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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. 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 a free magazine, supported by partner contributions.

If you have been blessed by this 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 would like to receive 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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As we approach another new year, we pray that you will also enter into a new season in your life; a season where you will experience God's best.

As you read, be encouraged by these testimonies of what God has done in the lives of people and what He wants to do in your life too! Do share your testimonies with us by emailing office@uk.fowm.org.

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THE SECRET OF SUSTAINED VICTORY IN LIFE

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

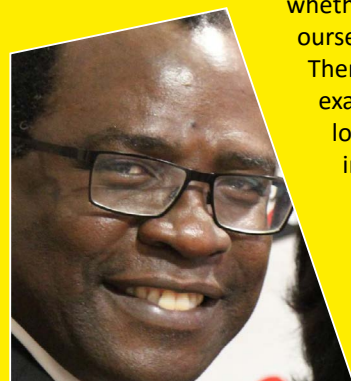
REV. KOLA EWUOSHO

Many factors contribute to our walking in sustainable victory in our lives in Christ Jesus. Whether

we stand the test of time, fulfil God's purposes and experience victory in our lives, all depends on how much of God's grace we allow ourselves to walk in. Our faith in His Word, a life of obedience, as well as our motives and focus, all have something to do with whether we walk in His grace or not. We know He gives grace to the humble, so if we humble ourselves under His mighty hand, He will exalt us in due time.

There are many things that we tend to fix our attention on in our Christian life, for example, our efforts, our failures or our own holiness. The scriptures encourage us to look away from many things and to fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. As we mature in the Lord we need to learn to look away from many of these things and look unto Him, who is our example of obedience, our inspiration for being focused and our model for right motives.

What we look upon will determine how we respond to our challenges. If we look to our own efforts, we will feel the weight of failure, when we don't see the results we expect. Every other thing we look upon, aside from Jesus, will definitely affect how far we can go in the things of God.



THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

*relaxing and
fainting in your minds.
You have not yet struggled and fought
agonizingly against sin, nor have you yet resisted and
withstood to the point of pouring out your [own] blood.*

Hebrews 12:1-4

THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and

We look unto Jesus for inspiration, right motivation and choice of lifestyle. Why? He is our pattern, our model, an example of how we should live under the Father God. When we face challenges, our response depends on how matured we are. We need to rise up doing God's Word, in the face of all challenges. What we behold determines what we become.

1 John 3:1-3

SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! The reason that the world does not know (recognize, acknowledge) us is that it does not know (recognize, acknowledge) Him.

Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.

IN THE FACE OF OUR EVERYDAY CHALLENGES IT IS THE EASIEST THING TO LOOK ELSEWHERE.

And everyone who has this hope [resting] on Him cleanses (purifies) himself just as He is pure (chaste, undefiled, guiltless).

2 Corinthians 3:18

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

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 molded 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].

In the face of our everyday challenges, it is the easiest thing to look elsewhere. We either look to ourselves and feel sorry for ourselves, look to others and place an expectation on them, that they lack the ability to bear, or look to other things. We are encouraged to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and is sat at the right hand of the Father. How we respond to trials, the pain of correction and pressures in general, are all determined by who, or what we are looking unto.

Who is Jesus? What we know of Him will determine what we see of Him in our trying moments. We need to continue to grow in our knowledge of Him. The more we know Him, the different aspects of His life and ministry, the better prepared we are to stand the test of time when we need to the most. Then, we can please the Father, the way He did and get victories through Him and glorify the Father God in Him. He is the Revealer of the Father God, our pattern for sonship under God, and our example for the demonstration of power and authority under God. Jesus is our example to follow and become.

He is our Redeemer, who has come to redeem us from sin, the power of darkness and from Satan.

WE EITHER
LOOK TO
OURSELVES
AND FEEL
SORRY FOR
OURSELVES,

By His redemption, He made it possible for us to become as He is and come into a new identity, new authority and hence a new lifestyle. He remains our focus and our love for God remains our motive.

John 3:15-18

In order that everyone who believes in Him [who cleaves to Him, trusts Him, and relies on Him] may not perish, but have eternal life and [actually] live forever!

For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him. He who believes in Him [who clings to, trusts in, relies on Him] is not judged [he who trusts in Him never comes up for judgment; for him there is no rejection, no condemnation—he incurs no damnation]; but he who does not believe (cleave to, rely on, trust in Him) is judged already [he has already been convicted and has already received his sentence] because he has not believed in and trusted in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [He is condemned for refusing to let his trust rest in Christ's name.]

John 14:9-21

Jesus replied, Have I been with all of you for so long a time, and do you not recognize and know Me yet, Philip? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say then, Show us the Father?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? What I am telling you I do not say on My own authority and of My own accord; but the Father Who lives continually in Me does the (His) works (His own miracles, deeds of power).

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the

LOOK TO
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OR LOOK TO
THINGS.

Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of the [very] works themselves. [If you cannot trust Me, at least let these works that I do in My Father's name convince you.]

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if any-one steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

And I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified and extolled in (through) the Son.

[Yes] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM].

If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—

The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless]; I will come [back] to you.

Just a little while now, and the world will not see Me any more, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

At that time [when that day comes] you will know [for yourselves] that I am in My Father, and you [are] in Me, and I [am] in you.

The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. [I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.]

How do we become like Him?

After we have received Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, everything He died to make available, becomes accessible by us. It will not happen automatically, but as we press in and lay hold on to His Word, we become partakers of the Divine nature.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

We become like Him by truly believing, meditating and acting on the Word of the Living God. We have our part to play as we obey God's word.

The race is set and we are to run our part in it. We are running to fulfil our God given potential. Our race is not to outshine anyone, but to fully come into all He has planned for us, as we abide by the rules of the race.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours.

Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately and restricts himself in all things. They do it to win a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a crown of eternal blessedness] that cannot wither.

Therefore I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary.

But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].

We keep our bodies under and bring them into subjection, through discipline. Anything contrary to God's nature in our flesh is denied.

Colossians 3:1-10

IF THEN you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth.

For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory.

So kill (deadens, deprive of power) the

evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholily desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

It is on account of these [very sins] that the [holy] anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those who are obstinately opposed to the divine will), Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in and addicted to [such practices].

But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices,

And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it.

How we conduct ourselves matters a lot, if we are going to fulfil the destiny God has for us. To follow Jesus we are told, through the scriptures, to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

**HOW WE
CONDUCT
OURSELVES
MATTERS THE
MOST, IF WE
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FULFIL THE
DESTINY GOD
HAS FOR US.**

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also].

For whoever is bent on saving his [temporal] life [his comfort and security here] shall lose it [eternal life]; and whoever loses his life [his comfort and security here] for My sake shall find it [life everlasting].

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life [his blessed life in the kingdom of God]? Or what would a man give as an exchange for his [blessed] life [in the kingdom of God]?

Jesus had a mandate from the Father to bring many sons to glory. He called His disciples and took them through the process of discipleship. He eventually laid out His plans for them to follow; making disciples of all nations. Getting involved with His plans is the surest way to keep our eyes on Him.

Matthew 16:16-20

Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Then Jesus answered him, Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood [men] have not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra—a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.

Then He sternly and strictly charged and warned the disciples to tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

His plan is to build His church and empower us to do His bidding.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).

We, His disciples, are to teach the nations to observe everything He has commanded us. The church is His means of getting things done. In the church He gave us gifts to operate in so we can carry out His assignment on earth.

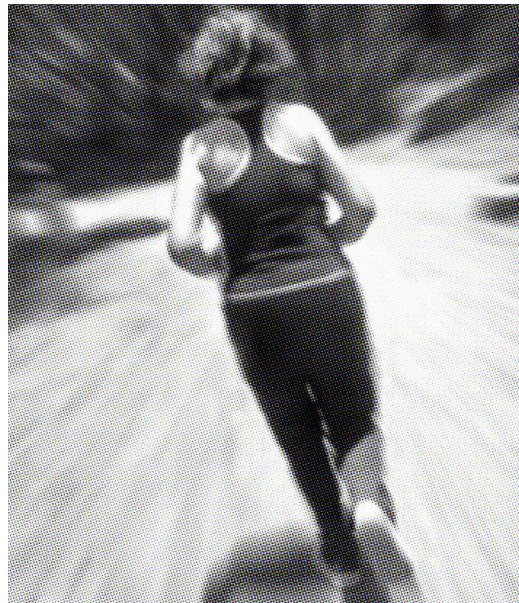
Ephesians 4:11-17

And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

[That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him. So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead. Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love. So this I say and solemnly testify in [the



name of] the Lord [as in His presence], that you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds.

He is the focus of all our activities in God's kingdom. In exercising ourselves in the gifts and callings of God we look unto Him. As we build together with Him, by loving His people and serving His purposes in their lives, we look up to Him.

Sustaining our victory in Christ

(1) Know who you are in Him

The old is gone, the new has come. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

Consequently, from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint and as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh].

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with

Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

(2) Know your assignment in the kingdom

This comes through your willingness to serve others as you serve God. In service you discover your gifts and callings.

Romans 12:2-10

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him.

For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function or use,

So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].

Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith;

[He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching; He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity and liberality; he who gives aid and superintends, with zeal and singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness.

[Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good.

Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.

(3) Know the opposition to your assignment

HE IS THE
FOCUS OF
ALL OUR
ACTIVITIES
IN GOD'S
KINGDOM

The flesh is an ally to the enemy and so is the world's system. Your culture, nurture and nature can also contribute to the arsenal satan has against God's will for your life. You must learn to train your thoughts and emotions, in accordance with your new status in Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),

(4) Know the weapons of our warfare

Our weapons include **the Word of God, the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus**. We launch these in prayer and warfare. We also wrestle against spiritual forces of evil as we pray in the spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-18

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. Therefore put on

God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace. Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one]. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

(5) Keep your eyes on the Lord

He will sustain us. Our loving Father has great things in store for us. All we shall ever need has been provided in Christ. We need a lifestyle of faith, patience, prayer and serving others to enter into all that belongs to us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith!

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

RECOMMENDED MESSAGE:
'Doing the Sayings of Jesus'
by Rev. Kola Ewuosho.
Available from www.fowm.org

MY STORY

Sometime in 2013, I began to notice that one of my legs was longer than the other. It became more visible to me early last year (2014). My husband and I started trusting God for the shorter leg to grow and become even with the other leg. My faith grew stronger after I heard the testimony of Cheryl Prewitt-Salem on television of how God miraculously grew her shorter leg.

During the 2015 Ingathering Conference in Kano, Nigeria, we had a 'Power Night'. Rev. Funke led us in prayers and subsequently called Rev. Kola up to the stage. As he came up, the first word of knowledge he declared was that there was someone in the meeting whose leg had just grown; and immediately, I knew I was the one. I immediately received the word and thereafter testified of God's faithfulness. Today, I am happy to testify that the imbalance and discomfort I used to experience when I stood for a prolonged period is gone! Praise God, I am healed! God is indeed faithful and greatly dependable; there is no impossibility with Him! He has done a great thing for me and I am glad.

I also want to specially appreciate my parents in the faith; Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke, for allowing themselves to be used of God through their many sacrifices and labour of love over the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries family. God bless you both.
Amen Oguntona

**EXPERIENCE
POWER NIGHT@
INGATHERING
2016**

**AUGUST 2016 IN KANO,
NIGERIA. VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.**

TESTIMONY

www.fowm.org 13

YOU DESERVE THE BEST

Rev. Funke Ewur Sho



Don't settle for less

GOOD is the enemy of BEST! Don't aim for the average in life; aim for the highest, the exceptional, the extraordinary and the best. Average is an enemy; it means, typical; common; ordinary, etc. You deserve the best; don't settle for less!

You deserve the best because of the value God placed on you! God has placed so much value on humanity, by creating us in His own image, and after His likeness; and giving us dominion over all His other creation. Even when man fell into sin, and came short of God's glory; God sent Jesus who took our sin upon Himself, to redeem and restore mankind. God bought us back with the precious blood of His only begotten Son. The price you are willing to pay for something; shows the value you placed on it! God could have left humanity to rot in their own sin; but He cared too much to do that! Jesus said you are of MORE value than the birds of the air and the grass of the field. And if God feeds the birds- who do not sow or reap, and clothes the grass- which do not toil or spin; then He will do much more for us, because we are of more value than them. Notice that God does things for us MUCH MORE and not much less!

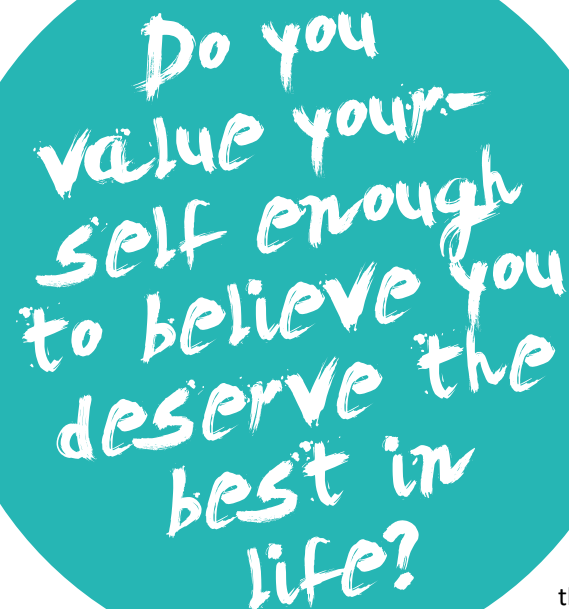
You deserve the best because God is your Heavenly Father! The God who made and owns everything is your own heavenly Father! If you are a believer in Christ then God is your Heavenly Father; you are part of God's family; *"God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure."* (Ephesians 1:5 NLT).

The birds do not sow or reap or gather into barns, yet God feeds them; also the grass doesn't toil or spin, yet God clothes it. If we are indeed of more value than them- and we are; then we should expect God to feed and clothe us, not primarily because of what we do, but because He is our Heavenly Father! Jesus said, you shouldn't worry about your basic needs, *"For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."* (Matthew 6:32c).

And for the same reason we are not to use vain repetition, as the heathens do, when praying.

You deserve the best, also because God Himself qualified you for it; He made you worthy and deserving IN Christ! *"giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."* (Colossians 1:12). It also goes on to say, we have redemption through the blood of Jesus, and the forgiveness of sins.





Do you
value your-
self enough
to believe you
deserve the
best in
life?

In Christ we have not only been forgiven, we've also been accepted in the Beloved- we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ! (2 Corinthians 5:21). There is actually no reason or need for you to feel unworthy anymore!

In spite of all of these, we still find ourselves settling for less than what we deserve in God. This is because of a number of factors, including the following:

1. A wrong value system:

We have seen how much value God has placed on us; but do we value ourselves- even half as much? We must embrace God's value for our lives; and let it change our value system; because your value system in turn determines a lot of other things:

a. Your Priorities in life

You must get them right! Our priorities have to do with the order of importance we give to things in our lives. Jesus said the body is more important than clothes and life is more important than clothes; therefore if God gave you life and a body, then it shouldn't be a problem for him to clothe and feed you! Jesus said the altar is more important than the gift on it; because it is the altar that sanctifies the gift. The altar represents our heart; we must guard it above all else, because it affects every other thing we do! (Proverbs 4:23)

The house is not as important as the one living in it. The car isn't as important as the one driving it. The robe doesn't make the monk- no more than your house or car makes you; rather, it is the other way round.

b. Your Expectations in life

God says His plans for you are good plans, to give you a future and an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11). But what are your own expectations- if you have any at all? A lot of folks don't expect much in life; they just want to barely get along and struggle through life! Some even expect some evil to happen to them in life; because they believe they deserve it. *"For surely there is a latter end [a future and a reward], and your hope and expectation shall not be cut off."* (Proverbs 23:18 AMP). So, you better mind what you expect; because that's what you are going to get!

A lot of folks don't even believe they deserve any reward in life; so they don't expect any. Jesus said, a labourer is WORTHY of his wages; *"those who work deserve their pay"*. (Luke 10:7c NLT). Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, *"Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching."* (1 Timothy 5:17-18 NLT). The truth is, you aren't being done a favour, when you are paid for doing a work! Do you work without expecting a reward? That wouldn't be humility, but false humility as a result of ignorance; because there is no basis in the Bible for that. The brother of the prodigal son was angry because his father decided to throw a party at the return of his brother. He said to his father, *'All these years I've slaved for you and*

never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.' (Luke 15:29 NLT).

He had slaved for so many years without taking a break to enjoy any reward; whereas, all his father had was his- at his disposal! Compare and contrast him with David. David asked, *"What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel?"* (1 Samuel 17:26a NLT). Of course they told him that the king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes! Wow, what a reward; enough to fire anyone up for action! Is it possible that it's the lack of expectation of rewards, that has produced in many cases, the lack of drive and motivation to take on some tasks?

God Himself has a reward system; *"Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6c | NLT). God said He didn't ask folks to seek Him in vain! (Isaiah 45:19). God doesn't reward people with evil or bad things; He takes pleasure in the prosperity of those who serve Him. (Psalms 35:27c). *"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward."* (Psalms 127:3). He said, *"I will reward them with a long life and give them My salvation."* (Psalms 91:16 NLT).

However, we must always do things with the right motive and focus; *"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."* (Colossians 3:23-24). Therefore let your expectations be from God, and not from man; whereas man can fail, but God never fails! *"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."* (Hebrews 6:10)."

c. Your mentality is also affected by your value system

A lot of folks have a poverty mentality; they have a shortage mentality, instead of an abundance mentality. They always think in terms of 'not enough' rather than more than enough! They always see the glass 'half-empty,' rather than 'half-full!' Jesus said, *"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"* (Matthew 6:30). God still lavishly clothes the grass, even though they might not be there for long; and doesn't think it's being wasteful! God always does things 'much more,' and not 'much less!' He is El-Shaddai; more than enough. Jesus came that we might have life MORE abundantly; He said, *"I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."* John 10:10c AMP.

Do you value yourself enough to believe you deserve the best in life; and not always look for the poorest, cheapest, lowest, etc, of things?

2. 'Small' or 'Little' mindedness

is another factor that makes us settle for less than what we deserve in life. We can see this from the life of Lot. Because of his connection with Abraham, God sent angels to go rescue Lot and his family; before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Angels told Lot to escape to the mountains, so he wouldn't be destroyed; but he replied, *"but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."* (Genesis 19:19c-20).

Lot chose to go to a 'little' city, rather than going to the mountains.

This kind of a mentality is usually generated by certain factors:

a. Fear

Lot was afraid that some evil might happen and he would die. There isn't much you can reach out for or aspire to accomplish; if you entertain the fear of some evil befalling you or the fear of death or failure or defeat or any other fears. God said, *"Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense! For you will soon be bursting at the seams."*

(Isaiah 54:2-3a | NLT). But the key to achieving that is in the following instructions, *"Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame;"* (verse 4).

Do you know you could even be afraid of succeeding! A lot of folks are happy to have average finances- being neither poor nor rich; so as to stay 'safe;' *"give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name"* (Proverbs 30:8c-9 | NLT).

But God wants you to prosper in all things (3 John:2); He wants us to make our way prosperous and have good success. (Joshua 1:8). Instead of being afraid of succeeding, let's develop ourselves to handle success!

b. Convenience

Lot chose that little city, because it was 'near enough.' We often settle for less because we want something within our reach- something readily available; we usually don't want to go 'out of our way' to do or get something! Don't forget 'Average' also means common. Abraham made his servant to swear to him that he will not take a wife for Isaac from one of the girls around where he lived (which would have been more convenient); but shall go to Abraham's home country and to his family. (Genesis 24:3-4).

c. An unwillingness to pay the price

The best in life comes with a price tag; which you must be willing and ready to pay. There is a price to pay to climb the 'mountain' of success and greatness in life. If riches were horses, beggars would ride!

Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men. (Proverbs 22:29).

To 'excel' means, to surpass; be superior to; outdo; to do extremely well.

Jesus said if you are compelled to go one mile, you go two!

Daniel had a spirit of excellence in him, and he distinguished himself above his peers; as a result of which the king made plans to set him over the entire empire. (Daniel 6:3).

"Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor." (Proverbs 12:24 NIV).

d. An unwillingness to deny yourself

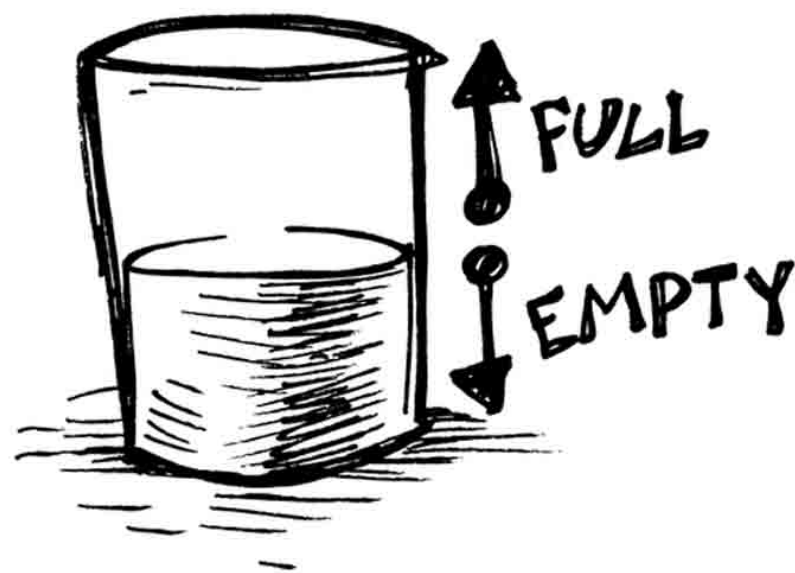
Sometimes to get the best, you must be willing to deny yourself of certain things that you might even consider to be good; remember, good is the enemy of best! Jesus said anyone who wants to be His disciple, must first deny himself; because whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for His sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25).

To gain certain things, you must be ready to lose some! Apostle Paul said he counted as loss those things that were gain to him that he might gain Christ. (Phil. 3:7-9)

He said *"though all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; and will not therefore, be brought under the power or control of any."* (1 Corinthians 6:12).

Daniel lived a life of self-denial; he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's delicacies and wine; he therefore ate vegetables and drank water instead. (Daniel 1:8).

And at the end of the period, when they were tested by the king, Daniel and his friends were ten times better than their peers!



Maturity is the ability to delay gratification; you must exercise control over your desires and appetites. What you can't say 'No' to, has power over you. *"The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender."* (Proverbs 22:7).

3. A poor or low self-esteem, is another reason why we settle for less in life

What do you believe about yourself?

How do you see yourself? Do you see

yourself as a highflier or a low-flier,

supported by occasional gusts of wind?

Do you have enough 'YEAST' in you to

rise- above the hostilities, challenges?

How you see yourself really matters; so also

is what you believe about yourself.

When Gideon was told he was the one to

save Israel from the oppression of the

Midianites; his response was, *"how can I*

rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the

whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least

in my entire family!" (Judges 6:15c | NLT).

What is your 'SELF-TALK' like? Whenever you

say 'I can't', doubt and fear will rise up in you,

like a giant! When the spies were sent out

to spy on the land God said He was giving

the Israelies, ten of the twelve came back

with an 'evil report.' They said, *"We can't go*

up against them! They are stronger than we

are!" (Numbers 13:31c | NLT.). They said,

compared to the giants in the land, they were

like grasshoppers! The way you see yourself

will determine how you see your

challenges. You must overcome the

'grasshopper' mentality.

You can begin to see yourself the way God

sees you; based on the potential He's put

within you. The angel called Gideon a mighty

man of valour! He called him a 'Mighty hero.'

Instead of you saying you are not able, say 'I

am well able!' Caleb said to the people, *"Let*

us go up at once and take possession, for

we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers

13:30c).

Instead of saying you can't, say 'I can!' David

believed he could fight against Goliath; he

said, *"Let no man's heart fail because of him;*

your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." (1 Samuel 17:32c). Saul told David that he was too young and inexperienced to fight with Goliath; but David saw himself and even Goliath, differently! He didn't see Goliath as being too big to tackle; he measured Goliath against His God and the Covenant. David was God-minded and Covenant-minded. We are in Christ and Christ is in us; and that is what matters. We must learn to say, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13).

4. A lack of revelation, is another reason why we don't go for the best we deserve in God!

Paul prayed for the Ephesians that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened, so they may know what they have going on for them as believers. For instance, the Bible says God has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ! (Ephesians 1:3). And, the blessing of the Lord makes one rich.

The prodigal son had squandered his entire inheritance, and was now trying to live off pig's food; but the turning point came when he came to himself! He said, *"How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"* (Luke 15:17).

The Bible says we are God's children; and therefore heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:16,17). Jesus told the Greek woman needing healing for her daughter, *"Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."* (Mark 7:27b).

Healing is our bread; and we are top on God's priority for healing!

But we must have a revelation of who we are, what we have and what we can do, because we are in Christ. The Bible says we are a new creation in Christ; *"The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17c NLT).



You must say to yourself always, *"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."* (Psalms 23:1 NLT).

5. The lack of faith or not having enough faith, could also hinder us from getting the very best God wants for us

Jesus said, *"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"* Matthew 6:30 | NKJV. This also highlights the connection between our value system and faith. If we would see ourselves as being of more value than the grass and the birds; we could believe God for much more! Jesus said our Heavenly Father will 'much more' give good things to those who ask Him. (Matthew 7:9-11). A lot of folks don't ask; they complain about their challenges, they talk about their needs, and they do everything other than ask! Jesus said everyone who asks, receives; everyone who seeks, finds; and the door will be opened to everyone who knocks.

We must always ask in faith- believing, and not doubting, or else, we will not receive anything from God. (James 1:6,7). Jesus said if you believe that you receive what you ask for in prayer, you will have it! (Mark 11:24). It, however, takes faith and courage to ask. A lot of folks would rather settle for less, than put themselves forward to ask. *"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward."* (Hebrews 10:35). A healthy self esteem can enhance a robust

faith. How much can you dare to ask for?

6. Pride is another factor that could make us settle for less in life

When the prodigal son had spent all he had, and there was a severe famine where he was; he was hired to feed swine. He would have gladly filled himself with the pods the swine ate, but no one gave him any. Then when he finally came to himself, he decided to return home! 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,"* (Luke 15:17-18). And when he did, his father received him back; not as a servant, like he had thought, but as a son- with huge celebrations! The Bible says God will not despise a contrite heart; He will not reject a broken and repentant heart. (Psalms 51:17). He could have stayed back languishing; but you know what could have kept him there? His pride! The Bible says anyone who humbles himself, will be exalted. It takes humility to acknowledge one's faults, mistakes, failings, wrongs and sins. If you want to experience the joy and peace of being forgiven, then humble yourself to admit you are wrong. *"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). Pride can keep you from receiving your healing. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16a). Pride keeps us from God's best. It takes humility to ask. The Bible says anyone who lacks wisdom, should ask. We don't get, simply because we don't ask; *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7). Ask for help. Ask for direction. Ask for wisdom. Ask for forgiveness.

Continued on page 22

FEATURED TESTIMONY



MYSTORY

On 15th December 2014 I had my 20 week scan with my second pregnancy and we were told the baby was 'small in size'. Working in the medical field, it was very hard for me to take in. I deal with extremely sick patients, including children, so I was extremely disturbed. We were advised to repeat the scan in a few weeks time.

Then, a few weeks after the scan I had a dream where I saw an empty cradle. Fear gripped me and I dwelt on it day and night.

During that same month Pastor Funke was teaching on 'Living an Accident-free Life' at church. During one of the teachings, Pastor Funke looked straight towards me and spoke about how we can change a negative dream around, "even when we see a coffin". She also taught on engaging in spiritual warfare and how, when the devil gives a negative dream, we can turn it around with God's Word and promises!

The following Sunday, Pastor Funke prayed with me, against the spirit of fear. Immediately, I grabbed hold of God's promises concerning my pregnancy and my unborn baby. I confessed Colossians 1:16-17 and Psalms 91.

I stood firm on God's promises and when the devil reminded me of my dream, I reminded myself of God's promises!

After my repeat scan we were told things were looking good. On 28th April 2015, God blessed us with a healthy baby girl! All praise be to God!

Hannah

Humility is being teachable, being open to receive corrections and being willing to make the necessary adjustments. For instance, repentance means, a change of Mind and Direction.

"A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart." (Proverbs 18:1-2). Pride is thinking of oneself more highly than one should; but humility is thinking of oneself in the light of God's grace. Paul said, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am."* (1 Corinthians 15:10a).

Pride will isolate you from grace; so stay humble. *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."* Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:6b,10).

God has the best in store for you; stop settling for less. Be prepared to break into new territories; in doing so, you will need to do the following:

i. Overcome the limitations of your own nature, nurture and culture

They have hitherto conditioned your thinking and your belief system; and have determined your expectations, desires, and aspirations in life. To condition means, to restrict, to limit, to control or to modify.

God told Abraham to get out from his country, his family and his father's house, to a new land- a land he hadn't been before! He said, *"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing."* (Genesis 12:1-2). That implied that those factors could stop him from accomplishing the best God had for him.

When John was to be named, they would have called him by his father's name. When his mum said John was to be his name, they said to her, *"There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name."* (Luke 1:61).

Gideon found it hard to see himself as one who could save Israel, because his thinking and beliefs had been conditioned by his environment.

You must overcome your present limitations by the word of God. You must believe and constantly meditate in, who God says you are, what He says you have and what He says you can do. And keep saying those things, until they change your present conditioning, and they become your new reality.

ii. Step out of the familiar territory

Someone said, 'If you are going to a place you've never been before, don't look out for 'familiar' road signs,'

The familiar is, what is commonly or generally known or seen; and what you are well-acquainted or thoroughly conversant with.

The familiar usually becomes your comfort zone; and trying out new things, taking on new challenges, thinking new thoughts, etc, could become almost impossible!

But to get exceptional results, you must be ready to do exceptional things!

Peter would never have walked on water if he hadn't stepped out of his boat. (Matthew 14:28-29). We all have our boats of comfort, where we feel safe and secure; but to break into the best God has for us, we must be ready to step out.

We must shelve idioms like, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." "Better safe than sorry." 'He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day.' We must put them where they belong- on the shelf, for another season!

iii. Choose your friends carefully

Someone said, 'If you don't choose, you will lose.' How true! You may not be in a position to choose your classmates, workmates, etc; but you can choose your friends.

Your purpose and destiny in life should determine your choice of friends. Not only do your friends tell us who you are; but they also can show what your future will be like.

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20).

The company you keep has the power to influence and shape every aspect of your life- your choices, lifestyle, life goals, life ambition, relationships, etc; so choose wisely. Also learn to shun the wrong company.

"Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul." (Proverbs 22:24-25 NLT).

iv. Don't give up!

No matter how many times you have tried, and how long you've been trying for; don't give up.

Jesus told Peter, *"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."* (Luke 5:4c). Though Peter had worked hard all night, and caught nothing, he tried again; and this time around he caught a whole bunch of fish! Your breakthrough is just another 'try' away.

It's time to let down your nets for a catch!

God's best belongs to you; go for it.

God bless you.
Rev. Funke Ewuosho

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Letter of Thanks

Dear Rev. Funke,

I am writing this letter with a grateful heart to you and to God. You prayed for me the last time you were in Lagos, concerning the fruit of the womb. I remember asking you to pray against the fibroid surrounding my womb, so I could conceive. You helped me to see that the prayer focus should be on being able to conceive and not on the existing fibroid; and that God could do it, with or without the fibroid. You then went ahead to pray for me to conceive. I held on to your words and I believed every word of prayer you said that day. My husband and I also prayed and stood in agreement with the words you declared during the last conference in Lagos. I am so excited to inform you that I am now confirmed pregnant! Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. God bless you and all that concerns you, and may God show Himself strong to you always. You are a blessing to us and we appreciate and love you. Thank you so much, Temitope

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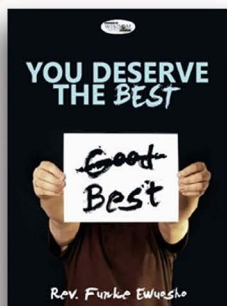
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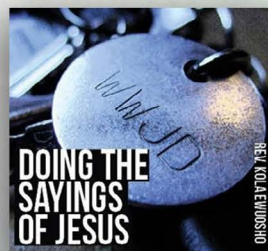
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You will know the truth and the truth will make you free

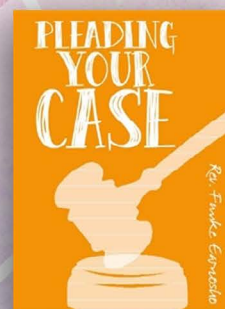
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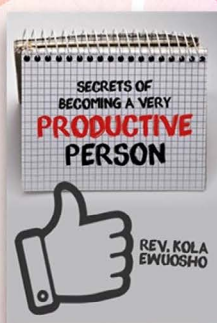


You have an enemy called 'average', that wants you to settle for less than God's best in your life! Do you have low expectations or a low self esteem? Do you struggle to achieve in life? Do you find it hard to treat yourself or to receive God's blessings? If so, these messages are for you.

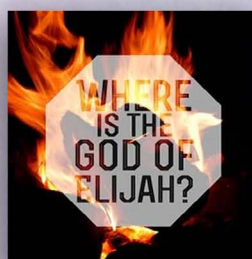
Do you need a breakthrough in life? Do you know that many of the Words of Jesus are actually keys that open doors for us to experience God's goodness in our lives? Understand some of the sayings of Jesus and the importance of acting on these Words.

Your case is not too big for God to handle. No matter what the enemy seems to be doing in your life, you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus, who stands in the gap for you. This message will teach you how to pray effectively and how to present your case before God in order to see results. Learn how to lay hold of God's promises and lean on God's grace and mercy, rather than your own works.

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There is no defeat in your future! God has promised that your future is bright and that the enemy has already been overcome. Would you like to be more productive in life? Learn how to live purposefully and cultivate a lifestyle of walking in love and pleasing God. Your success and victory is guaranteed!

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