



FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM MINISTRIES

WISDOM DIGEST

WD1402

— ‘BY HIS WOUNDS —
WE ARE HEALED’
RECEIVE
healing
‘He forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases’
‘I am the Lord, who heals you.’
‘YOUR FAITH
— HAS HEALED YOU’ —

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HEALING

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how to experience
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WISDOM

DIGEST

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

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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RECEIVE *YOUR* *healing*

REV. KOLA EWUOSHO



Many people pray today and get disappointed if they do not get results. Why don't we see miracles as there used to be? Are there things we have overlooked that could be causing some reduction in the flow of God's power? God is the same and has not changed, so we need to do some changing. It is time to get back into the flow of His power again as we learn to receive our healing! This study is aimed at helping us see, understand and take advantage of the healing that has been provided for us by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Get ready to receive your healing!

Luke 13:10-16 *"Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman there who for eighteen years had had an infirmity caused by a spirit (a demon of sickness). She was bent completely forward and utterly unable to straighten herself up or to look upward. And when Jesus saw her, He called [her to Him] and said to her, Woman, you are released from your infirmity! Then He laid [His] hands on her, and instantly she was made straight, and she recognized and thanked and praised God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the crowd, There are six days on which work ought to be done; so come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day. But the Lord replied to him, saying, You playactors (hypocrites)! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it out to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*

On the basis of the Abrahamic covenant, He brought healing to this woman on a Sabbath day and the priest was angry at Him for healing on a Sabbath day. How was He able to translate an old covenantal provision of healing into the woman's body? By the release of His faith in the covenant, healing was made manifest in her body.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A
PRICE TO PAY
 for a
COVENANT
Provision
 to become an
EXPERIENTIAL REALITY
 IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

Mark 5:25-34 *"And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, And who had endured much suffering under [the hands of] many physicians and had spent all that she had, and was no better but instead grew worse. She had heard the reports concerning Jesus, and she came up behind Him in the throng and touched His garment, For she kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health. And immediately her flow of blood was dried up at the source, and [suddenly] she felt in her body that she was healed of her [distressing] ailment. And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, who touched My clothes? And the disciples kept saying to Him, You see the crowd pressing hard around You from all sides, and You ask, Who touched Me? Still He kept looking around to see her who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done for her, though alarmed and frightened and trembling, fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, Daughter, your faith (your trust and confidence in Me, springing from faith in God) has restored you to health. Go in(into) peace and be continually healed and freed from your [distressing bodily] disease."*

This woman initiated her healing by touching the hem of His Garment. She placed a demand on His power for her healing.

UNBELIEF HINDERS JESUS'S MIRACLE MINISTRY

Mark 6:1-6 *"Jesus went away from there and came to His [own] country and hometown [Nazareth], and His disciples followed [with] Him. And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue; and many who listened to Him were utterly astonished, saying, Where did this Man acquire all this? What is the wisdom [the broad and full intelligence which has been] given to Him? What mighty works and exhibitions of power are wrought by His hands! Is not this the Carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here among us? And they took offense at Him and were hurt [that is, they disapproved of Him, and it hindered them from acknowledging His authority] and they were caused to stumble and fall. But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor (deference, reverence) except in his [own] country and among [his] relatives and in his [own] house. And He was not able to do even one work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sickly people [and] cured them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief (their lack of faith in Him). And He went about among the surrounding villages and continued teaching."*

It is amazing to see how a climate of unbelief can stop God's power. What is the climate of unbelief and how is it generated?

We shall study this in the following areas: the process called faith; the power of the covenant; the climate of faith or unbelief; the vessel and the preparation of the vessel.

FAITH CAUSES THE FLOW!

Mark 11:23-26 *"Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings."*

Faith can be hindered when unforgiveness is tolerated in the heart.

POWER GENERATION AND THE VESSEL

The covenant that God had with his people is powerful. The question is how do we translate a provision of the covenant to become an experiential reality? There is a lot in our new covenant that still needs to be translated into experiential realities in the lives of people. Jesus prepared for His ministry by fasting and praying before going out to preach, teach and heal the sick. He said that the basis of the healing he released over the woman in Luke 13:16, was the Abrahamic covenant.

Exodus 15:26 *"And he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of Jehovah thy God, and do what is*



right in his eyes, and incline thine ears to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the complaints upon thee that I have put upon the Egyptians; for I am Jehovah who healeth thee.” (Darby’s new translation)

The provision for healing in the old covenant is based on this scripture in the book of Exodus. God’s Word is loaded with God’s power because every word from God has the inherent power in itself to come to pass. The conditions are sometimes stated as we see here. At other times we need to fulfil the condition of believing. All things are possible to him who believes.

Mark 9:19-23 *“And He answered them, O unbelieving generation [without any faith]! How long shall I [have to do] with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me. So they brought [the boy] to Him, and when the spirit saw Him, at once it completely convulsed the boy, and he fell to the ground and kept rolling about, foaming [at the mouth]. And [Jesus] asked his father, How long has he had this? And he answered, From the time he was a little boy. And it has often thrown him both into fire and into water, intending to kill him. But if You can do anything, do have pity on us and help us. And Jesus said, [You say to Me], If You can do anything? [Why,] all things can be [are possible] to him who believes!”*

Luke 1:37 *“For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.”*

Luke 1:45 *“And blessed (happy, to be envied) is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were spoken to her from the Lord.”*

We can see that the power rests in the Word of God and that faith is necessary to see the demonstration of the power.

If Jesus fasted and prayed before He preached or healed anyone, we might learn some things from what He taught us to do in the book of Matthew, chapter 6. He taught us about the right motive, focus and manner we should have in our giving, praying and fasting. If we do these activities rightly, we get the promise that the Father-God will reward us! Church history and contemporary history are filled with stories of people who engaged in prayer and fasting extensively and as a result, they experienced God’s power mightily. There seems to be a price to pay for a covenant provision to become an experiential reality in people’s lives. Perhaps a lack of these disciplines, amongst other things, may be a contributing factor to the seeming lack of power amongst many of God’s people.

In Acts 10, we read about a non-Jew who was interested in developing a relationship with the God of Abraham, through his giving, praying and fasting. He eventually had a visitation from heaven and things were set into motion for his entire household to experience the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fell on them as in the upper room when He fell on the first Apostles of Jesus along with others. So we see an example of one who practiced what Jesus taught us in the book of Mathew and he received God’s rewards.

Acts 10:2 *“A devout man who venerated God and treated Him with reverential obedience, as did all his household; and he gave much alms to the people and prayed continually to God.”*

Acts 10:3-8 *“About the ninth hour (about 3:00 pm) of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God entering and saying to him, Cornelius! And he, gazing intently at him, became frightened and said, What is it, Lord? And the angel said to him, Your prayers and your [generous] gifts to the poor have come up [as a sacrifice] to God and have been remembered by Him. And now send men to Joppa and have them call for and invite here a certain Simon whose surname is Peter; He is lodging with Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside. When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his servants and a God-fearing soldier from among his own personal attendants. And having rehearsed everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.”*

Acts 10:30-31 *“And Cornelius said, This is now the fourth day since about this time I was observing the ninth hour (three o’clock in the afternoon) of prayer in my lodging place; [suddenly] a man stood before me in dazzling apparel, And he said, Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and harkened to, and your donations to the poor have been known and preserved before God [so that He heeds and is about to help you].”*

Acts 10:44-48 *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message. And the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the Gentiles.*





Faith

IS NECESSARY
TO SEE THE
DEMONSTRATION
of the
Power

For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked, Can anyone forbid or refuse water for baptizing these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Then they begged him to stay on there for some days."

We can see all our factors played out in this story. God's power had been made available through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The climate at that time in Jerusalem was that salvation was for the Jews not the Gentiles. So nobody believed or expected God to move amongst the Gentiles like He did in Cornelius's house. Cornelius became God's vessel as he gave himself to prayer, fasting and giving. Peter was instructed by God to respond to the request of Cornelius's servants by going with them. An angel appeared to Cornelius saying "your prayers and giving have ascended to God" and a fresh development began. Angels are not responsible to preach to human beings; we are the ones to preach to others, as labourers in the field. So the angel gave instructions as to how Peter could be invited to preach to them. Faith was the process behind Cornelius's giving, fasting and prayers.

THE POWER OF PRAYERS

Prayer can release angels, can activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit (as seen in Acts 10) and makes tremendous power available. Let the Holy Spirit help your prayer life as you pray in the Spirit as well as with your understanding. (See Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 14:14 and Jude 20).

James 5:16-18 *"Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual]."*

Prayer makes great power available. In Acts 12, we read about prayers bringing about the deliverance of Apostle Peter.

Acts 12:5 *"So Peter was kept in prison, but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church (assembly)."*

Acts 12:6-12 *"The very night before Herod was about to bring him forth, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared [standing beside him], and a light shone in the place where he was. And the angel gently smote Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, Get up quickly! And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, Tighten your belt and bind on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your outer garment around you and follow me."*

And [Peter] went out [along] following him, and he was not conscious that what was apparently being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed through the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate which leads into the city. Of its own accord [the gate] swung open, and they went out and passed on through one street; and at once the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, Now I really know and am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting [to do to me]. When he, at a glance, became aware of this [comprehending all the elements of the case], he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where a large number were assembled together and were praying."

Another example of fasting and prayer is Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20.

2 Chronicles 20:3-5 *"Then Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord; he proclaimed a fast in all Judah. And Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord [yearning for Him with all their desire]. And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the Lord before the new court."*

(Continued on page 8)



My Story

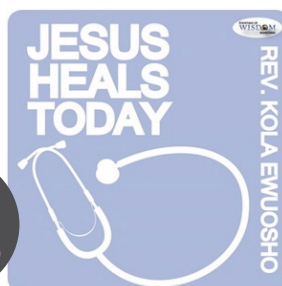
- HEALING TESTIMONY -

One Wednesday evening during the church service, Pastor Kola was praying for healing. He asked everyone to touch the place where they needed to receive healing. I had experienced excruciating, stabbing pain between my shoulder blades for years. The pain also caused me to have a stiff neck which could go on for at least three days. It was so limiting; I could miss work, hardly able to drive and non responsive to over-the-counter painkillers. On the evening of that prayer meeting the pain was there but thanks to God I refused to let it stop me from attending church. That night I was healed! After that prayer meeting I have not had that pain again. More than half a year has gone and I am still smiling with no pain. The glory be to our Lord God!

Also, on one occasion, while attending the church Alpha course I came with a migraine headache. I asked if anyone had some painkillers and I took them to ease the pain. I had suffered from migraines for more than five years but this time I was having them more regularly and more severely than before. At the end of the session, one of the leaders asked if she could pray for me. She did and that was the end of my migraine journey. At that time with little or no faith at all, I was healed. Jesus took the pain away!

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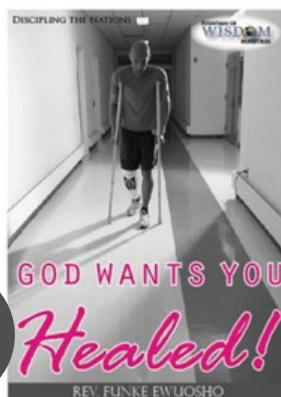
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BELIEVE THAT JESUS — bore your — SICKNESSES & DISEASES ON THE CROSS of Calvary

2 Chronicles 20:14-18 *"Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. He said, Hearken, all Judah, you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you King Jehoshaphat. The Lord says this to you: Be not afraid or dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down to them. Behold, they will come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the ravine before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your positions, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord [Who is] with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshipping Him."*

The rewards of fasting include breaking the yoke of poverty (Joel 2:15-16) and it also includes healing (see Isaiah 58:8-12). Fasting also prepares us to seek God's face and get definite results. (See 2 Chronicles 7:14). Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled (Mathew 5:6).

THE 'CLIMATE'

Everyone carries a climate. It is a function of your thoughts, expectations and belief systems. Your beliefs affect your thoughts. The words we speak also affect our climate. People and things respond to the climate you allow in your life. How people thought about Jesus, in Mark 6:1-6, affected the miracles that He was able to do amongst them. The climate of unbelief is not just a decision not to believe; it is generated by a number of thought patterns. What they thought of Him, as opposed to who they thought the "Christ" ought to be, created some conflicting opinion about His genuineness. This hindered Him from functioning in power like He could do. Climates are dictated by prevailing MINDSETS. In Acts 10, the climate (or prevailing mindset) was that only the Jews could be saved. Climates can hinder the out-working of God's power until someone does what it takes to break the climate so God's power can flow. To generate the right climate is to believe God's Word from the heart, speak it with our mouths and expect God's power to make the difference. Prayer and fasting also influence the climate over the lives of those who engage in such disciplines. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He transmits the power of God. These disciplines can help us be more yielded to the Spirit of God as He enables us to generate the correct climate for God's power to be experienced. Satan also generates climates that are conducive for his operations. His allies are the flesh, the world and the demons under his control. He pollutes the minds of people, confuses them and stops their minds from believing the Word of God! There are spiritual 'climates' over regions of the earth, just like there are natural climates too.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF FAITH

Faith is an inward conviction about God and His Word and His willingness to demonstrate His power on our behalf. Faith is the spiritual substance



poured into our hearts when we believe God's Word. It comes by hearing, affects our convictions and fills us with assurance. Faith in our hearts influences our words, actions and expectations. When faith is present, the power flows, when faith is reduced, the power is reduced. God is faithful. Let us trust Him to perform His Word in our lives. And if any 'climate' prevails, let us get into prayer and fasting as we exercise our faith in God's ability to demonstrate His power on our behalf.

HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR HEALING

First, you must believe that Jesus bore your sicknesses and diseases on the cross of Calvary. So by His stripes you are healed! Meditate on the scriptures as you mutter the Word of God to yourself. Let His Word on healing abide in you. (See John 15:7 and Psalm 107:20).

Acts 10:38 *"How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him."* He is still the same today. His anointing is on His Word and on His people who believe in Him.

Mark 16:17-18 *"And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well."*



The laying on of hands is one way to receive healing from God. The provision is guaranteed, Jesus paid the price but we need to do the receiving.

1 Peter 2:24 *"He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."*

Isaiah 53:3-5 *"He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him. Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole."*

We can pray based on the Word and expect to receive answers to our prayers. In fact, we can say to the mountain, 'be removed and cast into the sea' and it will obey.

Mark 11:23-26 *"Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him."*

For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings."

A simple prayer of faith can get the job done as we believe according to scriptures. Finally in James 5:14-15 we learn about the prayer of faith as well as the anointing oil.

James 5:14-16 *"Is anyone among you sick? He should call in the church*

elders (the spiritual guides). And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name. And the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."

Healing is yours for the taking. Receive your healing in Jesus's name. Let us pray: "Father I thank you for the provision of healing for everyone who believes. I pray for every reader who needs healing, right now. I bind the powers of darkness and every spirit of infirmity. I break their hold and ask for the power of God to be released into the bodies of those who are sick. I speak to every sick body, "Be healed now, in Jesus's name. Receive your healing now in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour."

Please write to share your testimonies with us. God richly bless you.

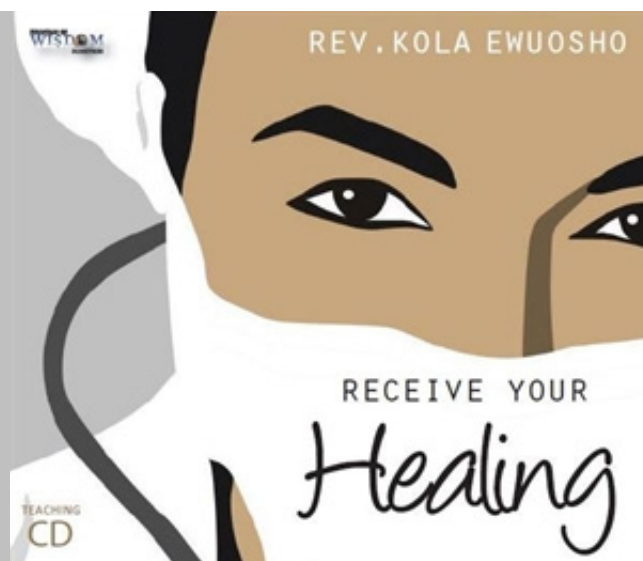
Rev. Kola Ewuosho

RECEIVE YOUR HEALING

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OURSTORY

of Healing and Joy

We are pleased to write our story of God's faithfulness in our lives. We are Robert and Indra from Harvestime Church, UK. We were blessed with a beautiful little girl, Joy in November. We are from India. We always wanted to have a baby since we were married in May 2007 but it seemed to be not happening. As days went by, fears, anxieties, pains and worries started gripping us. At this juncture, we relocated to the UK for work reasons in March 2009 and eventually started attending Harvestime church, after having been invited by the evangelism team in the high street. This fellowship turned out to be the stream in our wilderness and part of God's plan.

The teaching we received from our beloved pastors Rev. Kola and Rev. Mrs. Funke Ewuosho helped us to grow spiritually and



“IT IS SUCH A JOY TO TASTE GOD’S DIVINE HEALING AND RESTORATION IN OUR LIVES.”

opened the eyes of our understanding to see many truths from the Word of God in a dimension we were never exposed to before. They helped us to see that it is indeed God’s will for every married couple to be fruitful; that God has already made the provision for us through His Son Jesus Christ and healing is rightfully our portion. We were taught to press into the Word of God by faith. It seemed difficult and challenging, but God was our strength and the prayer support we received from our families back home and our Harvestime family sustained us through it. Hands were laid on us and we were prophesied to be parents of three children. Now looking back we can say that the climate of faith and positive confession of the Word which we witnessed here at our church strengthened us on the journey.

As Rev. Funke shared in one of her messages, we understood that it was just a season in our lives and we were not going to be there forever. Therefore, we did not let the enemy steal our joy anymore. We continued to believe that indeed God is good to us, He will fulfil all the promises which He has promised us and will take us out of this season of dryness very soon. We started confessing the Word of God in faith as we were taught that confession brings possession and it breaks the negative climate.

In the meantime, we were consulting doctors and, after several rounds of tests, they referred us to IVF treatment in January 2013. Our heart’s desire was to have all our children naturally without medical intervention and we had faith for the same, but things were not moving favourably. Spiritually speaking, one difficult thing we were then struggling with was that the enemy was tormenting us with his lie that ‘You are going through these things because God is punishing you for your past sins’. It was this ‘religious’ stronghold that needed to be pulled down. The IVF treatment failed. Just a few days after this failure, in our time of prayer, God delivered us from this stronghold and helped us to walk free without any fear and guilt of past sins. We felt much lighter and happier. In faith we

deliberately chose not to go ahead with any further medical consultation. We continued sowing right seeds by choosing to stay out of bitterness and offences, serving God cheerfully and breaking the Lord’s bread.

Finally the moment of breakthrough came in February 2014. God enabled us to step into the new season of our lives. He graciously fulfilled the desires of our heart and enabled us to conceive a baby naturally without any medical intervention. It is such a joy to taste God’s divine healing and restoration in our lives. All glory, praise and honour be to our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Robert and Indra





Restoring the JOY of Salvation

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO



"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You." (Psalms 51:10-13 NKJV)

We must first note that the salvation is God's- "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation....." Also in Psalms 3:8, "Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah" God's salvation means His blessings upon His people.

The generic word for Salvation, is an all-inclusive word signifying FORGIVENESS, HEALING, PROSPERITY, DELIVERANCE, SAFETY, RESCUE, LIBERATION, and RESTORATION. God's salvation is total in scope for the total man: spirit, soul and body. Also, Salvation is in the Past, Present and Future- we have been saved, i.e. born again; we are being saved daily, i.e. delivered, rescued, healed, provided for, preserved, renewed in our minds, etc; and we shall be saved- Jesus said, he that endures to the end shall be saved!

Salvation came to us by God's favour- we didn't merit it. In the N.T. it was all about what Christ did, we only believed and received it. "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT)
Like the acronym, G.R.A.C.E- God's Riches At Christ's Expense!



Jesus likened Salvation to a well of water. He said to the Samaritan woman. "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (Jn.4:14 KJV). Or, "a fountain of water." (NKJV).

One significant thing about wells or fountains is that, they can be blocked or polluted!

Isaac had to re-dig the wells of water that were dug in the days of Abraham, his father; because the Philistines had stopped them after Abraham's death. He called them by the names which his father had called them. His servants also dug new wells, but were opposed by the herdsmen of Gerar; who took the wells from them. Isaac moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." (Gen. 26:22).

Notice that Isaac didn't give up, but kept digging, until he got to Rehoboth! "Don't worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither. Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper."

THINGS THAT CAN BLOCK YOUR WELL:

A. SIN.

David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah.

B. OFFENCES.

WATCH OUT for Offence! Jesus said it is impossible for offence not to come; so the issue is how we respond to them.

Proverbs 18:19 says, "An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars." (NLT)

This is because offences are like wounds; and if they aren't well dealt with, they fester and develop into bitterness.

The Bible says we should work at living in peace with everyone, and also to "watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." (Heb.12:14,15 NLT)

Offences can come as a result of hurts from relationships, life's challenges, failures, disappointments, unmet needs, unfulfilled expectations, a feeling of injustice or unfair treatment, etc.

Sometimes, we may even be offended in God Himself; for instance, when we feel He isn't answering our prayers! John the Baptist was offended in Jesus, probably because he felt disappointed. He would have expected Jesus to have done something about his situation- since Jesus was such a miracle worker! The Bible says when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" (Matt. 11:2-6)

C. STRIFE

Strife is usually caused by Envy, Competitive jealousy, Comparison- What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. (James 4:1-2 NLT)





When strife is at work in us, it results most of the time in anger, hatred, bitter judgments and criticism, etc. The Philistines envied Isaac, and they strove with him. Isaac named the wells the herdsmen of Gerar took from him, 'Quarrel' and 'Enmity' in Hebrew.

Envy and jealousy are deep rooted in a sense of lack of contentment, ingratitude, selfishness and pride- thinking more highly of oneself than one should!

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." (1 Tim. 6:6-8)

The Bible says, where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (Jas3:16 KJV). Whereas, love does no wrong to others! (Rom. 13:10).

Love prefers others to oneself, and seeks the highest good and the best interest of others. Love esteems others better than oneself.

The Bible says anyone who hates another, abides in darkness; and the life of God isn't in him. (1 Jn. 2:9-11; 3:14,15) The implication is that hatred stifles the life and the light of God in us; it blocks the well!

Proverbs 4:23 tells us how to prevent our well from being blocked or polluted: "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."

When your well is blocked, it is like losing the Joy of salvation; the well is still there (like your salvation is still there), but it isn't just flowing! God didn't plan for that well to be stagnant; Jesus said it should 'spring up' unto eternal life.

The Psalmist understood the importance of that joy, so much so that he prayed- "Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation." (This also confirms the fact that the joy of salvation can be lost!)

To restore means, to turn back; return, restore, bring back, retrieve, reverse. It's usual sense is "return"; that is, to go back to the point of departure.

Why is the JOY of Salvation so vital? Why do we need that joy?

A. WE NEED JOY TO DRAW OUT OF THE WELL OF SALVATION.

"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' "

Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:2, 3 NKJV)

Don't forget that Salvation is an all-inclusive word signifying forgiveness, healing, prosperity, deliverance, safety, rescue, liberation, and restoration; you therefore would need joy to draw out these things! Joy in this sense is like the rope for drawing water from a well.

When the Amalekites raided Zikkag, they took away with them the possessions and the families of David and his men. The people were so grieved that they spoke of stoning him, and David became distressed; but before David could hear from God, he had to first encourage himself in the Lord. With joy, David drew water from the well of salvation. The Lord answered David, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all." (1 Samuel 30:8).

Note that you can hardly hear God when you are distressed; instead, you would probably hear your pains and fears!

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JEALOUSY ARE DEEP
A SENSE OF LACK OF
MENT, INGRATITUDE,
SHNESS AND PRIDE."

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray." (1 Pet. 4:7).

B. WE NEED JOY FOR STRENGTH.

"Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV)

The Bible tells us that when David was greatly distressed, because the people spoke of stoning him; he "strengthened himself in the LORD his God." (I Samuel 30:6 NKJV). How did he do that? The KJV says, "but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God."

You need the strength to hear from God and to pursue. The Bible says if we faint in the day of adversity, it is because our strength is small. Also, A healthy spirit conquers adversity, but what can you do when the spirit is crushed?" (Prov. 18:14 MSG).

C. JOY IS ONE OF THE COMPONENTS OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17)

The kingdom of God works inside out- and not the other way round! The Kingdom of God doesn't come by external observation; Jesus likens it to a yeast that a woman puts in a dough.

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

We are meant to maintain a joyful attitude, even in trials!

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials," (Jas. 1:2)

"....and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven." (Heb.10:34)

D. WE NEED JOY IN OUR SERVICE TO GOD.

"For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men." (Romans 14:18 NKJV) In what things? In righteousness, peace and joy!





Restoring the Joy of Salvation

God doesn't want us to serve Him in sadness, or with complaining and murmuring.

God loves a cheerful (and not a grumpy) giver.

If you do not serve the Lord your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received, you will serve your enemies....."
(Deut. 28:47-48a NLT)

Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"
(Psalms 70:4 NKJV)

Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause;"
(Ps. 35:27)

It seems there is a connection between Joy and Soul-winning. David prayed, 'Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.' (Psalms 51:12, 13 NKJV)

Joy is contagious; you can't hide it. A joyous Christian is a zealous Christian; "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;" (Rom.12:11). "You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls."
(1 Pet.1:8-9 NLT).

E. YOU NEED JOY TO RECOVER ALL.

Someone said, "If the devil can't steal your joy, he can't keep your goods!" When David chose to encourage himself in the Lord, instead of staying distressed he was able to recover all that the Amalekites had taken away. "And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all."
(1 Sam. 30:18,19).

When Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison, the Bible says, "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed."
(Acts 16:23-26)

In contrast, John the Baptist never made it out of prison alive!


HOW THEN DO YOU GET YOUR JOY BACK?

I. RECOGNISE THAT THE JOY OF SALVATION IS FOUND IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalms 16:11 NKJV)
And also that Joy is a fruit of the Spirit: "But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness)..." (Gal. 5:22 AMP)

Hence, the prayer of David, "Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit." (Psalms 51:11,12).





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II. BY REPENTANCE

Identify the cause of the blockage and get rid of it through repentance.

Admit it to yourself: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." (Jas. 3:14)

David said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me."

Confess your sin before God as a sin; call it what it is!

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9).

David's sins of adultery and murder blocked his well; and he cried out to God in repentance. He was specific in his confession, "Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of Your forgiveness." (Psa. 51:14NLT). David understood the heart of God; he knew how the way to His heart. He said, "You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice You desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." (Psa. 51:16c-17 NLT). Compare and contrast with Saul; Saul thought God could be bribed. Samuel told him that God isn't moved by burnt offerings and sacrifices, "Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." (1 Sam. 15:22 NLT).

Repentance isn't just saying "I am sorry" but about bringing forth the right fruits!

When Jonah disobeyed God he wound up in the belly of a fish; but then he cried out to God from the fish's belly, and God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land. The Bible says, God spoke to Jonah the second time, and "This time Jonah obeyed the LORD's command and went to Nineveh." (Jon. 3:3 NLT). God says He will show His salvation to whoever orders his conduct aright." (Psalms 50:23 NKJV).

According to the Wikipedia, repentance is the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling contrition or regret for past wrongs. It generally involves a commitment to personal change and resolving to live a more responsible and humane life. This typically includes an admission of guilt, a promise or resolve not to repeat the offence; an attempt to make restitution for the wrong, or in some way to reverse the harmful effects of the wrong where possible.

This ties in beautifully with the words of Paul: "But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right." (2 Cor, 7:8-12 NLT)

So, to get your flow back, you must repent of the things that blocked your wells!

Note, however, that genuine repentance is a work of the Holy Spirit within us; it can't be assumed or taken for granted.

"in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." (II Timothy 2:25, 26 NKJV).

III. RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11).

Abraham considered the promise of God, and not his own body or to Sarah's womb; "so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken."

"WHAT YOU TH
DETERMINE IF

Restoring the Joy of Salvation

And he was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (Romans 4:18-21 NKJV)

Receiving what God says about you and about your situation, will make you joyful. "be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." (Php. 4:4, 6, 7 NLT).

"Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad." (Prov. 12:25).

The word of God gives us hope; and hope brings joy- "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;" (Rom.12:12)

Someone said 'What you cry about today, you'll shout about tomorrow!' Because you are going to receive God's word about it.

Receiving God's Word also means acting on it.

IV. YOUR THOUGHTS

What you think about will determine if you will be joyful or not. When Jeremiah still thought about his affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall; he said his heart sank within him. But when he recalled these to his mind- that through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, that His compassions do not fail not, but are new every morning; and Great is His faithfulness; hope was stirred up in him! (Lam. 3:19-26).

The Psalmist understood this, he said, "O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar. (Psalms 42:6). Then he commanded his soul, saying, "Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God." (Verse 11). When David was distressed, how did he encourage himself in the Lord? It seems he must have done so by recalling God's deliverance and help in time past.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." (Philippians 4:8 NKJV)

V. THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

"To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." (Isaiah 61:2, 3 NKJV)
A thankful heart is a merry heart; and a merry heart does good like medicine!

"Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, gladden yourselves in Him]; again I say, Rejoice!" (Php. 4:4 AMP)

Continued over page...

THINK ABOUT WILL
IF YOU WOULD BE
JOYFUL OR NOT.."

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Ps. 37:4).

Abraham grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God. The Bible commands us to give thanks in all things.

VI. MAKING THE RIGHT CONFESSION

What you say also determines your joy.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:19-26 NKJV).

God bless you
Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Restoring the Joy of God's Salvation

Do you know that it is possible to lose the joy of your salvation? This is why David wrote in Psalm 53, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation". Joy is not a product of your external situation, but rather your internal condition! The enemy knows that if he can steal our joy, he can take everything else from us. Learn how to protect God's joy in your heart by developing an attitude of humility, contentment and thankfulness.

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REV. KOLA EWUOSHO

Mark 4:24

"And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing.

The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear."

Luke 6:45

"The upright (honourable, intrinsically good) man out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart produces what is upright (honourable and intrinsically good), and the evil man out of the evil storehouse brings forth that which is depraved (wicked and intrinsically evil); for out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart his mouth speaks."

Many do not realise that the responsibility for the outcomes of their lives is really theirs and no one else's. We may have no power over where we were born, who our parents are and hence our nurture, or even our basic nature, but what we make of our lives is pretty much dependent on the choices we make. Our choices are informed by the quality of knowledge we have; and the quality of knowledge we have can be linked, sometimes, to the kind of relationships we keep, or what we expose ourselves to. Everything is connected.

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Depending on the decisions we make, our adversities can either spell out doom for our entire lives or we can use our adversities to our advantage. The only freedom we have is the freedom of choice. Of all God created, we (humans) are free to choose our thoughts, words, actions and attitudes and hence contribute immensely to the outcomes in our lives! The universal law of sowing and reaping has been set into motion since creation. We can make it work for or against us. Once again, the choice is ours. God created everything with potential and blessed us with the power to see and hence the ability to release the potential in all He created. That was what He had in mind from Genesis.

Genesis 1:10-12 (Amplified Bible) *"God called the dry land Earth, and the accumulated waters He called Seas. And God saw that this was good (fitting, admirable) and He approved it. And God said, let the earth put forth [tender] vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit whose seed is in itself, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed according to their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which was their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it."*

The earth had the potential to produce vegetation which produce fruits that contain seeds. These seeds, when planted in the earth, start the whole process again. Everything He created had the potential to produce, grow and transform into other things! He is an awesome God. Even the waters had the potential to bring forth living creatures. Everything He commanded to bring forth something obeyed Him because the Creator knew what He put in them in the first place. He made man in His image and blessed mankind to be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth. This is stewardship. (Visit www.fowm.org/store to order our teachings on stewardship).

Genesis 1:26-29 (Amplified Bible) *"God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth. And God said, See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the land and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food."*

Mankind was designed to be a steward over God's creation. Mankind was created with capacity and ability and these constitute accountability and responsibility. We have a stewardship that makes us accountable to God and responsible for what happens here. Our choices from the beginning, affect our entire existence on earth.

The fall of man affected our status; instead of being in dominion, we became dominated by sin and fear and Satan was behind all this. He became the god of this world, having gained dominion from man through sin. That was why Satan could tempt Jesus by offering Him the kingdoms of this world.



"DEPENDING ON THE DECISIONS WE MAKE, OUR ADVERSITIES CAN EITHER SPELL OUT DOOM FOR OUR ENTIRE LIVES OR WE CAN USE OUR ADVERSITIES TO OUR ADVANTAGE."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *"But even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost. For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God."*

The god of this world blinds minds so that the light of the gospel will not shine in on their minds. He became the god of this world since he wrestled dominion from mankind through deception and disobedience. He has set up his own parallel kingdom based on perversion, pollution and deception to rule the lives of humankind if they do not allow the gospel to do the work of regeneration in them. Humanity has no power over sin and sin is a sure destroyer! The only power that can save us from the power of sin lodged in our flesh is the power of the cross. When we come to Christ we become born again as new born babies into God's kingdom. A spiritual life begins and it needs to be nurtured and mindsets need to be changed as we develop into who we were meant to be.

Satan likes to entice us with our selfish needs, coming at us as if he is really interested in meeting our needs. He uses what the Bible calls the lusts of the eyes, the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life to get us trapped and under his dominion again. If we do not allow God's word to renew our minds we really cannot execute God's will for our lives. (See Romans 12:1-2 and Luke 4:1-13.) So we have our un-renewed minds, the flesh and the cohorts of hell in Satan's camp to deal with if we are



going to grow up in Christ in all things. Thank God that we have the victory and are working things out is where the fun really is in life.

1 Peter 2:1-6 *"So be done with every trace of wickedness (depravity, malignity) and all deceit and insincerity (pretence, hypocrisy) and grudges (envy, jealousy) and slander and evil speaking of every kind. Like new-born babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation, Since you have [already] tasted the goodness and kindness of the Lord. Come to Him [then, to that] Living Stone which mentried and threw away, but which is chosen [and] precious in God's sight. [Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ. For thus it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a chosen (honoured), precious chief Cornerstone, and he who believes in Him [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] shall never be disappointed or put to shame."*

We are to be built up; to be conformed to the image of the Son Jesus Christ. Building up takes our entire lifetime.

Romans 8:29-30 *"For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be moulded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being]."*

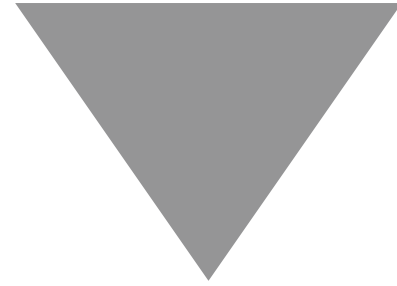
This background should help us see the need for personal and leadership development.

JOSHUA'S CALLING AND ASSIGNMENT

The calling and assignment of Joshua, Moses' servant, throws further light into our understanding of the need for personal, as well as leadership, development in life to fulfil God's purposes for our lives.

Joshua 1:1-9 *"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' minister, Moses My servant is dead. So now arise [take his place], go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, the Israelites. Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you, as I promised Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river Euphrates—all the land of the Hittites [Canaan]—and to the Great [Mediterranean] Sea on the west shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong (confident) and of good courage, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."*

**"YOUR WORDS, YOUR THOUGHTS AND THE ACTIONS
YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE WILL DETERMINE YOUR
SUCCESS IN LIFE EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE CALLED,
APPOINTED AND ANOINTED BY GOD TO DO HIS WILL."**



This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success. Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

We see God spell out his assignment but He included instructions for his personal development as well. This is because without personal development, we really cannot carry out God's will as seen throughout the Bible. Joseph had to grow into maturity to fulfil God's plans and purposes for his life. David, Daniel, and Esther, to name a few, all had some things to learn in their growing up processes so that God's purposes could be fulfilled in their lives.

The specific instruction to Joshua in verses 8-9 was "This book of the law will not depart out of your mouth but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in there, then you will make your way prosperous and you will have good success. Be strong and courageous." (This is my paraphrase.)

I want us to look at the basics of personal development. Your words, your thoughts and the actions you choose to take will determine your success in life even though you are called, appointed and anointed by God to do His will. Your lifestyle plays a major part in whether or not you will succeed or fail. How you treat the written word is foundational for your success in life, no matter what your assignment is.

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For us in the New Testament, what we talk about, think about and act on informs our personal development in the life we are living. Our sense of identity, our self-worth, our source of confidence, and hence our expectations in life are all linked to our personal development. What Christ accomplished for us on the cross should not depart out of our mouths but we should meditate on it day and night so we may readily obey New Testament instructions and make our ways prosperous and have good success. One can see that becoming precedes doing or having. Personal development is about what we become, while leadership development is about what we have and can do. For any assignment God has for us, either in the market place or the church, we must become, before we can carry it out. The extent that we become, determines the extent we can carry out our assignments. We need to become confident, assured of His presence in our lives, value our God-connection and count on His willingness to demonstrate His power on our behalf. From the instructions given to Joshua, we see a lot of internal reconfiguration taking place. An ongoing, ever growing, increasing in knowledge process is set into motion and this is what I call personal development. It will affect time management, goal setting and planning skills. It will get rid of low self-esteem, poor expectations in life and poor relational skills.

3 John 1:2-4 *"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers. In fact, I greatly rejoiced when [some of] the brethren from time to time arrived and spoke [so highly] of the sincerity and fidelity of your life, as indeed you do live in the Truth [the whole Gospel presents]. I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my [spiritual] children are living their lives in the Truth."*

Walking in the truth of God's word and allowing the truth to replace the wrong stuff in us is what happens in personal development. It is an inside out job. It starts on the inside, then it affects the outside.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

"Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose". (Quote by Dr Myles Munroe from his book: The Spirit of Leadership.)

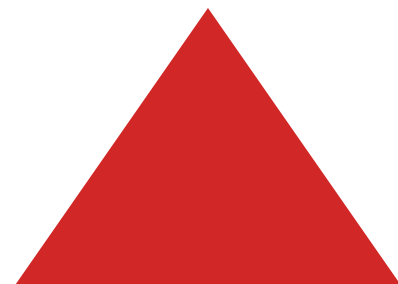
This is when we start seeking how to serve God's purposes in other people's lives, when we are ready to influence them for good. Leadership is influence and people are truly influenced when they give you the right to do so by the choices they make, where your relationship with them is concerned. Relationships become a subject worthy of consideration if we are going to appreciate our study of leadership development. When we develop certain qualities in our lives and build healthy relationships with people, they see in us attributes that inform their willingness to allow us to influence them. In the secular world or workplace situations, people simply take their place by virtue of the positions they occupy in the company or organisation. Even then, these qualities still inspire real leadership influence in their lives. Leadership is knowing what to do next, knowing why that's important and knowing how to bring appropriate resources to bear on the need at hand. There are certain things that govern leadership, especially in God's kingdom. Things like having a vision, having discipline, having wisdom, having courage and humility amongst other qualities. (You can order some leadership messages from our leadership section at www.fowm.org/store).

VISION

Joshua's vision was God-given. It was to take the children of Israel into the promised land or rather to occupy portions of the land, specifically. Having a vision has to do with seeing the big picture; seeing the possibilities of the future. All humans are designed to function with visions of the future. Those without a picture of their future will not know how to carry out anything now so that the future can be what it is supposed to be. Leaders are in the foremost position to capture that future and break it down for others to see.

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FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE

A TESTIMONY OF SPIRITUAL,
EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL HEALING

My name is Augustina Odiase and this is my testimony. I am from Edo state of Southern Nigeria although I was born and bred in Warri, Delta State. I am 24 years old, born into a family of 11, parents inclusive.

For me, the memories I have of growing up aren't pleasant ones. I was a victim of child sexual abuse, physical abuse and even rape at some point, by close trusted relations and friends. I always lived in depression and at some point I wished I wasn't alive. I cried so much from the numerous experiences I went through and the emotional traumas that plagued me. I had no one to speak to or run to and I was gradually being eaten up inside, day by day.

Even though I was carrying a heavy burden with no one to look up to or seek for counsel, I resolved to make the Bible my only companion. But the message in its pages could not penetrate me as I was in a world of my own; a world of guilt, shame, abuse and depression where I blamed myself deeply for the experiences I'd had. My secrets were fast eating me up and getting the best of me. The chronic chest pain I suffered made matters worse; the diagnosis I received was that my heart was not in position and that I was suffering from a chronic ulcer.

My dad became critically ill shortly before I gained admission to university and we lost him in my second year of uni. He left virtually nothing behind as his medical bill used up the little individual finances we had left. While going through school I had no financial support to cater for my fees, my accommodation and general living. I got into relationships that I still regret; relationships I went into for the wrong reasons that took so much more from me than they could ever give me in a lifetime. I was deeply depressed, sometimes reflecting back on my life, blaming myself and others who had seen me go through what I went through and who, I believed, made me make certain choices. There were times when I also wondered where the next meal was going to come from or where I was going to lay my head to rest for the night. No matter how much I worked during the holiday periods it was never enough to take care of my bills. Sometimes I even missed classes as I worked deep into the semester when lectures had resumed.

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WORD OF FAITH CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

Golden Lampstand (GLS), also known as Word of Faith Campus Fellowship in Delta State University, Abraka is an expression of the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries born out of our church in Kano, Nigeria.

Our vision is to "Reconfigure wrong operational mentalities within our educational world positively."



The story of my life began to change one fateful evening, while in a taxi on my way to school. The passenger sitting beside me in the taxi was one of the leaders from the Word of Faith Campus Fellowship. He introduced himself to me and tried sharing the gospel with me. He said he had a message that he believed God would have him share with me. After giving him the go ahead, he told me with remarkable accuracy a lot about my past which I had never opened up to anyone about before. My heart was open and he then lead me to Christ and invited me for Ingathering 2014, which happened to be on my birthday. He said that my travel costs for the trip would be taken care of as he knew that the financial implication was a concern for me. Upon arrival in Abraka he introduced me to some members there, people I have grown to know and love and have shown me so much love and acceptance.

My decision to come for the conference is one of the best ever made in my entire life. I had so many life changing experiences at the conference and one I won't forget in a hurry happened during the miracle service, when Rev. Funke Ewuosho was ministering. I was hit by the power of the Holy Spirit where I was standing, filled with the Spirit and I burst out in other tongues. I have since been growing in God and things have been going tremendously well for me.

A vision I had conceived for years to help the needy (which I had not been able to do much about due to my past) resurfaced, with a new freshness, clarity and fresh passion. I prayed to God and told Him that if this vision was really from Him, He should heal me from the lingering chest pain I suffered. This prayer was answered after I was prayed for during a worship experience concert organised by Word of Faith Campus Fellowship in Abraka. I was completely healed, the pain disappeared and I have not felt the pain since.

My life is a testimony and I pray for many lives to be affected and changed through mine. I Love You Jesus, Augustina Odiase.



JOIN US
FOR OUR NEXT
INGATHERING
CONFERENCE
IN AUGUST!



PERSONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN GOD'S KINGDOM

CONTINUED,,,

There are personal visions as well as God-given visions. We can all develop personal visions of what we see ourselves doing or having in the future. This depends on our perception of our potential and our willingness to work hard to see the things happen. God-given visions are borne out of our relationship with God as He paints the picture of the future He has for us. He put the potential in us in the first place. He sure knows how best we can work things out with His help. Out of His goodness and mercy we are enabled to know what His plans are for us and through prayers and participation with Him we can see how to fulfil His will for our lives!

Vision can be seen as a comprehensive sense of where you are, where you are going, how you are going to get there, and what you will do after you get there. It is dreaming dreams about the future. Realistic goals need to be set for visions to be accomplished. Vision starts very much out of attitude and attitude determines altitude in life. A leader is one who has courage to dream, the ability to organise and the strength to execute the action necessary. Too many times we let obstacles take the steam out of our vision.

DISCIPLINE

Nothing worthwhile or significant is possible without discipline.

"Self-discipline is the willingness to perform the acts that are beneficial to us that, for whatever reason, we don't want to perform. Discipline is the basic set of tools we require to solve life's problems. Without discipline we can solve nothing. With only some discipline we can solve only some problems. With total discipline we can solve all problems." [Scott Peck- The Road Less Travelled].

Some regard discipline as hardship. In reality it permits success and sets you free from futile living. Discipline helps us to keep pressing on in the face of failure and discouragement. We develop persistence and work smartly until we accomplish our objectives. Nothing can take the place of persistence and determination. True success comes from hard work. There are no short cuts; we need to learn to enjoy work. We must be constantly thinking, "How can I do this better? Is there a more cost effective way? How can I conserve time? Can I produce better doing it a different way?"

God created Adam to work in the Garden of Eden even before the fall. Adam was meant to keep the garden. Work was not the curse but toiling was the curse. Let us develop the ability to enjoy what we do. Real treasure comes as a result of hard work.



Nothing great was ever achieved without self-discipline. Going far beyond the call of duty, doing more than others expect; this is what excellence is all about. A leader strives for excellence. It comes with striving, maintaining the highest standards, looking after the smallest detail and going the extra mile. 'Good enough' is the enemy of excellence. Discipline is all about the relentless pursuit of the right objectives.

WISDOM, COURAGE AND HUMILITY

- Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge and experience to any given situation.
- Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the mastery of it. Success is never final and failure is never fatal; it is courage that counts.
- One of the surest evidences of greatness is a humble spirit.

WISDOM

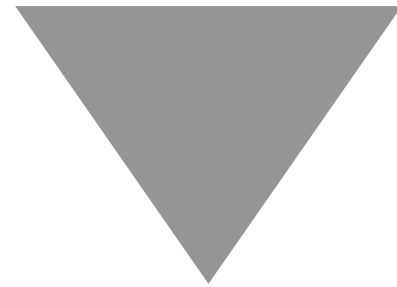
To acquire wisdom, leaders gather knowledge. They are readers as well as thinkers. They are also listeners and get involved with other leaders to learn from them. Wisdom is something that enables us to use knowledge rightly. Wisdom resists peer pressure, thinks for itself and is reconciled to the use of its own judgement. Wisdom is making the best use of knowledge. Develop the ability of discernment. The effective leader has the insight needed for any given situation. A leader who has wisdom demonstrates integrity. Leadership, authority or influence is given to serve others. People want to be sure the leader can be trusted! A leader who exercises wisdom will be one who is careful about seeking good and godly counsel from tried and trusted ones around him or her. The Bible has a lot to say along these lines:

Proverbs 8:10-17 *"Receive my instruction in preference to [striving for] silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, For skillful and godly Wisdom is better than rubies or pearls, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. I, Wisdom [from God], make prudence my dwelling, and I find out knowledge and discretion. The reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord [includes] the hatred of evil; pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverted and twisted speech I hate. I have counsel and sound knowledge, I have understanding, I have might and power. By me kings reign and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges and governors of the earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me early and diligently shall find me."*

COURAGE

Courage has several names, like bravery, fearlessness, audacity and confidence. The sounds of war stimulates it. The difficulty of a job motivates it. The demands of competition inspires it. Criticism challenges it. Adventure arouses it. Danger incites it and threats quicken it. Courage is another word for inner strength, presence of mind against odds, determination to hang in there, to venture, persevere and withstand hardship. Real courage is saying "yes" to life; not backing down when we face adversity. Courage is acting with fear, not without it. Worry causes confusion and fear. As you set goals for your life they eliminate confusion and fear. Dealing with fear and worry will place a demand on your courage. Persistence will be needed to overcome many problems.

**"REAL COURAGE IS SAYING "YES" TO LIFE,
NOT BACKING DOWN WHEN WE FACE ADVERSITY.
COURAGE IS ACTING WITH FEAR, NOT WITHOUT IT. "**



HUMILITY

Humility is such an important characteristic in the life of the leader. This quality is what makes a leader give credit to others for what he and the team have accomplished. It is the opposite of being full of oneself and one's accomplishments. Humility encourages team work as the leader listens to others' input and encourages the contributions of others to the overall picture.

Successful leaders recognise that developing leadership skills is a lifetime pursuit. Leaders are perpetual learners. Leaders learn to be leaders. The people that succeed are those that have self-discipline to develop themselves. Successful leaders never plateau or become static. Effective leaders are not satisfied with themselves. You must work harder on yourself than you do on your job. Income rarely exceeds personal development. Your life will change only when you change. Leaders inspire, create commitment, act as role models and evoke the highest level of commitment and competence possible from their team.

The personal and leadership development of each of us is necessary for fulfilling our destiny in God. No one fulfils destiny with undeveloped potential. It is up to each person, as they build their relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ and by the help of the Holy Spirit, to discover, develop and deploy their potential for the good of mankind. This is what will glorify God. He put the potential within us and desires that we become all we are capable of becoming, giving expression to all He built into us. This is the secret of living life in its fullness. May God help each of us to do this and may we receive from God the grace and courage and willingness we need to do this. Amen.

Rev. Kola Ewuosho



Help us to transform lives inside & out



Alongside our mission to disciple the nations by teaching God's Word, FOWM has launched various practical initiatives to help the poor and needy around the world. One of these is the Wisdom Foundation Hospital in northern Nigeria, supported by our partners. See below how 'Operation Sure Foot' is transforming the lives of children with club foot.

Before



After

partner with us today

Visit www.fowm.org/partnership to become a partner with us or to give a one-off gift towards the work of Fountain of Wisdom Ministries globally. Together we can accomplish more.

