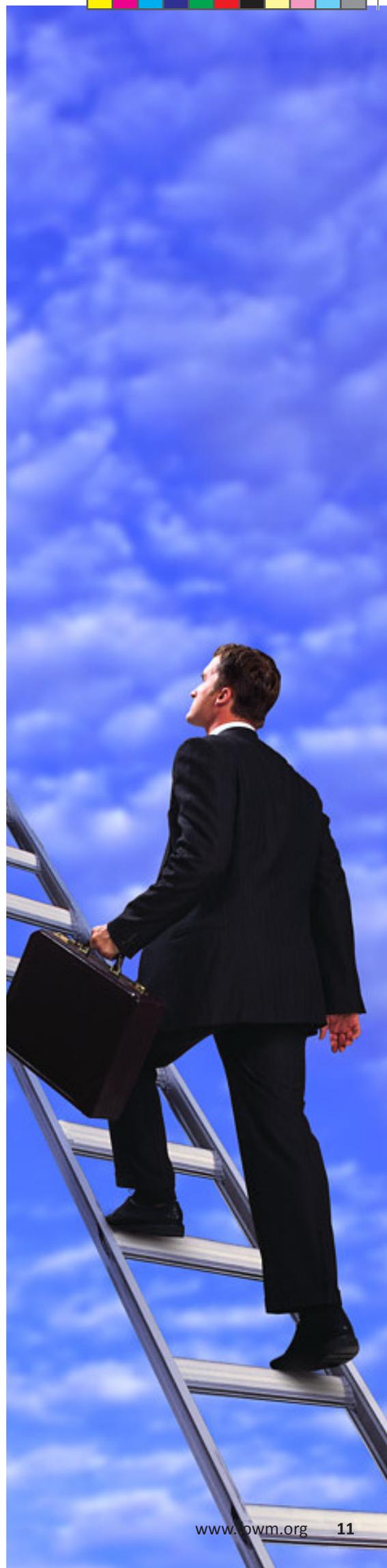
“ARE WE READY TO DO ANYTHING TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS? DOES THE END ALWAYS JUSTIFY THE MEANS?”



4. Check your methods.

How are you going about things? Are we ready to do anything to accomplish our goals? Does the end always justify the means? Remember, God has

His ways of doing things: “But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of DOING and being right) and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.” (Matt.6:33 Amp). The Bible says” all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.” (Deut. 32:4). Apostle Paul talked about a more excellent way to desire and operate the gifts of the Spirit- the way of love. (1 Cor. 12: 31). Satan’s ways of doing things, are always directly opposite to God’s ways. Satan’s ways always lead to sin, through the avenues of self and the world. He presented to Jesus, the kingdoms of this world and their glory on the platform of Jesus falling down to worship Him; but Jesus chose the way of the CROSS!





The three Hebrew men refused to bow to the image of God which king Nebuchadnezzar made, and they were thrown into the fiery furnace. Of course, they didn't burn, because God was in it with them. (Dan. 3).

In God's Kingdom, we **Gain** by **Losing**, we **Get** by **Giving**, we **Grow** by **Dying**. Jesus said: "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (Jn.12:24,25). Joseph had dreams of greatness, and it seemed the fulfillment of it came when his master's wife desired him and asked Joseph to sleep with her! Satan would always present to us an alternative way to accomplish what God has promised us; and it will always appeal to our flesh. No wonder Paul said, "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." (1 Cor.9:27). Our flesh can be a powerful ally of the enemy, but we must learn to constantly put it under- where it rightly belongs! Even the law was made weak by the flesh. (Rom.8:3). Jesus taught His disciples how to deal with the flesh; "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt.26:41).

The flesh is indeed the weak link in our walk with God and against demonic onslaught. Selfish ambition isn't a fruit of the Spirit, it is a work of the flesh. (Gal.5:20).

5. Are you ready to lay it down, or it is a 'Do or Die' matter? James tells us where wars (battles) and fights come from among, even, believers! "Do they not come from your **desires** for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do

not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war..." (Jas.4:2,3). Note that he didn't say 'evil desires', just 'desires'. Desires don't have to be evil, for them to lead to evil. Did you notice how it works? Desires, then covetousness or envy, then war and then murder. The root of all the wars we see in and around us, is desire that haven't been laid down or properly channeled. We also see the cycle of death in James 1:15: "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

Isaac was a child of promise by God. Abraham waited twenty five years to get Isaac. Then one day, God comes to Abraham; "take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love....and offer him..." (Gen.22:2). The word 'Only', here means, 'a precious life'. Is it possible for God to ask us to lay down something precious to us, which He Himself gave us in the first place? Someone said, 'faith that hasn't been tested, can't be trusted.' Abraham set out 'early in the morning' to offer up Isaac, and as

he stretched out his hand to offer his son, the Angel of the LORD called out from heaven and said to him; "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for **now I know** that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (v.12). God gave Joseph the dreams of greatness when he was only seventeen years of age, but Joseph still had to lay them down for a season. He went through the Pit, Portiphar's house- as a slave, and then the Prison- for an offence he didn't commit; and eventually came into the Palace as Pharaoh's second-in-command, when he was thirty years old! David was anointed king of Israel at age seventeen, but he had to lay that

down for a season before he eventually became king over ALL of Israel at age forty. If he hadn't laid it down, he would have killed Saul when the opportunities were presented. Jesus is our perfect example in this. His entire life exemplified the principle of laying down of one's life (dreams, position, comfort, etc), even before He went to the cross. His coming to the earth in the first place, was to do God's will. He said, "But a body You have prepared for Me....Behold, I have come-to do Your will, o God." (Heb.10:5-7). Also, the Bible says, Jesus being in the form of God, didn't consider it something to be held onto to be equal to God," but made Himself of no reputation (i.e. emptied Himself of His privileges), taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.....He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Php. 2:6-8). God didn't exalt Jesus until after He had humbled Himself! (vv.9-11). Jesus said: "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I **had** with You before the world was." (Jn. 17:4,5). The Bible says we should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt us in DUE time. (1 Pet. 5:6).

6. How do you react or respond when things don't work out or go bad?

Do you feel like your life is over? A man asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him. One would have expected Jesus to be more sympathetic with him, but instead, Jesus declined and warned against covetousness, saying, " for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Lk. 12:15). In the 2010 recession, there were people who literally threw themselves in front of moving trains! Some man set his house on fire with his wife and kids inside, before taking his own life! Is your life bound in what you have in the physical realm? What do you do when money doesn't come in? When relationships or people fail? When people don't appreciate your efforts? When you are not celebrated? When you are repaid with evil., etc? The Bible says, if in this life ONLY we have

"WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE? IS IT HERE ON EARTH OR IN THE KINGDOM?"





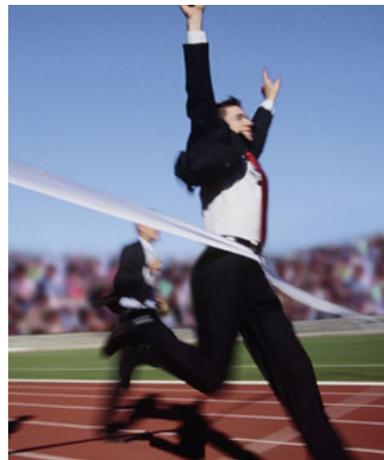
hope in Christ, we are of all people the most pitiable. (1 Cor. 15:19). Are you ready to cast all your cares on the Lord, knowing He cares for you? Jesus said, your heart will be where your treasure is. (Matt. 6:21). The question therefore is, where is your treasure? Is it here on earth or in the Kingdom? You can't readily answer these questions, until after they have been tested and then the results will speak for themselves. The story of the rich young ruler is a good example. He wanted to know what to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to sell all he had and then give to the poor, and then come follow Him. The Bible says he was sad at those words and went away sorrowful, "for he had great possessions." (Mark 10:17-22). Jesus' intention wasn't to make the man poor; after all, He said anyone who gave up anything for His name sake and the kingdom's sake, will have a hundred fold NOW IN THIS TIME! (vv.29,30). 1 Timothy 4:8 says, godliness is profitable for ALL things, having a promise of the life that is now is and of that which is to come. Jesus only wanted to test where the heart of the man was, by locating where his treasure was. He also wanted to help the man put his treasure, and therefore his heart, in the right place- in the kingdom of Heaven, "where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matt. 6:20). Unfortunately, like many of us, the man didn't catch that. He thought Jesus wanted to deprive him, and so he went away sorrowful. The truth is, he didn't have those possessions, rather they had him! You can not control what has you, rather it controls you. Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me,

him over it. So he called it 'Rehoboth' because he said, 'For the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.' (Gen. 26: 17-22). Abraham separated from Lot, so as to avoid strife over their many possessions. He gave Lot the chance to choose first, and Lot chose for himself what seemed the best. Abraham demonstrated that his treasure wasn't in earthly things but in God. And rather than him losing out, God showed up after Lot had gone, and promised to give him and his descendants all the land- as far as his eyes could see. Abraham demonstrated the same thing when he refused to take anything for himself from the spoils of war. He said to the king of Sodom, "I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' (Genesis 14:23). Again, he didn't lose out, because God said to him thereafter, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward. (Or, 'your reward shall be very great.'). Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world, Or else, His servants would fight. (Jn. 18:36). But we know what will happen in the end: "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"(

good, because we love God and are the called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28). We are to count it all joy, when we fall into divers trials and temptation, knowing that the trying of our faith works patience. If we would allow patience to run its full course, we will become matured and entire, lacking nothing. (Jas. 1:2,3). Job says, after he has been tried, he will come forth as gold. (Job 23:10). God says His plans for us are of good and not of evil, to give us a future and a hope. (Jer. 29:11).

"SOME OF US GO SOLO, BECAUSE WE WANT TO TAKE THE CREDIT OR THE REWARD ALL ALONE."

God said He led the children of Israel through the promised land to do them good in the end. (Deut. 8:16). "Therefore,.... be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58).



7. Are you willing to share the credit or reward with others?

Some of us go solo, because we want to take the credit or the reward all alone. Kingdom-minded people don't ever see themselves as self-made people. They acknowledge God's grace and the contribution of others in all their achievements in life. The Psalmist was one man who always acknowledged God in all his ways. He said, "By You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. It is God who arms me with strength..." (Ps.

18: 29,32). After David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, he shared the spoil even with the two hundred men who couldn't cross over the Brook with them, but stayed behind because they were tired. David said, to those who didn't want them to share, " My brethren you shall not do so with **what God has given us, who has preserved us and**

"KINGDOM-MINDED PEOPLE DON'T EVER SEE THEMSELVES AS SELF-MADE PEOPLE."

but I will not be brought under the power of any." (1 Cor. 6:12). Jesus said, "how hard is it for those who **trust** in riches to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mk. 10:24). Isaac was able to let go of the wells he dug whenever the Philistines strove with him. He kept moving away from strife and digging new wells until he dug one, and they didn't quarrel with

Rev. 11:15). Whatever we lay down for the sake of the Kingdom, God brings back to us bigger and better; because His goal isn't to deprive us, but to deliver us. The Bible says it is God's will for us that we should give thanks in EVERYTHING. (1 Thess. 5:18). That sounds like a step of faith; trusting God that ALL things will work together for our





delivered into our hand the troop that came against us.” (1 Sam. 29:23). David recognised God as his source of deliverance and victory; he also went on to send some of the spoil with the elders of Judah, his friends! Joseph was another man who shared his reward with others. He recognised that it was God who sent him to Egypt and also made him a father to Pharaoh and lord of all Egypt. (Gen. 45:8). He didn’t see those things as what he accomplished in his own strength. He told his brothers to go and bring their father to Egypt, and he will provide for them. When Joseph’s father and his brothers, with their families moved to Egypt, he situated them in the best of the land. And after the death of their father, Joseph reassured his brothers that he will provide for them and their little ones. (Gen. 50:21). Jesus sent out His disciples to preach the Kingdom of Heaven; He said to them: “ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**” (Matt. 10: 7,8).” There is one alone, without companion: he has neither son or brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors, nor is his eyes satisfied with riches. But he never asks, “For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?” This is also vanity and a grave misfortune. Two are better than one, because they have a great reward for their labor.”(Eccles. 4: 8,9).

**“DAVID
RECOGNISED
GOD AS HIS
SOURCE OF
DELIVERANCE
AND
VICTORY”**

God bless you, as you pursue the interest of the Kingdom, whoever you are and wherever you are or may find yourself.
Rev. Funke Ewuosho

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FAR ABOVE *Rubies*

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
KANO, NIGERIA (MARCH 2012)

A FEW TESTIMONIES FROM THIS YEAR’S CONFERENCE



“I had been living below my potential in the past, not pushing beyond my comfort zone because of fear of failure or reproof. Sometimes I was also motivated externally by the prevailing beliefs, culture and societal attitudes towards women that can stifle the potentials given her by God. I had subconsciously accepted this way of thinking. When I thought I had addressed these issues, I realised that I had overlooked such thought patterns, which are the foundation, and only dealt with their effects. However, during the International Women’s Conference 2012, I realised that I need to face my insecurities, channel my focus towards God and understand who I am before I can recognise my purpose, my role as a wife and then my profession in the world. As I walk in love and in submission to my husband, I have learnt that I can be free to express the life of God in me and be a blessing to my home and society.” OE

“The International Women’s conference helped me to confront a deep-seated fear of marriage that I thought I had dealt with, but was still lurking. I was liberated when I found out that my ministry is first of all to God, then to my family and then to the society. Nothing from the past can hold me down because I now measure up and am a virtuous woman by the grace of God.” TA





FOWM GHANA UPDATE



SHARING FAITH HOPE & LOVE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The Lord has been good to us. We have just moved to our own property by the grace of God. Since moving into the community, we have organized a 'Medical Community Outreach' which attracted people from all walks of life. We provided eye screening, general medical health screening, health advice, free drugs and Nestle Ghana came and distributed food products. The outreach was featured on the national television. We also had a hospital outreach programme to preach, pray and distribute gifts to patients. We have just finished our annual 21 days of prayer and fasting, as well as our leadership training programme.

Pastor Kofi, FOWM, Ghana





Photos from the Wisdom Medical Outreach



FOWM University Outreaches

God is doing exploits through the FOWM Ghana in the lives of students of Wisconsin University College International and the University of Ghana, Legon. A bus service is organized to church every Sunday. Students are having morning devotions in their hostels. Evangelism is being organized to different hostels to reach more people. Discipleship classes are being run for the students. Hospitals and orphanages will be visited by the students to minister the love of God to them. Picnics have also been organized for the students and a talent hunt and camp meeting is also being planned. (See testimonies left and below)

“Before attending Wisdom Chapel I had major problems with bad habits like smoking and drinking. But with the help of my Pastor and people surrounding me, I have been able to overcome them. I have discovered that with a proper focus I am capable of achieving more, from being a second class student to reaching first class status. There are no words to explain the joy I get every Sunday when I go to church. I would like to thank every member of Wisdom Chapel and God for coming into my life.”

Joshua Pansak Bincan

“Fountain of Wisdom Ministries has been a blessing to my life. Every member of the church has been like a family to me. Two semesters ago while I was preparing for my end of semester’s examination, there was a course I found difficult to study. I tried hard, but it was all in vain so I decided to ask the school authorities if I could take my exams at a later date. I called my pastor and told him about my decision but he told me to go in for the exams and prayed with me. To God be the glory because my best results for that semester were in that particular course!”

Anu Alawoya



“Our relationship with this ministry has made a massive impact on each individual in the fellowship. Most of us came to the university campus as denominational Christians who would read our Bibles every morning without any understanding of what we were reading. But the special Grace of God over this house has been released into our lives and we are now walking in understanding of God’s Word. The eyes of our understanding have been enlightened about God and His Precious Word. Halleluiah!!! Now we are becoming a blessing to other people around us and are no longer praying ignorant prayers but in alignment with the Word of God. We are grateful to God for such as encounter and bless God for the lives of the Pastors.”

Amponsah, Campus Fellowship President



BECOMING A PERSON OF POSITIVE INFLUENCE



“In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome, understand or quench) it” (John 1:4-5). The battle between

Light and Darkness has been the battle of influence throughout the history of mankind. Part of God’s purposes for our lives is that we should influence others. This word ‘influence’ signifies our purpose on earth. Some influence can matter for eternity; not just for now. God’s influence through us has an eternal purpose at its end.

Influence: this word has been around for a long time and its effect is seen throughout history. Both positive and negative influences can be seen to characterise the history of mankind. Good people have an effect on others for good and bad people have some influence that turns out bad. Everybody is being influenced by someone or something no matter who you are.

Nobody is an island unto them selves. We see it all around us. Everyone is also contributing something to influence others. The question is not if we will influence others but rather what quality of influence we will generate in the lives of others.

On a more personal note, our success in life is very dependent on our ability to influence others. Leadership expert, John Maxwell, says leadership is influence and claims that your leadership lid can determine the level of success you can attain in life. A baby learns the power of influence as he cries for attention, young lovers learn how to influence loved ones and parents seek to influence their children for their good. We all need to influence and are influenced by others in many areas of our lives. We need to be careful how we influence others and how we allow our-

selves to be influenced by others. Christians are left on earth by God to generate a godly influence which is so powerful that its effects are seen all over the world. God has given us all the ability to influence and be influenced and how we exercise this potential power is up to us. If we harness it for good, we are successful, otherwise we shall only have ourselves to

“CHRISTIANS ARE LEFT ON EARTH BY GOD TO GENERATE A GODLY INFLUENCE”

REV. KOLA EWUOSHO





THE GIFT OF INFLUENCE

this potential power given to us by God and use it for His glory, the good of mankind and our personal fulfilment as we fulfil His plans and purposes for our lives.

WHAT IS INFLUENCE?

To influence is to change people's thoughts, actions and beliefs. "Hard power" for influence is when we use hard consequences like punishments or repercussions that are not desirable. When authority is exercised with this in mind there is power to influence but the heart is not necessarily touched. With "soft power" we receive influence that touches the heart; not just the mind. When there is a possible penalty meted out by a person in authority as the basis for the influence, we can call that "hard power". There are times when that is the right kind of influence to use. So many times, that kind of influence can bring corrections and adjustment to young children. "Soft power" is when the heart is touched and there is willingness to be influenced from the heart of a person. Amongst nations, we see the use of sanctions as a means of influencing some changes in these nations, through the use of "hard power". The question is, when is "hard power" less or more effective than "soft power?" In this study we shall be looking at "soft power" for influencing others.

We influence people through writing, speaking and acting. It is up to us to use our influence for godly purposes and for His kingdom. How do we get people to change their thoughts, actions and beliefs? We cannot unless they give us the "permission" to do so. The question is, how do we earn that "permission?"

When we connect with people, care for them and are sensitive to them and their needs, then they see that we value them and they give us THE GIFT OF INFLUENCE. "I AM GOING TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAD ME" - THAT IS THE GIFT OF INFLUENCE. It is when people are willingly agreeing with you and going along with you with all their heart. People tend to trust you as they come to know you. Then they tend to distrust you as you abuse their trust. This is true in marriage, in church leadership and in business. We walk into every new relationship with a certain amount of trust equity by default. What we do with it makes all the difference. We need to invest wisely!

CHARACTER AND SKILLS

There are two basic reasons why people will allow you to influence them: character and skill. Who we are is our character and what we can do is our skill. Our being and doing are two areas where we generate great influence. High skill and high

character will lead to greater influence. Some of the character traits that people like to follow are as follows: Integrity, generosity, gratitude, excellence, optimism, passion, tenacity and friendliness; Skills include communication, relationships, self management and knowledge. Some people skills will help in managing people and the pressure of handling their problems. Both can be developed. One of the greatest of all character traits is humility. Until you can be managed well, you cannot manage well, and being managed definitely requires humility! You will not lead well until you put the needs of others before your own and you

"I AM GOING TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAD ME" - THAT IS THE GIFT OF INFLUENCE.



won't invest time in others until you realise you're not the centre of the universe. You won't be a learner or listener without humility. A lack of this can lead to stagnation and missing out on important feedback. Receiving and making the most of constructive criticism definitely demands humility; You won't improve unless you realise your need for it. Humility is not feeling bad or low about yourself; rather, it is having a realistic picture of who you are and becoming oblivious to self. No wonder the Master says if we are to be great we should stoop low to serve others.

SALT AND LIGHT

Jesus calls believers salt and light in Matthew 5:13-14 and Luke 14:34. Salt mixes and influences whatever it comes in contact with. It enhances the flavour and preserves. Jesus is the light of the world and when He comes into

our lives, we become lights ourselves. Darkness represents ignorance and the Bible says darkness cannot overpower light. Light represents development and enlightenment. Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50). Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. (Col.4:6).

We have all been affected by our nature, nurture and environment. It's time to let our new found relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ affects us so thoroughly that we can in turn influence others for Christ.

CHRISTLIKENESS

The character of Christ, if developed in us, is the reflection of God's nature in us. We were made in the image of God and Jesus Christ is the express image of the Father God, according to Hebrews 1:3. We are destined to be conformed to the image of the Son, in character and power. All the best of characters are found in Christ. One Christ-like life has the power to influence many for years to come.

Sin as a nature was crucified on the cross of Christ





GODLY INFLUENCE

on our behalf so we can now receive a new life and hence develop a new character- Christlike-ness. It is possible to develop character traits by a lot of hard work and determination. Secular literature encourages us to take each trait and seek to develop it into ourselves. This is a possibility as some have succeeded in doing so. As Christians, when we have received the nature of Christ into our hearts, we endeavour to yield to that nature rather than develop something external to us. We feed that nature by feeding on God's Word and we exercise it by our heart-felt obedience to God in loving one another as He loved us. We learn to forgive, endure and hence develop the character traits that are found in Christ.

All the character traits found in the book of 2 Peter 1:5-8 are to be developed in us as we yield to the nature of Christ in us. "Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue (a quality that elicited preeminent estimation for a person, intrinsic value, moral excellency), to virtue, knowledge, to knowledge, self-control, to self control, perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness, to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love." No wonder we are helped to understand that love is patient and kind in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. God Himself is Love (1 John 4:8).

MAJOR STEPS IN BECOMING A PERSON OF GODLY INFLUENCE

1) Be genuinely born again: receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour and allow God's Word to be final authority in your life. When you yield to God's authority in your life, you are equipped to become a godly influence in the lives of others.

2) Become a worshipper of the Almighty God. When God takes His rightful place in your heart and life, you will find a greater effectiveness in your ability to influence others with His love, power and wisdom.

3) Feed on the Word of God regularly. Through study and meditation, we digest spiritually God's Word into our lives. Speaking to ourselves as we take in loads of His word is part of our feeding. Psalms 1:1-4.

4) Be a doer of the Word: walk in love; cast your cares; use your faith; do good to others; overcome

evil with good; watch the thoughts you permit yourself to think; enforce God's word into your life.

5) Be a person of prayers: Ephesians 6:18 tells us to be prayerful for all. Let your prayers be in accordance with the Word of God.

6) Develop other traits and skills necessary for your success in life and be a developer of other people too. Develop skills in leadership, communication, time-management and goal setting and live your life with a passion for excellence.

7) Build healthy relationships with others and seek to be a blessing to others. Influence others for God and for their own good.

8) Become a constant learner, learning from your mistakes and from other people's writings. Always seek how to share with others what you are learning. Be a student of life and a student for life. There are things to learn and others to unlearn, things to add to your life and others to remove from your life.

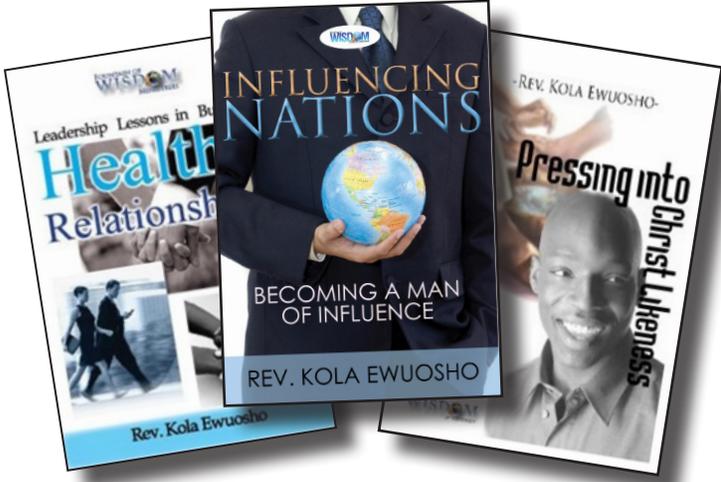
9) Love God and love people. People know when they are genuinely loved. Be a lover of people. People will give you the gift of influence when these traits are seen in you.

God bless you
Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Other recommended messages by Rev. Kola Ewuosho: 'Becoming a Man of Influence', 'Pressing into Christlikeness', 'Leadership Lessons in Building Healthy Relationships'. Visit www.fowm.org or call +44(0)1344 844172 to order.



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INSPIRED EVANGELISM

THIS YEAR YIC UK BEGAN WITH A 3-DAY PROGRAM WHICH AIMED TO ENCOURAGE EVANGELISTS AND RAISE NEW ONES. THE PURPOSE WAS TO STIR UP THE PASSION WITHIN YOUNG PEOPLE TO WIN SOULS.

DAY 1 : EVANGELISM TRAINING FORUM

The first part of the program was to create a comfortable forum for participants to share their thoughts on evangelising, learn from each other and obtain practical ways to outreach on the streets. We were privileged to have Rev. Kola as our guest speaker that night and he was able to share insight into the need to have an evangelistic approach as part of one's lifestyle. He spoke of his early life as a university student whose salvation experience drove him to want to bring young people into the freedom and light that he came into and began to enjoy. He began a fellowship on campus and with his friends, they enjoyed their salvation and were fired up to preach to others. With scriptures, Rev. Kola edified us with the gospel, which gave us new desires, to share the gift of salvation as effective ministers. As students we have a vast opportunity to impact hundreds of people's lives every day we walk through our campus or lecture halls. The first night ended with a question and answer time and we all left encouraged and challenged to ignite the flame of spreading the gospel.

DAY 2 : PRAYER NIGHT

The second part of the program gathered young people to worship, pray and share the word and we prepared for the final day of outreach. We prayed to expect a harvest as we open our mouths to preach the Good News. Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is plenty but the workers are few." We were not just going out to the street to perform our duties as Christians, we wanted to see results and so we prayed into it! During the night there were words of encouragement, prophecy and insight. Like the early church in Acts we all felt united through prayer, which I believe is one of the most important things to achieve before embarking on a spiritual exercise. For many of us, it would be the first time ever, or in a long time, to take part in street evangelism and so such unity and edification was needed.

"AS STUDENTS WE HAVE A VAST OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERY DAY WE WALK THROUGH OUR CAMPUS OR LECTURE HALLS."





DAY 3 : OUTREACH DAY!

The team met on the Staines High Street and spent some time praying before breaking up to begin the outreach. Covering the right side, left side and centre of the High street, we strategically aimed to cover everyone coming in and going out of the main centre. With the help of evangelism tracts, the gospel was given to the shoppers too busy to stop for anything. Thankfully, there were many onlookers who were curious about what we had to say, and many shoppers who stationed themselves on benches to enjoy the sun. Whatever their agenda was, we wanted to find any opportunity to minister some of God's love to them. I was personally drawn to young teenagers because something of the secondary school life drew out compassion in me to minister love and acceptance to them. I learnt that compassion was necessary when spreading the gospel of salvation. Otherwise, why would you want to walk up to someone who is obviously not interested, or looks down on what you have chosen to do on a Saturday afternoon? Many of us in the team had our own niche of people we were drawn to, and as a result, those were the people we made the biggest impact on. Consequently, my longest engagement that day was with students who went to the same school as me- who were juniors to me. What really struck me was that even though I never thought they would know who I was, they had remembered me. You never know who your life is impacting even by walking down the corridors of your work or school! I thank God I didn't do anything back then that would work against me when it came to preaching the gospel to those who saw how I conducted myself every day. After sharing the love of God by relating it to their everyday life, I took down their numbers and invited them to church the next day. I admit that right now I have not physically seen the results with those young people, but every time I think of them I keep praying for their salvation, as I believe the seeds have been sown!

"THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WAITING FOR YOU TO TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS!"

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15) Be encouraged- there's someone out there waiting for you to tell them the good news! Believe me, after going out, you are filled with more passion and hunger to preach about God's love. Step out today!

To know more about Youth Inspired for Christ email yic@fowm.org. For all the latest updates and info about upcoming events join our facebook group. Search YouthInspired Fowmyic.



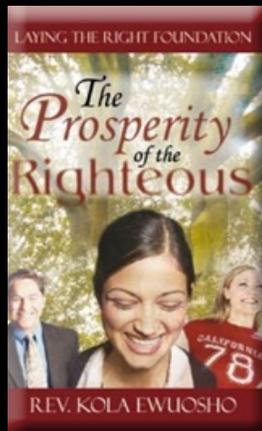
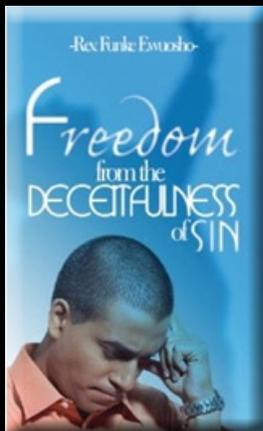
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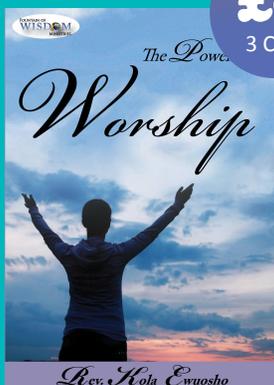
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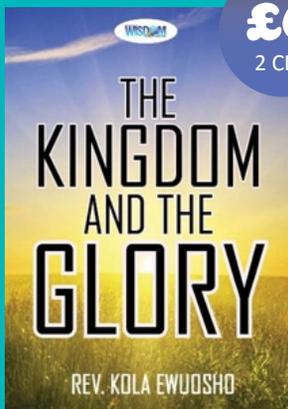
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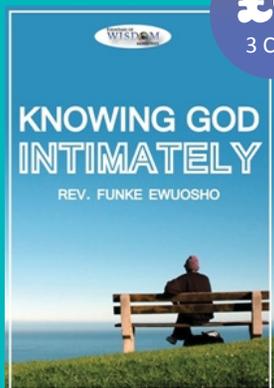
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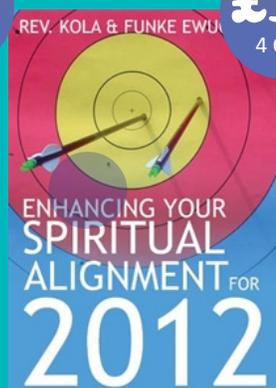
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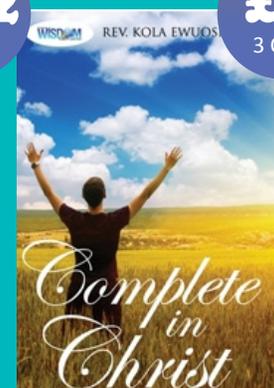
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