FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM MINISTRIES



# GOD, A PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE

# THE POWER OF BECOMING

ALSO INSIDE, A SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE FOR LEADERS...

### Also inside:

- Testimonies
- Products
- Itinerary
- Partnership
- and more..

#### DISCIPLING THE NATIONS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



Seasons greetings to our friends all over the world...

Beloved, we trust God that this winter edition of our Wisdom Digest will bring great encouragement to you. May your faith be strengthened as you recognise the purpose of your trials and as you come to know that God is your present help in trouble.

Remember that you can also subscribe to receive our Wisdom Digest magazine on a regular basis by contacting one of our offices. Please do also feel free to send in your prayer requests and testimonies. We love to hear what God is doing in your lives through our publications.

We hope to hear from you or see you at one of our up-coming conferences. God bless you and your household, FOWM Publications Team

GOD, A PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

THE POWER OF BECOMING - Rev. Funke Ewuosho

LEARNING SOME OF LIFE'S UNCHANGING LESSONS FOR LEADERS - Rev. Kola Ewuosho

**TESTIMONIES & PARTNERSHIP** 

## Salvation Prayer

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

### Publication Information

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

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

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



# God, a Present Help in Trouble

od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1). God is good and His mercy endures forever. He is worthy of our praise and honour. His thoughts towards us are thoughts of good and not evil to give us a future and an expected end. (1 Chronicles 16:34, Jeremiah 29:11). Our faith in Him and a life of expectancy and praise, yielding to God and allowing His Word to be final authority in our lives, will open us to the goodness of God like never before.

My thoughts go to people who seem to fail to see God's goodness in their lives and they seem to give Him a bad name because of their experiences. We all go through tough times but some come out better and others bitter. The foundation upon which our lives are built matter a lot to what and how we experience the goodness of God. For many, the foundations upon which their lives are built have not undergone any meaningful change since they got 'born again'. This is one reason for great confusion in many lives. The foundations of your life can be seen in the 'paradigm' with which you see and relate to things in your life. Somebody described concepts as 'the governing thought patterns that override all other opinions and provide the underlying structure for all our actions

> Wisdom Digest / Winter nodmi siom vol

Rev. Kola Ewnosho

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320

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God, a Present Help in Trouble



## Continued ...

and behavioural patterns'. (Apostolic strategies affecting nations by Jonathan David pg.79) What we believe, accept to be true and allow to be governing our lives define our foundation and if nothing changes, the foundation will determine how and what we do, see and expect in life. Every one has a worldview, governing concept and, as it is sometimes called, a paradigm. Simon the sorcerer in the book of Acts, chapter 8, verses 14-24, revealed the foundation in his heart was of sorcery and requested to be given power in exchange for money (another form of power). After accepting Christ, the foundation of sorcery needed to be dismantled in his heart and mind so that his new found faith could find a solid place in his heart. Many Christians hear teachings from God's Word and read the Bible but never get to do what they read or hear because the foundation or the things they have on their 'belief window' is what still governs their thoughts and actions. Beliefs govern our actions and actions affect our lifestyle as well as our expectations. Any action that is not producing the right outcome can be challenged by checking the belief that 'gave birth' to it. Our beliefs should be checked to know what their sources are and how much they are in harmony with scriptural reality (or revelation of the Word). The problem we encounter in receiving God's help and appreciating it as we should is due to our worldview or paradigm that is at variance with God and His Kingdom. God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. (Ish. 55:8) His ways and thoughts are higher than ours and, may I say, better by far!

The objective for this writeup is to highlight the fact that God's help has not always been in line with what many expect, hence they miss out on the present help in times of great need. There was a joke about a drowning man who cried out for help. He was drowning in a well and a helper threw a rope at him. He shouted back at the helper, "Don't throw a rope at me, help me out of this well". The rope was the help but his expectation was contrary to how the helper intended to help. spirits. Thank God for such love! The Jews missed out on this because they were looking for a sign and the Greeks... well they wanted it explained in terms of their own wisdom. What a tragedy! The best help can pass us by simply because we are looking at the wrong place with a different mindset. It takes a lot more than knowing that GOD IS WILLING TO HELP, TO RECEIVE THE HELP He offers. It is observable that people in different parts of the world have different worldviews and hence different expectations from God. In the developed

#### "For the "It takes a lot more than knowing that God is willing J e w s require to help, to receive the help He offers." a sign,

and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks. Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God". (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). The greatest help the human race needed and got from God was the sending of our Lord Jesus Christ to pay the eternal price for our redemption. The sacrifice, the basis for a new relationship with God, the knowledge of and the application of the cross of Christ, all help define a new expression of life on the earth. This is the basis of all other help we get from God. The sense of security, intimacy with God who loves us and an assurance of the future that is so necessary for the sanity of the human psyche, are all possible because of the sacrifice of Christ. What a help! Life becomes meaningful; with purpose defined and strength to do what is right. These are all available to us with the coming of God's life into our

nations we see them needing wisdom and in the developing ones they need miracles for signs too. They tend to have the emphasis on God's supernatural power to deliver from trouble. In the developed nations, the emphasis is on God's wisdom to change things. We need both. The Bible is full of the different kinds of help God offered His people at different times and for the various needs they had. We need the wisdom of God to change things and His power to deliver us from bondages and troubles we face. Usually deliverance is not sustained if there is no wisdom to cultivate the correct lifestyle to keep what has been offered. There is a need for a power encounter as well as a truth encounter. Jesus said if you continue in His Word, you are His disciples indeed and you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free. (John 8:31-32).

God's help for Joseph in the Bible was not to deliver him from slavery or prison but through the experiences prepare him for the future. On the other hand God



they could preach the Gospel to the Jews. We see the role of prayer in Peter's deliverance in Acts 12 and how the other apostle was killed. Jesus healed the sick but did nothing to deliver John the Baptist from prison. By getting caught up in our preconception of God's deliverance we can miss out on His purposes. He did not deliver the Apostle Paul from being a prisoner on the ship rather He assured him of the safety of them all because of Paul's assignment in Rome (Acts 27). We must deal with God's person, His presence and power to truly experience all the help He has for us. Many who need God's intervention in their lives do not allow Him to determine whether it is His wisdom or power that is needed or both. Let God be God in your life. Many have taken biblical principles without a consideration for the person of the Lord. They get some results but not the fullness of God's purposes. The principles based on the God-ordained laws that govern the natural, mental or spiritual realms do get results in many cases. These results sometimes are devoid of God's person. For example, what you think and talk about regularly grows inside you. This principle is true in the lives of so many characters in the Bible especially David who killed Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. He recalled the victory he had over the lion and the bear. He had a consciousness of God's greatness as he had been a worshipper who constantly praised God, thinking of His goodness and mercy. The praise of God was continually on his lips. God's power was available to him as he walked with Him in praise and worship. He recalled the victory by remembrance. What you think about grows inside you. His God was far greater in him than "A worshipful heart, full of reverence for God is a sure way to attract and keep His presence with us."

Goliath was to him. There are many principles e.g. 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue'. This is based on a biblical reality and experiences in life prove it to be true. This can be used to bring a curse on others and it will be far from God's will for anyone to be cursed in that way. Principles without the respect for the person, presence or will of God are just not sufficient when we need His help in times of trouble.

#### THE PERSON, PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD

Having God's presence in our lives is a function of what we allow ourselves to dwell on in our thoughts as well as in our attitudes and words. A worshipful heart, full of reverence for God, is a sure way to attract and keep His presence with us. The foundation for this is our decision (of quality) to dedicate our lives to God and do only what pleases Him. When we honour His person, (this is a product of our fear of God), we will watch our life's choices. These guarantee that whenever His power is needed in our lives, we can count on Him. Faith is His Word and when this is properly worked into the mainstream of our lives, it will help us see these kinds of results. Having His presence, honouring His person and making the choice to live by faith will ensure that we experience His power whenever we need it in our lives. He is indeed a present help in time of trouble. What if we are not in faith? Then He is merciful to help us in our needs. Count on Him!

#### STEPS TO TAKE TO EXPERIENCE HIS POWER

Repent of every known sin; believe in His covenant Word in scriptures; align your life with His revealed will; pray expecting His intervention. Get support from other believers if you are in a good relationship with them and they in God. Trust God and act on His Word; get into praise as you believe in His goodness, trust in His wisdom and expect His power to make the difference in your situation. Finally, stay in touch with Him for any instructions from heaven to equip you with the keys of the Kingdom to unlock any gate hell has locked you in. Read 1 Peter 5, from verse 6 to verse 10, do what these verses say after meditating on them. He is faithful and will be to the end!

#### Rev Kola Ewuosho

To purchase other messages by Rev. Kola Ewuosho, such as 'Staying in the Flow of God's Power', 'Ingredients for Personal Revival' and 'Understanding the Prophetic Realm' please visit www.wisdomestore.com.



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a t y o u becoming? Faith does not focus on where it is right now or what it is going through, but on what it is becoming!

The Apostle Paul said "we are hardpressed on every side, yet not crushed;

## Rev. Funke Ewrosho

we are perplexed but not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed". (2 Cor 4:8-9) Could you imagine what Paul must have been through? Is it possible to be hardpressed and yet not be crushed? Yes! The Bible says "A merry heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones" (Prov 17:22) and also, "The human spirit can endure a sick body but who can bear it if the spirit is crushed." (Prov 18:14 N.L.T) Job's story comes to mind; in all that he went through, we were told he did not sin nor charge God with wrong (Job 1:22). The Bible talks about the patience of Job: "Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord" (Jas 5:11). The Bible says the testing of our faith works patience and when we allow patience to run its full course, we become mature and complete, lacking nothing (Jas 1:1-4). We are to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promise. (Heb 6:12) A lot of people talk about faith but very few talk about patience. Notice, it isn't faith or patience, it is faith AND patience! "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise". (Heb 10:35-36) This

tells me that one reason why people don't inherit the promise is the lack of patience. Paul said "We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit." (2 Cor 4:8 NLT)

Do you feel forsaken when going through persecution? The fact that you are going through persecution or a rough patch does not mean God has left you. He said He will never leave you nor forsake you. (Heb 13:6) He said, even if a mother could forget her nursing child, He will not forget you because you are inscribed on the palm of His hands (Is 49:15). Do you remember Joseph? He was stripped of his coat of many colours and sold as a slave by his brothers; yet the Bible says "The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian" (Gen 39:2). Joseph was thrown into the prison for an offence he didn't commit; "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." (Gen 39:21) Didn't Jesus say we would have a hundredfold in this life whatever we give up for His sake and the gospel's "with persecutions" (Mark 10:29,30). Paul said "We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going." (Cor 4:10 NLT) It is indeed possible to be struck down yet not destroyed! "For a righteous man may fall

# ТНЕ POWER OF Becoming Continued...

seven times and rise again." (Prov 24:16) Truly, tough times don't last but tough people do! Joseph kept going in spite of all the set-backs he suffered. The Psalmist said "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all." (Ps 34:19) Not just out of some of them, but out of them all! Another exciting thing Hallelujah! about that also is that by the time the deliverance comes, one would not be the same. This was what James meant when he said we would become mature, lacking nothing!

I remember what God said to me when we were in the process of relocating to the United Kingdom in year 2000. He said though in the natural, it looked like the same scenario when I moved to Kano, Nigeria in 1988, in the spirit it was different. I had acquired a greater stature in the spirit over the twelve years of living and doing ministry in the 'wilderness' of Kano! "For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow! So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything." (Jas 1:3,4 NLT) God told me that because of my new level of maturity, I will find myself walking in a new level of authority. That is, what took me many years to accomplish in my past, would be accomplished in a shorter time. And that was what we experienced as we came into our new place of assignment.

A lot of folks want to be strong in authority, influence and dominion without being strong in character. It is actually a recipe for casualty. Authority must always be backed up with character, like the gold backs up the money! You cannot legitimately and safely walk in greater authority than your character level! The sons of Sceva saw

how God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul and so they "took it upon themselves" to cast our demons from people in the name of Jesus "Whom Paul preaches" "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know humbled Himself and became obedient even to the point of death. "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name" (Php 2:6-9). Jesus walked in unparalleled authority in His earthly

"A lot of folks want to be strong in authority, influence and dominion without being strong in character. It is actually a recipe for casualty."

but who are you?" They were attacked and overpowered by the demon possessed man! The Bible says "they fled out of the house naked and wounded" (Acts 19:13-16)

The Bible says John the Baptist "grew and became strong in spirit and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel" (Lk 1:80) At the baptism of Jesus, when He came out of water the Holy Spirit descended on Him and being filled with the Spirit. He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days. Jesus passed His tests and the Bible says He returned "in the power of the Spirit to Galilee and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region" (Lk 4:1.14). One could see the development of character even in the Christ as the pattern Son. Jesus submitted to John's baptism. He submitted Himself to His earthly parents - He was even called "the Carpenter's son" (Mt 13:53) and sometimes "the Carpenter" (Mk 6:3). Jesus submitted Himself absolutely to the Father's will. The Bible says, He was faithful as a Son over His own house (Heb 3:6) and though He was a Son, He learnt obedience by the things which He suffered (Heb 5:8). He made Himself of no reputation, took the form of a servant and came in the likeness of men. He ministry. The Centurion recognised this authority; he said to Jesus "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word and my servant will be healed" (Matt 8:8). The secret of that authority is in Jesus being a Man under authority Himself.

The Centurion said "I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one "Go" and he goes, and to another, "Come" and he comes. and to my servant "Do this" and he does it." (Matt\_8:9) You can't exercise authority effectively if you are not under authority yourself. You must therefore, put yourself under the authority of God through His Holy Spirit and the Word, and under every authority God has placed in your life.

Why would the evil spirit not obey the sons of Sceva? Among other reasons, I found one in the King James' Version of that story. "Then certain vagabond Jew exorcists, took it upon them". (Acts 19:13) They were called vagabond, which in the Greek means "to go about, to go around, or to wander" God told Cain after he had killed his brother, "A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth". (Gen 4:12 KJV) There is indeed the Cain spirit that drives people to be on the move always. They never stay anywhere or in any relationship or

with any thing long enough to develop character. The Bible says no discipline seems to be joyful for the present but painful; nevertheless afterward it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Heb 12:11). That is, we can stay under discipline long enough to be trained by it. Have you ever heard the expression: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen"? That kind of an expression encourages a vagabond spirit. What would have happened if Joseph said he could no longer stand the heat in Potiphar's house or in the prison and he got out before Pharaoh sent for him? What of Daniel? In the case of the three Hebrews. Nebuchadnezzar commanded that the fire be made seven times hotter! (Daniel 3:19) This is why oftentimes destinies are aborted. People even say "Go to where you are celebrated not tolerated". A lot of destiny-aborting, purpose-destroying slogans fly around to mould people's mentality and therefore derail and destroy their future. Jesus "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 12:2) There can't be the crown or

the glory, without the cross. It was after He had humbled Himself to the death on the cross, that Jesus was raised up to the highest place and given a name that is above every name. Without death, there can be no resurrection. God would not have sent His angel to shut the mouth of the lions, if Daniel had shrunk away from being thrown into the lion's den. The fourth Man would not have appeared in the fiery furnace if the three Hebrew guys had played the cowards! What if Esther had refused to go to the king?

Notice that in addition to our character being developed, three things would usually happen when people put their lives on the line for the Lord's sake and His Kingdom's: One, God defeats the enemy; two, God's Kingdom is advanced; and three, God's people are promoted, especially those who had risked their lives or reputation.

You should make the devil sorry for ever attacking you! If they had known they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory! (1 Cor 2:8) All things work together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. Joseph told his brothers: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive" (Gen 50:20). That is

what I would call, "Destiny Fulfilled". It doesn't matter what you go through to fulfil destiny, you will have a sense of fulfilment when destiny is fulfilled. Jesus told His disciples that their sorrow will be turned into joy; "A woman, when she is in labour, has sorrow because her hour has come but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born". (Jn 16:20-24) God sure has a plan that He is working out and will also carry out. "For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not evil, to give you hope in your final outcome." (Jer 29:11 AMP) Don't be too much in a hurry to judge anything now. God talks about your "final outcome". Don't let the process discourage you, focus on the final outcome!

What is your final outcome? Conformity to the image of the Son (Rom 8:29) in character and power; you become mature and complete, lacking nothing (Jas 1:4); you become dependent on

#### "You should make the devil sorry for ever attacking you!"

God not on yourself (1 Cor 1:8,9); the fulfilment of God's plans and purpose for your life (Gen 50:20); the fulfilment of God's promises to you (Jer 29:11-14); etc. I tell you, the list is endless.

How then do we participate with God in this process of "Becoming"?

#### **One, have the right attitude:**

"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (Jas 1:2). The Bible says the joy of the Lord is you strength (Neh 8:10). "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice" (Php 4:4). Peter admonished the saints in Diaspora; "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved (or distressed) by various trials". (1 Pet 1:6) The attitude of joy is so important in this process: "Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation". (Is 12:3) Someone actually said, if the devil can't steal your joy, he can't keep your goods. Whatever he has stolen from you will be restored seven times! You also need to maintain an attitude of faith in your process. "Count it all joy ... Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (Jas 1:2,3). It is actually what you know that produces joy! "Whom having not seen you love.

#### Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Though now you do not seen Him, yet vou reioice with iov believing. inexpressible and full of glory," (1 Pet 1:8). What you know is what produces the inner strength in you (Dan 11:32) Job said "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:25-27) What faith! The Psalmist said he would have lost heart if he hadn't believed he would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. (Ps 27:13) Don't bury your head in the sand of your trials, look up! "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward." (Heb 10:35)

You also need an attitude of meekness and humility. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. (Jas 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5) Meekness is teachableness; it is also strength under control. The meek shall inherit the earth (Matt 5:5, Ps 37:11).

The meek shall eat and be satisfied; they shall praise the LORD and seek Him. (Ps 22:26) God will teach the meek His way (Ps 25:9) - no wonder He made His

ways known unto Moses! (Num 12:3, Ps 103:7). The LORD lifts up the meek (Ps 147:6). Jesus said He is meek and lowly in heart (Mt 11:29). "God blesses those who realise their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them" (Mt 5:3 NLT).

You also need a positive attitude, "*That is* why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed everyday. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!" (2 Cor 4:16,17 NLT). In other words, the gains outweigh and outlive the pains!

#### Two, Have the right focus:

Your focus will determine vour endurance level. A lot of folks quit because of a wrong focus. "While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal". (2 Cor 4:18) We can focus on the Word of God; the Bible says, "the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible". (Heb 11:3): We can focus on Jesus; "and let us run with endurance the race which is set before

#### THE POWER OF BECOMING

us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb 12:1.2). We can focus on what we are becoming; "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the LORD, are being transformed into the same image form glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord". (2 Cor 3:18) We can focus on the promises; "have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Pet 1:4) Hope is produced in us when we focus on the promises of God which also acts as an anchor of the soul (Heb 6:19). Hope also purifies us as God Himself is pure (1 Jn 3:3). It seems to me it was that kind of hope that kept Joseph from sleeping with Potiphar's wife. He do with the state of our hearts. It is the unseen force that drives what we do and say. God told Samuel not to look at Eliab's outward appearance because He looks at the heart. "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions." (1 Sam 16:7 NLT). Moses killed an Egyptian in defence of a fellow Israelite, "for he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand" (Acts 7:24,25). Though Moses had a genuine call, God still had to purify his motive. He had to flee from Egypt and for forty years, he was in the wilderness before God called him to go deliver His

#### "We get disappointed because we do things out of wrong motives."

would have derailed his destiny, like Reuben (Gen 49:1-4). "*Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear, lest any of you seem to have come short of it*" (Heb 4:1). Thank God we could come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy if we ever miss it! (Heb 4:16)

Three, We must have the right motive. Motive has to do with Why? It has to people. Joseph interpreted the dream of the Butler and said to him "But remember me when it is well with you and please show kindness to me, make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house" (Gen 40:14). Joseph spent two more years in the prison. The Butler completely forgot about him until Pharaoh had a dream. I call that divine! We get disappointed because we do things out of wrong motives. "Let nothing be done

#### Rev. Funke Ewuosho

through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Php 2:3) God wants to purify our motives. "He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. "He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness" (Mal 3:2,3).

There is a lot that God wants to do through us but then a lot more in us! Jesus spent 30 years preparing for His earthly ministry and only about 3 years fulfilling it. He did His Father's will and finished His work! "*If the axe is dull and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength, but wisdom brings success.*" (Eccl 10:10) That is, Wisdom is a successful advantage! The whole creation is still waiting for the manifestation of the (mature) Sons of God. (Rom 8:19) "For unto us a child *is born, unto us a Son is given*" (Is 9:6). God bless you

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

You can now purchase Rev. Funke Ewuosho's message 'The Power of Becoming' and other inspired messages on MP3, CD and DVD from our website or one of our offices around the world.





#### UNITED KINGDOM

HARVESTIME CHURCH Old Church Hall, Rear of Station Parade Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4AB

#### MEETS

 Sunday Service - 10.30am (weekly) Wedneday Service - 7.00pm (weekly)
 Saturday Bible School- 3.00pm (Various) Youth Service - 5.30pm (Third Sunday)

CONTACT Tel: +44 (0)1344 843341 Email: office@fowm.org

#### **KANO, NIGERIA**

WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTRE 30 Nguru Road, Nomansland, Kano State, Nigeria.

MEETS

- Sunday Service 9.00am (weekly)
- Communion Service 5.30pm (1st Sun)
   Wednesday Service 6.00pm (weekly)
   Thursday Prayer 6.00pm (weekly)
- Monday Training School 6.00pm(weekly)

#### CONTACT

Tel: +234-064-640063, 335941 Email: office@wofcc.org Visit: www.wofcc.ord

#### ABUJA, NIGERIA

WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTRE Church Banquet Hall, Peace Haven Hotel, Plot 112, Idris Gidado Street, Wuye, Abuja Office: Suite 26, Essence Plaza, Plot 2410, Lusaka Street, Zone 6, Wuse - Abuja

CONTACT

#### Tel: 08036303238

#### LAGOS, NIGERIA WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Elomaz Hotels, 3/5 Emmanuel Street, Off Mobolagi Bank, Antony Way, Maryland. Office: Suite 28 Salawu Onikoyi Street, Ifako, Gbagada, Close to UBA bank, Lagos

#### MEETS

· Sunday Service - 9.00am (weekly) CONTACT Tel: +224 8023101963 Email: wofcclag@yahoo.com

#### **KENYA**

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM CHAPEL P.O Box 7895, Eldoret, Kenya, Code 31100.

MEET · Wedneday Service - 6.00pm (weekly) • Thursday Prayer - 5.30pm (weekly)

CONTACT Tel: +254 726 982 229 Email: fowckenya@yahoo.co.uk

#### GHANA FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM **MINISTRIES CHAPEL**

22 Adjumah Crescent, S.T.C Road, Behind Ghamot, Accra, Ghana

#### MEETS

 Sunday Service - 8.00am (weekly) Wedneday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)
 Couple's Night - 5.30pm (2nd Sunday)
 Youth Service - 5.30pm (Last Sunday) • Night Vigil - 10.00pm (Last Friday)

CONTACT Tel: +233-21-271143, +233-20-8127676 Email: info@fowmghana.org

#### Visit: www.fowmghana.org CAMEROON

**HARVESTIME CHURCH** Bonaberi, Carrefour Texaco, Fokou, Douala Former Restaurant Relax, Douala

- MEETS
- Sunday Service 9.00am (weekly)
  Monday Believer's School 6.00pm
- Tuesday Bible Study 6.30pm (weekly)
- Thursday Prayer 6.30pm (weekly)

CONTACT Tel: +237 96 20 57 56 Email: harvestimedouala@yahoo.fr

# 2009 Hinerary

Changes may occur to this itinerary, so please contact our offices before travelling for any of these meetings. Dates within these dates are open and other invitations are still in consideration.



#### **JANUARY 2009**

9th-11th January (With Pastor Ralph Martin from USA) Harvestime Church Conference (UK)

January Dates to be fixed (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) Ministry trip (Argentina)

#### FEBRUARY 2009

7th February (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Women's Breakfast Conference (UK)

21st February (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) Men's Breakfast Conference (UK)

27th February- 1st March (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) 'Life & Power Church', Jos (Nigeria) and other invitations

#### **MARCH 2009**

2nd-6th March (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) Minister's Conference, Jos (Nigeria)

12th-15th March (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Women's International Conference, Kano (Nigeria)

27th-29th March (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Women of Purpose' Conference, London (UK)

#### APRIL 2009

April Dates to be fixed (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) 'Praise Chapel International', Kansus (USA)

April Dates to be fixed (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Strategic Equippers Conference (Kenya)

#### MAY 2009

2nd May (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Women's Breakfast Conference (UK)

8th-9th May (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Women's Conference, Sheffield (UK)

9th May (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) Men's Breakfast Conference (UK)

15th-17th May (With Dr. Tunde Bakare) Harvestime Church Apostolic Conference (UK)

29th May- 7th June (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) Ministry trip (Australia)

#### **JUNE 2009**

June Dates to be fixed (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Strategic Equippers Conference, Abuja (Nigeria)

#### AUGUST 2009

6th-8th August (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Strategic Equippers Conference, Port Harcourt (Nigeria)

12th-17th August (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Ingathering Conference, Kano (Nigeria)

> Also coming up in September and October 2009 are our Strategic Equippers Conferences in Ghana and Cameroon.

You are also welcome to join us at one of the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries churches around the world. Please see details of meeting places and times on the left. We look forward to worshiping with you soon.

11

# Learning some of life's unchanging lessons FOT Leaders

Rev. Kola Ewnosho

ife is full of lessons. Life has its pains and joys. We all love to minimise the pain and extend the joys. Some of the pains and joys in life are short-lived and some are long-lived. It is in our best interest to learn how to make the pains short-lived and the joys long-lived. There are two major pains in life; the pain of discipline and the pain of regret. When circumstances beyond our control inflict pains on us then we call on human endurance to handle such.

Life is full of its own type of drama. Many believe life is a form of drama wherein the scripts have been written for us to act out, while others believe we are capable of writing out our own scripts. Another belief is that there are scripts written indeed but the creature needs to be developed to fulfil the script written. Whatever belief system is in you is a function of your world view, peculiar upbringing and the environment where you were formed. Nature and nurture, as they say it, have their effects on our perception of reality in our lives.

With an experience of life close to half a century and almost 30 years of that as a born-again Christian, most of the lessons learnt have been in the areas of 'navigating' through life's processes so as to stay on course with, the perceived, God's will for my life. Life is also full of decisions. A decision not to decide is still a decision. Sometimes ignorance can be bliss and at other times it can be very costly. Knowing when and which will be one of the secrets of a wise life. For every good thing in life there is usually a price to pay and a position to take for the privileges to be enjoyed.

#### SOME LIFE LESSONS ABOUT DECEPTION

No one is immune against deception. Deception is the gradual persuasion to believe a lie. Error is usually some truth taken out of its proper boundaries. The content of the heart affects the understanding and application of truth. The fact that deception has to do with a gradual persuasion, and truth itself somtimes has the element of a gradual unfolding, it means that, when the receiver is not poised to embrace a complete picture, there is every possibility that deception can trail anyone in pursuit of truth. There is a spirit of truth, an attitude of being teachable (meekness) and a willingness to accept truth and its demands of faith. All these need to characterise our lives for us to avoid deception. James, chapter one, has some things to say about deception. Being a doer of the Word and not just a hearer is one way to avoid self-deception. Receiving with meekness is the way the Word can save our souls, if

we choose to lay aside the filth found in the human soul. Apostle Paul in the book of Galatians says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap". (Gal 6:7) Accurate discernment is the antidote to deception. Humility and willingness to be corrected will help prevent deception in our lives.

#### SOME LIFE LESSONS ABOUT MOTIVES

What motivates you will eventually determine what you do. When our motives are inaccurate, we eventually stop doing what is right as whatever motivates will determine our source of frustration and possible confusion. Many serve God purely for what they can get from Him. Usually what they want from Him has a lot to do with their material needs. Little wonder their service towards Him diminishes when they have material provision in some degree of abundance. If the church in Jerusalem thought their comfort was the highest priority, how would they have handled their persecution and having to be scattered? Would they really go everywhere preaching the Word? When your motive in relationship is to use not build people up, you tend to abuse the relationship. It is the motive that was wrong in the first place. Motives do not usually become obvious until things go wrong and the real motives are exposed. When the Bible says "the heart of a man is desperately wicked. Who can know it?", one of the unknown things about each heart is the inner motives. You cannot tell your heart motives until conflicts expose them. Whenever you have a conflict, ask yourself this question, "why am I feeling like this and why am I thinking these thoughts?" If you sincerely answer these questions, you will begin to know your true motives. If you let the truth of God's Word confront the true state of your heart, you are ready for the truth to set you free. Many can boast of their goodness but a faithful man who can find? Wrong motives affect the effectiveness of right deeds. Many loose their rewards simply because their motives were not pure. Ask yourself, 'why do I give or pray publicly?' The issue of motive was what Jesus was addressing in Matthew 6 when He talked about giving, praying and fasting. Our motives can also be revealed

through the words of our mouth and our giving. Our "It is our motives reveal the content of response to our our hearts. We are instructed to guard our hearts with all circumstances diligence in Proverbs 4. Do that eventually not stop doing a good thing if your reason for doing it is determine the wrong. Rather change your outcomes in our reason for doing it. Heart checks should form a major experiences." part of taking your spiritual inventory from time to time in life's journey. This is

because the single most important element in a person's future is the content of the heart. What you continually focus your attention on will enter your heart. As the content of your heart changes, your motives will change. Change the focus of your attention and your motivation will change.

#### LIFE LESSONS ABOUT FOCUS

Our focus has a lot to do with our vision. expectation and what we pay attention to as we function in life. The scripture says "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." What are we seeing? What are we looking unto with our mind's eye? Having an eye for a better tomorrow seems good but it is better if the future expectation is based on the Word of God. Jesus was more focused on doing the will of the Father than on His convenience. Whatever we focus on will determine our strength. Many focus on being successful but that will not stand the test of time. If Jesus, for the joy set before Him endured the cross and despised the shame is sat on the right hand of the Father, we also can look at pleasing the Father as our goal even if it means the cross. A broken focus means broken strength. Whatever you focus on will influence the direction your life will go. Focus on Christ and eternal realities and you will have the strength to endure. Stay focussed on any task at hand and see to the completion of the project before you. Remember that distraction is always a drainer for the resources available to you in life. Stay focussed and rightly so!

#### Rev. Kola Ewuosho LESSONS ABOUT THE PROCESS WE GO THROUGH IN LIFE

A lack of understanding of the process we go through and the phase we are in has been a source of frustration in many lives. Life is in phases and men are in sizes. It is beneficial to know your size and phase at all times. Process happens when we handle our challenges with the right attitude, learning the right lessons, developing character and making necessary adjustments as we move on in life. John Maxwell explains that success is not quite complete without our development in the following areas; Relationships, Equipping, Attitudes and Leadership. Learning to recognise the phase and the process will help us make the right decisions in life. Life's decisions are major keys to experiencing the necessary changes in life. Sometimes we need to make the decision to choose our relationships and our challenges. To obey God we need to choose to obey. Whatever we go through is not what determines the outcomes in our lives. It is our response to our circumstances that eventually determines the outcome in our experiences. We need to choose or we may end up being losers. God's will in our lives is not primarily in location or vocation but an internal dynamic. An inner attitude of faith and a willingness to honour God by becoming what He wants us to be defines an inner dynamic that will produce His will in our chosen vocation or location. Whenever any wrong is committed, repent and refuse to allow

guilt to become your major motivation.

Wisdom Digest / Winter



# Learning some of life's UNCHANGING LESSONS FOT LEADERS

God loves and values people including you. No body has the permission to reduce you unless you give them the right to do so. Also learn to pass your tests in life. When God's promotion is beckoning, tests show up to prove our readiness for the next level in God's dealings in our lives. Tests include tests of faithfulness in small things, the offence test and the Lordship test. (See the message "Issues of the Heart")

#### LESSONS ABOUT VALUES

You will not rise beyond the value you place on God and your relationship with Him; yourself, your gifting and your opportunities. Have a healthy value system that governs your choices and lifestyle. Be a person who honours others and have a realistic assessment of vourself and circumstances. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought but at the same time do not think of yourself as not having value. It is the most self defeating thing to do to yourself. Receive corrections without feeling rejection. It is a privilege to serve God and through Him serve others and help them fulfil their destinies in God. Do not play 'God' over others. You are not their God and do not have the right to define their lives. It is only the authority God gives you, and their recognition of such, that enables you to speak into other people's lives. You cannot love people more than God loves them. Just love them according to the grace you have received from God. Your value for God, for people and for yourself will directly affect the quality of life you enjoy on earth and I dare say in heaven. Increase in value will lead to increase in rewards and blessings.

#### LESSONS FROM WALKING BY FAITH IN THE WORD

The revelation of the Word is a gradual unfolding into the life of those who are committed to God through His Word. If you do not work the Word it will not work for you. The Word is our access to God, His wisdom, His power and His goodness. The Spirit of God will regularly inspire and grant revelations in the Word for those whose desire is to do the Word. Whoever honours God's Word will be honoured by God. The Wisdom of God will promote and give life and honour to all who seek God in His Word. The Word promotes the one who yields to God's wisdom; it lifts and positions them for greatness in life. The secret of walking by faith is consistency in fellowship with the Word of God. The more you do what the Word says, the more your know what to do in the Word. Many are hearers not doers so they know enough to complain and argue. Doers of the Word keep knowing what to do in the Word. The revelation of the Word of God is for those who are committed to doing the Word.

#### LESSONS FROM THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF LIFE

It is important we learn the right lessons from the negative experiences we have in life. Contrary to what many might think there are inevitable conflicts, some rejections and some genuine fears that we all face and must be willing to confront. This is so that we become better and not bitter. Our willingness to deal with issues in a correct way can mark the beginning of real growth or our unwillingness can mark the beginning of some decline in life. The right lessons draw us closer to God, enlarge our capacity to love and do not condemn others. We need to internalise the lessons and then commit ourselves to doing the right things to bring about healing, deliverance and wholeness to us and the people involved with us. One great lesson in life is to learn not to put your trust in the arm of flesh; yours or others. Conflicts, offences and rejections all have lessons to teach Even our legitimate fears have 115 hidden lessons for our lives. Are we willing to let God show us these lessons? Rejection for example is actually part of our growth process. Though it may be the sense of the others not placing the right value on us, there are still lessons, none the less. Nobody has the right to minister rejection or intimidation to you unless you gave them that right by the choices you made. Rejection is usually a sign that your self esteem has been battered in the past or some wound in the soul has not been healed. The building of



the esteem and the healing of the wound do not lie with another person but with us and our relationship with God. Correction should not be seen as rejection and everyone who has been hurt by others tends to want to hurt others. Hurting people usually hurt others. We need to know the root cause of the feeling we are getting from an offence, rejection or our fears. Sometimes we need to grow up and get past the feelings and at other times we can see someone trying to hurt us deliberately. We learn that the fallen human race is in need of forgiveness. Your experience presents you with the opportunity to become God's agent of forgiveness. Our fears remind us of our deep need for God and help us to be in touch with our humanity. Our fear of God gives us the ground to overcome all other fears.

Those who will fulfil God's purposes for their lives need to take note of the following. Have the right orientation to life; be a student of life and a student for life. Meekness has to do with strength under control and being teachable. Learn from the experiences in life. Suffering has a lot to teach us in the aspects of obedience. Also cultivate the right lifestyle; the lifestyle of faith. Believe and act on God's Word from the heart. Finally, always settle every matter by seeking God's perspective of the matter. He will show you how to interpret your circumstances in the light of His will for your life. It is obvious that life's lessons are not going to end until life itself ends. So keep learning and growing and remember to pass some of the lessons vou learn to others to make this life better for others too! These few lessons are written for the purpose of learning and remembering unchanging lessons in life.

#### Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Please contact your nearest office or visit www.wisdomestore.com to purchase Rev. Kola Ewuosho's powerful message 'The Issues of the Heart' on CD or DVD.





#### Dear FOWM ....

"Your tapes and CDs helped us so much to know how to succeed in marriage. We feel so courageous to face challenges in marriage because of the truth and revelation we have gotten through your teachings of the Word."

"Thank you from all my heart for restored health and belief. I will never forget the day when I first came to your church, Harvestime in Virginia Water. I thought it was not a service but some disco because everyone was worshipping God, clapping and dancing! I did not really understand that because throughout my childhood I had received a totally different understanding about prayer and belief. However, deep in my heart I realized this was a place and these were the people who I could ask for help. My English was not the best but I suppose it did not matter in the moment when my soul was ill and I needed your prayer. I sincerely thank all the people who prayed for me and brought me back to real life. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

"I came across the Spring Edition of Wisdom Digest and it was love at first sight! Your wordings are spirit lifting and soothing to my soul."

"Thanks alot for your email Cybermessages. They are a real inspiration to me and they are making me have reason to allow myself to be available as a vessel ready to be used of God. Thanks and God bless you and your ministry."

"Thank you for your messages and all the good works that God is doing through you; you are both blessings to this generation and ones coming behind. I got to know about you from our family friend. I have since then listened to some of your messages and I have been blessed through them. Keep doing the good work and the good Lord will continue to bless you."

"The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are, but on how happy others can be because of you. I am happy to know this ministry! Silver or gold, I have none but what I have for you people is the deepest love that the Lord brought into my life through this ministry. There is a big change in my life since the day I listened to your broadcast; I gave my life to Christ and there has been a great difference in my life."

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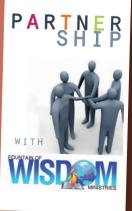
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# Partner with us...

The support of all our partners have made testimonies such as these possible. The prayers and financial support of our partners enable us to do all that we are doing around the world. We invite you to consider joining us as a partner in this new year. Your support will be used to broadcast the Word of God on TV stations around the world, to support the planting of new churches, to train and equip people through our conferences, etc around the world and much more as God leads. Please contact one of our offices to request our free minibook about the benefits of partnership.



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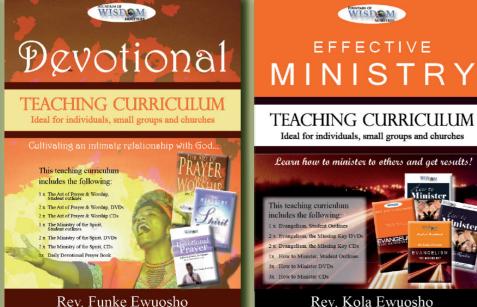
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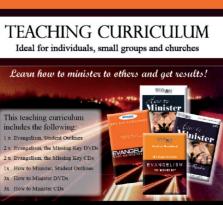
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