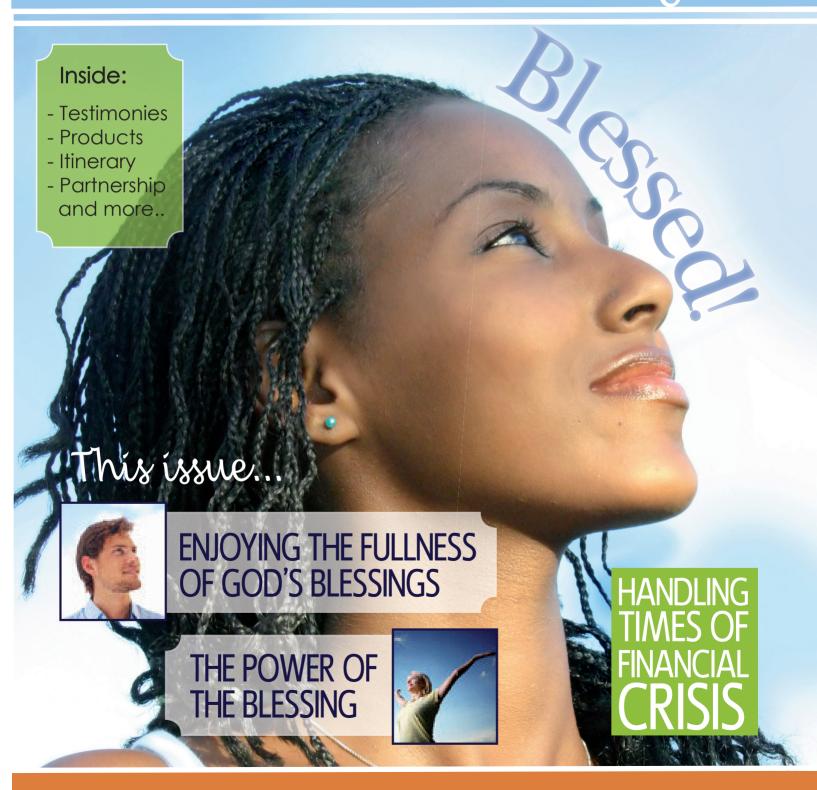
Spring Edition igest



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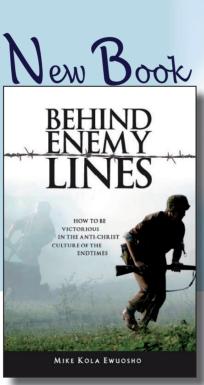
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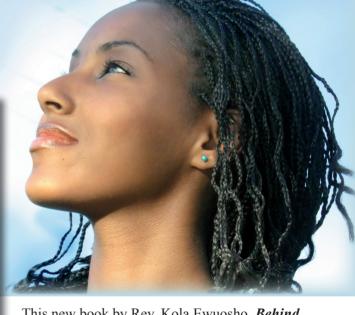
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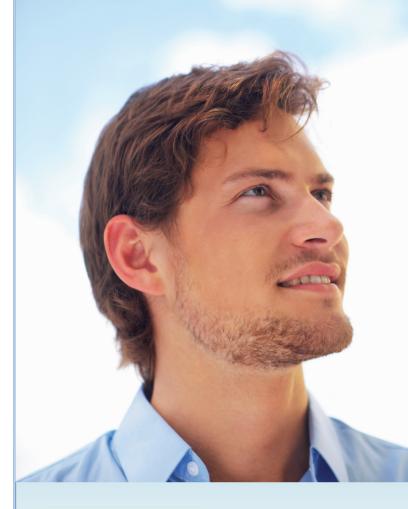




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Salvation Prayer

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.



Enjoying the Fullness of God's Blessings

-Rev. Kola Ewuosho-



lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" (Eph. 1:3) "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake

"All the

provisions of

God await their

activation on

earth for them

to come into full

manifestation

in the lives of

the people they

were intended

for."

thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God." (Deut. 28:2). All the provisions of God await their activation on

earth for them to come into full manifestation in the lives of the people they were intended for. For many, there seems to be an endless cry for certain provisions. Some people make God look mean for what they are experiencing. Many have questioned the love of God when certain things happen to them or to people around them. The provisions of God are numerous and the needs for them are in abundance. The Bible says His mercies are from everlasting to everlasting, they are new every morning and they endure forever. "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's childr

children's children;" Ps. 103:17 (Ps 103:4; Ps 136:1). Why, then, do they seem to be in short supply? We need God's mercy to do for us what we cannot do ourselves. The Bible says we should come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in times of need (Heb. 4:16). Mercy is God's kindness toward us as He has pity on us. How we need mercy and grace in these needy times. Grace has several dimensions; it is defined as divine influence upon the heart

and its reflection in life. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee..." (2 Cor. 12:9). Grace has the dimension of favour (unmerited). It also has the dimension of divine enablement. "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 2:1). Then, it has yet another dimension of teaching us that in denying all ungodliness, we may live holy in an unholy world. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us

that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present

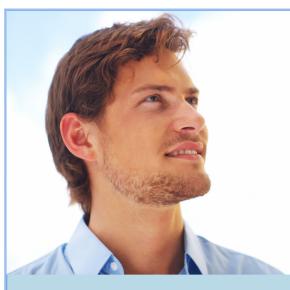
world;" (Titus 2:11-12).

It can all be intertwined; God's favour on you comes to you because you humble yourself to receive it. Humility here includes accepting what God says about the situation as final. The favour causes you to be divinely empowered to do what is right as it teaches you to make right decisions. James 4:6 says, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.". (1 Pet. 5:5) Many provisions from God have several dimensions. Truth has several dimensions: It is a person; His name is Jesus (John 14:6). Truth is also reality from God's Word (John 17:17). Truth can also refer to sincerity, honesty and transparency about the true situation in any matter (James 3:14).

A provision has been made for whatever we need here on earth, and that provision has been tailored to fulfil a purpose. A list of human needs can fill up a whole page of this write up. Suffice it to say that there are

provisions tailored to meet specific needs. Provisions however have conditions; conditions that require us to be in close contact with God to adequately fulfil them. The knowledge that we acquire as we learn the conditions and cultivate intimacy with God will aid us as we take steps of obedience in faith. To continually walk in the blessings we need to cultivate the right lifestyle.

Continued over page...



Enjoying the Fullness of God's Blessings Continued...

"When

conditions

are not met.

promises

do not

translate to

provisions."

PROVISIONS

In Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." as well as Isaiah 5:13, we see that a lack of knowledge is a reason for captivity and destruction. Ignorance of God's provision for His people is as damaging as inviting the destroyer to come and take advantage of us. It's one thing to recognise our needs; it is another thing to make a discovery of the provisions of God. Many go to God on the basis of their needs and not on the basis of His provision. God has always been the ultimate provider and sin has always been the fundamental basis for the destroyer to come into the human race. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Is. 59:1-2). Sin is not just an act but a nature that was inherited from the first

family (Adam and Eve). Sin has been highly developed over time and human beings are sometimes shocked at what other humans are capable of doing when the base-nature shows up in certain conditions. The death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ have made it possible for all humans to once again reconnect to God and enjoy His provisions. We are created to be God-dependent; sin encourages an independence from God called selfishness and pride. He created us with potentials and, through our union with Him, it was to be part of the adventure of living to make discoveries of the great deposits He made in us. We need Him as a car needs to function by the manufacturer's specifications for maximum enjoyment of the product. We function best when we live in an atmosphere of

His presence. Everything we need for proper functioning and peaceful co-existence with one another, as well as a sense of progressively accomplishing something of value and significance, can be obtained in Him and from Him in the proper way. Any attempt to get these things in any other way or from any other source is at best not healthy and at worst idolatry. His provisions are in the promises of God, and they are yes and amen in Christ (2 Cor 1:20).

CONDITIONS

Many believe in God's unconditional love and take it to mean unconditional provisions or blessings. I do not see God's provisions as unconditional. Whenever we need something we naturally ask for the price of it to see if we can afford it. If we cannot afford it yet, we either plan or save up for it or altogether let it go. The days of credit have encouraged people to take what they cannot immediately afford. Our subject here is that God's provisions have conditions attached to them. Having faith is usually the unspoken condition for some of His blessings. Take the peace of God for example; it has two dimensions, namely, peace with God and the peace of God. In Romans 5, the Bible talks about peace with God through accepting His terms for a relationship with Himself. The sacrifice of the Son on the cross implies the sinful nature has been taken to the cross. We come repenting of our sins and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The condition is accepting what God says to be true. On the other hand, the peace of God comes through the instructions in Philippians 4:6-9. When the conditions are fulfilled, we have the peace of God and we maintain the peace by choosing how and what we think. Bottom line is, there are conditions for the peace of God to be with us and maintained in us. This applies to many of God's promises. When conditions are not met, promises do not translate to provisions. The peace of God is one of the greatest provisions God has made available to us to protect us against the works of darkness in these end times. In Romans 16:20, the Bible talks about the God of peace crushing Satan shortly under our feet. The peace of God will protect, keep us from agitation, attract God's goodness into our lives and act as an umpire in our hearts settling all disputes as seen in Colossians 3:14-15. Grace and peace came to us through Jesus Christ.

What truth demands, grace enables us to fulfil. Since grace

is given to the humble and grace teaches, we position ourselves correctly when we humbly accept both truth and grace. We see and are able to do what is required of us. His grace is sufficient even when we are weak. Find out the conditions, receive grace to fulfill them and experience his provisions. place of prominence in us. Nothing should come between us and Him. He will actually teach us how to value and take care of all that we rightly need to take care of in our lives. 1 Peter 5:6 says we should cast all our cares on Him for He cares for us. A care-free and loving relationship with God is the surest way to defeat the enemy as well as maintain the glow of love for God in our lives. Do not fall into the trap of being too busy doing the work of God and leave your walk with God to suffer. Cultivate intimacy with Him. Fulfillment

in life is a product of real intimacy with God.

OPERATIONS OF FAITH: PATIENCE AND OBEDIENCE

True faith in God is demonstrated in our obedience to Him. Faith has to do with believing His Word and giving Him the honour due Him by esteeming His Word highly. The Bible is full of lessons of faith. Many results of faith are recorded for our example. "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Rom. 10:8-11). Faith has to do with our hearts and mouths being involved with our believing God and His Word to us. Faith should be the foundation for our prayers. God is pleased when we stay and operate in faith. Obedience to God is possible when we are in faith. Patience has to do with being consistent in our faith life. We call it perseverance. We are encouraged to be followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises and avoid



being lazy (Hebrews 6:12 and 10:36). You have need of endurance (Old KJV calls it patience), for after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise. The life of faith is a life of diligence; not for lazy folks. Every contrary inner attitude we have will be dealt with as we apply due diligence to God's word. When we meditate (Ps. 1:1-3), on God's Word we allow Him to define our inner world and hence our reality. When we mutter His Word to ourselves, we build a faith consciousness into our hearts. This calls for diligence. We can then hold fast to His Word as we learn to fight the good fight of faith. We hold forth the Word of Life in a perverse generation (Phil. 2:12-16). We honour God

when we believe His Word in the face of contrary evidence. He is not a man that He should lie. He is able to make His every word good in our lives. We need the staying-power (which is a product of His grace) of patience as we cooperate with Him to see His Word come to pass.

Receiving implies

being positioned

with expectation

and with a humble

submission to God's

ability to make His

Word true."

DEVELOPING A RECEIVING ATTITUDE AND MINDSET

When it is settled in your heart that you are going to experience the fullness of God's blessings, you need to develop a receiving attitude and mindset. Mark 11:22-26 tells us to 'believe that we receive' when we pray, and we shall have whatever we prayed for. Believe you receive and you shall have. The concept of believing you receive is not just an instant or individual occurrence but an attitude and an informed mindset. Receiving implies being positioned with expectation and with a humble submission to God's ability to make His Word true. The concept is also involved in how we receive God's Word. In 1 Thess. 2:13, (For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectual-

ly worketh also in you that believe) the inner attitude of the Thessalonians is the secret behind the effective working of God's Word in their lives. God's Word functions better in certain conditions than in others. When there is a heart that is willing to do what the Word demands, God will be willing to release His power through His Word. In Philippians 4:9, Paul was encouraging the Philippians to respond correctly to what they had seen, heard, received and learned. Paul shows us that there are four ways to transmit, and come into contact with, the values and the "power-to-change- lives influence" of the gospel. This means we can hear, see and learn but not receive. Our heart's attitude is the key to our receiving. There should be a permanent prevailing heart attitude of receiving and learning, if we want to enter His fullness.

WORK IT OUT IN LIFE: CULTIVATE THE LIFESTLYE OF OBEDIENCE

Some well known preacher of the Word once said "faith is not faith until it becomes part of your daily speech and daily conduct". Many think that we should separate the events of obedience in our lives. There is a formula I read somewhere that reads like this: repentance + obedience = freedom. It is the lifestyle of obedience that guarantees the perpetual freedom. The reason why there are many who fail to retain their healing, or whatever breakthrough God gives them, is

because they think in terms of individual events and not necessarily about a lifestyle of continued obedience.

Our continued obedience gives us the opportunity to build the character of Christ into our lives. The consistency in obedience produces in our lives that which gives us a step by step build up of the nature of Christ into our souls.

To bring about real lasting changes in our lives we need to see to it that our every day living comes into focus where God's Word is concerned. We need to set goals, plan, prepare and schedule time to engage in the things that pertain to God's Word. There will be days or weeks where all our study, meditation and devotional prayers will be

INTIMACY WITH GOD

It is possible to major on principles and leave out the person, presence and hence the power of God out of many areas of our lives. Without maintaining contact with God, we come short of His fullness in every aspect of our lives. Once again I see fallen man's love for independence showing up in man's attempt to distil success principles without a desire to connect with the God who gives all. God starts us all with His promises; they serve as our foundation for walking with God. Then we encounter problems as we live in a fallen world. Our willingness

to align ourselves with His ways and plans is what determines whether our problems will serve as stepping stones to greater heights or mark the place of our destruction. We can get either better or bitter. When we fulfil the conditions for His promises they manifest as provisions. To know and fulfil the correct conditions involve hearing from God. To cultivate intimacy with God, we start by understanding the fear of God. The fear of God is the healthy fear that serves to keep us from living in sin without any consideration for God's displeasure. "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." (Ps 19:9). We need to know how it pains His heart for people to yield their lives to sin after His son has paid the price for them to be free from it. Sin is destructive and gives Satan a foothold in our lives. On this foundation of the fear of God we can build our love for Him and hence cultivate intimacy with Him. Intimacy is a product of choice and a centred on walking more and more in His love. Other times we may need to work on getting rid of poverty and a sense of lack. All these are spelt 'TIME IN THE WORD AND FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'. How will we change the way we speak if we do not set goals, plan and form the habit through repeating words until they become part of our daily speech?

A negative habit is usually broken by replacing it with a right one. Our prayer life gets stronger through regular exercise in prayers. What we think, say and do, what attitudes we develop and what we allow to influence our decisions; all these need to be harnessed through our desire to regulate our lives by God's Word. To enjoy the fullness of His blessings in our lives demands that we go all the way with Him through His Word and being in obedience to His Spirit so we can be led into all He has for us. If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land (Is.1:19). It is what we do daily, weekly and monthly that will determine the eventual outcomes of our lives. Even 'go and sin no more' means go and cultivate a new lifestyle and make sure sin is no longer a part of it.

As we cultivate the right lifestyle, let us take note of the operation of Religious Spirits. Religious Spirits are the greatest counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. They are from hell and have come to steal, kill and destroy. They destroy heart relationshps with God and man. They use distractions and condemnation. For example, they make people try to externally impose God's truth upon themselves without an internal connection with the Spirit of Grace. They produce hypocritical, lie telling people who blame God for their predicament. We need to bind these Spirits from destroying our walk with God. The story of the brother of the 'Prodigal Son' in Luke 15:11-32 is a case in point - take time to cultivate intimacy with God as you live by faith and not by sight. Receive all that God has made available through Jesus Christ. Enjoy the fullness of His blessings.

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

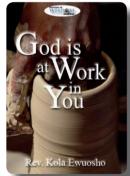
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The fullness of God is available. The availability of it is not automatic in every life. Right believing is the foundation of walking in His fullness. If we're going to walk and live in His fullness, we need to make sure we believe the RIGHT thing. But it doesn't stop there, we need to THINK right, SPEAK right and DO the right things!!!! This message will challenge us in what we believe, think, say and do! It'll also teach us valuable principles on how to get into the "right belief mode".

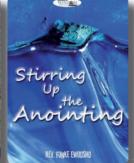
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THE POWER OF THE BLESSING

Rev. Funke Ewuosho



roverbs 10:22 says, "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

Psalm 133:3 says,"...for there the LORD commanded the blessing..."

These verses of scripture clearly speak of 'the blessing' and not 'a blessing' or 'blessings'. In this article, we will therefore be looking at the power of THE BLESSING of the Lord.

The first thing God did right after He created Man was to bless them. "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion..." (Gen. 28:1). After the flood, God blessed Noah and his sons and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. God had told Abram to get out of his country and his family to a land that He would show him. "[I will] make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

(Gen. 12:1-3)

We must note that in all the instances referred to above, the blessing of the LORD upon the individuals was meant to produce some things in their lives. Man was to become fruitful and to multiply; to fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over everything else God had created. Abraham's name was to become great and he was to become a blessing. In Genesis 24:35, the servant of Abraham testified before the family of Rebekkah, "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys." God's blessing had made Abraham rich indeed! Moses warned the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:18, "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." The blessing is what produces the blessings, that is, the physical and the material things in our lives! It is the blessing that makes one rich; and not the

other way round. Some Christians think that it is the riches that make them blessed, so when they don't have money or other material things, they think they are no more blessed. The Bible says Joseph was a prosperous man even when he was a slave in Potiphar's house. (Gen. 39:2)

In Genesis 26, there was a famine in the land where Isaac dwelt, he wanted to leave but God said to him, "dwell in this land and I will be with you and bless you..." (v. 3), And Isaac sowed in the same land and in the same year, reaped a hundred-fold. That tells me that a blessed man could live in a land where

there is famine and the blessing of God upon him will produce maximum results if he puts that blessing to work! It was the blessing that made what Isaac sowed to produce a hundredfold! Isaac became so prosperous that the Philistines envied him. They stopped the wells which his father's servants had dug. They drove him away from among them and Isaac pitched his tent in the "Valley of Gerar" and he dug again the wells of water which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. He found a well of running water there. You cannot stop a blessed man even if you stopped his wells. It did not matter where Isaac dwelt, what mattered was the blessing; so he prospered even in the "Valley of Gerah"

The Philistines kept striving with Isaac over the wells and Isaac kept moving away from strife and he kept digging new wells until he got to his ''Rehoboth'. "And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called it Rehoboth because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." (Gen.26:22). I tell people that a blessed person does not strive because it isn't about the wells, it is about the blessing — the robe does not make the monk.

rather it is the other way round. A blessed man is a secure man; no one can take from him what produces the riches - he carries that with him wherever he goes. Jesus said, "Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Lk. 10:42) The blessing works in the most adverse conditions. Adversity can't stop the blessing, in fact, the blessing thrives in adversity! The blessing sure has a way of attracting opposition. Like in Isaac's case, he prospered so much that the Philistines envied him, quarrelled with him, were in enmity with him and they drove him away from their midst. Did not Jesus say in Mark 10:29 that we shall reap a hundredfold of whatever we gave up for His sake and the gospel's in this time...with PER-SECUTIONS! Psalm 112 says the man who fears the Lord is blessed, wealth and riches will be in his house and, "the wicked will see it and be grieved;" (v. 10) In the parable of the sower, Jesus said: "tribulation or persecution arises because of the word..." (Matt. 13:21). This explains why some Christians shy away from walking in the blessing; they can't stand the heat!

Abimelech told Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we." (Gen. 26:16). What could have made a man become mightier than the indigenes of a land in which he was a foreigner? The blessing of course! God blessed Abraham and said to him: "your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies." (Gen. 22:17). The same blessing was pronounced upon Rebekkah, the wife of Isaac: "And may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them." (Gen. 24:60) The word 'Posses' in the Hebrew means, to inherit, to seize, to occupy, to possess. Psalm 112:2 says the descendants of the blessed man will be mighty on the earth. It was the blessing

upon Abraham and his descendants that made them flourish in the most adverse conditions in Egypt. Exodus 1:12 says the more their task masters afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew and the Egyptians were in dread of them. Listen to what Haman's wife told him; "If Morde-<mark>cai, before wh</mark>om you have begun to fall, <mark>is of Jewish</mark> descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him." (Es. 6:13) If Haman had heeded his wife's warning, he would have saved his own life! King Ahasuerus said, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the *Jews.* " (Es 8:7) Can you see Abraham's seed once again possessing the gates of those who hate them? Haman's undoing was that he tried to lay his hand on the Jews. Isaiah 54:15 says "Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me.

Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. "And in verse 17a; "No weapon formed against you shall prosper,

And every tongue which rises against you in judgment

You shall condemn."

The Philistines realised that they couldn't stop Isaac because what was producing what they saw was beyond the natural and was unstoppable!

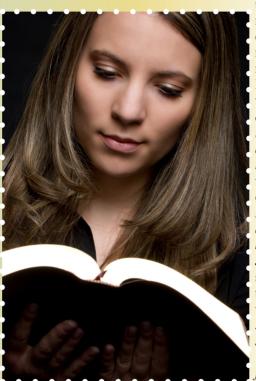
God commanded the Israelites not to sow in the seventh year. He told them to keep His statutes and judgments and they would dwell in the land in safety - "Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill," (Lev. 25:19). Compare that to Genesis 3:17-19 (after the fall of man), "Cursed is the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground..." Also, after Cain had killed his brother, God said to him, "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you." (Gen 4:11, 12). The implication is that the blessing on the one hand, makes your ground or field to yield its fruit to you – and the curse on the other hand makes the ground not to yield its strength, but to produce thorns and thistles!



"The blessing works in the most adverse conditions.

Adversity can't stop the blessing, in fact, the blessing thrives in adversity!"

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THE POWER OF THE BLESSING

Continued...

In Leviticus 25:22, God told the Israelites that He would command His blessing on them in the sixth year and the land will bring forth produce enough for three years since they were not to sow until the eighth year. God had them covered till the ninth year when the next harvest would be! Elisha told the widow of Zarephath; "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" (1 Kings 17:14).

To bless means, among other things, to cause to prosper. The power to get wealth includes spiritual, physical and mental ability or capacity. The blessing of the Lord is multi-dimensional. It covers every area of our lives – spiritual, mental, physical, material, etc. (Deut. 28:1-14). For instance in Exodus 23:25-26 "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days." Jesus said in Mark 16 that those who believe, if they shall take any deadly thing, it will by no means hurt them. Also in Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by

any means hurt you." The Bible tells us that Abraham died in a good old age, "an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people." (Gen 25:8)

The blessing is stronger than the curse! In Numbers 23, Balak invited Balaam to come curse the Israelites, and Balaam told him that God had already blessed Israel and wouldn't change His mind about that. Balaam said "Behold, I have received a command to bless;

He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it." (Num 23:20) Truly, no weapon formed against you shall prosper! Psalm 55:22 says God shall never permit the righteous to be shaken! (See also Psalm 125:12; 37:32,33) Romans 8:31-34 (NLT) says; "If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else?

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? Will God? No! He is the One who has given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for He is the One who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us."

So powerful and important was the blessing that the LORD commanded Aaron and his sons to bless the Children of Israel, saying to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26). Peace means; completeness, wholeness, peace, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquillity, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord. In Isaiah 53:5, the chastisement necessary to bring us 'peace' was upon Jesus. He is to be called the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6) In Luke 2:14, announcing the birth of Christ, the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

God had promised Abraham that in him shall all

the families of the earth be blessed. The Jews are the natural descendants of Abraham and they

walked in his blessings naturally. Jesus said, He was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 15:26). In healing the woman with the spirit of infirmity, Jesus said to the ruler of the Synagogue; "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" (Luke 13:16). Again, Hebrews 2:16 says Jesus came to help the seed of Abraham. So, how do we who were not Jews by birth come into this blessing? How then could we be blessed in Abraham? Galatians 3:13, 14 says "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law... that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." It is therefore through faith in Christ Jesus, that we can come into the blessing. Galatians 3:9 says, "So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." And also, in Galatians 3:26,29: "For you

"The blessing of the Lord is multidimensional.
It covers every area of our lives — spiritual, mental physical, material, etc."

are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Ephesians 2:12,13 says clearly, "that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." And in verses 18 and 19, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God," Praise God! You therefore, should stop looking down on yourself. Stop seeing yourself as a second or third class citizen! You are a fellow citizen with the saints and a member of the

household of God. Amen!

"The choice is therefore ours – life or death, blessing or cursing. We can choose life so that both we and our descendants may live!"

Psalm 133:3 tells us what the blessing boils down to - "Life forevermore." Did Jesus not say, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. "(John 10:10) Let's put it simply, the curse has a threefold assignment - stealing, killing and destruction, and the blessing, which is the Life Jesus came to give to us, makes us free from all those things! John 1:4,5 says, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and

the darkness did not comprehend [or overcome]it." Romans 8;2 says.

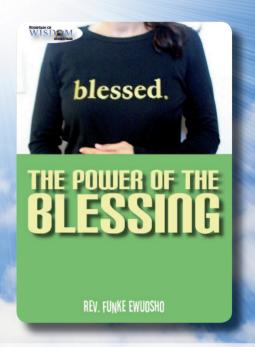
"the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." 1 John 5:11,12 says "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (or, the life) The choice is therefore ours – life or death, blessing or cursing. We can choose life so that both we and our descendants may live! (Deut. 30:19) Anyone who has received Christ has chosen life over death and the blessing over cursing. God did not send His Son to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him. (Jn. 3:17) That is the first step towards walking in the blessing. - believeing in and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, the blessing is Life. (Ps. 133:3) "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1, 2).

God bless you richly!

Rev. Funke Ewnosho

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The blessing is stronger than the curse!



The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and adds no sorrow." (Pvrb 10:22)

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"I want to say God bless you and praise to Him for what He is using people like you to do in these end times. I watched your message preached in the early hour of yesterday on 'HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR JOY' and I was richly blessed. God continue to anoint you for greater works." Odekanle (Nigeria)

"A friend of mine from Nigeria gave me some of your teachings and I was so blessed." Sarah (Kenya)

"Thank you for all you do. Your ministry is a blessing." Loretta

"I am so blessed by the teachings sent and also the 2009 Diary and Calendar." Pastor Ogaga

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of financial crisis to the times of famine in the Bible. Famine was caused at different times by different factors – [i] The natural (Gen 12:10; 26:1; Acts 11:27,28)

[ii] Man-made (2 Kings 6:24,25;

Prov 11:26; Amos 8:4-7) [iii] God's judgment (1 Kings 17:1; Jas 5:17,18). And we could relate to all of

these in our times. The first thing we must settle in our heart is that no matter what the cause of the famine or financial crisis is, God's will is for His people to be sustained in it. "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,

On those who hope in His mercy, To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine." (Ps. 33:18, 19). Also in Psalm 55:22: "Cast your burden on the LORD,

And He shall sustain you;

He shall never permit the righteous to be moved." . To sustain means: to maintain, nourish, provide food, to supply the means necessary for living, etc. It primarily suggests "to measure out a provision of food" i.e. to provide. Right after Elijah declared God's judgment, the word of the LORD came to him announcing his own provision! (1 Kings 17:2,3). God sustained Elijah, the widow and her household throughout the famine - the bin of flour was not used up nor did

the jar of oil run dry UNTIL the famine was over! God sustained the Israelites all through the wilderness for forty years, their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. (Neh. 9:21)

In times of financial crisis like this, we are not meant to panic like the people of the world. Jesus said men's hearts will fail them from fear and expectation of those things which are com-

• ing on the earth. (Lk. 21:26). God does not want

us to be moved by the things happening around us. He said He will shake the heavens and the earth, indicating the removal of things that can be shaken, so that the things which, cannot be shaken (i.e. the Kingdom of God) may remain (Heb. 12:26-29). Every man-made thing, helpful as it may be while it lasts, will be shaken. Our faith should not rest on the wisdom of men but on the power of God! (1 Cor. 2:5). Those who will not be moved by the crisis are: [i] those who have learnt the secret of putting their trust in God. (Ps. 125:1; 121:1-3; 46:5) [ii] those who have learnt the secret of dwelling in His presence (Ps. 27:1-6; 23:4-6; 91; Is. 43:2) and, [iii] those who have learnt the secret of enquiring in His temple, seek-

ing His face for solutions. (Ps. 27:4, 8, 9; Ps 73:16,

19) Elijah said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand," (1 Kings 17:1). Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that **proceeds** out of the mouth of God. We must keep our ears glued to the mouth of God, if we would live above these times of financial crisis.

God has established certain principles by which His people would prosper inspite of any famine of financial crisis.



Handling Times of Financial Crisis

Continued...

1. The Seed Principle or Giving.

Right after the flood, when everything had been destroyed apart from Noah & his family and the animals saved in the ark, God said, while the earth remains seedtime and harvest shall not cease. (Gen. 8:22). No matter how bad things are, you don't stop sowing or else there would be no harvest. Isaac sowed in

the time of famine and he reaped a hundredfold — what if he didn't sow? "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap," (Eccles. 11:4) and in verse 6, "in the morning sow your seed and in the evening do not withhold your hand…" (See also Eccles. 11:1-6; Ps. 112; Ps. 126:5, 6)

2. The Principle of Obedience

Jesus likens the man who comes to Him, hears and obeys His saying to a wise man who builds his house on the rock. The house remained standing even after the storms, winds and rains had come and gone (Luke 6), God told Isaac not to go to Egypt but to dwell in the land of the Philistines inspite of the famine. Isaac obeyed, he sowed in the same land and reaped a hundredfold in the same year! The widow of Zarephath obeyed the word of the LORD through Elijah and she was sustained throughout the famine (1 Kings 17). Isaiah 1:19 says "if you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land."

3. The Principle of Using what you Have

When the widow went to Elisha in distress because the creditors had threatened to take her children, Elisha asked her, "what do you have in the house?" (2 Kings 4:2) She said "nothing...but a jar of oil." Note that, it is what you have in your house, in your possession and at your disposal; that God will use to turn your situation around! Contentment looks inward, covetousness looks outward. God will not use what you don't have. He will use the talent, the gifting, the resources - physical, spiritual, mental, human, etc, within your reach, to bless you. You must reckon with what you have. Begin to value what you have. David used his stones and sling to kill Goliath. God used the staff in Moses' hand to part the red sea. Elisha used the jar of oil the woman had to perform the miracle. He said to her, after all the vessels had been filled with oil, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you and your sons live on the rest" (vs. 7)

4. The Principle of Divine Revelation

In Genesis 41, Pharaoh had two dreams and Joseph was called upon to interpret the dreams. There was going to be seven years of abundance that would be followed by seven years of famine. God not only gave the interpretation of the dreams through Joseph but also the wisdom as to how to handle the years of abundance and the years of famine.

In this one story, you could see: [i] the place of divine revelation – the things revealed to us are for us and our children (Deut. 29:29), [ii] the place of using what Joseph had (i.e the gift of interpreting dreams) [iii] the place of divine wisdom. Note that divine revelation would always lead to **divine instruction** or else what is revealed would be of no benefit to us.

When they acted on Joseph's instructions they were

sustained through the famine. Elisha told the widow to sell the oil, pay her debts and live off the remaining! Divine revelation also demands from us a lifestyle of hard work, diligence and discipline. A man who is diligent in his work or 'prompt in his business' will stand before kings and not before unknown men (Prov. 22:29). Divine revelation also demands accountability from us. The widow, after she had filled all the vessels with oil, reported back to Elisha. When Joseph interpreted the dreams, Pharaoh did not 'take it on from there'; he made himself accountable to Joseph in that area. A lot of times we

cut off from God and the vessels He used to give us divine revelation, so we dry up soon. God would often give you divine ideas to get out of your predicament. (Gen. 30:31)

5. The Principle of Wealth Distribution

The church responded to the famine prophesied by prophet Agabus, by sending relief to the brethren living in Judea (Acts 11:29,36; Rom. 15:26; 1 Cor. 16:13)

The Bible tells us that if one member suffers all the other members suffer with it. (1 Cor. 12:26) In Acts 4:34,35, no one lacked in the church because those who had possessions sold them and the proceeds were distributed by the apostles to each one as anyone had need.

When famine hit the world, and there was food in Egypt as a result of Joseph's influence, Joseph pledged to his brothers that he would provide for them and their little ones (Gen 50:21) God arranged the Body of Christ in a way that there should be no lack in the Body! If we would follow that plan of wealth distribution, there wouldn't be any lack any where! If we understood this principle, we wouldn't indulge in wast-

age. After the miracle of feeding five thousand men, Jesus commanded His disciples to gather up the remaining food,

"so that nothing is lost." (John 6:12).

In addition to all of these, in handling financial crisis, you must know who you are and whose you are! You must factor in the supernatural, the power of the blessing and the power of God's favour upon His people (Ps. 5:12; Deut. 8:18; Prov. 10:22). *God bless you!*

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

(For more on this subject, purchase 'Handling Financial Crisis' from our on-line store.)



"No matter

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Testimony

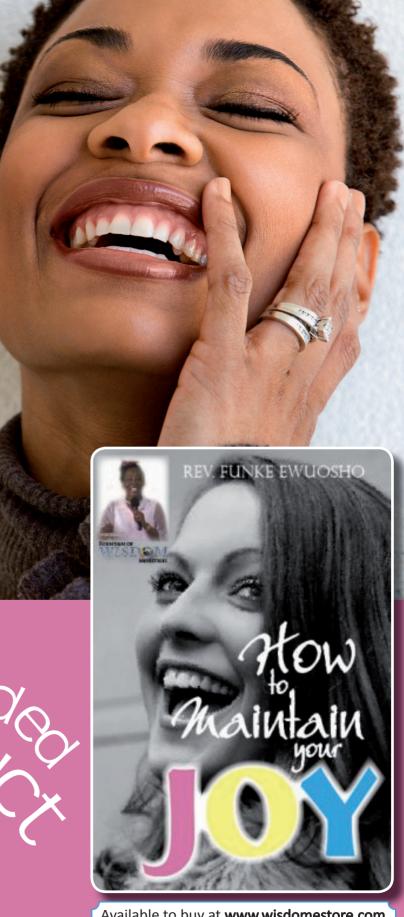
"Greetings in Jesus Christ's name! I would like to share my testimony, based on the message broadcasted this morning on ACBN. It was already 7:00am and I was just going to allow myself to fall into one of those "todayis-going-to-be-a-bad-day" moods. The TV was on and was about to be switched off, since I was already fully dressed for work. I was mumbling curses under my breath at my maid who had not yet turned up. My son was on school holiday and I was broke because it was the end of the month and I hadn't yet received my salary. I'd had a fretful night because of a pain in my right rib. After I'd prayed rebuking it in Jesus' Name before falling asleep, it decided to take a "tour" of the rest of my body. The last note I had in my purse was for electricity and, now that the maid was not here, I had to hire a taxi to send my son to a friend's place to spend the day there. But the voice of Rev. Funke interrupted the smooth flow of my dirty, ungrateful thoughts when she said, "If you can your joy, the devil cannot keep y

As I listened to the message, I realized that sometimes I am a pain to my Pastor and to my fellow brothers in Christ because, instead of thanking Jesus before the result has manifested in the physical realm, I focus on where I am, instead of where I could be if I maintained my joy. I thank God for this message because it has also helped me to evaluate my parenting skills and to list all the blessings I already have, such as the friend who accepted to have my son for the day, the last note of money I had which enabled me to take him there, and satellite TV to expose me to the SOUL FOOD that I needed to get into the right "gear" for the day and for the rest of my life."

Yours sincerely,
Ms Pamella Saungueme, Mozambique



hy is it so important that we learn how to maintain our joy? Because God expects us to serve Him with joy! God is not just interested in what you're doing, but in the spirit with which you are doing it. Have you found yourself complaining recently? In this three part series God's truth will deliver you from a complaining, judgmental and competitive spirit that wants to kill the joy of God in our hearts. If Satan can steal our joy, he can steal many other things that belong to us. It is vital that we learn to maintain our joy if we are to overcome Satan, be acceptable to God and live a fulfilling life. Rev. Funke Ewuosho shares many powerful insights on this subject and gives the practical keys for maintaining joy, no matter the situation you are facing. (3 CD Set-£15, 3 DVD Set-£25)



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- Tuesday Service 6.00pm (weekly)
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JULY 2009

3rd- 5th July (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Womens Conference, Yenogoa (Nigeria)

25th July (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Womens Breakfast Conference (UK)

26th July (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) King of Glory Assembly, Dartford (UK)

AUGUST 2009

7th-8th August (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Strategic Equippers Conference, Port Harcourt (Nigeria)

12th-16th August (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Ingathering Conference, Kano (Nigeria)

SEPTEMBER 2009

Strategic Equippers Conference, Accra (Ghana)

OCTOBER 2009

Strategic Equippers Conference (Cameroon)



MAY 2009

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

JUNE 2009

our offices before travelling for any of these meetings.

10th- 12th June (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Angola (tbc)

26th- 28th June (Rev. Kola Ewuosho) WOFCC, Abuja (Nigeria)

26th-28th June (Rev. Funke Ewuosho) WOFCC, Lagos (Nigeria)

29th - 30th June (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho) Strategic Equippers Conference, Abuja (Nigeria)