

# WISDOM DIGEST

Fountain of Wisdom Ministries  
Issue WD1901

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**Dates: 14th – 18th August 2019**



# WISDOM DIGEST

Wisdom Digest is published by the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries as a forum to share the ministry of Rev. Kola and Funke Ewuosho. 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 a free magazine, supported by partner contributions.

If you have been blessed by this 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 would like to receive a copy of this magazine.

If you would like Fountain of Wisdom Ministries to be a blessing to your church, fellowship or region, please contact a FOWM office.

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## HEART TO HEART



*We welcome you to our latest edition of the Wisdom Digest, the magazine that is published by the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries for global circulation. We endeavour to bring God's Word in an applicable way so believers can walk in the wisdom and the power of God as they apply it in their everyday lives. Ignorance, laziness or carelessness where the knowledge, study or application of God's Word are concerned, are known to be the reasons why many fail to accomplish God's purposes in their lives.*

*In this edition, we bring you keys, applicable wisdom and insights into the living Word of God that will help, correct and instruct readers in developing the lifestyle of an overcomer; you will also gain insights into how God is restoring Apostolic Christianity. Testimonies abound as individuals have allowed God, through His Word, to instruct them in their path to success and breakthroughs in various aspects of their lives.*

*As you read through, get ready to allow God's wisdom to affect you so that you can experience what God has in store for you - victory on every side! Please remember to share your testimonies with us either by email or through our nearest office to you.*

*Happy reading!*

*Rev. Kola and Rev. Mrs Funke Ewuosho*

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# RESTORATION OF APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY

**W**e all hear of Protestant churches, Evangelical churches, Pentecostal churches - the list goes on. What is not usually known is that these churches represent the restorative program of God that started many years ago after the so-called 'dark ages'. God has been in the business of restoring truth that has been lost from the early days of the church that Jesus built.

Matthew 16:16-19 (NKJV)

*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 Father 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 earth will be loosed in heaven."*

The present expression of the church today does not fit the picture we see in the book of Acts. There has been a series of restoration of both truth and practices that were lost. So with each truth restored, the expression and general practice of the church often reflected the restored truths. The Baptist church for example was 'birthed' in the era of the restoration of the truth of water baptism. So the church was built around that truth.

## **Restoration of the Place and Purposes of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ - The Global Church**

So many truths have been restored and the present day structures are as a result of this. Truths like the baptism in the Holy Spirit has been restored and this gave birth to Pentecostal churches who believe in not just being born again but in being filled with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. This has opened the Body of Christ to a whole new realm of spiritual experiences. The operations of the gifts of the

REV. KOLA Ewuosho



Spirit as recorded in the book of Corinthians has been enhanced by the restoration of the truth, the experience and the release of God's power where this truth is concerned.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Acts 2:4 (NKJV)

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

1 Corinthians 12:3-11 (NKJV)

*Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*



*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

The restoration of the Pentecostal experience gave birth to the Pentecostal church. After this came the restoration of the fivefold office.

### **Restoration of the 5-fold Ministry Offices**

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

So the offices of the pastor, teacher and evangelist are now restored. It does not mean that some people were not functioning in these offices before they were fully recognised as being restored. People were functioning in them but the general understanding was limited so the offices were not maximised as they should have been.

Today, the office, purpose and power of the apostles are being restored. He started the church with apostles and He is rounding up the program with how He started it. The first shall be the last indeed.

In the restoration of the office of the apostle, let it be on record that there are different categories of apostles. Jesus Himself stands at the top of the sent ones. He was sent by the Father God to pay the eternal sacrifice for the entire human race. No one stands in His place. Also the twelve apostles of the Lamb stand in a

place that no one can share with them. They were eyewitnesses of his death, burial and resurrection. Then the apostles who wrote the canon of scriptures also stand in a place no other can stand. Along with the restoration of the office of the apostle comes the restoration of Apostolic Christianity. This represents the full restoration of all truths so the church can be like it was originally purposed.

### **Some Characteristics of Apostolic Christianity**

These are observable characteristics: the 'sent' mentality, God's kingdom mindedness, unity amongst the believers, Christ-likeness, team leadership, a prayerful lifestyle and powerful experiences.

#### **Sent Ones - God's Kingdom Mindedness**

Apostles are sent ones. Apostolic Christianity has a sense of being sent to do the will of God and not to please oneself. Apostles were not sent so their needs would be met, but so that the kingdom of God would advance. Apostolic Christianity is not centred around personal need; even though it is God's plan to meet our needs, it is not the goal. Seeking first the kingdom and its impact in the lives of others comes before our needs.

Matthew 6:31-33 (NKJV)

*"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Romans 14:17-18 (NKJV)

*for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

#### **Unity Amongst the Believers**

Acts 1:14 (NKJV)

*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Acts 1 shows us what is commonly found amongst believers. No strife, bitterness, envy, jealousy or any work of the flesh were allowed amongst them. They all allowed the Holy Spirit to influence them internally and were in agreement and in one accord with one another. This is one of the factors that led to answers to prayers.

Acts 4:23-31 (NKJV)

*Prayer for Boldness - And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the*



# APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY HAS A SENSE OF BEING SENT TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AND NOT TO PLEASE ONESELF. APOSTLES WERE NOT SENT SO THEIR NEEDS WOULD BE MET, BUT SO THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD WOULD ADVANCE.

*nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”*

*And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

Their companions did not criticise the others but were in agreement with what God was doing in their midst.

## **Christlikeness**

God’s program is to restore mankind to how things were before the fall of man. God loves the world so much that He sent His Son. His Son came as His express image to show what God had in mind when He created mankind in His image. All sinned and fell short of that image and Christ came to restore that image so today being conformed to Christ is one major goal in Apostolic Christianity.

Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth”*

Romans 3:23-26 (NKJV)

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV)

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 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. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NKJV)

*[God’s Supreme Revelation] God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

## **Team Leadership**

In the days of our Lord Jesus on earth, He always sent His disciples out in twos at the minimum. He always had a team of His disciples around Him. At Gethsemane for example, He had his closest ones around Him to pray with Him at the hour of need. When the early church started, we see team leadership. Even though Peter was a spokesperson, we still see team work and harmony amongst them.

Acts 16:9-10 (NKJV)

*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

**Powerful experiences are borne out of corporate prayers. The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the expression of God’s power.**

Prayer releases power. The Holy Spirit is the agent of God involved in the release of power (Acts 4:31).

Acts 2:32-33, 42 (NKJV)

*This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*



Acts 6:3-4 (NKJV)

*Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word"*

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NKJV)

*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV)

*The Philippian Jailer Saved  
But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.*

### **Learning the Secrets of Apostolic Praying**

Luke 11:1-13 (NKJV)

*The Model Prayer - Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."*

*[A Friend Comes at Midnight] And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*

*[Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking] "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

### **Examples of Asking, Seeking and Knocking in the Book of Daniel**

*Asking for favour*

Daniel 1:8-10 (NKJV)

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*

*with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."*

*Seeking God for His mercies*

Daniel 2:17-23 (NKJV)

*Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."*

*Knocking down all obstacles...of fear, intimidation and idol worship*

Daniel 3:16-18 (NKJV)

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

In some cases, we ask, seek and knock on the same subject. We must realise the role and place of the Holy Spirit when we pray.

Ephesians 1:13-21 (NKJV)

*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

*[Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom] Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of wisdom and revelation. The enlightened eyes is a doing of the Spirit of God. God's inheritance in the saints can be defined by the Holy Spirit in us. He is the power that God used to raise Christ from the dead. He is the power at work towards us. Prayers activate all these dimensions of the Holy Spirit in us!

*Continued on page 10...*



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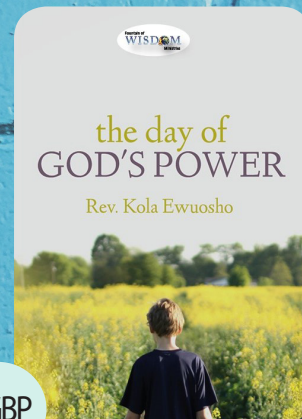
6 GBP

Romans 11: 29 says, 'for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable'. God has given each of us gifts. The goal is to discover, develop and deploy the gifts God has given each one of us. When we were born again, the Holy Spirit equipped us with supernatural dimensions. It's our responsibility to maximise what has been given to us. This message by Rev. Kola Ewuosho prepares us and arms us with the right knowledge and tools. Get ready to enjoy your gifts and calling!



12 GBP

Do you know that when God's hand comes upon you, you can overtake things, do impossible tasks, and achieve so much more than you could ever imagine? You should begin to expect the suddenness of God in every area of your life and enjoy victory after victory! In this powerful message, Rev. Funke shares on some profound keys to experiencing the suddenness of God. This message is for every believer! Listen and get ready for an outpouring of God's wonders!



6 GBP

Do you know that God has made His provisions available to grow and mature in Him? The more we grow and develop, the more we can walk in and truly experience God's power! In this powerful message, learn the instruments and channels of God's power, and get ready to experience it in every area!

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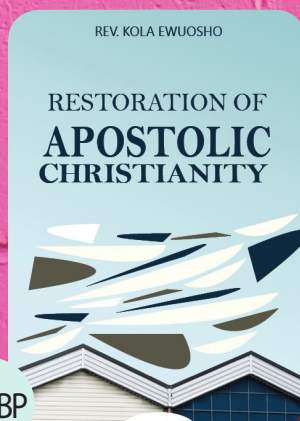
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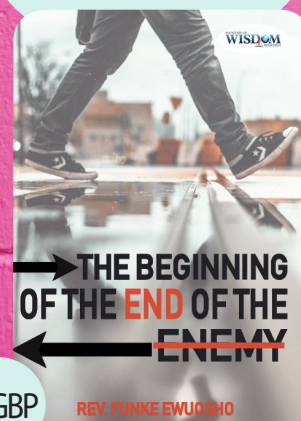
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You are not helpless! You are not a victim! You are not a failure! More than ever before, we need to embrace the lifestyle of an overcomer. John 16:33 says, 'These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.' In this transformational message, Rev. Funke shares 16 valuable truths about the lifestyle we should lead in order to be overcomers. Listen and be blessed!



18 GBP

The Apostles of the early church were confident that God had sent them, and this informed their attitude. They knew that the god who called them, would supply all their needs. They were committed to the Great Commission, walked in obedience, and carried the power of God. In this powerful message, learn the secrets to restoring the mandate for the Apostolic church. Be blessed!



12 GBP

Satan tries his hardest to intimidate you because he knows his time is up. It's time to rise up on your inside. In this powerful message, lay hold on the truths about the devil's antics: he uses fear to paralyse and destabilise. Learn how come against the spirit of fear and walk in the victory Christ has already given you! It's time for the devil's final defeat in your life. When he comes after you, rejoice because it's the end of him! SEQUEL TO 'PUTTING UP A RESISTANCE OF THE ENEMY'.



Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*

John 14:12-17 (NKJV)

[The Answered Prayer] *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

[Jesus Promises Another Helper] *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

John 14:26-27 (NKJV)

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Power in prayer is established when we pray based on the Word, in the name of Jesus Christ and by the help of the Holy Spirit.

James 5:16-18 (NKJV)

*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

John 15:7-8 (AMPC)

*If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified, and you show and prove yourselves to be true followers of Mine.*

### **Hindrances to Answers to Prayer**

1. Preconceptions about God's will. His will is contained in His Word.

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

[Confidence and Compassion in Prayer] *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

2. Our sin consciousness - it breeds a lack of confidence in God's willingness to hear and answer our prayers.

1 John 1:7-10 (NKJV)

*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

1 John 3:8-9 (NKJV)

*He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.*

1 John 3:22-23 (NKJV)

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

3. Lack of boldness to ask - God is not limited like we are, so let's be bold to ask for big things.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV)

[Our Compassionate High Priest] *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

John 15:7 (NKJV)

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

What do you desire? Whether they are small or big things, bring everything to God in prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

### **Entering into the Overflow or Invading the Impossible**

Who or what determines the limits to answers to our prayers? For God's will to be done on earth, we need to participate with His Spirit in us to birth His plans and purposes.

Looking through the book of Acts we see one factor - unity. This means no strife or criticism of one another. We all have faults that others can criticize. When we come to serve, help and add value to others with a Christ-focus, we are doing it as unto the Lord. I have had friends that were instrumental in my spiritual growth as we met together to pray





# WHEN WE COME TO SERVE, HELP AND ADD VALUE TO OTHERS WITH A CHRIST-FOCUS, WE ARE DOING IT AS UNTO THE LORD.

and share the Word of God. Their presence meant a lot to me then. When we all grew older, we grew apart. Why? We began to see faults in one another. Prayers are needed for God's power to deliver us from such things.

Acts 1:14 (NKJV)

*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV)

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

The early church had opportunities for criticism of leaders and one another in the church (Acts 6 and 8). 'We will give ourselves to prayer and the word and thy money perish with you'. If we keep talking down about one another, we stop learning from the leaders.

1 Peter 3:8-12 (NKJV)

*[Called to Blessing] Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

1 Corinthians 14:20 (AMPC)

*Brethren, do not be children [immature] in your thinking; continue to be babes in [matters of] evil, but in your minds be mature [men].*

## Release of God's Power

Apostolic praying releases God's power to fulfil the expectations of God for His kingdom's expansion and its impact on the earth. God has His plans and purposes but not without the role of mankind in cooperation with Him for His will to be done on earth: faith is involved, knowledge of the responsibility, power, as well as the channels through which God's power flows. All types of prayers were made, as well as obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The apostolic people overcame fears, possible doubts, and any anxiety they found rising up in their hearts.

Acts 4:23-31 (NKJV)

*[Prayer for Boldness] And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant*

*David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

Acts 5:12 (NKJV)

*[Continuing Power in the Church] And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.*

We have been affected by tongue work, criticism of one another, the church structures and leadership. We operate in a spiritual climate of none commitment to God and the things related to His kingdom and operations on earth. We also operate in a non-covenantal mind-set. So loyalty is absent. Some have carried the mind-sets generated by the climate into the church. So they criticise people and don't think anything wrong with it.

We need to repent and renounce such actions and move on to what God has for us. Many people's passion for God in the church has been affected by tongue work.

We must let God's Word confront the state of our hearts and practices especially with our tongues.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NKJV)

*[Meditate on These Things] Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Stop speaking whatever does not build others up!

Kingdom values include putting God first, not our convenience. It includes not majoring on the faults of others, but how the kingdom can advance, touching more lives, and inspiring them to live for God. God is able to make His servants stand. Applying the Word and commitment to prayer form the bedrock for the kingdom of God.

Romans 14:4-10 (NKJV)

*Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one*



day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Effective prayers that produce results require: the Word of God; the Name of Jesus; the power and influence of The Holy Spirit; our faith, which works by love; our persistence; and our expectations.

Prayers are meant to be opportunities to fellowship with the Father God, to know His plans and position ourselves to overcome temptation and fulfil the will of the God. There are different types of prayers: praises and giving of thanks, supplication, as well as intercession. Praying in the Spirit is one sure way to walk in the overflow.

Cornelius is an example of a man in the scriptures who moved heaven on his behalf by his activities surrounding his prayer life.

Acts 10:1-8 (NKV)

[Cornelius Sends a Delegation] *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.*

Praying, fasting and giving are things we engage in as we steward the presence, power and the purposes of God in the earth. When Jesus talked about this in the book of Mathew, He majored on the rightness of our motives in all three activities of praying, fasting and giving.

**MANY PEOPLE'S PASSION FOR  
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HEARTS...**

Matthew 6:2-6 (NKJV)

*Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

[The Model Prayer] *"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

Matthew 6:16-17 (NKJV)

[Fasting to Be Seen Only by God] *"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face...*

Praise is a type of prayer. It is powerful! God is enthroned in the praises of Israel.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Psalms 22:3-5 (NKJV)

*But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.*

2 Chronicles 20:20-24 (NKJV)

*So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they*



*were defeated. For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.*

Praying in the Spirit or praying in tongues:

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (NKJV)

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

*For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Coming of the Holy Spirit

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:15-21 (NKJV)

*For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My men-servants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'*

### Going for the Overflow

Hunger must be stirred up through receiving more of God's Word and spending more time in prayer. Satan likes to direct our hunger towards natural things so that we have more faith in our connection than in God's power. We must hunger for more of God's power in our lives.

Getting rid of the carnality by the help of the Holy Spirit:

- Step up in faith with confidence and boldness
- Speak and make the heart and mouth connection
- See with eyes of faith

Keep your eyes on the Word of God. Stay focused:

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NKJV)

*My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my*

*sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.*

We have looked at the principles of apostolic praying, the patterns, the elements and types of such prayers as well as how to apply these into our daily praying. We also looked at some hindrances to prayers.

We pray based on the covenant Word of God; we pray in the name of Jesus, we pray knowing we have a Father who cares. We must exercise our faith when we pray. It's not enough to say words; they must come from the place of faith in our hearts. Meditation and study can help build faith in the Word. We must know the place of the will of others when we are standing in agreement for or with them. There are different types of prayers including: the prayer to change things; the prayer of thanksgiving and praise as we minister to the Lord; and the prayer of commitment as we cast our cares on the Lord. Praying in the Spirit or praying in tongues can be a part of almost all types of prayers. Praying for others includes intercessory prayers. We can give thanks for others. Then we have prayer of agreement too: this when we pray with others as we have agreed for something to come to pass.

God bless you

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

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# PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT IS ONE SURE WAY TO WALK IN THE OVERFLOW.



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# OVERCOMING FEAR

*I used to struggle with intense anxiety and fear from a very young age. I do not seem to remember what traumatic experience in my childhood triggered these overwhelming feelings; however I know that over the years I had allowed them to rule over me.*

*Ever since I was a child, I was unable to sleep alone in the dark. Either someone would sleep in the same room with me (often that meant in the same bed also) or a night light would be left on to ensure I didn't feel alone in the dark. It had become the "norm" for me and for members of my family. Nobody ever challenged it, myself included. This carried on even as I grew older and got to know Jesus for myself in my late teens. In fact, it worsened over the years. I felt constant fear and intense anxiety every time I was left alone in the dark or sometimes alone in a room/house even in broad daylight! I was persuaded that there was something/someone else in the room - a dark force or some sort of evil spirit.*

*Everything I knew God to be: comforter, protector, carer, etc., would at that moment completely disappear! I felt alone, vulnerable and hopeless.*

*How could I stand in front of others, singing and ministering about God's love, strength and power, yet struggle to cope with fear and anxiety? I honestly didn't think that I didn't believe in God's ability to set me free; **I simply didn't know how to go about it - not until my husband and I started to attend Harvestime Church. This was where we began to be taught by Reverend Kola and Pastor Funke Ewuosho on how to put the Word of God into practice, in day-to-day living.***

*Last year (2018), the fear and anxiety had taken a turn for the worse. After a short trip to Paris to attend a family meeting, an unfortunate family feud developed. Whilst it didn't directly involve me, it certainly affected me. Upon my return to the U.K, the fear had intensified and I felt highly stressed which led to insomnia for weeks. The feeling of fear had now manifested physically and I could not properly function at work due to the lack of sleep. I could no longer be left alone in any room in my home. I would often wait for my husband to come home from men's prayer meetings at church before attempting to go to sleep. This period coincided with a 3-day prayer and fasting program at church. Although exhausted from my lack of sleep, I attended 2-3 days. On one of the days, my mum had requested that we pray together as she was aware of my sleepless nights. It was during the last day of the program at church that Pastor Funke reiterated the importance of staying committed to God's Word. On a number of occasions, she had previously emphasised this point. In other words, it wasn't the first time I had heard Pastor Funke instruct us to stay committed to God's Word, but because my spirit was so desperate for help, it was a new revelation. I could do something about my situation, it didn't have to be this way. As I child of God, I could apply His Word. Despite how I felt, I could choose to remain committed to God's Word. I felt so encouraged that evening! That very same night, I slept throughout the night without any issues, believing and choosing to stay committed to God's Word that He would never leave me or forsaken me (Hebrews 13:5); that the Lord is my light and salvation whom shall I fear (Psalm 27: 1); that I should not fear, for He is with me (Isaiah 41:10); and that I rested under His shadow (Psalm 91). This was the start of my deliverance, the understanding that I could apply God's Word in my situation.*

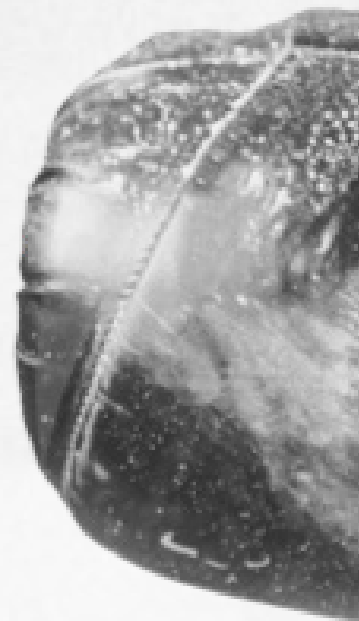
*I am extremely grateful to God for the life of Pastor Funke. Grateful for the example she is to so many young women like myself. Her boldness, understanding of God's Word and integrity are simply inspiring.*

**JESSICA ZISHIRI**





# THE OVER- COMER LIFESTYLE



## REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

**T**he first thing to establish in your heart and mind is that you are already an overcomer- you aren't trying to be one, and you shouldn't be trying to be one! We are told, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5). Also, we belong to God; and the One who lives in us (i.e. Christ) is greater, mightier and stronger, than he (i.e. Satan) who is in the world. (1 John 4:4). Jesus said we should be of good cheer- take courage, be confident, certain, and undaunted, because He has overcome and conquered the world for us; i.e. He has deprived it of power to harm us! (John.16:33). Satan is called the 'god of this world', but we are no more under his grip or control because we are now in Christ Jesus! "We know that we are held firm by God; it's only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the Evil One." (1 John 5:19c MSG). The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ; and we have redemption and forgiveness of sins, through His blood. (Col.1:13-14). We've overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb- Jesus Christ (Rev.12:11a); and are meant to reign in life through Him! (Rom.5:17). It's therefore the time to "ARISE from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you--rise to a new life! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" (Isaiah60:1 AMP)

Lifestyle can be defined as 'the way in which a person lives'; i.e. your way or manner of life, rather than what you do every now and then, or short term. For instance, you could decide to have a healthy lifestyle; or just get into a short-term slimming program to look good for an upcoming event! Your lifestyle is also typically a reflection of your attitudes, values, or world view.

In this article, we shall be looking at some characteristics of an overcomer's lifestyle.

### 1. Faith


Faith is the victory that has already overcome the world; so the lifestyle of faith is a must for every overcomer! Faith isn't a 'panic button' you suddenly press, when you're in danger or distress. It's meant to be a lifestyle- "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17c). Hence, the apostle Paul said, "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God," (Gal. 2:20b NIV). Someone said, faith isn't faith until it affects your daily walk, speech, and how true; "For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief." (2 Cor. 5:7 AMP)

Living by faith is living by your conviction and belief in what God says; rather than by what you see, hear, feel or perceive by your natural senses. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Heb. 11:1 NIV). For instance, Abraham didn't consider the deadness of his body or of Sarah's womb. Rather, he considered God's promise to him- hoping against (natural) hope; and indeed became the father of many nations.

It's however, not enough to have faith in your heart. It must also be released- a. through your words; the spirit of faith is speaking what one believes. (2 Cor. 4:13). The woman with the issue of blood, "kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health." (Mark 5:28 AMP). Jesus taught His disciples to speak to mountains; and said they shall have what they say, if they believe.

And b, through actions: Jesus 'saw' the faith of the four friends, who broke through the roof of the building to bring their paralysed friend to be healed. (Mark 2:2-5).





**LIVING BY FAITH IS LIVING  
BY YOUR CONVICTION AND  
BELIEF IN WHAT GOD SAYS;  
RATHER THAN BY WHAT YOU  
SEE, HEAR, FEEL...**

## 2. **Living by the Word of God**

‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matt. 4:4c)

The Bible is not a religious Book; it contains the Word of God. God’s thoughts, will, plans, purposes, ways, etc are revealed in His Word. God’s thoughts and ways are different to ours and also higher than ours. (Isaiah. 55:8-9).

God’s Word is also a manual for living our lives here on earth. Living by His Word is patterning our lives thereafter and making it the final authority in our lives- by asking ourselves, “what does the Word say?”, and doing it despite our feelings, opinions, convenience, etc. For instance, during the Temptation, Jesus repeatedly replied to the devil, “it is written...”. Living by the Word is having a ‘Word of God-Orientation’: always asking ourselves- ‘is this in line with the Word?’ It is judging our thoughts, words, actions, attitudes and behaviour by the Word. It’s also about judging our experiences by the Word. Someone said, any vision, dream, experience, opinion, belief-system, etc, that is not in line with the Word, should be disregarded! We must, however, also beware not to embrace the letter of the Word, but the spirit of it; because the letter kills! Remember, the devil also said to Jesus, “For it is written” (Matt. 4:6b).

## 3. **Fellowship with God**

The Bible says “our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ”. (1 John 1:3c). We must cultivate a lifestyle of fellowship with God through three major means: worship, prayers and the Word.

i. Prayers: fellowshiping with God in prayers is communing with Him. Many Christians only pray when they have challenges- even then, as a last resort! The Church in the Book of Acts continued steadfastly in prayers and they observed ‘hours of prayer’.

There are different kinds of prayers but we need to bring back the emphasis on daily devotional prayers. Also, I would recommend using the ‘Lord’s Prayer’ as a pattern, in the light of our New Testament reality. I’ve found it very comprehensive; it covers all vital areas including: worship, provision, forgiveness and protection (Matt. 6:9-13).

ii. Worship (which by implication, is also a type of prayer!). It’s also important to mention that- a, there are different dimensions of worship; b, worship must be in spirit and in truth (John. 4:24); and c, it’s done in faith (Heb. 11:6).


iii. The Word. Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God. We must therefore attend to God’s Word, by meditating in it ‘day and night’. By so doing: a. we prosper in all our ways (Josh. 1:8; Psalm.1:1-3); b. “they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh” (Prov. 4:22); we draw so much spiritual strength (1 John 2:14b).

“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” (Isa. 40:31).

Another aspect of fellowship we must have as a lifestyle is fellowship with other believers, just like the early church! There has never been a time as needful to heed the exhortation- “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near”. (Heb. 10:24-25 NLT).

## 4. **Being Care-free, Anxiety-Free and Worry-free**

“Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He



**THERE ARE MANY THINGS AROUND  
YOU CALLING FOR YOUR ATTENTION,  
BUT YOU MUST REMAIN FOCUSED ON  
YOUR COURSE OR ELSE YOU WON'T  
FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!**

cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.” (1 Peter 5:7 AMP).

The Bible gives us a simple recipe for peace; it’s been anxious about nothing, but praying about everything- with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7). Someone said, thanksgiving is the highest form of prayer! I believe it’s also because it’s a demonstration of our faith that God has heard us, and that we shall have what we’ve asked for in prayer; like when Jesus gave thanks at Lazarus’ tomb.

Casting our cares on the Lord is an act and stance of faith that God will take care of things; and we enter into God’s rest concerning the matter (Heb. 4:3a). In that state, we’re no longer worried or anxious about, or afraid of, anything or any circumstance. Imagine Peter in prison, the night before Herod was to bring him to trial, between two soldiers, bound with two chains and sentries stood guard at the entrance; yet sleeping! (Acts 12:6).

It is a state of peace. Peace is- a. a shield that protects our heart and mind (Philippians 4:7); b. a force that stills the raging storm (Mark 4:39); and c. a weapon against the enemy (Rom. 16:20). Peace is that powerful, because it’s a component of God’s Kingdom! (Rom. 14:17).

God always brings a message of cheer, no matter how terrible a situation is. Jesus said,

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). If we would, therefore, pay attention to His words rather than to what’s going on in the world, we would maintain our peace. “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.” (Prov. 12:25).

#### **5. Guarding your Thoughts**

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (Philippians 4:8 NLT). The mind can be a great battlefield; the enemy is constantly throwing thoughts like darts, at our mind. He wants us to accept those things so he can make them a reality in our lives; you eventually become what you think! In his discourse about our warfare, Paul talked about strongholds,

arguments and high things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity (2 Cor. 10:4-5); and they’re all notably in the realm of the mind!

You must constantly challenge your thoughts- where are they coming from? Will they produce something positive or negative if acted upon? Are they in line with God’s Word? Etc. Naaman was so close to his miracle but was going to walk away from it, after coming all the way from his home because of his thinking! He said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. (2 Kings 5:11c NIV)

Your thinking can make or mar you; it can be your uplifting or downfall in life; it can make you rich or poor; it can keep you alive or kill you. So choose your thoughts carefully.

#### **6. Keeping your Tongue from Speaking Evil and Negativity**

For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit” (1 Peter 3:10).

Remember, the ten spies were reported to have brought an evil report when they brought a report of doubt, fear and unbelief. The report totally contradicted what God had said! God said He will do to them just as they have spoken- they all died in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb. (Num. 14:28-30). Truly, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Prov. 18:21).

#### **7. Walking in Love**

Faith works (i.e. is activated, energized and expressed) through love. (Galatians 5:6c AMP).

Jesus said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25-26).

Offence can hinder the prayer of agreement between believers from working. (Matt. 18:15-19). Husbands are told to treat their wives right, so their prayers may not be



hindered! (1 Peter 3:7). Offence can hinder our gifts from being acceptable by God. (Matthew 5:23-24). One wonders if that had anything to do with why God rejected Cain and his offering?

Love's characteristics are spelt out in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Love is depicted as a debt; "Owe nothing to anyone— except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law." (Rom. 13:8,10 NLT). This is very much in line with Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18.

#### 8. **Guarding Your Heart**

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23)

Note that it is primarily our responsibility to keep our heart, and the ensuing verses seem to instruct us as to how to.

"Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil." (NLT). These verses also highlight what seem to be the 'gates' to the heart, namely, i. the mouth gate; ii. the ear gate; iii. the eye gate; and iv. your feet!

#### 9. **Being Focused**

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1c-2).

There are many things around you calling for your attention, but you must remain focused on your course or else you won't finish what you started! In the parable of the sower, the seeds that fell among the thorns represented those who allowed the cares of this world among other things, to choke the Word, so THEY became unfruitful! (Matt. 13:22).

Abraham was able to become the father of many nations, because he focused on God's promises and not on his body or Sarah's. (Rom. 4:18c-21). The Psalmist said, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8 NIV).

#### 10. **Thanksgiving and Praise**

"Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments". (Psalm 119:164).

The Bible says we should give thanks in all things and not just in good things. "Thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 MSG). This brings the mind the story of Paul and Silas in prison; they were in the most painful and uncomfortable situation yet they prayed and sang praises. And "suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." (Acts 16:22-26). God inhabits and reigns in our praises (Psalm 22:3). It seemed Jehoshaphat understood this when he appointed singers ahead of the army; and as they began to sing and give praise God caused their enemies to turn against themselves and they were defeated. (2 Chron. 20:21-23).

#### 11. **Being Spirit-led and Spirit-controlled**

"But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit];" (Gal.5:16 AMP).

The desires or dictates of the Spirit are just the opposite of those of the carnal nature; and if we live only to satisfy our own sinful nature we will reap decay, deterioration, destruction and death in different areas of our lives. (Gal. 6:8)

Daily we are faced with decisions to either yield to the Spirit of God who lives in us or to our flesh; the more we yield to the leadings and prompting of the Spirit, the more we mature spiritually! (Rom. 8:14). This explains why many Christians, though having been long saved, have remained spiritual babes. Paul told the Corinthians, "Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ." 1 Cor.3:1 NIV).

The Spirit of God will always lead us in line with God's Word—not contrary to or away from it! He is the Spirit of Truth, and He will always guide us accordingly. He is also teaches us and helps us to do what the Word says.

#### 12. **Warfare**

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith," (1 Peter 5:8-9a). The devil is already on the loose but we must learn to stop him and hinder his operations in our own lives. He has been likened to a roaring lion. In addition to his strategy of sending fear into the heart of its prey, is also the surprise element to his attacks! Jesus told His disciples to watch and pray, so that they may not fall into temptation "without knowing it" because of the weakness of the flesh. (Mark 14:38 MSG).

The lifestyle of warfare is characterised by watchfulness and prayerfulness. In the parable of the Wheat and Tares Jesus said that while men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. (Matt. 13:24-25). Herod had killed the apostle James, and then took Peter to also kill him; Peter was therefore kept in prison, "but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church." Their prayers made the difference in Peter's case, as he was miraculously released from the prison!

We mustn't leave to chance or to the devil; we are admonished to pray without ceasing, and to watch in prayers. (Eph. 6:18;1 Thessalonians 5:17).

#### 13. **Joy and Rejoicing**

"Be happy [in your faith] and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always);" (1 Thessalonians 5:16 AMP). The MSG Bible says, "Be cheerful no matter what". Jesus told His disciples to rejoice even when unjustly persecuted and falsely accused! (Matt. 5:11-12). And they did exactly that, after they were beaten for preaching in the name of Jesus they left, "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." (Acts 5:41c).

The secret to maintaining one's joy- no matter what is to always recall the words of the Lord in the face of the challenges and circumstances. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11).

The enemy attacks our joy, because he knows that if he can't steal our joy, he can't keep our goods! He knows he can't keep us sick, poor or down for long. The Amalekites raided David and his men, they went away with all their families and properties; but they were able to recover all; because David decided to encourage himself in the Lord His God.

The joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh. 8:10c). Jesus for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame. The devil also attacks our joy, because he knows that joy is a component of the Kingdom of God (Rom.14:17); and he will not be able to prevail against us, if we would maintain the joy



of the Lord not matter what. The Kingdom of God rules over all (Psa.103:19); so one way to stay on top of your challenges and circumstances is to learn to maintain His joy in your life. Avoid murmuring and complaining, rather rejoice and be cheerful no matter what! I always say, 'I have NOTHING to complain about, but EVERYTHING to be thankful about!'

#### 14. Giving and Doing Good

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:9-10).

This isn't what we do when we feel like, but what we commit to- whether it's convenient or not! In the story of 'The Good Samaritan', the Priest and the Levite walked past the dying man; probably because it wasn't a convenient time for them to stop and attend to him. That was an opportunity for them right there to do good; but they didn't take it! The Bible says, "Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." (Heb. 13:1-2).

We don't do good to only to those we like or to those who can pay us back. Jesus said we wouldn't be acting different to the unbelievers if we did that, and there will be no reward from God for that. (Matt. 5:43-48). We should do good as long as it's within our power to do it, and be prompt about it! (Prov. 3:27-28).

The Bible gives us the 'rules' for giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7: a, give bountifully not sparingly; b, give willingly not reluctantly or under pressure; and c, give cheerfully. Ananias must have come under the pressure to give like others but he didn't have it in his heart to give everything so he decided to lie that he gave all the proceeds from the sale of his land. And Peter said to him, "The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" (Acts 5:4 NLT).

#### 15. Diligence and Hard Work

Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. (Prov. 22:29).

Being diligent is more than being hard working; but also being careful, putting in a lot of effort, paying attention to details, being persistent and persevering, and being determined to accomplish something. A diligent worker doesn't just bang away at the job; they earnestly try to do everything right! The word comes from the Latin 'diligere', which means "to value highly, take delight in".

Joseph was a classic example of a diligent person; and he literally ended up standing before a king- king Pharaoh! "Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Gen. 41:46a).

Joseph was diligent when his father sent him to go check on his brothers in Shechem. When he didn't find them there, he kept lookout for them until he found them in Dothan. (Gen. 37:12-17).

Joseph was diligent as a slave in Potiphar's house and was successful in all he did; and when his master saw that, he promoted Joseph to be overseer of his house and put him in charge of everything he had! (Gen.39:2-6). He was unjustly thrown in prison when Potiphar's wife lied against him; but that didn't break his spirit- Joseph remained diligent. Again in prison, he was put in charge of the prison and all the other prisoners! (Gen. 39:19-23). "Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave." (Prov. 12:24 NLT). The life of Joseph also shows us the connection between diligence and favour; because he was diligent in his duties,

God always gave him favour with his masters.

The Bible says, "A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman- who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls." (Prov. 31:10 AMP). No one can stop you or keep you down, nor can anyone take the credit for what you do, if you remain diligent in what you do. The Bible says God isn't unjust to forget your labour of love. Remain diligent and keep working hard; it's only going to be a matter of time and you shall be celebrated. "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." (Prov.31:31 NIV).

#### 16. Never Giving Up

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1 NIV). Winners don't quit, and quitters don't win! Remember, Christ has already won the victory for you on the cross, and He is at the right hand of the Father interceding for you. You have the Helper- the Holy Spirit with you and in you and you have angels- ministering spirits, sent to serve you. You're also surrounded by a cloud of witnesses cheering you on as you run the race set before you. You have the Word of God and you have the company of believers! The Syrophenician woman didn't give up; Blind Bartimaeus cried out louder when he was told to keep quiet; the woman with the issue of blood pressed through the crowd to touch the hem of His gown; Jairus believed, even after he was told her daughter was dead; and the friends of the paralytic didn't give up when there was no room to come in through the door to where Jesus was. The list of the 'crowd of witnesses' is endless; so don't ever give up!

God bless you  
Rev. Funke Ewuosho

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# FROM THE DESK OF NANS

## (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS)

*Award presented March 2019*

### REV. (MRS) FUNKE Ewuosho

ON HER INVESTITURE FOR 2019 LEADERSHIP AWARD AS ICON OF PEACE AND UNITY



In our attempt to meet the yearnings and of our dear youth, we have laid down yardsticks of scrutiny and we are able to identify outstanding personalities, whom have distinguished themselves in service to humanity and educational development in the country at large.

I am delighted to present our 2019 candidate Rev. Funke Ewuosho for the leadership award. Our recipient was selected on the basis of our discreet criteria to search and identify persons of outstanding leadership qualities, who have distinguished him/herself in public and private service for the growth and development of our country. Rev. Mrs. Funke Ewuosho, has performed extraordinarily in the service of people and humanity in general.

MA, it is interesting to know your mandate in providing good administrative sphere in your community, including: Provision and Maintenance of Peace Building, Unity, Youth Empowerment, Educational Development, Social and Technological Developments, pursuing excellence through innovation, and support of Nigerian Youth. These are qualities that if all leaders in Nigerian possess will promote National upliftment.

Rev. Funke Ewuosho is a brilliant woman of prodigious pedigree with very tall credentials and still growing, she made waves all over the education sector. She is widely read, highly principled, morally balanced and socially interesting. Her profile speaks volume and sound like an unedited script of a born achiever. She could be described as an intellectual colossus divinely inspired to redeem mankind from the bondage of ignorance and illiteracy.

Rev (Mrs.) Funke Ewuosho born to Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Oyeбанjo and Victoria Shodeke on the 12th June 1963 in the ancient city of Ibadan, Oyo State.

Her primary education was at Christ Church Cathedral primary school Broad St, Lagos. From 1974-9 she went on to Yejide Girls Grammar School Ibadan for her secondary education. A levels was at Federal Government College Odogbolu from 1979- 81. From 1981-84 she was in UI (University of Ibadan) where she finished her LLB Law and was called to Bar in 1985. She went on for her Youth Service in Owerri, Imo State Nigeria, her primary assignment was with the Nigerian Legal Aid Counsel -1985/6. Thereafter she started worked briefly with a private Law Firm in Lagos before joining Ogun state Ministry of Justice Abeokuta as a state counsel from 1986-88. From 1988 -89 she worked with J. B Majiyagbe law firm in Kano.

Since 1989 she has been in full-time ministry with the Fountain of wisdom ministries and Word of Faith Christian Centre churches as a Senior Pastor. She has been involved across different Nations and Nationalities in leadership trainings and Development, life coaching and mentoring. She is also the president of the Restoring True Womanhood Foundation committed to Raising women in different walks of life to achieve their full potential.

She has authored a number of books including *Determining your due season* and *Golden Nuggets for Successful Living*. She has been married to Rev Kola Ewuosho since October 1988 and are both blessed with 3 adult children.

Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine.

It is on this basis, that I stand before you today to humbly and respectfully present to you an ICON OF PEACE AND UNITY of the year in person of a consummate administrative sociologist, erudite scholar, educational psychologist, inspirational mother and a stimulator of human growth.

Women of genius are admired, Women of wealth are envied, women of power are feared but only women of character like her are trusted. Our Mother standing before us represents a rare class of women with strong will to combine both vision and courage. She is an incomparable inspirational and dogged fighter; Ma you are a rally point for our generation and a walking encyclopedia to Nigeria.

Rev. Funke Ewuosho is a Nigerian who has what it takes to promote society to a glorious height therefore we would call her an ambassador of peace. Your peculiar accomplishment is an extra-ordinary challenge to your peers, motivation to Youth and also a beacon of hope for the upcoming generation. These sterling qualities are so rare in our intellectual clime these days which form the fulcrum of today's recognition.

Ma, your remarkable achievement especially in the area of administrative deliverance, human empowerment, educational development, peace building and effective dialogue, speaks volume of you and are all there for prosperity to see and verify.

Today students and youth are following your footpath so as to overcome personal circumstance to be able to compete and excel in a global system where knowledge is prized. I hope you will continue to serve humanity in your usual magnanimity, it is said that men who aspire to acquire a desire never retire but they re-fire until the achieved that ultimate desire. More awards more rewards will continue to pour your way like a water tide.

It's my pleasure to pronounce your confirmation of award as ICON OF PEACE AND UNITY in recognition of your service to humanity and a symbol of hope to students and youth, accept our congratulations Ma.

Aluta continua

God bless Nigeria.....!!!!



9



# TESTIMONY

I am so grateful to share with you what a faithful God we serve, and He is indeed the source of every good thing we have received. This is my 11th year attending Harvestime church in Virginia Water, the UK installation of FOWM. When I think about how much God has done in my life, my heart is full of thanksgiving and praises.

Every year, the Restoring True Womanhood (RTW) International Conference, takes place in Kano, Nigeria, where God first called Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke Ewuosho to birth FOWM. **I was so blessed and honoured to attend this year's RTW Conference, to see how faithful God is and to experience Word of Faith Christian Centre (WOFCC) in Kano**, for the first time. God has been so good to me. I received so many blessings during this conference. I have learnt that nothing can separate us from the love of God; that means nothing can stop us from being more than conquerors! Rev Kola shared on Romans 8:37 and encouraged us to live out a lifestyle full of love, joy and faith. I also learnt so much by Rev Funke's teachings. She shared on 'The Effective Prayer of the Righteous'; our prayers are effective, prevailing, and influential! I was stirred up to be courageous to see God's glory in every area of my life. It was so amazing to see and hear of so many women's lives transformed through the ministry. I'm so inspired by the brothers and sisters in WOFCC: their faith, commitment and genuine love for God, and for His people.

**I want to specially thank God for Rev. Funke and all my dear sisters in the Lord who helped me to plan and prepare for my trip to Nigeria.** Without their care and time, my trip would not be enjoyable, or even possible. Thank you all so much and may God bless you abundantly.

Julie (UK)



# PROVEN RECIPE FOR *happiness*

BY REV. FUNKE Ewuosho

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## Here's my happiness recipe:

i. Focus on doing what gives you a sense of worth in life. Life rewards us according to our contributions, and people will remember us for the impact we made; so be bold to make your contributions.

*Gideon-* Judges 6:12-14

"O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about" (v 13)

*David-* 1 Samuel 17:26-30

"What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?" (v 26)

Don't be afraid of making mistakes; of being criticised or ridiculed; of being misunderstood, misjudged and wrongly accused; and of being rejected; or of being alone; but still go ahead and make your contributions. God hasn't given you the spirit of fear! 2 Tim. 1:6-7

Have a vision for your life! Proverbs 29:18c

Be a doer of the Word; so you don't forget who you are! James 1:22-25

ii. Focus on doing what you enjoy.

God gives us richly all things to enjoy- 1 Tim. 6:17

Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22a

Paul said, "always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy," Philippians 1:3-5

*Leadership-* "Let them do so with joy and not with grief..." Hebrews 13:17

*Giving-* "not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7

*Service-* Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Ps. 100:2 (Deuteronomy 28:47,48).

The joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh 8:10c

iii. Focus on doing what gives you inner peace.

"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]" Colossians 3:15 AMP.

"and the peace of God....will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

Peace also means wholeness (MSG); you need to be whole! Avoid what makes you lose your peace and joy.

"Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men." Romans 14:16-18

# HAPPINESS RECIPE:

## How can I be truly happy?

1. Know God for yourself- cultivate a personal relationship with God. Happiness starts with knowing the Lord.

a. Be secure in God; and in your Relationship with HIM! You're a new creation. Your sins and past are forgiven and no more held against you. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

b. Have the right focus

Jesus had the right focus- Hebrews 12:1-3

c. Have the right priorities. The right focus usually leads to the right priorities.

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 Tim. 2:4

2. Be secure in who you are. Accept yourself!

Be yourself! Don't try to be who you're not. You're WHO God says you are. You HAVE what God says you have. You can DO what God says you can. You can do ALL things through Christ.

Also read Philippians 3:13.

3. Make up your mind to be a happy person.

Being happy is a choice; it doesn't depend on other people or the circumstances of your life- though they can contribute to your happiness!

Don't force-fit anything

"Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matt. 11:29-30 MSG

iv. Create Your own environment- the physical, emotional and psychological space around you. You can CREATE an environment within an environment- in the world but not of the world! (John 17:14-15).

The children of Israel in the wilderness-

"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night." Exodus 13:21

"It's the usually the most flexible and adaptable that survive- NOT necessarily the strongest." Create an environment of hope, motivation and drive. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works (Heb 10:24 NLT).

v. Have the RIGHT relationships around you. "Walk with the wise and become wise" (Prov 13:20b NIV). Have people who genuinely love you and are committed to your welfare and destiny- mentors, destiny helpers, sounding boards, etc. "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety". Proverbs 11:14 (15:24; 24:6). Have friends who you can draw spiritual and emotional strength from! "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend". Proverbs 27:17 NLT

iv. Sow seeds of happiness and goodness in the lives of others. "So then, whatever you desire that others would do to and for you, even so do also to and for them" Matthew 7:12a AMP Galatians 6:9-10

vii. You can LEARN Happiness! Philippians 4:11-13

By Rev. Funke Ewuosho



# THE Daniel GENERATION

Editor, Keji Ewuosho, interviewed NGO founder, Jennifer Okoliko on her journey to impacting women in Northern Nigeria.

## ***Briefly introduce yourself to us:***

My name is Jennifer Agunloye Okoliko and I'm the founder of the Girls Should Thrive Initiative (GiST) and the lead consultant at Tagit Global. I'm also a creative writer and I am passionate about social change through filmmaking.

## ***What was your first encounter with Fountain of Wisdom Ministries (FOWM) and can you tell us about your experience to date?***

My first encounter with FOWM was when I was about 8. I remember I came to Word of Faith Christian Centre (WOFCC) after my parents had visited one Sunday. The church was close to my house so usually in the evenings I'd run to church to play with my friends, most of whom were the Pastors' kids. I vividly remember one evening when Rev. Mom reprimanded me and other kids for playing during a church programme.

A Spotlight on Young People making a difference in their generation; they are sold out to God, they are bold and they are talented.

If you want to be featured in the next 'Daniel Generation' please email [office@uk.fowm.org](mailto:office@uk.fowm.org). Recipients must be between ages of 5 - 30 years old.

I immediately ran into church and found myself a seat. I think that marked the beginning of sitting in church for me!

From then on my experience has been phenomenal! It was almost as if my life was fast-forwarded. I joined the Drama department almost immediately and everyone noticed how gifted I was and began to give me responsibilities. A lot of times I felt that these responsibilities were beyond my abilities, but when I thought of the trust people had in me, it challenged and motivated me. Pastor Wole particularly began to mentor me in leadership. All of these put together have set me on the tangent which I now run on.

## ***Growing up in WOFCC in Kano, Nigeria, what things have you learnt that has helped get you to where you are now?***

I always say WOFCC was and is still my training ground. Everything I do today was based on my background of serving in church. It has taught me literally everything. I work as a screen writer and a filmmaker, and my first exposure to this training was as a member of the Wisdom Play House here in church. I carry out a lot of leadership trainings and it's all born out of messages I heard over time, and a leadership training class organised by Pastor Wole every Sunday morning. As a matter of fact he gave me one of my first platforms to speak. My legs were shaking so badly that I almost collapsed but it was a ground breaking moment for me.

I want to categorically say that I most likely wouldn't be doing what I do today if it wasn't for FOWM and WOFCC. My experience has been mind-blowing.

JENNIFER OKOLIKO







***You started GiST, a wonderful Non-Governmental Organisation that supports and empowers under-privileged communities in Northern Nigeria. What inspired you to start this initiative?***

I started GiST because I wanted to take what I had been blessed with to other girls who may never attend church. One thing growing up in church taught me was that everyone has so much potential to be all that God has called them to be. But I saw that so many girls were settling for far less, mainly because no one was telling them they can be more. I wish I could bring everyone to church so they can hear these things, but most are reluctant- especially those who belong to a different faith. So I decided that if I can't bring them to the message I might as well take the message to them. GiST is basically my way of sharing the gospel by connecting with them. I believe that regardless of religion, we are all called to a life of fulfilment and joy and I want to help as many people as I can discover that, starting with marginalised girls.

***Can you share a little bit about the March Against Hunger event that took place earlier in the year?***

March Against Hunger is an annual program that started three years ago. We started this program with a mission to address the challenges of hunger and poverty especially in hard-to-reach areas in Kano. We reach out to as many families as we can with a day's meal as well as enlightening them on options available for them to come out of poverty and improve their quality of living. We also teach the women skills with which they can start up their own businesses. This year we took it an extra mile by selecting some of our beneficiaries and creating a cooperative, which will not only serve as a means for them to start a business together which will be more sustainable, but also to serve as a safe space where they can talk about their challenges and seek the help they need.

I'd also love to point out that the ministry has also been a huge supporter of our vision, particularly Rev. Mom and the Restoring True Womanhood foundation - buttressing the fact that FOWM is truly a family.

***What can you share with young people who want to pursue their dreams?***

My advice is always simple; serve! Every service you offer is preparing you for your future in ways you can never imagine. Some of those requirements aren't pleasant. It requires a lot of discipline and sacrifices. Sometimes I was scolded repeatedly and felt underappreciated, but knowing I was doing it unto the Lord and that my reward would be from Him, took out every temptation to be offended. Look how it has turned out for me! Find a church where God has planted you and serve! Your dream/s will take shape as you do.



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