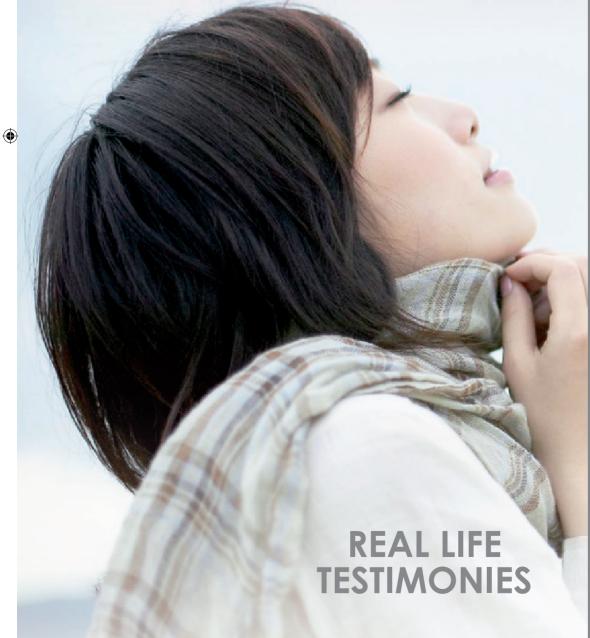
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Learning to Wait



DISCIPLING THE NATIONS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

COMING INTO FULL STATURE IN CHRIST



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SOME
SECRETS
FOR A
LIFETIME OF
SUCCESS



#### **Publication** Information

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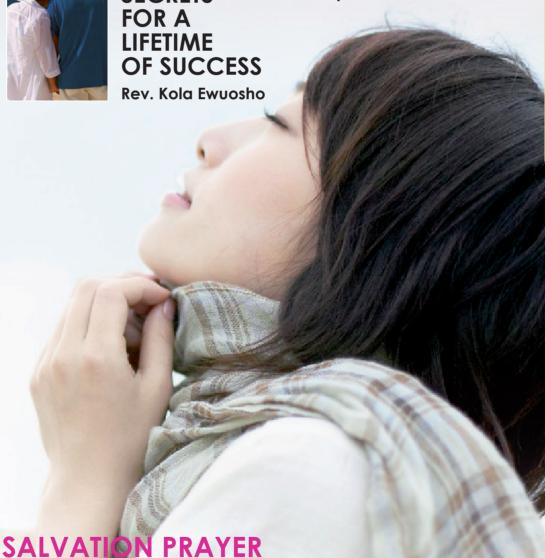


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re you saved? Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Do you know whether you are going to A heaven or hell when you die? (Rom. 6:23) If the answer to any of these questions is 'No', we invite you to pray something like this... "Lord 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.



"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God":

(Romans 8:19).

## COMING INTO FULL STATUSE LIGHTS LIGHT

## (Mature Sons of God)

### Rev.Kola Ewuosho



hat would this earth look like if every believer in Christ was strong in the Lord and in the power of His might? If every believer could handle their personal, family and national problems with prayers and the level of wisdom they were walking in? What if they could stand against the wiles of the devil and put him to flight by resisting him steadfastly in the faith? What if their con-

sciousness of who they are in Christ was so strong that they did not yield to any deception of the enemy? What if they were speaking God's Word and seeing God's power changing circumstances around them? What if every believer was highly developed in character, that God could commit so much into their hands? What if we could fully represent God on earth like Jesus did when he was on earth? What if every believer had found their place in the assignment God has for them and were maximising their potentials as they fulfilled their purpose?

Let's see a few scriptures as we see how to move into this full stature of Christ.

Mathew 16:16-19 says: "Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Fa-

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ther who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on

whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Mathew 16:24-26 savs: "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me. let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it. but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will

a man give in exchange for his soul?" The revelation of who Christ is, is the rock upon which the church is built. We need that revelation today so He can build the undefeatable church on the earth

The whole scheme of God's program takes its roots in the Old Testament where we read about individuals who lived lives that honoured the God of their covenant. We see in their lives their commitment, consecration and diligence to fulfil God's plans for their lives. Their initiatives and responses to God's instructions to them and their perception of His expectations of them serve as real eye-openers for us to take a peek into the lives they lived, the challenges they faced and how they allowed God's government (His Kingdom) to be established in their lives. I am referring to the Daniels and Josephs and King David as well as the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We can learn from their mistakes too. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to pay the eternal price for our salvation, changed our entry point into a relationship with God as well as our mode of service (worship) to God. We who did not have the foundation of the old covenant like the Jews, need to develop our foundations in what God has done for us in Christ, what the Spirit of God wants to do in us, what identity we have and what authority we represent now. All these things are supposed to represent the FOUNDATION of our relationship with God, the Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son.

Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. God's plan is to extend His influence on the earth. He

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later introduced the church in Mathew 16 when He said "I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail". He made it clear that the church, being a base for kingdom activities, was meant to be a place of equipping for those who believe in Him. He is the pattern Son, so the plan was to reproduce mature sons who will do the will of the Father. The Father is always pleased to see His Son

manifested on earth. "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Jesus heard these words at the baptism that John conducted for Him. No miracle had taken place, only a Son who had come of age to begin His assignment on earth. A developed character pleases the Father. We need to appreciate our entry into this relationship as well as our development, growth and eventually our assignment in Christ. "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:10).

We came in by faith, we have access into this grace through faith and we shall be sustained by our faith as we yield to His Spirit to fill us with His life. In the process of time we develop our character and discover our purpose as we participate with Him to fulfil His plans and His purpose. Many are introduced to this grace-relationship through the benefits alone and they never make the transition from a needbased relationship to a growth-based one. They easily get sidetracked by their needs and deny their growth process. Others simply have an intellectual approach without a heart full of faith and end up with a lifeless Christianity. Some stay in the Blessing-mode and never move into the Building-mode. Jesus said "I will build my church". So many come to church to be blessed



and not to be built up in character and stature. Being built up will bring us into the manifestation of the blessings but being focused on the blessings may not bring us into the building-mode.

#### FOUNDATIONS

Many problems today are as a result of faulty foundation or no foundation at all. God is a foundation-laying God. He laid the foundations of the earth before building the earth after which He brought mankind to live on it. He also laid the foundation of a new future in the heart of Abraham before the new Nation of Israel could be born. The covenant and its demands placed a new foundation in the heart of His man. Everyone has some foundation laid in their hearts and minds before they come to God through Christ. The foundation determines the philosophy that governs your thoughts. It is a product of your nurture, nature and experiences of the past. In every aspect of our lives some foundation is being laid. Our identity, self worth and expectations of ourselves are all influenced by our foundations. Our foundations are made up of facts we have accepted to be true, attitudes we have imbibed and belief systems we have been brought up in. Paul says there is no other foundation to be laid except Christ Jesus. He means that we need to make sure the foundation upon which we build our lives is none other than Christ and His finished work at Calvary. Christianity built on the traditional beliefs generates a Christianity that has been coloured by the traditions of the people. Traditional practices find their ways into the Christian faith when proper foundations are not built in the minds and hearts of people. Before long some versions of Christianity will become similar to idol worship. The reason is because a clear foundation was not laid in the hearts of the people so there was a mix up between the faith that Jesus brings and the traditions of the religion. Jesus asked a question in Luke 6:46, He said "why call me Lord, Lord and do not what I say?"The answer is "Lord, the things that inform what we do have been established in our lives before we met you, so we are set in our ways and your words do not make sense to us". In this discussion, He was teaching on hearing and doing His Word to ensure the house we build is built on a foundation, see Luke 6:46 to 49. Without proper foundations, houses tend to fall due

to floods, storms and other forces that have come to test the strength of structures built. The implications are that everything built will be tested and what is not built on the right foundation will not stand the test of time. Let us labour as fellow labourers to build the house on the solid foundation. The house represents every/any aspect of our lives: families, finances or future. We also see that laying the foundation implies doing the sayings of Jesus. What we do is a reflection of what we believe, think and accepted to have authority in our lives. If God's Word is given the right authority in our lives, we will have the courage to act like it is true.

Jesus Christ came as our DIVINE EX-

CHANGE. He took our place, paid the price and brought us into a new status in Himself as we become children of the Father-God. He became sin, so we may be made the righteousness of God in Him: He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich, etc. We need to lay the foundation of who we

have become in Him and hence our new authority in His name. (2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

Jesus came as our DIVINE PATTERN FOR SONSHIP; He said we should deny ourselves, take up our

cross and follow Him. (Mathew 16:24). We are encouraged to present our bodies a living sacrifice in Romans 12:1. Jesus also said a Body you have prepared for me: I will do your will O God. (Hebrews 10:5-7). He had a cross, we have ours; His body was offered, we offer ours and we follow His pattern and example.

Jesus came as the expression of God's UNCONDITIONAL LOVE for mankind.

When these form the basis of our operations in God we shall be building on Him as our foundation. (John 3:16).

#### MATURITY

"Maturity only

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process."

In Mark 4, the parable of the sower shows how the good soil can bring forth 30, 60 or 100 fold. In John 15:1-7, we see being fruitful, more fruitful and bearing much fruit. There is a progression in our fruitfulness. Maturity only happens when we begin to take responsibility for our maturing process. Our goal at the foundation phase is receiving and having, but our goal in the maturity phase is becoming. In Romans 8:29 we are shown that we are to be conformed to the image of the

Son. Becoming like Him in character is our focus here. His Word will take root in us and affect our desires and attitudes and establish the inner attitudes of humility, integrity, love, etc. In the book of 2 Peter 1:3-10, we read what needs to be added to our faith so we can mature and not ever become

> unfruitful in our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do the adding and we pass the tests as we take responsibility for our maturity. The lessons learnt become part of our lives and not just what we know in our heads. In order to mature

properly, some disciplines need to be established in our lives: the discipline of prayer and meditation in God's Word, the discipline of church involvement to serve and grow within a local church, the discipline of giving and receiving, the discipline of helping others grow in the faith and the discipline of winning souls for the kingdom.

"{That it (Christ's body-the church) might develop} until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the com-

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prehension of the {full and accurate} knowledge of the Son of God, that {we might arrive} at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ and the completeness found in Him. (Ephesians 4:13, AMP).

To embrace our responsibility in maturing into sons of God, we need to make certain commitments that will enable us to come into proper discipleship under God. One of such is a commitment to obedience: ("if anyone desires to do His will. He will know about the teaching, whether it is from God, or if I am speaking of myself" John 7:17). The desire to do precedes the knowing. If we do not commit to obedience, even when it is not convenient, we short change ourselves in the developmental process into maturity. The other qualities that we need to cultivate and make commitments to are: walking in humility, having a fear of God, endurance and patience. Humility is a heart condition that does not exalt self above others and takes its rightful position under God so God can teach the person His ways. (See Psalm 25:9). The fear of God is the reverential attitude towards God and His demands on us. Endurance implies active perseverance while patience implies passive waiting.

In this phase our lives and wills are in alignment with God's will and ways and we are ready to see His power released through us to cause His will to be done and His name glorified. We manifest as mature sons of God who have been tried and tested to bring about the pure will of God without adulteration

of any sort. In Romans 8:16-19, we see that the whole creation is waiting

tion of the sons of God. The path to this is the suffering we encounter in the flesh as we deny ourselves and endure hardship as soldiers. This reality is found in the scripture that savs "unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it abides alone but when it dies it brings forth fruit" (John 12:24-26). When the Father honours us by the release of His power, our pride will no longer get in the way as we have dealt with this in our maturity

for the manifesta-

phase. The dying phase comes before the resurrection phase. Then we have the glorifying phase. We will be full of His glory on this earth. We need to exercise our faith for this phase too. This phase calls for the release of God's power through us. Here we shall handle temptations like Jesus did. We shall have the opportunity to use God's power through us to meet our human need (appetite) or take a short cut to God's will without the cross; or test to see how much of God's power is available to us. All these can be gleaned from the temptations Jesus faced as He handled the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life. Right after this He went in the power of the Spirit (See Luke 4:14). He is our pattern, our example of coming into full sonship. When we pass the tests we are ready

to carry His power to a dying world. We are secured in His love, confident

commit to

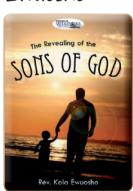
of His power (as "If we do not He will never leave us nor forsake us) and assured of His presence. We are not building a obedience, even name for ourselves. He has been given when it is not a name above every other name and He has told us convenient, we to go in His name. We know Satan short change has been stripped of his power to ourselves in the hurt us and we are not ignorant of his developmental devices. We put on the whole armour of God and stand process into effectively against the enemy. Our maturity. " victory is certain in Christ, Christ is the head of a corporate Body - the church.

> As we all individually put our faith in His Word for these things, we see them happening in our time, no matter the opposition.

> Pour out your Spirit Lord and do a quick work on the earth. Amen!

#### Rev Kola Ewuosho

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## YOUR TESTIMONIES

## LESTIMONIES Your

"It is with great joy and appreciation that I write these two testimonies. I had a fall and fractured my leg while playing during the Men's football match after Sunday service. I thank God for His healing power as I am walking again with the leg now. Prior to this injury, I had an injury on the same leg when I was about 12 years old, when I mistakenly stepped on a rusty nail. My leg was infected, a condition known as osteomelytis. It became very swollen and I was at one point referred by the consultant for an amputation as the only solution. However, God healed me and saved my leg. So naturally, when I had the fracture, I was immediately worried because of the past injury. But I thank God for the prayers of all the brethren right on the football field and at the hospital. I was able to rest my faith back unto God as my healer, who had healed the same leg before and saved me from amputation, but I was still very worried. The orthopaedic consultants and registrars took the decision not to insert pins in my leg but to allow natural healing, which to me is God's healing power, and today I thank God that I am able to walk again, with no infection whatsoever as a result of this second injury on my leg. Thanks be to the Almighty God!

The second testimony is the one that really blows my mind. As a result of my injury, I was off sick from work for two and a half months. It was a busy period at work and naturally I felt bad that I was off for such a long stretch at such a time. During this time, one brother at church was constantly encouraging me not to worry about work but to use the spare time to read the Word of God, gain new knowledge and to see the time as an opportunity. Towards the end of the two and a half months, as I was preparing to return back to work, I got a call from my manager telling me that there was a vacant role on a higher grade than what I was on and would I like to resume there instead on my return back to the office. Of course I said yes, as I had been interviewed internally previously a couple of times for similar roles but had never been successful. This time, I was off sick from work for a long time, did not attend any interview for the role and was basically told the job was mine if I wanted it, despite the fact that many of my colleagues were fighting for a similar role. I have since resumed work in the new role and God is helping me on the job. This to me is a miracle! I thank God for his blessing in turning what initially looked like a set-back for me into promotion in the office. My appreciation also goes to the members of the Harvestime Church family who supported me during this time."









"I have been following the goals from 'The Personal Goals Series' and a lot of bondages have been broken. My life has been getting better by the day. Thank you."

"Two years ago I suffered a shoulder injury causing severe pain such that I couldn't even do simple tasks without crying out in pain. For a year I suffered silently and went into depression. The doctor told me that nothing could be done except for a steroid injection for the pain. I refused to believe that. I went through painful physiotherapy for 6 months. Then in one of the ladies' retreats, Pastor Funke anointed each of us with oil and prayed for us. That was the start of my breakthrough. The pain gradually disappeared and now thanks be to God I can raise my hands and give thanks without pain! Thank you very much. I appreciate and value you, your family, and your ministry. God bless you!"

## PARTNERWITH US

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Wisdom Digest

## Learning

## Rev. Funke Ewuosho



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aiting is one discipline and virtue that is almost becoming extinct. We are in the "microwave" age. Everything around us is so fast-paced that you wonder if there is actually any need to wait. Impatience is so ingrained in the human nature and psyche, that it is almost incurable. We ask God for patience, but we want it now! Yet the Bible ad-

monishes us to let patience run its full course, so we would become mature and complete, lacking NOTHING. (Jas. 1:4)

The Bible clearly tells us that there is a time to EVERYTHING and that God has made everything beautiful in IT'S time. (Eccles. 3:1, 11). It is therefore time to learn again, the <u>discipline</u> and virtue of waiting.

We must embrace waiting as a discipline or else, we would never learn it. According to the OXFORD POPU-LAR ENGLISH DICTIONARY, Discipline means, 'Training or a way of life aimed at self control and obedience; order maintained or observed among people under control;' etc. Have you ever heard people or even yourself say: "I can't wait to..."? And, like someone said, these days even "Doctors are not patient with their patients anymore". Kids can't wait to grow up anymore. Lovers can't wait to know themselves well enough before they get married. People can't wait to know the will of the Lord before they embark on it. The Bible says "The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait patiently for the salvation of The LORD." (Lam. 3:5-6).

### Why do we need to learn to wait?

Have you ever heard the saying; "TIME WILL TELL."? Yes, time tells an awful lot of things. Time is a revealer. Time reveals the truth; time reveals the true quality of a thing; time reveals the true motive for something; time reveals the true nature of a person. The Apostle Paul said, in defending his stewardship; "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." (1. Cor. 4:5). Proverbs 20:6 says: "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?" Truth sets free, when it is known. Lies

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keep people, even those who tell it, in bondage! Time reveals the truth. You can't lie about something for too long, and people can only lie to you for so long - except you wish to stay in deception yourself. Like somebody said: "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Time reveals the genuineness of what you have; for example Gold vs. Costume Jewellery. Time reveals our true nature and level of maturity. For instance, Peter boasted that even if all the other disciples stumbled, he wouldn't. Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." (Matt. 26:34). Of course, Peter boasted the more, but as sure as Jesus said it, Peter denied Jesus three times that same night before the rooster crowed!

Time is also a TESTER, and therefore could be a refiner and a purifier. Time is a tester of leadings and prophecies. Time is a tester of relationships. Time is a tester of commitment. Time is a tester of love

In Thessalonians 5:20-21: "Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good." How do you judge or test prophecies and leadings? Time of course! The Angel Gabriel said to Zachariah: "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." (Luke 1:20). In Genesis 17:21, God said to Abraham: "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year." And in Genesis 21:2, the Bible says Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his sold age, "at the set time of which God had spoken to him." Hence, the expression, "It is a matter of time."

Colossians 2:15 says: "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." The Amplified Bible puts it this way - "And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts (deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds..."

Time is a tester of your leading and of your peace.

Time tests your maturity. For example: "Charity [love] sufereth long... is not easily provoked... beareth all things... endureth all things." (1. Cor. 13: 4, 7

James 1:20, 21 says: "...let every man

be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup> for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Time will prove how mature we truly are. Can we wait to let something out of our mind or not? Can we wait for the right time to deal with issues or not. Some of us are 'Mr or Ms Do it Now.' We need to get it done and dusted.

ly said, "Maturity is the ability to delay gratification." Proverbs 25:28 says: "Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls." Remember, self control or temperance is a fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:23). Some of us just have to tell people exactly how and what we

Someone actual-

feel about them or about things. We lie to ourselves and call that just being honest or upfront with people. I think,

most of the time, it is a function of our lack of maturity and our insecurity. I found out that when we are actually ready to admit to our own insecurity or level of maturity, we might begin to

call a spade a spade. Proverbs 29:11 says: "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back." (I guess, till if and when necessary).

Time is also a DEVELOPER. Things do take time to develop. Things take time to grow. Things take time to mature. Have you ever heard the saying, "Rome

was not built in a day"? Time is a developer of Faith. Time is a developer of Character. Time is a developer of Relationships. Time is a developer of Trust and Confi-

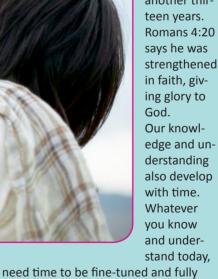
Time is a developer of Skills and Talent,

A lot of things develop with time. The

Bible says Abraham was "fully convinced" that God was also able to perform what He had promised. (Rom. 4:21). From the Genesis account, it didn't look like Abraham started out with the kind of unwavering faith being described here in Romans. He must have developed it with time! It took about twenty five years between the time God first promised his a son to the time the son of promise,

Isaac was born. He wavered in-between, when he agreed with Sarah's idea to have a baby through Hagar. But

> thank God he got back on track. Between Ishmael and Isaac was another thirteen years. says he was in faith, giving glory to God. Our knowlderstanding with time. Whatever you know and understand today,



developed. The Apostle Paul makes this very clear in 1 Corinthians 13: 9-11; "For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a



"Waiting is

one discipline

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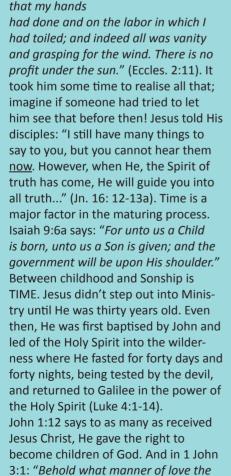
becoming

extinct."

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child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." Does that not highlight the folly of us thinking that all

that we know or understand now about God, people, doctrines and even life generally, is all that there is to know? Things do mature with time. Knowledge and understanding mature with time. Some of us would be embarrassed to read or hear some of the opinions or views we held when we were vounger, vet we believed them to be accurate then. Sometimes we look back at some of those things, and like the Preacher in Ecclesiastes we say to ourselves, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Eccles. 1:2). He went on to say: "Then I looked on all the works



Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called <u>children</u> of God!" But the Bible says, "the heir, as long as he



into becoming a son. "for whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Rom. 8:22). The Bible says that when Moses "became of age", he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. (Heb. 11:24-25). No wonder God is longsuffering; He is patient with us - bless Him; because He knows we do take our time to mature, don't we? We must therefore learn to give people and things time to develop and work out. "The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools." (Eccles. 7:8-9). Also in Isaiah 66:7-8: "shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?" God ordained the natural order of the Gestation period for us to learn that between conception and the birth is TIME. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly

seen, being understood by the things that are made..." (Rom. 1:20a).

Time BEAUTIFIES. Time can make things right. Sometimes what makes the difference between what is right and what is wrong is time. Doing the right thing at the wrong time, makes it wrong. For instance, any parent wants their kids to get married, but at the right time. "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

<sup>4</sup> A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;

<sup>5b</sup> ... A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;

<sup>7b</sup> A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love And a time to hate;

A time of war, And a time of peace." (Eccles. 3:1-8).

And in verse 11, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

Mordecai challenged Queen Esther: "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews form another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Es. 4:14).

We must learn to do the right thing at

the right time. Someone defined wisdom as the right application of knowledge. When should I be doing what? What should I be doing now? God said: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and say and night shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22). For instance, Proverbs 50:5 says: "He who gathers in summer is a wise son, He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame."

There is nothing wrong with sleeping, in fact, we all need a certain amount of sleep everyday to keep our bodies functioning the way God designed it to function. But sleeping at the wrong time makes it wrong. Proverbs 20:13 says: "Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes and you will be satisfied with bread." (See also Proverbs 6:6-11.)

There is indeed a time for everything.

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"Doing the

right thing

at the wrong

time, makes

it wrong."

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Elisha's servant, Gehazi ran after Naaman and collected the gifts which his master had refused. He lied to Elisha about his whereabouts. Elisha said to him: "Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? 27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow." (2 Kings 5:26-27). We must not only have faith to receive, we must also develop the faith to refuse. When Moses became of age, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Elisha told Naaman, the Syrian General, "As the LORRD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing" Though Naaman urged Elisha to take the gift, he refused. (2 Kings 5:16).

The Bible talks about the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13) and the passing pleasures of sin. (Heb. 11:25). What is the major reason for fornication and adultery today? People just can't wait – they can't wait for the right time and the right person! They must have it now and here. Proverbs 5:15 says "Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well."

Time is also a HEALER - a healer of wounds; a healer of pains; a healer of memory; etc. We all feel sore when we have just been hurt or wounded; we still feel the pain when our hearts have just been broken and the memory is still very fresh with the pain. In handling pains caused by other people's offences, we must understand that the first thing to do is to forgive them. Forgiveness is not an emotional thing, it is a decision. It is saying to the person, 'I let you go and I let it go.' It is saying, 'I will not hold this against you or act on this.' Psalm 103:10 says God has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded according to our iniquities. Forgiveness is saying, 'you owe me one, but I cancel your debt.' Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus told in Matthew 18? Jesus likened offences to debt, and therefore forgiveness to cancellation of debt and release from the penalty. The unforgiving servant was forgiven his own debt by his master; but he turned around to put in the debtor's prison a fellow servant who was owing him much less than what he was owing his master. 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) says "Love... keeps no record of when it has been wronged." Or "love keeps no account of evil."

However, after the decision to forgive has been made and one has truly forgiven from one's own heart (Jesus said "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" - Matt. 18:35); you may still find out that your emotions haven't yet caught up

with your decision. You are still feeling bad and hurt. Remember, emotions have to do with feelings. Don't confuse your feelings with your decisions. Don't judge your decisions by your feelings and don't determine your decisions by your feelings. Our emotions need time to heal. I remember when I lost my brother four years ago; my emotions and my memory needed time to

heal. The Bible says the memory of the just is blessed (Prov. 10:7), so I still very much have a memory of my brother but not with the pain and hurt I felt when it just happened. I have a loving and fond memory of him and look for-

is what we do within the time, that determines if we would become better or bitter; if we would become healed or not. Apostle Paul said we shouldn't sorrow as others who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Jesus commands us to forgive and to let go (Matt. 18:35; Mk. 11:25-26). If we would obey what

the Word says, then we would experience the healing with time; but if not, we would open up ourselves to the 'tormentors' (Matt. 18:32-34) and to the spirit of sorrow and death. (2 Cor. 7:10).

Time is an invaluable asset and it is one thing that is common to all. The Bible says, "time and chance happen to all" (Eccles. 9:11). It is what we invest into time that determines what we get out of it; it is how we make the most of the opportunity (or 'chance') given

to us that determines the outcome of our life. For instance, time does not automatically mature you or develop your skills or your character. Waiting isn't therefore doing nothing while you are waiting. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says;

"time does not automatically heal our emotions and our memory but it is what we do within the time..."



ward to the resurrection morning when we shall meet to part no more. It is, however, important to note that time does not automatically heal our emotions and our memory but it "whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might, for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going." Somebody said, 'Growth will always come,

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change will always come, but you can determine the direction of the growth or change by what you do now.' Don't just sit around with your arms folded –

read, study, acquire new skills, take up great opportunities that come your way; maximise where you are on the way to where you are going. Engage your God-given talents. Remember the parable of the Minas in Luke 19? The Master gave the servants ten minas and said to them, "Do business till I come." (v. 13). When he returned. he called them to know how much each man had gained by trading. God expects us to engage with what He has given us and to grow and multiply it. Also, in learning to wait, we must understand that waiting is a discipline

that involves <u>informing</u> and <u>training</u> our faculties. Our faculties must be informed about the phase we are in life – are we in seedtime or in harvest time? Are we in the winter or in the summer? What time and season are we

in? Then we must train our faculties to respond according to the season that we are in. According to The OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, "to train means:

to bring to a de-"Remember, sired standard of performance or behaviour delay is not by instruction and practice; to undergo denial. It is such a process; to teach and accustom better to be (a person or animal) to do something. 2. to safe than to bring or come to physical efficiency by be sorry. exercise and diet. 3. to cause to grow in the Sometimes required direction." Train your it is worth emotions, your tongue, your will: train all the wait." vour faculties. Waiting also involves prac-

tice – practice makes perfect. Practice waiting. You don't have to act now, you don't have to speak now – "Even a fool is considered wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips he is considered perceptive." (Prov. 17:28). Sometimes a good knowledge about

yourself, your tendencies, your temperament might help. For instance, the choleric and sanguine temperaments find it very hard to wait, they are the two fast-paced temperaments. Cholerics are 'DOERS' by nature and the Sanguines are adventurous by nature; and God help anyone who combines the two!

The Bible says: "Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

And the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:30-31).

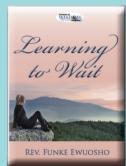
It seems to be that there is great strength in waiting.

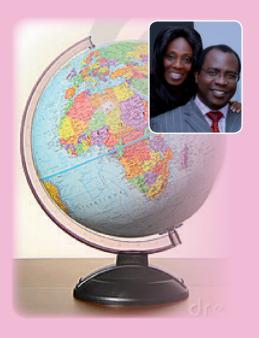
Remember, delay is not denial. It is better to be safe than to be sorry. Sometimes it is worth the wait.

God bless you. Rev. Funke Ewuosho

To discover more about 'Learning to Wait', visit www.

fowm.org or contact us to purchase Rev. Funke Ewuosho's message on CD, DVD or MP3. Prices start at £3.





### FOWM Annual Calendar

For up-to-date information about all our conferences around the world please visit www.fowm.org.

#### **JULY**

Saturday 2nd July

Women's Breakfast Conference at Harvestime Church (U.K)

Saturday 16th July

Men's Breakfast Conference at Harvestime Church (U.K)

Sunday 17th July

Rev. Kola Ewuosho preaching at Harvestime Church, Wembley (U.K)

Friday 22nd- Saturday 23rd July Behind Enemy Lines Conference in Kent (U.K)

Saturday 30th- Sunday 31st July
Rev. Kola Ewuosho preaching in Salford (U.K)

#### **AUGUST**

10th- 14th August

Ingathering Annual Conference (Kano, Nigeria)

#### SEPTEMBER

3rd-4th September

Rev. Funke Ewuosho preaching at Women's Conference in Wolverhampton

#### **OCTOBER**

(Dates to be confirmed)
FOWM Conference in Cameroon
FOWM Conference in Ghana

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#### SOME SECRETS FOR





"Beloved I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers."

3 John 2

## Rev. Kola Ewuosho

od has plans for His children to succeed in their life on earth. Both the definition and demonstration of the word 'success' have been influenced by the fallen nature of man, so much so, that many sincere believers have been tempted to surrender any desire to a worldly spirit to enjoy success. On the other hand so many have accepted the worldly definition of it and their pursuit has led to a strangulation of their spiritual walk with God. Many have taken Godly principles and left (the person of) God out of the equation and achieved some results. Principles work for whoever puts them to work. This has led to many paying half-hearted attention to these principles and those who do pay full attention may do it at the expense of their devotion or consecration to God. The implication of all this is that certain good principles are left in the domain of the ungodly, where they are applied in an ungodly way to achieve ungodly purposes. The children of God need to be careful not to get sucked into these principles at the expense of losing their godliness.

Motivational speakers and personal development experts have made this

aspect of human development to become a multi-million dollar industry. This field is about training the mind to become more productive by setting goals, planning activities and aquiring time management skills. It is born out of the knowledge of principles that govern how things work in the natural and the laws that govern the psychological (soulish) side of our existence. Success can be defined as attaining worthwhile goals.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23) Man is first of all a spirit; he has a soul and lives in a body. Development should be in that order. Each dimension of mankind has profound powers within it. These powers are God-given and should be engaged to fulfil His purposes. The soul comprises of the mind, will and emotions. Our imaginative faculties (in the mind) actually have creative potentials. In Genesis 11:6, God declared that what the people imagined to do would happen if no one stopped them. Many have used their faculties out of ignorance, to 'create' their calamities.

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The mind has imagination, thinking and memory. Every dimension has its role to play in our lives. We need to engage all faculties in our walk with God. Religious

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caprices."

spirits (from hell) have attempted to persuade us to see our walk with God in such a way as to think we should engage only some aspects of our human faculties, namely our spirits, and leave every other part to our own caprices. God created every part of us for good purposes.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for

then you shall make your way prosperous and then you shall have good success". (Joshua 1:8)

"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper." (Psalms 1:1-3)

There are things to do and things not to do. What we choose to do determines what we experience in our life time. We have the power of choice. Meditation engages the mind and mouth as we conceive and utter to our selves the substance (or subject) we are meditating on. Our subject of meditation should be in the Word of God. The development process can be divided into 3 dimensions of responsibilities: our relationship with God; our self management and our relationship with others. All the principles of success can be placed in one or more of these categories.

#### **THE FIRST CATEGORY** THE SPIRITUAL: OUR **RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Our spirits are of foremost importance as we contact the divine or eternal realm through the faculties in our spirits. Without Christ, our spirits lie in darkness and have not come into the

light of God. Whatever we learn (spiritually) when we are not alive unto God is usually perverted as the enemy takes godly principles, twists them for our

selfish purposes, thereby giving glory to Satan, directly or indirectly. When Paul said "I put under my body and bring it into subjection" in 1 Corinthians 9:27. it was clear that the 'I' such a way as to think is not the body but the inner man or the spirit. Our spirits come alive with the life of God when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Our conscience and ability to perceive truth spiritually all come alive. We suddenly 'see' sin. for instance, for what it really is, i.e. a

destructive force that

is at work in our human flesh to hinder our fellowship and walk with God who is our Father. Through our 'fellowship' with God we receive strength, insights. ideas, and discern deceptive tendencies at work within our souls. A whole lot of things are "downloaded" from God to us. We humble ourselves as we yield to His wisdom, His ways and His plans for our lives. God's ideas are greater and better than ours by far. This process of interaction with God will lead to training our spirits to know Him and His ways.

#### **THE SECOND CATEGORY** THE SOUL: OUR SELF MANAGEMENT.

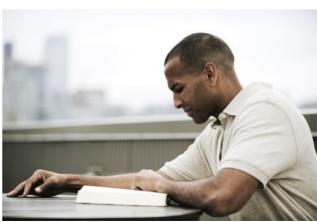
As we subject our souls to the demands of God's Word we confront the deposits that have been made in us by the nature (Adam's) we had before we got born again (or came alive in Christ). These deposits include our pride, insecurities, pretentions and a host of tendencies that can be found in our souls.

These deposits include the philosophies that we allow to govern our thinking process. For example blaming others for our experiences in life; seeing ourselves as victims of our circumstances etc. This process of confronting these things now forms the basis for our development for productivity.

Not allowing these things to dominate us is the basis for self-denial; crucifying the 'flesh' is putting these things out of our lives. The skills needed to be developed include time management, goal setting and organisational skills. (See Ephesians 5: 15-18). We need to develop our leadership and communication skills, as well as learning to control what we can and recognising how to let go of what we cannot control. It's about focus, seeing opportunities and perseverance in our chosen fields. As in a building, we have dirty water plumbing as well as clean water plumbing. We get rid of some things and build in the right things as we set goals that are in harmony with our perception of God's will for our lives and then apply ourselves to a productive lifestyle. We learn to walk in God's wisdom, walk in the fear of God and see a person the way God sees him or her. We will encourage rather than discourage others. We will be positive in building ourselves and others up. We will learn the power of choice. When we decide to do some thing, we will be determined to accomplish our goals and we become diligent to persevere until the goal is attained. We cultivate intimacy with God through our devotion to His Word and wavs as He is the source of every good thing in our lives. (The blessing of the Lord, makes one rich and adds no sorrow. Proverbs 10:22). Practically we cultivate a lifestyle that brings us into a place where we are governed by principles based on God's Word. That is the definition of a kingdom lifestyle. We operate kingdom principles as citizens of the kingdom while maintaining a relationship with our Father God through His Son Jesus Christ. No wonder we are called "More than conquerors" (Romans 8:37). We win on every side.

#### **THE THIRD CATEGORY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE**

Here we carry out our activities with



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the mind of being a blessing to others. (See Ephesians 5: 1-11). We learn to

communicate, help and influence others and allow ourselves to be influenced by the right people in our lives. We build healthy families and close relationships. All these involve considerable amount of effort to change and build permanent behavioural changes into our lives. The scriptures say "as much as lies with you, be at peace with all men." Romans 12:18. Peace implies harmonious relationships.

Health for our bodies demands a healthy lifestyle of exercise, rest and proper diet, not junk food. For our souls, it's a healthy reading diet of good books to nurture the soul. The spirit is nurtured by a healthy fellowship with God through His Word, in worship and prayers. All of these call for action; we do what is expected for the right results we want to acheive.

#### **SOME OTHER SECRETS**

Communication brings the common ground of understanding, so keep communication lines open. This is vital to

building healthy relationships. The key to real communication is to be a good

> listener. Caring for people will promote health in your relationship with them. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Seek agreement but respect disagreement. Avoid snap decisions, be patient and work hard at everything you do. Cultivate a strong work ethic. Relationships are gifts: treasure them. Surround vourself with the best people as you grow in your leadership skills.

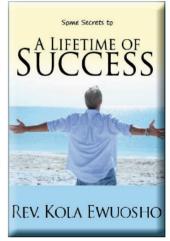
Decide to be a life long learner as you seek good mentors to help shape your thinking and life. Manage your personal life well. Love what you do. Do not run from problems, they are opportunities in disguise. Keep it simple. Your income seldom exceeds personal development. You are paid for the value you bring to the table. You increase your value by increasing

your skills. If you change, everything will change for you. Learn to achieve your goals as you properly utilise time management tools. Plan to leave a legacy so that when you are dead, what you were will speak on your behalf. Learn to keep a journal of the ideas you get and the progress you make. There is a future for you and you are being prepared for what has been prepared for you. Your destiny awaits your development; your future beckons on your potentials to make it a reality. This is not a day to sit and do nothing but a day to look up and see. As far as your eyes can see, can be yours for the taking! How far can you see? What price are you willing to pay? What legacy will you leave behind? Get trained, developed and become all you

were meant to be!

#### Rev. Kola Ewuosho

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