

WISDOM

Winter Edition

Digest

ISSUE WD073

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AND THE
Fathering Spirit

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WISDOM Digest

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Publication Information

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

If you have been blessed by this issue of Wisdom Digest, we would like to hear from you. Your prayers and support in any form are greatly appreciated.

Please send us names and addresses of friends you know who would benefit from receiving a copy of this magazine, Or 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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Dear Beloved,

Our gift to you this Christmas season is another packed issue of the Wisdom Digest. This issue Rev. Kola Ewuosho brings a timely message that I believe will impact many in the Body of Christ (page 3). May it provoke us to ask ourselves "Am I doing the will of God?" and "What are my motives for what I am doing?"

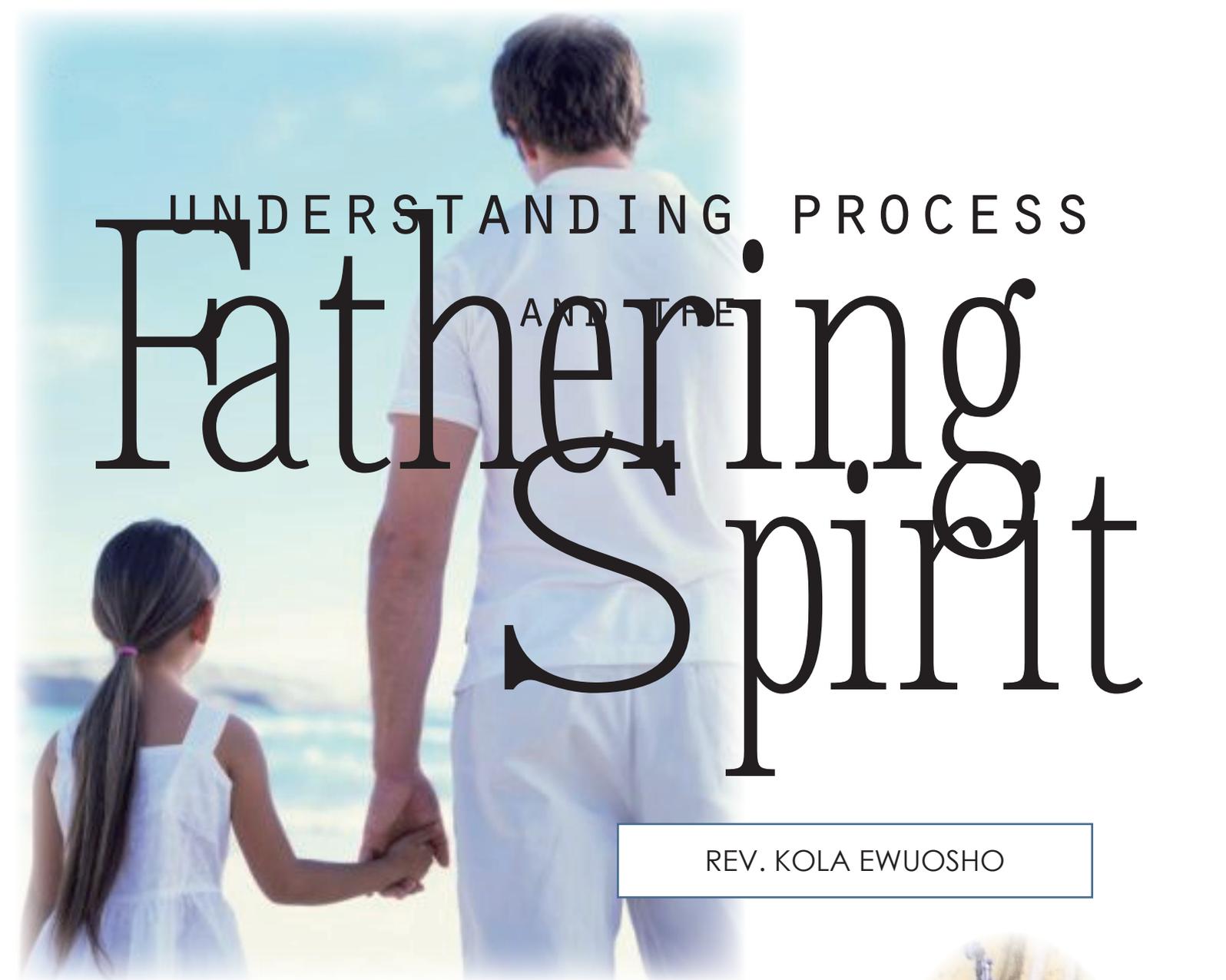
In this issue Rev. Funke Ewuosho also brings a message on 'Living by Faith' (page 7) which we trust will bring us back to laying fresh foundations in our lives. As you will read, 'Faith is meant to be the lifestyle of the believer, not what we do now and then, or a panic button we press when we are in trouble!' May this article help us all to cultivate a lifestyle of faith.

On page 10 we have a special report and testimonies from this year's annual Fountain of Wisdom Ministries conference in Nigeria, the 'Ingathering'. We hope you will be inspired to join us at our conferences around the world (page 11), tune into our television broadcasts (page 12) and purchase some of our latest products (page 15).

Finally, our special feature page this month is dedicated to 'Couples' (page 13). Discover the secrets of building friendship with your spouse, as Rev. Funke Ewuosho shares from the Word of God and her nearly 20 years of marriage experience.

May this issue of Wisdom Digest thoroughly enrich your life! Please do write to us with your testimonies. God bless you.

P.S You can now read the past editions of our Wisdom Digest at our website, www.fowm.org. Log on and be blessed.



UNDERSTANDING PROCESS AND THE Fathering Spirit

REV. KOLA EWUOSHO

In the beginning God created man in His image and in His likeness. God's first words to man were that he be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the other creatures. He created them, male and female. (Gen. 1:27-28). However, the fall of man brought changes to the state of mankind. What was created (i.e. man's spirit) and what was made (i.e. man's body) all came under a new dispensation. The scriptures say that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory God bestowed upon man. (Romans 3:23). Sin worked itself into the nature of man and over time built strongholds into the soul (i.e. the mind, will and emotions). Subsequently, man's body became enslaved to the sin nature in the soul. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination and intention of all human thinking was only evil continually". (Gen. 6:5 Amp.) The spiritual state eventually became an experiential

"God wants to see man restored to the place of being in His image and likeness."

reality for the human race. This downward spiral went on with little help to curtail the excesses of the nature of fallen man. Bible records of the human race show the effects of God's intervention, the choices made by individuals and the outworking of God's plans and purposes in the light of all the factors involved. God's answer to man's state was the coming of Jesus and the sacrifice of His body through His death, burial and resurrection.

Repentance, together with believing and receiving Jesus translates us into a new spiritual state, though our souls still need saving according to James 1:21. God wants to see man restored to the place of being in His image and likeness. This restoration seems to be the unspoken purpose revealed in all the drama we see in the Bible. Christ, as revealed in the Bible, is the embodiment of





UNDERSTANDING PROCESS
AND THE
Fathering Spirit

continued...

all that pleases God. All the characters in the Bible, whose lives were pleasing to God, manifested some aspects of the character we see fully expressed in Christ. Romans 8:29 says we are destined to be moulded into the image of His Son and share His inward likeness. Christ-likeness is the goal of our Christian faith. **Being conformed to the image and likeness of God is the real reason for the process we go through on earth.** To fully understand Christ-likeness, we need to appreciate the place of character and the power we have in Christ. God was pleased with Jesus at the baptism of John albeit He had performed no miracle. Strength of character, such as His submission to Joseph and Mary, was the reason for God's utterance, not the performance of power-shows! He developed character for 30 years and displayed the power of God for 3 and a half years. Today we tend to put the power before the character. God's purposes include the unveiling of the character and power of His Son in us as an experiential reality, thus revealing the many sided wisdom of God on this side of eternity.

Process is that which we go through, that helps us confront the effects of the old nature in us, in order to rid ourselves of it. In the course of time, the character of Christ is allowed to dominate our souls as we heed the Word of God. Through obedience of faith, walking in wisdom and being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we yield to the dealings of God and He brings us to full conformity to the image of His Son. We hear from the Father "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". In the realm of power, we need power to be healed and see the sick healed supernaturally. We also need power to obtain wealth just as God gave power to the children of Israel to obtain wealth. Without intimacy

with God and conformity to His character we cannot bring pleasure to the heart of God.

Process is God's way of taking us to the finish line. It is the outworking of His will in our lives. **Every stage of our maturity in the purposes of God will be measured**

by how much of Christ is being reflected in us. When we arrive at full conformity, the will of God will be done on earth. Only the Son can completely please the Father and only He can carry out His will in the purity of His purposes. The Son wants to give these expressions in and through us. Character formation demands supernatural power from God to make us into who He wants us to be. We grow into the fullness of Christ as we allow the operation of His Word and Spirit to build into us all that please the Father. He brings relationships into our lives to enhance His purposes. One such relationship is a fathering influence to generate a healthy 'climate' for the fulfilment of His purposes at every stage of our lives.

**WE NEED THE
FATHERING SPIRIT
IN OUR GROWTH
PROCESS**

The fathering spirit is needed when one is expected by God to create a relational environment that is conducive for the healthy growth of another. In spiritual terms it is called *spiritual fathering*. Such an environment needs to be devoid of manipulation or permissiveness, as truth will be spoken in love. Manipulation happens when the motives for fathering are selfish. Permissiveness or flattery takes place when there is a fear of rejection in the one who is supposed to be fathering another. Due to immaturity and a lack of the formation of Christ-likeness, many leaders use manipulation, whilst others operate with flattery. A balanced middle-of-the-road situation will be to speak the truth in love, even if it hurts. This is the fathering spirit. This is why becoming a spiritual father has much to do with *process*, wherein your own fears and insecurities are dealt with by the help of the Holy Spirit of God. Without personal process, there will be no knowledge of how to deal with the process others go through. **Accurate navigation is necessary as we go through process, without which some become bitter instead of better.** Joseph's life typifies God's process of making His own type of leader. God starts His making process with a vision. The vision must be believed and embraced. Most of the time, how the implementation will come about is completely unknown to the receiver of the vision. The vision is usually a picture of the future. Moses was born to be a deliverer of his people. David was anointed king at a young age. Peter, received revealed knowledge that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. The process of God in these lives began to unfold more practically after their glimpse of what the future held for them. (By faith we embrace the end result and this enables us to go through *process* to bring about the manifestation of what we have seen.) It has been said that the order of the breaking of bread in the days of Jesus on earth is

"Manipulation happens when the motives for fathering are selfish. Permissiveness or flattery takes place when there is a fear of rejection in the one who is supposed to be fathering another."

"Process is that which we go through, that helps to confront the effects of the old nature in us, in order to rid ourselves of it"

similar to the order of process that we go through in God. First He took the bread, He blessed it and then He broke it, before He gave it to His disciples. In the same way, we are taken, blessed and broken before we are given to our generation for His purposes to be fulfilled. The breaking process takes place after the blessing so we do not think He does not love us when we feel the pain of the breaking. A major part of our maturing process is in understanding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as a pattern of what we go through as we come into spiritual maturity.

Joseph's vision was partly what attracted envy from his brothers, which consequently led him to being sold as a slave and eventually becoming a slave to Potiphar in Egypt. Having started as the favoured son, he became subjected to many seemingly harsh dealings which eventually brought him into leadership development through service. We see him acquire maturity, learn forgiveness and trust his future into the hands of his creator, God. When Joseph demonstrated his understanding of boundaries in his dealings with Potiphar's wife, we see a man who had been trained in the fear of God, who understood godly boundaries and had learnt to flee fornication.

Process is not just about what we are subjected to but also about what lessons we learn and what we become as a result of what we go through.

Fathering is nurturing another through the process they go through. The fathering spirit is the conducive atmosphere for correct lessons to be derived from real life experiences. In such an atmosphere, God's perspective can also be seen in these real life experiences.

HEALTHY BOUNDARIES: A CONDITION FOR HEALTHY GROWTH

One of the lessons derived from Joseph's words, in Genesis 39:8-9, is the understanding of boundaries. He said these words after Potiphar's wife appealed to him and he refused. "Behold, my master knows not what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither 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?" Joseph did not get a swollen head for having everything in his charge. Moreover, he recognised what was not under his charge. He knew his boundaries. Remember that Adam and Eve fell, in the midst of plenty, when they ate of the tree that God said not to eat from. How many people have made costly mistakes simply because they did not stay within their God-given boundaries? Further still, do you know that a lack of boundaries can be seen as the root of many sins? **Those who had the privilege of being treated with the healthy "rod of correction" whilst growing up have some boundaries etched into their minds.** I have noticed that mental boundaries are also helpful in many cases. There are some thoughts you should just not tolerate in your mind.

The more I think about the natural, mental or spiritual, I realise that healthy growth needs certain healthy boundaries. Within these boundaries the growth is healthy; outside these, we have a wild growth. I remember growing up in my home country. You never conceived in your mind that God does not exist. It took coming into another country to see that some actually believe that God does not exist. The reality of God constituted a major healthy boundary in my thought processes. Actually everything created by God was designed to function within certain boundaries. I believe the fear of God is what puts healthy boundaries in our minds, as in the case of Joseph.

The fathering spirit helps to establish Godly boundaries in the minds of those being fathered so they can grow healthily in their minds and walk with God. **When Paul told Timothy to "commit to faithful ones who will be able", he established that character preceded performance in the scheme of things in the kingdom of God.** It sounds like God will put up with some mediocrity with one who is faithful until that person develops the needed ability as God provides.

*"Brokenness
is the state
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bounce back
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to serve
without
bitterness."*

PRIDE HIDES BEHIND GIFTS

Another aspect of the process is 'brokenness'. **Brokenness is the state wherein we can be corrected and still bounce back with joy, and continue to serve without bitterness.** This is an achievable state as we go through our process of receiving correction and moving on from one level of excellence to another. Many get stuck because of the subtle pride that hides behind our gifts from God. Gifted people can sometimes be the most difficult to disciple. Behind our gifts is the self-confident boasting that says 'I can do it too'. 'I have what it takes'. We all go through this. God gives gifts and we get proud as if it was by our efforts we got them.

We claim we want to use the gifts for God but really it is to boost our poor self images. When we are corrected, the 'monster' behind the gifts shows up. God gives and chooses how He wants to use the gifts. He does want us to employ our gifts for His purposes but how will He deal with what has attached itself to what He gave? *Process* is the sifting of the old inhabitants from the new. The new creation battles with the carnal nature for expression in us. Process takes us through the fire of purification where the dross surfaces so it can be dealt with. Unfortunately when the dross surfaces, like anger, hatred and bitterness, instead of recognising and removing, we allow these things to remove us from the beauty of the cleansing process. We take the offence and leave the environment where correction can take place. How tragic. "Every plant, which my heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted out". (Matt.15:13) **Offences can root us out of the path to our destiny if we hold on to them, or, we can let God root them out of our hearts through repentance and forgiveness. Rather than become better, bitterness takes us away and our hearts become polluted, hence our destiny is no longer what He meant for it to be.** How we need those who help interpret our experiences correctly so that Christ can be formed in us.

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PURITY OF MOTIVES AND FOCUS

God sees the heart while men look on our outward appearance. What God sees are our motives and focus. He actually judges us based on these. Part of the purpose of the process we go through in God is to allow us to see our motives, so we can allow the purifying power of repentance from dead works to have its effect. In Hebrews 12:1-2, we see three aspects of God's will; first, that the race is already marked out for us. We do not get to define our race or the path we run on. Secondly, we are to look unto Jesus as our pattern and inspiration. Thirdly, He who started is also able to finish what He started in us. He is the author and finisher of our faith. As we look to Him we see that His motivation was to do the will of the Father-God. Hebrews 10:5-10 clearly shows that He was motivated by a desire to please the Father by doing His will. Again we see that the path He took was discovered in the Scriptures and the final deal involved the laying down or sacrifice of His body. Being the pattern Son, our focus should be on Him and our motive should be like His. He loved, obeyed and was sold out on pleasing the Father.

In our world, selfish ambition, competitive jealousy and a desire to be like others have replaced Godly motives for the things we do for God. These things pollute the pure expression of God's kingdom on the earth. The questions we should ask ourselves from time to time are "Am I doing the will of God?" and "What are my motives for what I am doing?" Many times we do start with the right motives, i.e. loving God and being willing to do His will. As time goes on, however, the effects of our experiences with people enter our hearts, coupled with our own unresolved issues of the heart, like rejections of the past. These compound in us and as a result our motives get polluted and eventually our service for the Lord is not producing as God intends.

If care is not taken we end up having fights that are unnecessary and we get distracted from purpose, aborting the processes of God in our lives. I wonder how many lives are being wasted by these. They still seem like they are in the race but they are definitely running with a totally different agenda and dancing to a strange music. In James 4, the author asks the question why there are wars amongst us and within us. In verse 4,

he says we are like unfaithful wives having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking our marriage vows to the Lord. **The things in the world, as mentioned in 1 John 2:15-17, are the lust of the flesh, the eyes and the pride of life. Any fellowship with these will open us to another spirit and pollution of destiny becomes increasingly inevitable.**

Repentance and humility are needed to deal with these issues. James said we should be subject to God then resist the devil and he will flee from us. (James 4:7). Grace is given to the humble who take their position under God. That grace is given as a measure of the power of the Holy Spirit to deal with this evil tendency and all others fully. (James 4:6, Amp.) We obviously need a regular supply of this grace.

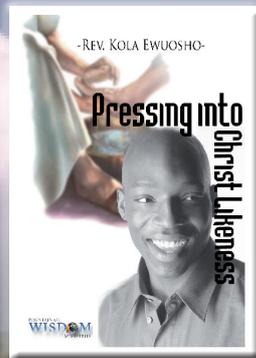
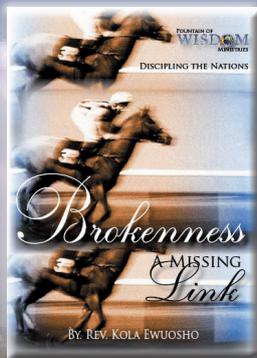
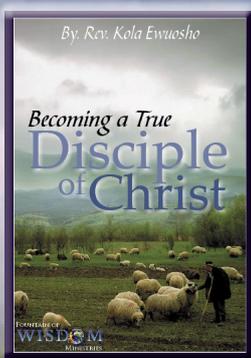
When these things are dealt with within the context of healthy, loving relationships, like a fathering or friendly one, the correction and encouragement will lead

to greater productivity and spiritual accuracy. Remember that corrections are not usually joyous.

The fathering principle is what God uses to transmit His legacy from one generation to another. This includes the transmission of values, principles and the lifestyle that govern pure motivation and accurate operations in the spirit. My prayer is that this generation and generations to come will be helped by true fathers and healthy friendly relationships to navigate accurately to avoid the extremes and traps that have befallen and beguiled many into forfeiting their God-ordained destinies. Amen!

- Rev. Kola Ewuosho

The questions we should ask ourselves from time to time are "Am I doing the will of God?" and "What are my motives for what I am doing?"



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3 messages that will help you on the pathway to destiny...

Living by Faith

REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20) This verse tells me that God expects me to live my life on earth by faith in Christ. It is obvious that if we are going to make it as Christians in this world, we are going to have to live by faith (not in ourselves, not in the world’s system or in any other thing) **in Christ Jesus!** **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 Jn. 4:4-5)**

I believe it is time to revisit the subject of faith, in spite of the abuses that have gone on on the same, after all we cannot throw away both the baby and the bath water. The Bible says, without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6) and **“by it the elders obtained a good testimony” (Heb. 11:2).** **I think the reason why good testimonies are getting harder to come by in these days is because a lot of Christians have lost touch with the genuine faith life! (1 Tim. 1:5, 19).** We need to go back to the basics of living by faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible says **“The just shall live by faith” (Rom. 1:17, Heb. 10:38, Gal 3:11)** and in Habakkuk 2:4 **“The just shall live by his faith.”** This tells me, first and foremost, that faith is meant to be the lifestyle of the believer, not what we do now and then or a panic button we press when we are in trouble. As a matter of fact, I suggest that if you haven’t been living by faith before trouble comes, don’t try to! If David had not killed

“faith is meant to be the lifestyle of the believer, not what we do now and then, or a panic button we press when we are in trouble”

the bear and the lion, it would have been presumptuous of him to try to take on Goliath. What you do at such a time is to ask around for prayers to get out of the trouble and then you can start building your faith. **“He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast (i.e. fixed), trusting in the LORD. His heart is established; he will not be afraid...” (Ps. 112:7-8)** This implies your heart must have been fixed before the evil tidings come, that is the only guarantee that you won’t be afraid. **“In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you” (Ish. 54:14).** All that stems from having been already established. I need to quickly say that one way to get your heart fixed or established is by studying and meditating in the Word of God. **“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He 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. 1:2-3)**

Now, what does living by faith mean in practical terms? I will try to explain this under five headings.

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Living by Faith

Living by faith means:

1) Living by the Word of God.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4) Did you notice it says “every word”, not just a few words or favourite words and “proceeds” not proceeded? We must live by every Word that proceeds from God’s mouth.

What does it mean to live by the Word of God? I suppose it means, among other things, having one’s life **regulated, controlled** and **sustained** by the Word of God. It means lining up your life with the Word of God. Somebody said, **faith isn’t faith until it affects your daily thinking, speaking and conduct.**

Living by every Word of God is, **acting on** it in spite of contrary evidence or what others might be saying. For example, God told Noah to build an ark when it had never rained before and he did it. (Gen. 6:14)

Faith is having your life sustained by God’s Word.

Peter walked on water because Jesus asked him to come. That word sustained Peter’s weight on water until he began to doubt and be afraid. (Matt. 14:28-31) Abraham left his country, his family and his father’s house to go to an unknown land because God said so. And that Word sustained him all through! Elijah was told by God to go to the brook Cherith and then to the Widow in Zarephath and he was sustained throughout the famine period. (1 Kings 17:8-15)

If you would live by every word that that proceeds out of God’s mouth, you will have food on your table, money in your pocket and your future will be guaranteed!

You can literally live by the Word God speaks to you. Jesus demonstrated during the temptations, that His life was regulated and controlled by God’s Word. He showed that the Word of God was the final authority in His life. He said repeatedly to the devil, “It is written” (Matt. 4:4,7,10). **The Word of God created such a boundary around His life, which Jesus wasn’t going to cross even when He was hungry!** The Bible says *“where there is no vision the people perish” (Pr. 29:18 KJV)* or *“the people cast off restraint” (NKJV)* or *“they run wild” (NLT)*. The life of faith is a disciplined lifestyle.

2) Believing what God says to you.

Ordinarily, to believe simply means “to accept as true or conveying truth”.

God said to Abraham that his descendants shall be unaccountable when as yet he had no child. The Bible says he believed God and God counted it to him for righteousness. (Gen. 15:16) To believe God means to accept His Word as true –

whatever He says to you or about you and to be persuaded that God’s Word is true. It also means to agree with God and His Word. When Mary was told by angel Gabriel that she was going to be the mother of the Lord, she answered the angel *“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)*. *“Stop quarrelling with God! If you agree with Him, you will have peace at last and all will go well for you” (Job. 22:21 NLT)*. Jesus would ask someone in need of a miracle, *“Do you believe I am able to do this?” (Matt. 9:28)* He said to Jairus, *“Don’t be afraid, only believe”* when they told Jairus that his daughter was already dead. (Mk. 5:36) Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit said, *“Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her” (Lk. 1:45)*. Jesus said *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mk. 9:23)*. He also said certain signs will follow those who **believe** the Word of the Gospel. (Mk. 16:17-18)

3) Trusting God.

Trust means ‘firm belief in the reliability of truth, strength, etc of a person or thing; also, the state of being relied on. Trusting God therefore means, relying on and depending on Him. It implies putting one’s entire weight on Him; abandoning oneself on Him completely and committing oneself totally to God. Somebody said, living by faith is like jumping from a high rise building believing that before you land on the ground, there would be a swimming pool or something to cushion or catch your fall. It’s putting yourself in a place where if God didn’t catch you, you would fall; if He didn’t help you, you would fail. *“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.” (Jer. 17:14)* **Believing God and His Word will lead you to trusting Him.** You don’t rely on what someone says if you didn’t believe in what they said in the first place! The Bible says *“It is*

impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:17) and in Numbers 23:19-20 *“God is not a man, that He should lie. He is not a human that He should change His mind. Has He ever spoken and failed to act? Has He ever promised and not carried it through?” (NLT)* *“Let God be true and every man a liar.” (Rom. 3:4)* The Apostle Paul was one man who trusted absolutely in God. He said *“Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us” (2 Cor. 1:9-10)* **God not only has a desire to do what He says, but He has the ability to do so.** Sometimes, friends want to help but might still fail – the Bible says that the arm of flesh shall fail. I tell people that, when dealing with God, it is okay to put all your eggs in one basket – in fact, that is the only way to deal with God acceptably. *“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron. 16:9)* or *“whose hearts are fully committed to Him” (NLT)*. (See also Hebrews 11:6.) Do you know that Jesus went to the cross fully trusting God to raise Him up from the dead? *“For You will not*

“faith isn’t faith until it affects your **daily** thinking, speaking and conduct.”



leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” (Ps. 16:10) Romans 8:11 also tells us that God was the one who raised Christ from the dead. The truth is, if you can’t trust God to keep His Word to you here on earth, I wonder how you could trust Him with your eternal destiny!

4) Not walking by sight.

Faith is a supernatural force. It deals with the supernatural. When things don’t make sense, they can make “faith”. *“For we walk by faith not by sight.” (2 Cor. 5:7) “That is why we walk by believing and not by seeing” (NLT).* Note that here, ‘sight’ refers to physical sight. Jesus told Thomas *“Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).* The Bible says, *“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb 11:1)* or being *“certain of what we do not see” (NIV).* **We don’t see them with our physical eyes because they exist in another realm – a realm that can’t be accessed by the natural or physical senses.** The Bible talks about the mature, who have their senses trained to discern both good and evil (Heb 5:14). It seems to me that every one of our five physical senses (i.e sight, taste, touch, smell and sound) has its spiritual equivalent. The Bible says that Moses endured or persevered because he saw Him who is invisible (Heb 11:27). You can’t see something which is invisible with your physical eyes, can you? Remember when Elisha asked God to open the ‘eyes’ of his servant to see that those who were with them were more than those who were against them? (2 Kings 6:17) The Syrian army had come to capture them but in the realm of the spirit they were surrounded by hosts of angels. The Bible says that God will give His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways (Ps. 91:11). We might not see them but they are there, praise God! Moses endured because he saw Him who is invisible. Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, because He saw the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2). Abraham didn’t waver at the promise of God through unbelief because he did not consider his dead body and the deadness of Sarah’s womb (Rom. 4:19-21). He kept his eyes on the promise and the One who had promised. Focus produces strength; what

are you focused on? Elijah said to Ahab, “I hear the sound of the abundance of rain” (1 Kings 18:41) He wasn’t speaking from the natural stand point because, after saying that, he went to pray earnestly for the rains to fall.

God said He had given to Abraham and his descendants all the land which he saw (Gen. 13:14-15). You cannot possess beyond what you can see or envision with your spiritual eyes. **There is a limit to what you can see with your physical eyes and that can limit you in your walk with God.**

Also, more often than not, what we see with our physical eyes can be so discouraging or daunting, that we would need to switch to the invisible realm. In the physical, Abraham could only see his dead body and Sarah’s dead womb; Elisha’s servant could only see the Syrian army and he knew that he and his master were no match for them. How much we need our spiritual glasses!

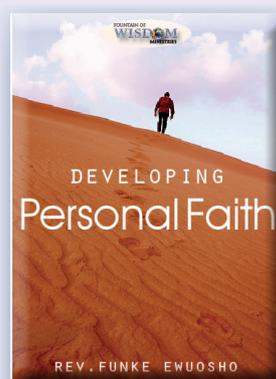
5) Be hopeful.

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for” (Heb 11:1) Hope means, a favourable and confident expectation. It has to do with the unseen and the future - *“But hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” (Rom. 8:24-25)*

Hope describes; the happy anticipation of God, the ground upon which hope is based (*“Christ in you, the hope of glory” Col. 1:27*) and the object upon which hope is fixed (i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, 1 Tim 1:1). The Bible says Abraham hoped against hope, so he became the father of many nations (Rom 4:18 KJV). That is, he hoped against natural hope. There is natural hope and there is supernatural hope! For example, when a man’s body is dead sexually and the woman’s womb is dead, there can be no hope in the natural that they can still have a baby. If they would have any hope at all, it must be supernatural. That kind of hope can only be based on the Word of God, not on anything in the natural! *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience (perseverance) and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Rom. 15:4)*

As you focus on God’s Word the Holy Spirit injects you with hope. *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)* That hope becomes an anchor for your soul (Heb. 6:19) in the storms of life and in the face of contradictory evidence. The Bible says that we should rejoice in hope of the glory of God and hope does not disappoint us because of the love of God. (Rom. 5:2,5) God is truly a God of hope. Satan is the author of hopelessness. **Even in the gloomiest and darkest hour, God’s Word still brings hope to us.** When Adam and Eve fell and right in the midst of the curse, God still brought a message of hope to them – the seed of the woman was going to come and bruise the head of satan (Gen. 3:15). The Bible says God subjected the whole creation to bondage in hope of deliverance and we were saved in this hope (Rom 8:20-24) Paul prayed that the saints in Ephesus may know what is the hope of God’s calling

(Eph. 1:18), that is, *“the prospect before those who respond to His call in the Gospel.”* Christ in you, the hope of glory. *“Moreover whom He predestined (i.e. to be conformed to the image of Christ,) these He also called, these He also justified, these He also glorified” (Rom. 8:30).* I don’t think this is about the sweet by and by, I think it is about now! Because Jesus, before He went away, said to the Father *“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one” (Jn. 17:22)* The life of faith is a life of joyful expectation of good and not evil. God says His plans for us are not for evil but for good, to give us a future and an expected end! (Jer. 29:11). In conclusion, living by faith is living a life of obedience to God which is made possible by; committing to His Word, believing His Word, trusting in Him, not walking by sight and expecting His Word to be fulfilled in our lives. *God bless you richly.*



Order 'Living by Faith' on CD, tape or DVD & 'Developing Personal Faith', the new 3-part series by Rev. Funke Ewuosho.

Prices from £3.50, \$5, €4

Soaring Eagles



Ingathering is the annual convention of Word of Faith Christian Centre, Kano. Over the years, God has enabled Rev. & Rev. (Mrs) Kola Ewuosho to impact thousands of people through Word of Faith Christian Centre, who are now in different places over the world. Ingathering is a time when the many sons and daughters come back home to be refreshed and retire back home to disciple the nations of the world. In an atmosphere of love, joy and fellowship, God's Word for the moment is downloaded by His servants, Rev. & Rev. (Mrs) Ewuosho and is imparted to sons who will take the message of the Spirit to the four corners of the earth.

The theme for this year's Ingathering was "THE SOARING OF THE EAGLES". Delegates attended from Abuja, Lagos, Port-Hacourt, Abuja - Nigeria, Calabar, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and the United Kingdom. These testimonies to the glory of God were shared by brethren who attended..

MY EXCITING EXPERIENCE AT THE INGATHERING IN KANO

Visiting Kano, Nigeria was predestined by God; hence, there was nothing that was able to stop us from attending the Ingathering 2007. I am saying this because I have never seen God practically take control of the human planned itinerary. He did not even allow us to have any kind of input, lest we boast and think we could have made it on our own. Driving from Richards Bay to take a flight from Durban to Johannesburg without our Nigerian Visas was crazy. But we said to God, our destination was Lagos and Kano, in Nigeria, we could not settle for any thing less. God was so faithful because our visas were put into our hands just as we had already started to check-in our luggage (applying Heb. 11:1) and trusting in Psalm 62: 8 "Trust in him at all times;..."

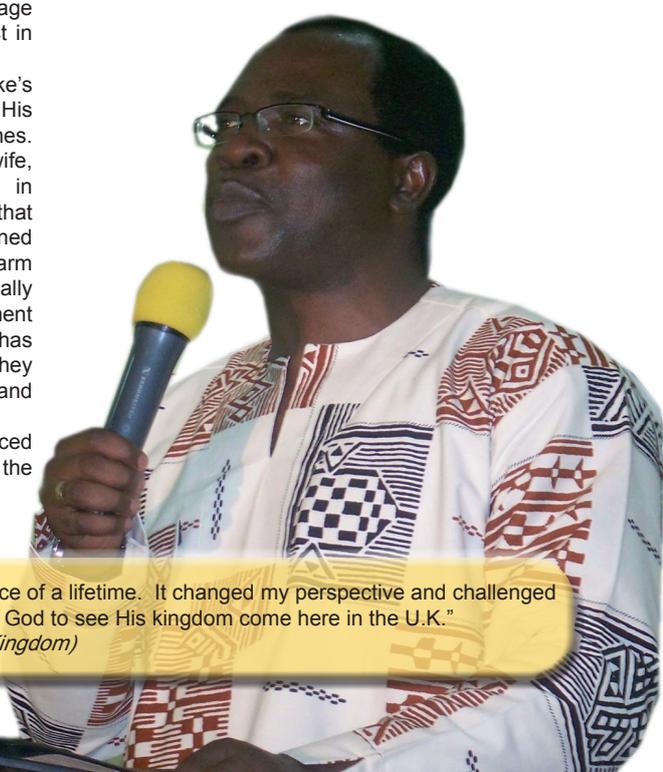
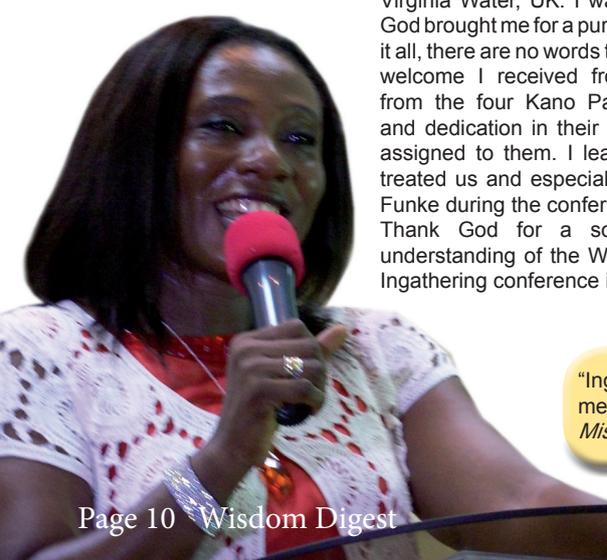
There is no doubt in my mind that Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke's ministry is in accordance with God's timing to bring His living and uncompromised Gospel into these end-times. My first encounter with their ministry was when my wife, Phumzile, brought me to Harvestime Church in Virginia Water, UK. I was convinced, and understood that God brought me for a purpose. My Kano experience crowned it all, there are no words to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I received from everyone in Kano, especially from the four Kano Pastors who displayed commitment and dedication in their respective ministries that God has assigned to them. I learnt and appreciated the way they treated us and especially God's servants, Revs. Kola and Funke during the conference.

Thank God for a solid foundation and a balanced understanding of the Word as preached and taught at the Ingathering conference in Kano, Nigeria.

I am trusting God to use me to open doors for the FOWM to invade and consume South Africa soon. The material that I brought to South Africa are starting to impact lives, especially pastors. There is so much to say about what God is doing and still to do in the near future here in South Africa through FOWM. God willing I will bring more pastors next year. I need your prayers and encouragement to set up an office for FOWM in South Africa. Our country needs such truths from the Word of God.

*Pastor Sibusiso Mkwazisi
(Richards Bay, South Africa)*

"Ingathering 2007 was an experience of a lifetime. It changed my perspective and challenged me to be one who participates with God to see His kingdom come here in the U.K."
Miss N. Titterton (Surrey, United Kingdom)



ITINERARY

Changes may occur to this itinerary, so please call our offices for further information about any of these meetings.



NOVEMBER 2007

10th November - Men's Breakfast
Harvestime Church, UK

DECEMBER 2007

7th - 9th December - Conference
Word of Faith Christian Centre, Lagos

JANUARY 2008

Strategic Equippers Conference
Fountain of Wisdom Chapel, Kenya

MARCH 2008

3rd - 7th March - Conference
Jos, Nigeria



NOVEMBER 2007

31st Oct - 3rd Nov - Conferences
Republic of Ireland

17th November - Women's Breakfast
Harvestime Church, UK

23rd - 25th November - Conference
Word of Faith Christian Centre, Abuja

30th Nov - 2nd December - Conference
Word of Faith Christian Centre, Kano

DECEMBER 2007

7th - 9th December - Conference
Word of Faith Christian Centre, Lagos

MARCH 2008

14th - 16th March - International Women's Conference
Word of Faith Christian Centre, Kano

COMING SOON...

Our Strategic Equippers Conference
in INDIA and CAMEROON!

Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke Ewuosho are based in the United Kingdom, leading the Harvestime Church. Come and join them on Sunday - 10.30am and Wednesday - 7.00pm at Harvestime Church, Virginia Water.

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Contact your nearest Fountain of Wisdom Ministries office for more information about our part-time Bible Schools or call +44 (0)1344 844172 for more information about our new correspondence course.

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FOWM CHURCHES

Kano / Abuja / Kazaure / Suleja - Nigeria, Accra - Ghana, Douala - Cameroon, Eldoret - Kenya, Surrey - UK

UNITED KINGDOM

HARVESTIME CHURCH

Old Church Hall, Rear of Station Parade, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4AB

MEET

- Sunday Service - 10.30am (weekly)
- Wednesday Service - 7.00pm (weekly)
- Saturday Bible School - 3.00pm (Various)
- Youth Service - 7.00pm (Third Saturday)

CONTACT

Tel: +44 (0)1344 843341
Email: office@fowm.org

KANO, NIGERIA

WORD OF FAITH

CHRISTIAN CENTRE

30 Nguru Road, Nomansland, Kano State, Nigeria.

MEET

- Sunday Service - 9.00am (weekly)
- Communion Service - 5.30pm (1st Sun)
- Wednesday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)
- Thursday Prayer - 6.00pm (weekly)
- Monday Training School - 6.00pm (weekly)

CONTACT

Tel: +234-064-640063, 335941
Email: wofcckn@yahoo.org
Visit: www.wofcc.org

ABUJA, NIGERIA

WORD OF FAITH

CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Church Banquet Hall, Peace Haven Hotel, Plot 112, Idris Gidado Street, Wuye, Abuja
Office: Suite 26, Essence Plaza, Plot 2410, Lusaka Street, Zone 6, Wuse - Abuja.

CONTACT

Tel: +234-09-6718368

GHANA

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM MINISTRIES CHAPEL

22 Adjumah Crescent, S.T.C Road, Behind Ghamot, Accra, Ghana

MEET

- Sunday Service - 8.00am (weekly)
- Wednesday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)
- Couple's Night - 5.30pm (2nd Sunday)
- Youth Service - 5.30pm (Last Sunday)
- Night Vigil - 10.00pm (Last Friday)

CONTACT

Tel: +233-20-8127676, +233-24-6477802
Email: info@fowmghana.org
Visit: www.fowmghana.org

KENYA

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM CHAPEL

P.O Box 7895, Eldoret, Kenya, Code 31100.

MEET

- Wednesday Service - 6.00pm (weekly)
- Thursday Prayer - 5.30pm (weekly)

CONTACT

Tel: +254 726 982 229
Email: fowckkenya@yahoo.co.uk

CAMEROON

HARVESTIME CHURCH

Bonaberi, Carrefour Texaco, Fokou, Douala
Former Restaurant Relax, Douala

MEET

- Sunday Service - 9.00am (weekly)
- Monday Believer's School - 6.00pm
- Tuesday Bible Study - 6.30pm (weekly)
- Thursday Prayer - 6.30pm (weekly)

CONTACT

Tel: +237 77 89 79 06 / +237 33 02 20 46
Email: harvestimedouala@yahoo.fr

TV BROADCASTS

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SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2007

- 3rd November
- 10th November
- 17th November
- 24th November

Learning to Kill the Giants in your Life (Part 1,2,3,4)
By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

DECEMBER 2007

- 1st December
- 8th December
- 15th December
- 22nd December

How to Prosper in God's Kingdom (Part 1,2,3,4)
By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

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CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIP

in the Home



There are three interesting Greek words depicting different kinds of love. They are **(1) Agape**, which is the God-kind of love; also described as 'charity', because of its giving and sacrificial nature. **(2) Eros**, which means sexual love, from which the word erotic is gotten. **(3) Phileo**, which represents tender affection and fondness.

We must note that Agape is not based on feelings, unlike the other two. Agape is an unconditional love: Jesus died for us even while we were yet sinners and He expects us to love, even the unlovable! I believe that every marriage must be founded upon

Agape. The Bible says husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church and wives also should submit to their own husbands as unto the Lord. (Eph. 5:22, 25)

Eros and Phileo are also very important in marriage, however, because they are based on our feelings, they **must** be founded on Agape. Eros, for instance can be very selfish if not based on Agape!

Phileo is the kind of love that has to do with friendship. The older women were to teach the younger women to **love** their husbands, (Tit. 2:4) that is, to be fond of them and be affectionate as wives.

Friendship is a very rare commodity in many homes. A few try to maintain Agape but most focus on Eros; and this is mostly due to the foundation of the relationship itself. **I believe that friendship adds a lot of spice to the relationship, and even enhances the sexual health of the marriage. I think it is easier and more fun to go to bed with someone you are fond of. It is this lack of fondness or friendship that makes even Agape and Eros seem like a chore!** Your spouse can and should be a friend! However, let's look at friendship from the Biblical perspective.

1) "A friend loves at all times" (Prov. 17:17) or "A friend is always loyal" (NLT). This talks of commitment through thick and thin and even when your spouse is not at their best.

Jesus said a man lays down his life for his friends. **2) "There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother"** (Prov. 18:24b). This tells me that a friend is not necessarily a blood relative. Your spouse can be closer than your brother or sister if you'll cultivate that friendship. After all, the two are meant to become one! (Gen.2:24)

3) "Faithful are the wounds of a friend but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Prov. 27:6) This means friends don't always tell us what we want to hear; they tell us some truth that can hurt us, but their wounds are born out of love and faithful. Friends love us too much to leave us the way we are. So, as we cultivate friendship in the home, our spouse will have the liberty to say some things that we might find to be uncomfortable but we receive them because they have our best interests at heart. (Eph. 4:15)

4) "As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend" (Prov. 27:17 NLT). Friends bring good contributions to us that can improve the quality of our lives. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up" (Eccles. 4:9-10) We therefore expect couples to draw strength, support and encouragement from each other, and even to provoke each other to good works! (Heb. 10:24)

5) In Luke 11, Jesus told the story of a man who had a guest at midnight and went to knock on a friend's door to ask for bread for his guest! Jesus said the friend will rise up from bed to give that man bread because of his importunity; that is, unashamed asking! Have you ever heard the words "What are friends for?" **As we cultivate friendships, we are not ashamed to ask for help and there is an openness with little or no protocol.** The Bible says Adam and Eve were naked and were not ashamed (Gen. 2:25).

From the above, you'll agree with me that many marriages are not there yet. Married couples still walk on egg shells around the house, afraid of rocking the boat! The truth is, friendship is cultivated and that involves a process.

Continued over page...

"Friends don't always tell us what we want to hear; they tell us some truth that can hurt us..."

CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIP

Becoming one is indeed an adventure.

How then, do we cultivate friendship in marriage?

1) Get rid of fear. Fear has torment. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 Jn 4:18). Get rid of the fear of rejection, that fear of each other, etc.

2) Work at harmony, don't stop trying. **Disagreements are not necessarily evil,** they can help you know each other better and increase your agreement potential (Amos 3:3). Deal with issues- some don't go away because you leave them. Talk! Some couples don't talk. Don't assume your spouse knows how you feel, talk about it. Keep the communication line open, no matter how hard it is.

3) Learn and work with, the building blocks of relationships i.e. Love, Respect (mutual), Trust and Understanding. (Rom. 12:9-18, 1 Cor. 13:4-8, Eph.2:25-32, 1 Pet. 3:7)

4) Give each other space. There is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. (Eccles. 3:5, Prov. 25:17)

5) Control your tongue, especially when you are angry! (Eph. 4:26, Prov. 14:17) Only a fool says all that is in his mind. (Prov. 29:11) Choose your words carefully, be sensitive. (Prov. 15:1-2, Jas. 1:19, 3:2)

6) Believe the best about your spouse (1 Cor. 13:7)

Give them the benefit of the doubt. Don't jump into conclusion. **Seeing is not always believing.** Give a fair hearing. Don't judge without hearing. (Jn. 7:57) Don't listen to gossip. (Prov. 16:28, 17:9, 18:8, 22:10)

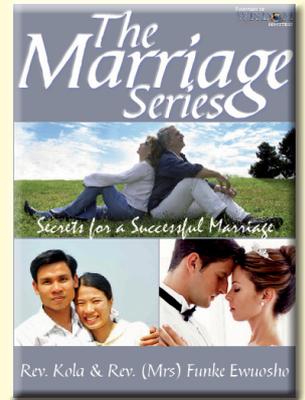
7) Fellowship with each other. Spend time together. Interact with each other. Plan times together, not only to have fun, but to share dreams, your heart, your fears, etc. (1 Jn. 1:3)

8) Be friendly. "A man who has friends must himself be friendly" (Prov. 18:24). Some folks are friendlier with outsiders than they are with their spouses; that needs to change. We can practice friendliness on our spouses- let charity begin at home! The Bible says we should be courteous (1 Pet. 3:8, Eph. 4:32).

9) Learn to forgive! Learn to overlook mistakes and shortcomings of your spouse! Don't take offence all the time. Learn to enjoy jokes, even at your own expense. Don't take everything too seriously, avoid being petty. Let your spouse be. Don't correct them all the time. Create a relaxed and not a tensed atmosphere in your home! (Ps. 119:165, Matt. 6:12, Eph. 4:32, 1 Pet. 3:9)

God Bless You,
Rev. Funke Ewuosho.

Call our office today to purchase your copy of Rev. Funke Ewuosho's best-selling messages 'Cultivating Friendship'; 'Overcoming Relationship Killers' and 'Seven Golden Rules of Relationship' on tape, CD or DVD.



Call us today to place your order for our NEW Marriage Series, which contains four life-changing messages to strengthen and enhance your marriage.. including 'Communication' and 'Managing Tension in the Home'.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Do you have a question that you've always wanted to ask Rev. Kola or Rev. Funke Ewuosho?

In the next issue of Wisdom Digest we want to give space for your questions to be answered...

Send your questions to 'Fountain of Wisdom Ministries, The Old Church Hall, Rear of Station Parade, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4AB, United Kingdom' or email 'office@fowm.org'.

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"Lord God, I ask you to forgive me for my sins and make me a new person today. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for my salvation. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I receive forgiveness, healing and deliverance today. I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to know you and follow you from this day on. Thank you for saving me!"

The Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Please get in touch with us, so that we can send you some materials to help you to grow in your new relationship with God.

(£5, \$8, €7)

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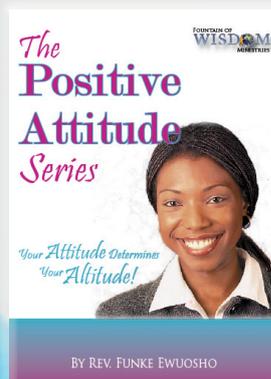
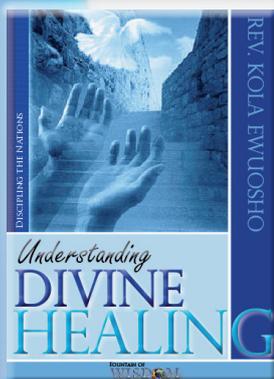
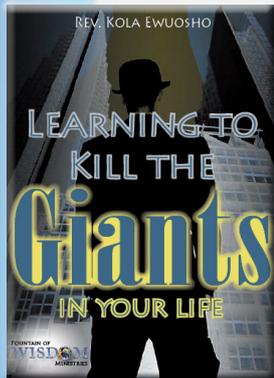
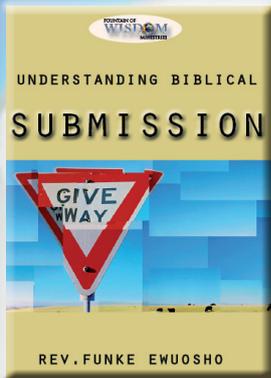
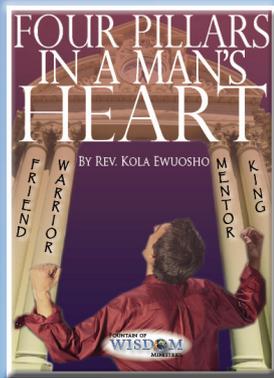
latest books

The Prosperity of the Righteous By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Laying right foundations, with the right priorities and attitudes opens you up to a life of obedience through which you can experience the transforming power of God. God's plan is to prosper you so that His purposes can be fulfilled. It is better to trust God for your needs to be met than to trust in man or any human systems. This is a timely book built on proven principles that will establish a solid foundation in all areas of your life. Written with a burning desire to see believers come into the fullness of God's blessings and to avoid the pitfalls that lie on the way, this book contains timeless truths from God's Word to help you to flow with God in these last days.

Freedom from the Deceitfulness of Sin By Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Many church folks are committing sins today, not because they hate God or they want to, but because they have been or are being deceived. Satan, however, would always need an opening into our lives before he can successfully deceive us. Jesus said "for the prince of the world cometh and hath noting in me."



Four Pillars in a Man's Heart (4 Parts) By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Tape Set: £16, \$28, €22, CD Set: £20, \$34, €28, DVD: Coming soon!

Learning to Kill the Giants in your Life (3 Parts) By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

Tape Set: £12, \$21, €17, CD Set: £15, \$17, €26, DVD: £30, \$53, €43

Understanding Divine Healing (3 Parts) By Rev. Kola Ewuosho

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Understanding Biblical Submission (2 Parts) By Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Tape Set: £8, \$14, €11, CD Set: £10, \$17, €14, DVD: £20, \$35, €29

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Tape Set: £8, \$14, €11, CD Set: £10, \$17, €14, DVD: £20, \$35, €29

The Positive Attitude Series (4 Parts) By Rev. Funke Ewuosho

Tape Set: £16, \$28, €22, CD Set: £20, \$34, €28, DVD: n/a

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CYBERMESSAGES- SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY TEACHINGS BY EMAIL.

Testimonies

"I want to testify today only to God's glory. I was born in South Africa many years ago. I traveled out of my country for some time. When I returned, I met with a very close friend of mine whose wife just got a job in the United Kingdom. My pastor friend traveled to see his wife sometime this year and updated me about his spiritual life. He told me that his wife attends a ministry in the United Kingdom and that he would like me to go through the materials of the ministry. Honestly, when I glanced through one of the materials, I wasn't moved, seeing that the author was a Nigerian minister. My pastor friend, however, gave me some more materials including a CD titled "Breaking Generational Curses". As I drove back home, I listened to the CD; it was like the experience between Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:41-41. I called my pastor friend immediately and asked him vehemently; who is this man? I asked for more materials and later knew about Ingathering 2007. I asked God what he wanted me to do. The spirit of God laid it in my heart to connect with the ministry, as it will lead me into my destiny."

Pastor Sipho (South Africa)

"Dear Rev. Ewuosho,

I just want to thank you for an interesting evening today at your service in Oxford. I have never been to a church service before. I came to your meeting and said the prayer with you at the front because as of late I have been willing to let myself be open to receiving Jesus into my life.

I was pleased to find that many of the conclusions that I have begun to see lately, you put into the exact same words I have been thinking and feeling, especially regarding the ways in which people sin against themselves and others and also your reflections on hell. Thanks"

N.M (United Kingdom)

"Dear Reverend Kola,

I wish to let you know that within four hours of you laying your hand over my ear, the swelling and pressure went down and the pain went away. This is the third time you have laid your hands on me and I have been blessed with relief and recovery. Thanks be to Father God for your hands and prayer."

G.W (United Kingdom)

"Dear Rev. Kola and Funke Ewuosho, I honestly see the hand of God moving in your lives. Your ministry has been instrumental in helping me overcome debt, and realising my place as a child of God (seated in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus). The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (KJV) Your anointed ministry has done that."

F.W (California)

Do you have a testimony to share with us?

Please e-mail your testimonies to testimonies@fowm.org.

prayer requests

Ask you can see, God surely answers prayers!

We are here to help and pray for you. Please email your prayer requests to prayer_requests@fowm.org Alternatively, please feel free to write to us or call us at one of our offices around the world.