

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM MINISTRIES

ISSUE WD093

WISDOM

Digest

Winter Edition

THE FOCUS
OF THE
PROPHETIC
MINISTRY

The
Adventure of
**Becoming
One**

**BUILDING
A RECESSION-
PROOF FUTURE**

Inside:

- Testimonies
- Products
- Itinerary
- Broadcasts
and more..

Winter Edition

DISCIPLING THE NATIONS FOR THE GLORY OF 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.

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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.

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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Salvation Prayer

Are 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 you to pray something like this... *"Lord God, I ask you to forgive me for my sins and make me a new person today. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for my salvation. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I receive forgiveness, healing and deliverance today. I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to know you and follow you from this day on. Thank you for saving me!"* The Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom 10:14). If you have just prayed this prayer for the first time, please get in touch with us so that we can send you some materials to help you to grow in your new relationship with God.

BUILDING A RECESSION-PROOF FUTURE



BY LEARNING HOW GOD PROSPERS HIS PEOPLE, YOU CAN HAVE A RECESSION-PROOF FUTURE

Does God have a plan for His people in these days of the credit crunch? Are there lessons to be learnt from this recession? What can we learn to make us recession-proof in the future? This global phenomenon has had a ripple effect in many aspects of the lives of many people. Many have faced untold hardship while others have had their homes reposessed and properties confiscated. Many parts of people's lives have been negatively affected by the current recession. What is God saying about these human tragedies? Is there comfort from any source? Can we have assurance for our future in view of all these realities?

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE: TO BE IN HEALTH AND PROSPER AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS

3 John 2 says "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." God's plans are based on His Word and His covenant and therefore they are based on faith. Faith is the access we have into the realm of the spirit. The strong pull

today towards being earthbound has done a major disservice to the life of faith. We access divine realities through faith. Faith starts with believing. By believing with the heart we enter into a new state, a new realm, a new reality. "With the heart man believes unto righteousness." (Romans 10:9). What we believe matters, who we believe in is vital and how we let our faith shape our lives will determine what we experience and how much we can really cooperate with God for His will to be done in our lives. God is a faith-God and His nature is Love. The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17). Faith introduces us to a reality beyond our sense knowledge reality. It is this reality that proves too hard for the sense-ruled person to comprehend. This inability creates space for an intruder to try to paint a different picture so as to derail us from following God's purposes. Actually, sense knowledge can and does war against revealed knowledge or Bible-faith knowledge. This is the reason why many outstanding events in the Bible come across as fables to people who are bound or limited by sense knowledge alone. Think about many miracles in the Old and New Testament and imagine how the man limited by senses will see them.

MAN IS A SPIRIT; HE HAS A SOUL AND LIVES IN A BODY

The tripartite nature of man is not a reality



REV. KOLA EWUOSHO



in many minds. We can relate with our minds but usually our relationship with the realm of the spirit is very uncertain because we have lived in the sense realm so long that the spirit realm looks unreal. This is what makes the whole issue of relating with God, getting into His plans for our lives and participating with His programme, sometimes daunting. In Matthew 16, when Jesus told Peter that what he said was revealed to him by the Father, we are immediately introduced to two kinds of knowledge: sense knowledge and revealed knowledge. The quality, power and impact of revealed knowledge far outweighs that of sense knowledge. By revealed knowledge, one comes into a lot more than just facts and figures. There is life flow that impacts the heart of the receiver, a life that encourages application and continuous study of the message or instruction that came through revelation knowledge. God uses His Word to release His power, to create His desires and to build up those who believe His Word. The Word is a carrier of His grace and power. Jesus said the words I speak are spirit and life (John 6:63). Our application of the Word and meditation in it builds up our faith and our spirit. The realm of the revealed Word is the realm of the spirit. Our souls comprise of our will, mind and emotions. Our body is our earth suit. Through the physical senses of touch, taste, hearing, seeing and smelling we exercise our ability to make contact with our physical world. Our souls define the seat of our personality and our bodies carry the form by which we are identified i.e. tall or short, big or small. Our spirits represent our contact faculty with the spirit realm. These three interrelate so much that in reality they constitute a whole person and the various dimensions he is capable of functioning in. Man is a spirit; he has a soul and lives in a body. The same is true for women too. When sin entered the human race, the order of 'spirit, soul and body' became 'body, soul and spirit' as the human body gained ascendancy over the soul and the soul over the spirit of man. The spirit in contact with God's realm has ascendancy over the soul and together they regulate the body so that man can reflect the image and likeness

"Sin has taken advantage of the fallen nature of man to twist the purposes of God whenever prosperity is being considered."

of God. When sin came in to man, it polluted and perverted the faculties and injected selfishness, pride and fear into the human nature. The roles, influence and purposes designed by God all came into a twisted state. Man's authority became domination and the woman's influence became manipulation amongst other things. All these find the potential for being reversed in the new creation in Christ. The reverse has to be worked out through the daily application of the Word of God. The revelation and appli-

cation of the Word of God are the keys to transformation into the fullness of God's plans and purposes in Christ Jesus. The same principles hold true when we really want to know how God prospers His people. Sin has taken advantage of the fallen nature of man to twist the purposes of God whenever prosperity is being considered. What is produced by the sinful nature opposes what is produced by God's plans and purposes, like Ishmael and Isaac in the Bible.

One is a product of human attempt to produce God's intentions, the latter is God's intention produced by God's plans and purposes. This study is about comprehending how God's power can operate to overcome opposing natural forces, especially in the area of finances. The power of God's blessing can prosper mankind no matter the natural circumstances. God's supernatural power can and does change natural situations.

ISAAC IS A CASE STUDY IN OLD TESTAMENT RECESSION-TIMES

Genesis 26 is a case study on all the factors involved in enjoying abundance during recession. The basis of God's blessings is the blessing of the covenant of Abraham. Deut.8:18 says God gives power to get wealth to establish His covenant. Obedience and service to God are conditions for living days in pleasures and spending years in prosperity (Job 36:11). Isaac obeyed God and sowed in the land of famine. The blessing of God makes rich and adds no sorrow (Proverbs 10:22). The blessing thrives in the midst of trouble. Isaac's obedience was the key to activating the existing covenant God had with His fa-

ther, Abraham. He also sowed in the land and reaped a hundred fold in the same year. Isaac began to prosper and continued until he was very prosperous. Isaac put God first, respected God's Word and built his life around God's covenant Word to him. Even when he was envied, Isaac refused to walk in strife with those who wanted his father's well. Strife-free obedience characterised his lifestyle. When you know the quality and power of the relationship you have with God, it makes a difference. Remember his father Abraham also never wanted to walk in strife with Lot, his cousin, when their workmen had strife amongst them (Genesis 13-14).

THE SEED PRINCIPLE AND SOME FACTORS

The seed principle is the fundamental principle on which God's kingdom, government and expression of His purposes are built. God himself established the seed principle for every realm of existence. He created seed bearing vegetation for the sake of reproducing itself. All animals as well as mankind carry seed to reproduce themselves. When God wanted to have spiritual children He gave Jesus Christ as a seed who was buried and rose again, thereby making it possible for God to have true spiritual sons. He sowed one to reap many. In the soul's realm, people's behaviour (fruit) can be traced to the beliefs (seed) that they have. Their beliefs are things they have accepted, whether consciously or not, to be true. Activating the seed principle in our lives is one of the privileges of knowing God through Christ. God always starts by giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater. The same God multiplies the seed sown and increases the fruit of our righteousness (2 Cor. 9:6-10). Every thought can be seen as a seed and words are the harvest. Words themselves are seeds and they are reaped in actions. Actions are seeds that are reaped in habits and habits determine how far we go in life. All the potentials invested in mankind by God are in seed form. Cultivation and a healthy environment are needed for the seeds of greatness in you to come into manifestation. Become seed-minded in every aspect of life. Divine ideas

from God are seeds from which a harvest of breakthrough can come. God's Word is the fundamental seed He uses to produce whatever He desires to produce. In the parable of the sower, the productivity of the seed was never in question; it was the condition of the hearts of the people that determined the yield of the seed. When we become seed-minded, it changes how we handle opportunities that come our way. The scripture says seed-time and harvest shall never cease as long as the earth remains (Genesis 8:22). Your future is made of the harvests of the seeds you are sowing. This is true in all realms of existence including finances. Things may happen that are not necessarily a result of the seeds you have sown but how you respond to them is the beginning of your seed sowing. Even a bad situation can turn out good if the right seeds are sown. Joseph's life is a proof of this (Genesis 37-41).

"Become seed-minded in every aspect of life. Divine ideas from God are seeds from which a harvest of breakthrough can come."

RELATIONSHIP AS A FACTOR FOR GOD'S BLESSING IN YOUR LIFE

The first factor we are to consider is the relationship factor as we see how the seed principle applies. Our first relationship is with God and then the next is with people. With God, our relationship starts by being born again. The foundation of our relationship with God is our understanding of the fear of God. Psalm 25:12 says "What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose" and verse 14 says "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." (See also Ps. 112:1-3). Wisdom, understanding and knowledge derived from our knowledge of God's Word will be a necessary arsenal in building healthy



relationships with God and man. Our intake of the Word, prayers and worship all serve to nurture our relationship with God. Our worship of God includes our giving to Him. As we meditate in the Word, we come into a new understanding of who we are, what we have and what we can do. The seed of greatness is sown in us. We 'water' all seeds with prayers. When we want to do anything, relationships around us determine how far we can go. Our relationships are nurtured by the seeds we sow into them.

THE GIVING FACTOR

We give of our time, talent and treasure. Our motive is love and our focus is pleasing God. These in turn become our seeds and when the harvests come we say we prosper. In money matters, we need to recognise that **God is our source** and there are many channels through which God gets through to us. Parents are channels for God to get through to their children. Our work that gives us salaries is a channel that God can use to get through to us. The work system has its remuneration process and we need to abide by its process but, in the long run, it is still a channel and can never become the source. A wise man has many channels that God can use to get through to him. In Proverbs 11:24-26, we can glean a few lessons: 1) Seeds need to be scattered to gain increase, (money must be invested as well), and

similarly one will reap more than what is sown. 2) Stinginess can cause us to hold back more than is appropriate and that affects the harvest too. 3) Cultivating a liberal spirit and consistent giving will produce a reciprocal dynamic that continues yielding a harvest as long as the person continues sowing.

THE OBEDIENCE FACTOR

The **obedience** factor plays a part in our ability to be positioned to reap, obtain or come into increase. In the New Testament, obedience implies attentive hearing, to listen with compliant submission, assent and agreement. Obedience will go a long way in ensuring we are faithful as stewards of God's resources. Job 36: 11 says "If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures." The obedience of faith activates God's power in our lives.

Isaac obeyed God in Genesis 26 when

he was told to stay in the land that had famine. Obedience became a factor for the prosperity of God in his life. Increase is usually guaranteed after tests have been passed. It has been my observation that many people fail their tests and wonder why they do not experience increase from God. He does not waste His resources. He is generous, not wasteful. He wants us to be so developed that we are considered faithful to handle His resources as stewards. The tests include, amongst other things, the test of small things and the time test.

"The obedience factor plays a part in our ability to be positioned to reap, obtain or come into increase."

THE DILIGENCE FACTOR

Diligence is a major factor to produce and sustain increase in your life (Proverbs 27:23-27). Diligence is the main factor as opposed to laziness or slothfulness. Many scriptures in the book of Proverbs teach us about the essence and benefits of diligence. The diligent hand makes rich (Prov. 10:4). See also

chapters 12:24, 27 and 13:4. Diligence is an attitude, a posture, as well as a predetermined set of actions born out of a desire to give one's best in everything one does. It is hard work intelligently directed, it implies paying attention to details and it enhances walking in integrity as we learn to do what we say and say what we mean. It is a choice we make to respect our God-given opportunities and privileges rather than be sloppy, lazy and waste opportunities that come our way. Diligence should be cultivated by all as we strive to excel in all we do. We should learn to establish our lives in the subject of diligence in all aspects of our lives. Diligence is what a soldier, an athlete and a farmer, all have in common. We need to sow into a lifestyle of diligence. Diligence will make the difference in our spiritual, social and physical aspects of our lives. In handling God's blessing in the area of finances, we need to be diligent in accounting; knowing the state of things (Proverbs 27:23). Know how much you own, owe, earn and spend. We should be diligent in planning (Proverbs 21:5). Planned spending brings satisfaction. We should save and also obtain a proper education concerning finances so we can know how to handle things in this area.

In summary, we see the importance of our God-connection through faith in the covenant. Then we see our inner attitudes and how these need to be affected by His Word through meditation, worship, confession so that our expectation is from our true source...God. Finally we see the need for our application of these principles in our lives in order to become faithful stewards over our God-given resources; to use them correctly and see them multiply as we increase in our capacity to handle more from God.

Rev Kola Ewuosho



Not sure where to start?

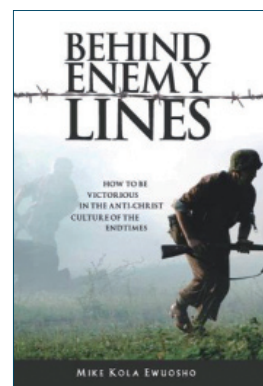
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- Saturday Bible School- 3.00pm (Various)
- Youth Fellowship - (Monthly)

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WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER

30 Nguru Road, Nomansland, Kano State, Nigeria.

MEETS

- Sunday Service - 9.00am (weekly)
- Wednesday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)

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- Wednesday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)

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KANTI KAZAURE, NIGERIA

WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER

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KENYA

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- Thursday Prayer - 5.30pm (weekly)
- Sunday service - 9.00am (English - weekly)
- Sunday service - 11.00am (Swahili - weekly)

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- Wednesday Service - 7.00pm (weekly)

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The Focus of the Prophetic Ministry

Rev. Funke Ewuosho



The focus of the prophetic ministry is to prepare the ways of the Lord – in the heart of the people! Isaiah 40:3-5 says, “Prepare the way of the LORD;

*Make straight in the desert
A highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted
And every mountain and hill
brought low;
The crooked places shall be made
straight
And the rough places smooth;
The glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,*

*And all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”*

The valleys, mountains and hills, crooked and rough places; could typify the different conditions of the hearts of people. When those conditions are straightened out, then God’s glory shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it! Romans 8:19 says the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the (mature) sons of God.

Before the LORD comes for us, He will first come to us – to refine and to purify our hearts, to straighten our focus and our motives! The prophetic ministry always precedes the coming of the LORD – either at a corporate or personal level, either at the present or in the future. When the children of Israel cried to the LORD because of the oppression of the Midianites, God sent to them a prophet before He sent them a deliverer in the name of Gideon! (Judg. 7-12) God said He will send to His people, Elijah the prophet **before** the coming of the day of the LORD. (Mal. 4:5).

In Malachi 3:1 God says He will send His messenger and he will prepare the way before Him “*And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,*



*In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,”
Says the LORD of hosts.”*

A lot of folks are waiting for God to show up in their lives, but He wants to send His messenger ahead of Himself to prepare His way to come to His people. The LORD wants to refine His people as silver and purify and purge them as gold and silver – “*That they may offer to the LORD*

*An offering in righteousness.
“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
Will be pleasant to the LORD,
As in the days of old,
As in former years.”* (Mal. 3:3-4).

The focus of the prophetic ministry is to restore all things. Jesus will not come back until the restoration of all things. Peter was preaching in the temple after the miracle of the healing of the man at Gate Beautiful; “*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*” (Acts 3:19-21).

The prophetic ministry is a preparatory and a restorative ministry – Elijah was to come **first** and restore all things. In the Old Testament, Elijah represented the prophetic ministry. Jesus said “*Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.*” (Matt. 17:11). In 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah challenged the children of Israel: “*How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.*” The prophetic ministry will confront the hearts of the people. Elijah asked the LORD to send down the fire so that the people may know that He is the LORD and that He has turned their hearts back to Himself again. (1 Kg. 18:37). “*And he repaired*

the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob..." (1 Kg. 18:30-31). Notice that Elijah repaired the altar before he called on God to send down the fire – Elijah indeed prepared the way of the LORD! The altar of God is now in the hearts of His people! God does not live in houses made by human hands; He wants to dwell in the hearts of people! (Is. 66:1, 2).

Elijah took twelve stones in repairing the altar of the LORD. Twelve represents Government – the government or the Kingdom of God! Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done" (Matt. 6:10). God's Kingdom must be restored in our hearts, so that His will alone might be done both in our lives and in the earth, as it is in heaven. Jesus came, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God – and the message was directed at the hearts of the people. In Matthew 5-7; Jesus taught His disciples what is known as The Beatitudes; and they all relate to the conditions of the heart. "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men." (Rom. 14:17-18).

In the New Testament, John the Baptist typifies the prophetic ministry. He was the voice of the one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD: make His path straight." (Matt. 3:3). Jesus said John was the Elijah who was to come before the coming of the Lord and to restore all things. (Matt. 17:10-13; 11:9-14). The angel Gabriel prophesied to Zacharias his father about his birth: "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord...And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'" (Luke 1:15-17). Those verses also capture the purpose and the focus of the prophetic ministry. A genuine prophetic ministry would turn the hearts of people to God. The assignment of the prophet is to guide God's people back to Him: "To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace." (Lk. 1:79). In Ephesians 4:11, the Bible tells us that Jesus gave Apostles, **Prophets**, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, as gifts to the Church – to prepare and build up the church. Someone beautifully summarised the different functions of these Ministry gifts as follows: - Apostles GOVERN; Prophets GUIDE; Evangelists GATHER; Pastors GUARD and Teachers GROUND!

The prophetic ministry points us back to God! John the Baptist announced to all Israel; "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn. 1:29). The prophetic ministry is a selfless ministry! It seeks to glorify Jesus and Jesus alone. It divests itself completely of self and does not seek to draw attention to itself! John the Baptist wasn't ashamed to confess that he was not the Christ! He said about Jesus "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me (i.e. ranks higher than I), whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." (Jn. 1:27).

The whole essence of John the Baptist's ministry was to reveal Christ! He said, "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." (Jn. 1:31) John the Baptist never performed any miracles (Jn. 10:41) yet Jesus said he was a prophet and even more than a prophet because he was the one of whom was written, that he would prepare the way of the Lord, the messenger that God would send before Christ. (Matt. 11:9-10). His father, Zacharias prophesied that he would be called "the Prophet of the Highest" because he was to go before the face

of the Lord to prepare His ways. (Lk. 1:76). Going "before the face of the Lord" primarily means going ahead of His coming. However, another way to apply that scripture is to say that the prophetic ministry is one that seeks the face of the Lord; one that spends time in the presence of the Lord; one that waits on Him to hear from Him! Someone said, a prophetic person hears the inaudible, sees the invisible and touches the intangible! I believe these are the results of seeking the face of God. The Psalmist said: "One thing I have desired of the LORD,

That will I seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD

All the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the LORD,

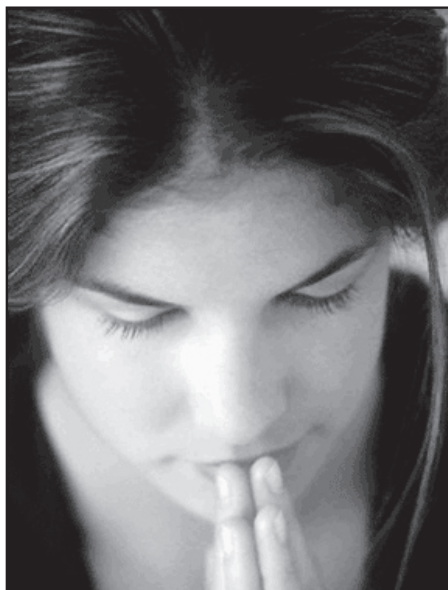
And to inquire in His temple. When You said, "Seek My face,"

My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek." (Ps.

27:4, 8)

When you seek His face, you will indeed hear the inaudible, see the invisible and touch the intangible! Elijah said, I hear the sound of the abundance of rain (1 Kings 18:41). Moses saw Him who is invisible. (Heb. 11:27). Elisha saw that those who were with them were more than the whole Syrian army. (2 Kg. 6:16). You will hear and see what others are not hearing and seeing. God has so much to say to His people, if they would make the time to seek His face. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4).

Some people believe that God is always talking; I think they need to qualify that. I believe, from the scriptures, that God only speaks when people give Him their attention! He didn't speak until He saw that Moses turned aside to look at the burning bush! (Ex. 3:3-4). God didn't speak to Samuel until he said "Speak, for Your servant hears." (1 Sam. 3:10-11). In Acts 13:1-2, the Holy Spirit spoke when certain prophets and teachers in the Antioch Church came together and ministered to the Lord!



"A genuine prophetic ministry would turn the hearts of people to God."

We can't all be prophets, but I believe that we can all be prophetic! That was why Jesus gave prophets among other Ministry gifts, to the Body! God wants His people to be a prophetic people. He wants His people for Himself. The Bible says God went to redeem the nation of Israel as a people for Himself and made them

His people forever. (2 Sam. 7:23-24). God told Moses to say to the children of Israel: "if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Ex. 19:5-6). And also in Revelation 1:6, Christ has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. Apostle Peter was also speaking to believers in 1 Peter 2:5, 9; "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;". That tells us that God's plan has not changed from Exodus 19:5-6 till now!

Our first call is to the Lord Himself! In Mark 3:14-15: "Then He appointed twelve, **that they might be with Him** and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons". Did you notice the order of appointment? He appointed the twelve that, they might be with Him first and foremost, before they would go out to do the work of Ministry! The Holy Spirit said, "Now separate **to Me** Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2) He didn't say separate them to the work but to **Him** for the work! We have turned things

the other way round and God wants the divine order to be restored. Hence, "Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." The altar of the Lord in the hearts of His people that has been broken down must be repaired! God's people are His portion and His treasured possession! God went to redeem His people for Himself and He wants them back for Himself. He is a jealous God; He doesn't want to share His people with anyone or anything! He is looking for those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth! (Jn. 4:23). God is looking for those who will love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength (Mk. 12:30). Those who will be focussed on Him. God isn't looking for half-hearted commitment, but a whole-hearted one, from His people. He wants people who will not only serve Him with their spirits but who will also present their bodies to Him a living (and not a dead) sacrifice – holy and acceptable to Him! (Rom. 12:1).

God is releasing true prophetic ministries in the earth today, who will come in the spirit and power of Elijah; who will repair the altar of the Lord that is broken down; restore the government of God in the hearts of His people and turn the heart of God's people back to their God.

God is releasing true prophetic ministries, they will be the prophets of the Lord indeed, like John the Baptist. In John 3:28-30, he said: *"You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."* In these verses, we could clearly see the mark of a true prophetic ministry. God said, *"My glory I will not give to another,"* (Is. 42:8). John the Baptist said "I am not the Christ". He said, "He who has the bride is the bridegroom". A true prophetic ministry is a genuine friend of the bridegroom. A true friend of the bridegroom does not try to seduce or take advantage of the bride. A true friend of the bridegroom does not try to steal the heart of the bride away from the bridegroom. A true friend of the bridegroom does not

try to draw the focus of the bride away from the groom to himself rather, he rejoices at the voice of the groom! "He must increase but I MUST decrease" – that is the true mark of a true prophetic ministry! God said He will require His sheep at the hand of greedy shepherds who prey on the sheep. He said He will deliver His sheep from their mouths that they may no longer be food for them. (Eze. 34:10).

The goal of the prophetic ministry is to connect the bride to the bridegroom, to help the bride hear and recognise the voice of the bridegroom and not to take the place of Christ in their hearts and lives, or else that would be the spirit of the anti-Christ. Revelations 19:10 says that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Samuel didn't know the voice of God; he hadn't heard that voice before so he thought it was Eli calling him. The Bible says Samuel served God under Eli! (1 Sam. 3:11). Eli connected him to the voice of God. He taught Samuel to recognise that voice and to respond to it accurately – that was his job! John the Baptist said, "He must increase but I must decrease" The friend of the bridegroom rejoices at his voice; they rejoice when the bride recognises the voice of the bridegroom. Jesus said He is the Shepherd of the sheep and to the shepherd the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice and he calls them by name and leads them out. His desire is for His sheep to hear His voice, so that there will be one flock and one shepherd. (Jn. 10:3, 16). Romans 8:14 says *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*

Apostle Paul exemplified this same spirit in 2 Corinthians 11:2, when he said to the church: *"For I am jealous for you with godly*

jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." That is what the Ministry gifts are meant to be doing in the church – that is, building intimacy between the Church and Christ. James went as far as to call believers 'adulterers and adulteresses' in James 4:4 and in verse 5: *"Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?'"* God said He is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5) He commanded His people not to have any other gods before Him and not to make any carved image for themselves or bow down to them or serve them.

God wants His people all to Himself and wants to be all to His people! He wants to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal to Him. (1 Chron. 16:9). God is therefore raising true prophetic ministries (or bridegroom ministries) that will turn the hearts of His people back to His. The Psalmist said in Psalm 42:1-2: *"As the deer pants for the water brooks,*

So pants my soul for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?"

My observation is that when you sit under a genuine prophetic ministration or teaching, your heart will be drawn to God – no matter what the title or topic of the message is! Notice that before the first coming of Christ, John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the way of the Lord and to make straight paths for Him. I believe that before His second coming, "Elijah" will come again to restore all things because the Bible says that Heaven will retain Jesus until the restoration of all things. (Acts 3:20-21). Malachi 3:1 says God will send His messenger who will come and prepare the way before Him and the Lord will suddenly come to His temple. This doesn't look to me like the first coming of Christ, because it wasn't a "sudden" one. Mary carried Jesus in the womb for nine months and His birth was heralded. But His second coming will be sudden. Jesus said even He Himself doesn't know the date and time (Matt. 24:36). The Bible says the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of

the archangel and with the trumpet of God (1 Thess. 4:16) And also, that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2). While it is true that we don't know the date and time, we can, however, tell the season! *"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."* (1 Thes. 5:4). Jesus warned His disciples to be watchful as they do not know neither the day nor the hour in which He will come. (Matt. 25:13).

As God is birthing true prophetic ministries to prepare His people for the Lord, we must also be aware of counterfeits. Don't forget that in the parable of the wheat and tares, the two were growing together! (Matt 13:24-30) And the master said "Let them grow together until the harvest..." and in the interpretation, Jesus said the harvest is the end of the age. (Matt. 13:30, 39). Jesus said the tares represented the sons of the wicked one, the one who sowed them is the devil and at the end of the age, *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness."* (Matt. 13:41). That verse answers any doubt that might have been raised in one's mind about who Jesus was speaking about. To offend means to cause to stumble; so the angels will gather out those who cause God's people to stumble and those who practise lawlessness! Note that, they will be gathered "out of the Kingdom", that means they were 'in' the Kingdom!

In Matthew 7:15, Jesus warned His disciples about false prophets, who are wolves in sheep's clothing. They will be dressed as sheep; that is, talk like the sheep, act like the sheep; but "inwardly are



"God is releasing true prophetic ministries, they will be the prophets of the Lord indeed, like John the Baptist."

ravenous wolves". Paul talked of folks having a form of godliness but denying its power and said we should turn away from such. He said such evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Tim 3:5, 13). Paul, also in his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders said: *"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."* (Acts 20:29-30). These tell us that we don't need to look outside the Church for these false prophets; these wolves in sheep's clothing, they are among us! Peter echoed the same thought in 2 Peter 2:1-2: *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed."* Also in Jeremiah 28, the 'false' prophet Hananiah spoke *"In the house of the Lord..."* (v.1). Jesus said we would know those false prophets by their fruit, that is by their character and not just by their gifting! (Matt. 7:16). Peter said *"By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;"* (2 Pet 2:3). In the old Testament, the proof of a true prophet was in his prophecy coming to pass (Jer. 28:9) but the standard is higher in the New – they are known by their **fruit**. In Galatians 5:22, the Bible clearly lists out the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (i.e. meekness) and self-control. Paul was speaking in 1 Corinthians 13:2 *"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."* The Bible tells us that God is love! (1 Jn. 4:4).

In Matthew 7:13,14, Jesus spoke about the narrow gate and the wide gate. He said, *"Enter by the narrow gate...because narrow is the gate and difficult (or confined) is the way which leads to life."* When you truly mean business with God, you have very few or limited options! And the more you progress in your walk with Him, the more confined you are! Jesus said His meat was to do the work of the Father and to finish His work! (Jn 4:34). He said in the Garden of Gethsemane; *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."* (Matt 26:39). The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. (Eccles. 12:13). Right after He told them to enter by the narrow gate, and not by the broad way, Jesus began to warn His disciples about false prophets in verse 15. What then is the connection between the two? False prophets encourage you to take the broad way and not the narrow gate. It is more convenient to enter by the broad way; Jesus said many go in by it, though it leads to destruction. The Bible says there is a way that seems right to man but the end of it is death. (Pr. 14:12). The narrow gate leads to life. The Bible says one who sows to the flesh will reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will reap everlasting life. (Gal. 6:8). Romans 8:6 says: *"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."*

False prophets tell us what we want to hear and not what God wants us to hear. The Bible says: *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."* (2 Tim 4:3-4). Seems to me that these false prophets or teachers would evolve in the church because of the people's selfish and ungodly desires. God spoke through prophet Jeremiah that His people will be in exile in Babylon for seventy years but prophet Hananiah told them they will only be there two years! God said *"Do not let your prophets and*

your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them" (Jer. 28:8-9). Did you notice the dynamic? One, God said they were the prophets of the people (i.e. not His); two, they prophesied according to the dreams (or desires) of the people (i.e. not according to God's dreams or desires for His people). Human needs, dreams and desires could be so strong that they generate a climate and unction through which false prophets could operate. Note these words, *"your dreams which you caused to be dreamed"*. If a prophet or teacher is not focussed on God, he would naturally flow towards the dreams of the people; then he instead of being a prophet of the Lord, he becomes a prophet of the people. (Eze. 44:10-14). Remember the prophecy about John the Baptist: *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;*

For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways," (Lk. 1:76). False prophets are prophets of the people and true prophets are prophets of the Lord. Ezekiel said *"So I prophesied as I was commanded"* (Ez. 37:7, 10). Elijah said to Ahab, *"As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand..."* (1 Kings 17:1). God told Jeremiah that he must go to all to whom He sent him and must speak whatever He commanded Jeremiah to speak to them. He said to him, *"Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,"* (Jer. 1:7-8).

True prophets prophesy by the LORD but false prophets *"prophesy by Baal."* (Jer. 2:8). The question therefore is, what or who is the source of the prophecy? What motivates or drives the prophecy? Is it God or 'Baal'? Is it God's dreams or the dreams of the people? God says His people have set idols in their hearts and have put before them what causes them to stumble into iniquity and then come to the prophet to inquire of the Lord. God said He will also answer them according to the multitudes of their idols. (Eze. 14:3-4).

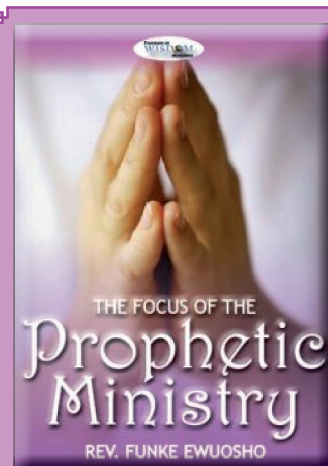
The way forward for God's people is Repentance. *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations."* (Eze. 14:6). We need to turn our hearts to God and let Him help us rid our hearts of all the idols that we have set up in there. Jeremiah 17:9-10: *"The heart is deceitful above all things,*

*And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?
I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings."*

God wants to repair His altar in our heart that has been broken down and taken over by idols, so He can set up His Kingdom once again in the centre of our hearts. God is releasing true prophetic ministries into the Body today to prepare His way in the hearts of His people for Him to come to us. God is also raising prophetic **intercessors** in the Body of Christ who will, like the words of prophet Isaiah: *"Go through, Go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, Build up the highway! Take out the stones, Lift up a banner for the peoples!"* (Is. 62:10). The Bible says after Elijah had repaired the altar of the LORD, he called upon the LORD and the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering! And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces (I believe, in worship) and said *"The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"* (1 Kings 18:36-39). Elijah had prayed *"Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."* (v. 37). Amen!

God bless you
Rev. Funke Ewuosho

"False prophets tell us what we want to hear and not what God wants us to hear."



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The Adventure of Becoming One



-Rev. Funke Ewuosho-



“**T**herefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Gen 2:24)

We, however, need to understand that because of the tripartite nature of mankind, oneness wouldn't be something to be achieved instantaneously. Man is a spirit, has a soul and lives in a body. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians, that God may sanctify them completely and their whole spirit soul and body be presented blameless at the coming of Christ. Becoming one is a process and could be a very adventurous one. When a man and a woman get married, as soon as the marriage is consummated they become one in the bodies. Paul was warning believers against sexual immorality and he said anyone who is joined (i.e. sexually) to a harlot is one body with her! (1 Cor 6:16). When two believers get married, they are already one in spirit because of their union with Christ. The Bible says he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor 6:17). For this reason the Bible warns believers not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers; it says there is no communion between light and darkness and the believer has no part with an unbeliever. (2 Cor 6:14-16). The soul comprises of the mind, the emotions and the will; and this part of man is usually where the major challenge is. The soul is the seat of your personality; it determines how you see things and how you respond to them. It is a product of your temperament, your experiences, your background, your up-bringing, your exposure, etc. As we all grew up in life, a lot of deposits – good, bad and ugly – were made into our souls. Paul told the Roman Christians not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of their mind, that they may prove the will of God. (Rom. 12:2) The New Living Translation says: “*but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*” This tells me that real transformation happens when the mind is renewed! And we can only prove God's good, acceptable and perfect will even in marriage, when our minds are renewed. James told the believers to lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness and to receive the implanted word which is able to save their **souls**. (Jas 1:21). The soul is where you have the deposits of filthiness and wickedness – even in believers! When we got saved, our spirits became a new creature, instantly redeemed! (2 Cor 5:17), but the salvation of the soul is a process that could even last a lifetime, depending on how yielded we are to the Spirit and Word of God. 2 Cor 3:18 says: “*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the*

“People don't leave because they always want to have something to fall back on or somewhere to go in case the marriage fails...”

same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Marriage is between two people and according to God's word; a man and a woman! (Gen 2:24). Marriage is between two different people! The first difference is in their genders: a man and a woman! Men are different from women; physically, mentally, emotionally, etc. Apostle Peter refers to the woman as the weaker vessel. (1 Pet. 3:7)

Marriage is also between two people usually with different temperaments, different family backgrounds, academic backgrounds, racial/ethnic backgrounds, etc. yet the journey ahead of them is to become one. How could this ever be achieved? Let's go back to our text: Gen 2:24: “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”

One, they have to leave before they can cleave! So many times, when people get married they find it very difficult to “leave” father and mother, sisters, uncles, aunties, friends, etc and cleave to their spouse. They want to hold on to the financial, emotional and other forms of security they enjoyed from those relationships and at the same time try to make a home. People don't leave because they always want to have something to fall back on or somewhere to go, in case the marriage fails – and usually, with such a mindset, it fails! God said to Abram, “*Get out of your country,*

*From your family
And from your father's house,
To a land that I will show you.*” (Gen 12:1). Abram

wouldn't have been blessed if he didn't obey that word. Many times we don't see the blessing of God on our marriage because we don't obey God's word – to leave and to cleave! The Bible says of those patriarchs of faith, that if

they had been mindful of where they were coming from, they would have had opportunity to return. But they desired something better than what they had before – i.e. what God had in store for them. (Heb. 11:14-16). Many marriages are too crowded. Yes, the couple would need the input of others, but they need the time to find and know themselves with minimal interference from third parties. They need to cleave or cling before they can become one! This period of cleaving is the time the couple get to know and to understand each other. In Ephesians 5:21-33, Paul admonishes the wives to submit to their husbands as to the Lord and the husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. And as believers, they are both to submit to one another in the fear of God! Peter also admonished the wives

to follow the example of Sarah, in submitting to and obeying their husbands; and the husbands are to dwell with their wives with understanding, giving honour to them. He said husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of life. (1 Pet. 3:1-7).

Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, with God at the centre of it! The Bible says The LORD is a witness between a man and his wife – “*Yet she is your companion*

And your wife by covenant.” (Mal. 2:14). The LORD says He hates divorce! (Mal 2:16). It’s high time people began to see marriage differently. God has an interest in the marriage of His people. Whatever we do in our marriage is therefore not only our business, but God’s! The way we treat each other, our attitude to the marriage, etc, really matter to God. Apostle Peter warned the men to treat their wives right so that their prayers will not be hindered! (1 Pet 3:7). Also in Malachi 2:13,14, the LORD does not regard the offering anymore nor receive it with goodwill from your hand “*Because the LORD has been witness*

*Between you and the wife of your youth,
With whom you have dealt treacherously;
Yet she is your companion
And your wife by covenant.”*

Covenant is the opposite of convenience. Covenant is more than a contract. It is not subject to the other party’s weaknesses or inability to perform. The marriage covenant is not only between the man and his wife, God is included in that covenant. “*And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*” (Eccles 4:12). Marriage is like a triangle; with God at the top of it and the two parties at the end of the two base points. The closer each one gets to God, the closer they both get to each other. Marriage is about each person giving their all and not saying: “What about him or her?” It is about each party doing what God commanded them to do, regardless of what the other does. Marriage is based on the love of God, not on human love! Human love is conditional and very limited, in addition to being selfish. The love of God is unconditional, unlimited and very selfless! (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

Marriage is also ordained of God as a place where individual needs can be met legitimately – without a sense of fear, shame and guilt. Before the fall, the Bible says the man and his wife were both naked and not ashamed. (Gen 2:25). Paul said to avoid sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband. He said the husband and the wife should not deprive each other sexually except with consent and to come together again so that satan doesn’t take advantage of them. (1 Cor 7:1-5). We must not deny the God-given sexuality even though it had been perverted by the fall of man. Paul said if widows (or widowers) can’t exercise self-control, they should marry, because it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (1 Cor 7:9).

In covenant, sacrifices are involved. The Bible says we should present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to Him. (Rom 12:1). And in Psalm 50:5, God said: “*Gather My saints together to Me,*

Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” We can’t talk about covenant without sacrifice; that is why husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her and wives are also to submit themselves to their own husbands, as to the Lord. (Eph 5:22-25). I believe that one major reason for divorces and breakdown in marriages today, is the unwillingness of people to make sacrifices. No marriage can work without sacrifices. You are going to be willing to sacrifice your time, your dreams, your gifting, your will, etc; for your marriage to work. Don’t forget that marriage is between two people who are on their way to becoming one. You are not going to become one if you are not willing to leave so you can cleave! There are things you must be willing to leave – that is where sacrifice comes in. Sometimes you give up your favourite TV shows, your hobbies, etc just to make time to bond together.

However, in making the necessary sacrifices, your motive and at-

titude must be right! “*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*” (Col. 3:23-24). The Bible says we should let the same attitude that was in Christ, be in us. Jesus did not hold on to his right as being equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, took the form of a bondservant, coming in the likeness of man and humbled Himself and became obedient even to the shameful death of the cross. (Php. 2:5-8). Remember, husbands and wives are **heirs together** of the grace of life, but they need to learn to humble themselves in order to make their marriage work! Also remember, life is in phases! This helps a lot in the making of sacrifices! Whatever you give up today in sacrifice to make your marriage work, will come back to you bigger and better! Jesus said to John the Baptist, when he tried to prevent Jesus from being baptised by him: “*Permit it to be so now...*” (Matt 3:15) There are things you permit to be so for now. The men of faith refused a deliverance, so that they may obtain a better resurrection! (Heb. 11:35). Except a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it can’t bear much fruit. (Jn. 12:24). Don’t give up anything with a wrong attitude; whatever you give is not lost, it has gone into your future. You will reap an abundant harvest of peace and joy in your life and marriage. God can still resurrect those dreams, wishes and vision that you thought were long gone – in a better way! Without death and burial, there can be no resurrection. What is sown in corruption is raised in incorruption; what is sown in dishonour is raised in glory, what is sown in meekness is raised in power, what is sown a natural body is raised a spiritual body! (1 Cor 15:41-44). Whereas if you had tried to hold on to those things, you would have done so at the expense of becoming one. The Bible says God’s gifts and calling are without repentance. God knows how to bring those things back to you.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 says: “*Cast your bread upon the waters,
For you will find it after many days.*”

Lastly, on the adventure of becoming one, I would love to add that communication is very vital. Like I said, marriage is between two different people. We must learn the art of communication. Communication is not just about talking, it is about getting things across accurately! For example, “*A soft answer turns away wrath,*

*But a harsh word stirs up anger.
The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,
But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life,
But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*” (Pr. 15:1, 2, 4). Also in James 1:19-20: “*...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*” No matter how bad things are, if we are able to keep the communication line open, then there is hope for the marriage. Husbands and wives must be willing to talk – of course at the right time. Ecclesiastes 3:7b says there is a time to keep silent and a time to speak. Actions sometimes can be louder than words; Peter told the wives that they could win their husbands by their conduct rather than words! (1 Pet 3:1-2).

Remember, marriage takes two people to work it out; two people who are willing to give themselves first to God and to each other selflessly and unconditionally. God is still looking for two people on the earth today who will say, with God, it is possible to have a successful marriage. “*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 60:2).

God bless you,

Rev. Funke Ewuosho

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ITINERARY

Please take note that changes may occur to this itinerary, so please contact our offices before travelling for any of these meetings.

JANUARY 2010

8th, 9th & 10th January (Rev. Kola & Rev. Funke Ewuosho)
Harvestime Church Conference (UK)

17th January (Rev. Funke Ewuosho)
Women's Meeting at Kings Church, Amersham (UK)

FEBRUARY 2010

6th February (Rev. Funke Ewuosho)
Harvestime Church Women's Breakfast (UK)

13th February (Rev. Kola Ewuosho)
Harvestime Church Men's Breakfast (UK)

MARCH 2010

Leaders/ Pastors Conference (Rev. Kola Ewuosho)
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International Women's Conference (Rev. Funke Ewuosho)
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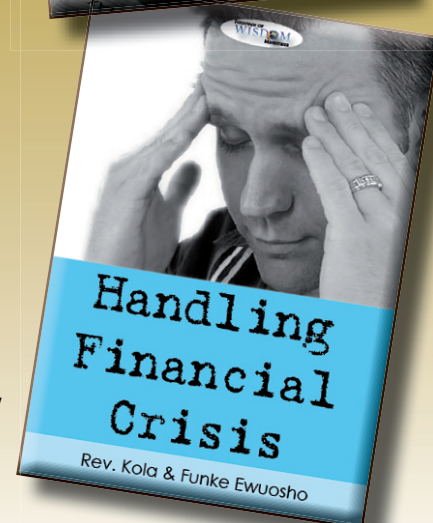
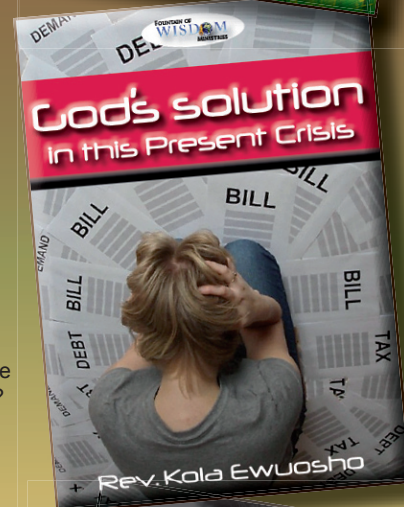
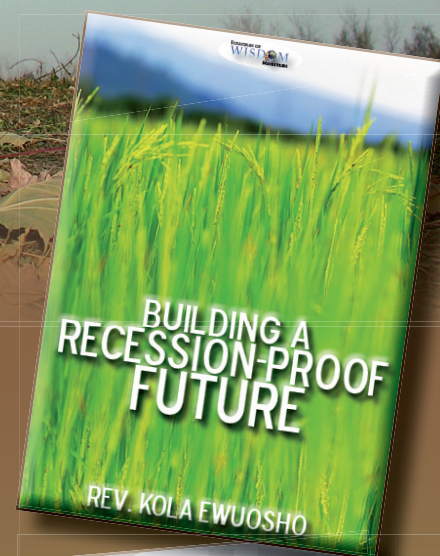
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