

WISDOM DIGEST

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WISDOM DIGEST

Wisdom Digest is published by the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries as a forum to share the ministry of Revs. 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 magazine is distributed freely and supported by partner contributions and donations.

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CONTENTS

4 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

REV. KOLA EWUOSHO

Correct foundations should be laid for every aspect of life. They should be laid on the Word of God's grace...

8 PARTNER'S TESTIMONY

STEPHEN & DAISY

Read about God's faithfulness in providing a suitable home...

11 DEVELOPING INNER STRENGTH

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

In these end times, we need to develop inner strength! A strong spirit will sustain us...

22 RECEIVING & MANIFESTING THE GRACE OF THE HOUSE

PASTOR APENTENG FREDUAH-AGYEMANG

When God plants you in a spiritual home, you can walk in the grace and blessings that come from there...

24 YOUR SENSE OF VALUE

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

A study snippet from Rev. Funke's message, 'Increasing Your Sense of Self Value'...

26 THE MIND & SELF CARE

WRITER'S DIGEST - MARK NZEI

"In my experience, I truly believe spiritual self-care is the key to surviving changing times..."

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heart to heart



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Vision Pictures

*a letter from
Revs. Kola & Funke Ewuosho*

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wisdom Digest!

Our prayer is that this publication will be one that will help you understand your role in participating with God for His will to be done in your life.

This edition includes teachings on 'Developing Inner Strength' (by Rev. Funke Ewuosho), and 'Leadership Development' (by Rev. Kola Ewuosho). You will also be inspired by the testimonies of what God is doing amongst the younger generation across the nations.

As you read this magazine, please let the Holy Spirit inspire you to take note of actions you need to take so you can experience the changes you need in your life. We need to participate with the Holy Spirit, who helps us to do our part. There are lessons to learn, changes to be made; our minds need renewal, and our habits need to reflect our desired goals. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the beginning and the end picture. We need to be conformed to His image in character and power.

So, we welcome you to read this magazine, which we believe will contribute to your understanding, and to the process of growing into Him. You can help share a copy with others as we spread the message across the nations of the earth (get in touch with us if you wish to receive more magazines).

Don't forget to visit our website, our social media platforms, and take full advantage of all we are offering. Help share them with family and friends!

God bless you and your families richly.

Jesus is Lord

Rev. Kola and Rev. Mrs. Funke Ewuosho

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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

BY REV. KOLA EWUOSHO

A proper spiritual foundation affects our attitudes, relationships, personal development and warfare...

Leadership development is vital to the fulfilment of destiny.

When God's purposes are fulfilled in our lives and we end up becoming all He had in mind for us to become, we are said to have fulfilled the destiny He has for us. This involves our development in various aspects of our lives, including our character (in becoming more like Christ), our knowledge of who God is, His plans and purposes for our lives, our knowledge of who we have become in Christ, and what potential has been invested in us.

Destiny has to do with maximising the potential God invested in you and living a life that fulfils the purposes for which you were put on earth. It also demands discovery, development and deployment of potential.

It involves process wherein you are being built up to fulfil the end results God has for you. God created us with loads of potential. Laziness, ignorance and carelessness can be avenues through which potential can be lost and destiny forfeited. God's Word reveals the potential He put in us at creation.

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."

LAYING THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

A proper spiritual foundation affects our attitudes, relationships, personal development and warfare. Foundations should be laid for every aspect of life. Correct foundations should be laid on the Word of God's grace.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NKJV)

Build on the Rock

(Ref. Luke 6:47-49)

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

We hear these sayings from scripture, but what has registered in our minds from our nurture, culture and nature all have the potential to prevent us from being built on the Word of God.

To be built on the rock is what enables the house to stand the rain, the floods and the winds. Surely they will come - trials, tests, misunderstandings and other things that can break down whatever is being built. Building on sand is building on human nature, human thoughts and the flesh.

To build on the rock implies a commitment to doing the Word of God. Doing the Word can be contrary to our feelings, thoughts, or what is convenient. That's why many are not built on the Word of God.

OUR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY

Our spiritual identity should be built on the Word. Every aspect of our lives should be built on the Word, including our personal plans and purposes. Marriage should be built on the Word.

Spiritual identity starts with one level of knowledge but doesn't end there. The need to keep building on new insights based on the Word is essential.

Continue on page 6.

RIGHT: Photo taken by Vision Pictures.

KINGDOM LEADERSHIP

REV. KOLA
Ewuosho



2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NKJV)

'For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.'

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.'

Mark 16:15-18 (NKJV)

'And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The foundation for marriage should be built on the Word: read Ephesians 5:20-33.

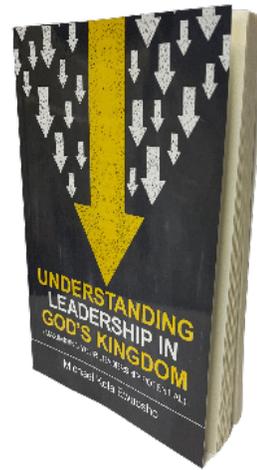
Our financial future should be built on the Word of God:

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.'

The foundation upon which you are built will and should determine your thoughts, lifestyle and expectations in life. Knowing God as your source is one fundamental issue when it comes to provisions. Your job or business is an avenue through which provision comes but God should remain your source.

Like any other provision by the finished work of Calvary, we need to not only believe, receive and appropriate, but get built upon the Word and cultivate a lifestyle of obedience, alignment and commitment.



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ATTITUDES OF HUMILITY, DILIGENCE AND SACRIFICE

Humility implies teachable-ness. God has so much to show, teach and enlighten us on but our disposition towards knowledge acquired can stop the process. Knowledge puffs up.

Diligence implies going the second mile, doing what ought to be done, not just what is required of us.

If we are going to pass our tests, sacrifices are involved. There are tests to pass for advancement in the journey to destiny to continue. How we interpret the circumstances in our lives will determine whether we understand our tests or not. Anything that will justify disobedience to God is a test failed.

Usually our attitudes are silently informed by our disposition to our circumstances in life. Through our nature, nurture and culture, we develop certain dispositions depending on what has informed our disposition, borne out of our interpretation of the things we have been through or we are going through right then.

If Joseph had interpreted his experiences in life as God deserting him, abandoning him to failure and suffering, he would not have had the attitude that we read about in the bible.

Read 1 Peter 5:5-10

Joseph's life exemplifies the attitudes found in 1 Peter 5. In Genesis 37, we see that He was diligent in obeying his father's instructions. He could have returned home saying, "I didn't see them where you said they were".

Genesis 37:14-17 (NKJV)

“Then he said to him, “Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, “What are you seeking?” So he said, “I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks.” And the man said, “They have departed from here, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.”

When David faced Goliath and said the Lord delivered him from the lion and the bear, what we don't see is that diligence and fearlessness were involved in going after a lion to deliver a sheep. Going home to tell his father about the lost sheep would have been good enough, given that the lion could kill him as well. David went beyond what was required of him. He now could use these experiences as a basis for his expectations from God.

1 Samuel 17:17-18 (NKJV)

“Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them.”

(Also read verses 32-37)

1 Samuel 17:32-37 (NKJV)

Joseph maintained a relationship of honour and obedience to his father, same with David, son of Jesse. See what level of sacrifices they were willing to make to fulfil God's will in their lives. David knew he could be killed. Joseph's sacrifices were observable when we see how he related to his new slave master, without losing his sense of identity, values and personal dignity.

Relationships are involved in the process; the tests and the outcomes of destinies. The first relationship should be with God himself. People God puts around us can be beneficiaries of what potential we carry.

Joseph's life is an example. Those related to him - such as his father, brothers and his master - were beneficiaries of his obedience.

Read Genesis 39:2-12 (NKJV)

This message is about leadership development under various subjects: understanding biblical stewardship, personal development as well as having a kingdom vision. This message also includes vital leadership transforming principles for the Body of Christ, for leaders, and for the marketplace as a whole. Leadership is a lifelong passion of Rev. Kola's, and this message will transform the way you think. It is a 'must-have' for anyone who wants to fulfil destiny, maximise their leadership potential and be the best they can be.

1 Samuel 17:26-27 (NKJV)

“Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” And the people answered him in this manner, saying, “So shall it be done for the man who kills him.”

Personal development is the goal where process is involved.

Process is what you go through when you come to terms with your values, the deposits made in you and what needs to be confronted, uprooted as well as crucified. It is what needs to be built into you for strength and focus to fulfil destiny. Through study you gain knowledge. Through applications you gain experience. In combining both, you gain personal growth or development.

Leadership development and personal development of your personal life habits lead you to live an excellent life of quality values based on God's kingdom. Values include integrity, transparency and accountability. Good habits include effective use of time and quality engagement of the mind for intelligent reasoning. You can learn about goal-setting, time management and cultivating a progressive mindset. How to plan your life around the work you need to do, then training yourself in the area of your gifts is vital to you fulfilling destiny. Talking, coaching, mentoring and training others for their potential to be developed are all part of the process you go through to fulfil destiny.

Luke 2:51-52 (NKJV)

Jesus Advances in Wisdom and Favor

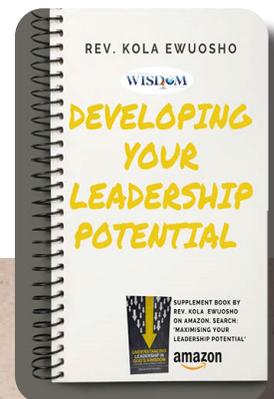
“Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Joseph must have developed his leadership potential when he served as a slave and as a prisoner; and by the time he was under Pharaoh his leadership skills had been developed.

I pray that you allow God to take you through process!

God bless you.

Rev. Kola Ewuosho



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FOWM PARTNER TESTIMONY

Stephen and Daisy Emer

We have been part of Harvestime Church since 2017/2018 and we really thank God for Revs. Kola and Funke Ewuosho, for faithfully teaching us the Word of God.

Last year, God blessed us with a set of twins and because of this, our family grew from five to seven people. This change meant that we needed to find a bigger home. We loved the neighbourhood we were in because it was close in proximity to Harvestime Church; and being so close is important for us because we serve in the church and we love our church family here!

In this country (UK) finding a home is quite tedious; in fact the thought of it was so overwhelming. Nonetheless, we had to begin our search for a home. We looked at almost all the homes that were available in the area, but we just couldn't find a home that we loved. The homes that were available had issues such as high costs, the number of rooms available, the expectations from landlords, etc.

One day, towards the end of the year, we informed Rev. Funke Ewuosho of our need to find a new home and she prayed for us. In her prayer, she spoke some prophetic words that really blessed us. We held on to those words and after about three weeks, we got a breakthrough. We found a home in the same area we were living in - near church, within our price bracket, with enough space for our family and we love it.

We thank God for His faithfulness!

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“...We held on to those words and after about three weeks, we got a breakthrough.”

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Dear Harvestime Church,

My name is Chantelle Williams and I was recently introduced to the church by a family friend. I have been watching your online services (from London) for about 4 weeks. I have to say, thank God for the anointed pastors and worship team. I pray that God blesses you all abundantly!

The preaching is inspiring and has touched my heart and soul in ways I cannot explain. I love how these empowering messages are delivered in such a simple, yet profound way. Know that these have been gratefully received.

I will now share my testimony with you...

On Sunday 6th December 2020, I attended online church and Rev. Kola was preaching about fulfilling your destiny and building the foundation of your life on solid ground - God's Word. The service was fantastic as usual.

I woke up with back pain that morning. I realised it wouldn't be wise to kneel during the prayers as it might aggravate it more. I didn't really want to sit down either as I wanted to show my respect for God. So I was adamant on standing up to pray. I did this up until around 45 minutes into the service. Once the back pain began to worsen, I decided it would be best to sit. Nonetheless, I still prayed in my chair.

During one of the prayer sessions, I decided to entirely repeat what the Rev. was saying, to show that I was in agreement with him. He mentioned something about healing. I repeated what he said and I kept on saying, 'by his stripes I am healed'. Lo and behold, not long after, the pain in my back left my body immediately. Praise the Lord! I was able to get back up, pray, worship and dance free of any pain. No doubt we serve a mighty God.

This is not the first time that I've experienced God's mercy and healing in my life. But those are stories for another day. I just wanted to share and encourage you all to continue the good work you are doing for the Kingdom of God.

Take care and God bless!

Chantelle (December 2020, UK)

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“We need inner strength,
not only to withstand in
the evil times, but also to
remain standing when it’s
all over (Eph. 6:13)!”

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

DEVELOPING INNER STRENGTH

BY REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

The times we're living in presently, can validly be called the end-times. The apostle Paul described those times, in 2 Timothy 3:1 (AMP) as, "perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]." There's therefore no time like now, that we would need to develop inner strength! We must understand that this isn't about brute force or having a strong will, but having a strong spirit. A strong spirit would, however, impact every other aspect of our lives. For instance, a believer who has developed a strong spirit, will also be strong in their will and emotions! Hence Paul prayed for the Ephesians, to be empowered by God, with inner strength through His Spirit (Eph. 3:14-16 NLT). We must also make it a point of utmost necessity, to pray the same for ourselves regularly.

Let's now look at some reasons why we should develop inner strength:

i. To rise above challenges:

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles," (Isaiah 40:31a). To mount up also means to soar; which is "to go above normal level or to coast through the air."

It isn't God's will or plan for His people to be overwhelmed or subdued by challenges; but to always be on top of them. The Bible says, "You shall laugh at destruction and famine, (Job 5:22a); and "When they make [you] low, you will say, [There is] a lifting up;" (Job 22:29a AMPC).

ii. For endurance:

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength **they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**" (Isaiah 40:31).

The race we've been called to participate in, as Christians, requires endurance; because it is a life-long race! We are told to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith; who endured the cross and such hostility from sinners (Hebrews 12:1-3). Jesus said it is those who endure to the end that shall be saved (Matthew 24:13)!

We need endurance when our faith is being tried and tested; so that our trials can produce the best in us and accomplish the best for us (James 1:2-4)! When we don't see immediate answers to our prayers, endurance is needed to stay on course, so that we may receive, in the end, what God has promised us (Hebrews 10:36). The Message Bible reads, "But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plan so you'll be there for the promised completion." Abraham obtained the promise, "after he had patiently endured." (Hebrews 6:15).

Jesus told a parable to the effect that people ought to pray, and not faint or lose heart or give up (Luke 18:1). After Elijah declared, "there is the sound of abundance of rain," he persisted in prayer until the cloud appeared (1 Kings 18:41-44)!

iii. To overcome adversity:

It has been said, "tough times don't last, but tough people do!" This is very much in line with the scriptures; "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" (Prov. 24:10). Times of adversity or crisis might not be avoidable, but you can avoid falling into pieces. According to the Message Bible, "If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place." Also, it doesn't matter how many times you fall, as long as you get up again- "for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again," (Prov. 24:16a NIV). We need inner strength, not only to withstand in the evil times; but also to remain standing when it's all over (Eph. 6:13)! ▶



The Amplified Bible says, “and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].” The times of sickness, is an example of evil or adverse times; and we’re told, “The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,” (Proverbs 18:14). We must remember that God made man in His image and after His likeness (Gen. 1:27); and since God is Spirit (John 4:24), man is also a spirit! Man is not a mind or a physical body; though he **has** a mind and a body. Proverbs 18:14 clearly separates the spirit from the body; the NLT says, “The human spirit can endure a sick body”. There has been instances where doctors had given up on a sick patient, only for them to survive the sickness- owing to a strong spirit. It takes more than ‘will power’ to conquer adversity; you need a healthy spirit! Therefore, we mustn’t develop our minds and our bodies, at the expense of our spirit.

iv. To endure and overcome testing and temptations: “God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12 NLT).

So much has been said about ‘overcoming’ to the point where many believers haven’t learnt to endure testing and temptations! We often hear words like, “if you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen”, but the Bible has a lot more to say about enduring temptations! The Bible says God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear; but will make way of escape, so “**that you may be able to bear it.**” (1 Cor. 10:12-13). Until I read this over and over again, I used to interpret ‘God making a way of escape’, to mean, ‘getting out of the situation!’ I then realised it actually says, “**that you may be able to bear it.**” Remember, love “bears all things” and “endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7). The Bible also says the trying of our faith works patience, and we should allow patience to finish its work (in us)- “So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.” (James 1:2-4). Imagine if Joseph had gotten out of the prison before Pharaoh sent for him? Faith isn’t just about receiving, but also refusing! Remember,

“Our hearts must have been established before the evil tidings come; or else we would be afraid!”

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,” (Hebrews 11:24); and some folks didn’t accept deliverance, “that they might obtain a better resurrection.” (Hebrews 11:35c). This, however, isn’t talking about accepting sickness or diseases, or what Christ has already borne for you and redeemed you from! Rather, you’re to resist the devil and to give him no room at all (James 4:7; Eph. 4:27).

Also, note it says that God won’t allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear or to “be pushed past your limit;” (1 Cor. 10:13 MSG). That tells me, firstly, there’s a divine ‘filter’ in heaven, and the enemy can’t just throw anything he wishes at us. Remember the temptation of Job; God repeatedly warned satan not to touch his life (Job 1:12; 2:6)!

Satan isn’t allowed to tempt you beyond what you can bear or “your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure.” (AMP).

This suggests that what we can bear varies from one person to another, which is determined by how much inner strength you had developed before the testing or temptation. The wise man had already built his house on the rock, before the storms came (Luke 6:47-48)! “He will not be afraid of evil tidings; **His heart is steadfast**, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; He will not be afraid,” (Psalms 112:7-8a). Our hearts must have been established before the evil tidings come; or else we will be afraid!

v. For ability:

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22).

Jesus asked, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). In Matthew 21, He also told a parable of a man who asked each of his two sons to go and work in his vineyard. He said the one who said “Yes” ended up not going, but the one who initially said “I will not” eventually went. Jesus then asked; “Which of the two did the will of his father?” And they said to Him, “The first.” (Matthew 21:28-31a).

The bottom line therefore, is the DOING, not just the saying or hearing. It is the doer (and not the forgetful hearer), that will be blessed in what he does (James 1:25). The difference between the wise and foolish builders, was also in the doing; they both came to Jesus and heard Him (Luke 6:46-49).

Many reasons could be attributed to not doing, even what we know we should be doing; but they most likely will come down to one thing- the lack of strength! Doing requires inner strength- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13). ▶

Like it's been said, if wishes were horses, beggars would ride! When Jesus took three of His disciples to the garden of Gethsemane to watch with Him, He always found them sleeping; and He said to them, "**The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" (Matthew 26:37-41). You must therefore realise that, it isn't enough to desire or be willing to do (e.g. the right thing); you also need the strength to do it- "For God is working in you, giving you the desire **and the power to do** what pleases Him." (Philippians 2:13 NLT).

vi. For strength of character:

It's been said, If you don't stand for anything, you will fall for everything! Someone said your character is who you are or what you do, when nobody is watching you; it's not about trying to make an impression on people. Strength of character can be defined simply as, "the amount of strength one has towards negative actions or deeds. Taking the moral high road with the strength to stand up for your beliefs and do what is right, regardless of how it may make you look or what money it may cost you. High moral fiber and the courage of your convictions held strongly." (Urban Dictionary).

The Bible records *stories of people who demonstrated great strength of character*, at different times:

Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he rather chose to identify with the suffering of the people of God; "esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Joseph refused to sleep with his master's wife, despite her persistent appeal; he said to her, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego refused to serve the gods of king Nebuchadnezzar or to worship the gold image he had set up. When threatened to be thrown into the fiery furnace; they still refused to bow (Daniel 3:13-18)!

Daniel remained consistent, even at the risk of his own life! When he knew that the decree had been made; "he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days." (Daniel 6:6-10).

Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV) says, "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man..." This prayer by Paul is what makes the difference between babes and mature Christians. As a child of God, one calamity should not be able to overthrow you. Whatever you are going through today, receive the inner strength and the joy of the Lord. Where there is life, there is hope! In this powerful series, Rev. Funke shares why we need inner strength, and how to lay hold of it!

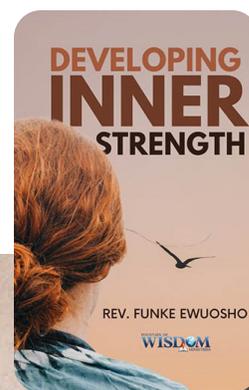
Having a strength of character is doing what is right, even when it isn't popular or convenient; and that takes an inner strength! The Bible says those who will worship in God's sanctuary and enter His presence are "Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts...and keep their promises even when it hurts." (Psalm 15:2,4c NLT).

Having been challenged by Mordecai to do something about the impending doom of her people, rather than remain silent in the 'safety' of the palace, **Esther** replied, "And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (Esther 4:16c).

It's encouraging to, however, note that each of these stories had a happy ending! About Moses: "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer." (Acts 7:35a). Joseph went on to become the prime minister of Egypt- a position second to only the king's and higher than his former master's, Potiphar. We know that not only did the three Hebrews not burn when thrown into the fire; but were rather promoted afterwards. Daniel told the king, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me," (Daniel 6:22a). He was also promoted by the king afterwards.

vii. To resist the devil effectively:

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7). The Amplified Bible says, "stand firm against him;" and that would require an inner strength. ▶



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To resist means, to “withstand the action or effect of.” It also means, to hold out against, to combat, to counter, to be unyielding, etc.

We are dealing with an enemy who sometimes will not go without putting up a fight. In the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, the Bible says he refused to grant her request (or ignored her) for a while; “but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, **because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!**’” (Luke 18:4c-5 NLT).

We are also dealing with an enemy who is relentless, who will always look for another opportunity to be back. At the end of the temptation, the Bible says, “The Devil retreated temporarily, **lying in wait for another opportunity.**” (Luke 4:13c MSG).

The enemy we’re dealing with has schemes, wiles, and strategies; and we must be strong enough to stand against them all!

You must, however, realise that you can’t take on the devil in your human strength, no matter how mentally or physically strong you are. There’s a limit to how far a strong will or sheer determination can take you when it comes to dealing with sins, wrong habits, sicknesses, diseases, and the devil himself. Therefore we are told, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:10-11).

Don’t succumb to the enemy, put up a massive resistance; don’t watch him mess you up. Our adversary, the devil, goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom to devour; but we’re told to “Resist him, steadfast in the faith,” (1 Peter 5:8-9a).

The enemy likes to throw up situations and attacks- to frustrate, disrupt and destabilise us and ultimately to stop us. Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” (John 10:10a). We mustn’t be powerless or weak against his onslaught. We mustn’t allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by his attacks, like king Hezekiah was, when he received the message of threats from king Sennacherib of Assyria. In panic, he said (in his message to the prophet Isaiah); “Today is a day of trouble, insults, and disgrace. It is like when a child is ready to be born, but the mother has **no strength to deliver the baby.**” (Isaiah 37:1-7 NLT).

It is interesting to contrast the words of king Hezekiah with the words of king David- “The Lord is my light and my salvation- so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident” (Psalms 27:1-3 NLT). May we not lack strength in the day of trouble or adversity!

viii. To move ‘mountains’:

Jesus said, “whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.” (Mark 11:23c). A mountain could be anything standing in your way- to block you; or standing between you and something- to hinder you; or an oppression of the enemy (like a prolonged sickness or disease); or a difficult or seemingly impossible situation!

A mountain represents something humanly impossible to accomplish; therefore we read in Zechariah 4:6-7, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**’ Says the Lord of hosts. ‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” Here, the Bible contrasts human strength and the strength of the Holy Spirit (He is the Spirit of might- Isaiah 11:2). Jesus said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” (Mark 10:27c NLT).

There are ‘mountains’ in our lives, that can only be moved by the might of the Holy Spirit within us. For instance, the Bible says; the Spirit helps in our weaknesses. “For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” (Romans 8:26). And that is of great help because He makes intercession for us saints, according to the will of God!

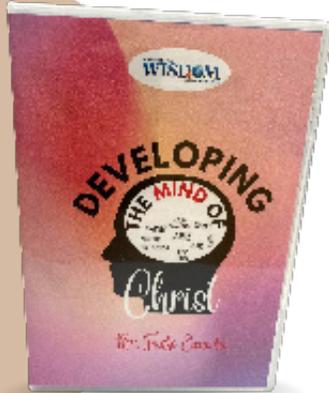
Continue on page 16.



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DEVELOPING THE MIND OF CHRIST BY REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

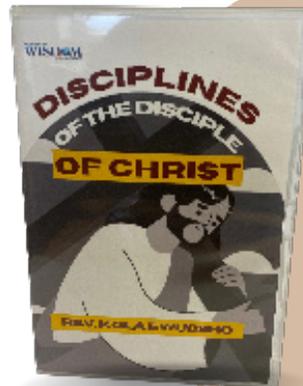
The world and its customs have influenced our thinking, which in turn impacts our belief system, and what we experience! We must therefore examine our thoughts if we want to enjoy the things in the spirit: are those thoughts from God? What are the things that influence our thinking? How do we develop the mind of Christ? We will learn these and more as we listen to this message by Rev. Funke Ewuosho!



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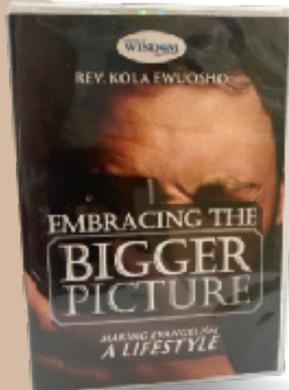
Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus increased in wisdom, stature and in favour with God and men. So how do we follow in His footsteps? In this message, Rev. Kola teaches us with the scriptures, on disciplining the flesh, the mind and the tongue. We also learn how to retrain ourselves so that we can live out what it truly means to be disciples of Christ.



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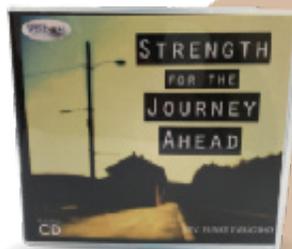
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How then do we develop inner strength?

i. By Waiting on God

“He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;” (Isaiah 40:29-31a).

The psalmist said, “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!” (Psalms 27:14). To wait on God is to spend time to fellowship with Him and to seek Him- in His Word, in worship, in prayer and fasting.

Waiting on God gives you inner strength; because when you wait on God:

a. You hear from Him.

When Jehoshaphat was under attack, he and all Judah came to seek the Lord and to ask for His help. They prayed and fasted a whole day; and as they stood before the Lord, He spoke to them, through a Levite- “Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” (2 Chronicles 20:15c). Those words gave them the strength to go out against their enemies!

Also, in the Church at Antioch, while some prophets and teachers (including Saul, i.e. Paul) “were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2 NIV).

One of the reasons why believers are weak, is because they’re not hearing from God. Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4c). This implies that, just as the body needs physical food for strength; man’s spirit also needs to hear from God to be strong and stay alive! Remember, you are a spirit, you have a soul (mind, will, emotions); and you live in a body! The real you is your spirit; Paul said, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection,” (1 Corinthians 9:27a). Your body is only your earthly house (2 Corinthians 5:1) to help you function on earth.

b. You get to know Him.

Inner strength comes from knowing God- “but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.” (Daniel 11:32c).

God reveals Himself to those who seek Him. When you seek Him, He won’t turn His back on you; He said, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13).

c. You develop your faith in God.

People of faith are strong- “**By faith Sarah herself also received strength** to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age,” (Hebrews 11:11a).

Those who spend time with God, are usually strong in faith. You can’t develop faith in the one you don’t know: and you can’t know the one you don’t spend time with! Paul said, “**for I know whom I have believed**” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Also, faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17); but you need to wait on God to hear from Him- “I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guard post. There I will wait to see what the Lord says.” (Habakkuk 2:1b). So you see how one is connected to the other; and you can’t have one without the other.

For the remaining part of how to develop inner strength, you may order the complete series of ‘Developing Inner Strength’ (see page 13).

God bless you.

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

“Those who spend time with God are usually strong in faith. You can’t develop faith in the one you don’t know...”

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TESTIMONIES FROM OUR VIEWERS

I sent a prayer request to the ministry: I was trusting God to get married. By the grace of God, I got married last year June! I want to thank God for the work of FOWM and what it is doing in my life. Your consistent calls and prayers are evident in my life. May God bless and reward your work in Jesus' Name.

Mr Ebenezer N. I.



I sent a prayer request to the ministry for my son to get admission into Law School- we were late to register his application.

I thank God - I call Him the 'overdo' God! He is reliable and dependable. My son David was registered successfully, and he got the admission!

Mrs. Comfort O.



TESTIMONY

When I think about all the blessings and grace that God has given me, I can't thank Him enough. I remember being one of the first amongst my peers to apply for a certain university. When it came to the time when the university was sending out acceptance letters in August, I didn't get one. My friends had received their acceptance letters, so I began to wonder if something was wrong. But I still had faith that I would get in. Then in September, I got an email from the school saying that I should wait for a while for my admission to be reviewed. Three months passed and I still hadn't heard anything from the university. Then about a week before Christmas, I heard from them. I had been accepted and glory be to God - I got full scholarship with 100% tuition fee and 100% housing! This miracle taught me a vital lesson: have faith in all that you do. Believe in God and His power because He has great things in store for those who wait on Him.

Nhyira Freduah-Agyemang (Ghana)



RECEIVING AND MANIFESTING THE GRACE OF THE HOUSE



Pastor Apenteng Freduah-Agyemang, of Wisdom Chapel, Ghana, shares on having the heart of the House, Fountain of Wisdom Ministries. Having served in the ministry for over 3 decades, He teaches from the scriptures, about manifesting the grace of the spritial house you belong to. Be blessed as you read!

Numbers 11:16-17 (NLT) says, “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Gather before me seventy men who are recognized as elders and leaders of Israel. Bring them to the Tabernacle to stand there with you. I will come down and talk to you there. I will take some of the Spirit that is upon you, and I will put the Spirit upon them also. They will bear the burden of the people along with you, so you will not have to carry it alone.”

If you do not have the spirit of the leader, you cannot work effectively in the land given to the leader. The land in this case is the church we are serving in. God had to take the spirit which was upon Moses and put it upon the seventy men. Do we have the spirit which is upon Rev. Kola and Rev. Mrs Funke Ewuosho, the primary receivers of the vision of this House we are serving in? Note that in Numbers 11, they were leaders and elders already. It means that we can be elders and leaders in a ministry and not have the spirit that is upon the primary receivers of the vision. We must ask ourselves; do we have servant hearts?

Numbers 11:24-26 (NLT) - “So Moses went out and reported the Lord’s words to the people. He gathered the seventy elders and stationed them around the Tabernacle. And the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then he gave the seventy elders the same Spirit that was upon Moses. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again. Two men, Eldad and Medad,

had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp!”

THE PROCESS OF ACCESSING THE GRACE UPON THE HOUSE

See the example of Elijah and Elisha in 2 Kings 2:1-15 (NLT): “When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has told me to go to Bethel.” But Elisha replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you!” So they went down together to Bethel. The group of prophets from Bethel came to Elisha and asked him, “Did you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?” “Of course I know,” Elisha answered. “But be quiet about it.” Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has told me to go to Jericho.” But Elisha replied again, “As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you.” So they went on together to Jericho. Then the group of prophets from Jericho came to Elisha and asked him, “Did you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?” “Of course I know,” Elisha answered. “But be quiet about it.” Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, for the Lord has told me to go to the Jordan River.” But again Elisha replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you.” So they went on together. Fifty men from the group of prophets also went and watched from a distance as Elijah and Elisha stopped beside the Jordan River. Then Elijah folded his cloak together and struck the water with it. The river divided, and the two of them went across on dry ground! When they came to the other side, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away.” And Elisha replied, “Please let me inherit a double share of your ►

spirit and become your successor.” “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah replied. “If you see me when I am taken from you, then you will get your request. But if not, then you won’t.” As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha saw it and cried out, “My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!” And as they disappeared from sight, Elisha tore his clothes in distress. Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River. He struck the water with Elijah’s cloak and cried out, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” Then the river divided, and Elisha went across. When the group of prophets from Jericho saw from a distance what happened, they exclaimed, “Elijah’s spirit rests upon Elisha!” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.”

1. Circumcision

‘Gilgal’ means the place of circumcision. Elisha had to go through a lot from the hands of Elijah his master and the sons of the prophet who discouraged him from moving forward. For us to access the grace upon the house, our hearts must undergo circumcision.

Genesis 17:11-14 (KJV) - “And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.”

Circumcision must be of the heart, as seen in Romans 2:28-29 (KJV) - “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

We must avoid being stiff-necked in our place of circumcision. Stiff-necked means

stubbornness, argumentative or set in one’s ways. Deuteronomy 10:16 (NKJV) says, “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. The New Living Translation says “Therefore, change your hearts and stop being stubborn.” See Acts 7:51.

Circumcision brings about life. Many are not living a fulfilled life in God because their hearts are not circumcised, as it written in Deuteronomy 30:6 (AMPC).

2. Being planted in the house of God

‘Bethel’ means the house of God.

Psalm 92:13 (KJV) - “Those that be planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

We can only flourish when we are planted in the house of God. We must be rooted and established in the house where we have been planted by God. We must not uproot ourselves by our actions.

The thought alone of being in the House where God has planted you should bring joy and gladness to you. Psalm 122:1 (KJV) - “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

3. Radiating the fragrance of the house

‘Jericho’ means the place of fragrance. After one has been established in the House, we begin to flow in the fragrance of the said House. When people encounter us, they know without a shadow of doubt that we are from the House which we serve in.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 (NLT) - “But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ’s triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.”

4. Receiving the grace and the anointing of the House.

‘Jordan’ means to flow down or descend. Anointing flows down not up. Elisha asked Elijah for the double portion of the anointing. ▶

KENYA YOUTH OUTREACH

Fountain of Wisdom Chapel (FOWC Kenya) held a Youth Convention during the Easter period, from 15th to 18th April 2022.

The convention brought together young people from all our FOWC installations in Kenya: university students, as well as youths from other local assemblies. There were a total number of around 156 youths attending the convention.

Below are photo highlights of the convention:



“We can only flourish when we are planted in the house of God. We must be rooted and established in the house where we have been planted by God.”

Elijah said, “you have asked a hard thing”, though it was not an impossible thing. “Nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so unto you; but if not, it shall not be so”. Elisha as the spiritual firstborn son, qualified for a double portion.

There was a transmission of the double portion of anointing that was upon Elijah to Elisha. Before there is a departing there must be an impartation. Until you receive your spiritual leader as your father/mother, you cannot have a double portion. He did not call Elijah ‘my boss, my boss’, but rather ‘my father, my father’.

Psalms 133:2-3 (MSG) - “It’s like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, Flowing down Aaron’s beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It’s like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that’s where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.”

THINGS THAT MAY PREVENT US FROM WALKING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOUSE

1. Oppositions

Commit to overcoming oppositions, such as:

a. **Offenses.** Matthew 24:10-13 (KJV) - “And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

b. **Strife** (gathering out the stones). Genesis 26:22-24 (KJV) - “And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land. And he went up from thence to Beer-sheba. And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

c. **Pride.** 2 Chronicles 26:16 (NLT) - “But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the Lord his God by entering the sanctuary of the Lord’s Temple and personally burning incense on the incense altar.” Proverbs 4:23 (AMPC) - “Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.”

d. **Gossip.** Psalms 50:20 (NLT) - “You sit around and slander your brother— your own mother’s son.” Numbers 14:36-37 (NIV) - “So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it— these men who were responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord.”

2. Indiscipline

It takes God’s discipline to align our hearts to the Lord. The pain of discipline is better than the pain of regret.

Deuteronomy 8:5 (NIV) - “Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.”

Proverbs 3:12 (KJV) - “For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT) - “No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.”

Revelation 3:19 (NLT) - “I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.”

3. We must be a people of the heart (faithfulness and loyalty)

Being loyal means, ‘I am willing to change my plans to meet the one I am serving’. Ask yourself, ‘am I a leaver or a “cleaver”?’ Loyalty is not known until it is tested. Our heart must be knit with the primary vision receivers.

1 Chronicles 12:17 (KJV) - “And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, “If ye become peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.”

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Fire exposes the 'serpent' nature of our hearts. So let us work on our hearts.

Acts 28:3 - "And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand."

JOAB: AN EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT OF DISLOYALTY

Joab was a strong warrior who did a lot single-handedly, but his heart condition disqualified him.

1 Chronicles 11:3, 8 (KJV) - "Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel. . . And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about: and Joab repaired the rest of the city."

Does it not surprise you that Joab was not part of the mighty men of David? It is because of the fact that he did not have the spirit of David.

1 Chronicles 11:26-27 (KJV) - "Also the valiant men of the armies were, Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Beth-lehem, Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,"

One of the disloyal acts of Joab was in 2 Samuel 3:23-30, 34-39, after Abner the son of Ner came to see David, and he heard about it. He went to David to express his displeasure about Abner's visit and how David had sent him away peacefully without killing him. Afterward, he sent people to bring back Abner, who he then killed, because Abner had earlier killed his brother Asahel. David was very sad when he heard that Joab had killed Abner.

"Before there is a departing there must be an impartation. Until you receive your spiritual leader, you cannot have a double portion..."

Watch out for these things at every stage:

1. An independent spirit

A servant anticipates his master. A person with an independent spirit only serves for recognition. A person with an independent spirit views his service as a stepping-stone for personal achievement. Their desire is for personal recognition from the leaders. They become devastated when corrected.

2. Murmuring

Read Acts 6:1, 2. To murmur is to grumble; to show discontent; to whisper in low tones to express displeasure. These usually occur when a group of people believe that things are not being done the right way or they are being discriminated against. 1 Corinthians 10:10 says that some were destroyed because they murmured.

3. Dealing with personal agenda

Elisha had to leave all he was doing and committed himself to the welfare of Elijah. He followed hard after Elijah's vision.

In conclusion, Elijah told Elisha that if he saw him when he is being taken up, Elisha would receive the double portion of the anointing which was upon Elijah. There is something about seeing! How do you see your leader? We can miss out on the grace as a result of how we see our leader. Let us have a heart of honour and respect for our primary vision carriers.

God bless you
Pastor Apenteng Freduah-Agyemang

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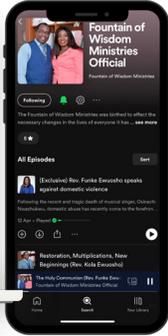
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MY LOCKDOWN SUCCESS

My name is Meshach Okaal, a born-again child of God. I am a member of Fountain of Wisdom Chapel (FOWC), Eldoret, Kenya. My career journey dates back when I was still in high school with a desire to be an Electrical Engineer. Though this was an area of interest, with time, my love and passion for film production (videography, editing and film making) began to grow stronger.

Once I was through with school, I approached one of my mentors who worked as a videographer. I told him of my passion in videography and he was very willing to support me. He organized for me to attend a computer college. I later got a placement at his office once I completed the course.

I worked as his assistant in printing, photocopying, typing, and buying equipment and supplies. He would later give me access to one of the extra computers that was available, through which I began working on my video editing skills. I got access to Corel video maker software which was my first software. I began designing samples of some work my mentor had, and I would receive feedback from him. This gave me the opportunity to develop my skills in graphic design. As a visual learner, I would always observe him as he worked on his designs. His excellence towards designing posters, magazines and everything entailing graphics design stirred my desire to learn even more.

Later on, my mother helped me acquire a laptop on which I installed the necessary software – so I began to learn widely and master all the techniques and software that I could get my hands on. While I was achieving major strides in graphic design, it still didn't compare to the passion I had for film production.

As I continued working with my mentor, I was determined to be mentored particularly in film production. Whenever he would go to the field to shoot events, my mentor would entrust me with some of his editing jobs. He saw potential in me and would later entrust me with a wedding shoot and other events. He was happy with the outcome, which I was very pleased about.

Unfortunately, in the wake of 2019, the office was shut down and the business was closed. This was quite a trying time for me, despite having learnt that God is my Source and my job and skills are but channels He uses. I kept a positive mind as I encouraged myself in the Word, because I knew the Source would not stop producing and was not limited to a particular channel. I have always been taught at Fountain of Wisdom Chapel to hold on to the promises of God knowing that I can always depend on Him. I knew that with God all things work for my good. At this point, I got actively involved

in the work of the ministry, which gave me clarity to focus on what I want to do in life and my sense of purpose. I am forever grateful to God that in the process He would connect me with people who would identify and clearly nurture the gift I had. I ventured back to graphic design and film production as a freelancer, and I began to get recommendations from my previous work in graphic design, videography and photography.

After some time, I gathered up a team and trained them - though they had some basic knowledge of videography and photography. They were able to lighten the workload for me when I had events to cover.

By 2020 I had covered about six events, and I could see good progress in my work. That to me was very encouraging and motivating. In the same year (March) we saw the wake of COVID-19 in Kenya. This brought a blow to the economy and I had to vacate the office I was using to start working from home. It was then that a demand arose from Fountain of Wisdom Chapel to record and stream

church services for online viewing. Though I still had a lot to learn, I knew I had to come in and be of assistance. A lot had to be done since we were starting from scratch. We opened a YouTube channel and through the pastoral and leadership team, we were able to set a schedule on how the online services would be conducted.

I got a team that assisted me in carrying out the shooting for the prerecorded services, so that I could have time to edit and upload the videos on to YouTube.

To conclude, God has blessed the work of my hands. I bless God for every investment He has placed in me; connecting me to my destiny helpers and elevating me to heights I never thought were possible. I thank God most importantly for the Fountain

of Wisdom Ministries; for equipping me with God's Word, for investing in me and providing deep wells of insights and wisdom, and for grounding in the truth of God's Word. These have informed and transformed my life. I have come to the place of seeing things from the biblical viewpoint, from the lens of scripture, and allowing the instrument of God's Word and His Spirit to lead me. It is in this ministry that I got a clear vision for my life. The basis for my character development and various training by the ministry has also enabled me to stay focused, determined, and true to my work even in how I handle my clients. This has greatly boosted my work since most of my deals come from referrals.

So I bless God in all and say that all glory belongs to Him.

Thank you and God bless
Meshach Okaal
(Kenya)





Your sense of value...

Your sense of value is rooted in your identity. This is true naturally and spiritually. Whether you're dealing with poor self-esteem, a poverty mentality, or an abundance mentality, it is all rooted in your identity. For instance, it would be hard for Prince Charles to struggle with a poverty mentality because of his identity as a royal. So, when you're looking at whatever thing you're struggling with, it can be traced back to your identity. We all come from different backgrounds, we didn't choose our parents or the family into which we were born or even the circumstances in which we were born. But we can choose Christ. Praise the Lord! We can all embrace a spiritual identity. In Christ, we are all on a level playing field. Hallelujah!

Who are you? In the bible we see how Moses identified with his natural identity when God called him to go to Pharaoh - he saw himself as a stammerer. Gideon also identified with his natural identity when he said that his clan was the weakest and poorest, and that he was not eloquent.

Who does God say you are? Look at John the Baptist in John 1:19-23; when he was asked who he was, he said in verse 23, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord". That was his spiritual identity. He located himself in the Word of God. He located himself in the plans of God for his life.

John 1:19-23: 'Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ. "And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the

way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said.'

In Romans 11:13, Apostle Paul said "For I speak to you Gentiles; in as much as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry." Furthermore, in all the letters Paul wrote (except his epistle to the Philippians, Philemon and the First and Second Thessalonians) he would refer to himself as an Apostle. He took his office very seriously, so we must know our spiritual identity.

2 Corinthians 5:16-18 (NKJV) says, "Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

A lot of people want to tie us to our natural identity. The enemy wants to keep pulling us back and binding us to our natural identity. And unfortunately, for most of us, we are only conscious of our natural identity. Yet it is no match when it comes to spiritual warfare. We can't go into spiritual warfare with our natural identity. This explains why when it comes to sin being unravelled and uncovered, we usually wonder how somebody of a 'high level' could be caught in a sinful act. Our natural identity is no match when it comes to sin because the flesh is weak.

"If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The New Living Translation says that we are to stop evaluating others from a human point of view.

I pray that we will be delivered in Jesus' Name; where we stop evaluating ourselves and others from a human point of view.

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Taken from Rev. Funke's Message -
'Increasing Your Sense of Self-Value'
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IGNITE STUDENT: ASHLEE'S STORY



I grew up being a church-hopper; I was never settled in a church long enough...

Being a part of Harvestime church was one of the highlights of my time at university.

Whether it was going to sermons on a Sunday morning or being part of the Ignite cell group (Harvestime's weekly student bible study), my time at the church will be cherished.

Not only did I receive great teaching on scripture but being a part of this church meant I received a family, a community. This was the first time I had a church community walk alongside me. I grew

up being a church-hopper; I was never settled in a church long enough to put down roots. However, at Harvestime, there was always someone to turn to – a very precious thing to have indeed. This church family prayed with me for my assignments, witnessed my baptism and encouraged my creative pursuits. They met me where I was at, celebrated me through my triumphs, guided me through my mistakes and just made a great effort to love me and the other students in their care. It didn't matter if you were a born-again believer or just curious about Christianity, you were wanted there.

After graduating from university, I've kept in contact with many members of the congregation. They like to hear what I'm up to. I've stayed round the houses of members when I visit. It's like visiting relatives.

My time at Harvestime will be greatly treasured- you don't always realise what you have until it's gone. I'm looking forward to the times I'll have ahead with them and couldn't recommend them enough.

I thank God for putting this church in my path!

Ashlee (UK)



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Ashlee graduated from Royal Holloway University of London in March 2022. Photos supplied by Ashlee.



THE MIND & SELF CARE

BY MARK NZEI

Do you want your written piece to be featured in the next Wisdom Digest? Please send an email to office@uk.fowm.org

“You think the world would get better! No” - Apostle Alfred Williams, January 2022

Starting 2022, I decided to take 'self-care' very important. I wrote out my goals and objectives, and my plans to accomplish them. I drew up an extensive list against every aspect of self-care, but I could only find two pointers for what was supposedly the most important aspect. One morning as I prepared to get my 'new-year-new-me' workout in, I heard a subtle voice probing, "It would be sad if you took care of every aspect of your well-being and forgot your spiritual life". Now, to me, I wasn't forgetting my spiritual well-being, I had a solid two-pointer! But I realized that although it's always good to start somewhere, at this point in my journey, two basic lines on how to improve my spiritual well-being simply wasn't enough.

Self-care can be described as the process of taking care of oneself, with behaviours that promote health and the active management of illness, wholeness and the perception of 'peace of mind'. In more recent years, there's been a move on humanity to assess the foods we eat,

the company we keep, the thoughts we entertain, and the lifestyles we pursue - all to determine whether we're truly 'living our best lives'.

While most of the world is slowly recovering from a global pandemic, maneuvering the current war in eastern Europe, and dealing with every other existing national and humanitarian crisis, there has been a notable increased demand for anxiety and depression treatments as people across the globe struggle to stay afloat. Social media and a good sales pitch tells us to buy new things if we're feeling down, or go on vacation to relax. Friends will encourage us with all good intentions to go out more, or exercise to release endorphins that reduce pain and discomfort. For the most part, they all have a good point.

Studies have shown that there is a direct connection between self-care and the human mind. People do feel better when they go shopping, spend time with their loved ones, read a book, and/or exercise. And yet, as I recently found myself wondering, do most of our self-care activities simply fill a void?

Continue on page 27.

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Are we delaying the inevitable feelings, avoiding the necessary conversations and sweeping more dirt under the rug?

I've been taught the importance of attending to my physical, social, mental and emotional health - and rightly so - because if I *feel* good, then I have a better chance of living good. But, if all the focus is on feeling good, how many self-care activities do I need to keep up in a day to ensure the feeling never leaves? What happens after the shopping trip, the vacation, the end of the night?

In my experience - in the highs and the lows - I truly believe spiritual self-care is the key to surviving changing times. Our spirituality forms a core which transcends fleeting feelings. It is built on the confidence that comes through faith; faith in God and in the Word. As Christians, 'attending church every Sunday' simply isn't enough to take on the level of confusion, opposition and uncertainty in today's world.

We're familiar with creating goals and schedules that help our physical and mental well-being, we understand the need for discipline and consistency. This is no different to improving our spiritual well-being. We need spiritual discipline. Spiritual discipline needs to be undertaken to cultivate spiritual development.

We need to ask ourselves questions like: "how serious do we take the things of God?", "how often do we seek our God in prayer?", "do we outsource our prayer and faith needs?", "what does our prayer life look like?", and "what am I often distracted by?". One question I constantly ask myself is, "what thoughts am I allowing into my mind?". I then probe a step further to ask "am I strengthening my mind or am I weakening it?"

We can decide to make the things of God our number one priority, because in the presence of God, everything else is present.

In God's presence, I have found strength to focus on all aspects of self-care and make real steps in improving my

life - including how I *feel*. God's power is available for us in every aspect of our lives and He also cares about every aspect of our lives. For us to know this and see it work in our lives we must make time to spend quality time in His presence. We must incorporate spiritual discipline into our daily activities and not let the busy-ness of life - or our feelings - make us 'too busy' for the things of God.

I decided to cancel out my two-point goals and objectives for spiritual self-care, and have rewritten my goals to include improving my knowledge of the Word, and spending more time praying, releasing my faith, serving God, and evangelizing to others. I firmly believe that as I continue on this journey of self-care, I will continue to see more improvements in my general quality of life.

I also welcome you to come on this journey with me.

As a church, we at Harvestime have been blessed with our leaders (Reverend Kola and Reverend Funke Ewuosho) as they have provided an abundance of messages to help us every week in this aspect. These messages, if we incorporate them into our daily routines, can help us in cultivating spiritual discipline.

In particular, I recommend these messages by the Revs:
Handling Crisis Times
Developing Inner Strength
Understanding Goal Setting in the Kingdom
Developing the Mind of Christ
New Beginnings

I trust that as you listen to these messages over and over again you will receive confidence in your core, which speaks to who you are (not merely how you feel), and strength to focus on what is important, and you will experience peace - even in the middle of a storm.

Until next time.

Yours in the faith,
Mark Nzei

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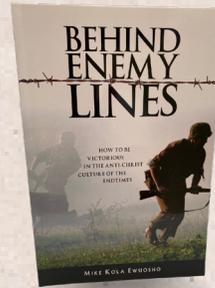
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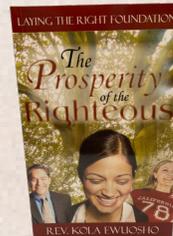
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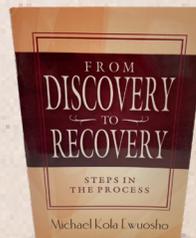
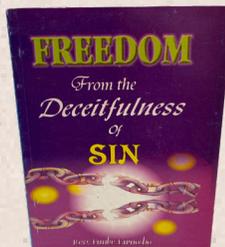
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