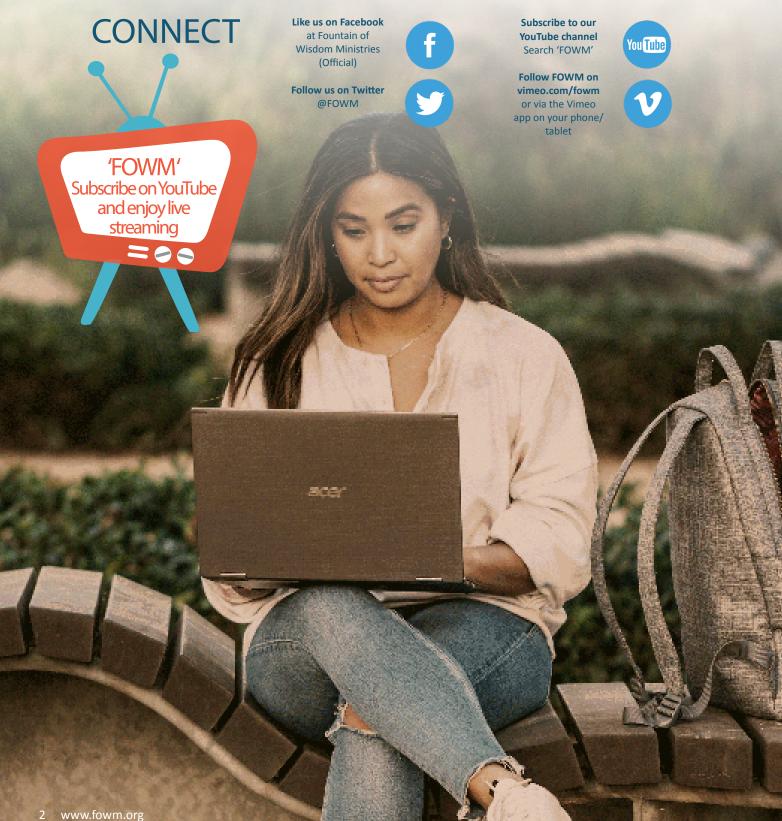


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Dearly Beloved of God,

We welcome you to our Christmas edition of our Wisdom Digest, a regular magazine from the Fountain of Wisdom Ministries (FOWM) worldwide. We share edifying articles and testimonies to build up believers all over the world. We believe that every believer has been destined to be conformed to being like our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Read Romans 8:29-30. In these end times where things are happening globally with the pandemic and its surrounding issues, we believe it is also time for believers to arise and shine, even as 'darkness' covers the whole earth. All the promises of God are "yes and amen" in Christ Jesus. It is your time to shine. It is your time to walk in the fullness of the victory you have in Christ! No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper and any tongue that rises against you shall be condemned by you (Isaiah 54:14-17).

We are here to build you up and get you established in your right-standing (righteousness) with God in Christ. You will be built up in your knowledge of what has been provided for you in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. You can learn more about these things as you take advantage of the products we have on our website (www.fowm.org). You can use this season to really get built up and come out victorious in every aspect of your life. Terror shall not come near you and you shall be far from oppression because you have not yielded to the spirit of fear (see 2 Timothy 1:7). You are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you. You are victorious by the blood of the covenant, shed on the cross of Calvary!

You are in for a great time reading this edition of the Wisdom Digest. Please help share with as many others around you so we can build more people and many more testimonies of victory will come in to glorify our Father God. Other articles inside this magazine include, "It's Your Time to Shine" and "Becoming a Very Productive Person". We believe you will enjoy reading this magazine. Take full advantage of our partnership opportunity: you can partner with us as we spread the good news around the world. Also, help spread the word through our social media platforms: subscribe, follow and encourage others to do the same as you are going to do. Our social media details are on page 2 of this magazine.

Contact our nearest office (contact info on page 4) to you to also share your testimonies of victory as well as your prayer requests. We are here to help, serve and build you up.

God bless you real good! Rev. Kola & Rev. Mrs. Funke Ewuosho

# WISDOM

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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## **REV. KOLA EWUOSHO**



e live in an age where, for many, how to get our needs met matter more to us than bringing glory to God Almighty. Part of God's program of restoring the fallen race of human beings was to bring mankind back into fellowship with Himself. Before the fall, what God had in mind for our relationship with Him was such that we are to be under His authority, while taking charge of the earth to see His will come to pass on earth as it is in heaven. This should be our experience on earth, according to God's plans for the human race. Genesis' account of the fall of mankind shows that God indeed delegated authority on earth to the human race (See Genesis chapters 1-3).

Continued on page 6...

# VICTORICUS LIVING THAT GLORIFIES GOD

The life of authority under God should be demonstrated by our obedience to His Word. His Word, and His expectations of us, should draw the boundaries for our lives. These boundaries should affect every area of our lives: our thoughts, words and actions. Letting God's Word define the boundaries around our lives is the surest way to bring glory to God in all aspects of our lives. It is not enough to want our needs met. The process we go through to get these needs met must be such that honours His Word, plans and purposes for our lives. To get these things right; our esteem of God should not be a function of what we are going through but who He said He is in His Word, the Bible.

The account of the fall of mankind through the deception of the enemy, Satan (the serpent), shows us God's nature; He does not usurp the authority He has delegated. He also allows things to happen on earth, expecting us to use our authority to handle things right.

Read Romans 5:12-21 (NKJV)

Genesis 3:1-7 (NKJV)

The Temptation and Fall of Man

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve fell and many are still falling today. When we think about how Satan tempted Eve in discrediting the nature of God and enticing them with what already was theirs, one wonders why many still fall for those same lines of deception namely the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV) Do Not Love the World

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the

lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Genesis 3:4-13 (NKJV)

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Satan used the same lines of deception when he tempted our Lord Jesus Christ. What we see and how we interpret the things around us is usually a function of what is at work in us. It shows that Satan has no new tactics to use on the human race.

Read Luke 4:1-13 (Also see Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13)

We need to develop the skills of mastering the traps of the enemy and how to defeat him and his schemes all the time. Many have fallen into the delusion of the enemy where they worship their needs rather than the Lord who supplies their needs. Jesus answered all the temptations with, 'it is written'. He did not follow the thoughts introduced by the enemy nor did He begin seeking how to be in the good books of Satan. He was set to honour the One whose written words were sufficient to meet all needs. Two things stand out if we are to get things right in our walk with God. One is our motives, and the other is our focus. Keeping our motives (why we do what we do) pure and our focus (what we look forward to and what inspires us) right are important.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

We need to always deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. Let Him be our pattern for life.

THE PROCESS WE GO THROUGH TO GET THESE NEEDS MET MUST BE SUCH THAT HONOURS HIS WORD, PLANS AND PURPOSES FOR OUR LIVES.

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV) (See also Mark 8:34–38; Luke 9:23–26)

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Romans 8:28-29 (NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

In denying self and taking up our cross, (which represents the will of God), we need to trust God for the outcome we desire. And since He is able to do beyond what we can ask or think according to His power that is at work in us, we can expect greater outcomes in the end.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...

#### Joseph's Journey to Destiny

In studying the scriptures, one person stands out in his journey to the destiny God had for him. His name is Joseph. Against all odds, Joseph did all it took to fulfil the destiny God had for his life. The story is well known but the lessons are for a lifetime. Joseph, the great grandson of Abraham, was sold as a slave by his brothers and found himself facing a temptation to do things contrary to God's ways when faced with the offer to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife. Read what he says:

Genesis 39:7-10 (NKJV)

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

If Joseph's need for freedom from slavery was upper most in his heart, he may have considered that God was not being fair to have allowed him to be sold as a slave. He may have become offended at God. He might have taken the law into his own hands, instead of please God. After all, he did not go looking for Potiphar's wife's offer; (think on these things). Rather, he lived within the boundaries of God's Word. His highest desire was to be pleasing to God and give Him all glory.

Genesis 39:11-23 (NKJV)

But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside." So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside." So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

Through faith in God, diligence in His work, serving any master he had, and seeking to bring glory to the name of the Lord, we see Joseph rising up to fulfil the demands of his destiny in God.

It seems Joseph's life exemplifies what it means prophetically to arise and shine.

Isaiah 60:1-5 (NKJV)

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

These scriptures were literally fulfilled in his life. But he had to arise, not allowing his peculiar circumstances to determine his actions. He had the option of allowing bitterness or feeling sorry for himself- he took neither of these options. Joseph's case was the case of one who would rather see God glorified rather than seek how to get his needs met. He did not allow his circumstances to define God but rather let God be glorified in spite of his circumstances.

# ...HE DID NOT ALLOW HIS CIRCUMSTANCES TO DEFINE GOD BUT RATHER LET GOD BE GLORIFIED INSPITE OF HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Many times, believers find themselves in peculiar circumstances and wonder how to be victorious in their situation in life. Usually the issue of self pity, borne out of sin consciousness, generates thoughts that amount to self doubt. These thoughts can make us feel undeserving of God's blessings in our lives.

#### Stepping Up into a New Dimension of Victorious Living

Remember that all things work together for our good (Romans 8:28-30). What do we do to get all things to work together for good?

To experience God's Word in our lives, we need to come to terms with His ways, plans and purposes for our lives. We need to accept who He says we are, what He says we can do and have what He says we have. He loved us enough to send His only begotten Son to pay the eternal sacrifice for our lives and the choice of response is ours if we are to experience all He has made available to us through the cross of Calvary.

Ephesians 1:3-6 (NKJV) Redemption in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

The problem is mainly in our souls. Everything we have been through in life has made deposits in our souls (i.e. our mind, will and emotions). These things play major roles in how we interpret our circumstances and form what we believe and therefore affect how we act towards our challenges.

James 1:2-8 (NKJV) Profiting from Trials

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:21-26 (NKJV) Doers—Not Hearers Only

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

Submission to the authority of God's Word demands that we count it all joy when we face trials of our faith. We thereby develop perseverance and experience some growing up in the face of our trials.

The trials work for our good when we do what the Word says in the face of the trial. We need to lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness (teachableness) the implanted Word which is able to save our souls. Instead of doing what we feel like doing, we do what the Word says. We avoid deception if we are not content to just hear the Word, but strive to be doers. Many times the reason we are not doers of the Word of God is because of our prevailing beliefs. Many times people are not conscious about their beliefs about certain aspects of their lives. Beliefs usually inform behaviour. Wrong beliefs need to be confronted with the truth of God's Word for there to be meaningful changes in our lives. Our identity in Christ, no matter what we hear or read about, will go a long way to inform how we handle our challenges in life. Our trials are designed for our good because we are growing up to conform to the image of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We all have beliefs that we are usually not conscious of. As believers, it is easy to claim that we believe the Word of God, but if we judge our responses to the things that happen in our lives regularly, we will see certain beliefs at work in us. We need to check these beliefs, find out how they came in, then consciously confront them and replace them with God's kingdom beliefs so our lives can be in conformity with the development of the nature of Christ in us. For example, where do you get significance from? Do you get it from your relationship with God or from accolades from people for a job well done? This calls for adjustment in the beliefs that govern different aspects of our lives. Also, do you have a low or healthy esteem for your life? How angry do you get when you feel insulted? Is your self esteem dependent on the opinion of others? Sometimes we have beliefs about God and His ways so much that we actually believe things differently from what the Bible says.

To walk in victory that brings glory to God demands that we recognise, amongst other things, who we are in Christ, what has been provided for us in the realm of the spirit and how to translate these things into the natural realm. We learn to count on His Word and not our feelings or our circumstances. It is according to His riches in glory that He shall supply all needs and not according to the limitations of our human efforts.

#### Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The realm of God in the spirit is already loaded with the things that were wrought in Christ Jesus. Our salvation is an established reality in this realm. All that God has provided for us exists in this realm by His grace. Faith is the channel through which these things flow into the natural realm.

#### Read Ephesians 2:4-10

A faith connection is needed for the flow of God's goodness to flow into the natural and God will be glorified.

#### The Place of an Effective Prayer Life

To experience victory in every aspect of our lives and glorify God in these aspects, an effective prayer life plays a major part. For starters, prayer is not just about asking for our needs to be met. The conditions for an effective prayer life includes intimacy with God, a willingness to walk in obedience and living a life of faith to please God. The will of God is known and established through prayer.

#### Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to help us in effective prayer. Praying in the Spirit opens us up into the realm of the Spirit of God. He knows the will of the Father, sees what is in our spirits and knows how to enable God's will in our lives.

#### John 15:7-14 (NKJV)

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Love and Joy Perfected - "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

You abide in Him through a lifestyle that is in harmony with His ways. The Word abides in you to the extent that you practise doing the Word, and it lives in you in abundance as you meditate in it. All of these will affect your desires. Bearing prayer fruit is seeing answers to our prayers that have brought about God's will being fulfilled on earth through us. Whatever we expose our hearts to can influence our thoughts, desires and our beliefs. Any beliefs contrary to God's Word should be confronted in the place of prayer. We can get really involved with God and our hearts' contents in the place of prayer. It is through such intimacy with God that we see how to apply His grace (both divine enablement and unmerited favour) into our circumstances. We can receive strength to do His will and enjoy His unmerited favour as we respond in faith to His provisions in Christ. So we see the interconnection between our hearts' content and our prayers as well as our obedience to God's demands of us. Our inner life needs constant attention for our motives and focus to stay on course so that we bring glory to God as we expect to walk in victory in every aspect of our lives.

What brings glory to God in our lives has to do with our hearts' obedience to God, the honour we have towards Him and our desire to be pleasing to Him as we seek to do His will in our lives. To be victorious in life and to experience the healing provided for us in Christ, amongst other provisions, we need to know how to get into a climate of faith, having prepared ourselves as carriers of His power and then to see the release of that power. All these are possible in the place of prayer.

In summary, to walk in victory that brings glory to God, do not allow your circumstances to define you. You are who God says you are. You have and can do what God says you have and can do. Maintain a healthy relationship with the Lord through worship, prayers and making declarations of faith by speaking the Word of God regularly. Pray in the Spirit regularly.

Be willing to learn lessons from every experience by letting the Spirit of God teach you how to get the results that will glorify the Father God. You are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you.

#### Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Rev. Kola Ewuosho

# THE TRIALS WORK FOR OUR GOOD WHEN WE DO WHAT THE WORD SAYS IN THE FACE OF THE TRIAL...



# IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

hew: what a year - 2020! We trust that we all, by the end of this eventful year, will be expressing a sigh of relief; as the Bible says, "the end of a matter, is better than its beginning" (Eccles. 7:8a).

There's been no year like this in recent history. For most of us, the year started with so many promises and great expectations. It promised to be a year of DOUBLE: double blessings in favour, fruitfulness, finances, promotions, celebrations etc. And everything seemed to be going in that direction, until COVID-19 took the world by storm. What started far away in the backside of China, began to spread across the continents, to different parts of world! Then came the lockdowns that have crippled the global economy, affected lives and livelihoods, disrupted plans, and have drastically changed our lifestyles.

And all the negative experiences, and the gloomy projections, have also left some cynics saying, 'how come nobody told us this would happen? We were only told it would be a year of double blessings!' But there hasn't been any time as this that God's Word in the book of Isaiah, has been this relevant! It says, "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1-2). It seems to me that there's a connection between the darkness that shall cover the earth, and the 'shining' of God's people; because it takes darkness for light to shine. Light doesn't shine in the light! Also, why would God tell us to arise, if we were not down and didn't have reasons to be bowed down? The Amplified version of that verse says; "ARISE [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you--rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" The Bible says, "Light shines in the darkness for the godly" (Ps. 112:4 NLT). This is the set time for you to be favoured by the Lord; it's your time to shine. "For the Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory" (Ps. 102:13,16 NIV). This is the time for your horn (i.e. your strength) to be exalted with honour (Ps. 112:9); for God is the Glory and the Lifter of your head (Ps. 3:3).

Continued on page 14...





#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11: 'IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!'



# THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY TIME AS THIS THAT GOD'S WORD IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH HAS BEEN THIS RELEVANT!

Remember, it takes darkness for the light to shine! It took a famine in Egypt for Joseph to shine. Pharaoh sent for him in prison; "He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom" (Ps. 105:21-22). Joseph told his brothers that God meant for good what they had meant for evil (Gen. 50:20); indeed, "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28 NLT).

The truth is that when there's darkness on one side, there's light on the other side - "the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you". When the Egyptians were pursuing after the Israelites, the pillar of cloud came and stood between the two camps; "Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other," (Ex. 14:19-20). Amazing - the same cloud that was darkness to one camp, gave light to the other! The Bible says, "When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up" (Job 22:29a KJV). Jesus was "destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel" (Luke 2:34b); it all depends on the side you're on!

#### What then must we do to shine?

#### i. Arise

The first thing to do is to arise. Our text says, 'Arise, shine...'. Note it didn't say, 'Arise and shine'! Which implies that arising goes hand-in-glove with shining! Jesus said, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

It is our responsibility to arise. We are the ones to let our light so shine for all to see, that they may glorify our Father in heaven (Matt.5:14-16).

Nothing happens until we arise; and things won't change until we arise. Deborah said, "the highways were deserted, and the travelers walked along the byways. Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel" (Judge 5:6-7).

We must arise; "Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In" (Isa. 58:12)

#### ii. Maintain a vital connection to God

The Bible is full of the stories of people who 'shined' in their generation as a direct result of their connection to God! Jesus said, we can't be fruitful, unless we remain vitally united with Him (John 15:4). The Bible says, "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (Dan. 11:32c).

Daniel purposed in his heart, not to defile himself with the king's delicacies and wine because of his relationship with God. And when he and his three friends were tested at the end of ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished than all their colleagues who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. Not only that, when the King interviewed them at the end of their training period, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers in all his kingdom (Dan. 1:19-20)!

Remember, the earth and the people shall be covered in deep darkness; "but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you".

Darkness also represents ignorance, confusion, etc. That was the case when king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and didn't know what it meant! When he demanded that his astrologers tell him the dream and its interpretation, they told the king it was humanly impossible (Daniel 2:10c). That was the time for Daniel and his friends to shine!

Darkness and light are opposites; light represents knowledge. The king commanded that all the wise men in Babylon be destroyed. Daniel and his friends would have perished with the others; but when they prayed, God revealed the secret to Daniel in a night vision (Daniel 2:14-19).

The Bible says, "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant" (Ps. 25:14). Job talked of the days of his youth - "When His candle shined upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness;...when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle..." (Job 29:2-4 KJV).

It was Joseph's time to shine when Pharaoh had two dreams and no one could interpret them! God gave Joseph the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams, and Joseph's advice was well received by Pharaoh (and all his officials) and he set Joseph over all Egypt. The man who delights and meditates in God's Word, "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (Ps. 1:3).

#### iii. Live by Faith

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). The NLT version says, "For we live by believing and not by seeing". A person who lives by faith, doesn't live by what they see in the natural or physical realm! Faith deals with the unseen realm; it is the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1c). Faith calls the things that don't exist (physically), as though they did (Rom. 4:17). Why? Because, "the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3c).

Darkness covers the earth and the people; and if you would shine, you've got to be different! You can't afford to listen to what everybody is listening to, say what they are saying, or respond to things the same way they do. "When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up" (Job 22:29a KJV). Isaiah said, "This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people: "Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it" (Isa. 8:11-12 NIV). The Bible says that the worlds were framed by the Word of God (Heb.11:3a); so, learn to speak His Word. Jesus said you shall have what you say (Mark 11:23); so, if you keep saying what you have presently (in the physical), that is what you're going to have! Start saying what God says you have and you will have it. You have redemption and forgiveness, through the blood of Jesus (Col. 1:13); you have obtained an inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:11); by the stripes of Jesus you have been healed (1 Pet. 2:24); you have overcome satan by the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11); you have been given all the things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3); you have overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5); etc. Start saying who the Bible says you are - note that you are (not will be) the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21); more than a conqueror (Rom.8:37); the redeemed of the Lord (Ps. 107:2); the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13); blessed beyond the curse (Num.23:20); etc.

#### iv. Live by the Spirit

These aren't the days that we live like ordinary people; because the greatest Force in the universe lives inside of us- the Holy Spirit!

He isn't only with us; but also in us and where need be, He would come UPON us to accomplish whatever needs to be accomplished. Jesus calls Him the Helper; so He is here to help us. He is also called, "The Spirit of wisdom and understanding...of counsel and might...of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord" (Isa. 11:1-2). So we can draw on any of these dimensions of the Holy Spirit, whenever it is needed. When Joseph was called upon to interpret Pharaoh's dream; he answered, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace" (Gen. 41:16c).

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ARISE. WE ARE THE ONES TO LET OUR LIGHT SO SHINE FOR ALL TO SEE, THAT THEY MAY GLORIFY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.



Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, by the Spirit of God. He also gave counsel as to what Pharaoh should do in the seven years of abundance, to prevent hardship in the seven years of severe famine that would follow. He operated by the spiritual gifts of the Word of knowledge and the Word of wisdom!

Daniel also operated by these gifts, when he supernaturally told the king's dream and interpretation. It was a humanly impossible thing to do. Nebuchadnezzar's wise men said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh" (Dan. 2:10c-11). The Bible says the gifts of the Holy Spirit- the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues - are distributed to each member of the Body, for the profit of all (1 Cor. 12:7-11). Note that the gifts are manifested through and by the Spirit, and not through the human flesh, reasoning or ability!

#### v. Walk in Love

We can't talk about shining, without talking about the need to walk in love. (Read 1 John 2:9-11).

We've talked about living by faith, but the Bible says Faith works by love (Gal. 5:6c)! We must, however, understand how love works. Love is a commandment; it's not an advice or a suggestion from God! It is the greatest commandment (Matt. 22:36-40). That is, it isn't subject to our feeling, convenience, person preference or opinion. Like faith, love is of the heart, and not of the head- the Bible says that the love of God has been shed in our heart! Love isn't selective in its operations; we must love everyone. (Read 1 John 3:14-19). It is also a test of our genuine salvation and discipleship; By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Love isn't a feeling, it's about actions flowing from a genuine heart. The Bible talks about 'having' love (and not 'feeling' love) for one another (John 13:35)! God's love is practical; He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Jesus commanded us to love one another AS HE HAS LOVED us. (John 15:12). And how has He loved us? By laying down His life for us. "And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:14-18).

#### vi. Maintain Fellowship With Others

There is a need to be in fellowship with other believers. Daniel had his three friends. Though the Bible says, Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself, a close study

would show that he wasn't alone in this. The four men were together on abstaining from the king's delicacies and wine and ate just vegetables (Dan. 1:8-16)! When the decree went out for all the wise men in Babylon to be killed, Daniel didn't seek God concerning the matter on his own. The Bible says, he got his three companions involved and the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision (Dan. 2:16-19). The days of 'one man show' are over! Another word for fellowship is partnership. In order to shine, you must know how to work in partnership and collaboration with others. Nobody has it all made; there are people who have what you need, to make up for what you have. As Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, He needed a boat to preach from to the multitudes. He had the crowd and the message, but didn't have a boat; so He got into Peter's boat. That was partnership there! When He was done, Jesus told Peter to let down his nets for a catch. Don't forget that before now Peter had given up on catching any fish - they had washed and hung up their nets. The Bible says when they did as Jesus said, they caught so much fish that their net began to break; "So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink" Luke 5:7.

Sometimes we need others to spur us on, motivate and encourage us, even what we know we should be doing. Sometimes we get the inspiration we need from others. The Bible says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend" (Proverbs 27:17 NLT). If you're going to shine, you're going to have to learn from others, rub minds with others, exchange ideas, etc. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25). Your company is where you run to when the enemy has thrown all kinds of stuff at you, to pull you down, to discourage and stop you. After the miracle of healing the man at the Gate Beautiful, the religious leaders got Peter and John arrested and detained till the next day. After their release, they went to their own company and reported to them all the warnings and threats of the religious leaders. They responded by raising up their voice together in prayer. And rather than be downcast and discouraged, they were back again, speaking the word with boldness (Acts 4:23-31)!

IF YOU ARE TO SHINE, YOU'VE GOT TO BE DIFFERENT! YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LISTEN TO WHAT EVERYBODY IS LISTENING TO...OR RESPOND TO THINGS THE SAME WAY THEY DO.

However, the fellowship you keep can either make or mar you in life. It's been said, 'show me your friends, and I will show you who you are'. Also, 'Show me your friends, and I will show you your future'. How true! The Bible says, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). You must, therefore choose your company carefully in the light of who you want to be and the kind of future you want for yourself.

#### vii. Prayerfulness

Shining in the midst of darkness requires being prayerful. It's not just about praying every now and then, but praying always!

Satan is the ruler of darkness. He is the 'god of this world'; and the Bible says, "We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19 NLT). That is, we're living in enemy territory. Jesus told His disciples that He was sending them as sheep among wolves (Matt. 10:16)! But thank God, we've been well equipped, so we don't need to be afraid of the enemy. We are born of God and have overcome satan and the world; because Jesus has already overcome the world for us! To be able to stand against the wiles or strategies of the devil, we are told to "Put on the whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:11). And it seems like the armour goes hand in hand with praying, because it goes on to say, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Eph.6:18a).

Interestingly, again, Daniel is a good example to drive home the need to be prayerful. The Bible says that after the writing was signed, Daniel went home into his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, "he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days" (Daniel 6:10). Notice that it was his custom to pray; it wasn't a knee-jerk reaction driven by fear or to make an impression on anyone. Of course, that would be a wrong time to do that- when he was facing a matter of life and death! I often say to people: you don't try new tricks on the day of battle. David refused to go and fight Goliath in Saul's armour; he said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them" (1 Sam. 17:39). That explains why some people have become casualties in the battles of life. They are like the sons of Sceva, who tried to cast out demons "by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." And "Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded" (Acts 19:13c-16).

We are told to be "faithful in prayer" (Rom. 12:12). Things aren't just going to fall on you like ripe cherries; though Christ has already obtained for us all we would ever need in life, in the redemption He obtained for us through His blood. We have an enemy who will contest

every ground with us. We're told to fight the good fight of faith; we will still have to 'take hold of' what has already been given to us (1 Tim. 6:12)! The Kingdom of God still has to be taken by force even though it's the Father's pleasure to give it to us; because we're fighting against "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12c). Esther had to put up a fight. She hadn't been invited to the king's presence in thirty days and she faced a death penalty if she went in uninvited, EXCEPT the king held out the golden scepter to her. Esther accepted the challenge. She decided to go before the king to plead for her people, but only after three days of fasting! On the third day, dressed in royal robes, Esther went into the inner court, uninvited; and instead of her facing the wrath of the king, Esther found favour with him. He said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!" (Est. 5:3).

Remember, "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]" (Jas. 5:16 AMP).

#### viii. Make A Choice

In conclusion, it's not only your responsibility to arise; it's also a choice you would have to make. Mordecai presented Esther with a choice- to either remain completely silent at this time or to go speak to the king. He told her, "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Est. 4:14). And she made the choice- a tough one; she said, "And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (Est. 4:16c). But did you notice that she didn't perish? The truth is, those who say 'if I perish, I perish', don't perish! Remember the three Hebrew men? They were told to either bow to the image of gold or to burn in the fiery furnace. They refused to bow, yet they didn't burn; rather they were delivered and promoted (Dan. 4:15-30)! Daniel chose not to defile himself with the king's meat and wine (Dan. 1:8). He also chose to defy the king's decree and went in to pray to God- not just once, but three times daily, as had been his practice. He was thrown into the lions' den; but he was brought out unharmed, because God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. As a result, king Darius honoured the 'God of Daniel' and Daniel also prospered during his reign (Daniel 6:10-30).

Also, know that whatever choice you make today, will not only affect you, but also generations coming after you - "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" ( Deut. 30:15c).

God bless you Rev. Funke Ewuosho

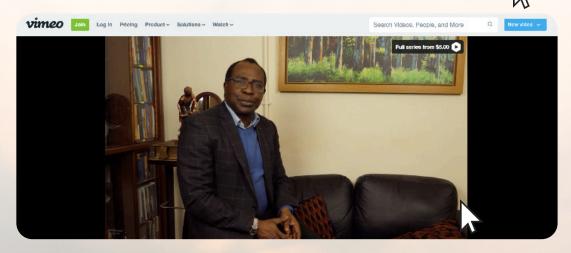


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Our church in Ghana provided food provisions for the less privileged families during the most difficult times. Earlier this year, leaders of the different satellite churches were assigned to reach out to members and look after their welfare. Online services that were streamed were followed by fellowship sessions via Zoom. These after-service fellowships really helped to strengthen the bond between members who had not physically seen themselves in while, and encouraged many.

## KENYA

Fountain of Wisdom Chapel Kenya, pulled resources together to provide food and provisions for those in need. The benevolence team worked hard to ensure that contributions and financial aid were made available to families and individuals who were in need.

### **NIGERIA**

Our churches all over Nigeria are working hard to ensure everyone who has been affected by the pandemic can have access to basic amenities.

Initiatives such as Feed The Needy (FTN) was set up so that provisions can be made available to those who are going through financially difficult times. The media team worked round the clock with Revs. Kola and Funke Ewuosho, to record and stream messages to several FOWM church installations. The Pastors also provided daily morning devotionals which were streamed online. Through regular sharing of the Word, prayer and breaking bread, the body of Christ has been edified

#### UK **CAMEROON**

The leadership team at Harvestime Church ensure every member and unit is reached out to and taken care of. Recently, the student fellowship at Harvestime church launched a food distribution initiative. After online Bible study meetings, food is safely prepared and made available for attendees who live around the local university campus and wish to be fed.

During the lockdown period at Harvestime Church in Cameroon, families were encouraged to pray together at home daily. Food provisions were also made available for those that were quarantined.

## **BECOMING A VERY PRODUCTIVE PERSON...**

s far as heaven is concerned, Christ is your goal Daniel didn't wait for something to happen before he proposed in his heart to not defile himself [read Daniel 1]. He made a decision from the beginning, the kind of person he was going to be in the king's palace.

Similarly, your belief systems can limit you from rising up and experiencing all God has for you.

The ten Israelite spies had a belief system that hindered their obedience. The Israelites had a 'grasshopper' complex, which came as a result of their experience in Egypt. Instead of rising up to possess the land flowing with milk and honey, their mindset limited them. They saw themselves as powerless and little compared to those who lived in the land of Canaan, and this was how others saw them. Read Numbers 11-13.

Some habits can limit our ability to believe and understand things that will take us to the right directions.

**REV. KOLA EWUOSHO** 

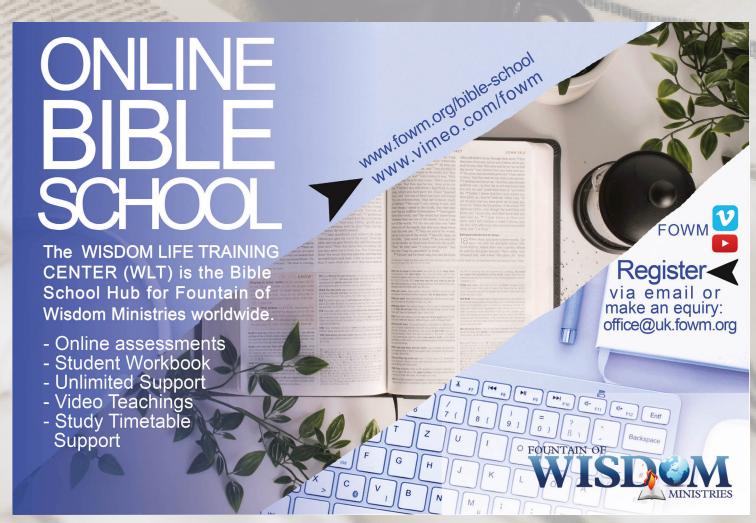
#### Practical actions/habits to learn:

- > Guard your self-talk
- > Stop comparing yourself to others. Your race is unique
- > Move beyond your limiting beliefs
- > Add value to others: love and honour them
- > Do the right thing even if it's hard
- > Practice daily disciplines in specific areas of your life: forgive; believe the best about others; have an attitude of gratitude, etc.
- > Celebrate small victories value every little progress you make
- > Embrace a positive vision for your life based on your values
- > Take responsibility

Finally, remember that lasting solutions to transforming your habits and your belief systems, are found in God's Word. God's Word equips us with everything we need. Ephesians 5 highlights areas we can commit to. These include: walking in love; getting rid of every filthiness; not having any fellowship with the works of darkness, and more (Read Ephesians 5:1-21).

What habits are you going to commit to today in order to become more productive and Christ-like?

[Taken from 'Secrets to Becoming a Productive Person' by Rev. Kola Ewuosho]





low to escape end-time spirits and stay on the right side...

It is important to identify the side of the sources you listen to or read from. The side that you lean towards can determine what will happen to you and what you experience. Are you on the side of faith or fear? Both of them don't mix! Whatever you focus on will either build up fear or faith

Satan has no power over us as long as we operate in and walk consciously in the covenant. Stay in the Word, until it has residue in our hearts. Let the Word be as real to you as anything else.

#### 1. Your God-connection must be strong

Abide in Jesus!

John 14:15-21 says 'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

#### 2. A life of faith

Hebrews 11:1-3 says, 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.'

#### 3. Walk in the spirit

Galatians 5:16-18 says, 'So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.'

Psalm 141:3 says, 'Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.'

#### 4. Walk in love

Love as God loves!

Romans 5:5-8 says, 'Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

#### 5. Fellowship

Hebrews 10:23-25 says, 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.'

Malachi 3:16-17 says, 'Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him.'

#### 6. Prayerfulness

Be steadfast in prayer! Romans 12:11-13 says 'not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality...

#### 7. Your choice

The devil goes around looking for whom to devour - whether he has an opening or not is our choice. Our decisions and our words determine wether we let him in or not.

1 Peter 3:8-12 says, 'Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil'.'

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

[TAKEN FROM REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO'S MESSAGE 'WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?'1



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